

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## INFORMATION BOOKLET

### SPRING 2023



**AYER-SHIRLEY**

**BERLIN**

**BOLTON**

**BOYLSTON**

**CHAIR CITY**

**CLINTON**

**FITCHBURG**

**GROTON-DUNSTABLE**

**HARVARD**

**HUDSON**

**LEOMINSTER**

**LITTLETON**

**LUNENBURG**

**MAYNARD**

**NASHOBA UNITED**

**NORTH QUABBIN**

**OAKMONT**

**PEPPERELL**

**TOWNSEND-ASHBY**

**TYNGSBORO**

# ✓ CHECKLIST FOR NVYSL COACHES ✓

## 1 Pre-Season

- ☐ Ensure that you have received your Massachusetts Youth Soccer (MYSA) coaching Credentials from your Club.
- ☐ Ensure that you have received your NVYSL Valid Team Roster and NVYSL Referee Field Cards from your Club.
- ☐ Copy your NVYSL Valid Team Roster and keep multiple copies in your car and equipment bag.
- ☐ Inventory your equipment bag : practice balls, 2 match balls, pinnies, pump with needle, cones, first aid kit, etc.

## 2 Pre-Match

- ☐ Contact your opposing Coach several days before your match.
- ☐ Bring 1 copy of your NVYSL Valid Team Roster with all uniform numbers listed to give to the Referee.
- ☐ Wear your Mass Youth Soccer Coaching Credentials at all times.
- ☐ Ensure all Player equipment is in good order, including enforcement of no jewelry and no casts.
- ☐ Convene a pre-match 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 match balls.
- ☐ Fill in the required information (Match ID, Date, Time, Division, Flight, Home & Visiting Team Names, Field, Location) on the NVYSL Referee Field Card.

*If you are the Visiting Team:*

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

## 3 During Match

- ☐ Send all substitutes to the center of the touchline to obtain Referee permission before entering the match.
- ☐ 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 4 feet behind the touchline (i.e., inside the Technical Area).
- ☐ Ensure that your Team's Spectators remain 4 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-Match

- ☐ Lead the post-match 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 match results, including any special notes, in a timely manner.
- ☐ Complete an online Referee Evaluation, sharing both positive and negative feedback.

## 5 Postponements and Match Rescheduling (see Section 2, Chapter 5 Rescheduling)

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

*To reschedule a match, you need an Opponent, a Field, a Referee, and approval by NVYSL Grade 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 match.
- ☐ Both Coaches confirm reschedule arrangements with their NVYSL Grade Director for final approval.

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Visit the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Website at:

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

# NVYSL SPRING 2023 CALENDAR

JANUARY	
8	NVYSL COMMITTEE CHAIR MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)
FEBRUARY	
19	NVYSL WINTER LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)
18	TEAM REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING 2023 SEASON
25	DEADLINE FOR PRELIMINARY CLUB REGISTRATION WITH MASS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (FEE SUBMISSION FORM, PLAYER FILE UPLOAD, INITIAL PAYMENT, ANNUAL LEADERSHIP REPORT)
MARCH	
12	Daylight Savings Time : Spring Ahead
13	NVYSL - Q&A, BOOKLET & MTOC/NCUP (7:30-9PM)
18	Deadline for Preliminary Team Registration for ALL Divisions
19	NVYSL WINTER LEAGUE MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCE)
25	Deadline for Final Team Registration for ALL Divisions
26	NVYSL Assignors Meeting, Competition Committee Meeting, MYSA Annual General Meeting 2023
APRIL	
2	NVYSL SPRING PRE-SEASON: LEAGUE, REFEREES WEBINAR #1, COACHES WEBINAR #1 MEETINGS
3	Deadline for MTOC Roster Submissions with Photos
5	BOYS HS COACHES MEETING (FITCHBURG: 7-7:30PM), PUBLISH MATCH SCHEDULES FOR WEEKS #1-8 OF D1 TEAMS, WEEKS 1-4 OF GRADE 3/4 THROUGH GRADE 7/8
6	BOYS HS COACHES MEETING (LITTLETON: 7-7:30PM)
7 OR 10	TBD: BOYS HS COACHES MEETING (STOW: 7-7:30PM)
8	Deadline for Submission of Inter-League Player Transfers
9	Easter Holiday
10	Deadline for Recreational Roster Submission
12	NVYSL SPRING PRE-SEASON REFEREES WEBINAR #2 (ALL REFEREES: 7-8:30PM)
13	NVYSL PRE-SEASON COACHES MEETING #2 (ALL COACHES 7-8PM)
15	FIRST MATCHES FOR GRADE 3/4, GRADE 5/6 AND GRADE 7/8 DIVISIONS
16	FIRST MATCHES FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS
17-21	Massachusetts School Vacation Week
22-23	Week #2 Matches for All Divisions
MAY	
8	Deadline for Re-Flighting Recreational Divisions by Age directors
10	NVYSL MID-SEASON LEAGUE MEETING, MATCH SCHEDULES FOR GRADE 3/4,5/6,7/8 (WEEKS#5-8) PUBLISHED ONLINE AND POSTED TO ARBITER
12	Deadline for MTOC Team Roster Freeze
13-14	Week #5 Matches for All Divisions
19	Deadline for Final Club Registration & Payment to Mass Youth Soccer Association
27-28	Memorial Day Holiday : No Matches Scheduled
JUNE	
10-11	Week #8 Matches for All Divisions
13	Massachusetts School Dismissal (depends on snow days and COVID-19 suspensions)
17-18	NCup Tournament
23-25	MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (MTOC) 2023
30	Deadline for Final Payment of NVYSL Spring 2023 Season Fees from Clubs

