



Nashoba Valley Preseason Coach's Meeting

Spring 2025 Season

Topics

- ▶ Special Guests & Current Grade Directors
- ▶ Constitutional Mission
- ▶ Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines
- ▶ Change to Pre-Game Handshake
- ▶ U.S. Soccer Policy 531-9 - Mis-Treatment of Referees and new penalties
- ▶ Card Points
- ▶ Cancelling and Re-scheduling matches
- ▶ Player Pass
- ▶ Links to Official Documentation



NVYSL Age Directors are Here to Help!!

Special Guests

4/3 - Rob Holliday - MYSA Executive Director

4/2 & 4/9 - Ellie Nassif - Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC)

	Grade	Age Director	Contact
Girls	Grade34	Greg Kosiorek	greg.nvysl@gmail.com
	Grade56	David Martin	dpmartin@juno.com
	Grade78	Elaine Martin	DavidandElaineMartin@hotmail.com
	High School	Jeremy Edmondson	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com
Boys	Grade34	Nick Anderson	firemannick136@gmail.com
	Grade56	Shaun Chambers	shaun@oscie.com
	Grade78	Mike Kirkland	mkirkland22@gmail.com
	High School	Jeremy Edmondson	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com

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.”

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 and breastfeeding), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, veteran status.

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, questions, 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 race, religion, national origin, or gender identity.
- The displays or uses of objects or pictures which adversely reflect on a person's race, religion, national origin, or gender identity.
- Use of pejorative or demeaning language regarding a person's race, religion, national origin, or gender identity.

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Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

► How to Respond

- 1) 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.
- 2) If required, the person receiving the report should take immediate steps to deescalate the situation.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 cont'd

- ▶5) 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 and Mass Youth Soccer / US Soccer Policy.
- ▶6) 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, appropriate behavior should be reiterated, and the incident should be documented for potential future action.





Change to Pre-Game Handshake

► Procedure

- After players are checked in, (recommended 5 Minutes prior to kickoff), both teams and the referee crew will line up at the Halfway Line of the Coaches Sideline.
- Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and line up facing spectators.
- The Sportsmanship Statement will be read by a representative of the Home team to all coaches, players and spectators.
- Following the reading of the script, players will perform a pre-game handshake. (Home team to walk down the line of Away Team). After the pre-game handshake, all players and coaches will return to benches and starting players will assume positions on the field of play.

A stylized green graphic on the left side of the page. It features a large, light green letter 'N' with a white outline. Overlaid on the 'N' is a dark green silhouette of a soccer player in a kicking motion, with a white outline. A dark green circle representing a soccer ball is positioned above the player's head. The background consists of various shades of green geometric shapes and lines, creating a modern, abstract design.

Change to Pre-Game Handshake

Sportsmanship Statement

Mass Youth Soccer and the **Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL)** share a mission to provide a safe, fun and inclusive soccer experience for all participants

All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from hostile and distracting behavior. Please do your part to create a positive soccer experience for all.

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, and sanctions may be applied for violations of policy or codes of conduct.

It is the referee's discretion to terminate the game if any threatening or discriminatory statements are made or for anyone entering the field of play without permission.

U.S. 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 U.S. Soccer or its Organizational Members.

For the purposes of this policy, a Referee is protected by U.S. 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 U.S. Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state, and Federal laws.

U.S. 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 U.S. Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, noncontact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but 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.

U.S. 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.

(E) All hearings will consist of written statement by all involved parties and shall be held in accordance with MYSAs/NVYLS procedures.

(E) A person who is found to have committed gross mistreatment, assault, and/or abuse may appeal to the Appeals Committee by following the procedures of Federation Bylaw 704 within fourteen (14) days from receipt of the decision of the Member Organization.



REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

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, Insulting 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, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

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

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**



U.S. Soccer Policy 531-9

Referee Abuse prevention

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

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- 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
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- Optionality for 50% penalty for first offense from a minor

Card Points



- ▶ **NVYSL Policies & Procedures -> Incident Management -> 5.2.01(d)**
- ▶ 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**.

Cancelling & Rescheduling Matches

Please COMMIT to PLAYING YOUR SCHEDULED MATCHES!

HOME Team shoulders the greatest logistic burden for rescheduling:

- Opposing Coaches work together to secure a mutually agreeable date & time
 - Home Coach works with their Club to reserve a Field & Referee:
NVYSL Rep, Field Coordinator, Age Director, Referee Assignor, etc.
- Home Club contacts NVYSL Age Director to confirm and formalize the reschedule
- NVYSL Age Director updates scheduling information on NVYSL website :
www.nvysl.org
- Referee Assignment is completed based on new data in scheduling system

Requests for rescheduled matches must have consent of both Coaches and the Host Club, then be escalated to Age Director >10 days before scheduled date



Player Pass



Restrictions

- Guest Players must be rostered on another NVYSL Team in your Club
- Capped at 3 Guest Players for any particular match.
- Guest Player cannot play more than 2 NVYSL matches in one day.
- Guest Player rostered on another NVYSL Team at age group or division level below the Host Team.
- A particular Player may participate in a Player Pass no more than 3 times during a season.

Procedure

- Club Registrar notifies NVYSL Roster Registrar, who communicates to appropriate NVYSL Age Director.
- Host Coach pre-notifies opposing Coach and presents Referee with all rosters.
- Referee documents use of a Player Pass in their Game Report.



Links to Official Documents

- ▶ 1. Massachusetts Youth Soccer Preseason Video
<https://mayouthsoccer.org/coaches/coaches-pre-season-meeting/>
- ▶ 2. Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

<https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Language-Incidents-or-Discriminatory-Acts-Response-Guidelines-June-2024-1.pdf>
- ▶ 3. Change to Pre-Game Handshake

<https://mayouthsoccer.org/coaches/coaches-pre-season-meeting/>
- ▶ 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>