

As a registered member of a team playing in a travel league, players are a registered (carded) player under the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) and United States Youth Soccer (USYS). Each team plays in its respective league. The player's rights and obligations are governed and protected by the league to which the player is registered, VYSA and USYS rules, and rules set up by the club with which each team is members. To make the player and the parents aware of these rights and obligations, we ask you to review the following.

USYS Rule 201: Player Registration

Section 1. (Residency) A youth player MUST register each seasonal year in the State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent or parents or guardian or guardians, or, for a student in residence at a boarding school, college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, etc., is located. Any other questions of residency may be determined by the State Association in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver's license.

Section 2. (a) Any youth player wishing to play on a team of a member of a state association other than the state association where the player is registered, must receive written permission from—

- (1) the state association where the player is registered: and*
- (2) the other state association of the team on which the player wishes to play.*

(b) Permission must be obtained each seasonal year.

Rule 206. Multiple Rostering.

A State Association may allow a player to be rostered on more than one youth team each seasonal year.

VYSA policy prohibits registered travel players from being rostered to more than one VYSA travel team at a time. (See section 5-8)

The only valid proofs of birth for new registrants are the following:

- Original Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Resident Alien ID Card (Green Card)
- Military ID Card
- Birth Registration Issued by an Appropriate Government Agency
- Certificate issued by INS Verifying Age
- Current Driver's License or Learner's Permit
- Certification of US Citizen Born Abroad Issued by an Appropriate Government Agency
- Unexpired Federal, State, or Local Government ID Card (if documentation of date of birth is required) ("walker" ID)

If a player has been previously rostered and has shown the appropriate proof of birth for registration, then the player may submit his/her current USYS Member Pass as proof of birth.

A player cannot be registered until the necessary proof of birth is provided

Player/Parent Procedures

A player must also provide his/her name, address, including zip code.

Social security numbers shall not be used as a player's identification number for VYSA players. The player's identification number shall be generated in accordance with the VYSA Travel Registration Manual. A recent full facial picture must also be provided to obtain a Member Pass. This pass, **signed by the player** establishes the player's right to play travel soccer.

The player's coach or team manager keeps his/her Member Pass and gives the player his/her Membership Card. The Membership Card includes a Code of Conduct. The player and his/her parents should take time to read and understand it. The Membership Card is **NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY LEAGUE, TOURNAMENT OR STATE CUP GAMES**. The information on the front of the Membership Card provides the player's name, date of birth, team information and your identification number. This will be the player's permanent player identification number for VYSA travel registration and **MUST** be used for as long as the player is a travel soccer player in VYSA.

Each team has an Official VYSA State Roster that has been approved and is maintained by a VYSA Assistant State Registrar assigned to that team. The team roster is important for purposes of participation in league competition, State Cup competition and for traveling to tournaments. A new team roster is recorded with the state association at the beginning of each seasonal year, which runs from September 1 through August 31. Certain rules about how and when changes can be made to a team roster affect your ability to change teams or join a team.

1. A seasonal year (9/1 – 8/31) consists of fall and spring seasons. The season begins with the first league game and ends with the last league game. In some leagues, any decision to change teams must be made between seasons only. You should check with your respective coach and/or league before making your final decision.
2. The maximum number of players a team can have on its roster is 18. ***A league may restrict a roster size to less than 18 when the age group competes in small sided play.**
3. During the seasonal year, no more than three carded players from another registered traveling team may be transferred to the roster. Any number of uncarded players may be added to the roster.

In accordance with Rule 221, the VYSA Board of Directors has determined that a coach, **ONLY AFTER GIVING THE PLAYER 24 HOURS WRITTEN NOTICE**, may involuntarily release a player from the roster for the following reasons:

- The player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, USYS, the State Association, or the member (league, club and/or team) of the State Association through whom the player is registered. (This may include non-payment of financial obligations to your club and/or team for the present season or previous seasons) If the non-payment is for **FUTURE** obligations, the club and/or team should have a written financial obligation statement signed and dated by a team or club official and the parents or a dated electronic acceptance of the future obligations.

