

# **NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE INFORMATION BOOKLET SPRING 2022**

**AYER-SHIRLEY**

**BERLIN**

**BOLTON**

**BOYLSTON**

**CHAIR CITY**

**CLINTON**

**FITCHBURG**

**GROTON-DUNSTABLE**

**HARVARD**

**HUDSON**

**LEOMINSTER**

**LITTLETON**

**LUNENBURG**

**MAYNARD**

**NASHOBA UNITED**

**NORTH QUABBIN**

**OAKMONT**

**PEPPERELL**

**STOW**

**TOWNSEND-ASHBY**

**TYNGSBORO**

# ✓ CHECKLIST FOR NVYSL COACHES ✓

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## ① Pre-Season

- Ensure that you have received your Massachusetts Youth Soccer coaching credential from your Club.
- Ensure that you have received your NVYSL Approved Team Roster and Referee Game Cards from your Club.
- Copy your NVYSL Approved Team Roster and keep multiple copies in your car and equipment bag.
- Inventory your equipment bag : practice balls, 2 game balls, pinnies, pump with needle, cones, first aid kit, etc.

## ② Pre-Game

- Contact your opposing Coach several days before your game.
- Bring 2 copies of your NVYSL Approved Team Roster with all uniform numbers listed to give to the Referee.
- Wear your Mass Youth Soccer Coaching credential at all times.
- Ensure all Player equipment is in good order, including enforcement of no jewelry and no casts.
- Convene a pre-game meeting with the Referees and your opposing Coach 15 minutes before kickoff.

*If you are the Home Team:*

- Confirm your field is open for play.
- Bring at least 2 properly inflated soccer balls of the correct size to serve as game balls.
- Fill in the required information (Game ID, Date, Time, Division, Flight, Home & Visiting Team Names, Field, Location) on the Referee Game Card.

*If you are the Visiting Team:*

- Bring enough pinnies for your Team and goalkeeper to use as an alternate jersey colors.

## ③ During Game

- Send all substitutes to center of the touchline to obtain Referee permission before entering the game.
- Keep all personnel clear of the center of touchline, to eliminate confusion about pending substitutions.
- Keep off the field, stay only on your half, and stay 3 feet behind the touchline (i.e., inside the Technical Area).
- Ensure that your Team's Spectators remain 3 feet behind the touchline.
- Respect the NVYSL Zero Tolerance Policy and set a positive example for your Players and Spectators.
- Closely monitor all aspects of Participant safety, and be prepared to respond to unsafe conditions.
- Pay close attention to Player injuries, especially blows to the head and/or possible concussions.

## ④ Post-Game

- Lead the post-game handshake line : shake opposing Coach's hand at the front of the line, then step out of line beside Referees to monitor handshake conduct of all Players. Remain to shake opposing Players' hands at the end of the line. Encourage your Players to shake hands with the Referee.
- Confirm final score with Referee and opposing Coach.
- Remind Players to recover all personal property, and to leave the bench area cleaner than when they arrived.
- Report game results (including any special notes) to your Club's designated Score Reporter in a timely manner.
- Complete an online Referee Evaluation, sharing both positive and negative feedback.

## ⑤ Postponements and Game Rescheduling (see Policy 2.5.01)

- Games may only be re-scheduled if the Host Club closes the field, if the Referee terminates due to unsafe conditions, or if both Coaches mutually agree to reschedule **at least 10 days in advance**.
- Home Coach notifies opposing Coach and Age Director to confirm game postponement due to field closure.

*To reschedule a game, you need an Opponent, a Field, a Referee, and approval by NVYSL Age Director :*

- Agree on a mutually acceptable date & time with your opposing Coach.
- Home Coach works with Host Club's Field Director and Referee Director to confirm field and referee availability at the proposed date, time and location of the rescheduled game.
- Both Coaches confirm reschedule arrangements with their NVYSL Age Director for final approval.

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Visit the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Website at:

**<http://www.nvysl.org>**

# NVYSL SPRING 2022 CALENDAR

<b>JANUARY</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>NVYSL WINTER LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>15</b>	<b>NVYSL WINTER LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)</b>
<b>25</b>	Deadline for Preliminary Club Registration with Mass Youth Soccer Association <i>(Fee Submission Form, Player File Upload, Initial Payment, Annual Leadership Report)</i>
<b>26</b>	Team Registration Open for Spring 2022 Season
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>06</b>	<b>NVYSL WINTER LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)</b>
<b>13</b>	<i>Daylight Savings Time : Spring Ahead</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Deadline for Preliminary Team Registration for ALL Divisions</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Deadline for Final Team Registration for ALL Divisions</b>
<b>23</b>	Competition Committee Meeting : Pre-Season Flight Assignments Due
<b>29</b>	<b>Deadline for MTOC Roster Submissions with Photos</b>
<b>30</b>	Publish Match Schedules for Weeks #1-4 and Post to Arbiter
<b>APRIL</b>	
<b>01</b>	Deadline for Submission of Inter-League Player Transfers
<b>02</b>	<b>Deadline for Recreational Roster Submission</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>NVYSL SPRING PRE-SEASON LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)</b>
<b>07</b>	NVYSL PRE-SEASON COACHES MEETING #1 (ALL COACHES 8-9PM)
<b>08</b>	NVYSL PRE-SEASON REFEREES MEETING (ALL REFEREES 6PM)
<b>13</b>	NVYSL PRE-SEASON COACHES MEETING #2 (ALL COACHES 8-9PM)
<b>09</b>	<b>FIRST MATCHES FOR GRADE 3/4, GRADE 5/6 AND GRADE 7/8 DIVISIONS</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>FIRST MATCHES FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS</b>
<b>17-22</b>	<i>Easter Holiday &amp; Massachusetts School Vacation Week</i>
<b>23-24</b>	Week #2 Matches for All Divisions
<b>MAY</b>	
<b>07</b>	Deadline for Final Club Registration & Payment to Mass Youth Soccer Association
<b>TBD</b>	Deadline for MTOC Team Roster Freeze
<b>08</b>	<b>NVYSL MID-SEASON LEAGUE MEETING</b>
<b>10</b>	Deadline for Re-Flighting Recreational Divisions by Age directors
<b>12</b>	Match Schedules for Grade 3/4,5/6,7/8 (Weeks#5-8) Published Online and Posted to Arbiter
<b>14-15</b>	Week #5 Matches for All Divisions
<b>28-29</b>	<i>Memorial Day Holiday : No Matches Scheduled</i>
<b>JUNE</b>	
<b>11-12</b>	Week #8 Matches for All Divisions
<b>18-19</b>	NCup Tournament
<b>22</b>	<i>Massachusetts School Dismissal (depends on snow days and COVID-19 suspensions)</i>
<b>24-26</b>	<b>MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (MTOC) 2022</b>
<b>30</b>	Deadline for Final Payment of NVYSL Spring 2022 Season Fees from Clubs

# ITEMS OF NOTE FOR SPRING 2022 SEASON

**PLAYING YOUTH SOCCER DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On behalf of our 21 member Clubs, the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Board of Directors wishes wellness and health to every member of our NVYSL Community. As we return to the pitch for our third season during the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, we hope that this spring represents a return to “normal”. The safety of every participant in our youth soccer community is now and has always been our top priority. So even as we return to soccer without masks, social distancing, and COVID tests, we must all remain vigilant and prepared to adjust to a constantly evolving pandemic. NVYSL endorses Mass Youth Soccer’s guidances enabling us to play youth soccer with minimal risk from COVID-19. For information about policies and procedures governing our return to travel soccer, please consult the comprehensive suite of resources on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association COVID-19 Hub : <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/covid-hub/>.

**COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE**

COVID-19 wasn’t the only thing that altered the fabric of our society in 2020. NVYSL recognizes the importance of ongoing conversations around systemic social injustice, and we are committed to equity in our youth soccer community. There is no room for discrimination, microaggression, or unconscious bias on our youth soccer fields. Anything that disenfranchises members of our community on the basis of sex, race, religion, immigration status, gender identification, socioeconomics, disability, etc. is a direct insult against our constitutional mission. NVYSL affirms and echoes the statement by United States Youth Soccer (USYS) at [www.usyouthsoccer.org/usys-stands-against-all-racism-hatred-intolerance-inequity-and-violence](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/usys-stands-against-all-racism-hatred-intolerance-inequity-and-violence). We reject all racism, hatred, intolerance, inequity and violence. We will strive to listen, learn and act positively to confront hatred, make change and inspire peace. We are stronger when we unite as one voice.

**ANNOUNCING A NEW NVYSL WEBSITE!**

After decades of service, NVYSL has retired its old website and is transitioning to a new platform hosted by AdminSports. Game schedules, standings, field closures, and contact information will be rolled out continuously throughout the spring season. Until this new website is activated, individual Clubs will be the primary sources of information concerning schedules and contacts.

**GAME TIMES**

NVYSL is continuing to implement game times initially adopted to minimize overcrowding at venues between games, in accordance with Mass Youth Soccer’s recommendations :

SATURDAY SCHEDULE			SUNDAY
GRADE 34	GRADE 56	GRADE 78	HIGH SCHOOL
Girls : 9:00AM	Girls : 12:00PM	Girls : 3:00PM	1:00, 3:00, 5:00 (variable times)
Boys : 10:30AM	Boys : 1:30PM	Boys : 4:30PM	

## **LEAGUE STANDINGS**

Competition in the Grade3/4 Division is purely developmental and is non-outcome based, therefore no scores or standings are published for this age group. Standings for older age groups are tabulated and will be used to seed teams for post-season play.

## **MID-SEASON FLIGHT REASSIGNMENTS**

NVYSL Age Directors strive to assign Teams into flights that optimize competitive balance. Based on outcomes from the first 4 matches, NVYSL Age Directors will work in consultation with Clubs to re-assign Teams to new flights in order to enhance competitive balance and ensure that every Team is afforded the opportunity to play level competition each week.

## **SCORE REPORTING**

All scores must be reported by Clubs within 72 hours of the match. This includes Grade3/4 games (scores are tracked but not published for this age group), as well as games not played due to weather, field conditions, forfeits, etc.

## **EXCESSIVE SCORING**

The NVYSL Board of Directors has introduced a new Excessive Scoring Policy #2.6.01(h), which formalizes our definition of a sportsmanship violation when a dominant team beats their opponent by more than 6 goals. Excessive scoring by a dominant opponent during a match can exert powerful negative consequences on both the superior and inferior Teams, and strikes at the heart of good sportsmanship in NVYSL. Procedures and practices in NVYSL for assignment of registered Teams to flights are imperfect, and often this leads to unbalanced matches. The system that generates those imbalances must be continually refined and improved at the organizational level, with the goal of optimizing competitive balance between any two Teams in a flight. However, until those practices become foolproof, Coaches fulfill a critical role of in-game management to mitigate competitive imbalance and to prevent excessive scoring during a match.

## **SPRING 2022 POST-SEASON OPPORTUNITIES**

Spring is Tournament Season! Division 1 Teams in Grades56, 78, and HS will compete for the privilege of representing NVYSL at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) on June 24-26<sup>th</sup>. Division 2 Teams will fight to quality to compete at the Nashoba Cup (NCup) Tournament on the weekend of June 18-19<sup>th</sup>.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON THE NVYSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

NVYSL continues to seek smart, energetic, creative, dedicated, passionate volunteers to participate on our Board of Directors. There are two ways to contribute your talents :

(1) Serve in one of our 15 Officer roles; or

(2) Serve as an At-Large Director, appointed by each Club as their NVYSL Representative.

If you are motivated by the desire to positively impact the soccer experience for thousands of children across Nashoba Valley, please consider joining the NVYSL Board!

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A. OFFICERS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
PRESIDENT	Chris Batinsey	Fitchburg, MA	chris.batinsey@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rosemary Laverdiere	Leominster, MA	rlaverdier@aol.com 978-534-0365
TREASURER	<< OPEN >>		
SECRETARY	<< OPEN >>		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Mark Hollinger	Littleton, MA	mark@thehollingers.net 978-337-3581
REFEREE DIRECTOR	<< OPEN >>		
SPORTSMANSHIP DIRECTOR	<< OPEN >>		
GRADE 3/4 GIRLS DIRECTOR	Greg Kosiorek	Tyngsboro, MA	thekosioreks@verizon.net 508-397-7668
GRADE 3/4 BOYS DIRECTOR	Andre Mignault	Bolton, MA	aamignault@gmail.com 978-502-1717
GRADE 5/6 GIRLS DIRECTORS	David Martin	Lunenburg, MA	dpmartin@juno.com
GRADE 5/6 BOYS Co- DIRECTORS	Timothy Sheppple Andre Mignault	Bolton, MA	timsheppple.bysa@gmail.com aamignault@gmail.com
GRADE 7/8 GIRLS DIRECTOR	Elaine Martin	Lunenburg, MA	dpmartin@juno.com
GRADE 7/8 BOYS DIRECTOR	Tim Bragdon	Fitchburg, MA	tbragdon@haartz.com
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS Co- DIRECTORS	Kevin Madden	Westminster, MA	kevinmcse@yahoo.com
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS DIRECTOR	Jeremy Edmondson	Westminster, MA	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com

