



**Florida Youth Soccer Association
Board of Directors Meeting – Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 8:30AM
Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adopt Agenda
- IV. Recognize Guests
- V. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. October 7, 2026
- VI. Correspondence
- VII. Reports
 - a. Administrative Officers (*No Written Reports*)
 - b. Additional Officers (*No Written Reports*)
 - c. Executive Director & Program Reports (*See Written Report*)
 - i. Financial Statement (*See Report*)
 - d. Standing Committees (*No Written Reports*)
- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. Committee Approval (*Exhibit A*)
- IX. New Business
 - a. Risk Management Policy Update (*Exhibit B*)
 - b. Affiliate Applications (*Exhibit C*)
 - c. Affiliate Name Changes (*Exhibit D*)
- X. Executive Session
- XI. For the Good of the Game
- XII. Adjournment

Meeting of Florida Youth Soccer Association's Board of Directors
October 7, 2026
Via Microsoft Teams

Roll:

Present	Name	Position	Present	Name	Position
Yes	Daragh Cullen	President	Yes	Mike Hyatt	Reg. B VP
Yes	Deborah Ruiz	VP Player/Coach Dev.	Yes	Mike Sroka	Reg. B Comr. N.
No	Eric Heidel	Secretary	Yes	Moncef Hadiji	Reg. B Comr. S.
Yes	Justin Goldman	Treasurer	Yes	David DiTillio	Reg. C VP
Yes	Tom Tianich	VP Admin. & Comm.	Yes	Mike Callaway	Reg. C Comr. N.
Yes	Olaf Henke	VP Comp.	Yes	Ed Kinsey	Reg. C Comr. S.
Yes	Alice Smith	Registrar	Yes	Louis Richard	Reg. D VP
Yes	Marino Torrens	Reg. A VP	Yes	Melissa Alford	Reg. D Comr. E.
Yes	Russell Walker	Reg. A Comr. N.	Yes	Sean Acosta	Reg. D Comr. W.
Yes	Brian Weisman	Reg. A Comr. S.			

Minutes Recorded By: Ryan Foley

Action Items are in red; Motions are in bolded italics and underlined.

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call: Roll was taken by Ryan Foley

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

It was moved to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2026, meeting of the Board of Directors as presented.

Motion from: Louis Richard

Second by: Mike Hyatt

Voting Method: Voice Vote

Motion Carried

New Business:

It was moved to accept the resignation of Eric Heidel as Secretary.

Motion from: Moncef Hadiji

Second by: Mike Sroka

Voting Method: Voice Vote

Motion Carried

It was moved to nominate Marino Torrens for Secretary.

Motion from: Debi Ruiz

It was moved to nominate Justin Lauer for Secretary.

Motion from: Mike Hyatt

A ballot vote was held via Microsoft Teams. The chair announced the results of the Secretary election:

Number of votes cast..... 17

Necessary for election..... 9

Justin Lauer received..... 6

Marino Torrens received..... 11

The Chair announced Marino Torrens was elected to Secretary.

Adjournment:

It was moved to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. EDT.

Motion from: Tom Tianich

Second by: Marino Torrens

Voting Method: Voice Vote

Motion Carried



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Representing FYSA at US Soccer's Member Meetings at the National Training Center, engaging in discussions on national priorities and the future direction of the sport.
- Engaging with organizations in US Soccer's Soccer Forward network, on initiatives focused on girls' participation, Soccer at Schools, and expanded access to grassroots soccer.
- Two additional sponsorship partnerships valued at more than \$70,000 annual revenue nearing finalization and three additional partnership opportunities in the pipeline.
- Updating FY27 financial projections to reflect revised revenue and expense forecasts.
- Participating in the US Soccer cohort focused on the Local Arm model.

