



GYSC Operations & Policy Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I. GOVERNANCE & CORE STANDARDS

- GYSC Zero Tolerance Policy Page 3
- GYSC Comprehensive Conduct and Inclusion Policy Page 6
- GYSC Conflicts of Interest Policy Page 8
- GYSC Conflicts of Interest Form Page 9

II. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- GYSC Financial Terms and Conditions Policy Page 10

III. COMMUNICATION & SIDELINE EXPECTATIONS

- GYSC Player, Parent, and Coach Communication Plan Page 12
- GYSC Sideline Etiquette Guidelines Page 13
- GYSC Media Release Form Page 14

IV. ON-FIELD OPERATIONS & SAFETY

- GYSC Coaching and Training Operations Policy Page 15
- GYSC Comprehensive Secondary and Guest Player Policy Page 16
- GYSC Weather and Safety Policy Page 18



GYSC ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Purpose

To help prevent misconduct during sanctioned events GYSC, has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators and referees effective immediately.

Examples of Policy Violations include but are not limited to:

- **Disrespectful or abusive behavior:** Yelling at officials, taunting opponents, or using obscene or inappropriate language or gestures.
- **Bullying, harassment, or hazing** of any player, coach, or official.
- **Violence or threats:** Fighting, aggressive conduct, or any attempt to injure.
- **Weapons or substance use:** Possession of weapons, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco at any GYSC activity.
- **Disruptive or unsafe behavior:** Throwing objects, unauthorized recording, or causing disturbances that impact the game environment.

It remains the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control.

PARENTS & SPECTATORS

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee or assistant referees at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
2. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
3. Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game.
4. Parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players, spectators, or coaches of either team.

PENALTIES (PARENTS & SPECTATORS)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

1. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the coach of the offending party's team.
2. The referee may stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent/spectator to leave the field.
3. The referee may abandon the game if the parent/spectator does not leave the field, resulting in a forfeit and potential fines.

The ultimate responsibility for the actions of the spectators resides with GYSC coaches. Any parent or coach whose actions result in a fine issued by CPYSL or EDP due to misconduct will be held accountable and subject to penalties and/or fines.

COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES & TRAINERS

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game, resulting in a hostile environment.

As role models for all participants and spectators, coaches are expected to be supportive of and acknowledge the effort, good play, and sportsmanship of all players. Coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers must show respect for referees, opponents, and spectators at all times.

GYSC will not tolerate negative behavior, demonstrative actions, or ill-intentioned remarks toward referees or opposing players. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, or sarcastic behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.

Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team in any negative, hostile, or sarcastic manner. Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) and may only address referees to respond to questions, address safety issues, or make substitutions. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation is allowed.

PENALTIES (COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, TRAINERS)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

1. Issue a verbal warning.
2. Eject the offending coach, assistant coach, or trainer.
3. Abandon the game if the individual refuses to leave.

Fines/penalties associated with the ejection of a coach, assistant coach or trainer will be assessed and paid by the party who caused the fines to be issued. This applies for any fees issued for not complying with mask mandates. Payments will be paid directly to GYSC, then GYSC will forward the payments to CPYSL or EDP.

GAMES DISBANDED PRIOR TO CONCLUSION BY THE REFEREE

If a game is disbanded before completion, GYSC will review the incident. In cases of extreme unsportsmanlike behavior, GYSC may ban a team, player, coach, or trainer from future sanctioned events.

POLICY DISCRETION

While GYSC has outlined a general progression of disciplinary steps, the Club and its Board reserve the right to bypass, combine, or accelerate disciplinary actions based on the severity or nature of the conduct. Certain situations, including but not limited to physical altercations, harassment, or threats, may warrant immediate advancement to Step 2 or Step 3 without prior warnings. This clause preserves a safe, respectful environment for all participants.

GYSC UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT PROCEDURES

Depending on the circumstances and severity of the behavior, GYSC reserves the right to escalate disciplinary action beyond the next step listed below.

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, OR SPECTATORS:

1st offense: Written and/or verbal warning and possible meeting with GYSC Director of Coaching.

2nd offense: Second written warning, suspension from attending the next game or tournament, and meeting with Director of Coaching.

3rd offense: Removal of athlete from GYSC and meeting with GYSC President.

ATHLETES:

1st offense: Written and/or verbal warning and possible meeting with GYSC Director of Coaching, Coach, and Guardian.

