

YC #1

LSA POLICY MANUAL (Added Deleted Since AGM by Competitive Comm.)

Policy 311 Teams formed by Tryouts (name to be determined known in this document as COMPETITIVE Teams) formerly Premier & Division 1 Teams & State Tournaments

This Section will take the place of 311-1 and 311-2.

A. COMPETITIVE TEAMS

1. COMPETITIVE TEAM DEFINITION

- a. COMPETITIVE teams, as defined in By Laws Section 302 (D)(2), will participate in the COMPETITIVE League and are eligible to participate in the Louisiana State Tournament.
- b. To be eligible to send teams to the Louisiana State tournament competition, a club must have registered with LSA a minimum of forty-four (44) players by September 15 of the current soccer year and be in good standing with LSA for the entire year.
- c. It is recommended that all coaches of teams participating in COMPETITIVE league should have a USSF "D" license, National Youth license, NSCAA National Diploma, or equivalent as approved by LSA.
- d. No player under the age of 9 can participate on a COMPETITIVE team (See Bylaws Section 304).
- e. COMPETITIVE teams shall be limited to 5 transferred players per season year (See Bylaws Section 306).

2. TRYOUTS

- a. Member clubs must be affiliated with LSA at the start of the Tryout Period in order to form COMPETITIVE Teams for the following year. Provisional Status does not qualify a Member Club as being affiliated.
- b. The LSA COMPETITIVE Committee will administer COMPETITIVE Tryouts as per LSA Policies and Procedures.

1. COMPETITIVE team tryouts for the following soccer year shall be conducted by member clubs after the conclusion of the State Cup Tournaments in that age bracket during the established Tryout Period. Results from these evaluations/tryouts will be used to form COMPETITIVE teams.

At the conclusion of the Tryout Period, an established Dead Period will ensue. Teams may not host tryouts or directly solicit players during the Dead Period. Invitations for team membership shall be extended to players on the Invitation Date. The invitations must be sent by one or more of the following methods:

- a. USPS mail to players postmarked no earlier than the established Invitation Date for the given age group.
- b. Posted as a roster on a website but no earlier than the established Invitation Date for the given age group.
- c. Email notification no earlier than the established Invitation date for the given age group.

Players shall accept in writing, by email, or by online registration to only one team.

Players who are not placed/selected by this procedure may contact any team with openings after the Dead Period. Teams may conduct additional tryouts after the Dead Period, providing they have conducted tryouts for that age group during the Tryout Period and have sent out invitations to form a team at that age group.

2. The dates of each age bracket Tryout Period, Dead Period, and Invitation Date for the following soccer year will be established and announced by the LSA COMPETITIVE Committee at the State Association Winter AGM. The dates will be established using the following parameters:

U11-U13 Teams

Tryout Period: The Tryout Period shall commence the Monday after the conclusion of U11 and U12 State Tournament Championship Weekend. The Tryout Period shall end 25 days later.

Dead Period: The Dead Period shall commence the 4th Friday after the Tryout Period starts. The Dead Period shall end on the day following the invitation date.

Invitation Date: The Invitation Date shall be the first Tuesday after the Dead Period starts.

U14-U19 Teams

Tryout Period: The Tryout Period shall commence the Monday after the conclusion of U17-U19 State Tournament Cup Championship Weekend. The Tryout Period shall end the Thursday prior to the commencement of USYS Regionals.

Dead Period: The Dead Period shall commence the day after the Tryout Period ends. The Dead Period shall end on the day following the invitation date.

Invitation Date: The Invitation Date shall be the day after USYS Regionals ends.

3. Ethical Standards and Professional Rules of Conduct

All Club Board Members, Directors of Coaching, Coaching Staff, Independent Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers must adhere to Section 500-1 Ethical Standards and Professional Rules of Conduct.

3. Roster and Game Rosters for Competitive Teams:

a. Roster sizes for Competitive Teams will comply with Policy 310(B)(2)(C)(2)

b. Games roster for Competitive Teams that allow more than 18 players on their roster:

1. Competitive League Games:
 - a. State Wide League Games (effectively Competitive 1)

Game rosters for U16-U19 teams shall follow Policy 310(B)(2)(c)(d).
 - b. Regional League Games (effectively Competitive 2)

All players listed on the LSA roster are eligible to play unless there is a player serving a suspension.
2. State Tournaments:
 - a. Competitive 1

Game rosters for U16-U19 teams shall follow Policy 310(B)(2)(c)(d).
 - b. Competitive 2 or 3

All players listed on the LSA roster are eligible to play unless there is a player serving a suspension.