## B. AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>NVYSL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
<b>AYER-SHIRLEY YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Linda Cournoyer</b>	flower67@verizon.net
<b>BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Laura Williamson</b>	williamsonlk@gmail.com
<b>BOLTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Erin Schweppe</b>	nvysl-rep@boltonsoccer.net
<b>BOYLSTON YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Robert Thibeault</b>	jkrocky@hotmail.com
<b>CHAIR CITY SOCCER</b>	<b>Joshua Cormier</b>	jcormiersoccer@gmail.com
<b>CLINTON YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Laura Taylor</b>	taylorl@clinton.k12.ma.us
<b>FITCHBURG YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Paul Cosgrove</b>	Paulcosgrove@comcast.net
<b>GROTON-DUNSTABLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB</b>	<b>David Pitkin</b>	dpitkin@gdysc.org
<b>HARVARD SOCCER CLUB</b>	<b>Andrew Thomas</b>	board@harvardsoccer.org
<b>HUDSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Ed Hannan</b>	u10@hysa.org
<b>LEOMINSTER YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Geoff Anthony</b>	geoffreyanthony808@yahoo.com
<b>LITTLETON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB</b>	<b>Bobby Chrenc</b>	President@LittletonYouthSoccer.org
<b>LUNENBURG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Baron Bowser</b>	president@lunenburgsoccer.com
<b>MAYNARD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Drew Holmes</b>	drewholmes@hotmail.com
<b>NASHOBA UNITED</b>	<b>Mike Kirkland</b>	mkirkland22@gmail.com
<b>NORTH QUABBIN UNITED SOCCER CLUB (FORMERLY ATHOL SOCCER CLUB)</b>	<b>Jamie Sonnabend</b>	jj82199@yahoo.com
<b>OAKMONT OUTLAWS</b>	<b>Kevin Madden</b>	kevinmcase@yahoo.com
<b>PEPPERELL YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Jim Pantano</b>	nashobarep@pepperellsoccer.org
<b>STOW YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Mike Kirkland</b>	mkirkland22@gmail.com
<b>TOWNSEND-ASHBY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOC.</b>	<b>Salina Thomas</b>	traveldirector.taysa@gmail.com
<b>TYNGSBORO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Greg Kosiorek</b>	thekosioreks@verizon.net



## C. STIPEND POSITIONS

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	<b>Kevin Shepple</b>	Bolton, MA	kshepple@comcast.net
<b>REFEREE ASSIGNOR</b>	<b>Tim Crain</b>	Tyngsboro, MA	tcrain1@yahoo.com
<b>REFEREE PAYMASTER</b>	<b>Joshua Cormier</b>	Gardner, MA	jcormiersoccer@gmail.com
<b>ROSTER REGISTRAR</b>	<b>Rosemary Laverdiere</b>	Leominster, MA	rlaverdier@aol.com 978-534-0365
<b>MATCH SCHEDULER</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; OPEN &gt;&gt;</b>		

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## PAST PRESIDENTS

*League Inception: December 18, 1984*

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>TENURE</b>
<b>JOHN MATHER</b>	Groton-Dunstable	Dec 1984 - Jun 1986
<b>RICK MYNTTINEN</b>	Harvard	Jul 1986 - Jun 1988
<b>JOHN BLINN</b>	Littleton	Jul 1988 - Jun 1989
<b>DAN DODIER</b>	Leominster	Jul 1989 - Jun 1990
<b>LEN BENNETT</b>	Groton-Dunstable	Jul 1990 - Jun 1992
<b>STAN WHARTON</b>	Chelmsford	Jul 1992 - Jun 1995
<b>ROSEMARY LAVERDIERE</b>	Leominster	Jul 1995 - Jun 1997
<b>RUSS REID</b>	Chelmsford	Jul 1997 - Jul 1998
<b>RICH BENNETT</b>	Littleton	Jul 1998 - Aug 1998
<b>JON KOPERA</b>	Groton-Dunstable	Aug 1998 - Jun 2003
<b>BILL WAEGELEIN</b>	Tyngsboro	Jul 2003 - Jun 2006
<b>BEN MYERS</b>	Harvard	Jul 2006 - Jun 2012
<b>JOHN LAROCHE</b>	Chair City	Jul 2012 - June 2015
<b>JOHN CARVER</b>	Groton-Dunstable	Jul 2015 - June 2017
<b>ANDRE MIGNAULT</b>	Bolton	Jul 2017 - Dec 2020
<b>CHRIS BATINSEY</b>	Fitchburg	Jan 2022 - present

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. Principles Applicable to All Members of the NVYSL Community

- 1.1 A member of the NVYSL Community is any person present at an activity sponsored by NVYSL, or an activity in which s/he represents NVYSL. This includes Players, Coaches, Referees, Administrators, and Spectators.
- 1.2 All members of the NVYSL Community shall treat one another and all other people with dignity and respect. Participants shall behave according to the rules of soccer and shall explicitly refrain from conduct that demeans, harasses, or threatens any person.
- 1.3 All members of the NVYSL Community shall support NVYSL's commitment to equity in our youth soccer community. This includes explicit rejection of all racism, hatred, intolerance, inequity and violence. This also includes a commitment to strive to listen, learn and act positively to confront hatred, make change and inspire peace.
- 1.4 All members of the NVYSL Community must be aware of, must understand, and must comply fully with requirements of their local soccer Club, Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL), Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MassYouth), US Youth Soccer (USYS), and US Soccer (USSF).
- 1.5 All members of the NVYSL Community must acknowledge, respect, and commit to mitigating the unprecedented threat to public health posed by the COVID-19 coronavirus. This includes compliance with public health recommendations, guidelines, and policies issued by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), local Boards of Health, MassYouth, NVYSL, and local soccer Clubs. All members of the NVYSL Community must work together to ensure global adherence to principles of personal protective equipment, social distancing, and contact tracing. Failure to implement these measures will result in cessation of NVYSL activities.

### 2. Principles Applicable to NVYSL Coaches

The NVYSL Code of Conduct applies with special force to NVYSL Coaches because of their critical influence in the lives of youth soccer Players, and their role as ambassadors for their local soccer Club while interacting with Players, opposing Teams, Officials, Administrators, and other Sports Organizations.

- 2.1 Coaches shall safeguard the good health and well-being of their Players, by actively teaching and promoting physical, mental, emotional and moral development.
- 2.2 Coaches shall act as role models embodying fair and honest competition, and shall strive to set an example of outstanding sportsmanship.

- 2.3 Coaches shall never engage in conduct that is verbally or physically threatening or abusive, belligerent, or harassing. Coaches shall reject all prejudice or bias.
- 2.4 Coaches shall recognize the critical role that Referees play as the primary custodians of fair competition and legitimacy in every NVYSL match, and shall actively cultivate an environment where Referees can perform their duties without any form of mistreatment.
- 2.5 Coaches shall remain aware of and actively abide by the principles described in the MassYouth Coaches Code of Conduct.

*NVYSL, August 2020*

# MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Directors of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Incorporated (Mass Youth Soccer) and the leaders of the affiliated Leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct :

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, and you may need to be forceful and direct, from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all. Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

*Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, April 2018*

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## COACH'S PLEDGE

As a Coach in the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL), I agree to the following :

- (1) I agree to read, know, and abide by the updated Laws of the Game.
- (2) I agree to know and abide by the rules, philosophy and spirit of NVYSL, as described in the NVYSL constitution, bylaws, and policies & procedures. I acknowledge that the intent of NVYSL's rules is to create balance of play, equal opportunity between players, safety protections, fun, development, and an atmosphere of sporting behavior and fair play. I agree not to attempt to take unfair advantage of or to manipulate NVYSL rules and the Laws of the Game.
- (3) I agree to respect and support all Referees. I acknowledge that administration of each game is best handled through cooperation of Referee, Coaches, and Players. I further acknowledge that no conduct which incites Coaches, Players, or Spectators against Referees will be tolerated.
- (4) I agree to use my influence as a Coach to enhance sporting behavior by all members of the NVYSL community. I further accept responsibility for the actions of all Players, Assistant Coaches, Spectators, and others affiliated with my Team.
- (5) I acknowledge that if a complaint is made to NVYSL regarding conduct of a member of the NVYSL community, that person has the right to a formal review consistent with the principles Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association has established in their Procedures for Disciplinary Actions and Appeals & Grievances and Complaints and Appeals.
- (6) If I am found to be in violation of the NVYSL Code of Conduct, the Mass Youth Soccer Coach's Code of Conduct, the NVYSL constitution, bylaws, and policies & procedures, or this NVYSL Coach's Pledge, I understand that NVYSL may take appropriate measures to prevent such reoccurrence including game suspension or dismissal from the league.

<b>CLUB AFFILIATION :</b>	
<b>TEAM NAME :</b>	
<b>COACH NAME :</b>	
<b>COACH SIGNATURE :</b>	
<b>DATE :</b>	

*NVYSL, April 2019*

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Bring the following items to each game :

- (a) Coach credentials issued by Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association
- (b) First Aid Kit, especially ice packs
- (c) Two (2) copies of your NVYSL approved roster with jersey numbers, to be given to the Referee
- (d) Player and Coach pass cards (MTOC divisions only)
- (e) Two (2) Game balls (home team)
- (f) Referee game card, to be given to the Referee (home team)
- (g) Pinnies of alternate color, if home and visitors have the same uniform color (visiting team)

### 2. After each game, both coaches should :

- (a) Submit the game score to your Club Score Reporter.
- (b) Complete an online Referee evaluation.

### 3. Game Cancellation and Rescheduling

- (a) For games cancelled due to unplayable field conditions, the Visiting Coach will be notified by the Home Coach at least 2 hours prior to game time.
- (b) Games may be postponed/cancelled on-site by the Referee, due to unsafe conditions.
- (c) If a game is canceled for any reason, the Home Coach must contact :
  - the Visiting Coach, to prevent visiting families from making wasted travel
  - Home Club Referee Director, who will cancel or reschedule Referees as required
  - the appropriate NVYSL Age Director
- (d) To reschedule a game, Coaches must agree upon a time and place to play. The Home Coach bears the responsibility to contact the Home Club Referee Director as far in advance as possible to schedule a Referee for the game.

### 4. Roster Changes

- (a) Before a Player may be added to a roster and be eligible to play, documents must be submitted to the NVYSL Roster Registrar by the Club Registrar.
- (b) Any changes to the NVYSL approved roster must originate from a Club Registrar, and shall be approved by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. Clubs must allow sufficient time when making changes since approved roster changes must be available to the referee prior to the start of the game to allow participation of the new player.
- (c) Coaches must ensure that all Players and Coaches are properly affiliated and registered with Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. Liability insurance from Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association only extends to those participants who are properly affiliated and registered. Severe penalties exist for violations of this rule, including forfeiture and suspension.

### 5. Knowledge of Rules

Coaches are expected to know the Laws of the Game and any modifications of these Laws governing local rules of competition, as outlined in NVYSL Policies & Procedures.

### 6. Referees

Coaches who experience a serious disagreement with a Referee must keep quiet during the game. All Coaches are invited to complete an online Referee Evaluation after every game, to report both good and bad interactions with the Referee. All Referee reports are individually reviewed and routed to the appropriate Referee resources, as part of NVYSL's Referee continuing education program.

### 7. Sportsmanship

Coaches must insist on good sportsmanship at all times. NVYSL encourages teams to shake hands after every games. Coaches must participate in and monitor the handshake line to prevent unsportsmanlike actions by Players.

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## REFEREEING INFORMATION

1. The NVYSL Referee Assignor assigns all MTOC-eligible matches in each Spring season, consisting of all D1 and D2 games in Grade56, Grade78, and High School divisions.
2. Club Referee Assignors/Directors assign all games in the NVYSL Fall season, as well as all non-MTOC games in the Spring season (i.e., Grade56 and Grade 78 games in D3 and below; all Grade 34 games). During both Fall and Spring seasons, the Club Referee Assignors/Directors process any changes to the schedule (e.g., TBA and other rescheduled games).
3. Referees must ensure that their contact information is up to date in ArbiterSports. All game contact information is available in Arbiter's Game Details.
4. **The Referee's Club Referee Assignor/Director is their main point of contact. The Club Referee Assignor/Director can help answer questions about assignments, assessments, development, upgrading, and any other general Referee question.**
5. Any Referee who cannot officiate an assignment must notify their Club Referee Assignor/Director as soon as possible, even if a substitute has been identified. If the Referee cannot make direct contact with their Home Club Referee Assignor/Director, the Referee must establish contact with the Visiting Club Referee Assignor/Director, the Home Coach, and/or the Visiting Coach. The more notice the better!
6. NVYSL will not pay uncertified Referees. Only currently certified Referees registered in Arbiter may be scheduled to referee a game and be paid by NVYSL. The Referee must file an online game report in Arbiter within 48 hours after the game in order to be paid.
7. Referees must report all yellow cards, red cards, and other notable misconduct to the NVYSL Referee Paymaster. The Paymaster compiles and keeps records of all yellow and red cards issued, and issues misconduct reports to the NVYSL Board of Directors at regular intervals throughout each season.



# MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

# MTOC LEAGUES AGREEMENT

## 1) Inter-League Town/Club Movement

- a. Towns/Clubs may move between leagues subject to the following conditions: as a condition precedent to changing leagues, a town/club must have been a member of its current league for at least three seasonal\* years;
- b. the decision to accept a town/club rests solely with the league to which the town/club has applied for membership;
- c. the entire program of the town/club must be moved;
- d. written notification must be given to the current league prior to the start of a seasonal year (defined as September 1) for changes to take effect at the start of the subsequent seasonal year, but a shorter notice period may be acceptable if agreed to by both the transferor and transferee leagues;
- e. the transferring town/club must be in good financial standing with the league which they are leaving, with the Leagues Committee (LC) being the arbiter in instances of dispute; and,
- f. the town/club must maintain membership within the receiving league for a minimum of three complete seasonal years. (\*) = a "seasonal year" is defined as September 1 through August 31, annually.

