

SOCCKER RHODE ISLAND

Policies and Procedures

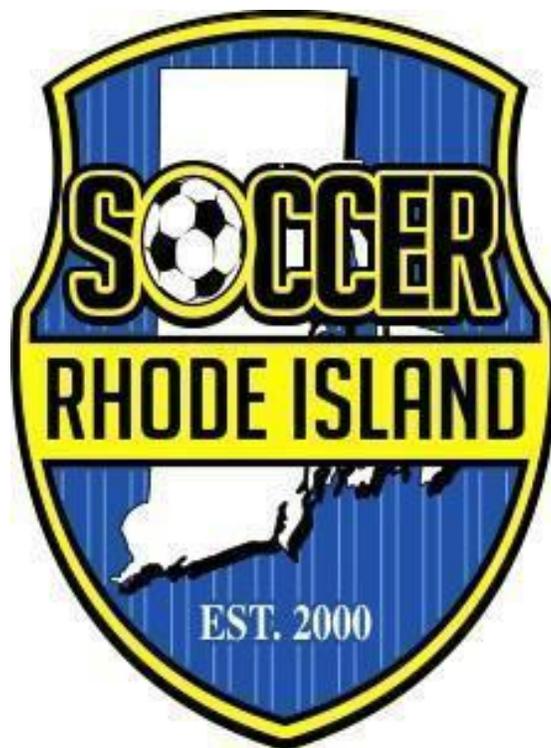


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Preface

Advantages of Membership

Organized Leagues for all youth ages and skill levels

- State Cup Tournaments
- Medical and liability insurance
- Select team programs leading to national team considerations
- Referee training and growth opportunities
- Coaches training and State certification opportunities
- Opportunities to participate in interstate and international invitational tournaments
- Player development clinics available to members.

The purpose of Soccer Rhode Island (SRI) is to promote and develop the sport of soccer at the youth level, providing avenues of participation at various skill levels to meet the needs of the membership. The Soccer Rhode Island Board of Directors (SRI Board of Directors) is charged with providing administrative support to the Leagues, Clubs, Teams and Players under its jurisdiction. At one end of the spectrum, we attempt to afford all young people an opportunity to participate in this game and have fun while they learn to enjoy the finer points and skills.

The SRI Board of Directors of this organization, as well as the thousands of other adult volunteers, who donate so much time and energy to supporting youth soccer, don't claim to be perfect. We need ideas and input of all our membership to achieve these goal

Article I - Club Affiliation

A. Clubs.

- a. No group, organization or association may register players or roster teams with SRI, or participate in any SRI or USYS competition, or solicit player registrations or fees on behalf of SRI unless and until it has become a properly affiliated member.
- b. Registration Fee: Each member Club must pay to SRI a fee (Article XIII - Fee and Assessment Schedule) for each voting delegate by August 1 of the preceding seasonal year. (If you have four delegates' votes, the fee is 4 times the delegate fee.) Any club who has not paid their registration fee by the August 1 deadline will be ineligible to vote at the August AGM.

Article II - Good Standing – Player, Team, Club, etc.

A. Loss of Good Standing.

- a. Any player, coach, manager, club official, team or club may be declared not in good standing and have his/her/its rights and privileges suspended, in whole or in part, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any regularly scheduled meeting of the for: (A) failure to pay financial obligation and commitments; Or (B) persistent infringement of the rules of SRI, USYS or USSF, Or (C) for other good cause consisting of actions detrimental to the sport of soccer or SRI. This notification is done so upon written notice by proof of mailing. A player, coach, manager, club official, team, club or Association who does not rectify or attempt to rectify the infringement within six months, will lose membership within SRI and notification will be given to both USYS and USSF.

B. Reinstatement of Good Standing.

- a. Any person, team or club declared not in good standing pursuant to **Article II** shall be reinstated to all rights and privileges by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any regularly scheduled meeting.
- b. Player Not in Good Standing. Any player declared not in good standing by a club may not be registered or rostered thereafter by any club affiliated with SRI until the player is reinstated to all rights and privileges or the player has been given permission to register and roster by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any regularly scheduled meeting.