B. COMPETITIVE COMMITTEE

1. The LSA COMPETITIVE League shall be supervised by the LSA Youth COMPETITIVE Commissioner. A COMPETITIVE League committee shall be formed annually composed of members from each club forming a COMPETITIVE Team. Each club will have the number of votes based on the voting strengths as they have for general meetings of LSA. The LSA Youth COMPETITIVE (currently Premier by bylaws) Commissioner may appoint additional members to insure adequate representation. Committee members will be selected by the clubs prior to the Letter of Intent for the COMPETITIVE League from coaches, parents, or managers currently involved with competitive soccer who have the time and willingness to serve. Notice of the appointment of each club's representative shall be reported to the LSA State Office in writing. Normally, only those present are allowed to vote. However, for meetings at LSA Office, those clubs located more than 100 miles from the location of the meeting can participate and vote by telephone.
2. Any proposed changes to COMPETITIVE policies do not have to be on the agenda of a COMPETITIVE Committee meeting to be considered, voted on, and made effective.
3. Once any Issue or Policy is voted on by the COMPETITIVE Committee at any of its meetings, the same Issue or Policy cannot be brought up for discussion and another vote for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the first vote, unless a majority of the clubs present and voting, vote to bring the Issue or Policy to another discussion and vote.
4. The COMPETITIVE League Chairman will be appointed by the COMPETITIVE (currently Premier in bylaws) Commissioner and that appointment approved by the LSA COMPETITIVE Committee and then by the LSA Executive Board annually in August preceding the soccer year. He/She, in coordination with the LSA Youth COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner, shall be

responsible for timely notification to all LSA affiliated clubs of all deadlines, fees and rules for COMPETITIVE League play.

5. The Louisiana Sub-Regional Premier League Chairperson will be appointed by the COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner and that appointment approved by the LSA COMPETITIVE Committee and then by the LSA Executive Board annually in April preceding the soccer year a person is to be the Louisiana Sub-Regional Premier League Chairman

C. COMPETITIVE League Format:

1. The purpose of the Louisiana Soccer Association COMPETITIVE League shall be to foster and advance competitive soccer in Louisiana while providing a venue for advancement to the State Tournament through participation in the COMPETITIVE League. The purpose shall also be to promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage through organized athletic competition.

This league shall be open to U11 through U18 boys and girls teams as defined in Bylaws Section 302 (D)(2) who are in good standing with their LSA affiliated club and the Club is good standing with the Louisiana Soccer Association.

Individual team standing and eligibility will be verified by the team's Club President at the time of declaration for league play.

2. Teams shall be admitted to the COMPETITIVE League upon receipt of:
 - a. The signed Letter of Intent to Participate which has been endorsed by the head coach and team's Club President.
 - b. The COMPETITIVE League Fee as shown in the current Fee Schedule (Policy 206-1)
 - c. A Performance Bond in the amount of \$ 250.00 per Club. This bond check will not be deposited unless a team does not complete their obligations. If a Club's bond check is deposited, the Club must submit another \$ 250.00 bond check within 10 days or all of its teams will not be able to participate in COMPETITIVE League or State Tournaments.

The above shall be RECEIVED at the LSA Office on or before August 8 15th for U11 through U18. If the date falls on the weekend, the deadline will be the following Monday.

If a U11 or U12 team is formed after the August 8 15th deadline, there will be an additional period to add a team to the COMPETITIVE league. The deadline for this Letter Intent will be November 15.

3. Competitive League and Competitive League Scheduling Policy:

- a. Guest players inter or intra club are NOT allowed in COMPETITIVE League games.
- b. Any team not playing a scheduled Louisiana Competitive League game will be denied in Louisiana State Cup. If a team feels there were extenuating circumstances as to why the game was not played as scheduled, they may file an appeal with the Competitive Committee.
- c. Team Placement in appropriate league:

Policy 311 states that a team must return 50% of the previous year's players or they will play in the regional league.

A club/team may petition the Competitive Committee to review the make up of a team where extenuating circumstances exist for the placement of that team in the state wide league. This could be caused by a team the previous year had players playing up and the older group moves on but the core and potentially 50% of the team remains but it will be playing in the same age group as opposed to moving up one age group. The Competitive Committee could also review the roster of a team that did not participate the previous year to ensure that the team did belong in the Regional league.

d. Competitive Scheduling:

1. Competitive League Games in Louisiana Tournaments:

Each team can list two tournaments (if there is Fall and Spring league that is two tournaments per the Fall & Spring), that they would attend and would play a league game(s) in the tournament. Listing these tournaments does not guarantee that league games will be scheduled at them. An effort will be made to accommodate this request. For league games to be played in a tournament, the tournament would have to agree that the games would be full length and the game must be the first game of the day for both teams. League games could not be played in non Louisiana tournaments. The teams playing league games in the tournament would still be required to pay the full tournament fee however; they would not have to pay the referees for their league game, the tournament would pay the referees.

Each team can only play half of the league games in a tournament setting.

2. Re-scheduling of Competitive League Games:

a. U11-U13:

- i. Teams may reschedule 2 matches in the Fall & 2 matches in the Spring season. Re-scheduling of games will only be done if:
 - both teams agree to the re-schedule and
 - the schedule change is approved the Competitive Commissioner.
- ii. All schedule changes must be completed by September 15 for the Fall season and January 1 for the Spring season.
- iii. For a team to be charged one of its 2 reschedules the game must actually be rescheduled, and only the team that is requesting the change is charged with the reschedule not the team consenting to the reschedule

b. U14-U18:

- i. Teams may reschedule 3 matches over the entire seasonal year. Re-scheduling of games will only be done if:
 - both teams agree to the re-schedule and
 - the schedule change is approved the Competitive Commissioner.
- ii. All schedule changes must be completed by September 15 or by January 15 for games to be played in the Spring season.
- iii. For a team to be charged one of its 3 reschedules the game must actually be rescheduled, and only the team that is requesting the change is charged with the reschedule not the team consenting to the reschedule

3. Travel Considerations for State Wide League Games:

With regard to games with teams from the Northern part of the state like Shreveport, the team from the North will receive generally the same balance of home, away and neutral games as the teams in either their regional or state wide league. Neutral is defined as where neither team is playing at home but at location that is central to both teams.

