

**MERIDIAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
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MERIDIAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES

SECTION I: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1. **LEAGUE NAME:** The league will be known as the MERIDIAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION, also referred to as MYSO in this document. MERIDIAN FUTBOL CLUB, also referred to as MFC (see Division I), will be the competitive brand of MYSO and will be used for both the Division I and Division II programs. (Revised 8-1-11)
2. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the league shall be to control, regulate, promote, and develop all levels of youth soccer within the territorial limits of the MYSO.
3. **TERRITORY:** The territory of the MYSO will include the city limits of Meridian and the counties of Lauderdale, Clarke, Kemper, and Newton. (Revised 8-1-11)
4. **AFFILIATION:** This league will be affiliated with the Mississippi Soccer Association (MSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). The league will at all times recognize the authority, rules and laws of these organizations.
5. **ADMINISTRATION:**
 - The league will be governed by its Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules and by the Constitution and Regulations of the MSA, USYSA, and USSF. In the event of a conflict, the latter guidelines shall apply.
 - The authority over all administrative matters will be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Immediate Past President, League Directors, Kid Safe Coordinator, and Head Referee. No member of the Board of Directors can hold more than one position at any given time. The Immediate Past President may hold another position of the board provided he/she vacates the position of Immediate Past President.
 - Meetings will be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order. All matters properly presented to the Board of Directors shall be voted on with each voting member of the Board casting a single vote. The President of the MYSO will cast his/her vote only in the event of a tie. Decisions in all voting matters will be determined by a simple majority of all members present; excluding the matter of board member expulsion, in which, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire voting membership of the existing Board of Directors is required. A quorum consisting of a simple majority of voting members (positions filled) must be present to conduct business. Decisions in all matters will be determined by a simple majority. A member of the board may petition the President to verify any board member's active status. A board member will be considered inactive after missing three (3) consecutive regular meetings without an excuse satisfactory to the other members of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have surrendered his/her position on the board. He/she will be notified in writing by the MYSO secretary of their status. A board member who misses six (6) consecutive regular meetings in a seasonal year shall automatically be removed from

office unless otherwise excused by the MYSO Executive Committee (Revised 8-1-11)

- The Executive Committee will consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Registrar and the Head Referee. The Executive Committee will meet in June to discuss appointments as specified by the MYSO By-laws in Section 1.9. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as necessary. The meeting may be conducted with members at various locations and all with equal conversational access to one another. A two-thirds vote must be obtained for any action to be taken, while the President will not vote unless of a tie. The Committee shall have the power to do any and all things necessary to further the interests and purpose of MYSO. The Committee: (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Cannot create any debt for MYSO.
 - Can take any disciplinary action toward a player, coach, board member or parent of MYSO after hearing recommendations from the Discipline and Appeals Committee. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Can temporarily suspend any board member from their duties for a Code of Ethics violation. This suspension will last until the next scheduled board meeting or 30 days, whichever is less. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Cannot override or change any action made by the Board of Directors.
 - Shall report all action taken to the Board at the next board meeting.
 - Have jurisdiction over all groups affiliated with MYSO including approval of training, camps, clinics, academies and activities. (Revised 8-1-11)

All matters presented to the board must be in the form of a formal written motion. (Revised 5-29-97)

6. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL:

- Transact all business of the league.
- Be free to delegate its authority to such other individuals whom it may from time to time designate.
- Enforce the rules of the league and those of the MSA, USYSA, and USSF.
- Have the authority to create and manage special funds to benefit any group or activity that it may deem expedient for the welfare of the game, (e.g., an injured player, trips).
- Have the authority to suspend, expel or impose fines or penalties upon any person under its jurisdiction who violates the Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules of this league.
- Have the authority to settle all disputes between two or more members of the league.
- Have final authority over all matters of controversy subject to appeals and decisions by the MSA, USYSA and USSF.
- Consider reimbursement for attendance to advanced training and/or seminars for coaches and/or referees with prior written approval of the Board. (Revised 01-07-96)

7. MEETINGS:

- The Board of Directors of the MYSO will meet the first Monday of each month or at the time established at the first meeting of the Board that is most convenient to all members. The meetings will be set by the board President and any request to be added to the agenda must be properly presented in writing 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date. (Revised 8-1-11)
- An Open Business Meeting will be held each January to review the fall season and discuss the spring season. Nominations will be discussed for elected positions. (Revised 01-07-96).
- An Annual Meeting will be held on or before February 28 of each year for the purpose of electing officers. The term of office shall be from June 1 to May 31. All members eligible to vote will be notified. (Revised (01-07-96)
- Special meetings may be called by the MYSO President at any time by giving three (3) days written notice to all members of the board in order to consider protests, complaints, or other pressing matters which may require a timely response by the Board of Directors.
- The Executive Committee will decide what meetings the non-voting board members are required to attend and notify them. Non-voting members are the Director of Concessions, Tournament Director, Director of Coaches (Revised 08-05-02).

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- The President of the MYSO shall appoint five (5) people from the current board to form a nominating committee. A sample ballot and proposed agenda must be mailed to each voting member at least two (2) weeks in advance of the election with provisions made for “write in” candidates. The names of “write in” candidates must be received by the nominating committee at least 48 hours prior to the annual meeting. The officers of MYSO shall be elected by a majority vote of ballots cast at the annual meeting. Ballots must be cast in person with each eligible voter having one ballot. Eligible voters are the current Board of Directors, all non-voting board members and all current head coaches in good standing. Terms of office shall be June 1 to May 31. (Revised 5-29-97)
- The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected by eligible voting members. The preceding officers cannot succeed themselves in the same capacity for more than two terms, with the exception of the President and Vice-Presidents, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Other officers shall be appointed as defined in job descriptions. Individual qualifications are also defined within each job descriptions. (Revised 01-07-96)
- League Directors will be appointed by the President and the 1st Vice President Division III. These positions can be removed at any time by the President and Vice-Presidents by a vote of two-thirds. (Revised 8-1-11)

9. OFFICERS – QUALIFICATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS:

- A. PRESIDENT – The President will be responsible for scheduling and conducting the board meetings. He/she will also serve as chairperson of the protest committee.

He/she will approve all bills incurred by the league for payment by the treasurer. He/she will make recommendations for all sub-committees and appeal boards to be approved by the Executive Committee and he/she, or his/her designate, shall serve as an ex-officio member of these bodies. (Revised 8-1-11) He/she will have the power to co-sign checks with the Treasurer of MYSO. He/she, along with the DIII Vice-President, will jointly appoint the League Directors, while also having the ability to remove such position at any time. (Revised 8-1-11)The President can also add additional help where needed in the form of non-voting positions. (Revised 8-1-11)

B. 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT DIVISION III – The 1ST Vice-President will assume the duties of President in his absence and will serve on the protest committee. He/she will be responsible for ordering trophies and awards and their distribution to the league directors. He/she will be responsible for ordering equipment, inventory and storage of same, and distribution to the coaches or their representatives, will advise and/or assist the Tournament Director in the organization and direction of MSA sponsored tournaments, be responsible for field procurement, layout and maintenance, and will serve as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Director. (Revised 8-1-11) He/she will have the power to co-sign checks with the Treasurer of MYSO. He/she, along with the President, will jointly appoint the league directors. (Revised 05-21-07)

C. 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT DIVISION 1 AND II – The 2nd Vice-President will be responsible for assisting Division I and Division II teams with registration and insuring that all teams are registered in accordance with MSA guidelines. Other responsibilities will include:

- Acting as liaison between MYSO, MSA and the Meridian Futbol Club. He/she will report to the MYSO Board of Directors any pertinent information regarding D1/D2 teams. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Will be responsible for reporting to the MSA Division I/II Vice Presidents on matters concerning MYSO/MFC D1/D2 teams, including cautions and ejections. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Will assist with game schedules and coordinate home games with the referee assignor, for both D1/D2, if needed.
- Has the authority to call special meetings for D1/D2 coaches and/or team managers as deemed necessary. He/she will be responsible for holding a preseason meeting for all D1/D2 coaches and managers in order to train administrators on creating rosters and player passes. He/she will set a club tournament schedule for all MYSO/MFC D1/D2 teams. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Will be responsible for selecting the required uniform for D1/D2 teams representing MYSO/MFC and ensuring that each team is outfitted accordingly. Uniform selection will be completed by August 1 of the upcoming season. D1 teams under MYSO/MFC will wear the uniform designated by the 2nd Vice President and any teams out of compliance (wearing uniforms not approved by MYSO/MFC) will be subject to a discipline hearing and could be deemed a team or coach in poor standing. This includes the brand, the colors, and the logo/crest. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Will be responsible for providing an up to date list of available trainers with contact information and a consistent fee schedule to the board for approval

- D. SECRETARY – The Secretary shall maintain all records. He/she shall keep minutes at all meetings of the Board of Directors, provide copies to each member and post copies to the website after approval. He/she will be responsible for providing Parks and Recreation with a calendar of events including fall/spring season dates, camps, clinics and other activities approved and sponsored by MYSO. (Revised 6-7-10) He/she will also be responsible for writing and publishing a periodical newsletter as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. He/she will have the power to co-sign checks with the Treasurer of MYSO. He/she will be responsible for maintaining the MYSO web site with up-to-date information including game schedules, registration information, dates, clinics, field closings and game cancellations. (Revised 05-21-07)
- E. TREASURER – The Treasurer will be responsible for all funds belonging to the MYSO/MFC. (Revised 8-1-11) He/she shall receive all monies of the MYSO and pay all approved bills. He/she shall make quarterly or monthly financial reports to the MYSO Board of Directors. He/she will co-sign checks with the President, Vice-President or Secretary. (Revised 05-29-97)
- F. REGISTRAR – The Registrar will be responsible for maintaining up-to-date team rosters, assigning player registration numbers and transmitting the proper forms to MSA as required. The Registrar shall be responsible for all publicity of the MYSO to include registration and playing schedules. The Registrar shall also be responsible for liaison with MSA and shall serve as chair of the selection of players and coordinate league activities with the City of Meridian. He/she shall be appointed by the President and Vice-Presidents and will be paid \$300.00 per quarter for his/her duties. He/she will also report to the President regarding any requests, such as player transfers, releases, etc., while the appropriate approval will be up to the Executive Committee. Due to time restraints, the President may be allowed to consult with the Executive Committee via phone or email for this direction. (Revised 8-1-11)
- G. DIRECTOR OF CONCESSIONS – The Director of Concessions will be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall report to the Treasurer. The Director shall be responsible for managing concessions to include securing stands, purchasing supplies, setting prices, and arranging for paid help as necessary. The Director will present a quarterly financial statement to the Board of Directors. Non-Voting Member (Revised 05-29-97)
- H. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – The Immediate Past President will stay on the Board of Directors for one (1) year and assist the new President as needed. He/she will serve on the protest committee. (Revised 05-29-97)
- I. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – The Tournament Director shall be appointed, by the President and Vice-Presidents. He/she shall be responsible for all tournaments for MYSO including pre-season or end-of-the season tournaments. He/she is responsible for:
- Signing applications for tournaments with the President and process with MSA to hold tournaments (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Arranging all aspects of running a tournament, including volunteers (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Following guidelines set forth by MSA
 - Chairing the State Games Committee
 - Non-Voting Member

J. LEAGUE DIRECTORS – League Directors will be appointed by the President and 1st Vice-President (Division III) jointly and cannot be a coach or assistant coach of record within the same age/gender league unless it is in a non-competitive league, U8 and below. (Revised 8-1-11) League Directors will act as liaisons between parents, coaches and his/her respective league and the Board of Directors. A League Director will be appointed to each age/gender division having at least three (3) teams. It will be the responsibility of the League Directors to administer and supervise the organization, conduct and play of the teams in his/her age division. League Directors will be required to attend all MYSO Board meeting as voting members. (Revised 6-7-10) A League Director may also be appointed to oversee the Adult League if one exists. Adult League Director must have a minimum of two (2) teams registered for the fiscal year in order to be a voting member of the Board, otherwise will be a Non-Voting Member of the Board. (Revised 8-1-11)

Those responsibilities are:

- Obtaining coaches for each team.
- Coordinating sanctioned games with teams outside MYSO to insure proper player treatment, adequate facilities and qualified officiating.
- Insuring that all players in his/her age division are properly registered with all fees being paid and that team rosters are prepared and submitted to the Registrar. League Director, U10 and above, will be responsible for obtaining signed releases from parents or guardians of dropped players, including players not returning for the spring season. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Maintaining team standings and scheduling the end-of-season tournament if applicable. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Arbitrating all disputes within his/her age division (player/coach disputes, parents/coach disputes, etc.) except formal protests and those disputes involving teams which include players related to the League Director. They are the liaisons between parents and coaches to the Board of Directors. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Receiving all formal protests that occur in his/her age division and refer them to the head of the protest committee within 24 hours of receiving them. This must be in a written format describing the protest. (Revised 8-1-11)
- Assist Registrar in the selection of players and scheduling of games, and shall have the responsibility of re-scheduling games with the assistance of the Referee Assignor of MYSO. (Revised 05-21-07) League Directors will be responsible for assisting the league in all functions including MYSO/MSA tournaments, on site registrations and work days. (Revised 6-7-10)
- League Directors are also responsible for distribution of all trophies within their respected league. (Revised 8-1-11)

K. HEAD REFEREE – The Head Referee will be appointed by the President and Vice Presidents of MYSO. He/she should be a licensed USSF referee. If the Head Referee is by appointment by the above, he/she will be a member of the Board of Directors of MYSO and will be able to vote on the committees mentioned in the MYSO By-laws. (Revised 8-1-11) If the Head Referee is elected by the Meridian Referee Association or other such association, he/she will not be considered a member of the MYSO

Board of Directors. He/she is responsible for presenting to the Board a recommended pay schedule at the end of each soccer year so that the Board can make any necessary changes in registration fees for the following year. (Revised 08-26-02)

- L. **DIRECTOR OF COACHES** – He/she will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The objective of this position is to improve the quality and enjoyment of soccer for all ages at MYSO by providing assistance and direction to all coaches. Some of the ways to accomplish this are:
- A pre-season meeting of all coaches and assistant coaches to see what they need and desire to know.
 - Provide individual coaching assistance.
 - Attend and conduct team training sessions with coaches during the season.
 - Provide the latest information for USSF and NSCAA on coaching methodology, clinic dates and locations.
 - Shall be on duty at the soccer field as arranged by the past president.
- Non-Voting Member (Revised 05-29-97)
- M. **KIDSAFE COORDINATOR** – He/She shall implement the KidSafe Program throughout MYSO which includes background checks on all coaches, assistant coaches, board members, referees and additional staff obtained by MYSO to administer camps, clinics or other activities. (Revised 6-7-10) He/she will be appointed by the Executive Committee. He/she is responsible for all Disclosure Statements and information obtained through these. He/she shall be on duty at the soccer field as arranged by the past president. Voting Member (Revised 08-05-02)

