## PART I-GENERAL

## Rule 100. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise written, the following designations apply to this US Beach Soccer National Championship policy ('policy"):
(1) "youth player" is defined as a person who has not reached 19 years of age before December 31 at the start of any seasonal year. A player who is 19 years of age during a seasonal season is allowed to complete the competition of that seasonal year.
(2) "add" is defined as the addition of a player to a team's roster.
(3) "Article" followed by a Roman numeral is reference to a specific "part" of the US Beach Soccer National Championship Bylaws.
(4) "club" defines an organization providing soccer to players which is a member of a youth soccer organization or other governing body; the name of said group does not have to include the word "club".
(5) "game roster" is the list of players provided by team representative who play together in a competition.
(6) "club pass" means a youth soccer pass provided by a youth soccer organization which is recognized under its primary country recognized as the governing body under FIFA -
(A) issued to a registered youth player by a club in accordance with the rules of the league, club, State Association, and/or governing body of which the club is a member;
(B) issued as provided by this policy: and
(C) designates the organization (club) which the youth player is a registered member.
(7) "US Beach Soccer National Championships" means the competitions provided for under this policy for the $13 u, 14 u, 15 u, 16 u, 17 u, 18 u$, and $19 u$ age groups.
(8) "involuntary release" is defined by teams authorities requesting the elimination of a player from a team's roster.
(9) "eligibility to play" dictates the player is registered, not under suspension, and therefore can participate in the competitions.
(10) "recreational league" means an intra-club league in which-
(A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
(B) the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration);
(C) a system of rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and
(D) league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
(11) "recreational team" defines a team which competes in a league for only recreational play and not competitive.
(12) "Referee Committee" means the US Beach Soccer Referee Committee as may be established under the guidelines designated by Pro-Am Beach Soccer per event or the US Beach Soccer National Championship committee.
(13) "registration" is defined as the signing of a player who intends to play soccer for a club and intends to pay the fees to become a member of a youth soccer organization under the guidelines of the states (country) organization recognized by FIFA.
(14) "rostering" is when a registered play is assigned to a team.
(15) "select team" means the official selection or all-star team of -
(A) youth soccer organization;

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(B) a league
(C) a region;
(C) a State Association;
(D) a geographic district of a State Association; or
(E) any country.
(16) "State Association" is defined as an administrative organization within an area or state determined by US Soccer's programs for youth players.
(17) "suspension" is defined as the temporary elimination of rights and opportunities, to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (indirectly or directly) in soccer. Unless the authority in charge specifically states otherwise, in writing, the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all opportunities and rights eliminated until full term is served.
(18) "team roster" is defined as a list of registered players for a team who are eligible to play in a competition.
(19) "voluntary release" is defined as the exclusion or releasing of a player from a team's roster by request of the player.
(20) "team" is defined as a group of players competing on the same side in soccer games.
(21) "Federation" means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
(22) "Board of Directors" is defined as the Board of Directors of US Beach Soccer National Championship Committee as designated by Viaports International LLC.

## Rule 101. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. Viaports International LLC, dba Pro-Am Beach Soccer establishes and shall organize annually Youth and Adult National Beach Championships competitions in the 13u, 14u, $15 u, 16 u, 17 u, 18 u$, and $19 u$ age groups. They will also provide Men, Women, and Coed adult groups. This policy is designated to all competitions involved with Beach Soccer Championships, Pro-Am Beach Soccer, and US Beach Soccer National Championship.

Section 2. There shall be individual, and separate competitions for boys and girls for each age group, including the adult divisions conducted for the US Beach Soccer National Championship.

Section 3. Each qualifying event will also include non-qualifying age groups in the $9 \mathrm{u}, 10 \mathrm{u}$, 11u, and 12u age groups. Micro Soccer age group may also be included if available interest seeks it. These age groups will be listed under the qualifiers but will be named "Recreational Non-Qualifying" for the purpose of informing participants their teams are not competing for a spot in national championships.

Section 4. Each qualifying event may also have non-qualifying age groups which will be in $13 u, 14 u, 15 u, 16 u, 17 u, 18 u$, and $19 u$ age groups for the qualifying event. These age groups will be listed under the qualifiers but will be named "Recreational Non-Qualifying" for the purpose of informing participants their teams are not competing for a spot in the national championships. These team and players will not be considered cup tied for later events and/or teams moving on.