Article III - Player Registration, Adult Registration**A. Total Registration.**

- a. SRI shall register each soccer player of every soccer team that is sponsored, financed, coached, or administered by its member organizations.

B. Player Registration.

- a. A player is registered with SRI and is register to a club when the player has submitted, and the club has accepted a properly completed USYS player registration form (or equivalent form used by the club) and the appropriate SRI registration fee. Once a player is registered with SRI, he or she is registered with SRI and USYS for the entire seasonal year.
- b. A player is registered from the moment the player or the player's guardian completes the Registration form and pays the appropriate fees ([USYS Rule 201.3](#)) If the club uses its own form, it must, in case of a player under the age of eighteen (18), include permission from the player's parent (s) or guardian(s) to participate in the club's program.

C. Player Registration Fee.

- a. The registration fee for all players shall be determined by the SRI Board of Directors and posted by August 1 of each year (Article XIII - Fee and Assessment Schedule). Additional fees will be established by the SRI Board of Directors and, subject to approval by the Council at its meeting in February or August. The fee includes insurance coverage. This coverage is not optional regardless of any other coverage a club or association may carry.

D. Local Registration.

- a. Except for states that waive this requirement ([USYS Rule 201](#)), a player must register in the State in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardians(s), or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school or college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or division of the college or university is located. Any other question of residency may be determined by the state in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver's license ([USYS Rule 201](#)) or the player's school district or any indication of the player's primary residence.

E. Club Registration.

- a. Any player registered to a club is bound to that club, for purposes of outdoor play, for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests and obtains a release.

F. Release.

- a. A player may request a release at any time. No Club/Association can refuse a player's request for a release.

G. Submission of Registrations.

- a. No later than thirty (30) days after a member (player, coach, assistant coach, team manager or board member) has been registered, the registering club shall maintain and submit to the state for registration verification that a player has been properly registered to the club and the appropriate registration fee must be paid. When registering players at any time, you must utilize a database program (SRI mandated - GotSport) to submit the information to SRI. Clubs not operating on GotSport may submit their registration information to SRI using a user compatible database format to GotSport. The submission of this information (via a compatible database format and not GotSport). As a member of SRI, all members are required to always submit 100% of their membership registrations to SRI. ([USYS Bylaw 214.1\(3\)](#))

H. Background Check:

- a. Each club/association shall follow the USYS and US Soccer Guidelines in reference to disclosure forms. Each adult serving the club, or any of its teams, as a coach, assistant coach, team manager/administrator or volunteer shall complete the on-line registration via their association's link to the database. SRI will perform background checks on each registered volunteer every two years. No roster approvals will take place without documentation to demonstrate a background check has been performed for every adult listed on a roster.
- b. The background check fee shall be as published in Article XIII - Fee and Assessment Schedule per background check performed unless otherwise posted by the SRI Board of Directors.

Article IV - Rostering

A. Player Rostering.

- a. A player is considered rostered to a team when a club has submitted to the state registrar a properly completed team roster form assigning the player to a team or when the player first participates for the team in any competition sanctioned by USYS, SRI or its member leagues, clubs or teams, whichever comes first.
- B. Team Rostering.
- a. Whenever a club assigns players to a team for purposes of non-recreational inter-club play, the club shall submit to SRI a properly completed roster form. All coaches must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age and three (3) years older than the age group they are coaching. In addition, whenever a club assigns players to a team for purposes of participation in a specific non-recreational inter-club competition (i.e. state cup, RI Championships, invitational tournaments, etc.) the club shall submit a copy of the team roster form submitted to the authority in charge of the specific competition.
 - b. All Coaches **MUST** be approved by the club/association of the team for which they will coach.
 - c. All adult coaches are required to have a BCI check
 - d. SRI cannot conduct a BCI check on anyone under the age of 18
 - i. It is highly recommended by SRI that if a Child under the age of 18 is allowed to assist a coach with practices and matches, that they be approved by the club/association board members of the team for which they will coach. The Under 18 child coaching should **ONLY** be coaching at a practice or match **IF** accompanied by an adult coach which has an approved BCI check.
- C. Team Roster.
- a. A properly completed team roster must be generated from the database and shall contain the names, verified Age Group and player ID numbers. It is the coaches' responsibility to review and abide by the rostering rules of each competition in which the team is participating.
- D. Dual Registrations.
- a. A player may only be registered to one club per league or event. For recreational/developmental program purposes only, a player may register with as many clubs as they wish.
 - b. A player can be dual rostered in the same club.