2nd offense: Second written warning, suspension from one week of practice and the next game/tournament, and meeting with Director of Coaching.

3rd offense: Removal from GYSC and meeting with GYSC President (no refunds for missed activities).

COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, OR TRAINERS:

1st offense: Written warning and possible meeting with GYSC Director of Coaching.

2nd offense: Second written warning, suspension from the next scheduled league game or tournament, and meeting with Director of Coaching.

3rd offense: Removal from GYSC and meeting with GYSC President.

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

All disciplinary decisions will be reviewed by the GYSC Board or its appointed representatives to ensure consistency and fairness. GYSC reserves the right to suspend or ban any participant whose conduct endangers the health, welfare, or safety of its members.

Signature _____ Date _____



GYSC COMPREHENSIVE CONDUCT AND INCLUSION POLICY



Purpose and Scope

Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian educational organization. We are committed to fostering the physical, mental, and emotional growth of our participants through soccer while promoting sportsmanship and character. This policy ensures a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all players, parents, guardians, coaches, referees, volunteers, staff, and spectators.

This policy applies to all GYSC programs, events, and communications, whether in-person or virtual.

Non-Discrimination and Inclusion Statement

GYSC strictly prohibits discrimination or harassment against any individual on the basis of:

- Race, color, or national origin
- Gender, gender identity, or expression
- Sexual orientation
- Disability (known or suspected) or non-communicable disease
- Religion, age, or marital status
- Pregnancy, genetic information, or status as a covered veteran

We value diversity and are committed to supporting the social and emotional well-being of every member of our community.

Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited and will be treated as disciplinary matters:

- **Harassment:** Includes slurs, offensive remarks, jokes, graphic material, or any offensive verbal, written, or physical conduct related to the protected categories listed above.
- **Bullying:** Repeated inappropriate behavior (direct or indirect) conducted by one or more persons against others. This includes slandering, ridiculing, name-calling, physical pushing/tripping, threatening gestures, or social exclusion.
- **Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. This includes demands for favors, sexual innuendoes, or unwanted physical contact.

Reporting Procedures

Anyone who experiences or witnesses discrimination, harassment, or bullying is required to report the incident promptly.

- **Primary Contacts:** Reports should be directed to the **Director of Coaching** or the **Club Administrator**.
- **Board Escalation:** If the concern involves club management or is not resolved, individuals should contact the **President** or any member of the **Board of Directors**.
- **Protection from Retaliation:** There will be no retaliation against anyone for stepping forward with a concern.

Investigation and Enforcement

The Board of Directors has the full power to conduct and direct the business of the corporation, including the enforcement of written policies.

- **Investigation:** GYSC will promptly investigate all reports expeditiously and professionally. In cases of bullying, the intention of the alleged bully is irrelevant; the focus remains on the effect of the behavior on the victim.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Individuals found in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary measures up to and including removal from GYSC activities or termination of employment/contract.
- **Board Discretion:** Per the 2025 Bylaws, the Board may accelerate disciplinary actions based on the severity of the conduct, such as physical altercations or threats.

Acknowledgment

By participating in GYSC programs, all members, employees, and volunteers agree to uphold these principles of equality, respect, and inclusion.

Signature _____ Date _____



GYSC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY



Purpose and Philosophy

As a charitable organization, Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) must engage primarily in activities that accomplish its tax-exempt purposes. To maintain public trust and federal tax-exempt status, all Directors, officers, and committee members must conduct club business without being influenced by substantial personal or business interests that conflict with the interests of GYSC.

Definitions

In accordance with the 2025 Bylaws, the following definitions apply:

- **Interest:** Includes personal interest; interest as a director, officer, member, stockholder, partner, manager, or trustee of any concern; or having an immediate family member who holds such an interest.
- **Concern:** Any corporation, association, trust, partnership, limited liability entity, firm, or person other than GYSC.

Disclosure Requirements

- **Duty to Disclose:** Any Director, officer, employee, or committee member who has an interest in a contract or transaction presented to the Board must give prompt, full, and frank disclosure of that interest prior to any Board action.
- **Annual Disclosure:** All officers and board members must sign a **Conflict of Interest Form** annually before assuming their responsibilities.
- **Ongoing Responsibility:** It is the ongoing responsibility of the individual to disclose any new conflicts that arise during their term.