# ITEMS OF NOTE FOR SPRING 2023 SEASON

## Sportsmanship

NVYSL, its member clubs and boards of directors are putting a greater emphasis on sportsmanship this spring season. In the fall we utilized a much more efficient Sportsmanship Review Committee to evaluate sportsmanship violations and we look to build upon the work done. **We now have firmer sanctions for Excessive Goal Differential (EGD) violations, yellow card, and red card violations for players and coaches, as well as a field marshal program initiative being piloted this season. Please review the policies and procedures later in this information booklet for details.** As a final initiative we now have a new sportsmanship and referee reporting section on the score submittal page of the NVYSL Website for coaches to report such information. **In the coming pages are a new Zero Tolerance Policy, complete with 4 Codes of Conduct for Player's, Referee's, Coach's and Parent's/Guardian's/Spectator's so please pay special attention to these.**

## Credentials and Rosters

**Credentials** – Credentials MUST be worn when participating in any NVYSL or affiliated club activity. If the coach does not have the credential he 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 league registrar).

## Match Times

Saturday Match			Sunday Matches
Grade 3/4	Grade 5/6	Grade 7/8	High School
Girls: 9:00am	Girls: 12:00pm	Girls: 3:00pm	1:00, 3:00, 5:00
Boys: 10:30am	Boys: 1:30pm	Boys: 4:30pm	(times will vary)

## Score Reporting

**All scores must be reported by clubs within 72-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.

## 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.

## Mid-Season Flight Reassignments

New for this season is that Grade 5/6 and higher divisions with teams in Division 1 CANNOT be re-flighted at the mid-point of the season. This does not include Grade 3/4 where it is non-outcome based. Flight reassignments for divisions 2-5 will be assessed and changed by the NVYSL Age Directors at the mid-season point.

### **Spring 2023 Post-Season Opportunities**

Spring is tournament season!! D1 teams in Grades 5/6, 7/8, and High School will compete for the privilege of representing NVYSL at the MA Tournament of Champions (MTOC) on June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Division 2 teams will fight to qualify to compete at the Nashoba Cup (NCUP) Tournament the weekend of June 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Updates to Policies & Procedures and MTOC/NCUP Tournaments**

During the off-season, two committees spent dozens of hours working in committees to update this information booklet to the most current information available so please review as changes have been made. Further, a committee based from numerous Clubs developed a standard structure for our post-season tournament to make it more efficient, effective and hopefully FUN!!

### **Commitment to Social Justice**

NVYSL recognizes the importance of ongoing conversations around systematic 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 based on sex, race, religion, immigration status, gender identification(per Title 5), 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.

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A. OFFICERS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
PRESIDENT	Greg Kosiorek	Tyngsboro, MA	president@nvysl.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rosemary Laverdiere	Leominster, MA	vp@nvysl.org 978-534-0365
TREASURER	<< Vacant >>		
SECRETARY	Timothy Shepple	Bolton, MA	<a href="mailto:secretary@nvysl.org">secretary@nvysl.org</a> 508-630-5391
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Mark Hollinger	Littleton, MA	mark@thehollingers.net 978-337-3581
REFEREE DIRECTOR	Austin Franklin	Harvard, MA	nvyslrefereedirector@darkroom.ai
SPORTSMANSHIP DIRECTOR	Andre Mignault	Bolton, MA	src@nvysl.org
GRADE 3/4 GIRLS DIRECTOR	Katie Kellemeier	Clinton, MA	kkellemeier@gmail.com
GRADE 3/4 BOYS DIRECTOR	Mike Kirkland	Stow, MA	mkirkland22@gmail.com
GRADE 5/6 GIRLS DIRECTORS	David Martin	Lunenburg, MA	dpmartin@juno.com
GRADE 5/6 BOYS CO-DIRECTORS	Timothy Shepple	Bolton, MA	tim@nvysl.org
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	Jeremy Edmondson	Westminster, MA	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS DIRECTOR	<< Vacant >> Interim: Timothy Shepple		tim@nvysl.com

## B. AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

CLUB	NVYSL REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT INFORMATION
AYER-SHIRLEY YOUTH SOCCER	Keith Begun	hkbegun@comcast.net
BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER	Laura Williamson	williamsonlk@gmail.com
BOLTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Rebecca McBreen	nvysl-rep@boltonsoccer.net
BOYLSTON YOUTH SOCCER	Robert Thibeault	jkrocky@hotmail.com
CHAIR CITY SOCCER	Joshua Cormier	jcormiersoccer@gmail.com
CLINTON YOUTH SOCCER	Allison Bamforth	allisonbamforth@gmail.com
FITCHBURG YOUTH SOCCER	Paul Cosgrove	Paulcosgrove@comcast.net
GROTON-DUNSTABLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB	David Pitkin	dpitkin@gdysc.org
HARVARD SOCCER CLUB	Andrew Thomas	andrewt23@gmail.com
HUDSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Ed Hannan	u10@hysa.org
LEOMINSTER YOUTH SOCCER	Geoff Anthony	geoffreyanthony808@yahoo.com
LITTLETON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB	David Caouette	davidcaouette1@gmail.com
LUNENBURG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Baron Bowser	president@lunenburgsoccer.com
MAYNARD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Drew Holmes	drewholmes@hotmail.com
NASHOBA UNITED	Rob Alix	lysaregistrar@gmail.com
NORTH QUABBIN UNITED SOCCER CLUB	Jamie Sonnabend	jj82199@yahoo.com
OAKMONT OUTLAWS	Jeremy Edmondson	jeremyedmondson@gmail.com
PEPPERELL YOUTH SOCCER	Jim Pantano	nashobarep@pepperellsoccer.org
TOWNSEND-ASHBY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOC.	Salina Thomas	nvysl.rep.taysa@gmail.com
TYNGSBORO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Jennifer Mayo	teachjen20@aol.com