COACHING EDUCATION

- Current coaching education courses are filled, reflecting strong demand.
- Secured US Soccer approval for two winter/spring B License courses, with three C License courses submitted for winter/spring 2027 in Orlando, Miami, and Naples.
- B and C License courses currently underway while completing three D License courses. Coordinating new offerings in Winter Haven, Titusville, and Hollywood.
- Preparing for US Soccer's updated coaching education framework launching in 2027.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- Preparing for FYSA's annual financial review and audit to support accurate reporting and strong financial oversight.
- Coordinating finance and risk management items with Finance Committee members through a review of FYSA's financial structure, operations, and reporting processes.

FYSA COMPETITIONS

- Consolidated statewide cup competition rules into a unified document, completing Competitions Committee review and advancing regional review for Commissioners Cup.
- Finalized venues for FYSA staff-facilitated cup competitions for the 2026-27 season.
- Florida Regional League (FRL) managed by EDP Soccer has reflected closely contested matches across multiple divisions.
- Supporting 368 girls' teams competing across five regional divisions in the Florida Girls League (FGL).
- Monitoring FGL scheduling and match completion throughout the fall season, with most scheduled matches expected to conclude before mid-December.

GRANTS

- Submitted an additional Innovate to Grow grant application, developed with COGEO, to support implementation of the US Soccer and Soccer Forward Soccer at Schools program, powered by Bank of America.



- Launched the first Soccer at Schools activation on September 25 in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, reaching an estimated 80-100 students in grades K–12 at a Title I school in Orlando.

MARKETING & PARTNERSHIPS (SEE REPORT)

- Launched new partnerships with Macron and Carrabba's Italian Grill, expanding FYSA's commercial relationships and support for association initiatives.
- Developing a Girls in Soccer toolkit to help other state associations replicate successful programming in their communities.
- Building a dedicated Girls in Soccer webpage to increase program visibility and engagement.
- Developing standardized graphic templates for ODP and cup competitions to strengthen brand consistency and communications throughout the season.

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- District Pool Training to conclude in November with preparations underway for the Inter-District Event in Auburndale in mid-December.
- Advancing international development opportunities through a planned trip to Salou, Spain, for the 2013 boys' and girls' teams, featuring international competition, training sessions, and cultural experiences.
- Introducing 2027 international development opportunities, including a proposed FIFA Women's World Cup experience in Brazil and a separate Argentina trip featuring competitive soccer and cultural experiences.

PLAYER & COACH REGISTRATION

- Recorded a 70% increase in recreational travel registrations, growing from 1,590 in 2025-26 to 2,708 in 2026-27 at this point last year.
- Completed more than 7,890 background screening reviews as of October 18 under the revised Level 2 screening process.
- Continuing to support screening operations into the recreational volunteer coach population to ensure local compliance.



September 2026 & October 2026 Media Summary

Key Media Distributed:

- **Florida ODP Eclipses 1,500 Tryout Attendees:** Florida's Olympic Development Program (ODP) kicked off the 2026-2027 seasonal year with record participation, as more than 1,500 boys and girls attended ODP tryouts across the state. ([Click here to read more](#)).
- **Macron and FYSA Partner to Support Youth Soccer in Florida:** Macron and the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) announce a new partnership that will strengthen the Italian brand's presence in U.S. soccer and underline its commitment to supporting the development of the youth game. ([Click here to read more](#)).

Newsletter Insights:

The newsletter is aimed to keep the membership informed of upcoming events, while also highlighting the success of the previous month.

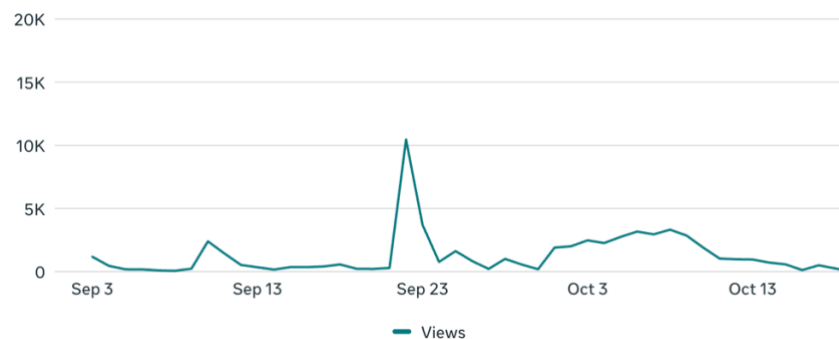
September Newsletter:

- **Number of Recipients:** 386,429
- **Number of Opens:** 61,325 (15.9% open rate)

Social Media Insights:

FYSA Facebook

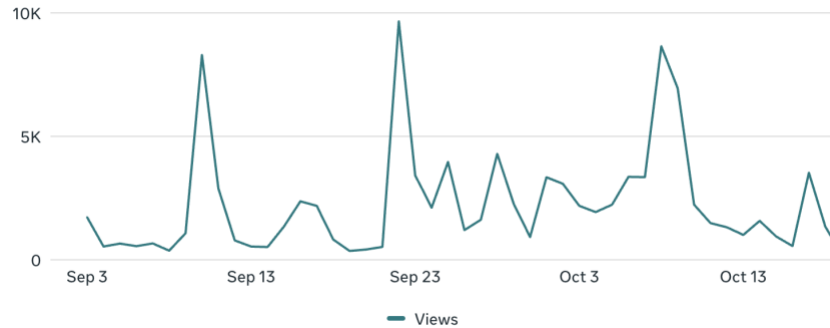
- Page Visits: **1.5K**
- Posts received **59.7K** impressions
- Posts were interacted with **389 times**
- Followers increased by **2%**. Our follower count is **8,939** as of October 19, 2026.





FYSA Instagram

- Page Visits: **1.9K**
- Posts received **134.7K** impressions
- Posts were interacted with **2.1K** times
- Followers increased by **2.23%**. Our follower count is **12,539** as of October 19, 2026.



FYSA Website Insights:

- Number of Website Visits: **21.3K** monthly average
- Page Views (Number of Pages Visited): **35.1K** monthly average
- Highest Traffic Webpages (Non-Registration)
 - ODP
 - Tournament Sanctioning
 - Find a Club
 - About FYSA



EXHIBIT A: COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS (R&D)

OVERVIEW: On an annual basis, the FYSA Board of Directors considers nominations for Committee Members. The method for Appointment of Committees is by Nomination(s) by the Chair (President) which are subject to confirmation by vote of the Board of Directors.

The Chair nominates the following individuals to serve on each respective Committee:

<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>
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	Review & Discipline	Notes
Chair	Barry Witlin	<i>Incumbent</i>
Region A		<i>Previously: Maca Leon</i>
Region A	Patty Wilson	<i>Incumbent</i>
Region B	Patty Herodier	<i>Incumbent</i>
Region B	Chris Brunner	<i>Incumbent</i>
Region C		<i>Previously: James Bowen</i>
Region C		<i>Previously: Wayne Scott</i>
Region D	James Baccarini	<i>New Member</i>
Region D	Andy Warner	<i>New Member</i>
Staff Liaison	Michelle Acevedo	<i>Non-Voting</i>

Chair Appointed by President, 8 Members Total, 2 Per Region, Recommended by RVP



EXHIBIT B: REVISION TO FYSA RULES ON RISK MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW: The FYSA Board of Directors recently adopted the FYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policies (the “Safe Soccer Policies”), which comprehensively address FYSA’s Risk Management Program and incorporate the policy requirements established by the US Center for SafeSport and US Soccer. The proposed revisions and deletions below are intended to remove duplicative or conflicting provisions from the FYSA Rules on Risk Management and move the substantive policy requirements into the Safe Soccer Policies, where they can be maintained and updated as a comprehensive policy framework.

