

UNITED STATES ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION
USASA LEAGUE POLICY

1. USASA League Categories

- a. USASA National League
- b. USASA Multi-State League

2. USASA State Premier Leagues

USASA State Premier League is not an Organization Member category as defined under USASA Bylaws but a recognition of top amateur leagues among our member State Associations. These leagues are affiliated through their State Associations and are included in this policy for the sole purpose of distinction and honor. Organization Member benefits are not granted to these leagues including votes at National or Regional Councils.

3. Organization Requirements

The following are the minimum requirements for each League category. A league may fall under more than one category and select the category that best fits its needs.

- a. USASA National League
 - 1) Minimum of 36 teams
 - 2) Teams must be located among all four (4) time zones of the continental United States (Eastern, Central, Mountain & Pacific).
 - 3) Minimum season length of three (3) months
- b. USASA Multi-State League
 - 1) Minimum of 16 teams
 - 2) Teams must be located in at least among four (4) State Associations.
 - 3) A minimum of two (2) teams must be located in at least three (3) separate State Associations.
 - 4) Minimum season length of three (3) months
- c. USASA State Premier League
 - 1) League administered or registered by at least one State Association.
 - 2) League has teams that participate in high level competitions and/or has a significant history as a USSF/USASA member.
 - 3) Minimum season length of three (3) months

4. Team & Player Registration

All registration data and fees as required under USASA Bylaws and Policies shall be submitted as follows:

- a. USASA National Leagues and USASA Multi-State Leagues
 - 1) All teams, players and coaches will be registered directly with USASA, including the registration of trial players and their waivers.
 - 2) All fees will be submitted to USASA by required deadlines.

- 3) All players of each team will have their registration numbers assigned to the respective State Association of where the team is based.
- b. USASA State Premier League
 - 1) All teams, players and coaches will be registered directly with the respective State Association of where the team is based.
 - 2) Every player must be registered in the Premier Player category. For leagues with multiple divisions, the top flight must meet this requirement.

STANDARDS & CRITERIA
USASA National Leagues & USASA Multi-State Leagues

5. Composition & Play

- a. League must determine a champion each year based on seasonal play or by means of a postseason tournament/playoff.
- b. League playing rules must comply with all relevant USASA & FIFA guidelines and Laws of the Game.

6. Markets, Stadia & Fields

- a. League stadiums/arenas must have controllable ingress & egress.
- b. The length of the field for league matches may not be more than 120 yards nor less than 110 yards and the width of the field may not be more than 80 yards nor less than 65 yards.
- c. Playing surface must be FIFA approved.
- d. Not later than 90 days prior to the start of each season, each team shall have a lease for at least one full season with its home stadium.
- e. League specific stadium seating requirements:
 - 1) USASA National League – 500 minimum capacity
 - 2) USASA Multi-State League – 100 minimum capacity

7. Referees

- a. All matches require the use of the diagonal system of control, which consists of one referee and two assistant referees. Use of a fourth official is recommended.
- b. Referee Assignments:
 - 1) USASA National League – Assignments will be managed through the USSF assigning system. Each league must appoint a referee coordinator.
 - 2) USASA Multi-State League– Each league must appoint a USSF certified referee assignor.

8. Financial Viability

- a. Every team will be required to post with its league or, if directed with USASA, an adequate performance bond to secure the performance of the team's obligations for the current season.
 - 1) Obligations include stadium lease commitments, third party vendor obligations, player registration fees, team registration fees and/or referee fees.
 - 2) The performance bond shall be set aside by the league as a liability account or in an escrow account.
 - 3) The performance bond will be used to offset any fees, costs or operating expenditures that were incurred due to the default of a team. It may also be used to offset expenditures of other teams within the league that were adversely affected by the offending team's default.
 - 4) Any team withdrawing from a league in good standing shall be entitled to refund of any unused portion of their performance bond.
 - 5) Any team whose performance bond is used during the season will be required to replenish it at least 90 days prior to the next season.
- b. Leagues will furnish to USASA prompt written notice of the following:
 - 1) Any violation of the standards
 - 2) Filing or commencement of or any written threat or notice of intention of any person to file or commence any action, suit, litigation or proceeding whether at law or in equity or by or before any governmental authority, against the League or one or more teams in the League that could foreseeably result in a Material Adverse Effect.
 - 3) Any development that has resulted in or could foreseeably result in a Material Adverse Effect.
 - 4) "Material Adverse Effect" shall mean (a) a material adverse change in or effect on the business, condition, results of operation, assets or liabilities of the League or teams in the league; (b) the ability of the league or its teams to perform any of its obligations under these Standards; (c) the ability of the league or its teams to meet any of their financial obligations.

9. League Office & Administration

- a. USASA National and Multi-State Leagues must have year-round a designated/registered postal address able to receive mail during regular business hours.
- b. Each USASA National and Multi-State League shall have an executive committee consisting of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.
- c. USASA National Leagues must have the following:
 - 1) Central office operating year-round during regular business hours.
 - 2) At minimum one full-time employee who performs the duties of chief executive officer, executive director or commissioner
 - 3) Designated staff or volunteer who performs the duties of a media/public relations officer.
 - 4) Designated staff or volunteer who performs the duties of marketing/sponsorship officer.

- d. USASA Multi-State Leagues must designate at least one staff member or volunteer who performs the duties of commissioner and media/public relations officer.