## C. STIPEND POSITIONS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
BOOKKEEPER	<< VACANT >> Interim: Greg Kosiorek		president@nvysl.org
REFEREE ASSIGNOR	Timothy Shepple	Bolton, MA	tim@nvysl.org 508-630-5391
REFEREE PAYMASTER	Joshua Cormier	Gardner, MA	jcormiersoccer@gmail.com
ROSTER REGISTRAR	Rosemary Laverdiere	Leominster, MA	rlaverdier@aol.com 978-534-0365
MATCH SCHEDULER	<< VACANT >>		

# NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## PAST PRESIDENTS

*League Inception: December 18, 1984*

PRESIDENT	TOWN	TENURE
JOHN MATHER	Groton-Dunstable	Dec 1984 - Jun 1986
RICK MYNTTINEN	Harvard	Jul 1986 - Jun 1988
JOHN BLINN	Littleton	Jul 1988 - Jun 1989
DAN DODIER	Leominster	Jul 1989 - Jun 1990
LEN BENNETT	Groton-Dunstable	Jul 1990 - Jun 1992
STAN WHARTON	Chelmsford	Jul 1992 - Jun 1995
ROSEMARY LAVERDIERE	Leominster	Jul 1995 - Jun 1997
RUSS REID	Chelmsford	Jul 1997 - Jul 1998
RICH BENNETT	Littleton	Jul 1998 - Aug 1998
JON KOPERA	Groton-Dunstable	Aug 1998 - Jun 2003
BILL WAEGELEIN	Tyngsboro	Jul 2003 - Jun 2006
BEN MYERS	Harvard	Jul 2006 - Jun 2012
JOHN LAROCHE	Chair City	Jul 2012 - June 2015
JOHN CARVER	Groton-Dunstable	Jul 2015 - June 2017
ANDRE MIGNAULT	Bolton	Jul 2017 - Dec 2020
CHRIS BATINSEY	Fitchburg	Jan 2022 - Oct 2022
GREG KOSIOREK	Tyngsboro	Oct 2023 - Present

# **MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER**

## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

This Zero Tolerance Policy is an effort to decrease the abuse of soccer Officials (Referee, Assistant Referee, Linespeople, 4th Official). We must all work together to deter and eliminate all levels of verbal abuse or negative criticism of Officials. We would not tolerate such behavior towards our children, we must not tolerate the same towards our Officials.

This Zero Tolerance Policy is not intended to label Officials as always right and spectators and/or coaches are always wrong. Just as players make mistakes during play and coaches may err in strategy or methodology, Officials will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to officiate.

The current state of affairs regarding chronic shortages of qualified Officials will likely be with us for some time. We simply cannot afford to experience the high levels of attrition of Officials that have occurred in the past. One consequence of this shortage is the need from time to time for an Official to be assigned to officiate a higher level match than they otherwise might be comfortable officiating. In all cases, our Officials must receive only positive support from coaches and spectators to continue to grow as an official.

This Zero Tolerance Policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators, and other supporters and Officials participating in a Mass Youth Soccer program or event.

The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with their team follow this Zero Tolerance Policy relating to communications with an Official. A coach or spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction whatsoever with the officiating to any Official, directly or indirectly. A coach or spectator may not, before, during, or after a match, discuss with, or voice within earshot of, an Official any critique of the Official's performance, other than to thank and positively compliment the Official. Any other critiques may only be voiced or communicated through the appropriate league's reporting channels.

Abusive and obscene language, violent play or conduct, fighting, and other negative or derogatory behavior (such as sarcasm or taunting) directed to or about Officials or otherwise deemed detrimental to the match will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players and spectators resides with the member organizations (towns, clubs, leagues).

It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide all Officials support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the member clubs to provide instructions to their coaches on how they are expected to carry this out. This policy applies before, during, and after the match at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

## **Parents, Guardians & Spectators**

No parent, guardian or spectator shall address the Officials at any time.

This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Parents, guardians and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the match..
2. Parents, guardians and spectators shall not make remarks to the Official(s) or advise the Official(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
3. Parents, guardians and spectators shall never yell at the Official(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the match.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

1. Parents, guardians and spectators may only respond to an Official who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the Official terminates the conversation.
2. Parents, guardians and spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting.
3. Parents, guardians and spectators may compliment the Official after the match.

Additionally, parents, guardians and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to coaches, players, or spectators of either team.

## **Consequences (for Parents, Guardians & Spectators)**

In the opinion of the lead Official, depending on the severity of the offense, the lead Official may take any of the following actions:

1. Issue a verbal warning to the coach of the offending party's team and have the coach address the parent, guardian or spectator to cease their actions.
2. Stop the match and instruct the coaches to direct the parent, guardian or spectator to leave the field area.
3. Abandon the match if the parent, guardian or spectator does not leave the field area.

## **Players**

The conduct of the players and substitutes is governed by the Laws of the Game as provided by IFAB and USSF and in effect from time to time. The Laws themselves describe the consequences associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional consequences for players who engage in misconduct may be established by the club and/or league, but may in no case be less severe than the consequences established by IFAB, USSF, or Mass Youth Soccer and in effect from time to time.