Procedures for Handling Conflicts

Whenever a financial or personal interest exists in a matter before the Board:

- **Recusal:** The affected person must fully disclose the nature of the interest and withdraw from all discussions, lobbying, and voting on the matter.
- **Board Determination:** The disinterested members of the Board shall determine by majority vote whether a conflict exists or can reasonably be construed to exist.
- **Approval Standards:** A transaction involving a potential conflict shall only be approved if a majority of disinterested directors determine it is in the best interest of the corporation.
- **Documentation:** The meeting minutes must record the disclosure, the person's abstention from the vote, and the rationale for the final approval.

Compliance and Oversight

- **Records:** The Club Administrator is responsible for collecting, filing, and maintaining all signed Conflict of Interest Forms.
- **Violations:** Failure to disclose a known conflict of interest constitutes grounds for impeachment or removal from the club.



GYSC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FORM

Purpose

The purpose of this form is to record the acknowledgement of the attached Conflict of Interest Policy and record any disclosure by any board members/directors for the Year: _____

1. Acknowledgment: I have received, read, and understand the GYSC Conflict of Interest Policy and Article XIII of the 2025 Bylaws.

2. Agreement: I agree to comply with this policy and understand that GYSC must engage in activities that fulfill its charitable purpose.

3. Disclosure (Check one):

- ☐ I have **no** financial or leadership position or interest in any business or organization that is contracted by or serves GYSC.
- ☐ I **do** have an interest or leadership position in the following organizations that engage with GYSC for services rendered:
 - **Business:** _____ **Position:** _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



GYSC FINANCIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS POLICY



Commitment and Purpose

The success of Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) travel teams is dependent on the commitment of every rostered player. By accepting a position on a team, players and parents commit to completing all required paperwork, attending all league games and tournaments, and paying all fees promptly. Because withdrawals can result in the unraveling of a team, GYSC maintains a stringent and non-negotiable financial policy.

Payment Platform and Methods

All financial transactions are managed through the club's official registration platform.

- **Platform:** All payments must be made via **GotSoccer**.
- **Method of Payment:** The primary method for accepting payments is online. Families are responsible for maintaining accurate account and credit card information within the GotSoccer system.
- **Electronic Statements:** GYSC does not send mailed statements; families must proactively check their balance and payment status through their GotSoccer account.

Payment Schedules

Player fees are payable according to the following schedules. Families may choose to pay in full at the time of registration or select an authorized payment plan.

Monthly Payment Plan Schedule: For those who select a payment plan, installments are due on the first of each month as follows:

- **Fall Season:** June 1, July 1, August 1, and September 1.
- **Spring Season:** November 1, December 1, January 1, and February 1.

Full Payment Deadlines: To ensure eligibility for those not on a payment plan, accounts must be paid in full by:

- **Spring Season:** November 1st (U8–U15).
- **Fall Season:** May 15th (U8–U12) and June 1st (U13+).

Account Standing and Late Fees

Maintaining a "Member in Good Standing" status is required for participation in any GYSC activity.

- **Late Fees:** A monthly late fee of **\$25.00** will be charged to any account with a past-due balance unless alternative arrangements are established with the Club.
- **Past Due Accounts:** Players with fees past due by more than 15 days who are not current on an authorized payment plan or have not received a scholarship will be placed in "bad standing."
- **Consequences:** A player in bad standing will not be rostered, will not be issued a player pass, and may not participate in practices or games until the financial obligation is resolved.

Refund and Transfer Policy

Once teams are rostered for a season, all payments are considered non-refundable.

- **Withdrawals:** Player withdrawal after rostering will result in no refund, and fees will not be transferred to future seasons.
- **Season-Ending Injuries:** Partial refunds may be issued on a case-by-case basis if a season-ending injury occurs at the beginning of a playing season.
- **Insufficient Numbers:** A full refund will be awarded only if a player is selected for a team that ultimately cannot be formed due to an insufficient number of players.

Governance and Communication

In accordance with the 2025 Bylaws, the Board of Directors holds the authority to establish and enforce fee assessments. The Club Administrator is responsible for the custody of funds and collection of all moneys due to GYSC.

- **Financial Hardship:** GYSC encourages families to communicate promptly with the Club Administrator or Treasurer to resolve financial issues. Our goal is to ensure every child has the opportunity to play.

Signature _____ Date _____



GYSC PLAYER, PARENT, AND COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN



Philosophy of Communication

The Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) believes that clear, respectful, and timely communication is vital to a successful season. Our goal is to ensure that players, parents, and coaches are aligned on expectations, development goals, and logistics to provide the best possible experience for our youth athletes.

