

Proposed Change to Youth Rules

120. Georgia Soccer Youth Programs

SUBMITTED BY:

Bryan McDermott, Youth Rules Committee Chair

EXISTING RULE:

120. Georgia Soccer Youth Programs: The Georgia Soccer Youth Select Programs Divisions (Athena plus Academy girls and Classic plus Academy boys), Recreational Programs, and National League Piedmont Conference are the responsibility of the respective Georgia Soccer Representatives. Each representative will appoint a committee, subject to approval of the Georgia Soccer VP-Youth, to administer their program. The Representative shall serve as the program chairman. A list of each committee's membership stating name, age group represented, position, and contact information shall be available for all member affiliates. Each Committee shall be given wide discretionary authority to administer the program as long as same is consistent with the rules and policies set by member affiliates and directives from the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors in the operation of their duties. Each Committee shall be directly responsible to the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors in the operation of their duties.

120.1 Recreational: The Recreational Program is a developmental soccer program for all youth players. The member affiliate accepts as participants any eligible youths, without regard to skill level (subject to reasonable terms of registration).

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or similar process to roster players to any recreational team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Recreational players may not be "cut" from the team.

A system for rostering players to teams must be used to establish a fair and balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating in the same age group within the member affiliate.

120.1a To further enhance the Recreational Program, Georgia Soccer supports US Youth Soccer's teaching philosophy with respect to small-sided soccer in 04U, 06U, 08U, 10U, and 12U. This philosophy allows the game to be the teacher by maximizing each player's touches on the ball and encourages all the players to develop their skills in all positions. Further, the philosophy discourages intense competition until the older age groups.

120.1b Types of recreational games
 In-House Single affiliate internal teams play each other. Scheduling of games is done by the affiliate. Inter-affiliate Two affiliates play each other. Scheduling of games is done by the affiliates.
 RIAS (Recreation Inter-affiliate Scheduled) All affiliates are scheduled by Georgia Soccer.

120.2 Athena: The Athena Program is the select program for girls' teams, as girls' teams are defined by US Youth Soccer.

120.3 Classic: The Classic Program is the select program for boys' teams, as boys' teams are defined by US Youth Soccer.

120.4 Academy: The Academy Program is the select developmental program for boys' and girls' teams from 09U through 12U.

120.5 National League Conferences: The National League Conferences and Georgia Premier League (GPL) are pathways to national-level play for 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U boys' and girls' teams.

120.6 Non-Traditional: A non-traditional program is one that does not meet the normal parameters of youth play within Georgia Soccer. Teams playing within a school, church or other such group could meet the definition of being non-traditional. If an affiliate offers non-traditional type play, none of the teams within that affiliate may play in any of the other Georgia Soccer youth programs, nor may they play in any Georgia Soccer sanctioned tournaments which are geared toward traditional teams. Georgia Soccer will not administer non-traditional play.

120.7 Home Team: Team listed first on a schedule

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

120. Georgia Soccer Programs: The Georgia Soccer Youth Select Programs Divisions (Athena, Classic, Academy, and any other programs or divisions deemed to be designed for select level play plus Academy girls and Classic plus Academy boys), and Recreational Programs, and National League Piedmont Conference are the responsibility of the respective Georgia Soccer Representatives. Each representative will appoint a committee, subject to approval of the Georgia Soccer VP-Youth, to administer their program. The Representative shall serve as the program chairman. A list of each committee's membership stating name, age group represented, position, and contact information shall be available for all member affiliates. Each Committee shall be given wide discretionary authority to administer the program as long as same is consistent with the rules and policies set by member affiliates and directives from the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors in the operation of their duties. Each Committee shall be directly responsible to the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors in the operation of their duties.

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120.2b Athena: The Athena Program is the select program for girls' teams, as girls' teams are defined by US Youth Soccer.

120.2c Classic: The Classic Program is the select program for boys' teams, as boys' teams are defined by US Youth Soccer.

120.2d Other Programs: The Georgia Soccer Youth Council may sanction other programs or divisions designated for select level players as needed. These programs may be administered by Georgia Soccer, administered in association with other State Associations, or administered solely by Georgia Soccer affiliates. The programs may include affiliates of other US Youth Soccer State Associations if granted permission from their State Association.

Where other programs are not administered by Georgia Soccer, the Youth Council will set conditions which must be met by the program's rules. The affiliates involved must then submit the rules for that program to the Youth Council for approval before the program may begin play.

120.63 Non-Traditional Programs: A non-traditional program is one that does not meet the normal parameters of youth play within Georgia Soccer. Teams playing within a school, church or other such group could meet the definition of being

non-traditional. If an affiliate offers non-traditional type play, none of the teams within that affiliate may play in any of the other Georgia Soccer youth programs, nor may they play in any Georgia Soccer sanctioned tournaments which are geared toward traditional teams. Georgia Soccer will not administer non-traditional play.

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HOW THE RULE WOULD READ AFTER PROPOSED CHANGE:

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120.4 Home Team: Team listed first on a schedule

RATIONALE:

From an organizational standpoint, the proposed changes to this rule provide a better grouping of Georgia Soccer's programs. That part of it can be considered more as housekeeping than anything else.

The other change on the select side adds a definition of how additional programs for select level players may be formed. This allows Georgia Soccer to add programs as needed without having to seek a rule change to have that program's name added to the rules for it to exist. It also gives affiliates who want to form their own divisions of select level play a guideline of how to do so. This is not addressed in the original rule though nothing there prevented it from being done.

Proposed Change to Youth Rules

140.1 Participation Numbers

SUBMITTED BY:

Bryan McDermott, Youth Rules Committee Chair

EXISTING RULE:

140.1 Each member affiliate participating in Academy, Athena or Classic play must have a minimum of one registered recreational player for every registered select player. Member affiliates not in compliance will be subject to review and/or sanction by the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors which could include: suspension of affiliate, probation of affiliate, Georgia Soccer youth tournament play restrictions and fines.

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

140.1 Each member affiliate participating in Academy, Athena or Classic play must **also** have a ~~minimum of one registered recreational~~ **program** ~~player for every registered select player~~. Member affiliates not in compliance will be subject to review and/or sanction by the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors which could include: suspension of affiliate, probation of affiliate, Georgia Soccer youth tournament play restrictions and fines.

HOW THE RULE WOULD READ AFTER PROPOSED CHANGE:

140.1 Each member affiliate participating in Academy, Athena or Classic play must also have a recreational program. Member affiliates not in compliance will be subject to review and/or sanction by the Georgia Soccer Board of Directors which could include: suspension of affiliate, probation of affiliate, Georgia Soccer youth tournament play restrictions and fines.

RATIONALE:

More affiliates are moving towards coaching younger players in an “Academy” style environment. At the older ages, more recreation teams look toward “becoming” select teams as a natural progression as they age and their players get more successful. With these two trends, both of which enhance the skill development of individual players, it becomes more difficult for affiliates, especially smaller ones, to maintain the current 1-1 ratio of recreation to select players. This rule change would still require affiliates to maintain a recreation base, but would eliminate the need for a specific ratio of players.