## **Coaches, Assistant Coaches, & Bench Personnel**

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches (Please refer to our Coaches Code of Conduct). Failure to do so undermines the Official's authority and the integrity of the match resulting in a hostile environment for players, the Official(s), coaches, assistant coaches, bench personnel, and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in a Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned event are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from both teams. For example, coaches, assistant coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a match, they have respect for their opponent, Officials, and spectators at all times. Mass Youth Soccer will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the Officials or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic, or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward Officials, opposing players, or opponent's coaches will be subject to sanction by the match Official. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the coach's club, the league that the match is being played under, or as allowed by Mass Youth Soccer policies after a review of the match report.

- Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the match in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile, or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.
- Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the Officials at any time.
- Coaches are not to address the Officials during the match except to:
  - A. Respond to an Official who has initiated a conversation.
  - B. Point out emergency or safety issues.
  - C. Make substitutions.
  - D. Ask the Officials, "What is the type of restart (direction and Indirect Free Kick or Direct Free Kick)?"
  - E. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
- Coaches are allowed to ask an Official after a match or during the halftime interval, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul, but not judgment calls made.
  - A. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the Official may abandon the exchange at any time and the coach will cease further discussion or interaction.
  - B. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation is allowed.

NOTE: It is recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the match Officials once the match has concluded.

## **Consequences for Coaches, Assistant Coaches, & Bench Personnel**

In the opinion of the lead Official, depending on the severity of the offense, the lead Official may take any of the following actions:

1. Issue a verbal warning to the offending coach, assistant coach, or bench personnel.
2. Caution the offending coach, assistant coach, or bench personnel.
3. Eject the offending coach, assistant coach, or bench personnel. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field area immediately.
4. Abandon the match, if the coach, assistant coach, or bench personnel do not leave the field area after having been instructed to do so.

Additional consequences associated with the ejection of a coach, assistant coach, or bench personnel may be assessed by the club or league which sanctioned the match in accordance with their documented policy. These consequences may be no less stringent than sanctions as may be imposed by Mass Youth Soccer following their review, if conducted, of the incident.

All cases of alleged abuse or assault of a referee shall be reported to the Mass Youth Soccer State Office and State Referee Administrator within 48 hours of conclusion of the match. Mass Youth Soccer will then conduct a verification of the complaint and subsequent actions as required by applicable sections of USSF policy in effect at the time of the incident. Although Mass Youth Soccer is continually bound by USSF policy and its various revisions, definition of “referee abuse” and “referee assault” found in USSF Policy 531-9 as of the date of this Zero Tolerance Policy is offered by way of information, as follows:

### **Referee Abuse**

(a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment.

(b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee’s physical property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

### **Referee Assault**

- A. Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
- B. For purposes of this Policy, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- C. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

# **Massachusetts Youth Soccer**

## **Soccer Officials Code of Conduct**

This Soccer Officials Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that all match officials (Center Referee, Assistant Referee, Linespeople, 4th Official) shall follow in their participation in any Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned activity or events that include but are not limited to all league play, tournaments, and other matches:

1. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
3. Barring any unforeseen circumstances (i.e. sickness, family emergency, act of G-d), I will always honor an accepted assignment or any other official appointment.
4. I will attend recertification classes to maintain my Referee License and optional training opportunities and clinics so as to maintain and improve my knowledge of the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation, and their application.
5. I will always strive to achieve maximum team work with my fellow officials.
6. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
7. I will strive to maintain proper and appropriate physical condition.
8. I will control the players with professionalism and respect and do my best to keep the game fair and safe for all players.
9. I will always strive to conduct myself in a professional manner. I will refrain from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches.
10. I will not interact with any spectators other than what has been approved via the Mass Youth Soccer Zero Tolerance Policy. Any spectator issues I encounter I will address them with the appropriate coach.
11. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during, or after a match.
12. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches, or spectators.
13. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
14. I acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player, or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely



noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.

15. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
16. I will not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage or narcotics, smoke or vape before or during any game assignment.
17. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the U.S. Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.
18. I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a soccer referee/official registered with the Mass Youth Soccer, Massachusetts State Referee Committee and U.S. Soccer.
19. As a USSF Certified Referee/Official, I understand that I may be sanctioned by the Massachusetts State Referee Committee and/or US Soccer to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration, for significant or repetitive breaches of this Soccer Officials Code of Conduct or any of its provisions.





# Massachusetts Youth Soccer

## Player's Code of Conduct

All Mass Youth Soccer players are encouraged to take the time to read this Player's Code of Conduct. As a Parent or Guardian, please encourage your player to read the guidance, or read and discuss it with your younger player, to help them understand the importance of following this Code of Conduct. This guidance applies to players of every age and we rely on our Parents, Guardians, and Coaches to help instill the Code of Conduct in our players as part of the culture of our game.

Our goal is to help all youth soccer players to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally over time. Soccer matches and practices are our method to accomplish this goal.

To achieve this goal, Mass Youth Soccer has adopted this Player's Code of Conduct. We reserve the right to dismiss from our programs any player who does not adhere to this Player's Code of Conduct.

The Player's Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that all players who choose to participate in any Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned activity or events that include but are not limited to all leagues, tournaments, and practices..

