

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green, creating a dynamic and modern feel.

Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

Spring 2026 Preseason Coaches Meeting

Topics

- ▶ Grade Directors
- ▶ Constitutional Mission
- ▶ nvysl.org - Coaches Corner
- ▶ Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines
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 - ▶ Pre-Game Day
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Constitutional Mission

“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 Grade Directors



Grade	Age Director	Email Address
Boys Grade 3/4	Nick Anderson	nickg34direct@gmail.com
Boys Grade 5/6	Mike Reppucci	chaircitynvyslrep@gmail.com
Boys Grade 7/8	Mike Kirkland	mkirkland22@gmail.com
Girls Grade 3/4	Jeff Vodov	jvodov@gmail.com
Girls Grade 5/6	David Martin	dpmartin@juno.com
Girls Grade 7/8	Elaine Martin	davidandelainemartin@hotmail.com
Boys & Girls High School	Jeremy Edmondson	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com

Coaches Corner - www.nvysl.org

My NVYSL Parents & Players Coaches & Officials Referees Schedule & Standings About Report A Bug/Issue

Nashoba Valley Soccer League

The objective of the NVYSL is to develop and promote a vital and exciting youth soccer program among its participating clubs. This is accomplished through organized competitive soccer play and programs designed to educate and develop players, coaches and referees.

Quick actions View schedule

Hudson Youth Soccer Association
(Change)

Spring 2026 Pre-Season Meetings

Team Registration is now open for Spring 2026, and we are gearing up for another exciting season! The first games are scheduled for April 11.

Online meetings are planned for Coaches, Referees, and Assignors. If you fall into those categories, please use the links below to join a meeting.

NVYSL Assignors Meeting

Read more

Field Status

2026 Spring NVYSL Field Status : Field Closures

Club	4/11	4/12	Time of Update	If Some Open/Closed - Note any
Ayer-Shirley	Open	Open		
Berlin	Open	Open		
Bolton	Open	Open		
Boylston	Open	Open		

Coaches Corner

Quick Links:

- ▶ Pregame Procedure and Statement
- ▶ MYSA
 - ▶ MA Safe Soccer
 - ▶ Codes of Conduct
 - ▶ Adult Registration Process
 - ▶ Session Plans
 - ▶ Coach Education
 - ▶ Coaching Education Partners
 - ▶ De-escalation Tips & Techniques (webinar)



Coaches Corner

NVYSL

- ▶ League Contacts
- ▶ Organizational Documentation
- ▶ Checklist for NVYSL Coaches
- ▶ Player Pass Policy
- ▶ Team Manager & Roster
- ▶ Score Reporting & Referee/Sportsmanship Feedback Forms
- ▶ Stop Scoring Tips & Tricks
- ▶ Fall 2025 Coaches Meetings (slides)

Laws of the Game

- ▶ Laws of the Game
- ▶ Simplified Laws of the Game



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

Mass Youth Soccer has zero-tolerance for discrimination of any kind. The guidelines protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the following protected statuses: race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, veteran status.



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

Derogatory Language and Discriminatory Actions

Examples of derogatory language include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Sexually explicit statements, sexual flirtations, advances, propositions, subtle pressure for sexual activity, comments, jokes or anecdotes; *this type of language must be reported as sexual misconduct and, if it involves a minor, it must be reported as child abuse.*
- ▶ Jokes, which include reference to any protected statuses.
- ▶ The displays or uses of objects or pictures which adversely reflect on a person's protected statuses.
- ▶ Use of derogatory or demeaning language regarding a person's protected statuses.



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

How to Respond

- ▶ If a Minor Athlete or Adult Participant tells you that they have experienced misconduct, respond with care and compassion. Listen with empathy and be supportive.
- ▶ If required, the person receiving the report should take immediate steps to deescalate the situation.
- ▶ If it is determined that the incident requires reporting, it should be brought to the attention of a coach who will then notify the referee if the incident occurred during a game. (Address at a stoppage in play)
- ▶ Whether the allegation is confirmed or not confirmed, the incident should be reported to the Member Organization's President and/or Risk Manager within 24 hours.



