



INVESTMENT POLICY

November 4, 2022

PART I. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, AND PRINCIPLES

Section 101. Introduction, Purpose, and Applicability

The purpose of this Investment Policy (“IP”) is to assist the Board of Directors of United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. to effectively plan, oversee, monitor, and evaluate the management of assets.

Section 101. Definitions

(a) The definitions in Article III of the Bylaws of US Youth Soccer apply to this policy and include the following:

- (1) “**Board of Directors**” means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII and may be used interchangeably with the term Board.
- (2) “**Chief Executive Officer**” means the individual appointed and responsible for the conducting of business and the management of affairs of US Youth Soccer established under Article XVIII and may be used interchangeably with the term CEO.
- (3) “**US Youth Soccer**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

(b) Additional definitions apply to this policy as follows:

- (1) “**Article**” preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific provision of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (2) “**Applicable law**” means the laws that govern a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Tennessee and registered to transact business in the State of Texas as a foreign corporation or in any other State where US Youth Soccer may have offices, paid employees, or business activities.
- (3) “**Chair**” means the position established in Article XIII, Section 1(a).
- (4) “**Chief Financial Officer**” means the individual responsible for the conducting of financial business and affairs of US Youth Soccer as determined by the CEO and may be used interchangeably with the term CFO.
- (5) “**Financial reports**” means the consolidated or combined financial or budget or investment statements of US Youth Soccer.
- (6) “**Form**” means a template used or provided for reporting or summarizing financial transactions whether in writing, electronic, or otherwise.
- (7) “**Investment**” means an asset or item that is purchased with the expectation that it will generate income or appreciate in value over time.
- (8) “**Investment Committee**” or “**Committee**” means the Investment Committee as established by the Board of Directors as provided by Article XIV of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (9) “**National office**” means the principal office of US Youth Soccer as established by the Board of Directors.
- (10) “**Treasurer**” means the position established in Article XIII, Section 1(e).

Section 102. General Investment Principles

(a) Investments shall be made solely in the best interests of US Youth Soccer and consistent with US Youth Soccer's investment policies and the guidelines and objectives as specified in this policy.

(b) US Youth Soccer's total portfolio shall be invested with care, skill, prudence and diligence that a prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

(c) Investment of US Youth Soccer assets shall be sufficiently diversified as to minimize the risk of large losses.

(d) Cash shall be employed productively at all times, by investment in short-term cash equivalents to provide safety, liquidity and return.

Section 103. Investment Horizons and Objective

(a) US Youth Soccer requires funds to be available on a short term basis, as needed, and within five (5) business days' notice to meet working cash flow needs. The amount of funds to be invested and available for working cash flow needs shall be determined by the CEO based on a review of US Youth Soccer's historical and projected cash flow activities.

(b) US Youth Soccer also may require funds to be accumulated for future capital projects based on strategic timelines established by the Board.

(c) The primary investment objective for segregated accounts within US Youth Soccer and for the total portfolio shall be to achieve a rate of return over any three (3) year period, adjusted for expenses, that is greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index and benchmarked against the US Aggregate Bond and MSCI ACWI or other benchmarks as the Committee shall deem appropriate from time to time. In addition, US Youth Soccer's assets shall be managed in such a manner that assures funds are available to meet those immediate and future funding requirements.

Section 104. Acceptable Investment Diversification

US Youth Soccer recognizes that in order to achieve its objectives, the investments may and will likely experience volatility of returns and fluctuations in market value. US Youth Soccer will tolerate volatility as deemed appropriate by the Committee in consultation with the Board. The Committee shall propose appropriate benchmarks to gauge investment performance. That benchmark is the US Aggregate Bond Index and MSCI ACWI or other benchmarks as the Committee shall deem appropriate from time to time.

(a) Funds designated by the approved budget, as necessary to be maintained and available to meet US Youth Soccer's operating cash flow needs, shall be invested in cash or cash equivalents.

(b) Funds being accumulated for future strategic needs and with a time horizon of three (3) or more years shall be invested as recommended by the Investment Committee and approved by the Board. These funds shall be re-balanced should the asset allocation breach or exceed the Committee's established guardrails to ensure that the category and proportion requirements are maintained within the overall strategic portfolio.

(c) The investment fund balance should maintain investment diversification with the following maximum risk tolerance guidelines and guardrails, which shall be evaluated quarterly.

(1) Cash and bonds shall account for 40% of the investments. This may vary by 5 percentage points in either direction before a rebalance is required.

(2) Equities shall account for 60% of the investments. This may vary by 5 percentage points in either direction before a rebalance is required.

(d) Modifications to the Acceptable Investment Diversification may be recommended by the Committee to the Board in order to meet the goals set forth in this policy.

PART II. PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

Section 201. Marketability of Assets

Acceptable securities are those that can be transacted quickly and efficiently for US Youth Soccer absent significant liquidation penalties or fees and with minimal impact on market price.