### **Player Code of Conduct**

1. Sportsmanship, fair play, and respect are expected from all players. Players will be good teammates and treat others as they would like to be treated.
2. Players will not use offensive or abusive language at practices or matches.
3. Players will not intentionally harm or threaten coaches, teammates, opponents, or referees.
4. Players will not engage in bullying, harassment, or hazing during any sanctioned programs, activities, and events.
5. Players will not use social networking websites, cell phones, or other forms of technology to harass or threaten coaches, teammates, opponents, or referees.
6. Players will display a positive attitude and show respect toward coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials (Center Referee, Assistant Referee, Linepeople, 4th Official).
7. After matches, players shall positively acknowledge the opposing team. This may be done with a team handshake/fist bump or team cheer.
8. Players will also comply with all town, club, and league Zero Tolerance Policies.

9. Players will not use and possess illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana at sanctioned programs, activities, and events
10. Players must treat teammates, coaches, parents, opponents, match officials, and themselves with fairness and respect at all times.
11. Fighting in any form will not be tolerated.
12. Players are prohibited from using performance enhancing or mind-altering drugs (legal or illegal).
13. There is a zero tolerance for referee abuse. (See Zero Tolerance Policy).
14. Players are expected to know, follow, and play by the soccer laws of the match. Any intentional act of deceiving the match officials to gain an unfair advantage will be considered a violation of the Player Code of Conduct.

### **Penalties for Violations of the Code of Conduct**

- Initial Violation: A verbal warning from the coach to the player and parent/guardian.
- 2nd Violation: Player misses next practice and/or match.
- 3rd Violation: Player is suspended from all practices and matches for the remainder of the season.

The coach will also notify (email preferred) the appropriate Director to report the violation(s).

# **Massachusetts Youth Soccer**

## **Parent's/Guardian's/Spectator's Code of Conduct**

Watching our children play any sport can be rewarding. We have the opportunity to observe them develop technical and physical skills (dribbling, shooting, passing), learn what sportsmanship and teamwork are all about, understand how to act and react when winning and losing, and overall become more well-rounded people who ultimately learn how to treat all others with respect and dignity.

We all should be proud of how well our children do as they learn and grow through soccer. Yet, as many of you may know, inappropriate conduct by parents and other spectators has become an increasing problem for youth sports organizations. To deal with this problem in an effective manner, Massachusetts Youth Soccer and all member organizations will implement this Parents'/Guardian's/Spectator's Code of Conduct which is detailed below. The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Board of Directors urges all of you to take these policies to heart so that we will all have a safe, enjoyable and successful season.

### **Parent's/Guardian's/Spectator's Code of Conduct**

1. Do not force your child to participate in sports.
2. Applaud good plays; don't dwell on bad plays. Children play sports to have fun, make new friends, and learn new skills.
3. Children imitate their parents. If you are disruptive or act inappropriately, your child, and possibly others, will act in a similar fashion.
4. The sidelines are not a place to shout personal instructions. Encouraging from the sidelines is appreciated, coaching from the spectator sidelines is forbidden. A good rule to follow when you cheer/yell/shout from the sidelines is, "No verbs!"
5. There is more to life than soccer. Encourage your child to participate in other activities.
6. Respect the coach's decision and abilities. Don't force your child to decide whether to listen to you or to the coach.
7. Stress fair and sensible play. Soccer is a contact sport, let the officials determine fair or foul play
8. Promote the long-term importance of practice over the short-term excitement of matches.
9. Promote the importance of teamwork.
10. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model.
11. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy. Treat all with respect.
12. Mistakes are a part of the learning process for everyone. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.
13. Take time to learn the rules of the match and the policies of the club and league.
14. Remember that coaches and administrators are usually volunteers. A "thank you" every once in a while is often a nice reward.

### Parent's/Guardian's/Spectator's Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy

All parents, guardians, and spectators of players are subject to the Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy:

1. Any parent, guardian, or spectator that attempts to threaten or cause physical injury to any individual associated with Mass Youth Soccer or its member Organizations (Towns/Clubs/Leagues) shall be subject to, and their children shall be subject to immediate suspension from play and/or other league involvement, for up to one year at the sole discretion of the authority of the competition where the infraction occurred.
2. A second instance of an attempt to threaten or cause physical injury shall result in up to a minimum three year suspension for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement.

All individuals associated with Mass Youth Soccer are expected to uphold the values of honesty, good sportsmanship, and respect for the integrity of team participation and team play within Mass Youth Soccer and other related sports organizations.

All individuals associated with Mass Youth Soccer are expected to understand and comply with the Mass Youth Soccer Safe Soccer Policies in accordance with U.S. Soccer and the U.S. Center for Safe Sport requirements, and other, similar guidance in force and adopted from time to time.

Match referees, officials and administration have been instructed to stop play when parents, guardians, or spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior that interferes with coaches, players, or other spectators during the match. Referees or club/league officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing the violators from the spectators' viewing and match area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action or local civil and criminal statutes. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior listed above shall include, but not be limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence, or actual violence either in person, electronically, or via social media.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' area, playing fields, or parking areas, directed in any manner in order to intimidate or harm another person or that may create a safety hazard.

# Massachusetts Youth Soccer

## Coach's Code of Conduct

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (Mass Youth Soccer) and its Member Organizations (our Town Programs, Clubs, and Leagues) are committed to promoting the highest levels of respect and consideration in the conduct of all participants (coaches, players, spectators, and referees) during matches at all levels. We want to ensure that matches are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer match should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for all.

To clarify expectations of conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct at all times.

