

Rules Regarding Recruiting Players

CYSA-N rules prohibit teams from recruiting players from other teams to switch teams (i.e. transfer) in the same seasonal year (not, however, for the following year).

LGUSL has extended this rule (between competitive LGUSL teams, either new or returning) to be somewhat more restrictive. In addition to the prohibition against recruiting players to switch teams (i.e. transfer) in the same seasonal year, it is now against LGUSL rules to recruit players to switch between seasonal years. Here's an example (made up, by the way):

The BU18 LGUSL Select Coach who is about to hold tryouts for the 2008-2009 season ****cannot**** contact players from the BU18 LGUSL Comp team and attempt to recruit them to his/her team.

CYSA-N rules do not strictly prohibit this particular case. We in LGUSL, however, do (effective 11/26/2007)

Please be aware that in the example above, the "Coach" was used to play the part of someone doing the "recruiting". In actuality, the "someones" who are prohibited from "recruiting" include the coaches, managers, players, and parents -- basically any representative of the team soliciting for players.

Below is:

- a) the rationale for this new rule
- b) the exact wording of the rule, for clarity
- c) some FAQs about specific cases (which will be augmented as needed)

1) Rationale

We were made aware of several instances where Competitive or Select LGUSL teams contacted players on other Competitive or Select LGUSL teams to switch teams for the following year. We do not believe that we necessarily heard about all of these cases, either, by the way. Some of the examples are:

Class 3 (recruiter) -> Class 3 (recruitee) -- same age group

Class 3 (recruiter) -> Class 1 (recruitee) -- older age group to lower age group

Class 1 (recruiter) -> Class 3 (recruitee) -- same age group

We believe that teams registered through LGUSL should work together, not against each other.

2) Specific text

Currently, CYSA-N rules state the following (4:06:04):

"Any team which, through its responsible officials, officers, or representatives(*), attempts to induce a registered player of any team under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave his/her team before the end of the current seasonal year shall be deemed to have committed an offense for poaching and shall be dealt with by the Board of Directors of this Association."

The LGUSL-specific addendum to this CYSA-N rule, to apply to competitive teams playing within LGUSL, is as follows:

"Any Division-1 or Division-3 team registered with LGUSL (or applying to be registered through LGUSL) which, through its responsible officials, officers, or representatives (*), attempts to induce a registered player of any other Division-1 or Division-3 team under the jurisdiction of LGUSL to leave his/her team at any point in the future shall be deemed to have committed an offense for poaching and shall be dealt with by the LGUSL Board of Directors".

Note:

* "officials, officers, or representatives" includes, but it not limited to:
coaches, assistant coaches, parents, players ...

3) FAQs and Clarifications

#0: What should I do if there is anything unclear about this particular rule?

Discuss with the LGUSL Division 1 and Division 3 Commissioners.
There may be exceptional cases which have not been considered up front. Contact information can be found at:
www.lgusl.org/contacts.htm

#1: Who does "officials, officers, or representatives" as noted in the rule(s) include?

coaches, managers, parents or other relations, or players (just to make sure)

#2: What are examples of "attempts to induce"?

An example would be calling/emailing a player or his/her family and offering the player a spot on next year's team. Another example would be calling/emailing a prospective player about specific tryout dates/times.

#3: Can players registered on Division 4 (Recreational) teams be contacted?

Yes, this ruling only applies to players who are currently registered on Division 1 or Division 3 teams.

#4: Can a "team" contact players on team in different age groups (e.g. can a GU-14 team contact GU-13 players about playing up an age group or can a GU-13 team contact a player who is "playing up" on a GU-14 team)?

No, the rule applies regardless of age group and holds if the "contacting" team is a Division 1 or Division 3 team, and the "player being contacted" is registered on a Division 1 or Division 3 team.

#5: What happens if a player registered on a LGUSL Division 1 or Division 3 team (or parent) initiates the contact with a new team, either directly or by responding to newspaper or web announcements?

Absolutely nothing. Players are free to play with who they want, whether in LGUSL or in other leagues. This is not considered "poaching".

LGUSL recommends that teams document such inquiries in writing in case of future complaints. For example, a note (whether in writing or via email) from the player (or parent) noting that "I have independently initiated contact with such and such a team for future possibilities." is a convenient piece of documentation for a coach if he or she is ever accused of poaching.

#6: Does this rule apply to LGUSL teams who "recruit" players from teams who are registered outside of LGUSL?

No, it does not (except where covered by CYSA-N rules). While we are concerned about "recruiting" of any type and do not advocate it, this rule only applies to LGUSL teams and players. However, we recommend that the same sort of documentation be kept when contact is initiated as noted in #5.

#7: What about enquiring about using guest players for tournaments or other activities?

A LGUSL team looking for guest players may not contact players directly. Instead, the team (looking for guest players) must contact the coach of the team which has registered possible candidate players beforehand to request permission to contact, cc:ing the respective LGUSL Division-3 and/or Division-1 Commissioner(s).

This is also true for competition with LGUSL in the District 2 Spring League, as one specific example.

#8: How can we build Class-1 teams or improve Class-3 "A" teams (vs. a Class-3 "B" team) if we cannot contact qualified players from other teams to try out in the future?

As noted in #7, LGUSL teams should work together. "B" team coaches should encourage players capable of playing at a higher level to do so, without any negative consequences (either on the "A" team, whether that is the same playing level or one above).

All members of the league are informed when tryouts are scheduled for each of the specific teams, and dates/times are posted at:

<http://www.lgusl.org/select.htm> (Division 1)

<http://www.lgusl.org/comp.htm> (Division 3)

Division 1 and Division 3 Commissioners can facilitate such discussions.

#9: Why don't we always conduct joint tryouts where all players at a gender age group attend? The "A" team has the first opportunity to pick players. Players not selected are then eligible for the "B" team.

There may be cases with tryouts where we do this, but this would not be the general policy. There is the concern that this sort of regulation across the board would swing too much to the extreme towards trying to build elite teams, w/o considering the needs and preferences of individual players and families (fees, commitments, friends, etc.).

#10: What should happen if a "B" team coach refuses to work cooperatively with the "A" team coach?

Specific cases should be referred to the LGUSL Division 1 and Division 3 Commissioners.

#11: What should happen if a coach becomes aware that another team is contacting his or his players?

Specific cases should be immediately referred to the LGUSL Division 1 and Division 3 Commissioners, as well as the LGUSL President. Contact information can be found at: www.lgusl.org/contacts.htm

#12: What if a parent or player is contacted by another team?

Specific cases should be immediately referred to the LGUSL Division 1 and Division 3 Commissioners, as well as the LGUSL President. Contact information can be found at: www.lgusl.org/contacts.htm