## Rule 102. TITLES

Section 1. The name of national competitions for each of the age groups shall be titled as the "US BEACH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP".

Section 2. National Beach Championships competitions shall include in their title the name US Beach Soccer National Championship as follows:
(1) The US Beach Soccer National Championship Series logo is required on all event merchandise and graphics at the State Associations' competitions, regional competitions and national competition. The logo can be used as a stand-alone logo or part of event artwork.

Section 3. Teams competing in non-qualifying age groups will have the event name associated with the city and include the title "Recreational Non-Qualifying" as part of the name for registration purposes. These groups may include the same age, but will be designated as separate by the title "Recreational Non-Qualifying". These groups will compete in competitions based on interest and availability.

## Rule 103. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

Precedence must be the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions games over all other youth beach games. US Beach Soccer National Championship Final's should take precedence over all youth soccer matches on the weekend of the finals.

## Rule 104. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. (a) The entire administration of these competitions is vested in the Board of Directors and organizing committees of Viaports International LLC dba Pro-Am Beach Soccer \& US Beach Soccer National Championship.
(b) In this policy any matters not described shall be determined by the US Beach Soccer Championship Board of Directors or committee assigned by them, and its decisions are final.

## Rule 105. AWARDS TO PLAYERS \& TEAMS

Section 1. At the nationals the cup will be presented to each level champion for each boys and girls age division.

Section 2. A US Beach Soccer National Championship Plaque will be awarded to each champion and runner-up mentioned in section 1 of this rule, which will remain in its keeping permanently, at the national level,.

Section 3. Individual medals shall be awarded to the players and coaches of each of the 2 teams which finish first and second place at the US Beach Soccer National Championship, at the national level, in each of the boys and girls age groups.

Section 4. Medals shall be awarded to the players and coaches of each of the teams which are first and second place in the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions at the qualifying events.
(a) Micro Divisions which do not keep score will have each player receive a participant award for playing in the event.

Section 5. At the qualifying level of competition a US Beach Soccer National Championship embroidered patch will be awarded to players and coaches of each champion of each boys and girls age group.

## Rule 106. NOTICES

All communications and other notices required to be provided within this policy must be done in writing and addressed to the Board of Directors or the committee assigned by it.

## PART II—ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

Subsection A-Levels of Competition
Rule 201. STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS
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Each US Beach Soccer National Championship competition shall be conducted at the following levels:
(1) The first level of competition, named a qualifying event, will be for all designated boys and girls age groups and adults.
(2) The second level of competition, named the national event, will be for all designated boys and girls age groups and adults.

## Rule 202. REGIONAL QUALIFYING COMPETITION

Section 1. Regionalized qualifying events shall be conducted across the United States to determine the teams that represent the boys, girls and adult age groups at the national level of the US Beach National Championship competition.

## Rule 203. NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

The teams winning each of the regional qualifying events in each boys, girls, and adult age groups will compete in the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions to determine the national championship team for each boys, girls and adult age groups. The teams from the regional qualifying events will compete in a round-robin format approved by the Board of Directors, Pro-Am Beach Soccer, or assigned competition committee.

## Subsection B—Players and Teams

## Rule 210. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions will accept any team with players registered with a youth soccer organization through an association, league, club, or a governing body which qualifies under the statutes laid out by FIFA. A team is eligible if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:
(1) The team must be in good standing with its youth soccer association/organization and must be in compliance with of the bylaws and policies of US Soccer and or their governing body. If a team has any violations they will not be permitted to compete
(2) A team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth/adult players (as defined by US Soccer and/or FIFA).
(3) The team must compete in a designated, approved regional qualifying event. The qualifying competition must consist of a minimum of three games in the competition.
(4) Continuity of rosters must be demonstrated between the team's regional qualification and the US Beach Soccer National Championship competition by maintaining a minimum of 7 players common to the roster of the team at both levels of the competition.