- Before, during, and after the match, you are at all times an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before a match, respectfully introduce yourself to the opposing coaches and to the referee/official(s).
- During the matches and practices, 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 match or practice until they calm down.
- At all times (matches and practices), you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players and other spectators rooting for your team. It is your responsibility to explain to them acceptable player and parent/spectator behavior in a preseason meeting. Refer to our Parents/Guardians/Spectators and Players' Codes of Conduct.
  - Before the season, send out the Parents/Guardians/Spectators and Players Code of Conduct.
- At matches, encourage all parents/guardians/spectators from both teams to applaud and cheer for good plays by both teams. Discourage them from yelling at players and the referee/official - be as forceful and direct as necessary.
- During the match, do not address the referee/official at all. Do not question their calls.
- Acknowledge good sportsmanship when it's displayed as necessary.
- If you have a complaint, report your opinion to your League. Your observations will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively, factually, and formally.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco and refrain from their use at all matches, exhibitions, practices, and events.
- Never coach a match or conduct a practice under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Never use profanity or make obscene gestures, or engage in any inappropriate behavior or conduct, at any time.
- After the match, thank the referee/official(s) and ask your players to do the same.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

In closing, Mas Youth Soccer stresses two points: Officials (Referees, Assistant Referees, 4th Officials, and Linespeople) - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You play an important role in helping them to



improve by letting them concentrate on the match. You can help by encouraging them to be their best and by accepting their inevitable and occasional mistakes. Your role as a coach is to concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the sport and their overall, long-term development, and to support the officials. Use self-regulation to monitor your behavior at all times! When you follow these expectations, the spirit of the sport of soccer will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

### **Coach's Responsibilities**

In addition to the Coach's Code of Conduct, the following Coach Responsibilities should be followed during every youth soccer related activity:

- Understand and accept that coaching is a position of trust.
- Be a positive role model for their players and maintain their personal integrity and dignity at all times.
- Create a player centered environment where players are free to make autonomous decisions.
- Remember that players are involved for fun and enjoyment and you should strive to create a positive soccer environment that reflects why they play.
- Understand that as a youth coach, the match is for the children, not the adults.
- Consistently have a positive attitude and praise players for their efforts and playing fair regardless of the outcome of the match.
- Never criticize or yell at any player on your team for making a mistake nor address an opposing player in a derogatory manner.
- De-escalate any physical or verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Understand that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.
- Place the well being and growth of every player above your personal desire to win.
- Understand that being a coach means being, first and foremost, a role model.
- Create a safe, fun and inclusive environment that provides opportunities for all of your players the capacity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
- Create co-constructed team and individual goals. Know and understand your soccer organizations playing time guidelines and give every player an opportunity to play as much as possible.
- Remind the players about the co-constructed goals and objectives for the team, as well as the rules of the match and the policies of your soccer organization, whenever requested or necessary, to the best of your ability.
- Inspect all equipment and fields on a regular basis to ensure the safety of players, paying special attention to the security of goal frames.

# 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 FIFA/IFAB 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 FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game.
- (3) I agree to respect and support all Referees. I acknowledge that administration of each match 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 (MYSA) 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 match 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 match:

- a. Printed official MYSA Credentials. Electronic versions are not valid.
- b. First Aid Kit, especially ice packs.
- c. One paper copy of your NVYSL Valid Roster with jersey numbers and pictures (if applicable), to be given to the Referee.
- d. Two (2) properly inflated match balls. (Home team)
- e. NVYSL Referee Field Card, to be given to the Referee. (Home team)
- f. Pinnies of alternate color (visiting team). If home and visitors have the same uniform color, the visiting team must wear pinnies.

### 2. After each match, both coaches:

- a. Submit the match score to the NVYSL website.
- b. Complete an online Referee Evaluation.

### 3. Match Cancellation and Rescheduling

- a. For matches canceled due to unplayable field conditions, the Visiting Coach will be notified by the Home Coach at least 2 hours prior to match time.
- b. Matches may be postponed or canceled due to unsafe conditions on-site by the Referee.
- c. If a match is canceled for any reason, the Home Coach must contact:
  - The Visiting Coach, to prevent visiting families from making wasted travel
  - Home Club Referee Assignor, who will cancel or reschedule Referees as required
  - The appropriate NVYSL Grade Director
- d. To reschedule a match, see Chapter 5 Rescheduling in the NVYSL P&P. The Home Coach bears the responsibility to contact the Home Club Referee Assignor as far in advance as possible to schedule a Referee for the match.

### 4. Roster Changes

- a. Before a Player may be added to a roster and be eligible to play, you must obtain a NVYSL Valid Roster that includes that player.
- 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 match to allow participation of the new player.
- c. Coaches must ensure that all Players and Coaches are properly affiliated and registered with MYSA. Liability insurance from MYSA 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

- a. Coaches are expected to know the FIFA Laws of the Game and any modifications of these Laws governing local rules of competition, as outlined in the NVYSL P&P.
- b. Official MYSA Credentials must be displayed and worn by ALL team officials on the team's sidelines. Electronic versions are not valid.
- c. There is a maximum of three (3) team officials allowed on a team's sideline. Under 18 children of team officials are allowed to be on the team's sideline.