REQUEST: Move to amend the FYSA Rules by striking the existing text in Rules 103 through 109, and inserting the following text into Rule 103:

RULE 103. *RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT*

- 103.1** *FYSA maintains a comprehensive FYSA Athlete and Participant Safety Policy (the “Safe Soccer Policies”) in accordance with U.S. Soccer Federation Policy 212-3 and Federal Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017 (the “SafeSport Act”). The required components of the Safe Soccer Policies policy include, but are not limited to a Background Screening Policy, a Mandatory Reporting Policy, a Training and Education Policy, a Prohibited Conduct Policy, a Policy to Limit One-on-One Interactions, and a Policy on Monitoring and Enforcement.*
- 103.2** *FYSA Affiliate Members, Associate Members, registered players, registered coaches, and other “Covered Adults,” as defined in the FYSA Athlete and Participant Safety Policies, must comply with and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Athlete and Participant Safety Policy as a condition of participation and continued participation in FYSA activities. Failure to comply may result in suspension, placement into not-in-good-standing, fines, written warning(s), and educational requirements.*

[Red lines included on the subsequent pages]



[REDLINED VERSION]

RULE 103. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

~~103.1~~ The Risk Management Program shall govern the administration and implementation of FYSA's risk management program to be consistent with USSF Bylaw 213(1)(a)(2) and comply with US Youth Soccer Bylaw 501 Section (1)(13).

~~103.2~~ USSF Bylaw 213(1)(a)(2) provide as follows:

~~Bylaw 213. STATE ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES~~

~~Section 1(a)(2). The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin (effective 10-8-00).~~

~~US Youth Soccer and each National State Association is responsible for establishing and monitoring a Risk Management Program within its assigned territory, at a minimum this program must include:~~

- ~~(1) Use of an employment/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers, employees, coaches and program administrators who are involved with any sanctioned or sponsored program of the affiliated organization; and~~
- ~~(2) Identification of a State Risk Management Coordinator (SRMC) and an alternate for the position.~~

~~103.3~~ FYSA has adopted USSF Bylaw 213 and it is the intent of FYSA to exclude from participation, at a minimum, all persons who engage in discriminatory conduct, have been convicted of or adjudicated guilty of crimes of violence, crimes against persons, crimes against property or felonies. FYSA will comply with all USSF and US Youth Soccer guidelines and procedures.

~~103.4~~ US Youth Soccer and FYSA have placed as a condition of registration the requirement for all coaches/volunteers to complete the FYSA Risk Management form electronically. Only persons who comply with this condition shall be registered as a coach/volunteer by FYSA.

~~103.5~~ Coaches/volunteers are defined as: members of the FYSA BOD; education staff; ODP coaches and scouts; region, league and club officers; and program directors, team managers, team or individual trainers, coaches, assistant coaches and substitute coaches, and anyone else who may have interaction or who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player/referee under the umbrella of FYSA

~~103.6~~ Referees, assistant referees, fourth officials and anyone defined as a member of the National Referee Development Program (USSF Policy 531.11) shall be subject to all provisions contained in the FYSA Rules.

~~103.7~~ It is the policy of FYSA that every reasonable effort will be taken to exclude from program responsibilities (not to be confused with parental responsibilities affecting their own children) any adult or minor with a documented history of child molestation (e.g., a criminal record) that would



~~bring any unnecessary risk to the health and safety of FYSA's soccer program participants.~~

~~**103.8** Coaches/volunteers shall, by application, agree to be subject to a legally sensitive criminal history check (which may require fingerprinting) before or during their participation in the FYSA soccer program.~~

RULE 104. DENIAL, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES

~~**104.1** The RMC, with specific BOD approval, has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke any applicant's privileges as a coach/volunteer for risk management concerns as established by the FYSA BOD. Once the BOD has approved the authority of the RMC to deny, suspend or revoke a Program Administrator's privileges, the decision may not be overruled except as set forth in the appeals process in accordance with Risk Management Procedures. In the event the Chairman and Vice Chairman disagree, the matter shall be adjudicated by the BOD. Either the President or the Vice President of Administration & Communication has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges.~~

~~**104.2** The RMC has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges of serving as a coach/volunteer for risk management concerns, provided the denial or summary suspension is submitted to the BOD within sixty (60) days of the date of the denial or summary suspension.~~