Section 2. Every team in the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions must have a team roster. The individual game roster is determined and created under this rule based on the players on the team's roster. There will be a game roster for every match or competition.
(1) Team Roster

A minimum of 7 registered players must be listed on a team roster at all times.
(2) US National Beach National Championship Roster

A team roster must for the US National Beach Championships must be based on its team roster approved by the youth association or governing youth soccer organization from where the team resides. Although the team may roster may be up to 14 youth players on the roster, at all levels of the competitions, only 12 players are allowed to sit on the team bench at any time during competitions.
(3) Game Roster

The game roster prepared by each team and must be submitted to the competition authority at the designated time(s) provided by the event, and no later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled match at a US National Beach Championship qualifier or national level competition. The game roster may have a maximum of 14 players and minimum 7
players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team's US Beach Soccer Championship roster to be eligible to participate.

Section 4. It is the responsibility of the proper official of each entering youth association and/or youth soccer organization to certify eligibility of competing teams. They need to provide the teams with a copy of this policy or direct them to www.proambeachsoccer.net to obtain a copy.

Section 5. The team must provide its US Beach Soccer National Championship roster for National Beach Championship competitions as follows:
(1) At the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at the regional qualifying event which shall be no later than 5 days prior to the beginning of the team's competition at the regional event; and
(2) at the national level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the US Beach Soccer National Championship event director which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that team's competition at the national level.

Section 6. A team will forfeit each game where the team -
(1) has a player with the team at the game in a uniform who is unregistered; or
(2) a player was not properly recorded on the roster of the team.
(3) no longer has a recognized team official as required, on the bench at all times.

Section 7. (a) At the national level of the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions, a team of a club may have on its roster an eligible player of that club who was not on the team's qualifier roster at the prior level of competition.
(b) A player may be rostered to only one team's US Beach National Championship roster at each level of the National Beach Championships competitions during the seasonal year.

Section 8. A team may compete in only one age group of the US Beach National Championship competitions during the seasonal year.

Section 9. A younger player whose team is eliminated is permitted to play on an older team roster from the same club who has made it to the next level of competition.

## Rule 211. FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

Section 1. Any team or State Association intending to forfeit at the national level must give notice of its intention to forfeit to the event director within the deadline set by the Board of Directors. The forfeit shall be included with a reason.

Section 2. Forfeits and failure to compete at the national level by a team or State Association shall be a matter of review by the Board of Directors that shall have the authority to take action against the team or State Association that the Board considers appropriate for future competitions.

Section 3. Any team or State Association failing to give notice of intention to forfeit may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, have additional penalties imposed on it within the capacity of availability.

Section 4. Match Manipulation at the US Beach National Championships Series competitions at all levels is prohibited. Teams involved in the manipulation of a game result or failing to compete in the spirit of the competition will be eliminated by forfeiture and disqualified from all levels of further competition.
(1) if it is observed that a team is failing to compete, the competition director or a representative assigned by them will give notice to the offending team or teams.
(2) if action is not taken to correct the perception, the team or teams can be subject to disqualification.

## Rule 212. FORFEITS GENERALLY

At the discretion of the Board of Directors or its designee, any team proven guilty of violating this policy or of any other requirement of the US Youth Soccer organizations shall be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of all games and the preceding competition and fines and suspensions and possible long term exclusion from future competitions.

## Rule 213. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer organizations and/or the State Association it is registered with.

Section 2. A youth player may be on the US Beach Soccer National Championship roster of only one team at each level of the National Beach Championship competitions during any seasonal year; provided, however, that a youth player who was rostered to a team of a club at a US Beach National Championship competition level that has been eliminated and does not advance to any level of the competition and who has been issued a club pass of that club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another team of that club at the next level of the US Beach National Championship competitions. Subject to the provisions of Rule 231, Section 1 (5), at each level of the US Beach National Championship competitions, a team may add to its US Beach Soccer National Championship roster for that level as many registered youth players holding club passes of that club as the roster does not exceed 14 players. A team may not change the club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the US Beach National Championship competitions. This is not allowed in any event unless it is in compliance with the rules of the governing body of which the club is a member.

Section 3. A suspended player may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.
Section 4. The first US Beach National Championship roster of a team to which the player is rostered is the only team with which the player may participate in at each level of the US Beach National Championship competitions for a seasonal year.

## Rule 214. PLAYER AND TEAM BREACHES OF RULES

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the US Beach Soccer National Championship event director to investigate a properly protested violation immediately following its receipt. If a team representative fails to cooperate with an investigation it will result in disciplinary action with the possibly of including suspension.

