



USL Academy League Registration and Roster Regulation Manual

2022

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100 – General Registration

USL Academy will collect personal information of Players, Club Representatives, and Player Parent(s)/Guardian(s) via Sport Engine’s online registration software to the extent such information is necessary to execute USL Academy Operations. USL Academy shall have the authority to establish additional procedures, deadlines, and documentation through the Registration Software.

All players, coaches, and staff members must present their official Academy League Game Roster/Report to the referee prior to the game. If the individual’s picture is not on the AL Game Report, the individual will not be eligible for the game. Teams will be notified by LEAGUE of any missing requirements for obtaining approval for players. Teams can also view any missing documents for players through Sports Engine. Players will not be made available to add to a roster until they have been approved by the League. Until these requirements are met, the individual cannot participate. Additionally, an individual is not considered registered until the team can roster the player onto the team and the players photo appears on the game report.

Other organization player passes may not be used as a form of identification.

The regulations governing all players competing in the Academy League along with the status, rights, and privileges of these players are set by U.S. Soccer, the national governing bodies for the sport in the United States who is affiliated with FIFA, soccer’s international governing body.

The following contains registration information for the LEAGUE. CLUBS in the U.S. are required to register their players and staff through AL’s online system each playing season. AL has an agreement with Monument Sports Insurance for the LEAGUE to administer the registration of players through AL’s system. Monument Sports Insurance will be the insurance provider to all Academy LEAGUE players.

All Clubs must register their respective players to seek eligibility in the USL Academy Platform through USL-Academy designated registration software. Each player registration must submit a Registration fee upon completion upon the submission of each player registration request. An Urgent Registration Fee will be required for registrations on Fridays between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm EST.

Rule 101 – Regulations Governing Players

The regulations governing all players competing in USL, along with the status, rights and privileges of these players are set by FIFA, soccer’s international governing body, and the appropriate Federations.

Rule 102 – Registration Deadline

Failure to comply may result in players being declared ineligible. Once player registration opens it will be open year-round until the registration freeze date following the conclusion of the Fall season. Registration will open and close on a weekly basis. Registration will only be processed during business hours of Monday-Thursday (9:00 AM-5:00 PM EST). Friday will serve as an “urgent window” for clubs to submit an expedited registration at a higher fee. The

registration portal will be left open all week in exclusion to a small window on Fridays between 2:00 PM-5:00 PM EST to finalize registration for the week. Registrations will take around 2 business days to process so please give yourself at least this long between registration submission and when a player is needed for matchday. If registrations are submitted improperly, they will be reprocessed and will take an additional 2 business days to process.

Rule 103 – Master Roster

The LEAGUE Master Roster, located on the official LEAGUE website, is the official player roster of the CLUB. There are four designations for players on the roster: Part-Time Youth Player, Full-Time Academy Player, Part-Time Senior Youth Player, and Part-Time Senior Overage Player:

PT Youth: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local youth team (i.e. youth affiliate CLUB, high school team, ODP, etc.). To maintain this status, players must train at least once per week in the USL-AL environment and will be limited in the minutes they play USL-AL games.

- High School Participation: contingent on High School State Association guidelines, CLUBs may allow PT Youth players to compete with their high school teams.

FT Academy: designated for players that train and compete full-time within the USL-AL environment

PT Senior Youth: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local USL Senior Team (in USL Championship, League One, or League Two), and may primarily train and/or compete within that environment

- Professional Players: age-eligible players with contracts at the professional level with the USL senior team can be rostered as a PT Pro player for USL-AL participation

****Note:** Players wishing to maintain collegiate eligibility must not play *with* Professional Players, but may play *against* them.

PT Senior Overage: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local USL Senior Team (in USL Championship, League One, or League Two), and may primarily train and/or compete within that environment

- Players born in 2002 or prior.

****Note:** Players wishing to maintain collegiate eligibility must not play *with* Professional Players, but may play *against* them.

