

Section 18.0 A Player's Right To Choose

18.1 All players have the right and opportunity to choose which team, club or association of teams tryouts they wish to attend. No team, club, association of teams, or OSYSA member league may violate, infringe or restrict this basic right for players in any manner. Players, parents and coaches must also recognize that players are bound to the team for the entire seasonal year once they sign a player registration form, subject the rules of OSYSA and their member leagues regarding player transfers and voluntary quits.

18.1.1 This entire Section **18.0** is applicable only within those competitive leagues that do not have established rules that are substantially similar in scope to the ideals and concepts put forth in this Section **18.0**. A competitive league's rules shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Section **18.1.1** unless the OSYSA Board of Directors determines that the competitive league's rules are not substantially similar in scope to the ideals and concepts put forth in this Section **18.0**

18.2 All teams, clubs and association of teams are required to provide written notification of the "Player's Right To Choose" to all players when they elect to tryout and/or are made an offer without a tryout for a team, club or association of teams.

18.3 Paragraphs **18.3.1** through **18.3.6** are examples of actions that would restrict, violate and/or infringe upon the "Player's Right To Choose" and are prohibited under this section.

18.3.1 Inform a player that if he/she elects to attend tryouts of other teams, clubs or associations of teams that he/she would not be offered a position with that team, club or association of teams.

18.3.2 If a team, club or association of teams, hold tryouts on more than one occasion, require a player to attend all tryouts of a team, club or association of teams in order to be offered a position with that team, club or association of teams.

18.3.3 Require a fee, charge or payment in advance of, during or immediately after tryouts, as a basis of trying out for that team, club or association of teams.

18.3.4 Require that a player commit to the team, club or association of teams as a condition to attend tryouts.

18.3.5 Require that a player immediately commit to join that team, club or association of teams at the conclusion of the tryouts.

18.3.6 Make any offer to join a team, club or association of teams prior to the tryout date(s) of the team, club or association of teams. This section is not applicable to a player's current team, club or association of teams.

18.4 Players have the right to transfer during the seasonal year (subject to league and OSYSA transfers rules and OSYSA State Cup roster requirements). Clubs, teams or association of teams may not initiate contact with a player concerning a transfer. A player, if he/she has an interest, may elect to contact another team. Once contact has been made by a player, the team may have contact with that player.

18.5 If a player submits an OSYSA Voluntary Quit form or if a player transfers prior to the first game of the seasonal year for that team, the team is strongly encouraged to make a fair and appropriate pro-rata return of any fees paid based on expenses already incurred or paid by the team for the benefit of the team.

18.6 Players, parents, other teams, clubs, association of teams or OSYSA member leagues may bring complaints against any team, club or association of teams. Any officer, board member, State Commissioner or District Commissioner of Ohio South may also directly bring such complaints against any team, club or association of teams for infringement, violation or restriction of the “Player’s Right to Choose”.

18.6.1 Alleged violations of this Section **18.0** are to be considered non-concurrently. For example, if a club were to handout an information sheet that spelled out players must attend all tryouts that the club is holding, (a violation of section **18.3.2**), to 40 players, then that would be considered as 40 separate violations of this Section **18.0**.

18.7 Any complaint concerning an alleged violation of this Section 18 shall first be directed to the OSYSA member league for whom the team, club or association of teams, is a member, except as provided in Section **18.9**. If the OSYSA member league finds in favor of the complainant then the only sanction that may be imposed by the member league against the team, club or association of teams that was found to have violated one or more of the above listed player rights is a maximum fine of \$400.00 for a first offense and a maximum fine of \$800.00 for a second or subsequent offense by that team, club or association of teams, within a three year period. All fines levied following a decision by the member league, pursuant to this Section **18.0**, shall be paid to the member league.

18.8 If the OSYSA member league does not handle the complaint within 30 days of its filing with the OSYSA member league or if the team, club or association of teams is not currently a member of an OSYSA member league or if the complaint is made against an OSYSA member league, then the complainant may file the complaint with the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

18.9 In addition, if the complainant is a member of a league different from that of the league of which the team, club or association of teams is a member of that is alleged to have infringed or violated the provisions of this Section 18.0, then that complaint shall be heard by the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

18.10 If the OSYSA Conduct Committee finds in favor of the complainant then the only sanction that may be imposed by the OSYSA Conduct Committee against the team, club, association of teams or OSYSA member league that was found to have violated one or more of the above listed player rights is a maximum fine of \$400.00 for a first offense and a maximum fine of \$800.00 for a second or subsequent offense by that team, club, association of teams or OSYSA member league, within a three year period. All fines levied following a decision by the OSYSA Conduct Committee, pursuant to this Section 18.0, shall be paid to OSYSA.

18.11 Leagues may establish additional restrictions and requirements regarding the method and timing of tryouts that are held for teams that have or that will participate in that league.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007