Section 2. Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player will be eliminated from further competition in the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions in the current seasonal year. Any manager, coach, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player will be denied the opportunity to compete further in the US Beach National Championships competitions in the current and the following seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions in the current and the following seasonal year.

Section 3. A player who is sent-off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next game played by the player's team. A player may receive a multi-game suspension.

Section 4. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably involved or associated with a team, such as spectators or relatives, are also subject to the authority of the tournament organizers. Anyone deemed out of order will be reported to their youth soccer organization and/or governing body. Coaches and/or

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team officials are held responsible for the actions at any game which, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of the team in question.

## Rule 215. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to understanding of a players eligibility and/or the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions, must be referred to the US Beach National Championship event director.

Section 2. (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest -
(1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
(2) must be filed with the appropriate person within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by-
(A) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors or Competition

Committee;
(B) a written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
(C) a written copy of any information to be presented by witnesses.
(b) Any protest relating to the field of play, goal posts, bars, or other aspects of the game shall be examined only if a written objection has been brought forward to the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
(c) The event director with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

Section 3. (a) An appeal of a decision regarding a protest may be appealed to Viaports International LLC dba Pro-Am Beach Soccer, admin@proambeachsoccer.net (1). Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision-
(2) if a decision of the regional qualifying event director, who shall immediately notify the US Beach National Championship event director; or
(3) if a decision of the US Beach National Championships event director, who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.
(b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by-
(1) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors; and
(2) a written copy of the appeal.

Section 4. During an appeal proceeding any party to a protest or appeal shall be given the right and opportunity to have assistance in the presentation of the party's case.

Section 5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Beach Soccer National Championship or it's qualifying committees.

Section 6. Match Manipulation: An appeal of the decision regarding Match Manipulation may be appealed as provided by Viaports International LLC dba Pro-Am Beach Soccer. Any such appeal is subject:

1. If the event director, at any level, determines a team is guilty of Match Manipulation, he/she must immediately notify the Board of Directors of the US Beach Soccer National Championship.

## Subpart C-Game Play

## Rule 230. PASSES, ROSTERS, AND UNIFORMS

Section 1. At all levels of US Beach National Championship competitions, each player and team official listed on a team's US Beach Soccer National Championship roster must carry a US youth soccer organization member pass. The pass issued to a player must be a club pass identifying the club by name as well as other appropriate member information. The youth soccer organization member pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official, and be signed by the appropriate official of their governing body or member organization.

Section 2. Each player at all levels of the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions must be listed on the US Beach Soccer National Championship roster for the player's team for that level. All information listed on the roster must be verified with the club pass and/or the official from the youth soccer association or organization.

Section 3. (a) The team's US Beach Soccer National Championship roster and the youth soccer organization member passes must be available at the game site always. Each roster must include the number of each player's jersey.
(b) Each player must have a number on their jersey. The number must be applied to the back of the jersey and must be clearly readable. Each player on a team must wear a different number from those of all his teammates. Goalkeeper numbers are optional.
(c) Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from all others on the field.
(d) At the national level, each player shall have on his/her shorts the US Beach Soccer National Championship patch provided each player.
(e) At every level of the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions, each player, team, and team official may have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Beach Soccer National Championship and/or a member logo of its membership youth organization. We will not penalize teams for also having sponsors listed if no more than three only provided they are on chest, across the shoulders, or the sleeve.
(1) A logo, name, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization may be on their uniforms..

## Rule 231. PLAYING RULES

Section 1. The playing rules of the US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided by this rule.

Section 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follows:

(b)(2) In competitions, tie games at the end of regulation will play One 3 minute Overtime. If a tie persists then the teams will go to rules described in rule (c)(3). No games will end in a tie.
(c)(3) Kicks from the imaginary penalty mark: Competition rules may provide for kicks from the imaginary penalty mark in accordance with the procedure stipulated. FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply to determine the winner. If, before both teams have taken three kicks, one team has scored more goals than the other could possibly score in its three kicks, the winner is declared and no more kicks are taken. If, after both teams have taken three kicks, and have scored the same number of goals, or not scored at all, kicks continue to be taken alternately until one team scores one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
(c)(4) A team winning in regulation will be awarded 3 points. The teams winning in overtime will be awarded 2 points. The team winning in kicks from the penalty mark will be awarded 1 point.