## 2) Player Movement

### A. Intra-League:

1. Intra-league player transfers are governed by the bylaws and playing rules of each respective league.

### B. Inter-League:

1. Any player who wishes to transfer from one MTOC league to another MTOC league must have a written or emailed agreement from both town/club organizations and both league presidents for the transfer to be valid for MTOC eligible teams. (see inter-league player transfer process below);
2. If a team/club decides to accept a player in spite of the current town/club not approving the move, that team/club will not be eligible for MTOC play.
3. There are clubs that overlap with town programs. These have been long-standing organizations previously recognized by their league. These clubs are considered grandfathered and can continue to operate within their league as they have in the past and still be MTOC eligible.
4. Inter-league player transfers from an MTOC-eligible league to another MTOC-eligible league roster are not permitted (are 'frozen') after April 30th of each seasonal soccer year.

## 3) Inter-League Transfer Procedure:

A request for an inter-league transfer may only be initiated by an official of the requesting town or soccer club organization ('requesting organization'). Requests initiated by parents, coaches or players will not be considered. Players are free to play on any team, subject to the approval of whatever local entity has governance authority for that team. Any team with a player who has not secured a needed inter-league transfer approval may not represent their league in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions competition.

The inter-league transfer process involves a sequential series of steps. A 'no' at any step in the process terminates the approval request process.

Any request for an inter-league transfer must include the following information:

- The name and date of birth of the player;
- The current town (club) and league affiliation of the player in question;
- The league affiliation, town, team and coach's name of the requesting organization; and,
- The reason(s) the inter-league transfer is being requested.

Step 1: The requesting organization must first check with their home league (the receiving league') to assure that the receiving league would ultimately approve any such requested player transfer.

Step 2: The requesting organization contacts the town organization that would be losing the player (the 'ceding organization') to have it sign off on releasing the player from their town or club program.

Step 3: The requesting organization contacts the league that would be losing the player (the 'ceding league') to have it sign off on releasing the player from their league.

Step 4: The requesting organization contacts the receiving league to receive final approval to have the inter-league transfer completed.

The sequential steps of the inter-league transfer process should be completed electronically if possible. However, before any approved transfer will be considered complete, each of the four parties should have the document showing all 4 presidents have approved the transfer.

#### **4) Roster Composition:**

In affirming the importance of providing community-based soccer opportunities for youth players, roster composition of MTOC-eligible teams from member leagues will conform to the following standards:

For Grade 8 and younger: To be eligible for MTOC play, at least 75% of the players on a town's/club's submitted roster must be from that same league's recognized town/club organization. The LC must approve any exceptions to this requirement.

For Grade 10 and older: recognizing that the difficulty in forming teams increases as the player become older, town organizations/clubs may collaborate to create appropriately competitive soccer opportunities where they might not otherwise exist.

In every instance, these collaborative teams must:

1. be registered with a member town/club organization of the league they are representing;
2. must completely adhere to the LC intra-league and inter-league player movement agreements;
3. must play a regular league schedule within a MTOC-affiliated league;
4. 75% of rostered players must come from within the sponsoring league; and,
5. all players must be properly affiliated with the state association.

Also, effective with the spring 2016 season, there is no longer a prohibition against dual rostering. Players may be rostered to a club or open team and a MTOC eligible team concurrently; however, players may not be rostered to two MTOC-eligible teams concurrently.

The LC must approve any exceptions to any of these requirements.

#### **5) Roster Submission and "Freeze Dates":**

The Roster Freeze date is May 15th for all Rosters of MTOC Teams.

For Grade 5/6: Rosters may include up to 16 players for all teams playing in MTOC eligible divisions.

For Grade 7/8 and older teams: Rosters may include up to 22 players but, for MTOC tournament play, a game day roster of 18 must be presented at registration.

Each MTOC eligible league's registrar will provide a certified roster copy of all teams qualifying to represent their league at MTOC. It is the responsibility of each league president to have these rosters delivered to the MTOC registration staff prior to the start of play of the tournament.

#### **6) MTOC Draw and League Responsibilities**

Initial MTOC draw by LC Town Club Presidents is done at the March LC meeting unless cancelled, and then at the discretion of the LC Chair.

In order for a league to be eligible for a wild card slot for a specific Gender/Grade/Division, that league must have a minimum of 4 teams completing in league play for that current season. Exceptions may be granted by the LC for the PG groups.

Each League is required to fill assigned slots for the MTOC, and is responsible for paying for those slots assigned to them as of June 1. Failure to fill the slot at MTOC will result in a fine to the league of \$1,000 per slot.

#### **7) Referee Payment**

Any MTOC-eligible league wishing to change its referee payment amount must notify the LC. The LC will review current levels of referee payments annually with the intent of maintaining relative parity among leagues.

*Mass Youth Soccer Leagues Committee, May 2019*

# MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## PLAYER TEAM PRIORITY

### Guidelines for Multiple-Rostered Players

Mass Youth Soccer has developed a comprehensive set of guidelines for players who are multiple rostered. These guidelines apply to all State Team players (regardless of age) rostered on any other team, and to all multiple rostered players aged U14 and younger, but not to non-State Team players U15 and above. These guidelines provide players, coaches, and parents with a set of expectations for players rostered to multiple teams. They have been developed with input from representatives of all types and levels of play within the state, to enable players to rise to their highest level of soccer while affording them access to all levels of play, and to eliminate such questions as "Who do I play for?" "Which practice should I attend?" or "What team should I play with on a tournament weekend?" These priorities are to be respected and adhered to by all of the various soccer interests that compete for a player's attention and time.

**In general, a player's priorities are as follows:**

1. **Major tournaments**
2. **State Team tryouts (except Sunday afternoons in NSL seasons)**
3. **Regularly scheduled league games**
4. **Make-up games**
5. **Practices**

There are variations in priority based on playing season, so please understand each category and how they interrelate.

#### **Soccer Activity Priority List**

1. Regional ODP Tournaments
2. State Cup Tournament
3. MTOC and Qualifying Games
4. State Team Tryouts in summer, fall (other than on Sunday afternoons) and winter seasons only. Try-out dates must also be established and available through the State Office at least one month in advance.

#### **Major Tournament Priority**

1. Regional ODP tournament (after Memorial Day)
2. State Cup
3. MTOC and qualifying games
4. All other tournaments: Players should alternate attendance when there is a conflict
5. On major national holiday weekends:
  - Memorial Day: Priority goes to Select non-town teams
  - Columbus Day: Priority goes to town teams

#### **Games Priority**

1. State Team – Summer only
2. Premier (NSL, MASC) Teams – all year for any games scheduled from 11:00 a.m. on Sunday until dusk
3. MTOC Eligible Town Teams – all year for any games scheduled from Friday afternoon to Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
4. State Team
5. Non-MTOC Town, or any fall teams other than Premier or winter team

#### **Tournament Priority**

1. State Team (summer only)
2. Premier (NSL, MASC) Teams – priority for Memorial Day Weekend only
3. Town Teams – priority for Columbus Day weekend only
4. All other tournaments – players are to alternate attendance in event of conflicts

#### **Practice Priority**

1. State Team – priority during the Spring season. State Team practice dates must be established and available through the State Office by at least March 15.
2. Premier (NSL, MASC) Team – Division 1 only
3. All other teams – players are to alternate attendance in event of schedule conflict

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

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## 1. ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC., hereafter referred to as NVYSL.

NVYSL is a non-profit corporation, affiliated with and complying with the authority of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (Mass Youth Soccer), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

To the extent permissible under applicable law and where deemed in service of NVYSL by its board, NVYSL constitution and bylaws shall be consistent with and shall abide by the articles of incorporation, constitution, bylaws, and all applicable rules and regulations of Mass Youth Soccer, USYSA and USSF.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

NVYSL is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including, but not

limited to, developing and promoting a vital and exciting youth soccer program for members of participating Clubs, regardless of race, gender, creed, color, nationality or disability. This will be accomplished through programs of organized competitive soccer play and programs designed to educate and develop players, coaches and referees. NVYSL will be responsible for setting policy objectives and providing for game scheduling, League rules, officials and League organization.

### **3. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

NVYSL shall be an association of soccer Clubs within the Nashoba Valley geographical area, including the following twenty-one (21) member organizations :

- AYER-SHIRLEY YOUTH SOCCER (serving Ayer, Shirley)
- BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
- BOLTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
- BOYLSTON YOUTH SOCCER
- CHAIR CITY SOCCER (serving Baldwinville, Gardner, Templeton)
- CLINTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
- FITCHBURG YOUTH SOCCER
- GROTON-DUNSTABLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB (serving Dunstable, Groton)
- HARVARD SOCCER CLUB (serving Harvard, Still River)
- HUDSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
- LEOMINSTER YOUTH SOCCER
- LITTLETON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB
- LUNENBURG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
- MAYNARD YOUTH SOCCER
- NASHOBA REGIONAL SOCCER ASSOCIATION (serving Lancaster, Stow)
- NORTH QUABBIN UNITED (serving Athol, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Royalston)
- OAKMONT OUTLAWS SOCCER CLUB (serving Ashburnham, Westminster)
- PEPPERELL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE ASSOCIATION
- STOW SOCCER CLUB
- TOWNSEND-ASHBY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (serving Ashby, Townsend)
- TYNGSBORO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

### **4. GOVERNANCE**

NVYSL shall be governed by its constitution, bylaws, and policies & procedures adopted by the NVYSL Board of Directors, as well as rules established by Mass Youth Soccer, USYSA and USSF.

The governing body of NVYSL will be the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the Board, comprised of the following members :

**(a) Fifteen (15) Officers**, consisting of the following positions :

President	Grade34 Boys Age Director
Vice President	Grade34 Girls Age Director

Secretary	Grade56 Boys Age Director
Treasurer	Grade56 Girls Age Director
Information Technology Director	Grade78 Boys Age Director
Referee Director	Grade78 Girls Age Director
Sportsmanship Director	High School Boys Age Director
	High School Girls Age Director

**(b) Twenty-one (21) At-Large Directors**, consisting of one NVYSL Representative per member Club.

The NVYSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in January of each calendar year, at a specific date to be determined by the Board. Officers shall be nominated and elected by the Clubs at the AGM. At-Large Directors shall be appointed by the Clubs at the AGM. At-Large Directors may be elected to serve as Officers, but may vote in only one capacity.

**5. TERM OF OFFICE**

Members of the Board shall take office effective immediately upon their election at the AGM, and shall serve in that capacity until the next AGM. Officers shall hold office for a one-year term and are eligible for re-election to a particular office for no more than four consecutive terms, effective October 6, 2019.

**6. BOARD DECISIONS**

Matters of procedure will be decided based on the current version of Robert’s Rules of Order in all cases in which they do not conflict with the constitution, bylaws, and/or policies & procedures of NVYSL, Mass Youth Soccer, USYSA and USSF.

One more than fifty percent of occupied Officer positions plus one more than fifty percent of occupied At-Large Director positions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board.

All matters of policy shall be decided by a simple majority vote, except as noted under "Amendments to Constitution".

**7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Public notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be sent to all voting members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Special General Meetings may be called by the Board as necessary or by the member Clubs. Member Clubs may call a Special General Meeting by written request to the President and signed by enough Clubs to represent 20% of the total votes.

Voting members at General Meetings (AGM or Special) shall be duly designated Club representatives and Board members. Each Board member shall have only one vote. Any person may vote in only one capacity. Each member Club shall have votes that are proportional

to the number of teams that were registered for play in the spring season immediately prior to the General Meeting (AGM or Special). The number of votes is as follows:

NUMBER OF TEAMS	VOTES
1-5	1
6-10	2
11-20	3
More than 20	4

Clubs that only participate in fall play will have one vote at the AGM. Clubs may vote by proxy, but at least one representative from the Club must be present to carry the Club's votes.

## **8. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **(a) Officers**

#### **PRESIDENT**

The President shall officially preside at all meetings; be Chairperson of the Board; be the official representative of NVYSL; be authorized to co-sign checks; vote only to break a tie at Board and General Meetings. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of President.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

The Vice President shall succeed to the office and powers of the President in her/his absence. S/he shall be Chairperson of the Protest Committee, shall be responsible for preparation of the spring and fall NVYSL booklets, and shall be authorized to co-sign checks. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Vice-President.

#### **SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence for NVYSL; keep detailed minutes of all Board and General Meetings; keep records as necessary; be responsible for public relations and correspond on behalf of NVYSL only with the knowledge and permission of the President. The Secretary shall also be responsible for updating changes in the Constitution and Bylaws, and for contributing to preparation of the NVYSL booklet. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Secretary.

#### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall have charge of all the finances of NVYSL. S/he shall report on the finances at all Board and General Meetings and shall submit and distribute a full written report of the financial transactions and the status of the finances at the AGM. S/he shall be authorized to co-sign checks. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Treasurer.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR**

The Information Technology (IT) Director shall be responsible for recommending and maintaining technology-based products and services to support the operation of NVYSL. The IT Director will solicit input and feedback from the membership, address outages or other issues as they arise, and coordinate with the treasurer to ensure services are duly budgeted and paid. New technology will be evaluated based on convenience and cost, with concern for security and the privacy of any non-public data entrusted to the league or its member Clubs. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of IT Director.

#### REFEREE DIRECTOR

The Referee Director shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and retaining referees to officiate in NVYSL. S/he shall work jointly with the referee directors of the member Clubs to provide support and development for all NVYSL referees. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Referee Director.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP DIRECTOR

The Sportsmanship Director shall preside at all sportsmanship review committee hearings, unless disqualified under the conflict of interest section of the sportsmanship review committee bylaw. The Sportsmanship Director shall schedule sportsmanship review committee hearings, select committee members, and invite involved parties. The Sportsmanship Director shall report all activity to the Board. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Sportsmanship Director.

#### AGE DIRECTORS

The NVYSL Age Directors shall have responsibility for the administration of the affairs of the NVYSL within their age divisions. This includes assigning Teams to flights, reporting scores, rescheduling matches, and keeping division statistics. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Age Director.

#### **(b) At-Large Directors**

At-Large Directors, consisting of a NVYSL Representative per member Club, shall be voting members of the Board who contribute to administration of league functions as appropriate.

