

# **U. S. SOCCER FEDERATION POLICY 601-7: COMPETITION PARTICIPATION**

## **III. REVISED USSF POLICY**

### **Policy 601-7 – Competition Participation**

#### **Section 1.**

- (A) Any properly registered team has the right to enter any competition involving Organization Members or their members provided that it is eligible under the rules of that competition, pays all required fees, and is in good standing.
- (B) No Organization Member or member of an Organization Member shall interfere with the opportunity of a player, coach or team to travel to compete in a competition, including a game, scrimmage, tournament or League governed by Section 1 (A) above and shall not deny permission to travel unless that player, coach or team has been prohibited from doing so for disciplinary reasons pursuant to the due process requirements set forth in Bylaw 701. The foregoing shall not prevent Organization Members and their members from having bylaws, rules, or policies that penalize teams or players for failing to meet their previously scheduled game commitments or prevent Organization Members from enforcing reasonable notification requirements prior to travel.
- (C) Any Organization Member or member of an Organization Member, player, coach or individual denied the right to participate in any competition involving Organization Members or their members has the right of appeal and/or grievance through the applicable procedures set forth in Federation Bylaws and Policies.

#### **Section 2.**

- (A) Tournaments hosted by Organization members or their members shall fall within one of the following two classes:
  - (1) Unrestricted Tournament: A tournament that is open to all Federation affiliated participants. Any tournament that allows international participants must be an Unrestricted Tournament.
  - (2) Restricted Tournament: A tournament that is open only to members of a single Organization Member or a subset thereof.
- (B) Organization Members and their members shall be entitled to sponsor and/or approve tournaments in and according to reasonable requirements they establish as long as done so in a fair and timely manner. No Organization Member or member of an Organization member shall have a bylaw, rule or policy that prohibits their members from participating in Unrestricted Tournaments. Organization Members may not deny approval to host a tournament on the basis that the tournament is Unrestricted.

#### **Section 3.**

This policy does not apply to Professional Leagues or Indoor Professional Leagues.

## **III. RATIONALE**

To ensure that players have as many opportunities as possible to participate in tournaments and competitions, and to make the policy consistent with U.S. Soccer's organizational structure.