Master Roster

There is no limit to the number of players CLUBs can register to their team, provided the following conditions are met:

- Minimum of 23 players
- Minimum of six (6) players that are U17 or younger (birth year 2005 or younger)

Game Day Roster

The Game Day Roster is an 18-man roster submitted to MOD11 prior to each game with the following conditions:

- Minimum of 16 players
- No youth (U19 or younger) age restrictions
- Overage Player restrictions:
 - Maximum of five (5) Overage Players on the Game Day Roster
 - Maximum of three (3) Overage Players on the field per team at one time
- International Player restrictions:
 - Maximum of seven (7) International Players for CLUBs with a USL Senior Team playing in the Championship or League One
 - Maximum of ten (10) International Players for CLUBs with a USL Senior Team playing in League Two

Roster Eligibility

The CLUB shall have a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 18 players dressed in uniforms, present and eligible to participate in each game. Club must comply with all LEAGUE and USSF/CSA rules regarding use of foreign players. CLUB must register all players prior to participation in the LEAGUE. The only official roster of eligible players will be located on the LEAGUE website and is the responsibility of the CLUB to manage. LEAGUE may require proof of citizenship or legal residency of each player.

Rule 104 – Master Roster Changes

Whenever a team makes a change to its master roster, notification must be sent in writing to USL. Changes are not approved until USL ACADEMY confirms in writing and makes the changes on the USL ACADEMY website. All Master Roster Changes must happen during Academy Registration Periods or through Transfer Windows throughout the Season.

Rule 105 – Roster Freeze Date

No team will be allowed to sign, receive a player, and/or replace players after the New Player Registration Deadline (**November 6th, 2022**).

Teams may register a player before the deadline that is not classified as a fully Eligible player (i.e. missing international clearance, birth certificate, proof of citizenship, etc.) but the player will not be permitted to play until cleared by USL. Should such a player remain an Ineligible Player after the deadline, the team cannot replace that player on its Master Roster.

Medical Exceptions may be submitted with documentation for League approval after the New Player Registration Deadline. Each Exception will be reviewed at a case by case basis.

The date of the Roster Freeze will be determined on an annual basis by USL ACADEMY based on USL Academy Playoff Dates.

Player Classifications

200 – Player Classifications

Rule 201 – USL Academy Classifications

There are four designations for players on the roster: Part-Time Youth Player, Full-Time Academy Player, Part-Time Senior Youth Player, and Part-Time Senior Overage Player:

PT Youth: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local youth team (i.e. youth affiliate CLUB, high school team, ODP, etc.). To maintain this status, players must train at least once per week in the USL-AL environment and will be limited in the minutes they play USL-AL games.

- High School Participation: contingent on High School State Association guidelines, CLUBs may allow PT Youth players to compete with their high school teams.

FT Academy: designated for players that train and compete full-time within the USL-AL environment

PT Senior Youth: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local USL Senior Team (in USL Championship, League One, or League Two), and may primarily train and/or compete within that environment

- Professional Players: age-eligible players with contracts at the professional level with the USL senior team can be rostered as a PT Pro player for USL-AL participation

****Note:** Players wishing to maintain collegiate eligibility must not play *with* Professional Players, but may play *against* them.

PT Senior Overage: designated for players that are dual-registered with their local USL Senior Team (in USL Championship, League One, or League Two), and may primarily train and/or compete within that environment

- Players born in 2002 or prior.

****Note:** Players wishing to maintain collegiate eligibility must not play *with* Professional Players, but may play *against* them.

Rule 202 – Professional Player

A professional player is a player who signs a professional registration form with the team's appropriate Federation, a professional player contract with USL CH/L1 and receives, or has received payment beyond actual and reasonable expenses for playing soccer. A professional player may only be registered with an academy team and may play for the team under the following instances.

- The player has been signed to their Academy's Senior Team
- The Player is not being paid to play on the Academy Team

- The team understands that this player could jeopardize current Collegiate players' eligibility if on the same team.

Rule 203 – Amateur Player

(Information regarding keeping the Amateur status may be found in Section 400)

An amateur player is a player who signs an amateur registration form with the team's applicable Federation, an amateur registration form with USL, and does not receive payment for playing soccer. Amateur players may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses as allowed by the applicable Federation, USL, NCAA or NAIA rules. An amateur player may only be registered with one USL ACADEMY team and may not be loaned to another team. Because amateur players are not held to contracts, they are free to leave a team at any time, provided he returns the team's equipment. An amateur player may be registered simultaneously with both a USL ACADEMY professional and a USL ACADEMY amateur team.

An amateur player that has been registered with one team, amateur or professional, for at least one-half (50%) of its regular season games may not play for another team in the same League without written authorization from the original team. USL ACADEMY will reserve the right to review a player's appeal if he is denied permission to play for another team.