10. OTHER POSITIONS

- A. **REFEREE ASSIGNER(S)** – He/She shall be appointed by the President and Vice Presidents of MYSO. This procedure will take place via MYSO Board approved software and the assigner(s) must treat all referees fair by rotating them and giving everyone opportunities to officiate games. The President has the authority to choose the assigners for any given game day. All Referee Assigners must take an MSA accredited course and be certified to be qualified as a Referee Assigner. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION II: REGISTRATION

1. **DUTIES:** The Registrar will organize and conduct all player registrations. Sub-pool registrations must be submitted to the MYSO Registrar by the sub-pool representative at the close of MYSO registration. Sub-pool requests must then be submitted by the registrar to the Central District director and the MSA registrar for approval prior to formation of teams. (Revised 6-7-10) Sub-pool parents may choose to register directly with the MYSO Registrar. The alternate registration location shall be advertised by the sub-pool. Sub-pool team selections will only be held at the official MYSO team selection and will be available for inspection at that time.
2. **SEASONAL YEAR:** The seasonal year of the MYSO shall begin on September 1st and end on August 31st of the following year and will include both a fall playing season and a spring playing season. All Players Rules are in effect during the twelve months of the seasonal year.

3. **PLAYER REGISTRATION:** Each player must register in the fall for both the fall and spring seasons. Each player's registration includes membership in the United States Soccer Federation and Mississippi Soccer Association. Registration fees shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be paid upon demand to the Board of Directors at the time of registration. Fees must be paid in full for the prior year before a player may be placed on a team unless the Board deems a hardship. Each player must be officially registered with MYSO before being allowed to participate in any practices or league games. Those players that did not register in the fall will have to register in the spring before they can play in any practices or league games. (Revised 01-07-96)

4. **AGE DIVISIONS:**
 - A. The MYSO Recreations Division shall consist of various boys and girls divisions through the age of eighteen (18). These age divisions shall be:
 - Under 19 years of age (U19)
 - Under 16 years of age (U16)
 - Under 14 years of age (U14)
 - Under 12 years of age (U12)
 - Under 10 years of age (U10)
 - Under 8 years of age (U8)
 - Under 7 years of age (U7)
 - Under 6 years of age (U6)
 - Under 5 years of age (U5) (Revised 8-20-03)
 - Under 4 years of age (U4) Fall season only (Revised 8-1-11)

 - B. Each age division shall be comprised of players who are, on the first day of August of the current season, under 19, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 years of age (see paragraph II-2 above for the definition of the current season or seasonal year). Players will be placed in the proper age division by their age on August 1st. This satisfies the MSA and USYSA requirements that a player assigned to a team in the fall season must remain on that team (in the same age group) in the spring season. Players under the age of 3 on July 31st will not be allowed to participate. You must be 3 or above to play. No player will be allowed to play below his age group. A player may request to the Board of Directors to play up one age year with exception of pre-under 4. These will be approved if: (Revised 8-1-11)
 - A sibling is in the next age division and they would be on the same team.
 - Player has an August birthday.
 - Others will be based on a case-by-case basis.
 - No more than 30% of a team can be made up of players moving up from a lower age group beyond under 8. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION III: TEAMS

1. **TEAM NAMES:** Team names shall bear no resemblances to a religion or nationality.

2. **TEAM ASSIGNMENTS:** Each child will be assigned to a particular team within his or her

age group. This assignment will be made as outlined in Section III, paragraph 5. Coaches recruiting additional players cannot guarantee an assignment to that coach's team. The transfer of players shall be deemed unacceptable unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee for consideration of the Board. (Revised 06-01-94)

3. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** No team shall be allowed more than a full roster of registered players at any one time in the fall season or a full roster of players for the spring season. A full roster will consist of no more than the following number of players in each age group: U19 – 18; U16 – 18; (Revised 8-20-04) Rosters may be expanded to 22 with permission from MSA. U14 - 18; U12 - 14; U10 - 10; U8 - 8; U7 - 8; U6 - 6; U5 – 6; and U4 – 6. A full playing team consists of the following players on the field for either team: U14 and above - 11; U12 - 8; U10-6; U8 - 5 with goalkeeper; U7 - 5 with goalkeeper; U6 and below – 3 with no goalkeeper. (Revised 8-21-12) Games can be played with a minimum number of players on the field for either team which will be one less than the required starting number (example: 5 for U10, 7 for U12 and up). (Revised 6-7-10) U5-U8 will have no minimums and may borrow players from the other team. These minimums will be set by USYSA rules. In the case of a player being ejected from a game, the team shall play the remainder of the game with one less player. If because of player ejections, a team's field strength falls below the minimum, that team forfeits the game at the existing score if it is behind and at a score of 1-0 if it is ahead. (Revised 05-21-07)
4. **SECONDARY REGISTRATION:** Any request for secondary registration must be approved by the Board of Directors. (Revised 01-07-96)
5. **TEAM LEVELING PROCEDURE:** MYSO will assign players to teams in such a way as to approximate an equal distribution of ages within the given age division. The following procedures will be used for leveling teams within the Recreation Division to avoid disparities which would result in unbalanced levels of ability on teams within a given age division. The following must be met in order to receive approval by MSA: (Revised 01-07-96)
 - A. Players will be assigned to a team every year.
 - B. Team assignments for the fall season will be made when all teams have a head coach in that division. (Revised 05-29-97)
 - C. The head coach will have the opportunity to place his/her child on his/her team using the guidelines listed below in III.5.F. (Revised 6-29-00)
 - D. Brothers and sisters in the same age/gender group shall be assigned to the same team unless their parents or legal guardians request otherwise.
 - E. Players will be placed on teams using the MSA online e-registration through MYSO Board approved software. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - F. At the scheduled coach's meeting prior to the season, all coaches in each age/gender division will meet to review the rosters. The roster shall include a numerical rating for each player in U8 and up. (REVISED 8-10-06) Players may be moved from a team to satisfy the equal distribution of players by age and ability with the approval of the coaches, League Director, and the Registrar. The teams will then be drawn at random by the coaches. A coach's child may be traded if necessary for a child of equal ability (rating). The coach of the team losing a player to a trade shall chose a player of equal rating or above on the receiving team. (Revised 6-29-00)

- G. The above process ensures that a player may be assigned to any team in their age/gender division except those players in sections III.5.C and III.5.D. (Revised 05-29-97)
- H. Teams will be verified by coach and league director that his/her players are/are not returning for the spring season. This information will be given to the Registrar by the close of the spring supplemental registration in writing. New players for the spring will be placed by the availability of open slots in that age/gender division at the discretion of the league director and the Registrar.
6. **TEAM LIABILITIES:** Each team, upon formation as a member of the MYSO, shall be furnished a copy of the Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules, and that action shall be deemed sufficient notice of their liabilities.
7. **TEAM COACHES:** Each team will have no more than one head coach and one assistant coach and one team parent for the purpose of official recognition by the MYSO. Names of official assistance will be provided to the league director and registrar by the second regular meeting. Any person(s) helping or assisting a team in training or volunteering must have a Kid-Safe for the current year on file with MYSO. (Revised 8-1-11) A team may obtain all the unofficial assistance it desires. The coach of each team is responsible for following the disciplinary reporting system set forth by MSA. All cautions and ejections will be reported to the MYSO President and he will direct this information to MSA as ruled. (Revised 01-07-96)
8. **PLAYER TRANSFERS AND/OR GUEST PLAYERS (Revised 6-7-10):** All player releases and transfers must be requested by the parent or guardian of the player through the MSA online transfer system. Upon request, the MYSO Registrar will have 72 hours to process all player releases and transfers to another organization. This process must be consulted with the President, and the Executive Committee must be notified. This notification can be via phone or email for such approval or denial. The person making the request, player or parent, will be notified in writing within 72 hours of the President's and Executive Committee's decision. Upon MYSO approval, the MYSO registrar will send the request to the MSA registrar for final approval. (Revised 8-1-11) A player who is released to play with MYSO or to another organization may participate with their new team upon approval. A player who is transferred to play with MYSO or to another organization is subject to a 14 day waiting period after approval per MSA transfer rules. Player releases or transfers that are denied are subject to appeal per MSA policy.