4. U11: Regional League: There will be two seasons of league play one in the Fall and one in the Spring.
 - a. On the Letter of Intent, the club will designate what competitive level they anticipate the team to be so that divisions can formed within regions.
 - b. The COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner will divide the teams into divisions based on their geographic location and club designated level of ability. The regional league composition will be approved by the COMPETITIVE Committee at their August meeting.
 - c. Fall League play will commence after Labor Day and will be completed the weekend before Thanksgiving.
 1. It is anticipated that each Regional League will be comprised of 8-9 teams.
 2. Each team must be available for 5 league play weekends, 4 as primary league play weekends, one as a make up weekend.
 3. Designated on the team's Letter of Intent each team will be able to black out two weekends that they are not available to compete in league play for the Fall.
 4. The league schedule will be posted by September 1.
 5. On 2 of the league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday and on the other 2 league weekends teams will play 2 games on either Saturday or 2 games on Sunday with adequate rest between the 2 games. **On the weekends with two games on the weekend and one game per day, an effort will be made to schedule the games that weekend, as Home/Home or Away/Away. Teams should hopefully have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.** The travel game should hopefully be 2 hours or less.

- d. Spring League Play will commence beginning in February and will be completed by the end of March.
 1. Based on the results of league play in the Fall, the divisions will be realigned to blend the stronger teams with stronger teams from other divisions, with consideration still being given to geography and the league still being regional. There will not be one top division. There will probably be 3-4 stronger divisions and 3-4 moderate divisions. Each Regional League will be comprised of 6-7 teams. Teams that do not participate in the Fall league and submit their Letter of Intent by the November 15 deadline will be placed in one of the more moderate divisions. The realignment of the league will be done the COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner. The COMPETITIVE Committee will approve the realignment at the December meeting.
 2. Each team must be available for 4 league play weekends, 3 as primary league play weekends, one as a make up weekend.
 3. Each team must submit by December 1, the two black out weekends that they are not available to compete in league play in the Spring.
 4. The league schedule will be posted by January 1.
 5. On 1 of the league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday and on the other 2 league weekends teams will play 2 games on either Saturday or 2 games on Sunday with adequate rest between the 2 games. **On the weekends with two games on the weekend and one game per day, an effort will be made to schedule the games that weekend, as Home/Home or Away/Away. Teams should hopefully have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.** The travel game should hopefully be 2 hours or less. In the spring depending on re-alignment travel may slightly exceed 2 hours for away games because of the dispersion of the teams around the state.
 - e. State Tournament: All U11 teams that complete their COMPETITIVE league play, will be eligible to participate in the State Tournament. See Policy 311 (D).
5. U12: Regional League: There will be two seasons of league play one in the Fall and one in the Spring.
- a. The results of the U11 season (both league play and State Tournament) will be used to determine the competitive level of the team. The team must return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster to retain its body of work which is used to determine the competitive level of the team. If a team does not return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster it will be considered a new team for league formation. Note that the 50% test is applied to players and they do not have to be at the same club where the body of work was earned.
 - b. The COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner will divide the teams into divisions based on their geographic location and competitive level of play based on U11 body of work with the 50% test applied. The divisions will be approved by the COMPETITIVE Committee at their August meeting.
 - c. Fall League play will commence after Labor Day and will be completed the weekend before Thanksgiving.
 1. Each Regional League will be comprised of 7-9 teams.
 2. Each team must be available for 5 league play weekends, 4 as primary league play weekends, one as a make up weekend.
 3. Designated on the team's Letter of Intent each team will be able to black out two weekends that they are not available to compete in

league play for the Fall.

4. The league schedule will be posted by September 1.
 5. On 2 of the league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday and on the other 2 league weekends teams will play 2 games on either Saturday or 2 games on Sunday with adequate rest between the 2 games. **On the weekends with two games on the weekend and one game per day, an effort will be made to schedule the games that weekend, as Home/Home or Away/Away. Teams should hopefully have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.** The travel game should hopefully be 2 hours or less.
- d. Spring League Play will commence beginning in February and will be completed by the end of March.
1. Based on the results of league play in the Fall, the divisions will be realigned to blend the stronger teams with stronger teams from other divisions. Each Regional League will be comprised of 6-7 teams.
 - a. The top 16 teams based on league play in the Fall will be placed in the same 3 divisions. It is possible that a team that does not play in the Fall league and completes a Letter of Intent by November 15, could be placed in a top division if they are returning 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster and it's body of work from the U11 league and State Tournament would place them in one of the top 3 divisions.
 - b. The remaining teams will be placed accordingly in divisions based on the results of league play in Fall with consideration given to geography.
 - c. Teams that do not participate in the Fall league and submit their Letter of Intent by the November 15 deadline will be placed in appropriate division after reviewing the team makeup. If the team played in the league at U11 and the team has returned 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster, its body of work will be used to determine the competitive level of the team and will be placed accordingly. If a team does not return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster it will be considered a new team for league formation and will be placed in a moderate level division. Note that the 50% test is applied to players and they do not have to be at the same club where the body of work was earned.
 2. Each team must be available for 4 league play weekends, 3 as primary league play weekends, one as a make up weekend.
 3. Each team must submit by December 1, the two black out weekends that they are not available to compete in league play in the Spring.
 4. The league schedule will be posted by January 1.
 5. On 1 of the league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday and on the other 2 league weekends teams will play 2 games on either Saturday or 2 games on Sunday with adequate rest between the 2 games. **On the weekends with two games on the weekend and one game per day, an effort will be made to schedule the games that weekend, as Home/Home or Away/Away. Teams should hopefully have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.** The travel game should hopefully be 2 hours or less. In the spring depending on re-alignment travel may slightly exceed 2 hours for away games