A player who wishes to sign with a professional team as an amateur must have completed their Collegiate Eligibility or be advised that upon signing as an amateur player on a Professional team, they lose all Collegiate eligibility. An amateur player may only be registered for the playing year, which begins the first of the year (Jan. 1) or not more than sixty (60) days prior to the first league game and extends through the last league competition.

Amateur Reinstatement

A professional player who is currently registered with any team can be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of that team and the Amateur National State Association or Professional League with which the team is affiliated. An application for reinstatement to amateur status must be made on the **USSF Amateur Reinstatement Form** and both the completed form and the applicable fee (\$50.00) must be filed with the appropriate Federation. The Federation shall issue approval of the reinstatement to amateur status within fourteen (14) days after receipt, appropriate fees, and compliance with Federation rules. However, the player's reinstatement to amateur status is not effective until the day after the thirty (30) day time period has elapsed from the day that the player competed in his last match with his/her team as a professional player. This is in accordance with FIFA's Regulations Governing the Status and Transfer of Football Players.

A professional player who is not currently registered as a professional player with any professional division team or league, who has not been a party to a professional player contract with a professional division team or league for a period of one year or longer, and who has not applied for reinstatement as an amateur, shall be automatically reinstated to amateur status

by the Secretary General unless the player affirmatively states in writing that he/she does not wish to be reinstated to amateur status.

Rule 204 – Registered Player

A registered player is a professional player or amateur player who has submitted all of the necessary registration documents as required by their team's applicable Federation and USL. Professional and amateur players may participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the League provided they are duly registered in accordance with the regulations of USL ACADEMY and their team's applicable Federation.

Rule 205 – Eligible Player

An Eligible Player is a player who is properly registered with the League and their team's appropriate Federation, and who is not subject to any kind of suspension, is considered an eligible player. You can view the player rosters that specify the eligibility of current and newly registered players of your team when you log in to your USLsoccer.com Team page. Teams using players before they have been properly cleared to compete by USL ACADEMY or their team's appropriate Federation will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions.

Rule 206 – Ineligible Player

An Ineligible Player is a player listed on the Master Roster, but not eligible to play due to reasons such as missing registration paperwork, awaiting international clearance, serving a League suspension, or not being listed on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet, or any player who enters the game after the substitution allotment has been used shall be considered an ineligible player (not limited to these examples). Knowledge of the eligibility status of a player is ultimately the responsibility of the team, not the referee.

The penalties for using an ineligible player during the regular season are as follows:

1st Violation

- Player on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet, but did not play OR
- Player participates in match

\$250 fine, forfeiture of any points earned in match and one (1) point deduction

2nd Violation*

- Any player on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet

\$500 fine, forfeiture of any points earned in match and two (2) point deduction*

3rd Violation**

- Any player on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet

\$1000 fine, forfeiture of any points earned in match and three (3) point deduction*

* In second or third violations where aggrieved team does not earn full points, a forfeit will be awarded.

**League reserves the right to suspend or terminate franchise in the event of a third violation in a single season.

A team violating these regulations during a Playoff game shall forfeit the match or playoff series regardless of whether the player enters the match.

Rule 207 – Illegal Player

An Illegal Player is any player that does not appear on the Master Roster of players.

The penalties for using an Illegal Player during the regular season are as follows:

- Player listed on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet, but did not play \$500
- Player listed on the Official Game Day Lineup Sheet and participates in match
\$500, loss of 3 points in Standings and forfeiture of the game in which the illegal player was used.

Rule 208 – International Player

Each team is permitted an unlimited number of International Players on the Master Roster and seven (7) International Players on the Game Day Roster for USL Championship and League One affiliated CLUBs and ten (10) International Players on the Game Day Roster for USL League Two affiliated clubs. U.S. citizens are not considered International Players. Documented Resident Aliens/Permanent Resident Card holders (in the United States only) shall not be considered International Players for teams. Additionally, documented refugees and asylees (in the United States only) shall not be considered International Players.

International Player Visa

USL requires a copy of any visa for International players. The USL ACADEMY Registrar and Legal Department will securely keep a copy of these Visas on file. Teams are responsible for ensuring proper immigration paperwork/visas for all International citizens (in accordance with Federal Law).