A Hardship Transfer (Division III Teams only) is a MSA-approved transfer to restore a team's strength back to the maximum number of players allowed on the field at one time plus two (2) substitutes. The transferred player(s) must be a registered player(s) in the member organization who is the same age with equal to or less than the number of Seasonal Years' playing experience. Hardship Transfers are the only acceptable player transfers for Division III teams, which are scheduled to play in their respective State Championship Cups (District Tournaments and Championship Rounds). They must meet all established player transfer policies unless MSA grants the exception defined in this section. The MSA Registrar must

approve and register all Division III player transfers at least fourteen (14) days prior to the affected player participating in the MSA District and Championship Rounds of Division III State Championships. This requirement applies to a Hardship Transfers for Division III teams entered in MSA sponsored tournaments. A member organization can petition the MSA Executive Council to waive the fourteen (14) day requirement for transfers. The exception can be granted if the hardship situation for a team occurs as a result of documented and verified player injury, player sickness, or family emergency which occurs between the District Tournament and the Championship Round.

Guest players are not allowed during seasonal league play or district and state championships. Teams may use guest players for tournaments if allowed per tournament rules. Guest player passes for tournament use may be requested through the MSA.

9. DIVISION I (Select) TEAMS must meet the following criteria: (Revised 6-7-10)
 - A. Letters of intent to form Division I teams must be submitted to the MYSO Board of Directors at the April board meeting. Formation of teams and coaches must be approved by the MYSO Board. Division I coaches must hold an E license or higher per MSA coaching requirements. The structure of the Division I program will solely be at the discretion of the board of directors.
 - B. Tryouts may take place after June 15th for the seasonal year (September 1st – August 31st.)
 - C. Tryouts are to be advertised throughout the designated territory and open to all interested players as by MSA rules.
 - D. Teams must be chosen and rosters sent to the Registrar prior to the close of Recreation (Division III) soccer registration.
 - E. Players may not be contacted for a Select team after the close of registration for Recreation soccer.
 - F. The coach of each team is responsible for following the disciplinary reporting system set forth by MSA. All cautions and ejections will be reported to the 2nd Vice President and Registrar by the fifth (5th) day following expiration of the particular reporting month.
 - G. Division I teams will compete as Meridian Futbol Club (MFC) and will be required to wear the approved MFC uniform with the MFC logo/crest in its designated area on the front of the jersey. These kits should be gender appropriate. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - H. Division I coaches or a designated team manager will be required to attend the preseason training meeting scheduled by the 2nd Vice President.

10. DIVISION II TEAMS (Revised 6-7-10)
 - A. Any coach in good standing with MYSO/MSA may form a Division II team within Meridian Youth Soccer Organization and will play as Meridian Futbol Club (MFC). (Revised 8-1-11) The coach should submit an “Intent to Form” application with MYSO/MSA by September 1 for the upcoming year.
 - B. Division II coaches must have the appropriate age level coaching license for the age group they wish to coach at the time the letter of intent is submitted (U10/U12 youth module, E license for U14-U19)
 - C. The coach may select the team in the manner he sees fit and may or may not conduct a tryout. The coach may select a team or a team pool according to the MSA Division

- II rules. Division II teams within MYSO must be secondarily registered teams, unless they are a board approved DII Primary team. (Revised 8-1-11) There may be more than one team in each age/gender group if there is a qualified coach for an additional team (see paragraph 1 for coach qualifications).
- D. Each coach is responsible for following the rules set forth by MSA in order to appropriately roster and register his/her team and players. Division II coaches or a designated team manager will be required to attend the preseason training meeting scheduled by the 2nd Vice President.
 - E. Division II coaches must be 21 years of age, unless otherwise approved by the MYSO Board of Directors.
 - F. Division II teams will be required to wear the approved MFC uniform with the MFC logo/crest in its designated area on the front of the jersey. These kits should be gender appropriate. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - G. Division II Primary will be subject to MYSO Board approval. (Revised 8-1-11)
11. STATE GAMES COACH AND TEAM SELECTION (Revised 06-07-10)
- A. Any coach in good standing with MYSO/MSA may form a State Games team within Meridian Youth Soccer Organization. They coach should submit and “Application to Coach” form with MYSO by April 1 and have a Kid Safe form on file with MYSO/MSA.
 - B. State Games coaches must have the appropriate age level coaching license for the age group they wish to coach at the time the “Application to Coach” is submitted unless he/she obtains approval from the MYSO board of directors.
 - C. The coach may select the team in the manner he/she sees fit and may or may not conduct a tryout. State Games teams within MYSO must be secondarily registered teams and all players selected must be on a Division III spring recreational roster. No Division I players will be allowed to participate. There may be more than one team in each age/gender group if there is a qualified coach for an additional team. U10 and U12 teams will be required to participate in the Central District qualifying tournament and will advance to the State Games tournament according to their place at the qualifying tournament. U8, U14 and U16 teams will not be required to qualify but must be one of the first 12 teams registered with the State Games office. Teams may register on or after May. 1.
 - D. Each coach is responsible for knowing and following the rules set forth by MSA and the State Games of Mississippi to appropriately roster and register his/her team and players which includes secondary registration and player passes.
 - E. State Games coaches must be 21 years of age, unless otherwise approved by the MYSO board of directors.
 - F. State Games rosters must be submitted to the MYSO registrar by May 1.
 - G. Team roster limits: U8-8 players, U10-12 players, U12-16 players, U14-18 players, U16-18 players. U16 rosters may be expanded up to 22 players, with permission from MSA.

SECTION IV: EQUIPMENT

- 1. UNIFORMS: In order to compete, a player must be dressed as follows:
 - A. Full uniform consisting of shorts, jersey and socks of proper color for the team assigned. Uniform is responsibility of the player.