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

How to Respond (continued)

- ▶ If the allegation is confirmed, consider immediately removing the individual(s) responsible for the remainder of the event. Probation, temporary suspension or additional sanctions may be applied according to the severity of the matter in accordance with the organization of Mass Youth Soccer / US Soccer Policy.
- ▶ If the allegation is not confirmed, the applicable Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Code of Conduct should be reviewed with the individuals reported to be involved. During which time, the appropriate behavior should be reiterated, and the incident should be documented for potential future action.



Coach Responsibilities - Pre-game Day

In the week leading up to the weekend game, the home coach should reach out via email to the away team's coaches. These emails accomplish a few important items.

- ▶ Opening a communication chain in the event of last minute field closures or changes.
- ▶ Providing pertinent field information.
 - ▶ Parking/other restrictions.
 - ▶ Specific local rules (no dogs, carry in/carry out policies for trash, etc.)
- ▶ Allows away team coaches time to distribute pertinent information to player families.
- ▶ Confirm Away team jersey color, home team must wear pinnies or change shirts if a conflict exists.



Coach Responsibilities - Game Day

Home & Away Coaches

Sideline Responsibility

- ▶ Coaches are responsible for their players and spectators behavior before, during and after the match.
- ▶ If a referee asks for a spectator to be spoken to or removed, coaches must comply. Referees do not have authority over spectators.
- ▶ Coaches can and will receive a misconduct as deemed appropriate by the referee.



Coach Responsibilities - Game Day



HOME Coach Responsibilities

- ▶ **Provide two (2) properly inflated match balls**
- ▶ **Provide printed roster to referee crew**
 - ▶ If using Player Pass, a roster for the team for each player pass player must be presented to the referee crew
- ▶ **Provide referee game card to referee, please fill in applicable information**
 - ▶ Game ID - From NVYSL website
 - ▶ Gender
 - ▶ Grade
 - ▶ Division
 - ▶ Date/Time
 - ▶ Field
 - ▶ Home Coach Name
 - ▶ Take referee card to opposing coach to have them fill in their name and sign
- ▶ **Must stay in technical area during the game**
- ▶ **Spectators must be a minimum of 4' back from the touchline**
- ▶ **Spectators are only allowed watch from the side of the field opposite the team benches, and never behind the goal lines or on the player/coach side of the field**
- ▶ **MYSA credentials must be worn and shown to referees at check-in**
- ▶ **Report game scores within 24 hours of match time**
- ▶ **Complete Referee Feedback and Sportsmanship Feedback forms in Scoring Pad**
 - ▶ The Sportsmanship Feedback form is the formal channel for reporting sportsmanship concerns

Coach Responsibilities - Game Day

AWAY Coach Responsibilities

- ▶ **Provide printed roster to referee crew**
 - ▶ ALL roster changes must be made through club registrar!
 - ▶ If using Player Pass, a roster for the team for each player pass player must be presented to the referee crew
- ▶ Fill in name and sign referee game card
- ▶ Must stay in technical area during the game
- ▶ Spectators must be a minimum of 4' back from the touchline
- ▶ Spectators are only allowed watch from the side of the field opposite the team benches, and never behind the goal lines or on the player/coach side of the field
- ▶ **MYSA credentials must be worn and shown to referees at check-in**
- ▶ **Report game scores within 24 hours of match time**
- ▶ **Complete Referee Feedback and Sportsmanship Feedback forms in Scoring Pad**



Game Schedules



Grade Level	Day of Week	Time
Girls 3/4	Saturday	9:00 AM
Boys 3/4	Saturday	10:30 AM
Girls 5/6	Saturday	12:00 PM
Boys 5/6	Saturday	1:30 PM
Girls 7/8	Saturday	3:00 PM
Boys 7/8	Saturday	4:30 PM
High School	Sunday	1:00 PM or 2:45 PM or 4:30 PM

Cancelling & Rescheduling Matches

Please commit to playing your scheduled matches!

