



## 2026 MTOC PLAYOFF AND NASHOBA CUP TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

### General

- The Home Team is listed first in the match schedule.
- The Visiting Team will provide alternate jerseys if there is a color conflict.
- NVVSL Policies & Procedures shall be in force, except as stated below.
- Referees need to check in at the site registration table at least 20 minutes prior to their first match. Make sure you know your GameIDs for your matches.

### Responsibility

- NVVSL board members retain the authority and responsibility to modify the competition in order to determine (but not limited to) the following: length of matches, number of matches, finalists.
- Please respect decisions of NVVSL board members in the event that modifications are necessary.

### Team Credentials and Check-in

- Only coaches need to report to the team registration area in sufficient time before kickoff, where a designated NVVSL board member will conduct a roster/PlayerPass check. Referees are still required to do a roster and safety check at match time.
- Coaches must prominently display (as in wear) their Mass Youth Soccer Coach PRINTED credentials at all times during their attendance at MTOC Playoffs and NCup.
- Each Team will supply 1 copy of their NVVSL league-approved roster (and 1 copy of any PlayerPass roster an NCup division team may be using. PlayerPass is not allowed for MTOC divisions in this tournament) and the home team will provide a Referee Field Card to the referee for each match played, prior to the start of the match. Referee will check players in marking off players and coaches on the rosters as either here or not. The referee card and rosters will be collected after each match to be turned into the league officials at the pavilion. The scores for each half of regulation, each half of overtime and the PK tallies must be on the referee card, as well as any red/yellow cards issues must include team, player/coach name, #, card code and time. Referees are not required to submit reports to Arbiter for the tournament, the League Referee Director will do all the game reports in Arbiter played in this tournament.

### Match Duration

*Each match consists of two equal halves of 30 minutes long, with a 5 minute halftime. If a match ends in a tie, see "Extra Time Procedures" below.*



## **Extra Time Procedures - *When a match is tied at the end of regulation play:***

- There will be a 2 minute break between end of regulation play and start of extra time.
- The referee will conduct a coin toss for the away team. The winner of the toss chooses to defend a side or received the ball.
- Teams will play two extra 5 minute time periods.
- Teams will switch ends after the first extra time period and resume play immediately with another kickoff.
- Extra time periods will be played to completion, regardless of goals scored (i.e., NO "Golden Goal").
- If the match remains tied at the end of two extra time periods, the result will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark (KFTPM) according to the procedure below.

## **Procedure for Managing Penalty Kick Shoot-out**

- If a match is tied at the end of extra time, all Players on the field must remain on the field. Players on the bench at the conclusion of extra time may not enter the field and are not eligible to participate in the PKSO proceedings. No substitutions are permitted after the end of extra-time periods, except the goalkeeper. Coaches may provide drinks and other services to Players on the field.
- The Referee chooses which goal will be used for PKSO. The Referee tosses a coin to determine which team takes PKSO; the winner of the coin toss chooses to take PKSO first or second.
- All eligible Players except the Player taking the kick and the two Goalkeepers must remain inside the center circle.
- A Goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during PKSO is the only Player who may be substituted.
- Each kick is taken by a different eligible Player. All eligible Players must take a kick before any eligible Player can take a second kick.
- After FIVE (5) kicks are taken for each Team, the Team scoring the most goals will be declared the match winner. If the score is tied after both Teams have taken five kicks, PKSO continue until one Team has scored more goals than the other from the same number of kicks.
- The Referee and Assistant Referees shall manage PKSO in accordance with IFAB Law 10 (Determining the Outcome of a Match) and Law 14 (The Penalty Kick).
- Prior to start of PKSO, each team must provide a written list of players who are taking kicks in the order they will be taking the kicks.
- Each kick can only be taken after the referee blows the whistle. A kick taken before the referee signals with a whistle will be retaken.