#### **(c) Stipend Positions**

Stipend Positions shall receive compensation for executing league functions. Duties and responsibilities of Stipend Positions are as follows:

#### BOOKKEEPER

The Bookkeeper shall provide clerical and administrative support in the management of NVYSL financial transactions, under the guidance and approval of the Treasurer. The Bookkeeper shall manage accounts payable and accounts receivable functions; maintain an orderly filing system in accordance with accounting best practices and NVYSL policies and procedures; and conduct monthly reconciliations of all accounts to ensure their accuracy. The Bookkeeper shall assist the Treasurer in preparation of NVYSL budgets, financial statements, and external audits.



#### REFEREE ASSIGNOR

The Referee Assignor shall provide support and guidance to assignors of the member Clubs, and shall verify that all Club assignors are currently certified with US Soccer. The Referee Assignor shall work jointly with the Club assignors and the NVYSL Referee Director to verify that all NVYSL referees are currently certified with US Soccer; to develop the skill level of the referees; to ensure that referee rankings are accurate; and to promote the opportunity for referees to accept more challenging assignments as appropriate. The Referee Assignor shall track rejected assignments or turned back assignments, and provide the Board with a report of any serious assignment issues.

#### REFEREE PAYMASTER

The Referee Paymaster shall verify that referees completed their assignments, and shall facilitate referee payment by the Treasurer. The Referee Paymaster shall review referee game reports, compile instances of conduct violations and other anomalies, and report these incidents to the Board.

#### ROSTER REGISTRAR

The Roster Registrar shall be responsible for overseeing the roster submission/validation process and acting as liaison with Mass Youth Soccer regarding rosters. The Roster Registrar shall be responsible for interpreting NVYSL policies and Mass Youth Soccer roster requirements.

#### SCHEDULER

The Scheduler shall prepare and publish match schedules for all divisions of play, based upon team flight assignments obtained from the Age Directors.

### **9. CONDUCT**

The Board shall have the authority to suspend any player, coach, team, club official, or Club of the NVYSL whose conduct is considered detrimental to the league.

### **10. FINANCIAL POLICY**

#### **(a) Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31 of each year.

#### **(b) Budget**

A balanced budget for the forthcoming year shall be prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Board before the start of registration. The budget shall be prepared on a per team basis with registration fees established to ensure that the expenses will be covered.

#### **(c) Bank Accounts**

All moneys shall be promptly deposited in either a savings or a checking account in the NVYSL's name.

**(d) Expenditures**

Funds shall be spent only in the interest of the NVYSL. All moneys shall be paid when due. Checks written for budgeted expenses shall require only one authorized signature. Checks written for any non-budgeted expenses over \$500 shall require two authorized signatures. Major, non-budgeted expenses over \$250 from any individual or corporation shall require approval by a majority of the Board.

**11. RULES OF PLAY**

Any and all NVYSL sponsored competitions shall abide by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game, except as provided by USYSA and its affiliates.

Youth players in established age groups may play soccer under the auspices of NVYSL in accordance with the rules of the NVYSL's player development program applicable to such age groups as provided by Mass Youth Soccer.

**12. OTHER MATTERS**

The Board shall have the power to deal with any matters not explicitly covered by the Bylaws.

**13. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

The NVYSL Constitution, or any section thereof, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting. Notice of any proposed changes shall be sent to each member Club and each Board Member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which such proposed changes shall be submitted to a vote.

**14. ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution was first approved at a General Meeting on December 18, 1984 and last amended on January 11, 2022.

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS

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## SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS [UPDATED JAN2020]

**1.01 : Name**

The name of this corporation is Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League, Inc., and shall herein be referred to as "the corporation."

**1.02 : Offices**

The principal business office of the corporation shall be in Massachusetts. The corporation may also have offices at such other places as the corporation may require.

**1.03 : Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31 of each year.

**1.04 : No Voting Members**

The corporation shall have no voting members. All powers of the corporation shall be held by the board of directors. Any action or vote required or permitted by any law, rule, or regulation to be taken by members shall be taken by action or vote of the same percentage of the board of directors of the corporation. No person now or hereafter designated by the corporation as a "member" for fundraising or other purposes shall be or be deemed to be a member for purposes of the Articles of Organization or Bylaws of the corporation nor shall such person have any voting or fiduciary rights or responsibilities of the corporation.

**1.05 : Clubs in Good Standing**

A NVYSL member Club is in good standing with the League if :

- a) the Club has satisfied all its financial obligations to Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League; and
- b) the Club has satisfied all its financial obligations to Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association; and
- c) the Club is not under suspension by NVYSL.

If a Club is not in good standing at the date of completion of the scheduled spring season, then Teams from that Club are not eligible to represent NVYSL in any tournaments (e.g., MTOC), and a replacement Team(s) shall be selected from the other Teams in the division in accordance with League Standings Policy.

**SECTION 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSES [UPDATED JAN2020]**

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including, but not limited to, developing and promoting a vital and exciting youth soccer program for members of participating Clubs, regardless of race, gender, creed, color, nationality or disability; aiding young soccer players in the development and improvement of soccer skills; and teaching and promoting physical, mental and moral development, fair and honest competition, and good sportsmanship. The corporation may, as permitted by law, engage in any and all activities in furtherance of, related to, or incidental to these purposes which may lawfully be carried on by a corporation formed under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts and which are not inconsistent with the corporation's qualification as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code.

## **SECTION 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS [UPDATED JAN2020]**

### **3.01 : Authority**

The business and affairs of the corporation shall be controlled and governed by the board of directors, which shall have the right to exercise all powers of the corporation as permitted by law.

### **3.02 : Composition**

The number of directors and the manner by which new directors are nominated and appointed shall be determined by the directors.

### **3.03 : Terms of Office**

The board of directors shall determine the length and number of terms to be served by directors.

### **3.04 : Meetings**

The board of directors shall hold annual meetings each year and may select the time and place for annual and other meetings of the board. Other meetings of the board of directors may be called by the president or by a majority of the directors then in office by delivering notice in writing, of the date, time, place, and purpose of such meeting, to all directors at least three (3) days in advance of such meeting.

### **3.05 : Notice in Writing**

Whenever notice in writing to one or more directors is required under these bylaws, and unless otherwise provided by applicable law, such notice may be delivered by hand-delivery, express or overnight delivery service, by regular mail, or by electronic mail ("email"), to the most recent physical or email address provided by that director, and it shall be the responsibility of each director to provide a current physical and email address to the secretary of the corporation and to update his/her addresses promptly when changes are made.

### **3.06 : Quorum and Voting**

At any meeting of the board of directors at which a quorum is present, a majority of those directors present shall decide any matter, unless a different vote is specified by law, the Articles of Organization, or these Bylaws.

### **3.07 : Meetings by Remote Communication**

One or more directors may attend any annual, regular, special, or committee meeting of the board through telephonic, electronic, or other means of communication by which all directors have the ability to fully and equally participate in all discussions and voting on a substantially simultaneous basis. Such participation shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

### **3.08 : Action without a Meeting**

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any board meeting may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, shall be signed by all of the directors with respect to such subject matter. Such consent, which may be signed in

counterparts, shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the board of directors.

### **3.09 : Waiver of Notice for Meetings**

Whenever any notice of a meeting is required to be given to any director under the Articles of Organization, these bylaws, or the laws of Massachusetts, a waiver of notice in writing signed by the director, whether before or after the time of the meeting, shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice.

### **3.10 : Committees**

The board of directors may create such standing and special committees as it determines to be in the best interest of the corporation. The board of directors shall determine the duties, powers, and composition of such committees, except that the board shall not delegate to such committees those powers which by law may not be delegated. Each such committee shall submit to the board of directors at such meetings as the board may designate, a report of the actions and recommendations of such committees for consideration and approval by the board of directors. Any committee may be terminated at any time by the board of directors.

### **3.11 : Compensation**

Directors as such shall not receive any compensation for their services on the board, but directors shall not be precluded from serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving reasonable compensation.

### **3.12 : Resignation**

Any director may resign by delivering a written resignation to the corporation at its principal office or to the president or secretary. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt unless it is specified to be effective at some later time.

### **3.13 : Removal**

Any director may be removed, with or without assignment of cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the entire board of directors at any meeting of the board of directors. No member of the board shall be removed from office unless the notice of the meeting at which removal is to be considered states such purpose and opportunity to be heard at such meeting is given to the director whose removal is sought. Notwithstanding the notice provision of Section 3.4 above, written notice shall be delivered to all directors at least fourteen (14) days in advance of a meeting at which removal is sought.

### **3.14 : Vacancies**

Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors shall be filled by the board of directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

## **SECTION 4. OFFICERS [UPDATED JAN2020]**

### **4.01 : Officers**

The officers of the corporation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer of the board of directors and such other officers as may be elected in accordance with the

provisions of this Article.

#### **4.02 : Election**

The officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by the board of directors at the annual meeting. Each officer shall hold office until a successor shall have been elected and qualified.

#### **4.03 : Vacancies**

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled by the board of directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

#### **4.04 : Removal**

Any officer may be removed, with or without assignment of cause, by a vote of a majority of the entire board of directors at any meeting of the board of directors. No officer shall be removed from office unless the notice of the meeting at which removal is to be considered states such purpose and opportunity to be heard at such meeting is given to the officer whose removal is sought. Notwithstanding the notice provision of Section 3.04 above, written notice shall be delivered to all directors at least fourteen (14) days in advance of a meeting at which removal is sought.

### **SECTION 5. CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS [UPDATED JAN2020]**

#### **5.01 : Contracts**

The board of directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined by specific instances.

#### **5.02 : Indebtedness**

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by the president or treasurer, or such other officer or agent of the corporation as from time to time may be determined by the board of directors. In the absence of such determination of the board, such instruments shall be signed by the president or treasurer of the corporation.

#### **5.03 : Deposits**

All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, brokerages, or other depositories as the board of directors shall select.

#### **5.04 : Contributions**

The board of directors or any authorized officer or agent may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the corporation.

## **SECTION 6. BOOKS AND RECORDS [UPDATED JAN2020]**

The corporation shall keep at the principal office of the corporation correct and complete books and records of account; minutes of the proceedings of board of directors; and a register of the names and addresses of the directors of the corporation. All books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any director, or agent or attorney thereof, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

## **SECTION 7. RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES [UPDATED JAN2020]**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the corporation. Except to the extent permitted by the Internal Revenue Code, whether pursuant to an election under Section 501(h) or otherwise, no substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, and the corporation shall neither participate nor intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, neither the corporation nor any director, officer, employee, agent, or any other representative of the corporation shall carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## **SECTION 8. DISSOLUTION [UPDATED JAN2020]**

In the event of dissolution of the corporation, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation to the extent assets of the corporation permit, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation, as the board of directors shall determine, in such manner as required by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) and in accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## **SECTION 9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [UPDATED JAN2020]**

Whenever a director or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested directors determine that it is in the best interest of the corporation to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention and rationale for approval.



#### **SECTION 10. PERSONAL LIABILITY [UPDATED JAN2020]**

No officer or director of the corporation shall be personally liable to the corporation for monetary damages for or arising out of a breach of fiduciary duty as an officer or director notwithstanding any provision of law imposing such liability; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not eliminate or limit the liability of an officer or director to the extent that such liability is imposed by applicable law (i) for a breach of the officer's or director's duty of loyalty to the corporation, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, or (iii) for any transaction from which the officer or director derived an improper personal benefit.

#### **SECTION 11. INDEMNIFICATION [UPDATED JAN2020]**

The corporation shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as an officer or director of the corporation against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the corporation; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of directors who are not at that time parties to the proceeding.

The indemnification provided hereunder shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of persons entitled to indemnification hereunder. The right of indemnification under this Section shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which any person may be entitled.

This Section constitutes a contract between the corporation and the indemnified persons. No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Section which adversely affects the right of an indemnified person under this Section shall apply to such person with respect to those acts or omissions which occurred at any time prior to such amendment or repeal.

#### **SECTION 12. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS [UPDATED JAN2020]**

The NVYSL Bylaws, or any section thereof, may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting. Notice of any proposed changes shall be sent to each member Club and each Board Member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which such proposed changes shall be submitted to a vote. These NVYSL Bylaws were last amended on January 12, 2020.

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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## **SECTION 1. PARTICIPANT SAFETY**

The objective of NVYSL, as described in our Constitution, is to promote a vital soccer program designed to educate and develop Players, Coaches and Referees. As part of this mission, NVYSL affirms its commitment to policies, procedures, programs and events designed to promote, nurture, and safeguard the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of all participants in our NVYSL community: Players, Coaches, Referees, Spectators, Administrators and all personnel involved with our member organizations.

NVYSL member organizations should follow Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association health and safety guidelines and policies in order to protect the health and well-being of all participants. All Club Risk Managers, directors, and coaches should be familiar with the safety policies posted on the Mass Youth Soccer website: <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/>. If there is a conflict between Mass Youth Soccer and NVYSL safety policies, Mass Youth Soccer policies shall take precedence.

## **SECTION 2. LEAGUE OPERATIONS**

### **Chapter 1 : LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

#### **2.1.01 : Expectations of Clubs**

- 1) Promote good sportsmanship.
- 2) Do not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players or spectators.
- 3) Promote good soccer through the development of ball and game skills.

- 4) Maintain rosters.
- 5) Provide a list of potential candidates for voting and nonvoting members of the Board.
- 6) For the FALL playing season, ensure that all players on all teams play at least half of each game. For all Rec teams, ensure that all players play at least half of each game in both the Fall AND Spring seasons. Exceptions shall only be for injuries, sickness or discipline.
- 7) A player shall only play for one team in the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League.