E. Player Transfer and Release.

- a. Any player/parent signing a player registration form is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless that player requests a transfer. All requests for transfers shall be submitted to the affiliated member's association in writing, stating the reason for the request for transfer.
- b. Any player whose team completes its schedule, to include cup competitions, tournaments and exhibition matches, may transfer to another team during the seasonal year.
- c. Player transfer forms. [CLICK HERE](#)

F. Recruiting.

- a. No team, club, coach, player or any other person may approach a registered player to leave his club or team.
- b. Recruiting is further defined as:
 - i. Any team, acting through its coaches, team officials, administrators, players or parents of players, which attempts to induce any player listed on a valid team roster of another team to leave their team shall be deemed to have recruited that player.
 - ii. Any team may conduct publicly announced open tryouts to acquire players. Any players or players' parents may initiate direct contact with any team for the purpose of joining that team.
- c. A member organization of Soccer Rhode Island is responsible to abide by all the rules and regulations as outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of Soccer Rhode Island during the full term of their membership. A registered member association of Soccer Rhode Island must hold its individual members accountable to Soccer Rhode Island rules and regulations. A member association cannot use its status with another USSF affiliate to circumvent, waive, violate or avoid Soccer Rhode Island rules and regulations. Nor can a player with dual membership in another USSF affiliate, and Soccer Rhode Island and USYS, use their dual status to circumvent, waive, violate or avoid Soccer Rhode Island rules and regulations. All members of Soccer Rhode Island must always adhere to all the rules and regulations of Soccer Rhode Island and USYS regardless of any other affiliation, every day of the year.

Article V - Player Eligibility and Player Passes.**A. Player Eligibility.**

- a. No player is eligible to play in any SRI sanctioned competition or activity without being registered and in good standing with SRI. In addition, no

player is eligible to participate in any non-recreational inter-club SRI or USYS sanctioned competition until the club to which the player is registered has submitted to the state, a properly completed team roster form assigning the player to a team and the player has on file with the club a copy of the player's completed player registration form for the current seasonal year and verification of the player's date of birth. No player registered to a club may play for any team sponsored by another club unless the player first obtains a change of club registration.

B. Player Pass Requirement.

- a. A current and validated USYS player pass or virtual pass shall be required of all players participating in any inter-club competition. A properly completed USYS Player Pass shall contain the name, verified Age Group, SRI ID number, photo (1"x 1" passport style) and name of the club to which the player is registered. A player pass is valid only for the current Seasonal Year. The rules of the competition can specifically waive these requirements.

C. Proof of Age.

- a. Acceptable documents establishing a player's date of birth consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted. ([USYS Rule 204](#))

D. Player and Coaches Pass.

- a. A current validated USYS pass is required of all team coaches and players. The referee or designee must verify all players' and coaches' passes prior to all matches in which sanctioned SRI teams participate.

Article VI - Age divisions and player eligibility.