because of the dispersion of the teams around the state.

- e. State Tournament: All U12 teams that complete their COMPETITIVE league play, will be eligible to participate in the State Tournament. See Policy 311 (D).

6. **U13 League:** At U13 there will be two or three levels of league play depending on the number of teams. There will be two seasons of league play one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The levels of league play will be as follows:

-COMPETITIVE (I) Louisiana State League

-COMPETITIVE (II) Louisiana Regional League. If there are enough teams there could possibly be a COMPETITIVE (III).

Note the COMPETITIVE Commissioner will determine the appropriate number of teams to play in the State League and Regional Leagues, based on the total number of COMPETITIVE teams in the age group. The COMPETITIVE Committee will approve this at the August meeting.

Hence based on the number of teams in the age group, the target number of teams detailed below, in each league, may be adjusted, but the concept will remain the same.

- a. **Fall League** play will commence after Labor Day and will be completed the weekend before Thanksgiving.
 - b. Designated on the team's Letter of Intent each team will be able to black out two weekends that they are not available to compete in league play for the Fall, with the exception of COMPETITIVE (II) league play playoff dates which will be discussed below.
 - c. The league schedule will be posted by September 1.
 - d. The results of the U12 State Cup will be used to determine in which state league the team will participate in. A team must return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster to retain its seeding. If a team does not return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster it will be considered a new team for league formation and be placed in COMPETITIVE (II). Note the 50% test is applied to players and they do not have to be at the same club where the body of work was earned.
- 1. **State Wide League COMPETITIVE (1):** In the Fall the top 6 teams based on previous year COMPETITIVE I state tournament results will play in the state wide league.
 - a. Each team will play each other twice, 10 league games which will require 5 weekends of league play and 2 make up weekend for a total of 7 weekends.
 - b. Each team will play home and away.
 - c. On league weekends games will be played both on Saturday and Sunday.
 - 2. **Regional League COMPETITIVE (II):** The remaining teams will be placed in regional divisions of 8-9 teams. There will two or three balanced leagues (COMPETITIVE II East and COMPETITIVE II West) with consideration given to east and west geography. Depending on the number of teams in the given area's of the state there may be two regional leagues formed in the east. COMPETITIVE II East Red and COMPETITIVE II East Blue. If there are more than 27 teams that could be participating in COMPETITIVE II League play and COMPETITIVE III League will be added.
 - a. The COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner will divide the teams into regional divisions based on their geographic location and competitive level of play based on their results in U12 State Tournament.

- The regional league composition will be approved by the COMPETITIVE Committee at their August meeting.
- b. The maximum weekends that each team must be available for will be 6 league play weekends, 4 as primary league play weekends, one as a make up weekend and one playoff weekend.
 - c. On league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday. **An effort will be made to schedule the games, as Home/Home or Away/Away on league weekends. Teams should hopefully have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.** The travel game should hopefully be around 2 hours. Since there will be less divisions travel may be slightly longer than 2 hours on occasion.
 - d. Top 2 teams in each of the divisions (if there are 3 divisions) will participate in a playoff in November to determine the top 4 teams who will be promoted to COMPETITIVE (I) for the spring season. If there are only 2 Divisions the COMPETITIVE Committee will set up the playoff structure at the August meeting
3. Regional League COMPETITIVE III: Will only be created if there are more than 27 teams that would be playing in Regional League COMPETITIVE II. The league would follow the same parameters as detailed in Regional League COMPETITIVE II.
- e. **Spring League Play** will commence beginning in February and will be completed by mid April.
 1. Based on the results of league play in the Fall, the top 4 teams from COMPETITIVE II will move up to COMPETITIVE I and the remaining teams in COMPETITIVE II will be realigned based on competitive level with consideration still being given to geography and the league still being regional. The realignment of the league will be done by the COMPETITIVE (currently Premier) Commissioner. The COMPETITIVE Committee will approve the realignment at the December meeting.
 2. Each team must submit by December 1, the two black out weekends that they are not available to compete in league play in the Spring.
 3. The league schedule will be posted by January 1.
 4. State Wide League COMPETITIVE (1): In the Spring, the league will be comprised of the 6 teams from the Fall State Wide League COMPETITIVE I and the top 4 teams determined by the Fall playoffs from the Regional COMPETITIVE II league.
 - a. Each team will play each other once and they will be committed to 5 league play weekends and one make up weekend.
 - b. On league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday. **An effort will be made to schedule the games, as Home/Home or Away/Away on league weekends. Teams should have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.**
 5. Regional League COMPETITIVE (II): The league will be realigned after Fall league play and the movement of 4 teams to COMPETITIVE (I). There will be three balanced leagues (COMPETITIVE II East and COMPETITIVE II West and

COMPETITIVE II Central) with consideration given to geography.