- B. Jersey tucked into shorts and socks are pulled up over shin guards. (Revised 01-07-91)
 - C. Regulation soccer shoes are strongly recommended in all competition and practice except the U6 league. Shoes with metal spikes or baseball cleats will not be allowed in games or practice. Valez style soccer shoes and soccer shoes with rounded metal tips will be allowed with the approval of the center referee. (Revised 05-29-97)
 - D. FIFA approved shin guards are mandatory for both games and practices. Shin guards shall be worn inside the players' socks. A player not complying with the type of shin guards or proper wearing of shin guards shall not be allowed to participate.
 - E. Goalkeepers may wear long trousers under their uniform shorts.
 - F. Other team players may be permitted to wear long trousers under their uniforms on extremely cold days if permission is granted by the referee. The color of any long trousers should not be the same as the opposing team's color.
 - G. FIFA Law IV states "a player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player". The referee shall use their judgment to determine if a player is wearing any item that would be dangerous to the player wearing the item or to another player. In such cases, the referee shall instruct the player to remove the item before commencing or continuing the match. (Revised 01-07-96)
2. BALL SIZES: U19, U16 and U14 teams shall use a #5 Size ball. U12, and U10 (Revised 8-20-2004) shall use a size 4 ball. U8 and under shall use a size 3 ball. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION V: COMPETITION AND PLAYING RULES

- 1. RULES OF THE GAME: With some minor modifications necessitated by the age of the soccer players, the conduct of games played in the MYSO will be in accordance with those of the Federation of International de Football Associations (FIFA) and the United States Soccer Federation.
- 2. SCHEDULES: The schedule of play will be determined by the Registrar and League Director(s). (Revised 6-29-00) Only games played between teams registered in the MYSO will be considered games of record and will have bearing on league standing. Game dates and times may only be changed with approval of the League Director and the Referee Assignor (Revised 6-27-06). A schedule will be formulated prior to the scheduling meeting for teams in U12 and above, boys and girls, and select to use as they schedule games with out-of-town teams. (Revised 01-07-96)

3. LENGTH OF GAMES: Each game will consist of periods as designated below for each age group and separated by a halftime of no less than five (5) and no more than ten (10) minutes. Length as follows (Revised 5-31-2009):

TEAMS	QUARTERS	HALF	GAME
U19		45 minutes	90 minutes
U16		40 minutes	80 minutes
U14		35 minutes	70 minutes
U12	15 minutes		60 minutes
U10	12 minutes		48 minutes
U8	10 minutes		40 minutes
U7	10 minutes		40 minutes
U6	8 minutes		32 minutes
U5	8 minutes		32 minutes
U4	8 minutes		32 minutes

(Revised 8-1-11)

Each period is continuous playing time with any stoppages being determined only by the Referee. (Revised 01-07-91)

4. GAMES TIMES: Each game will start promptly at the scheduled starting time. A game may begin with as few players as outlined in Section III, paragraph 3, with additional players being added as they arrive until full team strength is reached. If any team cannot field the minimum number of players at the scheduled starting time plus ten (10) minutes grace period, the game is forfeited with a score of 1-0. (Revised 08-21-89)
5. TEAM REPRESENTATION: Each team shall be represented at the field of play by a coach or assistant coach or parent assigned for the game. Each person that represents a position on the team must have an active Kid-Safe on file for current fiscal year with MYSO. (Revised 8-1-11)
6. PLAYER PARTICIPATION: Each player must play at least one-half (½) of every game. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that his players receive this opportunity. Failure to play each player at least one-half (½) of the game will result in an ejection for the offending coach, except upon notification to the referee, prior to the start of the quarter/half that the player is missed. This begins with the first quarter/half and consecutively thereafter. A player that is not excused from practices or games or disrupts practices by not complying with the instructions of the coach or otherwise disrupts the normal performance of the coach to teach the game of soccer may be disciplined by a reduction in the required game playing time. If a coach deems it necessary for disciplinary reasons to limit the playing time of a player to less than the normal one-half (½) of the game, he/she shall so notify the League Director prior to the start of play. The League Director shall either approve or reject the request and notify the coach of his decision. If approved, it is the responsibility of the coach to notify the parents of the player of that decision prior to the start of play. In U10 and above, a player that is not excused from practice or games may be deemed inactive if he/she misses three (3) successive games or five (5) consecutive practices. The coach will make petition to the registrar in writing with documentation of the missed games and/or practices. The Registrar will notify the parents or guardians of the player by mail, email and phone that a request for inactive status has been made by the coach. The parent/guardian of the player

will have 48 hours to notify the registrar in writing of their intent. If no response is received, the player will be deemed inactive and replaced by a player from the waiting list. If the parent requests reinstatement to the team, the request must be presented to the registrar in writing. The status of the player will be reviewed by the board at the next scheduled board meeting. If the board deems the player unexcused and inactive, the registrar will notify the parent of the decision as well as the right to appeal. The parent will have seventy two (72) hours to appeal the decision by notifying the President in writing along with a \$100 non-refundable appeal fee. The appeal will be heard by the Discipline and Appeals Committee within 7 days of the appeal. The inactive player will revert to the last of the waiting list. (Revised 06-07-10)

7. **PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS:** Substitutions for U12, U10 and U8 (Revised 5-31-09) shall be made at the end of each quarter. Breaks at quarters are for substitutions only and are limited to two (2) minutes maximum. Substitutions in the U14-U19 age group shall be unlimited and may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times (Revised 5-31-09):
 - A. Prior to a throw-in at your team's favor.
 - B. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - C. After a goal by either team.
 - D. After an injury as by FIFA rules. (Revised 01-07-96)
 - E. At halftime.

Substitutions for U7, U6, U5, and U4 can be made at the end of quarters, in case of injury or any stoppage of play. Substitutions for these age groups are unlimited. Breaks at quarters should be limited to two (2) minutes maximum. In U14-U16, coaches are responsible for insuring each player receives playing time equal to one half of the game (Section V, #6). In U19, each player must enter the game in each half. (Revised 8-1-11)

8. **INJURIES:** Serious injuries in youth soccer are extremely rare. Most are just muscle cramps, loss of breath, or a bruised foot or shin. The MYSO has secondary accident insurance for all children playing in the league. If there is a need for this insurance, the League Director is to be contacted immediately after the injury occurs. When an injury occurs during play, play does not stop until so indicated by the referee. Parents and coaches are not allowed on the field until play is officially stopped and only then at the invitation of the referee.
9. **PRACTICE PERIODS:** A player must participate during the entire practice session with the team on which he/she is primarily registered. Once league play begins, team practice shall be limited to twice each week for a period of two (2) hours or less. If there is no game on the weekend, a third practice session may be held in lieu of the game. Coaches violating this provision are subject to discipline of up to and including forfeiture of their next game following each violation, although they will be allowed to play the game. Coaches are free to schedule team practices whenever they choose. In scheduling practice, consideration should be given to the religious preferences, school work, and home life of the players and conflicts should be avoided whenever possible. Coaches may not practice their team later than 8:00 p.m. on any school night with the exception of U14 and above, and they may not practice past 8:30 p.m. (Revised 07-17-12)

10. **PLAYING FIELDS:** Field assignments will be made by the MYSO Board of Directors for

games and practices. (Revised 01-07-96) The fields are also available “first come first serve” and are designated first to their appropriate age (for example: a U10 team should not practice on a U8 field; the U8 team would get priority even if they were not their first). Also, any MYSO/MFC sponsored event will also take priority on certain fields. Any non-MYSO team requesting the use of fields at the Jaycee or Northeast Complex must get written approval from the MYSO Board of Directors and the City of Meridian. They must adhere to the board’s decision in this regard and maybe asked to pay a fee for this use, which would be determined by the MYSO Board of Directors for repairs and maintenance. (Revised 8-1-11)

11. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Soccer, like football, is played in inclement weather. Only the 1st Vice-President or Head Referee can cancel any game. All canceled games will be re-scheduled, if time is allowed during the season. (Revised 8-1-11) If a game is to be canceled, the 1st Vice-President will notify the Registrar to send an email/text blast to the entire MYSO organization, and notify the local radio and television stations (if so desired) plus the League Directors of the cancellation. (Revised 8-1-11) If notification of cancellation is not received, both coaches have the obligation to bring their teams to the field to play. The coaches also have the responsibility to call the League Director back to verify that the game was canceled. At the field, at game time, the referee can cancel the game if lightning is present. In making this decision, the referee will, at the scheduled game time, take a head count of both teams. If either team has the minimum number of players as described in Section III, paragraph 3, the team with less than the minimum will forfeit that game by the score of 1-0 even though the game could not be played. If both teams have at least the minimum number of players, game can be officially canceled and re-scheduled. (Revised 6-7-10) Once the game is begun, only the referee can stop the game because of lightning, severe weather, excessive heat or cold. If the game is still in the first half, it will be re-scheduled. If the game is in the second half when it is stopped, it will be considered as a game of record. If playing conditions deteriorate, both coaches may petition the referee to terminate the game. (REVISED 5-21-07) If neither the 1st Vice President nor the Head Referee is available to make such decision, the President and Registrar will be allowed to make the necessary decision and notifications. (Revised 8-1-11)
12. **POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES:** Any team desiring the postponement of any scheduled game must first give notice to the coach of the opposing team. If a postponement has been mutually agreed upon, both team coaches involved must individually obtain sanction from the League Director not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the postponement. (Revised 6-7-10) The League Director shall notify the Referee Assignor (Revised 6-29-00) so the assigned referee can be notified. Games will be re-scheduled in consideration of teams playing in out-of-town tournaments. In cases where the condition of the field is to be decided upon, only the referee’s decision to play or not play a game can be accepted. (Revised 01-07-96)
13. **REFUSAL OR FAILURE TO PLAY:** Any team refusing or failing to play a game in compliance with these Organizational and Playing Rules as determined by the referee and approved by the League Director shall forfeit that game and all points associated with that game. Any coach refusing to play a game on his own authority or for his own personal convenience will face disciplinary action by the MYSO Board of Directors. (Revised 01-07-

96)

14. NOTIFICATION OF RE-SCHEDULED GAMES: Teams which are to play postponed or re-scheduled games must be notified by the League Director at least seventy-two (72) hours before the game. (Revised 6-7-10) The time and date of re-scheduled games has to be agreed upon by both coaches but must be consistent with MYSO schedules and acceptable to the League Director. The League Director has final authority to schedule make-up games when the coaches cannot agree.
15. CONSEQUENCES OF FORFEITURE: A team which fails to appear at any scheduled game shall forfeit the game by a score of 0-1, in favor of the opposing team.
16. DISCONTINUATION OF GAMES: If, for any reason not covered elsewhere in these Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules, a game is not played as two (2) completed halves, the 1st Vice-President or Head Referee shall have one (1) hour to re-schedule the game, order the game to stand as played, or have the remaining minutes played off at a later date. (Revised 05-29-97)
17. TEAM DISBANDING: In case a team disbands, or if for any reason a team is unable to play at least half of its scheduled games, the games played shall not count for or against opposing teams. If a team plays at least half of its games but not all of its games and then disbands, all games played after mid-season will remain in the standings. Playing schedules will be adjusted in these cases to ensure all teams play the same number of games by the season's end.
18. COACHING GROUND RULES: Coaching from the sidelines is permitted for U16 teams and younger divisions; that is, giving directions on one's own team on points of strategy and position is permitted only if:
 - A. No mechanical devices are used.
 - B. The tone of the voice is informative and the instructions are positive. Negative coaching, e.g., berating a player, making disparaging remarks or blatant criticism is not permitted.
 - C. The coach and substitute players remain on their sidelines or within any league designated restricted area during the game. The home team side is the side closest to the concession stand. Home teams are listed first on the schedule. (Revised 01-07-96)
 - D. Coaches will not wear a referee uniform during a game in which he/she is coaching or participating. (Revised 01-07-96)
 - E. No coach should deliberately attempt to humiliate the opposing team by excessive scoring.
 - F. Coaches will file an official game report to be turned in by the end of the game day. This report will show scores, players (names and jersey numbers) and quarters played. The report will be signed by the center referee and the coach. (Revised 01-07-96)

For failure to comply with the foregoing, except E & F (See Section V, Number 18) (Revised

8-1-11), a caution will be given to the offending coach, unless in the Referee's judgment a more serious infraction has occurred, in which case the referee will act accordingly. If the game has been stopped to award the caution, it will be restarted with an indirect free kick taken by the opposing side at the point where the call was when play was halted. Persistent misconduct after receipt of a caution will be dealt with by ejection of the offending coach or player or suspension of the games as appropriate. In the event of any of the foregoing, a report of the circumstances will be made to the League Director of any further action he/she may deem appropriate. In the case of E (See Section V, Number 18) (Revised 8-1-11), the first offense will warrant a verbal warning from the referee. If the offending coach should persist with this offense, the action will be taken as outlined above. (Revised 08-21-89)

19. **DROPPED PLAYERS:** Coaches will be responsible for reporting any dropped players to their league director. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of games played from the time the player dropped until notification to the registrar. A player(s) will officially be dropped from a team after the coach has been notified by the player or his/her legal guardian and the coach has notified the registrar in writing. **U10 and above** – Dropped players, including players not returning for the spring season, must have a release signed by the parent in order to be officially dropped from the roster and replaced with a player from the waiting list (Revised 06-7-10)

20. **LEAGUE SCORING:** The standing of teams in their respective leagues shall be figured by points. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss. If the total points of two (2) teams are the same at the end of the league season, head-to-head competition will be used to decide the winner. If still tied, the following tiebreakers will be used:

- A. Goal differential-minimum/maximum of 3 goals per game
- B. Least goals conceded
- C. Kicks from the penalty spot

If more than two (2) teams are tied, an appropriate playoff schedule, consistent with the number of teams tied, will be established by the League Director and pursued until a champion is decided. Head-to-head competition will be used for tournament seating. (Revised 01-07-96)

21. **AWARDS:** The presentation of awards in any age division will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. A league must have three (3) teams to be considered for awards. U4-U8 players will receive a team participation award at the close of the spring season. (Revised 6-27-06)

22. **TAKING OF PENALTY KICKS TO BREAK TIES (SHOOT-OUTS):** Regular season games ending in ties between teams of the MYSO shall remain ties and no shoot-outs for purposes of breaking the tie are permitted. When teams of the MYSO are competing against teams from other leagues, shoot-outs may be held if the game results in a tie. This must be mutually agreed upon prior to the start of the game between the two head coaches and the referee must be informed. Shoot-outs also will only be permitted when time allows. If there is another scheduled game immediately following the game that ended in a tie, then time will not allow for the shoot-out and no shoot-out will be permitted. This will follow MSA rules.