### 6. Disagreements

Coaches who experience a disagreement with a Referee must refrain from dissenting during the match. All Coaches are invited to complete an online Referee Evaluation after every match, 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 match. 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 Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG matches in each Spring season, except reschedules and Unscheduled matches. Reschedules and Unscheduled matches are handled by the Club Referee Assignors.
2. Club Referee Assignors assign all matches in the NVYSL Fall season, as well as all Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6, and Grade 7/8 matches in the Spring season.
3. Referees must ensure that their contact information is up to date in ArbiterSports. All contact information for the match referees is available in Arbiter's Game Details.
4. **The Referee's Club Referee Assignor is their main point of contact. The Club Referee Assignor 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 for Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6, and Grade 7/8 matches, or the NVYSL Referee Assignor for Grade 9/10, Grade 9/PG as soon as possible. If the Referee cannot make direct contact with their Club Referee Assignor, the Referee must contact the NVYSL Referee Director.
6. NVYSL will not pay non certified Referees. Only currently certified Referees registered in Arbiter may be scheduled to referee a match and be paid by NVYSL. The Referee must file an online Game Report in Arbiter within 48 hours after the match in order to be paid.
7. Referees must report all yellow cards, red cards, and other notable misconduct in their Arbiter Game Report, to the applicable assignor and to [src@nvysl.org](mailto:src@nvysl.org). NVYSL 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.
8. There is a pre-season NVYSL referee meeting referees are urged to attend.

# 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, Westminister)
- 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:

1-5	<b>1</b>
6-10	<b>2</b>
11-20	<b>3</b>
More than 20	<b>4</b>

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

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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 (MYSA) 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 match skills.
- 4) Maintain rosters.
- 5) Provide a list of potential candidates for voting and nonvoting members of the NVYSL Board.
- 6) For the FALL playing season, ensure that all players on all teams play at least half of each match. For all Rec teams, ensure that all players play at least half of each match 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 NVYSL.

#### **2.1.02 League Structure**

NVYSL offers two categories of play, Competitive and Recreational. All play in Grade 3/4 is Recreational play. For Grade 5/6 and above, Divisions 1 and 2 are Competitive play, and Divisions 3-5 are Recreational play.

#### **2.1.02(a) Age Grouping**

Players shall be grouped as described by MYSA Dual Grade Groupings.

### **2.1.02(b) Division Structure**

Division structure is as follows:

Grade 3/4

- Division 1
- Division 2
- Division 3
- Division 4 (if necessary)
- Division 5 (if necessary)

Grade 5/6 and 7/8

- Division 1 - In Spring season, MTOC Eligible
- Division 2 - In Spring season, Nashoba Cup Eligible
- Division 3
- Division 4 (if necessary)
- Division 5 (if necessary)

Grade 9/-10 and Grade 9/PG

- Division 1 - In Spring season, MTOC and Nashoba Cup Eligible

Divisions 3-5 may be segmented into sub-divisions (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2). For Fall seasons, the subdivisions are not expected to be tiered until after mid-season adjustments. For Spring seasons, the subdivisions should be tiered when possible.

Teams competing in Division 1 are not permitted to transition in or out of the division during the season. In the interests of competitive balance, at mid-season, Division 2 teams are permitted to move down to Division 3 and Division 3 teams are permitted to move up to Division 2. For teams moving up in Division, only outcomes at the higher division will be considered when determining standings and qualification for postseason play. For those teams that moved up into a postseason eligible division, but registered as a recreational team, NVYSL will invoice for the difference in team fees.

### **2.1.02(c) Blended Divisions**

NVYSL shall only leverage Blended Divisions when there are fewer than 4 teams registered in a Division and all other options have been exhausted. If 4 or more teams are registered in a Division, then Blended Divisions shall not be used.

In the event of a Blended Division, standings are based on match outcomes and the registered division shall not be taken into account for determining postseason placement/qualification.

### **2.1.02(d) Postseason Eligibility**

Only teams competing in Division 1 and 2 are postseason eligible. Teams vying for MTOC play must request placement in Division 1. Teams vying for Nashoba Cup play must request placement in Division 2. Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG teams will register and be placed in Division 1 and be eligible for MTOC and Nashoba Cup play. Teams registered in lower divisions may be invited to play in the Nashoba Cup if not enough teams are available to play.

## **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.

A Credentialed adult, at least 18 years of age and on such teams' roster, 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, a Credentialed adult from the team's Club may serve as the coach for the match.

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

### **2.2.03 Player Eligibility**

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

A player is eligible for a NVYSL team of a member Club if they meet any ONE of the following criteria:

- a) The player resides in the towns served by the NVYSL Club.
- b) The player is a full time student at a school located in the towns 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, they are eligible to continue playing for that Club.
- e) Grade 9 and older players who reside 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 Grade 9/10 or Grade 9/PG team for a school different than their own through an MIAA- sanctioned cooperative arrangement may play on the team of the town where the school is located.

Supporting documentation, as stipulated by the NVYSL Board, must be submitted with the team roster. If a player resides in a town outside NVYSL, then a release must be obtained from both:

- 1) The President of the soccer Club that serves that town.
- 2) The President of the soccer League that serves that town.

#### **2.2.03(b) NVYSL Multi-Town Clubs**

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>North Quabbin United</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**

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 team and a team from another MYSA affiliated MTOC League at any given time.

#### **2.2.03(d) 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 NVYSL 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 Ineligible Players**

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

- 1) The match or matches involving the Ineligible Player shall be Forfeit and the NVYSL Forfeit fine shall be assessed for each match.
- 2) In addition to the Forfeit fine, the Club shall also be assessed a \$50.00 fine.
- 3) The player shall be suspended from the next match, following notification by the NVYSL Board, if it is determined that the player knowingly played as an Ineligible Player.
- 4) The coach shall be suspended from the next match, following notification by the NVYSL Board, if it is determined that the coach knew of an Ineligible Player status beforehand.
- 5) In the SPRING season three (3) points shall be deducted from the team's point count used to determine NVYSL standings.