- a. Divisions will be comprised of 6-7 teams and they will play each other once.
- b. Each team will commit to 3 league play weekends with a makeup weekend and a playoff weekend totaling 5 weekends.
- c. To determine rankings for placement in the State Tournament, the top 4 teams from each division will play in COMPETITIVE (II) playoff. This playoff is necessary as there will only be 10 teams from COMPETITIVE II spring league that will participate in COMPETITIVE II State Tournament, and this is a method to determine the 10 teams from 3 regional divisions.

6. Regional League COMPETITIVE (III): The league will be realigned after Fall play to better match competitive level of play with consideration given to geography.

f. State Tournament: All U13 teams that complete their COMPETITIVE league play, will be eligible to participate in the State Tournament. See Policy 311 (D).

7. U14-U18 Leagues: At U14-U18 there will be multiple levels of league play. There will be one season of league play that will be played over the Fall and Spring season. The results of the previous year COMPETITIVE State Tournaments will determine which league the team will play in. The team must return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster to retain its ranking which is used to determine which league the team will play in. If a team does not return 50% plus 1 of its previous year roster the team will participate in the league one level below their COMPETITIVE State Tournament ranking provided they retain 25% plus 1 of its previous year roster. If the team does not comply with the 25% plus 1 of its previous year roster, the team will play in the Louisiana Regional League. Note that the 50%/25% test is applied to players and they do not have to be on the same team where the ranking was earned. The levels of league play will be as follows:

-Region III Premier League (if any Louisiana teams qualify)

-Region III Premier League Central

-COMPETITIVE (I): Louisiana State League

-COMPETITIVE (II): Louisiana Regional League. If there are enough teams there could possibly be a COMPETITIVE (III).

Note the COMPETITIVE Commissioner will determine the appropriate number of teams to play in the State League and Regional Leagues, based on the total number of COMPETITIVE teams in the age group. The COMPETITIVE Committee will approve this at the August meeting.

Hence based on the number of teams in the age group, the target number of teams detailed below, in each league, may be adjusted, but the concept will remain the same.

- a. Region III Premier League: Qualifications for admission determined by Region III.
- b. Region III Premier League Central:
 - 1. The COMPETITIVE Commissioner will be authorized to recommend Louisiana teams to participate in the Region III Premier League Central in the following order from current year U13-U17 to participate during the following soccer year (at the next highest age group):
 - a. Current Year COMPETITIVE I State Champion
 - b. Current Year USYS Regional Champion
 - c. Current Year Region III Premier League Central Champion
 - d. Current Year COMPETITIVE I State Finalist
 - e. Additional teams in order of finish in COMPETITIVE I State Tournament.

Failure to complete all games in the Region III Premier League Central will result in teams being required to participate in the Louisiana State Wide League.

Also, the COMPETITIVE Commissioner will be authorized to add a substitute team in the event that a qualified team either disbands or elects not to participate in the Sub-Regional Premier League.

- c. COMPETITIVE (I) Louisiana State League: 8 Teams, each team will play each other once. The eight team league will be comprised of the following:
 - 1. Teams from the COMPETITIVE I State Tournament who are not participating in either the Region III Premier League or the Region III Premier League Central
 - 2. The balance of the 8 teams will be the highest finishing teams in the COMPETITIVE II State Tournament.
 - 3. The fall portion of league play will commence after Labor Day and will be completed by the weekend before high school practice starts (end of October) and will resume in the spring the weekend after the high school championships and continue through mid April.
 - 4. Each team will commit to 4 league play weekends with a makeup weekend totaling 5 weekends.
 - 5. Designated on the team's Letter of Intent each team will be able to black out three weekends that they are not available to compete in league play for the soccer year (including both Fall and Spring).
 - 6. On league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday. **An effort will be made to schedule the games, as Home/Home or Away/Away on league weekends** Teams should have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.
 - 7. The league schedule will be posted by September 1.

- d. COMPETITIVE (II) Louisiana Regional League: 18-20 (or remaining teams) Teams with an East & West Division. Each team will play each other once. The league will
1. Teams from the COMPETITIVE II and COMPETITIVE III State Tournament
 3. The fall portion of league play will commence after Labor Day and will be completed by the weekend before high school practice starts (end of October) and will resume in the spring the weekend after the high school championships and continue through mid April.
 4. Each team will commit to 5 league play weekends with a makeup weekend totaling 6 weekends.
 5. Designated on the team's Letter of Intent each team will be able to black out three weekends that they are not available to compete in league play for the soccer year (including both Fall and Spring).
 6. On league weekends, teams will play on Saturday and Sunday. **An effort will be made to schedule the games, as Home/Home or Away/Away on league weekends. Teams should have one home game each weekend and one travel game each weekend.**
 7. The league schedule will be posted by September 1.
 8. **To determine rankings for placement in the State Tournament, the top 4 teams from each division will play in COMPETITIVE (II) playoff. This playoff is necessary as there will only be 9-10 teams from COMPETITIVE II Regional league that will participate in COMPETITIVE II State Tournament, and this is a method to determine the 9-10 teams from 3 regional divisions.**
- e. State Tournament: All U14-U18 teams that complete their COMPETITIVE league play, will be eligible to participate in the State Tournament. See Policy 311 (D).