Rule 209 – Overage Player

As an extension to the PT Senior registration status, clubs can utilize a new rule in USL Academy League to enhance the player development environment within those matches.

Game Day Implications: Clubs may have the opportunity to name up to (5) Overage Senior Team players to their 18-man USL-AL game day roster

- Overage Threshold: 20 years or older in 2022 (birth year 2002 or older)
- Only (3) Overage Players may be on the field at one time. Teams must use the specific Overage Substitution Pass when an overage player is entering the game. The team is solely responsible for abiding by this law.

Player Registration Process: All Overage Players must already be registered as an active player on the club's USL Senior Team, and must also be registered to the club's USL Academy League master player roster.

- Senior Team Requirement: In order to register an overage player, they must already be registered to a USL Academy contract (amateur) or standard player contract (professional) with that club's USL Senior Team, and must be eligible to compete in that respective competition.
- Master Roster Considerations: there is no cap to the number of Senior Team players that be registered as Overage Players to a club's USL-AL master roster
- SafeSport Compliance: any player born in 2004 or prior and registered to the club's USL Academy League roster must complete SafeSport compliance

Team Profiles: through this new role, there are now (4) variations of team/roster make-ups that could take part in a USL Academy League match

- All Youth (Amateur): only includes amateur youth players (U15 – U19)
 - o Note: players registered to a USL Academy contract (amateur) with their Senior Team would be eligible to play in this match
- All Youth (Pro/Am): only includes youth players (U15 – U19), incl. teenage players already on a professional contract with a CH/L1 Sr. Team
 - o IMPORTANT: clubs utilizing professional youth players can NOT include collegiate players on those game day rosters
- Youth + Overage (Amateur/Collegiate): includes amateur youth players (U15 – U19), and overage collegiate players
 - o IMPORTANT: clubs utilizing overage collegiate players can NOT include professional players on those game day rosters
 - o Ex: League Two club that shares collegiate players (older than the U19 threshold) between their Senior & Academy teams, through the overage player rule
- Youth + Overage (Pro/Am): includes amateur and/or pro youth players (U15 – U19), and overage professional players
 - o IMPORTANT: clubs utilizing overage professional players can NOT include collegiate players on those game day rosters
 - o Ex: CH/L1 club that shares pro players (older than the U19 threshold) between their Senior & Academy teams, through the overage player rule

Rule 210 – International Player

U.S. citizens are not considered International Players. Documented Resident Aliens/Permanent Resident Card holders (in the United States only) shall not be considered International Players for teams. Additionally, documented refugees and asylees (in the United States only) shall not be considered International Players.

International Player Visa

USL requires a copy of any visa for international players. The USL ACADEMY Registrar and Legal Department will securely keep a copy of these Visas on file. Teams are responsible for ensuring

proper immigration paperwork/visas for all international citizens (in accordance with Federal Law).

Rule 211 – International Clearance

****The ITC process is strict and necessary for players meeting the criteria outlined below. USL is not responsible for ITC clearance. US Soccer is the final organization that provides certification. USL recommends that Clubs begin processing ITC requests no later than one month prior to the first game of the season. However, you may begin submitting information as soon as you are able. The process typically takes 20-30 days, however it can take much longer in some instances. USL representatives can offer assistance in determining which ITC Minor Exclusion or ITC Adult forms to submit, but cannot help in speeding up the process once paperwork has been submitted to US Soccer.****

An international clearance is an official release from a foreign national association. U.S. Soccer department of Player Status is responsible for processing all registration requests for international clearances, both professional and amateur. The services provided and processed by Player Status are obligated to be compliant with FIFA regulations as outlined in the [FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players](#).

The registration process and forms outlined on this page apply specifically to players wishing to register for clubs/leagues/teams solely based in the United States, regardless of player's nationality. Players wishing to participate in clubs/teams/leagues outside the United States should contact the local Member Association (MA) / Federation to inquire about the processes and forms required to register locally. The international clearance requirements are the same as these are regulated by FIFA. A list of FIFA Member Associations can be found [here](#).