### **2.1.02 : League Structure [Updated Mar2022]**

The NVYSL offers two categories of play. The Division 1 Group is for Grade 5/6 and older teams to compete to represent NVYSL at the MTOC Tournament in the spring season. The Recreational Group is Non-Outcome based play for Grade 3/4 and Outcome based for Grade 5/6 and older. In the event there are an insufficient number of teams registered for the Division 1 Group, a blended Division 1/Division 2 Group may be formed by combining the Division 1 Group teams with the Division 2 teams from the Recreational Group. In the spring season, Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8 teams in a blended Division 1/Division 2 Group adhere to Division 1 Group policies.

- 1) Recreational Group play is offered for Grade 3/4
- 2) Division 1 Group and Recreational Group play are offered for Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8
- 3) Division 1 Group play is offered for Grades JV (grades 9/10/11) and Varsity (grades 11/12/PG) in the spring season.

### **2.1.02(a) Team Selection to MTOC [Updated Mar2022]**

MTOC teams from the Division 1 Group are sent to MTOC as selected by a post-season playoff after the regular season. All Division 1 Group teams that do not qualify for the MTOC playoff may play in the Nashoba Cup.

Division 2 teams are eligible to play in the Nashoba Cup.

In a blended Division 1/Division 2 Group, those teams are eligible to be selected for MTOC under this policy. This sub-section applies to the Spring division placement and standings.

### **2.1.03 : Age Grouping**

For the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 playing seasons, players shall be grouped as follows:

- 1) Under 19 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 2) Under 18 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 3) Under 16 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 4) Under 14 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 5) Under 12 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 6) Under 10 years of age on 31 July 2016

To meet US Youth Soccer and Mass. Youth Soccer requirements, no exceptions will be approved to permit players older than the given age to play in any age group except that:

- 1) An age exception may be granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act, subject to formal documented proof
- 2) The NVYSL Roster Registrar may grant an age waiver (at the request of a town only) to a child who is grade-appropriate for the age group but is otherwise too old for the age group, subject to two conditions:
  - (a) The team on which the child plays is placed in Division 3 (Recreational); AND
  - (b) The age group in which the child is playing is U-14 or younger.

For purposes of determining grade-appropriateness, a child who is not age-appropriate must be in Grade 8 or below to play in U-14, Grade 6 or below to play in U-12, or Grade 4 or below to play in U-10.

## **Chapter 2 : ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.2.01 : Team Eligibility**

#### **2.2.01(a) Residency**

At least 75 percent of the players on a team must reside in towns served by NVYSL for the team to be eligible for NVYSL play. For the purpose of team residency, a school choice player is considered to be a resident of the town where the choice school is located.

#### **2.2.01(b) Responsibility of Club and Coach for Team Eligibility**

The club and coach of a NVYSL team are responsible for verifying that the team is in compliance with these team eligibility rules.

### **2.2.02 : Coach Eligibility**

A head coach MUST be at least 18 years of age by the date of the first match played by his or her team at the start of the season.

A head coach or assistant coach cannot also be a player on his or her team.

A person younger than 18 years of age may be rostered as an assistant coach of a team on which he or she is not a rostered player.

An affiliated adult, at least 18 years of age, must be present on the team sideline at each match played by a team. In the event that the team has no rostered adult coach available for a match, an adult affiliated with the team's club may serve as the responsible coach for the match. This adult must present evidence of his/her club affiliation to the match referee by means of a coach passcard from another team, a roster from another team with said adult as coach, or a driver's license matching the name and address of one of the club officials shown in the current NVYSL book. For purposes of this by-law, "affiliated" also means formally affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer.

A team that does not meet these requirements for its coach cannot play in the NVYSL.

### **2.2.03 : Player Eligibility [Updated Mar2022]**

#### **2.2.03(a) Residency**

A player is eligible for a NVYSL team of a member club if he/she meets any ONE of the following criteria:

- a) The player resides in the town(s)\* served by the NVYSL club.
- b) The player is a full time student at a school located in the town(s)\* served by the NVYSL club.
- c) If a player resides in a town which has no soccer club, or which does not offer play in the player's gender/age group during the season under consideration, or which does not have an open roster slot in the player's gender/age group, said player may freely choose any team in the state.
- d) If a player has played for NVYSL teams of a NVYSL club for at least the last two consecutive playing seasons of that NVYSL club, he/she is eligible to continue playing for that club.
- e) An Under-15-and older player who resides in a town served by a multi-town regional high school may play for a team in any town served by the school. Specific exclusions from multi-town schools include charter schools, vocational high schools, and private high schools.
- f) A player who plays on a high school team for a school different than his/her own through an MIAA-sanctioned cooperative arrangement may play on the team of the town where the school is located.

In all cases except criterion (a) above, supporting documentation, as stipulated by the NVYSL Board, must be submitted with the team roster. In particular, if a player resides in a town outside the NVYSL, then a written release must be obtained from both :

- 1) the President of the soccer club that serves that town; AND
- 2) the President of the soccer League that serves that town.

#### **2.2.03(b) NVYSL Multi-Town Clubs [Updated Mar2022]**

NVYSL clubs serve only the town in which they are located unless they are defined by NVYSL to be Multi-Town Clubs. The NVYSL Multi-Town Clubs are :

<b>Athol</b>	serves	Athol , Orange , Royston , Petersham , New Salem
<b>Ayer-Shirley</b>	serves	Ayer , Shirley
<b>Chair City</b>	serves	Baldwinville , Gardner, Phillipston, Templeton
<b>Groton-Dunstable</b>	serves	Groton , Dunstable
<b>Harvard</b>	serves	Harvard , Still River
<b>Nashoba United</b>	serves	Lancaster, Stow
<b>Oakmont</b>	serves	Ashburnham , Westminster
<b>Townsend-Ashby</b>	serves	Townsend , Ashby

The intent of the Player Eligibility by-law is to protect the interests and choices afforded to a player, not to give a club a claim to a player.

**2.2.03(c) Single Team Rostering in NVYSL [Updated Mar2022]**

A player may not be rostered on more than one NVYSL team at any given time. A player may not be rostered on a NVYSL Division1 (or blended Division1/Division 2) Group team and an MTOC-eligible team from another League at any given time.

**2.2.03(d) Dual Rostering on Select Club Teams**

Per current Mass Youth Soccer rules, an NVYSL player Grade7/8 or younger may be dual rostered on a Region One, New England Premiership, MAPLE or MASC team. NVYSL players Grade 9 and older cannot be dual rostered on a Region One, New England Premiership, MAPLE or MASC team, or any team declared for the Massachusetts State Cup, or any team playing in a league whose champion gains direct placement in the US Youth Soccer Region One Championship Tournament. A Region One, MAPLE, New England Premiership or MASC player Grade7/8 or younger may be rostered on any NVYSL team, regardless of the age of the NVYSL team.. Mass Youth Soccer rules supercede this section.

**2.2.03(e) Responsibility of Club and Coach for Player Eligibility**

The club and coach of a NVYSL team are responsible for being aware and making the players aware of all League eligibility rules. The club and coach are also responsible for verifying that all players on the team are in compliance with these rules.

**2.2.04 : Teams Playing Unregistered or Ineligible Players**

If a team is determined to have played an unregistered player or registered player not eligible to play on that team for any game, the minimum "penalty/sanction" to be assessed by the League shall be the following :

- 1) The game or games involving the unregistered or ineligible player shall be forfeited and the League forfeit fine shall be assessed for each game.
- 2) The town shall be assessed an additional \$50.00 fine.
- 3) The player shall be suspended from the next game, following notification by the Board, if it is determined that the player “knowingly” played as an unregistered or ineligible player.
- 4) And the coach shall be suspended from the next game, following notification by the Board, if it is determined that the coach knew of the player’s unregistered or ineligible status beforehand.
- 5) In the SPRING season three (3) points shall be deducted from the team’s point count used to determine League standings.

The Board may assess a more severe penalty or impose sanctions against the player, coach, team, and/or club as the Board deems appropriate after investigating the facts of the situation.

**Chapter 3 : TEAM REGISTRATION & PLACEMENT**

**2.3.01 : Team Registration Process**

The NVYSL team registration process consists of the following series of events according to the NVYSL calendar for the current season :

### **2.3.01(a) Preliminary Team Registration Date**

Each member club submits its preliminary list of teams along with any requests for exceptions to the League placement rules. This provides both the League and the member clubs a clear picture of which competitions are viable and of any exceptions to the placement the League must consider. The League will review all waiver requests and inform the clubs of their decisions prior to the final team registration.

### **2.3.01(b) Final Team Registration Date**

Each member club submits its final list of teams and field assignments.

### **2.3.01(c) Late Team Registration**

A team may only be added after the Final Team Registration Date with League approval. If a Grade5/6-or-older team is added after the final registration date, then an additional \$250 late registration fee per added team shall be assessed. The late registration fee for a Grade3/4 team is \$125. These fees cover penalties and any rescheduling costs.

### **2.3.01(d) Late Team Withdrawal**

If a club withdraws a Grade5/6-or-older team after the Final Team Registration Date, then a \$500 late withdrawal fee shall be assessed for each withdrawn team. The late withdrawal fee for a Grade3/4 team is \$250. These fees cover penalties and any rescheduling costs. The registration payment shall be returned to the club.

### **2.3.01(e) Initial Roster Submission Date**

This is the date on which teams are required to submit their initial team rosters to the League for certification. If a valid initial team roster is not received by the League Roster Registrar by this date, then a \$25 late roster submission fee shall be assessed for each team that is late. A valid roster must have (1) the minimum number of players for a match and (2) a coach.

### **2.3.01(f) Club Affiliation Date**

Each club must be affiliated by Mass Youth Soccer before any of its teams are permitted to participate in NVYSL matches. If a club is not affiliated on or before the Club Affiliation Date, then that club shall be assessed a \$100 fine. If a club is not affiliated before its first scheduled League game, then that club shall be assessed an additional \$200 fine. In addition, the club shall be placed on League probation for the next two seasons of League competition. If a second offense occurs in either of the next two seasons during the probation period, then the Sportsmanship Review Committee will determine an appropriate action.

### **2.3.01(g) Final Fee Payment Date**

Each club must have all its registration fees and past fines paid in full before they will be permitted to participate in NVYSL matches. If a club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in full on or before the Final Fee Payment Date, then that club shall be assessed a \$100 late payment fee. If a club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in full before its first scheduled League game, then that club shall be assessed an additional \$200 fine. In addition, the club shall be placed on League probation for the next two seasons of League competition.

## **2.3.02 : Competition Committee**

### **2.3.02(a) Purpose**

The purpose of the Competition Committee is to provide the most even competition among teams.

### **2.3.02(b) Membership**

The Competition Committee will be composed of the President, Team Registrar, Roster Registrar, and the Age Directors, and others knowledgeable of the sport and the league, who will be appointed by the President.. Age Directors will make recommendations regarding team placement decisions. The President will serve as chairperson. Member clubs will be informed of placements different than originally requested on a timely basis, and have the opportunity to appeal placements.

## **2.3.03 : Team Placement [Updated Mar2022]**

Clubs may submit teams in any Group that is offered. A minimum of four teams will be required to have regular

competition in each Group unless the Board makes a specific exception. In the event there is an insufficient number of teams registered in a Group, the Competition Committee or respective Age Director may blend or combine teams from multiple Groups together to form a Group large enough to have regular competition. For example, if there are an insufficient number of teams in Division 1 Group, the teams from Division 1 Group and Division 2 Recreational Group may be combined to form a blended Division 1/Division 2 Group.

The Recreational Group may be divided into two or more Flights, nominally enumerated Divisions 2 to 5, and, if necessary, sub-Flights to provide competitive balance within the Flight or sub-Flight.

Grade 3/4 teams will be placed in flights by the Grade 3/4 Directors based on previous records to provide the most even competition. MTOC teams will be placed in the Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) Group by the Competition Committee based on the team records the previous spring and previous fall and any other information deemed appropriate by the Competition Committee. The placement of MTOC teams in flights within the Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) Group will be by random draw. Grade 5/6 and older Recreational Group teams will be placed in flights as determined by the Age Director and the Competition Committee. In the Recreational Group, consideration will be given to a club request to place multiple club teams in separate flights.

#### **2.3.04 : Team Commitment**

Any team refusing to play in a playoff, or refusing to represent the NVYSL in a post season tournament (MTOC or other league-sponsored tournament entry) will forfeit its right to the division championship and to all awards.

If NVYSL suffers a monetary loss for such default by its tournament team, the team's town or club organization will be required to make good for the loss. Said loss may include fines levied on the NVYSL for non-participation of its team, tournament entry fees and fines imposed by the tournament sponsoring organization for match forfeits.

The Competition Committee may impose additional sanctions after review.

## **Chapter 4 : TEAM ROSTERS**

### **2.4.01 : Valid Team Rosters [Updated Mar2022]**

#### **2.4.01(a) Roster Requirements**

A roster is valid if it is typed, with players' names on the roster in alphabetical order by last name, and includes :

- 1) the Registrar's signature.
- 2) the official Registrar title.
- 3) the date of the validation.

In addition, blank lines for additional players shall be crossed out.

Coaches are responsible for making sure that the correct player numbers appear on the rosters for each game. Player numbers may be either handwritten or typed on rosters.

If processed by a town/club registrar, a copy of the validated roster shall be submitted to the League Roster Registrar before the roster can be used in a league match.

Only players on the roster at the time of validation are permitted to play.

#### **2.4.01(b) Roster Size [Updated Mar2017]**

For 11v11 play the maximum size for a team is 22.

For 9v9 play the maximum size for a team is 16.

For 7v7 play the maximum size for a team is 12.

#### **2.4.01(c) Permissible Roster Changes [Updated Mar2022]**

For Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) Group teams in the spring season, no over-age players are



permitted and there are no exceptions to the maximum roster size of 22. For Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) Group teams in the spring season, three roster deletions (dropping a player from the roster) may be made during the playing season, prior to the roster freeze date established by NVYSL. If a roster has fewer than the maximum number of players on it, players may be added at any time prior to the roster freeze date.