Communication Channels

- **Team Logistics:** Coaches and Team Managers will use the club's designated communication platform (e.g., TeamSnap) for schedules, field changes, and game-day information.
- **Club-Wide Updates:** The **Club Administrator** will communicate general club information, registration deadlines, and event details via email and the official club website.
- **Player Development:** The **Director of Coaching** oversees the implementation of the club's curriculum and is available to discuss the overall philosophy and methodology of the club.

The "24-Hour Rule"

To ensure productive conversations, GYSC enforces a mandatory **24-hour waiting period** before a parent or guardian may contact a coach regarding a specific incident, game-time decision, or grievance. This allows for a period of reflection and ensures that discussions remain calm and focused on the player's best interests.

Communication Chain of Command

If a conflict or concern arises, GYSC follows a specific "Chain of Command" to ensure issues are resolved by those closest to the situation first.

- **Step 1: Player to Coach.** We encourage players (especially at older ages) to advocate for themselves by speaking directly with their coach regarding playing time or positions.
- **Step 2: Parent/Coach Meeting.** If a concern remains, the parent should request a private meeting with the coach. These discussions should never take place on the sideline during or immediately after a game or practice.
- **Step 3: Director of Coaching.** If the issue is not resolved after a meeting with the coach, or if the concern involves the coach's conduct or the club's training curriculum, the matter should be escalated to the Director of Coaching.
- **Step 4: Board of Directors.** If a resolution is still not reached, a formal written appeal may be submitted to the Board of Directors via the Club Administrator. Per the 2025 Bylaws, the Board has the final authority on all club matters.

Proper Subjects for Discussion

- **Appropriate topics:** Mental/physical treatment of a child, ways to help a child improve, and concerns regarding a child's behavior.
- **Inappropriate topics:** Playing time (unless discussed first by the player), team strategy, play-calling, or discussions regarding other players on the team.



GYSC SIDELINE ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES



The "Kids First" Principle

Please remember that the games are for the children. Negative behavior by a single adult can ruin the experience for an entire team.

- **Positive Cheering:** We encourage all parents to acknowledge nice goals, saves, and hustle from both teams.
- **Prohibited Conduct:** Refrain from yelling at coaches, other players, other parents, or your own child.

Sideline Coaching

Parents and family members should never shout instructions to players during games or training.

- **Avoid Confusion:** "Advice" from the sideline often conflicts with what the coach is teaching, which is detrimental to the player's development.
- **Designated Voices:** During games, the only instructional voices heard should be those of the players and the coaches.

Protection of Referees

Verbal abuse of referees will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

- **Youth Officials:** Many referees are young and learning; verbal abuse is the primary reason they quit after one season.
- **Zero Tolerance:** Per the **GYSC Zero Tolerance Policy**, only the head coach or a club administrator may address extreme issues with a referee. Parents who persist in addressing officials will be asked to leave the field.

Commitment to Player Development

Player development is a process that requires patience and trust in the club's philosophy and methodology.

- **Beyond the Scoreboard:** While GYSC teams work to win, our primary focus is "smart soccer" and long-term growth rather than instant success at any cost.
- **Growth Mindset:** We ask that you support the **GYSC** curriculum and allow the players the freedom to make mistakes as they learn.

Keeping it Fun

Youth sports are intended to be a fun and positive experience. We must all work together to ensure that every child finishes the season with a love for the game. Keep the dialogue open with your coach, and we will ensure your child's goals are accomplished.



GYSC MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Throughout the year, Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) may highlight players to promote club activities and achievements. We may feature players in photographs or recordings to increase awareness of our soccer program through platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and the official GYSC website.

Please initial one of the options below:

[] **CONSENT GRANTED:** As the parent or guardian, I hereby grant GYSC and its employees, representatives, and authorized media organizations permission to print, photograph, and record my child for use in audio, video, film, or any other electronic, digital, and printed media. I release and relieve GYSC, its Board of Directors, and its employees from any liabilities, known or unknown, arising out of the use of this material. I certify that I have read the GYSC Media Consent and Release Liability statement and fully understand its terms and conditions.

[] **CONSENT DENIED:** I, as the parent or guardian, do not grant GYSC, its employees, and authorized media organizations permission to print, photograph, and record my child and/or their name for use in audio, video, film, or any other electronic, digital, and printed media.