10. Media

- a. The designated staff or volunteer who performs the duties of a media/public relations officer shall be the point of contact for all media enquiries.
- b. All relevant news articles, events including playoff matches and any other items of interest shall be forwarded to USASA at minimum on a monthly basis while a league is in operation.
- c. All leagues shall have social media accounts to promote its competitions.
- d. All leagues will prominently display the USASA logo on its web site and include links to the USASA web site and social media used by USASA
- e. USASA National Leagues shall have the capability to broadcast or live stream its matches. High Quality internet streaming of games satisfies this requirement.

11. Team Organization

- a. Each team must demonstrate its continued commitment to the promotion of soccer at all levels in its home market.
- b. The league shall impose limitations on each team, set from time to time by USSF and or USASA, regarding the types of player that may be listed on the roster.
- c. No individual may own, control or manage more than one team in a league division in such manner that may jeopardize or appear to jeopardize any game or competition.
- d. All teams shall have social media accounts to promote themselves.
- e. Each team shall have designated staff/volunteers to perform the duties of Manager/Head Coach and Certified Athletic Trainer.
- f. Each team playing in a USASA National League shall have designated staff/volunteers to perform the following duties:
 - 1) Director of Game Operations
 - 2) Assistance Coach
 - 3) Media/Public Relations Officer

APPLICATION FOR USASA MEMBERSHIP, FEES & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

12. Application for USASA Membership – USASA National Leagues & USASA Multi-State Leagues

- a. Applicants must submit the following:
 - 1) Letter of intent to join USASA stating the specific league category the league intends to enter.
 - 2) Supporting documents showing the league's charter, articles of incorporation or other business entity
 - 3) Any bylaws, rules, regulations, rules of play and other governing documents

- sufficient to describe the structure, nature and extent of the organization's activities that supports specific league category requested
- 4) Financial statement and business plan describing league operation
 - 5) Names of principals and officers including contact information
 - 6) List of teams committed to play in the league. Proof of commitment must be included (agreements, deposits, etc.). Along with city & state of where the team will play, include contact information of the main principal/manager of each team.
 - 7) List of staff/volunteers describing operational roles within the organization
 - 8) The ability to meet the standards set forth in this policy
- b. The application must include the deposit of the annual affiliation fee for the league category applied.
- 1) If it is necessary for USASA to incur any reasonable costs to review the financial viability of the league and its teams, that cost will be offset from the fee and the league must submit any amount used replenish the deposit.
 - 2) If the league is not granted membership, what remains from the deposit shall be returned.

13. Application for USASA State Premier League

- a. The league must be operating and in good standing with its respective State Association.
- b. The league must include a written application that supports the status through a combination of these standards:
 - 1) Teams that participate in high level competitions administered by USASA or member State Association
 - 2) Significant history as a USSF/USASA member
 - 3) Ability to promote itself through use of media outlets, internet and/or social media
- c. The league must provide the following contact information:
 - 1) Names of principals and officers
 - 2) List of administrators/staff/volunteers describing operational roles
 - 3) List of teams playing in the league including contact information of the main principal/manager of each team

14. Fees

- a. All fees must be submitted annually by the deadline set forth by USASA.
- b. In addition to player registration fees set by USASA, proof of the appropriate documents and fees to reinstate a player to amateur status or to register a player as a professional as required by USSF policies must be submitted to USASA.
- c. Affiliation and player registration fees for USASA National Leagues and USASA Multi-State Leagues shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the National Council.

15. Requirements to Remain in Good Standing

- a. Each League must submit to USASA an annual report setting forth, in reasonable detail, the status of its compliance with these requirements and standards to meet its league category, including league and team financial information, steps taken to increase league awareness and continued demonstration by the league and its teams of the promotion of soccer in their home market.
- b. Payment of fees due by deadlines set forth by USASA including registration of players prior to the commencement of the league season.
- c. Adoption of Disciplinary Protocol set forth by USASA
- d. Code of Conduct that is signed by all teams
- e. When requested any financial information, books and records of the league and its teams, including any audits conducted by either the league or any of its teams if there is question of financial irregularities.
 - 1) USASA shall have authority to conduct an independent audit.
 - 2) The costs of such audit shall be incurred by the league if the audit establishes material irregularities.
- f. League shall notify USASA if a team has payables overdue by thirty (30) days or more for any of its team's stadium lease commitments, third party vendor obligations, player registration fees or team fees.
- g. Waivers
 - 1) A league may request a temporary waiver from compliance with any requirements or standards. The request must be made in writing and explain in detail the requirements or standards that the waiver is sought and why it is necessary.
 - 2) The league must provide a plan that will provide resolution to meet the requirements and standards that will place the league back in good standing.
 - 3) If a waiver is granted by USASA, it will be for a period of one year.
 - 4) If the waiver is denied, the membership category may be modified by USASA if it meets other requirements and standards or dissolved.
- h. If USASA makes any modifications to these policies that may adversely affect the membership category of the league, the league shall have two (2) years from when the modification is enacted to meet any new requirements or standards that have changed. The league must show that it is making progress to meet those new requirements and standards.

16. Votes at USSF and USASA National Council Meetings

USASA National Leagues and USASA Multi-State Leagues are entitled to votes as provided under USASA Bylaws at National Council Meetings of USASA and USSF. USASA State Premier Leagues are represented through their respective State Associations and not entitled to any votes.