



US Youth Soccer International Travel Policy

Part I - General

Rule 101. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

- a. The purpose of this policy is two-fold:
 1. To establish reasonable procedures so that parties who participate in US Youth Soccer events are provided training and timely information in an attempt to reduce the inherent risk of travel outside of the United States.
 2. To create a standardized set of policy guidelines that can be utilized for US Youth Soccer international programs and events
- b. This policy applies to the following:
 1. State Association ODP Teams
 2. Regional ODP Teams
 3. ODP All-Star Teams
 4. Recommended for all member travel (i.e., clubs)
- c. For the Purposes of this policy also reference the *US Youth Soccer Travel Policy Rule 203. International Travel Outside The United States.*

Section 102. DEFINITIONS

- (a) The definitions of Bylaw Article III of USYSA apply to this policy. Those definitions include the following:
 - (1) “**Board of Directors**” means the Board of Directors of USYSA established Under Article XIII.
 - (2) “**Federation**” means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
 - (3) “**Organization Member**” means an organization that is classified as such a member of USYSA as provided by Article IV.
 - (4) “**Region**” means one of the regions established under Article VIII.
 - (5) “**State Association**” means the administration body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out USYSA’s programs for youth players. This association shall be in a single state of the United States
 - (6) “**USYSA**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- (b) In this policy—
 - (1) **International Travel:** travel by a team and its players and team officials to participate in a tournament or set of friendly games or games by the US Youth Soccer Team outside the 50 states within the United States.

- (2) **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** is a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and is headquartered in unincorporated DeKalb County, Georgia.
- (3) **Event Organizer:** entity that organizes the arrangements for travel outside of the United States of America and the District of Columbia all things equal to or above the following: games, hotels, meals, land and air transportation and cultural experiences.
- (4) **U.S. Department of State (DoS):** the United States government department in charge of foreign affairs.

Rule 103. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS US Youth Soccer, its four Regions and State Association members have considered the safety of youth soccer players and others involved while traveling overseas, the following fundamental principles apply and are of paramount importance in carrying out this policy:

- (1) Stringent risk management policies and practices are being implemented to promote the safety and security of our players, team officials, and spectators. US Youth Soccer works in close cooperation with its Regions and State Associations to protect and increase the safety of youth soccer players nationwide.
- (2) The National Office of US Youth Soccer will review and monitor the most current travel information advisories and bulletins from the DoS regarding worldwide and individual country alerts and warnings for U.S. citizens traveling abroad, and will communicate this information to all affected Regions and States Association members prior to and for the duration of time that teams, players and other participants are traveling abroad.
- (3) All US Youth Soccer members must register its international trips online with the DoS Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)
- (4) Security training and protocols will be provided by staff to all players, adult administrators, including head coaches, assistant coaches and chaperones who accompany teams traveling internationally.
- (5) All Regions of US Youth Soccer are required to submit to the National office within 21-days prior to departure for their overseas trips, the following information on each person traveling:
 - a. Event itineraries
 - b. Flight itineraries (i.e., flight numbers, departure locations, arrival information)
 - c. Hotel teams will be staying at (i.e., phone number, address, email, etc.)
 - d. Emergency contact information for each person traveling (i.e., name, phone number and email address)

(6) Travel Suspension Conditions

A travel suspension condition is defined for any country or region for which one of the following conditions applies:

- a. DoS has issued a warning that orders departure of U.S. dependents and non-emergency personnel; recommends that U.S. citizens depart the country; advises U.S. citizens against all travel to the country; or recommends that U.S. citizens defer non-essential travel to the country. All travel within 200 miles or 322 kilometers of those cities will be suspended.
- b. If the CDC has issued a stage three (3) warning to avoid all non-essential travel to this country or region. All travel within 200 miles or 322 kilometers of those cities will be suspended.
- c. If a travel warning is issued or go into effect after the team has departed overseas, then US Youth Soccer reserves the right to terminate the trip at that time, and require that the team immediately vacate the designated country or region. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Rule 104. ENFORCEMENT

- (1) Adults traveling internationally, on behalf of US Youth Soccer, will ensure that this policy is carried out.
- (2) Failure of a player, team official, or team to follow the applicable bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer, its Regions, its State Associations, or all three, may result in the imposition of penalties by US Youth Soccer and/or the applicable State Association(s).
- (3) Any travel issues, security concerns or threats that arise, with respect to players, parents, coaches, administrators or staff traveling outside of the United States on behalf of US Youth Soccer, shall be referred to the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Event Management.

Guidelines for Teams Traveling outside the United States for Games or Tournaments

I. Details

The Event Organizer will coordinate and provide all necessary services including but not limited to the following:

a. Games

(1) Organizing group(s) shall confirm in writing that they will arrange for a certain number of games to be played overseas, and shall provide a list of those teams before any payment is made.

(2) Parents should be advised that if a US Youth Soccer tournament or game(s) are changed beforehand, cancelled while en route or on location at the international venue, no refunds will be provided. Further if, in the event flights are cancelled due to weather or for any reason, refunds will be not issued.

b. Lodging

(1) The event organizer is responsible for providing accommodations for the following dates and times and must provide notice in writing before the group boards the flight.

From _____ to _____ (# ___ Nights)

At: _____ (hotel)

Arriving: _____

Departing: _____

c. Ground Transportation

- A charter bus or other method of ground transportation will be reserved by the Event Organizer. Full background and service record(s) must be provided to US Youth Soccer prior to signing the agreement. All vehicles used by the delegation must have all licenses and permits up to date. Transportation will be used for all games, training sessions and all programmed activities. This includes pick up/drop off at the airport and any round trip travel to other cities. All parking, fees, and tolls should be included in the overall cost, if available.

d. Meals

- The delegation should be provided three (3) meals each day
 - o All meals should be provided in a buffet style and follow the suggested menu for athletes that is provided by Team Manager or Coach.

e. Training Facility

- At least one training field will be available each day. The field will be a regulation size field, properly marked and equipped. US Youth Soccer delegation will provide a training schedule to the hosting organization at least 2 weeks in advance to allow organization of the training facility.

f. Insurance

- It is recommended that parents and / or players take with them medical and insurance information for each person traveling (i.e., blood type, allergies, other).
- Event Organizer oversees the itinerary of the trip which includes all functions, teams involved, venues, hotels, ground transportation, and programmed activities, and the Event Organizer must provide insurance coverage of \$2,000,000 per occurrences and should be named as an “addition insured.”