Terms and Conditions

- **Duration:** This selection remains valid for all media projects occurring during the current seasonal year in which this form is signed.
- **Changes:** You may change your selection at any time by completing and submitting a new form to the club.
- **Submission:** Please complete and return this release form within ten (10) days of distribution.
- **Questions:** If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the club at: gettysburgyouthsoccerinfo@gmail.com.

Player's Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



GYSC COACHING AND TRAINING OPERATIONS POLICY



Purpose and Philosophy

Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) provides a fair and equitable environment for all teams. Available resources, including field space, equipment, administrative services, and professional coaching, are intended to be utilized for the benefit of all members. No single team is permitted to operate independently of the club's established governance and philosophy.

Sanctioned Events and Yearly Plans

All GYSC teams are required to participate only in officially sanctioned events.

- **Annual Planning:** Teams must adhere to a yearly plan approved by the Board of Directors.
- **Additional Requests:** Any training sessions, games, or tournament entries not included in the original approved plan, whether in-season or out-of-season, must be submitted to the **Club Administrator** and **Director of Coaching** for review and approval before any commitment is made.

Sideline Staffing and Roster Requirements

Regardless of the specific roster size, the following staffing rules apply during games:

- **Maximum Staffing:** Only three (3) adults are permitted to act as coaches on the sideline during a game.
- **Official Roster Composition:** * A minimum of two coaches must be listed on the official roster.
- **Team Managers:** A team manager may be added to the official roster in addition to the three coaching spots, but they are strictly prohibited from the coaching area during games.

Standards of Conduct

All coaches (paid and volunteer) serve as representatives of GYSC and must adhere to the **2025 Bylaws** and the **Comprehensive Conduct and Inclusion Policy**.

- **Accountability:** Coaches are responsible for maintaining referee support and spectator control.
- **Fines:** Any fines or penalties issued to a coach for misconduct or ejections by league bodies (such as CPYSL or EDP) must be paid by the individual responsible for the fine.

Enforcement and Oversight

In accordance with the **2025 Bylaws**, the **Director of Coaching** is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the club's training curriculum and coaching standards.

- **Policy Discretion:** The Board of Directors reserves the right to review coaching conduct and training requests to ensure they remain in the best interest of the club's reputation and fiscal health.
- **Unacceptable Conduct:** Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action following the "Coaches, Assistant Coaches, or Trainers" progression, which may include written warnings, suspensions, or removal from GYSC.



GYSC COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY AND GUEST PLAYER POLICY



Purpose and Philosophy

Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC) encourages player development through additional playing opportunities. Whether a player is participating with another GYSC team (Secondary) or an outside club (Guest), these opportunities must be managed to ensure the player's primary development and the club's stability are protected.

The Principle of Primary Commitment

For all GYSC rostered players, their **primary GYSC team** takes precedence over all other soccer activities.

- **No Conflicts:** A player is strictly prohibited from missing a primary team game, practice, or tournament to play as a secondary or guest player.
- **Prioritization:** Primary team commitments must be met before any secondary or guest participation is approved.

Internal Secondary Roster Procedures

(When a GYSC player plays for a second GYSC team)

- **Authorization:** Before any family is contacted, the requesting coach must obtain approval from the Director of Coaching (DOC) and the player's primary coach.
- **Roster Status:** Once added, a secondary player is committed for the full season. They cannot be removed until the season ends unless they leave the club entirely.
- **Training:** Secondary players may only attend training sessions for the secondary team with the express permission of the DOC and both involved coaches.

External Guest Playing Procedures

(When a GYSC player plays for a team outside of GYSC)

- **Mandatory Notification:** Parents must notify their GYSC Head Coach and request to guest play before committing to guest play for another club.
- **DOC Oversight:** The Head Coach will consult with the **Director of Coaching** to ensure the guest opportunity does not conflict with the player's health or the club's schedule.
- **Pass Processing:** The **Club Administrator** will only process guest player forms once the DOC has provided authorization.
- **Representation:** Players guesting for outside clubs are still bound by the GYSC Comprehensive Conduct Policy.

Communication Flowchart

To ensure all parties are "in the know," the following communication steps must be followed:

Path A: Internal Secondary Requests

When a GYSC coach wants to use a player from another GYSC team.