A. Age Division.

- a. New age divisions for teams take effect August 1st of each Seasonal Year. An age group matrix is posted on the SRI website. [CLICK HERE](#)

- b. Players are not permitted to play in a younger age group unless there is a valid reason preventing them from participating in their designated age group. (Has to be approved by the league and all coaches within that division agree). Per US YOUTH SOCCER POLICY on players and playing rules, rule [105 State Variances](#).
- B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- a. US Soccer Federation Inclusion [Policy 601-5, Section 6 | Inclusion Policy](#)
 - b. To clarify the Bylaws, membership of the Federation is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.
 - c. For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.

Article VII – Coach Education

- A. SRI offers opportunities for coaches to advance their knowledge of the game and techniques of coaching youth players through the offering of license and certification programs. These offerings consist of the courses offered through the U.S Soccer Learning center, and USSF licenses offered through SRI's coaching education program.
- B. It is highly recommended that all Travel Team coaches have either the USSF Grassroots course or USC age-appropriate coaching course.
- C. It is highly recommended that all Premier Coaches have the highest license listed for the age group they are coaching.

Article VIII - League

- A. Leagues
 - a. The league shall ensure that all players and adult volunteers participating in an SRI sanctioned league are registered with SRI or another USYS affiliated National State Association.

- b. The league shall ensure that all players and adult volunteers participating in an SRI sanctioned league, which reside in RI are currently registered with a SRI club, or a USYS or USSF affiliate. The league shall also ensure that all players and adult volunteers not registered with SRI who reside outside Rhode Island register with USYS affiliated National State Association in the State in which they reside.
 - c. The sanctioned league, which reside in RI are currently registered with a SRI club, or a USYS or USSF affiliate. The league shall also ensure that all players and adult volunteers not registered with SRI who reside outside Rhode Island register with USYS affiliated National State Association in the State in which they reside.
 - d. All players and adult volunteers must carry a current, valid, laminated USYS member pass or virtual pass.
 - e. The league shall not permit the drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverages, to include beer or wine, alongside the playing area, by any player, coach, assistant coach, manager, club official or spectator before, during or after an SRI sanctioned competition.
 - f. The league shall maintain a safe playing environment that is suitable for play for all SRI participants.
 - g. The league shall ensure that all teams affiliated with a USYS National State Association other than SRI participate only with the written permission of their own National State Association.
 - h. The league must honor the rules supported by SRI, USYS, USSF and recognized affiliates. Its' ownership and staff must not support or conduct programs that directly conflict with SRI (USYS) programs.
 - i. The league must submit to the SRI State Administrator in writing a list of all red cards given, to whom they were given, and the reason for the card (i.e. violent conduct, hand ball, etc.). This list must be provided on a weekly basis.
 - j. No club or organization may use another member affiliate (USSF Affiliate member) to avoid the state rules with respect to league play.
- B. Revocation of Approval: If a league fails to comply with any of the special conditions of Section **Article IX, section A**, SRI may revoke its approval and sanctioning of any competition (s) and event(s) of such league.
- C. League Registration Fee: The basic registration fee for all leagues shall be determined by the SRI Board of Directors and posted by August 1 of each year.

Additional fees will be established by the SRI Board of Directors and, subject to approval by the council at the AGM at its meeting.

- D. Discipline: SRI reserves the right to conduct hearings with individuals who appear on this list of **Article IX, section A**, on a regular basis and to fine clubs and/or individuals.