Home teams shoulder the greatest logistic burden for rescheduling:

- ▶ Requires 10-day advance notice to the league (NVYSL Grade Director)
- ▶ Opposing coaches work together to secure a mutually agreeable date & time
- ▶ Home coach works with their Club to reserve a field and referee
- ▶ Home Club contacts NVYSL Grade Director to confirm and formalize the reschedule
- ▶ NVYSL Grade Director updates scheduling information on NVYSL website
- ▶ Referee assignment is completed by home Referee Assignor
- ▶ Process:
 - ▶ Home coach secures field use and referee crew
 - ▶ Send email to NVYSL Grade Director with field scheduler, referee assignor and away coach agreement to make-up date/time
 - ▶ NVYSL Grade Director approves and updates NVYSL Match Schedule with updated time/date
 - ▶ Club assignor updates Arbiter with updated date/time/crew



Player Pass

Restrictions

- ▶ Guest Players must be rostered on another NVYSL Team in your Club AND at a lower age group or division.
- ▶ Capped at 3 Guest Players for any particular match for grades 3/4 & 5/6. 4 Guest Players for Grade 7/8 and above.
- ▶ Guest Players cannot play more than 2 NVYSL matches in one day.
- ▶ A particular Player may participate in a Player Pass no more than 4 times during a season.
- ▶ Can't be used in D1 MTOC (Grades 56, 78, 910, 9PG) for postseason play.

Procedure Approval

- ▶ Club Registrar notifies NVYSL Roster Processor.
- ▶ Host Coach presents Referee with all rosters.
- ▶ Referee documents use of a Player Pass in their Game Report.

“Player pass is intended to allow teams to utilize guest players for the purpose of having enough players to play a match, not bringing in players to help win a match!”



Card Points (Spring Season)

NVYSL Policies and Procedures - Incident Management - 5.2.01(d)

- ▶ Card points shall be assessed as follows:
 - ▶ **1 card point** for each yellow card issued to a player
 - ▶ **2 card points** for each red card issued to a player
 - ▶ **2 card points** for each yellow card issued to a coach
 - ▶ **3 card points** for each 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 it's division standings (one match win)
- ▶ A team with **twelve (12) card points** shall be penalized an additional **three (3) points** in it's standings
- ▶ A team with **sixteen (16) card points** shall be penalized an additional **three (3) points** in it's standings and **shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee for further disciplinary action.**



Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

- ▶ 3.4.01 (k) Throw-In Law
 - ▶ The Throw-in Law (Law 15) shall be enforced only for 7v7 matches in the Division 1 Flight for the Grade 3/4 Division. The Throw-In Law shall be adapted for all other matches in the Grade 3/4 Divisions to allow 1 rethrow by the same player per throw-in. For example, a team commits a throw-in violation and the same player is given a rethrow. If there is a violation on the rethrow, the throw-in turns over to the opposing team. (rethrow is a local rules of competition exception)
- ▶ 3.1.06 Stoppage for Player Rehydration
 - ▶ The referee must stop play to allow the players to rehydrate under the following conditions:
 - ▶ Following MYSA policies on stoppage for rehydration
 - ▶ In conditions of high heat and humidity when the heat index is 80 F or above
 - ▶ If either team has 1 or fewer substitutes and a hydration break is requested by the coach prior to the start of the match
 - ▶ If a referee deems a rehydration break is necessary
 - ▶ Rehydration breaks are initiated by the referee near the middle of the half and occur during the match running time. A rehydration break will occur for no longer than 2 minutes per half during a stoppage in play.
 - ▶ **These are short breaks with running clock; not mini timeouts. Get water, stay near the field.**



Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

- ▶ 3.1.03 Uniforms and Equipment
 - ▶ Splints with soft, non-rigid flexible structure or covered non-rigid internal structural items (similar to finger savers on keeper gloves) are allowed. They may not have loose straps.
 - ▶ 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 Law 4 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.” Wristbands must be removed if possible and may be required to be taped at the referee’s discretion.
- ▶ 2.5.01(b) Weather Policy
 - ▶ Unplayable Field Conditions match time may be changed up to 2 hours before the scheduled start time of the match when there are unplayable field conditions. The Host Club shall notify the responsible Referee Assignor, the NVYSL Grade Director and the visiting coach of any such changes.
 - ▶ Coaches please refer to the field closure listing on the NVYSL website.



Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

NEW Goalkeeper 8-Second LOTG Update

- ▶ Rule Change - Goalkeepers now have 8 seconds maximum to release the ball after gaining control with their hands/arms (increased from previous 6-second limit)
- ▶ Effective starting Spring 2026

When Does Control Start?