For Recreational Group teams, players may be added to, dropped from, or transferred between teams at any time during the season in accordance with the League Bylaws.

#### **2.4.01(d) Validation of Roster Changes**

For Grade5/6 and older, all rosters and roster changes must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar.

For Grade3/4, the original roster must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. Any Grade3/4 roster changes involving an extra player, an over-age player, or a non-resident player must still be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. All other normal roster changes must be validated by the town/club Registrar.

#### **2.4.02 : Team Rosters for Games [Updated Mar2020]**

The coach must provide two (2) validated copies of his team roster to the referee prior to each NVYSL match. Only players named on a valid team roster may play. See Policy 2.4.01 : Valid Team Rosters.

If a coach is unable to present an NVYSL-approved roster, then before the match may begin, a temporary roster including the name and date of birth of each player must be prepared. This roster will be sent to the NVYSL Roster Registrar for player eligibility verification.

#### **2.4.03 : Player Pass Program [Updated Aug2021]**

The NVYSL Player Pass Program enables flexibility in Player personnel movements on a per-match basis, while respecting the sanctity and integrity of the NVYSL Approved Roster. A Host Team may for one game at a time host a Guest Player from another Team in their Club, subject to the following conditions :

##### **2.4.04(a) Requirements for Host Teams**

- The Host Team carries no more than THREE (3) Guest Players for any particular match.

##### **2.4.04(b) Requirements for Guest Players [Updated Aug2021]**

- Each Guest Player will play no more than TWO (2) NVYSL matches in one day.
- Each Guest Player is currently rostered on another NVYSL Team within the same Club, at an age group and/or division level equivalent to or below the level of the Host Team. Divisions 1 and 2 will be considered equivalent, and Divisions 3, 4, and 5 will be considered equivalent.
- A Guest Player may participate in a Player Pass no more than THREE (3) times during a season.

##### **2.4.04(c) Player Pass Procedure**

Any Host Team intending to invoke a Player Pass must obtain approval from their Club Registrar (or designee), who will notify the NVYSL Roster Registrar and the appropriate NVYSL Age Director that a Player Pass is being used.

During Player check-in, the Host Team's Coach must present the Referee with the following documents :

- copies of the Host Team's standard NVYSL Approved Roster, with absent Players clearly marked;
- copies of all NVYSL Approved Rosters from which Guest Players are being drawn, with Guest Player(s) clearly marked;
- a completed NVYSL Player Pass form.

Following the match, the Referee will document use of a Player Pass in their Game Report.

##### **2.4.04(d) Misconduct**

- Any Team determined to have violated or abused the Player Pass Policy will have their Player Pass privileges revoked for the remainder of that season.
- Any Club with multiple Teams found in violation of the Player Pass Policy will have their Player Pass privileges revoked for all Teams in that Club for the remainder of that season.

## **Chapter 5 : RESCHEDULING**

### **2.5.01 : Game Time Changes [Updated Dec2015]**

Games must be played as scheduled except as provided below:

#### **2.5.01(a) Mutual Agreement of Opposing Coaches**

Game time may be changed by mutual agreement of coaches, but only after the change has been approved by the Age Director. Any game time changes must have mutual agreement of the coaches and approval of the Age Director at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the match. Within 10 days of the match, it must be played as scheduled. Game time may not be changed by mutual agreement of the coaches for Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate scheduled games in the spring season.

#### **2.5.01(b) Unplayable Field Conditions**

This will be allowed within 24 hours and up to 2 hours before the scheduled time of the game. The host town/club shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the visiting coach of any such changes.

#### **2.5.01(c) Rescheduling**

If a match must be postponed due to weather or unavailable field, the coaches must agree on a makeup date and time, then the home team must secure a playable field, take responsibility for contacting the referee assignor, and notify the NVYSL Age Director. For spring season MTOC matches, both teams must notify the NVYSL Age Director at least 72 hours before the rescheduled date/time.

#### **2.5.01(d) Easter Weekend/Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur**

This will be allowed up to 1 week in advance of the scheduled time of the game. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.

#### **2.5.01(e) Columbus Day Weekend**

Rescheduled games will be allowed as a matter of right to allow teams to participate in Columbus Day weekend tournaments. This will be allowed up to 10 days in advance of the scheduled time of the game.

#### **2.5.01(f) Memorial Day Weekend**

This will be allowed up to 1 week in advance of the rescheduled time of the game. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.

#### **2.5.01(g) Grade3/4, Grade5/6, and Grade7/8 Conflicts with Academic or Religious Events**

A team will be permitted to reschedule a match due to a conflict with either an academic or religious event provided that the town/team involved completes the necessary schedule and game time changes by the start of season play. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director and the opposing team coach prior to the start of the season, or the match must be played as scheduled. Examples include required and planned school functions outside of normal school hours, academic-related events (e.g. College Board testing, National Merit Scholarship testing), and religious classes or events (e.g. C.C.D.). In the event of a late decision by school, religious, or other authorities to add or change the time of an event, the Age Director will decide how to resolve the schedule conflict.

#### **2.5.01(h) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate Game Time Changes in the Spring Season**

Game time change of a scheduled game by mutual agreement of coaches (paragraph 2.5.01(a)) is not permitted. The game must be played as scheduled unless the field is unplayable. If a game is not played and the field is playable, then a forfeit shall be assessed to the team or teams that cannot field a team for that game.

#### **2.5.01(i) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate Game Time Change requests prior to the start of the Spring Season. [Updated Dec2015]**

For the Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate teams that play on Sunday, two schedule change requests per

team will be permitted by the NVYSL Board. One acceptable change request can be for High School Graduation. This must be submitted with the final registration. A second acceptable request can be for an official school date. This bylaw covers organized school trips such as Band trips, Chorus trips, Senior Class trips, and trips to another country. The request must be submitted to the NVYSL Team Registrar prior to the start of the season. The request must include the reason and the number of players affected.

#### **2.5.02 : Make-Up Games**

All missed games shall be rescheduled within one week of their scheduled date. A rescheduled game shall be played within two weeks of the originally scheduled date unless otherwise approved by the Division Director.

Each age group will have a designated day of the week to make up its games. These days are as follows;

- a) Grade3/4 - Monday
- b) Grade5/6 - Tuesday
- c) Grade7/8 - Wednesday
- d) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate – Saturday

If the coaches can mutually agree on a different day, it will be acceptable as long as the game is played within the two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Any conflicts shall be discussed with the Division Director.

TBAs will be assigned throughout the regular schedule in flights with an odd number of teams. A TBA should be played within two weeks of its scheduled date. A TBA can be played prior to its scheduled date if agreeable to both coaches.

The Division Directors and Board (if necessary) will address exceptions to this rule and make appropriate adjustments if necessary. For the spring season, Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate games will be scheduled for Saturday to eliminate TBAs.

#### **2.5.03 : Replay of Abandoned Games**

If a game is abandoned before it has been completed due to sudden inclement or dangerous weather, that game shall be re-scheduled as a make-up game and replayed in its entirety unless BOTH coaches agree to accept the result of the partially played game as final. If a game is abandoned due to fracas or other inappropriate conduct by players, coaches, or spectators, the Chairman of the Competition Committee (League President) will decide whether or not the game is to be replayed.

## **Chapter 6 : STANDINGS & TIEBREAKERS**

### **2.6.01 : League Standings and Game Score Reporting [Updated Aug2021]**

#### **2.6.01(a) Spring Season**

League standings and game score records will be kept during the spring season. A team shall receive three (3) points in the standings for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. Standings points will be deducted for Yellow Card/Red Card/Ejections as described elsewhere in these Bylaws. Each Age Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of both game scores and Division standings. The town (club) has the responsibility of sending a game report for all games scheduled for the previous week by the following Tuesday via the NVYSL web site score reporting procedure.

#### **2.6.01(b) MTOC Group Tiebreakers for a Spot in NCup tournament**

If two teams are tied for a spot in the Nashoba Cup Tournament, then the winner will be determined by a one game playoff at a date and time arranged by the Age Director.

If there are more than two teams tied for a spot in the Nashoba Cup Tournament, there will be a series of games played to determine the representative. For example, if three teams were tied, two of the teams would play each other and the winner of that game would play the third team. The winner of that second game would be the representative.

The ORDER of play will be decided by the tie breaker procedure for seeding above. For example, in the case of the three-way tie, if one of the three teams had beaten the other two during the season (head-to-head), that team would play the winner of a game between the other two teams. If there was no clear cut head-to-head winner, then the team with greatest goal differential would play the winner of a game between the other two teams. If a tie for highest goal differential occurred then the team with the least goals allowed would play the winner of a game between the other two teams. If a tie for least goals allowed occurred, then a coin toss would be used to decide the order.

#### **2.6.01(c) MTOC Group seeding for Nashoba Cup Tournament**

The teams will be seeded in the NCUP in accordance with their season records and the tie breaker procedure for seeding, if necessary. For all NCup matches, the higher seeded team will provide will be the home team.

The tie breaking procedure for seeding is :

- 1) Winner of head-to-head competition
- 2) Total goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) with a maximum differential of 4 goals per match
- 3) Least goals allowed
- 4) Coin Toss

Note that in the above tie breaking procedure, all games that count in the standings will be used. In case of a forfeit, the game score shall be 4-0.

#### **2.6.01(d) MTOC Group [Updated Mar2016]**

NVYSL representative(s) to the MTOC Tournament will be based on results of play in the end-of-season NVYSL NCup Tournament. Team eligibility, seedings, policies and procedures for the NVYSL NCup Tournament are available on the NCup Information page on the NVYSL website at: <http://www.nvysl.org/NCup.php>.

#### **2.6.01(e) Breaking Ties in Playoff or Tournament Matches**

If a playoff or tournament game is tied at the end of regulation play, then, for Grade7/8 and below, two 10 minute overtime periods shall be played, for Grade 9 and above, two 15 minute overtime periods shall be played. The teams shall switch ends at the end of regulation play. The teams shall again switch ends after the first overtime period and kick off immediately. There is no break between overtime periods. Both overtime periods will be played to their full duration. If the score remains tied after the completion of both overtime periods, then FIFA rules for penalty kicks shall be used to determine the winner.

#### **2.6.01(f) Fall Season**

Records of game scores will be kept during the fall season. These will be used for fall midseason team placement correction, if necessary, and as inputs to spring team placement, where appropriate. Each Age Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of game scores.

#### **2.6.01(g) Game Score Reporting**

The town/club shall post to the NVYSL web site the scores for all games within 72 hours of their completion. The town shall report all matches NOT played within 72 hours of their scheduled playing time. For each week that the game report is not received on time or is not complete, the town/club shall be fined \$25.00.

If a game report is not received within one week of the scheduled game date, one of the following actions will be taken :

- a) If one team has reported the score, that score shall be recorded as the final result.
- b) If neither team has reported a score, the game will not be recorded and neither team will receive points in the standings. In addition, each team will be assessed the forfeiture fee at the Division Director's discretion.

#### **2.6.01(h) Excessive and Unreasonable Goal Differentials [Updated Aug2021]**

NVYSL values competitive balance between Teams in a flight as a vehicle of its commitment to fostering player development and good sportsmanship. NVYSL further recognizes potent negative consequences that excessive scoring can exert on all parties involved in a match. Therefore, NVYSL relies on Coaches to mitigate competitive imbalances during matches by actively and aggressively pursuing measures to prevent excessive scoring.

An EXCESSIVE Goal Differential (EGD) is defined as the winning team scoring greater than or equal to seven ( $\geq 7$ ) goals more than the losing team. That is, the maximum goal differential limit without being considered Excessive is 6.

Instances of EGD will trigger email notifications to the Age Director, as well as the Coaches and Club Officials of both Teams involved in the match. NVYSL Age Directors will investigate instances of EGD, including but not limited to, requiring written reports from all involved Coaches describing the context of the excessive scoring. If the NVYSL Age Director determines an EGD match constitutes a sportsmanship violation, the matter will be escalated to the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer for review and possible action against the Coach, Team, or Club.

If the instance of EGD is a sportsmanship violation and is the second or more EGD match by the team within the season, regardless if the previous instance was determined to be a sportsmanship violation, the Head Coach (or designee, if the Head Coach was absent) of the offending Team will serve a suspension from their next match unless the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer determines there were extenuating circumstances that warrants other action.

### **2.6.02 : Protests**

Protests relating to a specific game may only be lodged by a coach or manager of a team playing in the game. Protests must be in writing and must be sent to the Protest Officer, with the protest fee of \$100, within 48 hours following the playing of the match. The fee will be refunded only if the protest is upheld. Any protest of a championship match must be initiated by notifying the referee or a League officer on the field at the end of the match. Protests will be accepted for hearing only for games played in the spring season in the MTOC regular season, playoffs, and tournaments.

The outcome of a match may be protested after it has been played only if either :

- a) There was an incorrect application of the Laws of the Game or Rules of NVYSL for a specific incident which directly affected the outcome of the match; OR
- b) A team plays an ineligible player.

A judgment call by the referee cannot be protested. Claims of referee bias or non-neutrality cannot be protested.

Protests relating to the grounds, goals or other appurtenances of the match will not be considered unless an objection has been lodged with the match referee BEFORE the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of the objection, if this be possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

### **2.6.03 : Protest Committee**

#### **2.6.03(a) Purpose**

The purpose of the Protest Committee is to rule on all protests and to determine the disposition of abandoned matches.

#### **2.6.03(b) Membership**

The Protest Committee will be chaired by the Vice President (who is the NVYSL Protest Officer) and must have at least two other members chosen by the chairperson.