International Clearance Registration Requirements

Per FIFA's Regulations, the international clearance process is required when any foreign-born player over the age of 10 is attempting to register with an affiliated club/team/league in the United States, regardless of that player's soccer ability or citizenship and one or both of the below instances apply:

- **Player was born outside of the United States, including U.S. citizens born abroad.**
- **Player previously registered with a club/team/league outside of the United States.**

The home association, U.S. Soccer, is responsible for obtaining the clearance on behalf of these players prior to their registration and participation with any U.S. Soccer affiliated club/team/league. Clearance is required for ALL players who meet one or both of the above instances regardless of past practices, age, nationality, club affiliation, or member organization with which the player is registering/participating. Failure to adhere to the requirements can result in fines and/or sanctioning from both FIFA and U.S. Soccer.

DEFINITIONS

- Minors - players 17 years of age and younger
- Adult - players 18 years of age and older
- Amateur status - no payment involved regardless of age

ACRONYMS

- TMS – Transfer Matching System
- MA – Member Association (foreign federation)
- ITC – International Transfer Certificate
- FR – First Registration

International Clearance Registration Forms and Requirements

The table below is displayed for the applicant's reference. To submit a complete international clearance form:

- Applicants should review the forms and corresponding requirements.
- Choose only one form that represents their current individual status.

Applicants are expected to meet all application requirements specified on the form to have the application reviewed and processed.

Please follow all instructions exactly and copy
LEAGUE on all emails: academyregistration@uslsoccer.com

The following Forms relate to adults (18 years or older) at the time of registration:

ADULT	
FORM	APPLICANT REQUIREMENT
First Registration 18+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Any player born outside of the United States · Never been registered at any level to play soccer in any other country.
International Transfer Certificate (ITC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Any player 18+ who has been previously registered to a club in another country and wishes to play for club/team/league in the United States.

The following Forms relate to minors (Under the age of 17) at the time of registration:

MINORS	
FORM	APPLICANT REQUIREMENT
P10 Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · International clearances and first registrations for any player nine (9) years of age and younger at the time of registration regardless of citizenship.
First Registration - U.S. Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · U.S. citizens born outside the United States who have never been registered at any level to play soccer in any other country. · Holds physical proof of citizenship.
First Registration - U.S. Citizen – Awaiting Physical Proof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · U.S. citizens born outside the United States who have never been registered at any level to play soccer in any other country. · Does not currently hold physical proof of citizenship but according to the United States government, is a U.S. citizen.
5 Year Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Player is registering for the first time and has lived continuously in the United States for the last five years.
50km/31mi Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Both the player and club are within 50km/31mi of their common national border. · The distance between the two is less than 100km/62mi.
Parents Move Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The parents of the player moved to the United States for reasons not linked to soccer. · Includes United States citizens returning home to their family after studying abroad.
Exchange Student Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The player is an exchange student undertaking an academic program in the United States.
Accompanied Refugee Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The player is moving for humanitarian reasons with their parents.
Unaccompanied Refugee Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The player is moving for humanitarian reasons without their parents.

Best Practices for ITC:

Each application has specific submission requirements. Failure to follow these requirements will lead to the withdrawal of the application from the review process. To ensure the timely processing of all applications the following instructions must be adhered to:

- Criteria is provided for each clearance type to assist the applicant in selecting the appropriate form based on the players' CURRENT status, i.e., age, first registration, international clearance, minor applications.
- Applicants are responsible to submit all required information as outlined on each form.
- Information submitted is required to be accurate and complete
- Submit completed forms and all required document(s) in ONE (1) email to – psd@ussoccer.org and copy local League/State Association.
 - Subject line should indicate form type and player name.
 - Form and documents must be in PDF format.
 - Each loaded separately and up to 5MB or less.
- Partially completed forms and/or applications missing documents will not be processed.
- Applications must be submitted at least 30 days* prior to start of club/team/league play.
- For additional questions not listed in the FAQ section please send to psd@ussoccer.org and in the subject line indicate – QUESTION.

The Player Status Department will contact applicants to provide updates on applications when available and/or required. Due to the high volume of applications received, kindly refrain from submitting emails requesting status updates as those specific requests will not receive a response.

*Please note submitting at least 30 days prior to the start of club/team/league play does not guarantee the player will be eligible as some processes require both FIFA and U.S. Soccer approval.

*** FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

U.S. Soccer Federation

Attn : Federation Services Department

1801 South Prairie Avenue

Chicago, IL 60616

312-808-9263 fax

(E-mail) psd@ussoccer.org

300 – Club and Player Registration

Rule 301 – Player Registration Documents

The following documents and information will be required for each player and must be uploaded into Sport Engine before a player can be approved and eligible to participate in any USL Academy League events:

- First & Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Email Address
- Citizenship/Nationality Fields
- Player Headshot Photo
- USL Academy Player Registration Form:
 - Insurance Information (completed in the player registration form)
 - Liability and Release Waiver (completed in the player registration form)
 - Communicable Disease Release Waiver (complete in the player registration form)
 - COPPA Agreement (completed in the player registration form)
- ITC Compliance (Players born outside of US and/or last registered outside of US)
- SafeSport Certification (Players born in 2004 or earlier)
- Valid Form of ID (Birth Certificate, Passport, Permanent Resident Card)
- Parent/Guardian Contact Information (Phone Number, Home Address, Email)

Rule 302 – Player Registration Scenarios

Part Time Senior Player/Professional on Amateur Team

The following documents are required to register a professional player on an amateur team:

- USL ACADEMY Registration that includes
 - Insurance Information, waivers, signatures
- Proof of Identification (U.S birth certificate, certificate of naturalization, valid passport, permanent resident card, valid visa)
- SafeSport training certificate if born in 2004 or older

Amateur Player on Amateur Team

The following documents are required to register an amateur player on an amateur team:

- USL ACADEMY Registration that includes
 - Insurance Information, waivers, signatures
- Proof of Identification (U.S birth certificate, certificate of naturalization, valid passport, permanent resident card, valid visa)

Additional Documents That May Be Required

The following documents may also be required to register a player:

- USSF ITC Request Form

- USSF Amateur Reinstatement Request Form

Rule 303 – Club Representative Documents

All CLUB representative seeking to work with any player, including, without limitation, volunteers, any Covered Persons as defined by USL Academy, Registered Health Care Providers and Certified Athletic Trainers at any practice, USL Academy Match, or other USL Academy Events must be fully registered. Names and Photos are digitally created via USL Academy designated platforms and will be checked in the Club's Technical Area via the Game Day Roster. The following documents and information will be required for each club member and must be uploaded into Sport Engine before a player can be approved and eligible to participate in any USL Academy League events:

- First & Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Coach/Staff Headshot Photo
- Club
- Coaching Licenses
- SafeSport Certification
- Background Check Completion

Rule 304 – Transfer or Release of Players

- A player shall not sign for another team until properly released from the player's former team.
- Players may ask for their release by applying directly to their teams. In the event a request by a player for his release is refused, the matter may be brought to the attention of USL.
- The player transfer document that must be signed by the player and both clubs will acknowledge the completion of the specific player transfer.
- Once a transfer document request is issued by the club the other party has Seventy-Two (72) hours to respond. If a response is not received after Seventy-Two (72) hours the transfer will be considered approved by the league.
- Before any player is released or transferred, the player must turn over all held property, which belongs to the team and in good standing with the franchise as well.
- No transfers or registration of players may be executed after the Roster Freeze date.
- As a general rule, a player that has been registered with one team, amateur or professional, for at least one-half (50%) of its regular season games may not register for another team in the same League without written authorization from the original team. USL ACADEMY will reserve the right to review a player's appeal if he is denied permission to play for another team to determine whether extenuating circumstances exist.

- Players who wish to transfer during the season will not be able to participate in any remaining head-to-head matchups with the club from which they have previously transferred from including playoff matches.

400 – Amateur Players

Rule 401 - Amateur Players

USL ACADEMY franchises must notify the USL ACADEMY Registrar in writing when the team is releasing the player. Player is obligated to turn over all held property that belongs to the team before that player may register with another USL ACADEMY team. Players may request to be released and, if denied by team, bring the matter to the attention of the USL ACADEMY Registrar.

LEAGUE Registration Contact:

Please reach out to these individuals regarding player and coaching staff registration matters.

Leo Rogers, Operations Manager – USL Academy

leo.rogers@uslsoccer.com

Rule 402 – Amateurism

Collegiate student-athletes represent a large portion of many amateur teams. Teams playing in USL ACADEMY Amateur Leagues are required to follow strict guidelines set forth by the NCAA and USL ACADEMY so as not to endanger the eligibility of players. The following guidelines are specific items taken from the NCAA Rules and Regulations Manual and apply not only to USL ACADEMY amateur teams but also USL ACADEMY professional teams. Teams will be notified should there be any changes in the rules.

