



NYCSL Reinstated as a Division of CJSL

ENYYSA's Decision to Ban NYCSL and Prevent Players from Participating Reversed by USSF Arbitration Hearing Panel

Per the USSF arbitration hearing panel Decision issued December 16, 2022:

A. The Substantive Allegations

ii. Failing to cause its membership to be open to individuals who are amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials, and to the contrary discriminating against such individuals who are members or otherwise affiliated with NYCSL.

6.22 Accordingly, on this basis the Hearing Panel finds that a violation by ENYYSA has occurred.

iii. Failing to cause its membership to be open to NYCSL.

6.29 Accordingly, the Hearing Panel finds that a violation has occurred here as a result of the action of ENYYSA to exclude members of NYCSL through its previous arrangement with CJSL, especially doing so in a press release without providing those members with any other alternative to participate in soccer in the territory governed by ENYYSA.

iv. Failing to provide prompt and equitable procedures for resolution of complaints of CJSL and NYCSL and by failing to provide fair notice and hearing opportunities with respect to such complaints.

6.57 Accordingly, the Hearing Panel finds that ENYYSA violated this fundamental due process principle embodied in the USSF Bylaws and Policies and in the ENYYSA's own governing documents.

v. Failing to provide reasonable non-discriminating policies, rules, regulations and requirements.

6.59 Accordingly, as the Hearing Panel has already determined, ENYYSA committed acts that impermissibly discriminated against those affiliated with NYCSL, through its affiliation with CJSL.

B. The Requests for Relief

6.71 Accordingly, ENYYSA is hereby ordered to send a copy of this Decision and a very brief summary of its effect, to the ENYYSA membership using the following language. (it should say no more and no less):

“In June 2020, Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (‘ENYYSA’) issued a media release announcing that, ‘NYCSL [New York Club Soccer League] will be joining ENYYSA starting immediately for the 2020/2021 soccer year.’ The release

stated that to accomplish this result: 'NYCSL's players and teams will register as a new division of CJSL [Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League].'

In July 2021, ENYYSA issued a press release stating in relevant part that: 'Effective immediately, ENYYSA will no longer sanction any NYCSL (New York Club Soccer League) soccer programming (leagues, tournaments, competitions, clinics, etc.). US Youth Soccer Association player passes issued by ENYYSA are not valid for any NYCSL competitions.'

As a result, CJSL and NYCSL filed a grievance against the July 2021 decision of ENYYSA with US Soccer. The impartial and independent Hearing Panel hearing that grievance determined that the decision of ENYYSA should be and is reversed with immediate effect. As a result, the parties are put back in the position they were in before the above quoted announcement of ENYYSA was made, and NYCSL is an affiliate of CJSL with all the rights for itself and its athletes and other affiliated participants as existed before the July 2021 press release was issued by ENYYSA.

C. Conclusion/Summary

6.82 ENYYSA, as an umbrella organization, clearly needs to take a hard look going forward at how it conducts its procedures, particularly its dispute resolution process, and how it considers in an equitable and appropriate fashion the interests of all of its members when it is making policy decisions that affect participation. Grassroots soccer is not and cannot be the province of political or monetary driven decision-making if the sport is to continue to develop successfully.