June 7, 2016

Dear MYSA Club Presidents, Coaching Directors and Registrars,

In an effort to assist member clubs, the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association is providing options and changes in procedures to help clubs adjust to the US Soccer Mandates which impact the 2016-17 Soccer year.  Member club feedback showed us desire from some to keep 2016 team cores together in light of new birth year designations. The following options, under the authority of the MYSA Competitive Committee and MYSA “Rule 4.2 League Operation”, are available for teams and participants;

**All Age Groups in Classic 2 and Classic 3 Leagues will be “Self- Select”**

The purpose of this temporary rule change will provide flexibility for clubs to determine what is the best level and age group for respective 2017 summer season teams.  This option will allow teams to stay together, be formed solely on the new birth year mandates or take a blended approach. “Promotion and Relegation” rules will still apply after the 2017 summer season results. MYSA will study the progress of this club option and possibly propose a like, but permanent rule change at the fall AGM.

**Classic 1 and Premier “Leapfrog” Option**

Following the 2016 Summer Season, Classic 1 and Premier teams from the “Promotion and Relegation” leagues will have a onetime option to “Leapfrog” to the next older age group. This option may keep team cores together who would otherwise lose membership of players born between August and December. For example: A club with a U14 team in Classic 1 or Premier, this 2016 summer, who earn or maintain a status for 2017 (at U15) will have a choice to place that team into the U16 league of the same level. Following the 2016 Summer State Championships, interested clubs will need to have their Director of Coaching and Club President submit a special variance to “Leapfrog” no later than August 15th, 2016. Once teams are moved into new age groups, no changes will be allowed and the league spot vacated will be assigned to the next MYSA eligible member.  Later this summer, MYSA will provide clubs with a special variance form if they choose to leapfrog any of their C1 or Premier teams.

In addition, special attention and accommodation is given two age populations of participants who would otherwise lose the opportunity because of the mandates:

**New Fall Season U14+ League**

In the past, MYSA U14 Leagues have served the vast majority of Minnesota 8th graders.  High School soccer opportunities generally begin in 9th grade (freshman). New Birth Year rules would otherwise affect some 8th graders. A new 14+ league (in lieu of U14), will also allow those born between August and December (near all 8th graders) to play the fall prior to the High School Soccer experience. The plan is to offer this league indefinably each fall season.

**2017 Summer U19+ League**

New Birth Year rules would affect some current U18 players and take away their opportunity to play a final season at U19 next summer.  To accommodate players born in August through December of 1998, MYSA is offering a U19+ Summer Season in 2017 only. Teams in this league will be eligible for the Minnesota State Cup and other MYSA and US Youth Soccer sanctioned events in 2017.

Thank you for you continued patience and understanding as we all move forward with the impact of change.  In the meantime, please know that the MYSA is committed to offering soccer for everyone!

Sincerely,

**Cam Stoltz**

**League Commissioner**

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association

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