8. Louisiana Competitive Soccer League Rules:

a. **RULES OF PLAY**

1. Rules of Play shall be in accordance with Policy 310 Section B. General Tournament Rules, unless hereafter noted.
2. At the referee's discretion, if a game must be terminated due to inclement weather and/or unsafe field conditions and one half of the game has been completed prior to termination, the results of the match at the time of termination will stand. The game will not be replayed.
3. Teams should surrender Players Passes and a copy of the Roster (with players' jersey numbers) to the Referee prior to the beginning of the game. The referee should check the players against the Player Passes prior to the start of the game. If a team does not have their USYS player passes and/or a copy of their official state roster at the start of the game the game may be started but must be present and checked by the end of the match. If the team is unable to present passes and /or roster at the end of the match the opposing team will be awarded a 4-0 win. Note an

electronic copy of a roster (shown on an electronic device such as IPAD) will be sufficient at the game if the passes are present at the field.

4. Games may end in a tie (no overtimes, etc).
5. If a Louisiana Competitive League Game does not have 3 referees, the game can be played as long as both coaches agree. Every effort should be made to contact the assignor to see if referees can be obtained in a reasonable time. If both coaches do not agree to play the game with less than 3 referees, then the team that had been the home team and was responsible for scheduling the referees will give up their home field advantage for the rescheduled game. If the game was originally to be played at a neutral location, then the game will be re scheduled again at a neutral location.

b. PLAYER MISCONDUCT

1. Ejections (send-off): A player who is ejected (sent-off) from a game shall leave the playing area and team sideline under the supervision of a designated adult team representative
2. If a player is sent-off during a game, the team manager shall retain possession of the player pass
3. A player who is ejected (sent-off) from a Competitive League game shall be suspended and as a minimum shall not be allowed to participate in his/her team's next playable Competitive League game. If a suspended player participates in a Competitive league game before serving the suspension, that game will be recorded as a forfeit and the player will still have to serve the one game suspension
4. It is the responsibility of the head coach and team manager to make sure that suspensions are served. They shall notify the referee of suspensions that are being served so that the referee can record that a specific player did not participate in that game.
5. The suspension for an ejection (sent-off) issued in the final Competitive League game will be served in the first game of the State Cup Tournament. As with Louisiana Competitive League, any ejections in the last game of the Sub Regional Premier League, the suspension will be served in the first game of the State Cup.
6. If the suspension is not served in the next Competitive League Game and/or State Cup game, the suspension will be served in the next available game (Competitive League or State Cup) and any games played in by the player will be recorded as a forfeit.

c. TEAM MISCONDUCT

A team shall forfeit a game if conduct by players, coaches or spectators causes a game to be prematurely terminated or abandoned. Any caution or send-off in the forfeited game is still subject to penalties and suspensions.

d. COACH MISCONDUCT

1. A coach who is ejected (sent-off) shall leave the immediate vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from any further contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of that game. If a credentialed team official is not present, the game is terminated and the offending team shall forfeit the game.
2. If a coach is sent-off during a game, the team manager shall retain possession of the player/coach pass.
3. A coach who is ejected (sent-off) from a Competitive League game shall be suspended and as a minimum shall not be allowed to participate in his/her team's next playable Competitive League game. The coach may not be at the soccer complex while serving the suspension, unless he/she is coaching another team. If a suspended coach participates in a Competitive League game before serving the suspension, that game will be recorded as a forfeit and the coach will still have to serve the one game suspension.
4. It is the responsibility of the head coach and team manager to make sure that suspensions are served. They shall notify the referee of suspensions that are being served so that the referee can record that a specific coach did not participate in that game.
5. The suspension for an ejection (send-off) issued in the final Competitive league game will be served in the first game of the State Cup Tournament. As with Louisiana Competitive League, any ejections in the last game of the Sub Regional Premier League, the suspension will be served in the first game of the State Cup Tournament.

e. GAME PROTESTS & APPEALS

1. **Protests**
 - a. Protests shall be referred to the Competitive League Committee. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protest must be received in writing at the LSA office within 72 hours from the scheduled game time or occurrence of the event and must include a certified check or money order made payable to LSA in the amount of \$100. Personal checks and cash will not be accepted. The written protest must include the following before they will be considered:
 - i. a written statement describing the specific grounds for the protest and
 - ii. a clear and concise statement of the relief or action sought by the protesting party
 - b. The head coach or club official may lodge protest only.
 - c. The referee's game report must be received in the LSA Office before the Competitive League Committee can take any action.
 - d. Any protest relating to goals, nets, or playing field conditions shall

be entertained only if an objection had been lodged with the game referee prior to the start of the game.

- e. The fee required will not be refunded if the protest is denied; however if the protest is upheld the fee will be refunded.
- f. An Appeal shall not be allowed if the appeal:
 - i. Does not deal with a violation of LSA By-Laws or Policy
 - ii. Concerns referee judgment.
 - iii. Does not deal with the qualifications of the opposing team or a player on the opposing team.