- ▶ The 8-second count begins when the referee determines the goalkeeper has clear control of the ball
- ▶ Control includes: holding the ball between hands, bouncing it on the ground, throwing it in the air, or trapping it against any surface
- ▶ The goalkeeper does NOT need to be standing up for the countdown to start

Visual Countdown

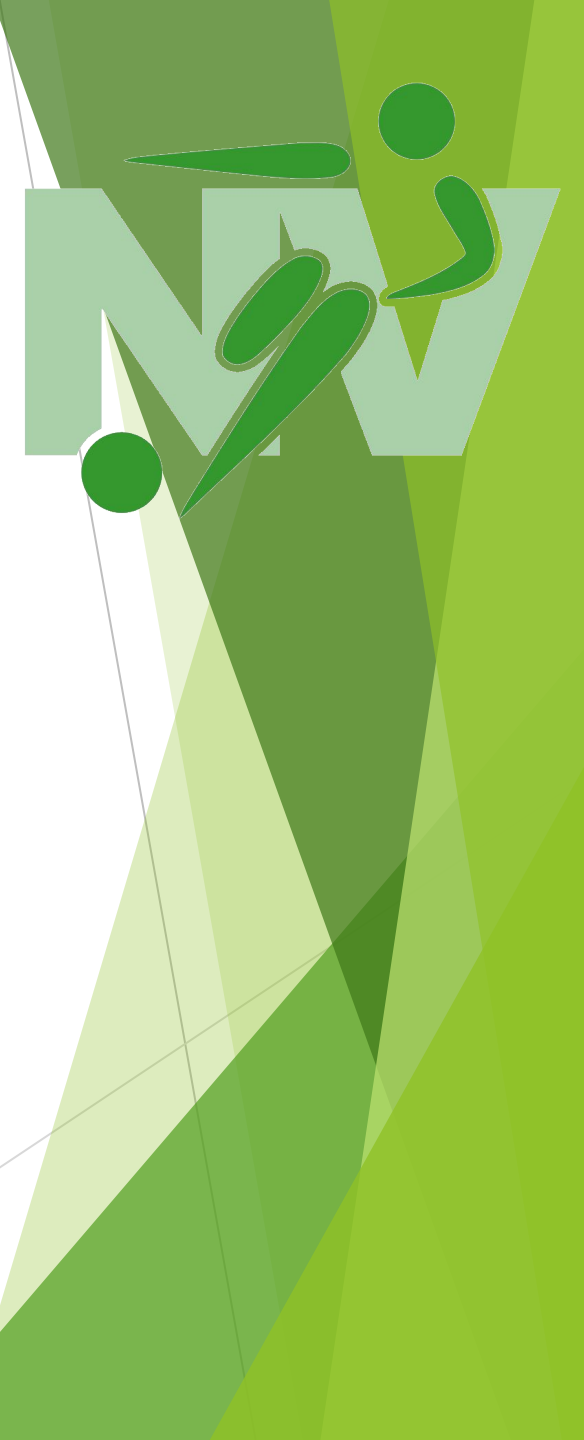
- ▶ The referee will visually signal the last 5-seconds with a raised hand to help the goalkeeper
- ▶ The first 3-seconds are silent/invisible to players, coaches and spectators

Penalty for Violation

- ▶ If the goalkeeper holds the ball longer than 8-seconds, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team (NOT an indirect free kick like before)

Disciplinary Actions

- ▶ First Offense: No yellow card, just the corner kick awarded
- ▶ Repeated Violations: Goalkeeper may receive a caution (yellow card) for persistent time-wasting



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

General

Misconduct against Referees may occur before, during, and/or after the match, specifically when the Referee arrives at and/or departs the venue. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a match affiliated with US Soccer or its Organizational Members.

For the purposes of this policy, a Referee is protected by US Soccer policy from the time they arrive at the venue (which shall include the parking area), until their departure from the venue. For the purposes of this policy, “Protected Party” means a member of the Referee’s family or household, or a guest of the Referee at the match or match venue. All US Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state and Federal laws.



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

Actions that do not meet assault or abuse definitions, but cause a Referee or Protected Party harm, may be subject to US Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, non contact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:

- ▶ (A) Severe or repeated harassment, including hate speech or discriminatory remarks based on race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other legally protected characteristic.
- ▶ (B) Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
- ▶ (C) Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g. intimidation).
- ▶ (D) Any form of cyberbullying, including spreading false information about the Referee, sharing the Referee's personal information (aka doxing), or publicly posting content that ridicules or mocks the Referee or uses hate speech.
- ▶ (E) Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
- ▶ (F) Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
- ▶ (G) Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee's authority or intended to cast doubt on the Referee.