## **Inclement Weather**

- Referees, site coordinators, and NVYSL board members will make decisions regarding safety of play.
- Teams are advised in the event of suspended matches to remain at the field site until a final decision has been made as to the abandonment of play.
- Reasonable efforts and time will be taken to allow suspended matches to be restarted.
- Per MYSA Weather Policy: If there is visible lightning or audible thunder, the match must be suspended and all participants are expected to seek shelter. A match can not be resumed until 30 minutes passes without the presence of lightning or thunder.

## **Restarts of Suspended Matches**

- If a match is suspended before completion due to sudden inclement or dangerous weather, that match will not be rescheduled if one-half of the match was played to completion. The result on the field will stand.

## **Protests**

- Protests must be submitted in writing to an NVYSL board member at the site along with a \$100 cash protest fee. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- Any protest must be filed within 30 minutes after the completion of the match in question. A protest of a championship match must be initiated by notifying the Referee or tournament official on the field at the conclusion of the match.
- Filed protests will comply with NVYSL Policies & Procedures.

## **Miscellaneous:**

- Current printed credentials are required per MYSA regulations, and must be worn at all times. Adults who do not have current printed credentials are not allowed on the player side during a match. Licenses or digital credentials are NOT allowed as substitutes for printed credentials.
- Follow our league hydration break policy. If a team has 1 or fewer substitutes, they may request a hydration break BEFORE the start of the match. If the Heat Index reaches 80 or higher per the OSHA app "HEAT", a hydration break is mandatory. Hydration breaks are maximum of 2 minutes running time, one per half, and at a stoppage of play near halfway through a half. No hydration breaks are to be taken during an overtime half.

## **Cautions and Ejections**

- Players, Coaches and Spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the Laws of the Game. NVYSL board members and tournament officials reserve the right to have spectators leave the field, the immediate parking area, and grounds surrounding a field.
- Displays of temper, dissent by word or action against opponents or referees are cause for ejection from the match and/or premises, and suspension from the Tournament.



- Coaches or Players receiving an ejection will be suspended for the remainder of the Tournament. Coaches or Players receiving two cautions at any time during the Tournament will be suspended for the remainder of the Tournament.
- Player yellow cards awarded during the regular season will not be carried forward to the Playoffs Tournament. Coach and Player suspensions still in effect at the end of the regular season will be served during the Playoffs or Tournament.
- Coach and Player suspensions awarded during NCup will carry forward to the MTOC Tournament.

## Casts, splints and jewelry

- Players with plaster or fiberglass casts or hard splints, **even if padded**, cannot play—even with the permission of a parent or medical approval. Players with orthopedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play.
- IFAB mandates; “All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, studs, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.” Wrist bands must be removed if possible and may be required to be taped at the referee’s discretion.
- Players with medical, religious, or cultural wearable items must have the item properly secured and protected (such as by taping down, covering, wrapping, or secured through other methods.) Medical information displayed on an item must stay observable.
- Please understand THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS, so do not make any, even if the coach is insistent. Please note any issues on the Referee Feld Card.

## Game Conduct during NVYSL Post Season Tournament

- Players, coaches and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and the SPIRIT of the game and its regulations. The NVYSL expects all players, coaches and spectators to uphold the spirit of ZERO TOLERANCE policies. Displays of TEMPER or DISSENT by word or action against opponents or referees are cause for ejection from the match, suspension from the Tournament and/or EJECTION from the Tournament Fields.
- No player ejected (red carded) may re-enter that match, nor may the player have a substitute. The ejected player must also remove him/herself well away from the general area of the match field. Players under the age of 18, must be accompanied by an adult while away from the field. It is the responsibility of the team’s coach(s) to enforce this. Any player ejected from a match will be ineligible to play in the team’s next match.
- Coaches receiving an EJECTION (Red Card, or 2 Yellow Cards in the same match) will be SUSPENDED regardless of the number of teams they are coaching for the REMAINDER of the Tournament.
- Each coach is responsible for his/her spectators’ behavior. Coaches should inform their spectators of the rules (i.e. behavior, spectator line, etc.). Each coach is expected to monitor his or her spectators and take corrective action if necessary. Each coach is expected to support the referee or tournament official if action against a spectator is required. Failure to comply may lead to the coach and team being EJECTED.