Player/Parent Procedures

- The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by the State Association.
- The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

The player should examine all of their options prior to changing teams. There are usually good reasons for changing or leaving a team, but team loyalty is an important element of good soccer. If, after examining all of his/her options, the player wants to transfer to another team, the player **MUST** complete a VYSA Player/Team Status Form and submit it to his/her team official. This is what is referred to as a “voluntary release – **see section 5-21**”. The player and the player’s parents must sign this form (if the player is 18 or older, the parent’s signature is not required.) If the player has financial obligations to the club and/or team, those should be paid **PRIOR** to requesting a release. If there is a signed a financial obligation sheet listing future obligations, those must be paid. **A team MAY refuse to release the player if the player has outstanding financial obligations.**

Once this has been done, the player’s coach or team representative **MUST** take the player team/status form to their League Assigned Registrar **WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS** from the date the team manager **receives** it to have the player released from his/her old team’s roster and to have the registrar sign the form. **Documentation of date of submission to the team manager is strongly recommended.** Contact the player’s club rep if the player does not receive the signed paperwork back within 10 days. The player’s Member Pass and a copy of the player team/status form will be given to the player, and the player must then take them to your new coach. If the player is **NOT TRANSFERRING** to another team, the player pass and release form will stay with the registrar.

The player’s new coach will need the player and the player’s parents to sign a VYSA player team/status form requesting the transfer to the new team. A new recent full facial picture must be provided for the new membership pass and the new pass must be signed by the player. **BE SURE YOU TELL YOUR NEW COACH THAT YOU WERE ON A TRAVEL TEAM. THE PLAYER MUST BE RELEASED FROM ONE TRAVEL TEAM BEFORE YOU CAN BE ROSTERED TO ANOTHER TEAM!** This form, along with the new Member Pass will be taken by the new team official to the League Assigned Registrar to transfer the player to the new team roster.

Some teams play in the USYS National Championship Series (also known as State Cup) in the fall and others in the spring. A player may only compete in **ONE** USYS National Championship Series in a Seasonal Year. If you have participated in the USYS National Championship Series - State Cup competition with one team, and then change teams to one that plays State Cup later, the player will be allowed to compete only in regular league play and other tournaments, **BUT NOT** in the USYS National Championship Series - State Cup.

Player/Parent Procedures

Once a player has been registered and rostered to a VYSA travel team the player is considered a registered VYSA travel player until the end of the seasonal year. A player has the right to voluntarily move from one team to another at any time during the seasonal year, September 1 through August 31 as long as they are in good standing.

Teams are bound by the 3-player transfer limit from the time their roster is processed (the process date stamped on the team roster by the League Assigned Registrar). The process date may be as early as August 1 preceding the beginning of the next seasonal year.

If a player chooses to leave his/her team but does not immediately transfer to another team, OR move out of state, the player should

1. Complete a VYSA Payer Team/Status form requesting a release from the current team. See section 5-8 for more details. (If the player is 18 or older, the parents' signature is not required.)
2. The team official will have the League Assigned Registrar release the player from the team roster. The League Assigned Registrar will keep the Member Pass until the player's plans are more definite. If the player is moving out of state, their Member Pass and a copy of the VYSA Player Team/Status form will be returned to the player. The player will need these in the event he/she wishes to play soccer in the state to which he/she moves to.

Once properly rostered, VYSA travel teams will fall into one of three categories:

ACTIVE – teams that are playing in seasonal (fall and spring) league play.
****All VYSA travel teams are considered active in the fall season****

INACTIVE – a team that does not participate in spring league play because

- Their league does not offer league play for the team's age group, or
- Their league has issued inactive status for the remainder of the seasonal year.

DISBANDED – a team that does not participate in spring league or tournament play for the remainder of the seasonal year

Player/Parent Procedures

If the player wants to leave a disbanded team and to transfer to another team, the player **MUST** complete a VYSA player team/status form and submit it to the League Assigned Registrar. The player and his/her parents must sign this form (if the player is 18 or older, the parent's signature is not required.)

If the player wants to leave the inactive team and to transfer to another team, the player **MUST** complete a VYSA player team/status form and submit it to the team manager. The player and his/her parents must sign this form (if the player is 18 or older, the parent's signature is not required.)