~~**104.3** An affiliate of FYSA may, upon written request, petition FYSA to deny, suspend or revoke the privileges of a coach/volunteer or applicant for risk management concerns. The written request shall be submitted to the FYSA Executive Director for the RMC in care of the FYSA State Office. The RMC shall investigate the request and reply in writing to the affiliate within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the request.~~

~~**104.4** FYSA has adopted the following grounds for exclusion from serving as a coach/volunteer:~~

- ~~A. Any conviction or adjudication of guilt (misdemeanor or felony) for a crime of violence, a crime against a person, or a criminal history that is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of FYSA's players, subject to mitigation.~~
- ~~B. Any report of child abuse appearing on the Child Abuse Index, subject to mitigation.~~
- ~~C. Any record of sexual offense and/or sexual misconduct (felony or misdemeanor), subject to mitigation.~~
- ~~D. Admitted use of/or conviction for use of illegal drugs, within the last ten years, subject to mitigation.~~
- ~~E. Documented history of repeated abuse of alcohol and/or illegal/prescription drugs (e.g., two (2) or more DUI's or any conviction for the manufacture/sale of illegal drugs within the last ten (10) years, subject to mitigation.~~
- ~~F. Submitting incomplete or inaccurate information, on the Coach/Volunteer Application will result in a suspension for ninety (90) days from the time of submission. Additional charges may be filed. The above guidelines do not relieve the applicant's obligation to disclose convictions to FYSA that may fall out outside of the aforementioned parameters.~~
- ~~G. Refusal to fully complete the Risk Management Disclosure Form.~~
- ~~H. Refusal to submit fingerprints when required to under this program.~~
- ~~I. Any conduct that discriminates against any individual on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sex, and sexual orientation. This~~



may also include sexual harassment, which may consist of a request for sexual favors; unwanted sexual advances or propositions; verbal, physical and visual harassment; stalking; and unwanted sexual contact.

J. Any other information that casts serious doubt on the applicant's ability to be entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of minors. (Note: Misdemeanor convictions in the past seven years that "may indicate a lack of integrity or character" may be grounds for disqualification.)

~~104.5~~ Any person participating in a sanctioned or sponsored program of FYSA who becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players, or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended by the RMC from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. Upon written request of the suspended person, the status of such person shall be reviewed by the RMC at the completion of the litigation. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include, but not be limited to, crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal whether the matter that is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players. Privileges may be reinstated at the conclusion of the litigation process by the RMC.

~~104.6~~ Any action pursuant to Risk Management is subject to the appeal procedures set forth in the relevant Risk Management sections.

~~RULE 105. PROVISIONAL AND CONDITIONAL ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES~~

~~105.1~~ The RMC may jointly approve issuance of provisional privileges for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. Such provisional privileges shall expire upon the ninetieth day of issuance.

~~RULE 106. APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS~~

~~106.1~~ FYSA's Protest & Appeals Committee shall hear appeals arising from risk management denials, suspensions or revocations by the RMC based on the results of a criminal background check. Persons involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the three-person appeal board. The decisions of this Appeal Board may be appealed to the FYSA BOD and then to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC shall serve as the presenter of the case to the BOD. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA's normal appeal fees as defined under FYSA Rule 300.

~~106.2~~ Upon receipt of the notice of denial, suspension or revocation, the applicant has fifteen (15) business days to notify the FYSA Office of their intention to appeal such action. This notification shall be in writing and sent to the RMC in care of the State Office. A person (appellant) suspended pursuant to Rule 105.5.5 may seek reinstatement any time following the conclusion of the litigation process.

~~106.3~~ The appellant will be notified, in writing, of the time, date and place of the appeal hearing. Such notification shall be sent by both regular and certified mail, e-mail or via facsimile transmission.

~~106.4~~ At the time of the hearing, all evidence on behalf of the RMC shall be presented to the appeal committee by the RMC. The appellant may present any supporting documentation for the appeal.