#### **2.6.03(c) Procedure**

The chairperson, when notified of a protest, shall cause the committee to fact find and, if necessary, hold a hearing. Deliberations and a final decision will be made in closed session. A decision shall be rendered within 14 days of receipt of all required written material. All Protest Committee actions shall be reported in writing and sent to the parties involved, the President, the Secretary, the Referee Director and the Division Director. The Protest Committee shall report any activity at the next NVYSL Board meeting.

#### **2.6.03(d) Conflict of Interest**

A member of the Protest Committee shall be disqualified from deliberating or ruling on a particular protest if that member :

- a) was involved in the game as a coach or referee;
- b) is the spouse of an involved coach or referee;
- c) has a child playing on one of the teams involved; OR
- d) is from a town or association so involved.

The President shall appoint acting members to serve in the place of those disqualified.

**2.6.03(e) Appeal**

A decision of the Protest Committee may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer.

**SECTION 3. RULES OF COMPETITION**

**Chapter 1 : UNIVERSAL**

**3.1.01 : Rules of Play**

Current FIFA International Laws of the Game shall govern play with exceptions as noted. Coaches and other interested parties may obtain an electronic copy of the Laws from the referee section of the US Soccer Federation web site, <http://www.ussoccer.com>.

**3.1.02 : Ball Sizes**

- a) Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : Size 5
- b) Grade9/10: Size 5
- c) Grade7/8 : Size 5
- d) Grade5/6 : Size 4
- e) Grade3/4 : Size 4

**3.1.03 : Uniforms and Equipment**

Players on a team shall wear uniquely numbered shirts of the same color. Numbers shall be a minimum of 6" high and clearly visible. In the event of two teams of the same color playing, it is the responsibility of the AWAY team to bring shirts of a different color.

Cutoffs, jams, and visible boxer shorts are not allowed. Sweats, spandex, etc., are only allowed if weather or medical conditions dictate their use. NO JEWELRY (this also means studs) is permitted and wrist bands must be removed or taped.

Hard casts or splints on arms, legs, wrists, or fingers are not allowed. Referees have no latitude regarding casts and splints. Knee or elbow braces with exposed metal must be covered by protective padding.

Each player must wear shinguards or he/she will not be allowed to play.

**3.1.04 : Playing Periods [Updated Aug2016]**

- a) High School Rec : Two 35 minute halves
- b) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : Two 40 minute halves
- c) Grade7/8 : Two 35 minute halves
- d) Grade3/4 and Grade5/6 : Two 30 minute halves

The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.

**3.1.05 : Game Times [Updated Aug2021]**

**3.1.05(a) Saturday**

- a) Girls Grade3/4 : 9:00 AM
- b) Boys Grade3/4 : 10:30 AM
- c) Girls Grade5/6 : 12:00 PM
- d) Boys Grade5/6 : 1:30 PM

- e) Girls Grade7/8 : 3:00 PM
- f) Boys Grade7/8 : 4:30 PM
- g) High School (Grade9/10/11, Grade11/12/Post-Graduate) : 6:00 PM or earlier w/mutual agreement

### **3.1.05(b) Sunday**

High School (Grade9/10/11, Grade11/12/Post-Graduate) : 1:00 PM or 3:00 PM or 5:00 PM

Matches may be scheduled at different times than above to deal with lack of available fields or to make up a postponed match.

### **3.1.06 : Stoppage for Player Rehydration [Updated Jul2015]**

In conditions of high heat and humidity, the referee may stop play for 1 minute per half to allow the participants to rehydrate. Such stoppages may be initiated by the referee directly or pursuant to a request by either coach.

### **3.1.07 : Team and Spectator Location**

The home team shall be allowed to select the touchline where the teams are to be located. Eligible coaches and players of both teams shall be located on the same touchline. Spectators of both teams shall be located outside the opposite touchline. Spectators are not permitted behind goal areas or lines. All coaches, spectators, and players not on the field shall remain at least 3 feet behind the touchline. When possible, the home club is encouraged to paint additional dashed lines a minimum 3 feet outside the touchlines on both sides of the field. If there is a marked team technical area, coaches and players not involved in active play must remain within its confines. The exceptions are player substitutions and a coach attending to an injured player on the field with permission by the referee to enter the field. This Bylaw shall apply unless physically impossible as determined by the referee.

### **3.1.08 : Substitutions [Updated Mar2016]**

Substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the Rules and Regulations for a special competition. A substitution may take place at any stoppage of play, with permission from the Referee. The substitution rules apply to all NVYSL age groups and levels of play.

## **Chapter 2 : 11v11 FORMAT**

### **3.2.01 : Minimum Number of Players for 11v11 Competition**

In eleven versus eleven (11v11) competition, a team shall have at least seven (7) players including the goalkeeper on the field at all times or forfeit the game.

### **3.2.02 : Limited Heading in Grade 7/8 [Updated Mar2016]**

Consistent with the 'Recognize to Recover (R2R)' Player Health & Safety Campaign announced by USSF in December 2015, and further adopted by MYSA in March 2016, NVYSL requires that heading training in the Grade 7/8 Divisions be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week, with no more than 15-20 headers per Player per week. Grade 7/8 Players are permitted to head the ball without limit during matches.

## **Chapter 3 : 9v9 FORMAT**

### **3.3.01 : Modified Rules for 9v9 Play in Grade 5/6 Division [Updated Oct2021]**

#### **3.3.01(a) THE FIELD OF PLAY**

The Field of Play for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 70 yards long (Touch Line) by approximately 55 yards wide (Goal Line).

The Field of Play shall have the following markings :

- 1) Halfway Line with a Center Mark at its midpoint
- 2) Center Circle with a radius of approximately 8 yards from the Center Mark

- 3) Penalty Area marked by two lines drawn at right angles to the Goal Line, approximately 14 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for approximately 14 yards and joined by a Penalty Line drawn parallel with the Goal Line.
- 4) Penalty Mark drawn 10 yards from the midpoint between the goalposts.
- 5) An arc of a circle with a radius of approximately 8 yards from the Penalty Mark drawn outside the Penalty Line.
- 6) Goal Area marked by two lines drawn at right angles to the Goal Line, approximately 6 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for approximately 6 yards and joined by a line drawn parallel with the Goal Line.

### **3.3.01(b) GOALS**

The Goals for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 6 feet tall by approximately 6 yards wide, where available. Goals must be firmly secured to the ground.

### **3.3.01(c) THE BALL**

The Ball for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall be Size #4.

### **3.3.01(d) NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

Each Team must field no fewer than SEVEN (7) and no more than NINE (9) Players in order for a 9v9 match in the Grade 5/6 Division to begin or continue. One Player on each Team must be a Goalkeeper.

A Team is permitted to willingly and intentionally play shorthanded with fewer than NINE (9) but no fewer than SEVEN (7) Players, one of whom must be a Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size for the Grade 5/6 Division is 15 Players.

### **3.3.01(e) DURATION OF PLAY**

All 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall consist of two 30 minute halves, with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

### **3.3.01(f) 8-YARD RULE**

Opposing Players shall be at least 8 yards from the ball on the kickoff, corner kicks, direct kicks, and indirect free kicks, rather than 10 yards as normally required for 11v11 play.

### **3.3.01(g) GOALKEEPER DISTRIBUTION**

After a Goalkeeper takes possession and distributes the ball (e.g., by throw, punt, dropkick, etc.), the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to entering the Penalty Area of the opposing Team, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.

### **3.3.01(h) GOAL KICK [Updated Oct2021]**

The Goal Kick shall be taken from anywhere in the Goal Area. Opposing Players must stand outside the Penalty Area until the ball is in play, or the Goal Kick shall be retaken. After the Goal Kick is put in play, the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to entering the Penalty Area of the opposing Team, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.

### **3.3.01(i) NO HEADING IN MATCHES IN THE Grade 5/6 DIVISION [Updated Mar2016]**

NVYSL prohibits heading by Players during matches in the Grade 5/6 Division. Coaches are permitted to train Players in the Grade 5/6 Division proper technique for heading the ball only during practice, and must ensure that training is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per Player per week. Referees shall penalize any Player who deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball by awarding an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the spot of the infraction. If the heading infraction is committed by a defending Player inside the Goal Area or the Penalty Area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the point on the Penalty Line nearest the spot of the infraction. An apparent goal scored as a result of deliberate heading shall be disallowed.



## **Chapter 4 : 7v7 FORMAT**

### **3.4.01 : Modified Rules for 7v7 Play in Grade 3/4 Division [Updated Oct2021]**

#### **3.4.01(a) THE FIELD OF PLAY**

The Field of Play for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 60 yards long (Touch Line) by approximately 50 yards wide (Goal Line).

The Field of Play shall have the following markings :

- 1) Halfway Line with a Center Mark at its midpoint
- 2) Center Circle with a radius of approximately 8 yards from the Center Mark
- 3) Penalty Area marked by a Penalty Line extending from one Touch Line to the other, approximately 12 yards from and parallel to the Goal Line. No Goal Area is required.
- 4) Penalty Mark drawn approximately 9 yards from the midpoint between the goalposts.

#### **3.4.01(b) GOALS**

The Goals for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 6 feet tall by approximately 4 yards wide, where available. Goals must be firmly secured to the ground.

#### **3.4.01(c) THE BALL**

The Ball for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall be Size #4.

#### **3.4.01(d) NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

Each Team must field no fewer than FIVE (5) and no more than SEVEN (7) Players in order for a 7v7 match in the Grade 3/4 Division to begin or continue. One Player on each Team must be a Goalkeeper.

A Team is permitted to willingly and intentionally play shorthanded with fewer than SEVEN (7) but no fewer than FIVE(5) Players, one of whom must be a Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size for the Grade3/4 Division is 11 Players.

#### **3.4.01(e) DURATION OF PLAY**

All 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall consist of two 30 minute halves, with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

#### **3.4.01(f) 8-YARD RULE**

Opposing Players shall be at least 8 yards from the ball on the kickoff, corner kicks, direct kicks, and indirect free kicks, rather than 10 yards as normally required for 11v11 play.

#### **3.4.01(g) PENALTY KICK**

A Penalty Kick shall be taken from a stationary ball placed at the Penalty Mark within the Penalty Area. All Players except the Goalkeeper and Kicker must be outside the Penalty Area until the ball is kicked.

#### **3.4.01(h) GOALKEEPER DISTRIBUTION**

After a Goalkeeper takes possession and distributes the ball (e.g., by throw, punt, dropkick, etc.), the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to entering the Penalty Area of the opposing Team, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.

#### **3.4.01(i) GOAL KICK [Updated Oct2021]**

The Goal Kick shall be taken from anywhere in the Penalty Area, up to and including the Penalty Line. Opposing Players must stand no closer than the Halfway Line until the Goal Kick is taken, or the Goal Kick is re-taken. After the Goal Kick is put in play, the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to entering the Penalty Area of the opposing Team, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.

#### **3.4.01(j) INDIRECT KICKS**

Indirect kicks by the offensive Team due to a foul by the defense within the Penalty Area shall be taken from the point on the Penalty Line nearest the spot of the infraction.

### **3.4.01(k) DROP BALLS**

A drop ball due to an event within the Penalty Area shall be taken from the point on the Penalty Line nearest the spot of the infraction.

### **3.4.01(l) OFFSIDE LAW**

The Offside Law shall be enforced only for 7v7 matches in the Rec1 Flight of the Grade 3/4 Division. The Offside Law shall not apply in any other matches in the Grade 3/4 Division.

### **3.4.01(m) NO HEADING [Updated Mar2016]**

NVYSL prohibits heading by Players in in the Grade 3/4 Division. Coaches must not instruct, encourage, or permit Players in the Grade 3/4 Division to head the ball during any practice, match, or other soccer activity. Referees shall penalize any Player who deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball by awarding an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the spot of the infraction. If the heading infraction is committed by a defending Player inside the Penalty Area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the point on the Penalty Line nearest the spot of the infraction. An apparent goal scored as a result of deliberate heading shall be disallowed.

## **SECTION 4. REFEREES**

### **Chapter 1 : PROTOCOL**

#### **4.1.01 : Referees**

Referees attain certification by successfully completing a course run by the Massachusetts State Referee Committee, or other recognized USSF organizations and maintain certification for the current calendar year through annual recertification courses.

Either a one-person system or a three-person system shall be used for League games. The two-person system used by some non-FIFA leagues MUST NOT be used. If there are only two referees available, their roles are center referee and assistant referee. If the two-person system is used, the result of the match will not count in the standings.

In accordance with FIFA laws of the game the referee may stop, suspend, or terminate (abandon) a match. The referee may restart a match after it has been stopped or suspended. The referee may not restart a match after it has been terminated (abandoned). The referee must report the circumstances of an abandoned match to the Competition Committee Chairman (League President).

Referee quality is an important factor to the success of our program. The proper channel to submit constructive comments to the Nashoba Valley Soccer Referee Director is to use the Referee Evaluation Form found on the NVYSL web site at [www.nvysl.org](http://www.nvysl.org). The Referee Evaluation Form cannot serve as the basis for a match protest.

#### **4.1.02 : Referee Assignors**

Each member NVYSL town club must have a certified Referee Assignor whose duties are to assign referees as required. The NVYSL Referee Assignor must also be certified. Referee assignors attain certification by successfully completing a course run by the Massachusetts State Referee Committee, and maintain certification through annual recertification courses.

#### **4.1.03 : Referee Pool**

Each club, through its Town Referee Assignor, is expected to contribute referees to the NVYSL referee pool, and to encourage the recruitment and development of referees.

#### **4.1.04 : Referee Assignment – Town of Residence**

Referees are paid professionals expected to maintain their neutrality toward the teams on the field, regardless of town of residence of the referee.

