



## POLICY 26

### TRYOUT, RECRUITMENT, PLAYER COMMITMENT, PLAYER RELEASE & GUEST PLAYING

#### A. TRYOUT POLICY FOR DIVISION 1, 2, AND 3 TEAMS

##### 1. Player Commitment for age groups U13 and above

- a. Tryouts for TS affiliated member teams may be conducted the day after the conclusion of the Girls Division 1 State Tournament.
- b. **Players must complete a Commitment Letter to indicate their election to play for a specific team.** A Commitment can be defined by the following:
  - 1) Player Commitment Form, found on the TS Website
  - 2) Digital Signature through the club's online registration system. The language shall mirror the TS player commitment form
- c. The period of player commitment is defined as the time from the date the Commitment Letter is correctly executed to the day following the conclusion of the Girls Division 1 State Tournament.
- d. Commitment Letters can be executed anytime during the open recruitment period. However, the following shall apply during the open recruitment period.
  - 1) Players may continue to be recruited during the open recruitment period regardless if they have signed a commitment letter or not.
  - 2) Players may change their mind and sign a commitment letter with another team prior to the June 16<sup>th</sup> (15 days following the conclusion of the Girls Division 1 State Cup).
    - a) It is the players responsibility to notify the coach or manager of the other team with whom they signed the original commitment letter.
    - b) This shall be accomplished by returning the players copy of the commitment letter with a notation that the player has changed his/her mind and committed to a different team.

- 3) Commitment letters are binding commencing on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This means that players, who signed a commitment letter prior to June 16<sup>th</sup>, can no longer be recruited after June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Players may be recruited after June 16<sup>th</sup>, provided the player has not signed a commitment letter
- e. Both the association registrar and team manager must maintain a copy of the commitment letter for every player during the seasonal year.

## 2. Player Commitment for age groups U8 – U12

- a. Tryouts for TS affiliated member teams may be conducted after the conclusion of the Girls Division 3 State Tournament. (Currently May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015)
- b. Players must complete a Commitment Letter to indicate their election to play for a specific team. A Commitment can be defined by the following:
  - 1) Player Commitment Form, found on the TS website
  - 2) Digital Signature, through the club's online registration system. The language shall mirror the TS player commitment form
- c. The period of player commitment is defined as the time from the date the Commitment Letter is correctly executed to the day following the conclusion of the Girls Division 3 State Tournament.
- d. Commitment Letters can be executed anytime during the open recruitment period. However, the following shall apply during the open recruitment period.
  - 1) Players may continue to be recruited during the open recruitment period regardless if they have signed a commitment letter or not.
  - 2) Players may change their mind and sign a commitment letter with another team prior to June 16<sup>th</sup> (15 days following the conclusion of the Girls Division 1 State Cup).
    - a) It is the players responsibility to notify the coach or manager of the other team with whom they signed the original commitment letter.
    - b) This shall be accomplished by returning the players copy of the commitment letter with a notation that the player has changed his/her mind and committed to a different team.

- 3) Commitment letters are binding commencing on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This means that players, who signed a commitment letter prior to June 16<sup>th</sup>, can no longer be recruited after June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Players may be recruited after July 1 provided the player has not signed a commitment letter
- e. Both the association registrar and team manager must maintain a copy of the commitment letter for every player during the seasonal year.
3. New team formations comprised of players not previously registered and rostered to another team can occur at any time during the seasonal year.
4. A non-registered player may join a team at any time during the year.
5. It is permissible for players from disbanded teams (regardless of the division) to roster with teams participating in the current season, pending approval from the TS Vice President-Youth Competitive.
6. Tryout Advertisements:
  - a. Advertisement is defined as, but not limited to, any notification of tryouts on television, radio, periodical, newspaper, notices posted in public places, flyers, or circulars.
  - b. Advertisements may contain any or all of the following information.
    - 1) Team and or Club Name, age group(s) and association affiliation
    - 2) Geographical area served
    - 3) Dates, times and location
    - 4) Coach or contact person's name and phone numbers
    - 5) What to bring (i.e. water, ball, shin guards, etc.)
  - c. Advertisements and information may be sent to individual players during specified recruitment periods.
    - 1) Any documents sent to a player must be generic in nature and not a specific letter directed to an explicit player.
    - 2) Informational material includes budgets, proposed schedules, team fact sheet, club informational brochures, coaches' resumes, or other information provided to assist the player in making an informed decision.

d. Advertising for try-outs for teams during the seasonal year that need to add players to their roster must state in their advertising the following:

- 1) This is for recreation players only
- 2) This is for unregistered players only