Section 3. At all US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions-
(1) for all age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and on the fly.
(2) for all age groups, teams will play 5 versus 5 as per FIFA Laws of the Game, but at the 9 u age groups they will play 6 versus 6 .
(3) for age groups; $9 \mathrm{u}, 10 \mathrm{u}, 11 \mathrm{u}, 12 \mathrm{u}, 13 \mathrm{u}, 14 \mathrm{u}$ team's will play on fields which are designated youth fields measured no more than $25 \times 30$ yards in length.
(4) for age groups; $15 u, 16 u, 17 u, 18 u, 19 u$, and adult teams will play on fields which are designated adult fields measured no more than $30 \times 40$ yards in length.
(5) for Micro age group; considered $8 u$, teams will play 4 v 4 on a field $12.5 \times 15$ (half size of a youth field) with no goalies and smaller (pop up style) goals. No scores will be kept in the spirit of the game being an introduction to the sport for the good of the game, the parents, and kids.
(6) If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury (concussion) they should be substituted for evaluation (concussion protocols will be in place at all competitions). If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events' Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), the player may re-enter any time via substitution.
(7) No heading is allowed for age groups $9 \mathrm{u}, 10 \mathrm{u}, 11 \mathrm{u}$, whereas 12 u will be the only age group below the qualifying age groups where heading is allowed.

Section 4. (a) At the US Beach Soccer National Championship competition qualifiers and national levels, unfinished games shall be replayed if neither team is deemed at fault for the cause, in which play has not concluded in the second period. If a game is stopped during the second period and is unable to resume, where neither team is at fault, the regional or national event director may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being the cause and at fault, it is at the discretion of the qualifier or national event director whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.
(b) Any and all protests and appeals at the qualifying events and national levels must be submitted by a team representative listed on the team roster involved in the game for the US Beach Soccer National Championship. Any protests involved in a game which has been completed, refer to sections 1 and 2 of Rule 215.

## Rule 232. REFEREES \& GAME OFFICIALS

Section 1. The Chair of the Referee Committee will assign all the game officials for all US Beach Soccer National Championship competitions at the national level. For qualifier
competitions at the regional qualifying events, the referee representative shall appoint the game officials.

Section 2. The referee has the power to decide, but must inform the tournament director immediately on any decision, based on the quality of the ground for all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referee are as defined in the "Laws of the Game."

Section 3. For all qualifying age groups and the US Beach Soccer National Championship there will be no less than 2 referee's assigned to officiate the matches.

Section 4. For all "Recreational Non-Qualifying" groups a single referee will be assigned to officiate the matches in the round robin competitions. For the final's a single referee will be assigned for $9 \mathrm{u}, 10 \mathrm{u}, 11 \mathrm{u}, 12 \mathrm{u}, 13 \mathrm{u}, 14 \mathrm{u}$. Whereas two referee's will be assigned to recreational final's for $15 u$ through adult divisions.

Section 5. If the referee assigned fails to show, then the second referee shall run a single man system until the second arrives, or is replaced by another assistant who can step in to complete the two man system. If neither referee assigned arrives on time, the mangers and/or coaches teams must inform the tournament director or staff immediately. They must agree on a referee for the game if the game is to continue on time. If the referee becomes ill the same process will apply during the time period of a match.

Section 6. The referee has the power the moment he is present for the match to deal with players at fault for violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. The referee will forward the name of any offender immediately following the match to the correct member of staff to record or deal with the incident accordingly. The US Beach Soccer National Championship staff shall inform the appropriate governing body if deemed necessary. Unless given consent by the referee no player shall leave the field of play.

Section 7. Any referee assigned to officiate a US Beach Soccer National Championship match may not be a past or present member of either of the teams competing.

Section 8. The referee must turn in to the Competition Administrator or assigned staff member the official game report form, with the results of the game, a list of the players participating, and all information needed to be explained related to the game.

## PART III-AMENDMENTS TO POLICY

## Rule 300. AMENDMENTS TO POLICY

The Committee, a governing body, youth soccer organization, or a Director may offer an amendment or suggestion to this policy to be accepted or rejected by the Board of Directors of the US Beach Soccer National Championship.