- **Step 1:** Requesting Coach seeks developmental approval from the **Director of Coaching**.
- **Step 2:** **Director of Coaching** reviews roster needs and the player's current game load.
- **Step 3:** Requesting Coach contacts the **Primary Coach** to confirm there are no schedule conflicts.
- **Step 4:** The **Primary Coach** notifies the family of the opportunity.

Path B: External Guest Playing Requests

When a GYSC player is invited to play for a non-GYSC team.

- **Step 1:** Parent must notify and request to guest play through their **GYSC Head Coach**.
- **Step 2:** Head Coach forwards the request to the **Director of Coaching** with a recommendation.
- **Step 3:** The **Director of Coaching** provides final authorization based on the GYSC calendar.
- **Step 4:** The **Club Administrator** processes legal guest forms only after Step 3 is confirmed.

Violations and Disciplinary Action

GYSC reserves the right to take disciplinary action if a player or coach bypasses these protocols or if a player misses a primary GYSC event to play elsewhere. In accordance with the **2025 Bylaws** and the **Zero Tolerance Policy**, the following may occur:

- **Suspension:** Temporary suspension from GYSC games or practices.
- **Revocation:** Immediate revocation of the player's secondary or guest player pass.
- **Status Review:** A review of the player's "Member in Good Standing" status, which may impact future registration or roster placement.

Final Authority

The **Director of Coaching** holds final authority over all secondary and guest player assignments. Decisions will be made based on player development, roster needs, and adherence to club philosophy.

Signature _____ Date _____



GYSC WEATHER AND SAFETY POLICY



Purpose and Authority

The safety of our players, coaches, and families is the primary concern of Gettysburg Youth Soccer Club (GYSC). Decisions regarding the suspension or cancellation of activities due to weather are made to protect both the participants and the integrity of our playing fields.

In accordance with the **2025 Bylaws**, the **Director of Coaching (DOC)**, in consultation with the **Club Administrator** and the Board of Directors, has the final authority to cancel club-wide training or games due to inclement weather.

Lightning and Severe Storms

GYSC adheres to the "Recognize, Recover, Rest" safety standards for lightning:

- **Suspension of Play:** If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, all outdoor activities must be suspended immediately.
- **Safe Shelter:** All players, coaches, and spectators must evacuate the fields and seek shelter in fully enclosed metal vehicles. Staying under trees, tents, or open pavilions is strictly prohibited.
- **The 30-Minute Rule:** Activities will not resume until at least **30 minutes** after the last flash of lightning is seen or the last thunder is heard. Any subsequent lightning/thunder restarts the 30-minute clock.
- **Clearance:** Only the Head Coach or designated On-Site Coordinator may give the "all clear" to return to the fields.

Extreme Heat and Cold

GYSC monitors the Heat Index and Wind Chill to ensure safe playing conditions:

- **Heat Policy:** When the Heat Index reaches 95°F, mandatory water breaks will be implemented every 15–20 minutes. If the Heat Index exceeds 104°F, all GYSC activities will be canceled.
- **Cold Policy:** If the wind chill falls below 25°F, training sessions for younger age groups (U5–U10) may be canceled or moved indoors at the discretion of the DOC.

Field Preservation and Closures

Rain alone does not always result in cancellation. However, the club may close fields if standing water is present or if the ground is saturated to the point where play would cause long-term damage to the turf.

- **Weekday Notification:** Field closures will be communicated via the club website and the official communication platform (e.g. TeamSnap) by the Club Administrator no later than 3:30 PM.
- **Weekend Notification:** While the club strives to make morning determinations by 7:30 AM, weather conditions may require later adjustments. In the event of afternoon or evening games, field closures will occur no less than three (3) hours prior to kickoff.
- **Travel Responsibility:** For away games, GYSC teams must follow the weather notifications of the host club or league (CPYSL/EDP).

Communication Protocol

- **Club-Wide Cancellations:** Triggered by the **Director of Coaching** or **Club Administrator**.
- **Individual Team Decisions:** If the club has not issued a formal closure, individual coaches may still cancel their specific team's practice if they feel travel conditions are unsafe for their families.
- **Away Games:** For games held at opponent fields, GYSC teams must follow the weather policies of the host club or league (CPYSL/EDP).

Referees and Game-Day Authority

Once a game has commenced, the **Center Referee** has the ultimate authority to suspend or terminate the match due to weather. Coaches and parents must respect the referee's decision to stop play for safety reasons, as outlined in the **Sideline Etiquette Guidelines**.