“Collegiate Players” for purposes of the USL Academy shall mean any student-athlete, as described by the NCAA.

The NCAA classifies “student-athletes” as individuals that have been enrolled in an NCAA member institution, and if enrollment in that institution was based, wholly or in part, on that individual’s desire to participate in intercollegiate competition.

Further, if the individual has completed the NCAA Eligibility Center’s initial eligibility certification process for amateur status, that individual is considered a “student-athlete.” It is the CLUBs responsibility to do its due diligence regarding the preservation of a players Collegiate Eligibility based on the players understanding regarding team composition

Collegiate Player Eligibility for USL ACADEMY Amateur Teams

Participation in Outside Competition

A student-athlete may compete outside of the institution’s declared playing and practice season as a member of an outside team in any non-collegiate, amateur competition, provided:

- Such participation occurs no earlier than May 1st.
- The competition is approved by the institution’s director of athletics.
- No class time is missed for practice activities or for competition.
- A student-athlete may compete outside of the institution’s declared playing and practice season as a member of an outside team in any non-collegiate, amateur competition during any official vacation period published in the institution’s catalog.

Limit on Number of Players from an Institution

- A Division I member institution may permit not more than five student-athletes with eligibility remaining in intercollegiate soccer to practice or compete out of season on an outside, amateur soccer team (competition on an outside team permitted only during the summer). There is no limit on the number of soccer student-athletes from the same Division II or III institution. However, in all three divisions, if more than five student-athletes from the same institution participate on a International tour, the International tour may have to be certified in accordance with the legislation applicable to an institutional International tour. Furthermore, as with Division I players, it would be impermissible for Division II or III student-athletes to participate on an outside team during their institution's intercollegiate season.
- The legislative services staff determined that high-school, two-year or four-year Collegiate prospects that have been accepted for enrollment in an institution and participate on an outside team with student-athletes from that institution's team is not included in the limitations governing the number of student-athletes with remaining eligibility.

Involvement of Coaching Staff

- No member of the coaching staff of a member institution may be involved in any capacity (e.g., coach, official, player or league/team administrator) at any time (during the academic year, vacation periods, and summer) with an outside team that involves any student-athlete with eligibility remaining from the institution's soccer team.

Reimbursement of Player Expenses for Outside Competition

USL ACADEMY Amateur teams are permitted to provide actual and necessary expenses or reimbursement to team members for those expenses during the season of league competition only if the expenses:

- Are reasonable for the amount for travel, meals, apparel, and/or equipment used by the individual for team purposes.
- Are for practice or competition and not an incentive or based on performance

Rule 403 – Involvement with Professional Teams

Tryout Before Enrollment

In soccer, prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may participate in a tryout with a professional team or league, provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate.

Tryout After Enrollment

After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual who has eligibility remaining may try out with a professional athletics team (or participate in a combine including that team) at any time, provided the individual does not miss class. The individual may receive actual and necessary expenses in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per professional team (or a combine including that team). The 48-hour tryout period shall begin at the time the individual arrives at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, the individual must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation

expenses. A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided the individual does not miss class.

Outside Competition Prohibited

During a tryout, an individual may not take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

Practice Without Competition Before Enrollment

In soccer, prior to initial fulltime enrollment in a collegiate institution, an individual may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate.

Practice Without Competition After Enrollment

In soccer, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided the individual does not:

- Receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions.
- Enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization.
- Take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

Competition against Professionals

An individual may participate singly or as a member of an amateur team against professional athletes or professional teams.

Competition with Professionals

An individual shall not be eligible for intercollegiate athletics in a sport if the individual ever competed on a professional team in that sport. However, an individual may participate in competition with a professional on a team provided the professional is not being paid by a professional team or league to play as a member of that team.

Exception – Competition Before Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment

In soccer, before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may compete on a professional team provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate on the team. (Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10; applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)

Professional Coach

Collegiate players (NCAA Div. I, II, III and NAIA) are permitted to play under a professional coach as long as the professional coach is paid by the amateur team. The NCAA guideline states that a professional coach does not cause the team to be classified.

Rule 404 – Contracts and Compensation

An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she has entered into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement.

Exception – Competition Before Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment

Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may enter into an agreement to compete on a professional team provided the agreement does not guarantee or promise payment (at any time) in excess of actual and necessary expenses to participate on the team.