**B. RECRUITMENT OF PLAYERS FOR DIVISION 1, 2, AND 3 TEAMS**

1. Legal recruitment of players is only permitted during the following periods:
  - a. Players who are currently U12 (who will be U13 for the upcoming soccer year) and older may be recruited beginning the day after the conclusion of the Girls Division 1 State Cup (June 2<sup>nd</sup> for 2015/16 Seasonal Year).
  - b. Players who are currently U11 (who will be U12 for the upcoming soccer year) and younger may be recruited beginning the day following the conclusion of the latter, Girls Division 3 State Cup (May 18<sup>th</sup> for 2015/16 Seasonal Year).
2. Recruitment of a player that has appropriately executed a Commitment Letter is illegal.
3. Illegal recruiting is defined as any intentional act whereby any individual contacts a player that has appropriately executed a Commitment Letter to another team and invites that player to join his or her team.
4. Any direct contact or intentional communication by any individual to entice a player to leave a team with whom the player has appropriately executed a Commitment Letter is also deemed unethical.
5. Tryout advertisement and informational material for girls' high school age teams that are attempting to form following the conclusion of the TSSAA season is not deemed recruiting; provided that the advertisement and informational materials are in compliance with Section A.6. of this policy.
  - a. Advertisements and informational material may be made available to girls' high school age players between October 15 of one year through January 31 of the succeeding year.

**C. PLAYER RELEASE**

1. A player may drop from the team with whom they have appropriately executed a Commitment Letter anytime during the seasonal year. A player that has a change in residency in excess of 75 geographical miles is not required to complete a Player Release Request Form. However, the player must notify their current club/team of this change of residency prior to registering with another team.

2. A player who wishes to be released must complete and submit a Player Release Request Form. This form must contain a detailed letter explaining the reason for requesting the release, all required signatures completed, and a non-refundable \$125 release request fee. Letters can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Tennessee State Soccer Association office.
  - a. Upon receipt of the Player Release Request Form, the TS office will send an email to the player's current team coach, Director of Coaching and club president confirming the authenticity of the signatures. Once all signatures are confirmed, the release will be approved by TS and the player notified. If the player's current club/team refuses to sign the Player Release Request Form, the request may be appealed. To appeal the process, the player will contact the District Director and explain to them in detail the reason for appeal. Should the District Director feel there is a valid reason for appeal; the District Director will then bring it to our Policy 26 Appeals Committee. The committee will consist of the Executive Director, VP of Competitive, and one other District Director (not from the District where the appeal originated). The committee will make a decision on the appeal and their final decision cannot be appealed. At no point should any of the steps in this process be avoided.
  - b. Request for a player release will require a non-refundable \$125 fee and will be reviewed within 10 working days of receipt of the request and the request fee. All parties involved will be notified as to the final dispositions of the release request.
3. A Player whose team has participated in a US Youth Soccer National League, US Youth Soccer Regional Premier League, State Championship, or State League can be released. However, they are not permitted to play for a different team in the same competition during the same seasonal year.

#### **D. GUEST PLAYING PROCEDURE**

1. The following process is mandatory in order to have a player currently rostered to another team participate in any capacity with another team. Participation includes tournaments, scrimmages, league play, practices, trips, camps, or any other activity that the team is a participant.
  - a. The head coach desiring the participation of a player must direct a request in writing, phone call, or e-mail to the head coach of the team that the player is currently rostered, or from the director of coaching of the players club.
  - b. The individual contacted must grant approval for such participation prior to the player partaking in any event or activity.

- c. If the players current coach or director of coaching does not grant approval for the player to participate in the event or activity, then that player is not permitted to participate.
2. Non-compliance with the guest playing provision by a coach shall be deemed both unethical and a violation of the recruitment provision.
3. A player that participates in any event or activity as a guest player without the permission of their current coach or director of coaching shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **E. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. Coaches, Managers, Directors of Coaching, Parents, Guardians, and Players are subject to a disciplinary hearing for alleged violations of the provisions of this policy.
2. Individuals that are found guilty of violating the provisions of this policy are subject to the following minimum actions.
  - a. Minimum Disciplinary Actions/Sanctions for Coaches, Managers, Directors of Coaching or other non-players associated with the team other than a parent or legal guardian:
    - 1) 1st Offense -- Three (3) months suspension; club to be fined \$100.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
    - 2) 2nd Offense -- Six (6) months suspension; club to be fined \$250.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
    - 3) 3rd Offense -- Twelve (12) months suspension; club to be fined \$500.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
  - b. Minimum Disciplinary Actions/Sanctions for Parents or Legal Guardians:
    - 1) 1st Offense -- Three (3) months suspension of their child\*, club to be fined \$100.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
    - 2) 2nd Offense -- Six (6) months suspension of their child\*; club to be fined \$250.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
    - 3) 3rd Offense -- Twelve (12) months suspension of their child\*; club to be fined \$500.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.

*\* Their child is defined as the parent/legal guardians' son or daughter that is rostered to the team to which the recruitment infraction pertains. This means that if the parent/ legal guardian are found guilty of illegal recruiting of a player to participate on their child's team, their child is suspended as stated.*

c. Minimum Disciplinary Actions/Sanctions for Players

- 1) 1st Offense -- Three (3) months suspension; club to be fined \$100.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
- 2) 2nd Offense -- Six (6) months suspension; club to be fined \$250.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
- 3) 3rd Offense -- Twelve (12) months suspension; club to be fined \$500.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.