(Revised 01-07-96)

23. TRAVEL PERMITS: Any team traveling out of state must have an approved travel permit. These forms are available on request from the registrar. They must be sent to the MSA office at least 30 days prior to the scheduled game(s). (Added 01-07-96)

SECTION VI: TOURNAMENTS

1. DISTRICT PLAYOFFS: The top four teams in U10/U12 and the top two teams in U14 and up will be given the opportunity to represent Meridian in that age group in the district playoffs of MSA. (Revised 6-27-06) The representation is not mandatory and the decision to participate in the playoff is left up to the coach, players and parents of those teams. This decision must be made and reported to the League Director within twenty-four (24) hours after he/she announces the eligible teams in each age group. If the teams who are eligible decide not to participate, the opportunity to participate will be extended to the runner-up team. If they also decline, the opportunity will be extended to the next team in the standings and so on until a representative is found. MYSO will pay for only one team in each age/gender group to go to the District tournament which will be the highest ranked team accepting the invitation. (Revised 05-21-07). MYSO will pay State Cup fees for any team who finishes 1st or 2nd at the District Tournament (Revised 05-21-07).
2. END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENTS: Semi-finals and final tournament games ending in ties will be broken in the following manner: All leagues will conduct a coin toss to determine which team will kick off or defend a goal. Teams will change ends and possession after each period. U10 and above will play two (2) five minute overtimes halves (not sudden death). If the score is still tied after overtime, a shootout will be held. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION VII: OFFICIALS

1. OFFICIATING: All games under the jurisdiction of the MYSO shall be officiated by properly registered or trained officials in all games. (Revised 08-21-89)
2. LINESMAN: The linesman shall be a USSF licensed referee. If none are available, then club linesman may be used. (Revised 6-29-00)
3. MISCONDUCT: Any case of misconduct (including but not limited to yellow or red cards) on the field of play or off, before, during or after the game, by players, coaches or spectators, shall be reported by the referee separately to the registrar and the head referee stating all the particulars of the misconduct within forty-eight (48) hours of the game. If a coach or player is red carded or ejected from a game, he or she must sit out the next game and the carded offense is not subject to appeal. All other cases of misconduct are subject to appeal within 48 hours after all parties have been notified of the board decision regarding the misconduct. (Revised 8-19-2010) The appeal must be made in writing to the MYSO Board President and accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 appeal fee. The appeal will be heard within fifteen (15) days by the Discipline and Appeals Committee, which is appointed by the President. These individuals may or may not be a part of the MYSO Board of Directors. After the Discipline and Appeals Committee hearing, they will make recommendations to the MYSO Misconduct Committee. The MYSO Misconduct Committee will determine the proper

punishment. (Revised 8-1-11) If the appeal is denied, the coach, player or spectator will be advised of their right to appeal at the state level. Any action of Misconduct could be cited in the form of a temporary suspension should the Board declare the need. (Revised 8-1-11) The misconduct committee shall consist of three (3) of the five (5) listed directors:

- A. President
- B. Registrar
- C. Head Referee
- D. 1st Vice-President
- E. League Director(s) of the age group

Also in attendance should be the player, coach or spectator, the player's coach and the referee who filed the misconduct report. Parents of the player have the option to attend. (Revised 6-27-06)

SECTION VIII: PROTESTS AND APPEALS

1. **PROTESTS:** Any team protesting a game must, through its coach (or his representative) initiate such a protest in writing (two copies) by submitting one (1) copy to the coach (or his representative) of the opposing team, in the presence of the referee before leaving the field of play. The second copy must be given to the referee at the same time. The wording can be as simple as "the game against (other team's name) by the (protesting team's name) played on (date) at (time) is hereby being protested. Signed (coach's signature)". A formal protest in writing, stating all known facts, shall be sent to the League Director for that age group in which the protest occurred within forty-eight (48) hours of the game. All formal protests must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 protest fee. (REVISED 6-7-10)
 - A. Protests based on late starts and/or the field of play and appurtenances shall be filed with the referee in writing prior to the starting of the game. A copy of the protest shall be handed to the coach (or his representative) of the opposing team at that time.
 - B. Protests based on ineligible players shall be filed with the League Director no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the game in which the player participated. The protesting coach should mail or deliver a copy of the protest to the opposing coach at that time.
 - C. Protests based on player and/or coaching status, eligibility, or other matters not included under misconduct or game related shall be filed with the President in writing. (Revised 6-7-10)
 - D. Protest Committee shall take such action in the above matters as deemed necessary within seven (7) days from the time the League Director receives the protest.

2. **APPEALS:** Any team may appeal a decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee by requesting (in writing) that the committee reconsider its decision. This request, along with a \$100 non-refundable appeal fee, must be received by the President within fifteen (15) days after both parties of the original protest have been notified of the decision. (Revised 8-1-11) Parents, players, coaches or spectators may appeal a decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee regarding matters of player and/or coaching status, discipline, eligibility, or other matters not included under misconduct, by requesting an appeal in writing. This request, along with a \$100 non refundable appeal fee, must be received in writing by the President within fifteen (15) days after all parties involved have been notified of the decision. The Protest and Appeals Committee will draw on expertise outside the MYSO such as the MSA

or USYSA. (Revised 8-1-11)

3. **PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:** The MYSO Protest and Appeals Committee shall consist of the President, 1st Vice-President, Registrar, Immediate Past President, and the Head Referee. (Revised 8-1-11) The President will conduct all protest and appeal hearings, but will not be a voting member of the committee. All Protest and Appeals Committee members are expected to attend such hearings. All decisions will be reached by simple majority (51%) vote of the Committee. All deadlock votes will be considered no decision and the protest will be denied. A deadlock vote in an appeal is also no decision and the previous decision of the Committee will stand. All voting will be done on secret ballot unless the Committee agrees, prior to the start of the hearing, to forego that formality. Voting will then be done by ayes and nays. In both instances, the President will record the proceedings, count the votes, and notify the parties of the decision of the Committee. The proceedings of the hearing will be filed in the MYSO records for future reference in similar matters. (Revised 6-7-10)

SECTION IX: DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

1. **POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND/OR WEAPONS:** By any individual at any MYSO activity or facility will result in a ban from any MYSO facility until the Board of Directors re-instates their privileges. (Revised 01-07-96)
2. **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** will be reported to the City of Meridian for prosecution. (Revised 01-07-96)
3. **COACHES, PLAYERS, REFEREES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS OR ANYONE AFFILIATED WITH MYSO will not:** (Revised 8-1-11)
 - A. Make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referee, other players, substitutes, opposing coaches or spectators. (Revised 12-95)
 - B. Incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior. (Revised 12-95)
 - C. Use profanity. (Revised 01-07-96)

This is a violation of the MYSO Code of Ethics and will be subject to possibly disciplinary action. This could be in the form of any type of communication method. (Revised 8-1-11)
4. **SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE, THREAT OR ASSAULT:** Every coach is responsible for the actions of his players, assistant(s), and parents and is responsible for taking all necessary precautions to prevent spectators from interfering, threatening, or assaulting officials and players, before, during and/or at the conclusion of the game. Violations after the official warning may result in the termination of the game by the referee. Should this occur, the referee shall report the circumstances to the league director and the Board of Directors. (Revised 01-07-96)
5. **COACHES, PLAYERS, REFEREES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS OR ANYONE AFFILIATED WITH MYSO:** Any person being proved to the satisfaction of the MYSO Board of Directors to have been guilty of any violations of the laws of the game, Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules of the MYSO, or any misconduct detrimental to the game shall be dealt with as appropriate by the Board of Directors. These actions will take the necessary steps beginning with a hearing with the Discipline and Appeals

Committee, followed by results from the Misconduct Committee. Should immediate action be required, this can be assigned to the Executive Board for their immediate review. (Revised 8-1-11)