2. Appeals

- a. Decisions of the Competitive Committee may only be appealed to the LSA Executive Board. The procedures to file an appeal are the same as those detailed above in 311(C)(8)(d)(5)(a).
- b. Decision of the LSA Executive Board may only be appealed to the USSF if applicable.

F. TABULATION OF RESULTS

- 1. Competitive League games will be scored as follows: 3 Points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- 2. Ties will be broken per Policy General Tournament Rules.
- 3. To apply tie breakers to age groups that have divisions that do not have the same number of teams the following will be used for the application of Most Wins, Goal Differential and Goals Allowed if they are part of the tie breakers:
 - a. Most Wins: number of wins divided by the number of games played.
 - b. Goal Differential (maximum of plus or minus 4). For example for a score of 2-1, the goal differential for the winning team would be +1. Another example is 5-0, the winning team's goal differential would be +4. If the divisions do not have the same number of teams, and a tie exists between two teams in different divisions calculate a percentage. The percentage would be calculated as follows: Goal Differential/Maximum Possible Goal Differential (each game's maximum would be assumed to be +4).
 - c. Goals Allowed (no maximum). If the divisions do not have the same number of teams, and tie exists between two teams in different divisions calculate the average goals allowed per game. The average would be calculated as follows: Goals Allowed/Games Played

G. REPORTING GAME RESULTS

1. The team manager of each team is required to post the game score and Yellow and Red cards received by the Friday following completion of the game. All game reports where a red card is received or a red card suspension is being served must be sent to the LSA Office and received by the Friday following completion of the game. If the above deadlines are not complied with the offending team and club will be notified by the Louisiana Competitive Committee Chairperson and given one week to remedy the situation. If the situation is not remedy the \$250 Club Performance Bond check will be deposited. If a Club’s bond check is deposited, the Club must submit another \$ 250.00 bond check within 10 days or all of its teams will not be able to participate in Competitive League or State Cup.

H. ASSIGNORS/REFEREES

1. Assignment of referees will be the responsibility of Association hosting the Competitive League game. LSA will pay to the host Association a \$4.00 per game referee assignor’s fee. Fees are to be submitted to LSA for payment NO later than December 31 for games played in the fall and no later then June 30 for games played in the spring.
2. Payment of referees will be “CASH-IN-HAND” at the field by the team managers prior to the games. Each team will contribute one-half the total referee fees for that age group.

Age Group	Game Length	FEES		
		Referee	AR	AR
U11-U12	60 minutes	30	20	20
U13-U14	70 minutes	35	20	20
U15-U16	80 minutes	40	25	25
U17-U18	90 minutes	45	30	30

D. COMPETITIVE State Tournaments:

1. ENTRY FORMS

All entry forms and tournament fees must be submitted to LSA not later than April 1 for U11-U18 teams, and not later than April 15th for U19 teams. If that date falls on the weekend the due date will be the following Monday.

Only teams that have participated in the COMPETITIVE leagues shall be admitted to the Louisiana State Tournament.

Entry in the State Tournament and participation in the COMPETITIVE I State Tournament places a responsibility on the COMPETITIVE I State Tournament champion to represent

Louisiana at Regionals, and, if successful there, at Nationals. The Club sponsoring the COMPETITIVE I State Tournament champion will be responsible for fees and fines charged by Region III or US Youth Soccer for withdrawal. These fees may reach \$3,000 or in the future higher.

Failure to pay the fine within 30 days of receipt of the fine in writing from LSA shall result in that Club being deemed henceforth "not in good standing" and teams from that Club shall be denied participation in all age gender groups in any Louisiana State Tournament until said fee is paid.

2. **Roster Freeze Date (Naming of the Roster)**

A player may play for only one COMPETITIVE team in a State Tournament in any seasonal year. If a player is on the roster of a team, as of the roster freeze date, the player may only play for that team for State Tournaments.

The roster freeze date for U11 through U19 COMPETITIVE teams is the Monday of the week preceding the week of the start of COMPETITIVE State Tournament for the age group, unless an age group advances to Regionals by virtue of being the only team in its age group; in this case the roster freeze date will be set by the COMPETITIVE Commissioner.

3. **Teams that Drop out of COMPETITIVE State Tournament after registering**

A team that drops out of the COMPETITIVE State Tournament after April 1st and before the roster freeze date will forfeit its entry fee. The brackets will be realigned for any team dropping out during this period.

A team that drops out of the COMPETITIVE State Tournament after the roster freeze date will forfeit its entry fee, and their club will be assessed a fine of \$1,000.00 (payable to LSA) plus the club will be denied participation in the following year's state tournament by any team of the same sex next older single age group as the offending team. Failure to pay the fine within thirty (30) days of receipt of the assessment in writing from LSA shall result in that club being deemed henceforth "not in good standing" and shall be denied participation in all age/sex groups in any COMPETITIVE State Tournament until said assessment is paid. Brackets will not be realigned for any team dropping out after the roster freeze date, all games for the team will be recorded as forfeits.

4. **COMPETITIVE State Tournaments**

All teams that participate in the COMPETITIVE league will participate in one of the Louisiana State Tournaments based on their level play as determined by league play. A team cannot opt to play in a different State Tournament than their league play determined.