~~RULE 107. APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM NON-BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS~~

- ~~107.1~~ Persons involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the Risk Management Appeals Committee. The decisions of this appeals committee may be appealed to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC or ED shall serve as the presenter of the case to the Risk Management Appeals Committee. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA's normal appeal fees as defined in the FYSA Rules.
- ~~107.2~~ When information is received by FYSA that brings to question an individual's ability to be a coach/volunteer (information not contained in a background check) the following process shall apply:
- ~~107.3~~ The ED has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges of serving as a member of FYSA for risk management concerns due to actions not contained in an individual's background check.
- ~~107.4~~ The ED furnishes the accused individual a copy of the report/information, copying the RMC.
- ~~107.5~~ The accused shall have seven (7) business days to submit any evidence to refute the report/information used to deny/suspend.
- ~~107.6~~ The ED shall forward any evidence submitted by the accused to the RMC. If no evidence is submitted, the ED shall forward only the information used to deny/suspend.
- ~~107.7~~ The RMC will review the documentation submitted by the accused and ED and can rule in one of the following manners:
- ~~A.~~ Rule in favor of the accused and immediately lift the denial/suspension.
 - ~~B.~~ Affirm the suspension of the accused and supply appeal information for the FYSA Risk Management Appeals Committee. The party shall remain suspended until the time of his appeal with the FYSA Risk Management Appeals Committee.
 - ~~C.~~ Should there be a pending matter (i.e. civil case, criminal case, newly filed criminal charges, SafeSport Complaint, etc.) the RMC is permitted to extend the suspension and delay the Risk Management Appeal Hearing until a determination is rendered from the appropriate body.
 - ~~D.~~ Upon receipt of the notice of affirmed denial, suspension or revocation, from the RMC, the applicant has fifteen (15) business days to notify the FYSA Office of their intention to appeal to the Risk Management Appeals Committee and submit the appeal fee. This notification shall be in writing and sent to the Risk Management Appeals Committee in care of the State Office.
 - ~~E.~~ The appellant will be notified, in writing, of the time, date and place of the Risk Management Appeal Hearing. Virtual hearings will be encouraged. Such notification shall be sent by both regular and certified mail, e-mail or via facsimile transmission.
 - ~~F.~~ At the time of the hearing, all evidence on behalf of the RMC shall be presented to the Risk Management Appeal Committee by the RMC or ED. The appellant may present any supporting documentation for the appeal.

RULE 108. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES



~~108.1~~ Notification of risk management actions shall be communicated to the principle parties at the same time and method and shall be accomplished by one of the following

- ~~A. Certified mail,~~
- ~~B. Regular or express mail,~~
- ~~C. Facsimile,~~
- ~~D. Email/Electronic media~~
- ~~E. Personally upon the witness or complaining party, and~~
- ~~F. In the case of a minor, the minor's parent, guardian, or other responsible party for the minor.~~

RULE 109. SAFESPORT

~~109.1~~ As a covered organization under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, FYSA shall adhere to the policies developed by the US Center for SafeSport to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes.

~~109.2~~ FYSA shall adhere to all policies, procedures, trainings, guidelines, etc. mandated by the Center for SafeSport immediately upon implementation. FYSA Rule 106 (or any other portion of these Bylaws and Rules) shall not supersede the obligations of FYSA in accordance with the most recent Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, the most current SafeSport Code, Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), S. 534, or any mandate by the Center for SafeSport.



EXHIBIT C: AFFILIATE APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received for Affiliate:

Region A

- [Okeechobee FC](#)
- [Florida Royal LLC](#)

Region B

- [Eagle Creek Soccer](#)
- [Inter Nona Soccer Club](#)
- [Palm Bay Youth Soccer](#)

Region D

- [St. Andrews Soccer Club](#)

Associate Affiliate (Tournament)

- [Southern Sports Events LLC](#)



EXHIBIT D: AFFILIATE NAME CHANGES

The following name change requests were submitted to FYSA:

- [Pembroke Pines Optimist to Pembroke Pines FC](#)
- [We Make Footballers Miami LLC to We Make Footballers](#)
- [Future Soccer Stars LLC to Stars Academy](#)