Article IX – Discipline, Boards, Sanctions, and Suspensions

- A. Disciplinary Authority. The authority and responsibility of SRI to hear and adjudge matters of discipline and to impose sanctions or punishment against any player, coach, manager, club official, or team shall be as here after setting forth.
- B. Each seasonal year the President of SRI shall appoint, with approval of the SRI Board of Directors, a State Disciplinary Board (SDB) Chairperson. The SDB shall consist of a pool of 5 (five) representatives, 1 (one) from each SRI District. Should a pool member not be selected, one will be appointed by the SRI President, and the SDB Chairperson. When it is necessary for the Chairperson of the SDB to bring together a committee, the committee shall consist of at least four (4) members, plus the SDB Chairperson. The SDB shall serve as a Board of Appeals/Discipline for all matters decided by the Club or Association Boards and shall exercise original jurisdiction over matters resulting from inter-state play, or any other matters, referred to the board by the SRI President or the State Youth Referee Administrator. The Chairperson of the SDB shall cast a vote only in case of a tie or to constitute a quorum of the SDB. A minimum of three (3) members of the SDB must be present to constitute a quorum at any hearing to be held before the panel.
- C. Withdrawal from Consideration. Whenever the player, coach, manager, club official, or team whose actions are under review is from the same town or club as any state disciplinary board member, such member shall withdraw from consideration of the matter and the chairperson of the respective board shall appoint a temporary board member from among the alternates.
- D. Permissible Sanctions. The SDB shall have the authority by affirmative vote of at least three (3) members of the board to impose any, or all, of the following sanctions in matters where it deems appropriate. (If a quorum of the board is not present at the initial hearing or the matter ends in a tie vote the hearing must be

re-held within seven (7) days of the initial hearing with a minimum of three (3) board members present. The board may:

- a. Issue a letter or email of reprimand to any player, coach, manager, club official, or team.
- b. Place on probation with such special conditions as are deemed appropriate any player, coach, manager, club official, or team.
- c. Suspension for some defined period from the date of the offense any player, coach, manager, club official or team.

Article X – Disciplines by Clubs

- A. Clubs Encouraged to Act. Clubs are encouraged to act on their own to discipline persons or teams within their organization where they feel it is warranted. It is expected that where clubs have taken timely and appropriate disciplinary action the necessity of referring such matters to the State Disciplinary Board will be avoided. Any actions taken by an association or Club resulting in suspension must be sent to the SRI office within ten (10) days of the notification.
- B. This Association and its members shall recognize suspensions and rulings of all organizations under the jurisdiction of the USYS when notified thereof.

Article XI – Proposed Changes

- A. Proposed Changes to Policy & Procedures.
 - a. Any club who is a member in good standing wishing to propose a change to the Policy and Procedures may do so by following the following procedure. Submit in writing to the SRI Board not less than thirty (30) days prior to a Council Meeting their request. This request must state the policy number affected; the change requested and be sent to the SRI office. The requested change will then be emailed and /or posted at www.Soccer-RI.com to each club/association prior to the Council Meeting for their review. Upon majority vote of the council, the change would be effective commencing as of the date set forth in the policy request as approved.
- B. WAIVERS

- a. A Club in good standing may submit to SRI in writing a request for a waiver to these policies and procedures. The SRI Board, however, may only waive a rule for the good of the game.

Article XII - The Fee and Assessment Schedule

A. Soccer Rhode Island has implemented the following fees and assessments schedule. Missed Council Meeting

Missed Council Meeting	\$100
Missed AGM Meeting	\$250
Team Traveling without proper filing of forms	\$500
(Includes a 1-year suspension from participation in SRI events)	
Fee to apply for Provisional Membership	\$50
Game Protest Fee	\$200.00
Fee for playing ineligible player on a team	\$250.00
Fee for background check (This fee is set by JDP)	TBA
Recreational & Competitive Player\Coaches Registration Fee	\$20.00
Premier Player\coach Rostering Fee	\$30.00
Player Registration for player playing out of state	\$16.00
Delegate Fees	\$50.00
League Registration Fee	\$300.00
Appeal of an Association Board Decision	\$100.00
Appeal of a State Disciplinary Board Decision	\$100.00
Appeal of State Board Decision	\$100.00
RI Championships Team Registrations	TBA
RI Presidents Cup Team Registrations	TBA

B. SRI Withdrawal & Non-appearance

Event	Withdrawal	Non-appearance
RI Championship's	\$1000.00	\$1500.00
RI President's Cup	\$500.00	\$1000.00
SRI U8-U10 Festival	\$100.00	\$200.00
SRI Cup	\$100.00	\$200.00