## **Chapter 2 : PROCESS**

### **4.2.01 : Referee Assignment – Responsibility [Updated Jan2017]**

#### **4.2.01(a) Fall Season**

In the FALL season, the home club Referee Assignor assigns referees to all scheduled games, TBA games, and makeup games.

#### **4.2.01(b) Spring Season [Updated Jan2017]**

##### League Assignor:

- a) All regular season matches for the high school age groups
- b) Post- season playoff matches
- c) All tournaments and jamborees
- d) Assist Home Club Assignors upon request

##### Home Club Assignor:

- a) All regular season matches for grade 7/8 and younger age groups
- b) Rescheduled matches and TBAs

### **4.2.02 : Referee No-Shows**

If the scheduled referee does not show up at the field for the match, the opposing coaches have the following options.

- a) Agree on a single substitute referee for the entire match and the match counts in the standings.
- b) Do not play the match and set a make-up date.

If the match is played with a substitute referee, then no protests will be heard on the judgment or decisions of the substitute referee.

Matches officiated by non-certified referees are neither sanctioned nor permitted. The NVYSL will not pay uncertified referees and it will not reimburse town clubs for assigning them.

Coaches must report ALL referee no-shows to the responsible NVYSL age director as soon as is practical.

### **4.2.03 : Referee Pre-Match Responsibilities**

The center referee is responsible for making sure that the field is in a safe condition prior to the start of a match, checking that goals are properly anchored against tipping over and making sure that the entire playing surface is safe.

The center referee is responsible for checking in each team prior to the start of the match, and may delegate check-in to available assistant referees. Roster check-in includes verifying the coaches' names, checking off the name of each player present, assuring that the correct uniform numbers are recorded for each player, and, in MTOC flights, verifying that the photos on passcards match the person shown on the roster. Any exceptions must be noted by the referee with submittal of game card and rosters for payment. Physical player check-in requires that all players conform to the uniform and equipment bylaw.

### **4.2.04 : Referee Payment**

If a certified referee shows up at the field for a match for which he/she has been assigned, then that referee shall be paid whether or not the match is played.

NVYSL will not pay non-certified referees.

NVYSL will not pay referees who do friendly matches between two NVYSL teams. The referee(s) for friendly matches must be arranged by the participating clubs and paid by one or both of the participating clubs. In particular, if a NVYSL match is forfeited by one of the teams, then that NVYSL match has been "played" and a "makeup" match is deemed a friendly match.

Referee pay sheets are prepared by the League Referee Paymaster for Grade5/6 – Post-Graduate matches based on pay cards and team rosters submitted by the referee, and referees are paid in a timely manner. Referee payment for Grade3/4 matches is provided by the home team club in accordance with the pay scale established by the NVYSL Board.

## **Chapter 3 : SUPPORT**

### **4.3.01 : Referee Support**

The coaches shall support referees at all times :

- 1) Coaches are responsible for fan behavior. Any coach who does not comply with a referee's request to deal with a fan shall be issued a misconduct as deemed appropriate by the referee.
- 2) Any fan who verbally or physically assaults a referee prior to, during, or following a game will be subject to a review by the Sportsmanship Committee and may be prohibited from viewing games for a period deemed appropriate. The enforcement of this prohibition will be the responsibility of the town of the fan.
- 3) Any team/town that refuses to provide the name and address of a fan who verbally or physically assaulted the referee will be subject to review of the Sportsmanship Committee and may be denied play in NVYSL as a result of that review.
- 4) If a coach has a serious disagreement with a referee, he/she is expected to adhere to the NVYSL zero-tolerance bylaw before, during and after the game. The coach is expected to express his/her opinions about the referee, stating facts via a REFEREE EVALUATION found on the league website ([www.nvysl.org](http://www.nvysl.org)). The NVYSL Referee Director will evaluate referee evaluations and act accordingly. The coach is expected NOT to express his critical opinion outside of these channels, especially by means of emails and verbal communication.

### **4.3.02 : Referee Assessors and Referee Mentors**

The NVYSL fully supports the initiatives of the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC) to advance referees through formal referee assessments and informal referee mentoring sessions done by senior referees. At the request of any referee, the NVYSL Referee Director will collaborate with the MSRC to schedule an assessment of the referee during a match appropriate to the referee's ability, either as an assessment for upgrade or for a general critique. Referee assessors and referee mentors are observers at a field of play and they have no special standing to intervene in the proceedings of a match. If an assessor or referee mentor chooses to intervene due to a perceived safety issue, he/she is expected to do so with considerable discretion and tact.

### **4.3.03 : NVYSL Zero Tolerance Bylaw [Updated Nov2015]**

Every coach and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and has the potential to create a hostile environment for players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators. Consequently, NVYSL has adopted the following rule:

No coach or spectator is to address the referee during or after the game!

#### **4.3.03(a) Coaches - Allowable Exceptions [Updated Nov2015]**

- a) Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- b) Making substitutions
- c) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Minor Infraction - Referee should ignore
- 1st Serious Infraction - Caution or ejection depending on seriousness of infraction per FIFA
- 2nd Minor Infraction - A verbal warning
- 3rd Infraction - Caution
- 4th Infraction - Ejection

#### **4.3.03(b) Spectators –Allowable Exceptions**

- a) Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- b) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- 2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.
- 3rd Infraction - The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the field. If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report, and NVYSL may impose a forfeit on the spectator's team.

#### **4.3.03(c) Players**

Communications among players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game.

## **SECTION 5. MISCONDUCT**

### **Chapter 1 : PROCESS**

#### **5.1.01 : Sportsmanship Review Committee**

##### **5.1.01(a) Purpose**

The purpose of the Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC) is to promote good sportsmanship within NVYSL and to review issues of :

- a) Lack of sportsmanship
- b) Inappropriate conduct
- c) Unbecoming conduct
- d) Serious violation of the Constitution, Bylaws or NVYSL rules.

##### **5.1.01(b) Membership**

The SRC will be chaired by the Sportsmanship Review Officer and shall consist of at least three impartial members chosen by the Chairperson. Membership will have at least as many NVYSL board members as non-board members. Whenever possible, one or more members shall be from outside the NVYSL Board. The Chairperson shall vote only in cases where there is a tie.

##### **5.1.01(c) Procedure**

The Chairperson, when notified of a sportsmanship issue, and after fact finding, shall have the authority to suspend immediately the individual, team, or club pending a hearing by the SRC. The Chairperson shall schedule an SRC hearing after receiving written notification of the sportsmanship issue. Timely notice shall be communicated (at the same time) to all individuals and/or clubs involved. All parties involved will be invited to attend the hearing to present evidence and witnesses. Unless otherwise specified by the chairman, all documented evidence along with a list of attendees and witnesses shall be submitted to the Chairperson at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing. A final decision by the SRC shall be completed within 14 days of the hearing. All SRC actions shall be reported in writing and sent to the parties involved, the President, the Secretary, the Referee Director, and the Division Director. The SRC shall report any activity at the next NVYSL Board meeting.

##### **5.1.01(d) Conflict of Interest**

A member of the SRC shall be disqualified from deliberating or ruling on a particular issue if that member: was involved in the issue; is the spouse of an involved person; has a child playing on an involved team; or is from a town or association so involved. The Chairperson shall appoint acting members to serve in place of those disqualified.

##### **5.1.01(e) Penalties**

The SRC shall have the authority to suspend an individual, a team or a club, to reduce a team's points, or to take any other actions provided for in the Bylaws or Constitution.

### 5.1.01(f) Appeal

A decision of the SRC may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer.

### 5.1.02 : Unbecoming Conduct

Player, coach, referee, team or club behavior that is judged unbecoming or inappropriate shall be referred to the Sportsmanship Review Committee for review and action.

### 5.1.03 : Fracas

If two teams are involved in a fracas before, during, or after a match, the teams involved in the fracas will be subject to a mandatory sportsmanship review committee meeting. The findings may include (but are not limited to) suspensions of individual participants, financial penalties as described elsewhere in the NVYSL by-laws, and possible suspension of eligibility for any post-season tournaments in which they represent the NVYSL. For purposes of this by-law, a fracas is defined as a physical altercation involving more than two participants. A participant of a match is any one of the following classes of persons present at the field of play of an NVYSL match: player, coach, assistant coach, or spectator. If either a player or a coach is involved in a fracas, he/she will not be allowed to play/coach in the next game played by his/her team.

## Chapter 2 : INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

### 5.2.01 : Yellow Cards / Red Cards / Ejections

#### 5.2.01(a) Players

If a player receives a Yellow Card, or a Red Card, the actions detailed in the table below will take place :

In a Game	Action Required / Notes	Card Points <sup>d</sup>
1st Yellow Card	Player must leave field. <sup>a</sup> Player may return at the next substitution opportunity.	1
2nd Yellow Card	Player is shown a red card. Player must leave the field of play. <sup>b</sup> Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. <sup>c</sup> Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	1
Red Card (not as a result of two yellow cards)	Player must leave the field of play. <sup>b</sup> Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. <sup>c</sup> Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2

In a Season	Action Required / Notes	Card Points <sup>d</sup>
1st Yellow Card	Follow rules as above.	1
2nd Yellow Card	Follow rules as above.	1
3rd Yellow Card (No red card in same game)	Player may continue to play in that game. Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2 (2 for Red Card equivalent)
3rd Yellow Card (Red card in same game as a result of two yellow cards)	Player must leave the field of play. <sup>b</sup> Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. <sup>c</sup> Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2 (1 for each Yellow Card)
3rd Yellow Card (Red card in same game as result of separate sending off)	Player must leave the field of play <sup>2</sup> . Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game <sup>3</sup> . Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	3 (1 for Yellow Card + 2 for Red Card)

4th Yellow Card (regardless of red card status)	Player may continue to play in that game. Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	1
5th Yellow Card (and each subsequent, regardless of red card status)	Player may continue to play in that game. Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL. Sportsmanship Review Committee hearing must be held before player can participate in league games.	1
1st Red Card	Follow Rules as above	2
2nd Red Card	Player is prohibited from playing in the next two (2) matches for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2
3rd Red Card	Player is prohibited from playing for the remainder of the season for this team while representing the NVYSL. <sup>e</sup>	2 <sup>f</sup>

**NOTES :**

- a) Unless the number of players drops below the minimum number required to play.
- b) Player must remain at least 200 yards from the field for the remainder of the game and for 60 minutes following the game. Adult supervision of the player is required.
- c) One less player PER RED CARD. If the number of players drops below the required minimum to play, the team with not enough players will forfeit the match.
- d) No individual player may receive more than 3 card points in a game. See examples below.
- e) The season includes playoffs and tournament matches.
- f) If fewer than four (4) games remain for the current season, this prohibition extends through the first four (4) matches of the next season in which the player is eligible and rostered to compete within the NVYSL.

**5.2.01(b) Coaches**

If a coach (including assistant coach) is dismissed from a game, he/she must leave the entire field of play immediately. Ejected or suspended coaches must remain a minimum of 200 yards from the field from 60 minutes before the game until 60 minutes following the game. The ejected coach may not contact, communicate with, or send information to any players or coaching staff, by any means during the course of the game. In addition, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next TWO games played by his/her team.

If a coach accumulates TWO cautions in games from which he/she was not dismissed, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next game played by his/her team.

To eliminate any uncertainty about a referee's action toward a coach, the referee is advised to show a YELLOW card to a coach along with a verbal statement of caution, or a RED card along with a verbal statement of dismissal, as appropriate. Failure of the referee to show a yellow or red card will not be allowed as a basis for an appeal of the caution or dismissal of the coach.

**5.2.01(c) Card Points**

Card points shall be assessed as follows:

- 1) 1 card point for each yellow card issued to a player
- 2) 2 card points for each red card issued to a player
- 3) 2 card points for each caution / yellow card issued to a coach
- 4) 3 card points for each dismissal / red card issued to a coach

A team which receives a total of eight (8) card points within one season shall be penalized three (3) points in its division standings.

A team with twelve (12) card points shall be penalized an additional three (3) points in its standings.

A team with sixteen (16) card points shall be penalized an additional three (3) points in its standings and shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee for further disciplinary action.

#### **5.2.01(d) Suspensions**

Game suspensions apply and carry forward to all NVYSL-sanctioned games including any championship games (playoffs, MTOC, and Nashoba Cup games). If necessary, coach and player suspensions carry over to the next season in which a coach or player is active in the NVYSL.

#### **5.2.01(e) Sportsmanship Review**

The Sportsmanship Officer will review referee reports for all RED cards issued, and for cumulative YELLOW cards issued, to determine whether a Sportsmanship Review Committee hearing is necessary to consider further action.

#### **5.2.02 : Electronic or Mechanical Noisemakers**

Use of electronic or mechanical noisemakers during a match is prohibited. People who use noisemakers are showing their enthusiasm and support for their team, but the other team often sees these actions as unsporting behavior. A match referee has the option to stop a match and request that the coach of a team tell the team's fans to stop using noisemakers.

#### **5.2.03 : Late Arrivals**

Each team should arrive at the field at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the game. If either team is not prepared to take the field by 5 minutes after the scheduled start time or the availability of the field, that team shall forfeit with a 4-0 loss. If the team does arrive before the referee leaves the area, then the referee may conduct a shortened game (which will not count toward competitive standings, i.e., the forfeit stands), utilizing the time until the next scheduled game.

#### **5.2.04 : Forfeits**

A team that forfeits a game or games shall be fined as described below. This fee may be waived on a case by case basis by the League President. The fine is payable at the end of the season.

- 1) A team that plays at least 70 percent of its games shall be fined \$50 for each forfeited game.
- 2) A team that plays less than 70 percent of its games but at least 50 percent of its games shall be fined \$200.
- 3) A team that plays less than 50 percent of its games shall be fined \$500 and its club shall be placed on probation for the next two seasons. If a second offense occurs in either of the next two seasons during the probation period, then an appropriate action will be determined by the Sportsmanship Review Committee.





# NOTES