The COMPETITIVE State Tournament shall be completed in two weekends of play on the dates selected by the COMPETITIVE Committee.

- a. **U11 Teams:** All teams will participate in a State Tournament. There will be 8 team divisions (labeled by color). There will be a champion crowned in each division. The divisions will be formed as follows: teams that finished in the upper half of their division's during league play will be grouped with like teams and teams that finished in the lower half of their division during league play will be grouped together. There will not be a top division. There will be several more competitive divisions and several moderately competitive divisions. If there are not an even number of 8 team divisions the COMPETITIVE Committee will decide how to allocate, but brackets will not be larger than 8 teams.

The format will be the standard seeded two weekend format for 8 teams per Policy 310.

b. **U12 Teams:** All teams will participate in a State Tournament. There will be three divisions as follows:

1. **COMPETITIVE I State Tournament:** the 16 most competitive teams as determined by spring league play.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend 16 team bracket per Policy 310 with the exception as follows: the top 2 teams from each bracket will advance to the Quarterfinals. The winners of the Quarterfinals will advance to the Semi Finals. The winners of the Semi Finals will advance to the Championship game. There will be consolation matches at each level starting with the Quarterfinals to determine seeding for U13 League play.

2. **COMPETITIVE II State Tournament:** the next 8-12 (depending on the remaining number of U12 teams, the COMPETITIVE Committee will make this decision) most competitive teams as determined by spring league play.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend either 8-12 team format as per Policy 310.

3. **COMPETITIVE III State Tournament:** the remaining U12 teams that are not participating in the COMPETITIVE I or II State Tournament.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend either 6-12 team format as per Policy 310.

c. **U13 Teams:** All teams will participate in a State Tournament. There will be three divisions as follows:

1. **COMPETITIVE I State Tournament:** the top 8 teams as determined by COMPETITIVE I spring league play.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend 8 team bracket per Policy 310.

State Champions from this COMPETITIVE I State Tournament are eligible to participate in the Region III Premier League U14 Qualifying Tournament to possibly qualify to participate in the Region III Premier League.

Teams that compete in this COMPETITIVE I State Tournament are eligible to participate in Region III Premier League Central based on their order of finish and possibly participate in the Region III League depending on their performance in the Region III U14 Qualifying Event.

2. **COMPETITIVE II State Tournament:** the bottom 2 teams as determined by COMPETITIVE I spring league play plus the top 10 teams determined from COMPETITIVE II spring playoffs.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend for 12 team format as per Policy 310.

Invitations to attend the Region III President's Cup will offered to state champions and if unable to attend to state finalist in order of finish.

3. **COMPETITIVE III State Tournament:**the remaining U13 teams that are not participating in the COMPETITIVE II State Tournament.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend either 6-12 team format as per Policy 310.

- d. **U14-U18 Teams:** All teams will participate in a State Tournament. There will be three divisions as follows:

1. **COMPETITIVE I State Tournament:** Will be an 8 team tournament comprised of the teams that participated in either the Region III Premier League or the Region III Premier League Central plus the top 5 or 6 teams as determined by COMPETITIVE I league play.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend 8 team bracket per Policy 310.

Teams that compete in this COMPETITIVE I State Tournament are eligible to participate in Region III Premier League Central based on their order of finish (U14-U17).

State Champions will represent Louisiana at the USYS Regional event and depending on their performance at Regionals at USYS Nationals.

2. **COMPETITIVE II State Tournament:** Will be a 12 team tournament comprised of the COMPETITIVE I State League teams not participating in COMPETITIVE 1 State Tournament plus the top 5-6 teams from the COMPETITIVE II Playoffs.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend for 12 team format as per Policy 310.

Invitations to attend the Region III President's Cup will offered to state champions and if unable to attend to state finalist in order of finish for U14-U17 teams.

3. **COMPETITIVE III State Tournament:**the remaining teams that are not participating in the COMPETITIVE II State Tournament.

The format will be standard seeded two weekend either 6-12 team format as per Policy 310.

- e. **U19 Teams:** U19 Teams may elect to participate in either the COMPETITIVE I or II State Tournament.

1. **COMPETITIVE I State Tournament:** State Champions will represent Louisiana at the USYS Regional event and depending on their performance at Regionals at USYS Nationals.

As U19 Boys and Girls do not participate in a league, seeding will be determined by a random draw conducted by the Commissioner. The format will be a standard seeded two weekend format determined by the number of teams that enter the State Tournament (Policy 310).

2. COMPETITIVE II State Tournament: As U19 Boys and Girls do not participate in a league, seeding will be determined by a random draw conducted by the Commissioner. The format will be a standard seeded two weekend format determined by the number of teams that enter the State Tournament (Policy 310).

f. COMPETITIVE I & II State Tournament Additional Team Requirements:

1. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the rosters of both competitions for age groups U11 – U15. For U16 and up teams must maintain a minimum of 11 players.
2. As per the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policy (Section 2 of Rule 221)
- A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the National Championships.
 - a. For teams competing in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups, each player on the team must be:
 - i. of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or
 - ii. of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year
 - b. For teams competing in the Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups, each player on the team must be:
 - i. of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or
 - ii. of the age of any younger age group, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year