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

Jurisdiction and Hearings

- (A) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults, abuses, or grossly mistreats a Referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible Member Organization which is affiliated with the Federation.
- (B) When an allegation of assault or abuse is verified by the Member Organization the accused person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault or abuse
- (C) The Member Organization must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification by the Member of the gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse or, if applicable.. If the member does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
- (D) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind an automatic suspension for assault or abuse.



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention



PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **"minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

(* Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

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Handball!

IFAB defines handball offences clearly in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, focusing on deliberate actions or unnatural body positioning rather than every touch.

Handball Offences (Foul Called)

- ▶ Deliberately touches the ball with hand/arm (e.g., moving hand toward ball).
- ▶ Touches ball with hand/arm making body “unnaturally bigger” (arm position not justified by body movement for that situation).
- ▶ Scores directly in opponents’ goal with hand/arm (accidental or not, including goalkeeper).
- ▶ Scores immediately after ball touches own hand/arm (accidental or not).

Not Handball Offences (Play On)

- ▶ Accidental touch close to body (hand/arm below armpit line, natural position).
- ▶ Ball hits hand/arm directly after player heads, kicks, or plays it with another body part (unless it then scores).
- ▶ Accidental handball leading to teammate’s goal or goal scoring chance (no offense).
- ▶ Ball hits hand/arm while falling and protecting body (natural reaction).

Key Notes for Coaches

Arm ends at the bottom of the armpit for rulings. Use referee judgment on “unnatural” based on movement context.



Foul!

According to IFAB Law 12, not every contact or challenge in soccer is a foul. For a direct free kick to be awarded, the referee must judge that the player acted in a manner that was at least **careless**. Understanding this threshold helps coaches and players recognize what referees are looking for and reduces frustration over “missed calls”.

What “Careless” Means (IFAB Definition)

- ▶ A player shows a **lack of attention or consideration** when making a challenge.
- ▶ The player **acts without precaution** - they didn’t take proper care in the challenge.
- ▶ No malicious intent, but the player made a poor decision or wasn’t careful enough.

Why This Matters

- ▶ **Careless is the minimum threshold** - if contact doesn’t rise to “careless”, it’s not a foul.
- ▶ Soccer is a contact sport; normal bumping, jostling and incidental contact are part of the game.
- ▶ Referees must judge whether the player could reasonably have avoided the foul by being more careful.

Careless vs. Reckless vs. Excessive Force

- ▶ **Careless** - Direct free kick awarded, no card shown.
- ▶ **Reckless** - Direct free kick awarded, yellow card (player disregarded danger to the opponent).
- ▶ **Excessive Force** - Direct free kick awarded, red card (player endangered the safety of opponent).



Foul!

Examples of Careless Fouls

- ▶ Player misjudges timing and clips opponent's leg while attempting to play the ball.
- ▶ Player is late to a 50/50 ball and catches opponent's foot after the ball is gone.

What's NOT a foul (below "careless")

- ▶ **Incidental** contact during normal play (shoulder-to-shoulder, both going for ball).
- ▶ Contact where both players have equal chance and are playing the ball fairly.
- ▶ Light bumping or jostling that doesn't impede or disadvantage the opponent.

Coach Takeaway

- ▶ Teach players to **challenge with care** - be aware of where opponents are and avoid unnecessary contact.
- ▶ Help players understand that **not all contact** is a foul - referees are looking for lack of care, not just any touch.
- ▶ Avoid getting frustrated with "no-calls" - if the challenge was fair and careful, the ref made the right decision by letting play continue.

"If it's not at least careless, it's not a foul. Fair, careful challenges - even with contact - are part of soccer"



What is Dissent?

IFAB Law 12 recognizes that soccer is emotional, and brief, instinctive reactions to referee decisions are normal. However, dissent crosses a line from momentary emotion into unacceptable behavior that undermines the referee's authority and disrupts the match. Knowing the difference helps coaches and players avoid unnecessary yellow cards.

IFAB Definition of Dissent

Official Definition:

“Public protest or disagreement (verbal and/or physical) with a referee's decision”

- ▶ Can be verbal (words) or physical (gestures, body language, actions).
- ▶ Includes arguing, complaining, protesting, or challenging the referee's decision.
- ▶ Results in a yellow card (caution).