6. MISCONDUCT AGAINST REFEREES may occur before, during and after the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee. A referee includes the following: all currently registered USSF referees, linesman, 4th official, or other duly appointed to assist in the officiating in a match; any non-licensed non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee; and any club linesman. (Revised 01-07-96)
7. REFEREE ASSAULT is an intentional act of physical violence upon a referee. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury, damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc. Penalty for this type of assault is defined in Section IX, paragraph 9A. (Revised 01-07-96)
8. REFEREE ABUSE is a verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property or verbally threatening a referee. NOTE: Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "you won't get out of here in one piece", shall be deemed as referee abuse. Penalty for this type of abuse is defined in Section IX, paragraph 9B. (Revised 01-07-96)
9. PENALTIES shall be as follows:
 - A. Referee Assault (See Section IX, paragraph 7) – The player, coach, manager, parent, spectator, or official committing the referee assault will be subject to the discipline cited by MYSO's Misconduct Committee and will be handled case by case. The discipline can range up to five (5) years. This suspension will be reported to the Secretary of MSA. (Revised 8-1-11)
 - B. Referee Abuse (See Section IX, paragraph 8) – The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches with the rules of the competition and will be subject to the discipline cited by MYSO's Misconduct Committee and will be handled case by case. This suspension will be reported to the Secretary of the MSA. (Revised 8-1-11)
10. OFFENSES: Any offense that may occur should be reported in writing to the Board Member on Duty or by writing to their League Director within forty-eight (48) hours. Forms will be available from the League Director or the concession stand. (Revised 01-07-96)

SECTION X: KIDSAFE

1. **PURPOSE:** The Kid Safe Program is designed to promote the welfare of youth and players and to protect volunteer coaches, program administrators and MYSO. (Revised 01-07-96)
2. **KIDSAFE COORDINATOR:** The Kid Safe Coordinator shall be appointed, by the Executive Board, with the assigned responsibility of implementing and managing a Kid Safe program for MYSO. He/she shall help develop the state and local program. (Revised 8-1-11) This position is a voting position.
3. **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:** Each person wishing to apply for a position as a coach or program administrator with MYSO must complete an Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statement. In addition, every volunteer of MYSO who at any time could be expected, in the performance of their duties, to be alone with any registered player must have on file a completed Disclosure Statement. Example, head coaches, assistant coaches or substitute coaches, MYSO administrators and program directors, team manager, referee, and trainers. (Revised 01-07-96)
4. **CONFIDENTIALITY:** Disclosure statements shall be stored securely and the information on them and cases arising from them shall be handled with the highest possible level of confidentiality. Only the organizations' KidSafe Coordinator or the designated alternate shall have access to the statements. (Revised 01-07-96)
5. **ZERO TOLERANCE:** The MYSO Board of Directors has a zero tolerance policy for the services of any person or persons not KidSafe approved. Any action taken place in this regard is subject to discipline by the Misconduct Committee and will be placed in poor standing. The Kid Safe Coordinator is responsible for investigating any instance where a violation has occurred and ask the President to call a special meeting of the Executive Board to discuss potential ramifications of the reported actions. A letter will be mailed by the Secretary to each person(s) involved. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION XI: REDUCING THE RISK OF CONTRACTING BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS

1. **OVERVIEW:** The following policies shall be in effect as a function of the KidSafe Program and is designed to protect players, officials and volunteers by reducing blood BORNE infections during play of any MYSO function. (Revised 01-07-96)
2. **GUIDELINES:** Regarding the presence of blood during play due to the increasing risk of contracting BLOOD BORNE infections, the following universal hygienic precautions should be taken in an athletic setting:
 - A. Before competing, cover any open wounds with suitable bandages and wraps.
 - B. When a referee observes a player bleeding during competition, play shall be stopped at the next natural stoppage of play. The player must be substituted.
 - C. Any player who has left match due to bleeding shall not re-enter the match until the bleeding has been controlled and the wound covered, at the next appropriate time for substitution.
 - D. When a referee observes an excessive amount of blood on a player, or their uniform, that player shall leave the match at the first natural stoppage of play and the blood

shall be wiped from the player or his/her uniform. The player may re-enter the match at the appropriate time for substitution.

- E. An excessive amount of blood is that amount which could be easily transferred from one player to another.
- F. Whenever possible, players should render first-aid to themselves, or first-aid should be administered by sideline personnel, not referees or contest officials.
- G. The referee shall document all cases of players being substituted for the presence of blood. (Revised 01-07-96)

SECTION XII: RULE CHANGES

- 1. **MODIFICATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES:**
 - A. Upon completion of the spring season which is the last game of the MYSO season ending tournament and at least 15 days prior to the start of the fall season of play, which is the first scheduled regular season game, the Board of Directors will convene to review the existing Organizational By-laws and Playing Rules for MYSO to see if they are adequate for the upcoming year and conform to Mississippi Soccer Association rules. (Revised 01-08-90)
 - B. Changes in the rules must be accomplished by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire voting membership of the existing Board of Directors, not just those in attendance during the voting. No changes will be allowed unless 75% of Board positions have been filled.
 - C. If a need arises to reconsider the rules during the seasonal year, this may be done in a special session called by the President. This special session will occur between the end of the fall season and the close of the registration for the spring season. No modification will be made in any rule once registration for the majority of the programs for a season has been officially completed, for example, a two-Saturday registration will officially end on the hours after the second Saturday registration has been completed.
 - D. All revised paragraphs shall be followed by the words, "Revised", with the month and year of revision. In addition, on page one (1) in the upper right hand corner, the date of the last revision shall appear. A revised By-laws and Playing Rules shall be published in sufficient quantities for every coach, referee and member of the Board of Directors at the end of each calendar year.

SECTION XIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** (Revised 01-07-96)
 - President..... Chairman Protest Committee
 - D3 Vice-President.....Protest Committee
 - D1/D2 Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 2. **APPOINTED: BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS** (Revised 8-1-11)
 - Registrar-Protest Committee
 - Head RefereeProtest Committee
 - Tournament Director (Non-Voting Member) (Revised 05-29-97)
- 3. **OFFICIALS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD:**
 - Immediate Past President.....Protest Committee

4. APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND D3 VICE-PRESIDENT: (Revised 05-29-97)
 - U4 League Director(s)
 - U5 League Director(s)
 - U6 League Director(s)
 - U7 League Director(s)
 - U8 League Director(s)
 - U10 League Director(s)
 - U12 League Director(s)
 - U14 League Director(s)
 - U16 League Director(s)
 - U19 League Director(s)

5. APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: (Revised 05-29-97)
 - Director of Concessions (Non-Voting Member) (Revised 05-29-97)
 - Director of Coaches (Non-Voting Member) (Revised 05-29-97)
 - Kid Safe Coordinator (Voting Member) (Revised 08-05-02)

6. AGENDA – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: The agenda of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors will be as follows:
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting
 - C. Communication (USSF, MSA & other leagues)
 - D. Report of the President
 - E. Organizational reports
 - F. Treasurer’s report
 - G. Unfinished business
 - H. New business
 - I. Adjournment

7. VACANCY — BOARD OF DIRECTORS: In the event of a vacancy through resignation, termination, impeachment, or movement of such officer from the area served by this organization, the President may appoint a temporary successor for officers elected until the next regular meeting or special meeting, at which time the position shall be filled by a proper election. For appointed officials only, reappointment by the appropriate person(s) is sufficient. (Revised 8-1-11)

SECTION XIV: ADOPTION

This document is adopted this 8th day of April, 1989 A.D. at Meridian in the county of Lauderdale and State of Mississippi and attested to by:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
John Dunnahoe	President
Wayne Allen	Vice-President
Kay Donnahoe	Secretary
Markey Joiner	Treasurer

THIS IS A TRUE, ACCURATE, AND CURRENT COPY OF THE BY-LAWS AND

PLAYING RULES AS AMENDED AS OF AUGUST 1, 2011.

Neil Henry, MYSO President