Section 202. Allowable and Unallowable Investment Types

It is US Youth Soccer's intention not to employ market-timing techniques nor to experience high portfolio turnover rates that incur additional costs.

The following pre-set boundaries apply to the investments of US Youth Soccer's assets:

(a) Specifically allowable investments

(1) Cash Equivalents

- i. Money Market Funds
- ii. Interest-bearing checking & savings accounts

(2) Publicly traded fixed income securities

- i. Government and agency securities
- ii. Corporate securities

(3) Mutual and Exchange Traded Funds which invest in securities that are allowable as follows:

- i. Government Bonds
- ii. Domestic and International Bond Funds
- iii. Domestic and International Growth and Income Funds
- iv. Domestic and International Equity Funds

(b) Specifically **unallowable** investments include anything not specifically defined above.

The Committee shall advise the CEO of any restriction within this policy that prevents the investment program from obtaining the objectives and goals set forth herein.

Section 203. Delegation of Responsibilities

(a) The Board has overall authority and responsibility for this policy. The Board shall maintain oversight authority for the investment management process.

(b) The Investment Committee shall have the following responsibilities under this policy:

- (1) Formulating investment strategies;
- (2) Recommending the acquisition and/or disposition of investments;
- (3) Monitoring the portfolio for compliance with the approved policies and guidelines;
- (4) Recommending changes and revisions to the policies and guidelines; and
- (5) Reporting to the Board of Directors on all material matters relating to the portfolio.

(c) The CEO, or the CFO if so designated by the CEO, shall constantly strive to maximize cash flow through the prudent management of US Youth Soccer's operations so as to maximize the funds available for investment. The CEO shall also strive to ensure that necessary working capital is maintained in US Youth Soccer bank accounts in a manner that maximizes the return on such funds and, where excess cash exists, that funds are transferred to the US Youth Soccer investment account where it will be managed by US Youth Soccer's Investment Advisor.

Section 204. Investment Advisor

(a) An Investment Advisor may be engaged to provide discretionary management of assets.

(b) The Investment Advisor shall be a Registered Investment Advisor. The Investment Advisor must acknowledge, in writing, its acceptance of responsibility as a fiduciary. The responsibilities of the Investment Advisor shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) When directed by the CEO, or the CFO as designated by the CEO, liquidating investments in a timely manner and transferring cash to an authorized US Youth Soccer bank accounts or for other authorized disbursements approved as provided by the Financial Policy.

(2) Reporting investment performance results of the investment account(s) to US Youth Soccer on at least a quarterly basis. Such a report shall include a comparison to and the performance of any relevant benchmark for the account attributed to management of such investments.

(3) Providing a monthly valuation of the investment portfolio based on the previous month's closing in the form of monthly account statements from the custodian.

(4) Informing US Youth Soccer of any qualitative change in the investment Advisor's organization. Examples include, but are not limited to, changes in management personnel, ownership structure, fees, or any other material information necessary for US Youth Soccer to properly evaluate the services provided.

(5) Voting proxies on behalf of US Youth Soccer and communicating such voting records in a timely manner.

Section 205. Safekeeping and Custody

All investment securities shall be held at an insured depository. All securities in segregated accounts shall be held in the name of US Youth Soccer and shall be free and clear of any liens. Further, all investment transactions shall be transacted on a cash (U.S. \$), regular (next day) or skip-day settlement basis. The custodian shall issue a safe keeping receipt to US Youth Soccer listing the specific securities and other pertinent information. The appropriate officials and representatives of the custodian responsible for, or in any manner involved with, the safekeeping and custody process of US Youth Soccer assets shall be bonded in such a fashion as to protect US Youth Soccer from losses from malfeasance and misfeasance.

Section 206. Performance Review and Evaluation

(a) Investment performance shall be measured based on total return, that is, the aggregate return from capital appreciation and dividend and interest income, net of fees.

(b) Performance reports generated by the Investment Advisor shall be compiled at least quarterly and submitted to the Investment Committee and the CEO for review. A complete listing of all fees received by the Investment Advisor shall be included in the quarterly reports including but not limited to, 12b-1 fees, Revenue Sharing, fees or payment for order

flow. Advisor is required to disclose fees on cash balances. The investment return on the accounts and total portfolio will be measured against commonly accepted US Aggregate Bond and MSCI ACWI or other benchmarks as the Committee shall deem appropriate from time to time. Consideration shall be given to the extent to which the investment results are consistent with the investment objectives, goals and guidelines set forth in this policy.

(c) The Investment Committee shall review the performance of the Investment Advisor at least quarterly. A written summary of the annual investment review shall be conveyed to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

(d) US Youth Soccer will evaluate the segregated accounts and may terminate the Investment Advisor for any reason.

Section 207. Matters not provided for

(a) The Board recognizes that no policy can anticipate all situations, conditions and opportunities that may arise. Therefore, any deviation from the policy requires prior review and recommendation by the Investment Committee and subsequent approval by the Board of Directors.

(b) Any matter not provided for in this policy shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board may delegate its authority.