What is Dissent?

The Line Between Emotion and Dissent

ACCEPTABLE

- ▶ Brief, instinctive, non-exaggerated reaction to a call - referee typically accepts this as natural
- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ Quick “Oh come on!” or throwing hands up briefly in frustration.
 - ▶ Single word or expression of disappointment directed at no one in particular.
 - ▶ Immediate reaction that stops quickly without escalation

NOT ACCEPTABLE - Dissent (Yellow Card)

- ▶ Clear and/or continual disagreement, objection, or complaint.
- ▶ Actively disputing or challenging the referee’s decision.
- ▶ Actions or words that undermine the referee’s authority.
- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ Prolonged arguing or repeatedly questioning the call.
 - ▶ Running at the referee to protest.
 - ▶ Gestures like sarcastic clapping, waving arms dismissively, or pointing.
 - ▶ Kicking or throwing the ball away in frustration.
 - ▶ Saying things like “You’re terrible!” or “Call it both ways!” or “What about the pushing?”
 - ▶ Body language showing clear lack of respect (turning away dismissively, exaggerated gestures).



What is Dissent?

The Bottom Line

DON'T:

- ▶ Step on the match field without referee permission, and only to treat an injured player, never to argue with the referee.
- ▶ Question the referee's calls.
- ▶ Harass or intimidate a referee.
- ▶ Speak in a confrontational manner to the referee.

Asking at an appropriate stoppage in play how much time is left on the clock is not dissent.

ONE coach may yell to referee if there's a player safety issue such as, suspected head injury, visibly broken bone, breathing issues, etc.. A player on the ground is not always a requirement to stop play.



What is Dissent?

Key Factors Referees Consider:

What Makes It Dissent?

- ▶ **Public** - Can others (teammates, opponents, spectators) see/hear it?
- ▶ **Persistent** - Does it continue after the initial reaction?
- ▶ **Provocative** - Does it challenge the referee's authority or integrity?
- ▶ **Personal** - Is it directed AT the referee rather than general frustration?

Coaching Takeaway

Teach Players:

- ▶ **You can have an emotion, but you can't have a conversation with the referee about a decision.**
- ▶ **Walk away after an instinctive reaction - don't engage.**

“Brief frustration = human. Prolonged protest = dissent = yellow card.”

“Respect the referee's decision. Have your opinion, then move on”



Post Season Play

Did you know?

NVYSL hosts the NCUP playoffs each spring season. Playoff opportunities for D1 & D2 for Grades 56, 78, 910, and 9PG

Top 4 teams in each division will be invited to the NCUP.

D1 - Winner enters MTOC (Mass Tournament of Champions) as NVYSL D1 entry.

D1 - 2nd place enters MTOC as NVYSL D2 entry



IFAB Laws of the Game

IFAB publishes the Laws of the Game, these LotG are followed by NVYSL with limited exceptions, documented in our P&P as local rules of competition.

The IFAB has both an online version and mobile app, which both include the LotG as well as clarifications for referees on most common in-game situations covered.

IFAB Website -

<https://www.theifab.com/laws-of-the-game-documents/?language=all&year=2025%2F26>

IFAB Mobile iOS -

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/laws-of-the-game/id1464911972>

IFAB Mobile Play Store -

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.theifab.lawsofthegame&hl=en_US



Links to Official Documents

- ▶ 1. Massachusetts Youth Soccer Preseason Video [Coaches Pre-Season Meeting - Massachusetts Youth Soccer](#)
- ▶ 2. Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines
 - ▶ [Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines Mass Youth Soccer 2024](#)
- ▶ 3. Change to Pre-Game Handshake
 - ▶ [Coaches Pre-Season Meeting 2025 - Massachusetts Youth Soccer](#)
- ▶ 4. US Soccer Policy 531-9
 - ▶ <https://mayouthsoccer.org/referees/respect-the-call/>
- ▶ 5. NVYSL Policies & Procedures
 - ▶ <https://nvysl.org/sites/default/files/NVYSL%20Policies%20%26%20Procedures%202024%20Fall.pdf>
- ▶ NVYSL LROC (Local Rules of Competition)
<https://nvysl.org/article/nvysl-rules-competition>



Q&A

