

ITEMS OF NOTE FOR FALL 2024 SEASON

Sportsmanship

NVYSL, its member Clubs and boards of directors are putting a greater emphasis on sportsmanship this Fall season.

Excessive Goal Differential - We now have firmer sanctions for Excessive Goal Differential (EGD) violations, yellow card, and red card violations for players and coaches

Sportsmanship and Referee Reporting - We have a new section on the score submittal page of the NVYSL Website for coaches to report such information.

Zero Tolerance/Codes of Conduct - The NVYSL Sportsmanship Committee will be adhering to the Mass Youth Soccer Zero Tolerance Policy, as well as the 4 Codes of Conduct from MYSA for Players', Referee's, Coach's, and Parents/Guardians/Spectators. Please be sure to notify your team to adhere to these policies or there could be consequences.

Field Marshal Initiative

Retaining referees has become a serious issue in soccer associations across the United States. There are several reasons, but the most chronic is the abuse from team officials and spectators towards referees. Abuse can come in many forms, but in particular, it is the verbal abuse which is persistent, personal, provocative and public regarding referees' on-field performance, leading referees to quit.

It is likely that a referee will make a mistake every game, but we have to encourage referees to learn and improve rather than insult or degrade their refereeing. The unacceptable behavior towards referees must be addressed as a priority.

NVYSL has adopted a Field Marshal Policy to work to mitigate these issues. See Policies and Procedures section 4.3.03 for more information.

Credentials and Rosters

Credentials – Credentials **MUST** be worn when participating in any NVYSL or affiliated club activity. If a coach does not have a credential they cannot be on the sideline with the players.

Rosters – One (1) printed roster must be given to the center referee prior to the playing of any sanctioned NVYSL match. Electronic copies WILL NOT be accepted. Hand written rosters may be accepted (fines may be imposed for extra processing effort by the NVYSL Roster Processor).

Match Times

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

Saturday Match			
	Grade 3/4	Grade 5/6	Grade 7/8
Girls	9:00am	12:00pm	3:00pm
Boys	10:30am	1:30pm	4:30pm

Score Reporting

All scores must be reported by clubs within 24-hours of the match. This includes Grade 3/4 matches as the scores are visible to NVYSL personnel for mid-season flight adjustments. This further includes matches not played due to weather, field conditions, forfeits, etc.

Mid-season Flight Reassignments

NVYSL Grade Directors strive to assign Teams into flights that optimize competitive balance. Based on outcomes from the first 4 matches, NVYSL Grade 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.

League Standings

Competition in the Grade 3/4 Division is purely developmental and is non-outcome based, therefore no scores or standings are published on the NVYSL Website for this age group. Standings for the older age groups are visible and tabulated.

Commitment to Social Justice

Anything that disenfranchises members of our community based on sex, race, religion, immigration status, gender identification (per Title 5), socioeconomics, disability, etc. is a direct insult against our constitutional mission. NVYSL rejects all Racism, hatred, intolerance, inequity, and violence.

In the Spring 2024 season there was a marked increase in the number of racial slurs used by players during games. This will not be tolerated by NVYSL and violators will be penalized to the fullest extent of the Policies and Procedures.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

In July 2020, US Soccer formed a DEI Council as part of an effort to foster a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and respect within the sport of soccer. Mass Youth Soccer and NVYSL embraces US Soccer's operating definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion. <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/usys-dei/>

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!