The NVYSL Board may assess a more severe penalty or impose sanctions against the player, coach, team, and Club as the NVYSL 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 to NVYSL, on a date outlined in the Seasonal Calendar. This provides both NVYSL and the member Clubs a clear picture of which competition levels are viable. The NVYSL Competition Committee will review all requests and inform Clubs of their decisions after the Final Team Registration Date.

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

Each member Club submits its final list of teams and field assignments to NVYSL, on a date outlined in the Seasonal Calendar.

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

A team may only be added after the Final Team Registration Date with NVYSL approval. If a Grade 5/6-or-older team is added after the Final Team Registration Date, then an additional \$250 late registration fee per added team shall be assessed. The late registration fee for a Grade 3/4 team is \$125. These fees cover penalties and rescheduling costs.

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

If a Club withdraws a Grade 5/6-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 Grade 3/4 team is \$250. These fees cover penalties and rescheduling costs. The registration payment shall be returned to the Club.

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

Each Club shall be required to submit their team rosters to NVYSL for certification on a date outlined in the Seasonal Calendar. If a Valid Team Roster, as defined below, is not received by the NVYSL Roster Registrar by such date, then a \$25 late roster submission fee shall be assessed for each team that is late.

#### **2.3.01(f) Club Affiliation Material 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 Material date, as outlined in the Seasonal Calendar, then that Club shall Forfeit, as defined below, all matches until affiliation is complete.

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

Each Club must have all its NVYSL registration fees and past NVYSL fines paid in full before by such date set by NVYSL. If a Club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in full on or before the Final Fee Payment Date, as communicated by NVYSL and outlined in the Seasonal Calendar, then that Club shall be assessed a \$100 late payment fee and shall not be permitted to play the following season until such payments are made in full.

### **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 Scheduler, Roster Registrar, Grade Directors, and others knowledgeable of the sport and NVYSL, who will be appointed by the President. Grade 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**

Clubs may submit teams in any Division that is offered. A minimum of four teams will be required to have regular competition in each division unless the NVYSL Board makes a specific exception. In the event there is an insufficient number of teams registered in a division, the Competition Committee or respective Grade Director may blend or combine teams from multiple divisions together to form a division large enough to have regular competition. For example, if there are an insufficient number of teams in Division 1, the teams from Division 1 and Division 2 may be combined to form a Blended Division 1/Division 2.

Recreational divisions 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 and any other information deemed appropriate by the Competition Committee to provide the most even competition.

Grade 5/6 and above Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) teams shall be placed 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. In the Spring season, teams shall be randomly placed in flights

within Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2).

Grade 5/6 and above Recreational teams will be placed in flights as determined by the Grade Director and the Competition Committee. In Recreational divisions, consideration will be given to a Club request to place multiple Club teams in separate flights.

#### **2.3.04 Team Commitment**

Teams receiving an invitation to MTOC are expected to accept the invitation. In the event that a team does not accept the invitation, and a viable alternative cannot be identified, then the corresponding Club will be subject to any monetary penalties imposed on NVYSL.

## **Chapter 4 TEAM ROSTERS**

#### **2.3.01 Valid Team Rosters**

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

Valid Team Roster shall mean a roster generated by the NVYSL system and shall include:

- 1) The minimum number of players (as defined below)
- 2) The player's name in alphabetical order by last name
- 3) At least one (1) credentialed coach, 18 years or older
- 4) The Club Registrar's signature
- 5) The NVYSL Roster Registrar signature
- 6) The date of the validation

Player eligibility must follow MYSA Eligibility policies.

Coaches are responsible for making sure that the correct player jersey number appears on the rosters for each match. Player jersey numbers may be either generated or handwritten on rosters.

Only players on the roster at the time of validation are permitted to play, unless they fall under Player Pass Policy as defined in 2.4.04(c) [Player Pass](#) Procedure.

##### **2.4.01(b) Roster Size**

For 11v11 play the maximum size for a team is

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

18.

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

##### **2.4.01(c) Permissible Roster Changes**

For Division 1 (or blended Division 1/Division 2) teams in the spring season, there are no exceptions to the maximum roster size. Roster deletions (dropping a player from the roster) may be made during the playing season, prior to the roster freeze date outlined in the Seasonal Calendar. 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 teams, players may be added to, dropped from, or transferred between Recreational teams at any time during the season.

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

All rosters and roster changes must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar and used as the Valid Team Roster for all matches from the validation date on.

#### **2.4.02 Team Rosters for Matches**

The coach must provide ONE (1) printed Valid Team Roster to the referee prior to each NVYSL match. Only players named on a Valid Team Roster may play unless as defined in the Player Pass Policy. See [Valid Team Rosters](#).

If a coach is unable to present a printed NVYSL Valid Team Roster, then before the match may begin, a printed or

written (non-virtual) roster including the coaches' names, player names, and jersey numbers for the team must be prepared. This roster will be sent to the NVYSL Roster Registrar for player eligibility verification.

#### **2.4.03 Player Pass Policy**

The NVYSL Player Pass Policy enables flexibility in personnel movements on a per-match basis, while respecting the sanctity and integrity of the NVYSL Valid Team Roster. A Host Team may, for one match 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**

Host Teams

- Carry no more than THREE (3) Guest Players for any particular match.
- Must not exceed the maximum roster size allowed for the Age Group.

#### **2.4.04(b) Requirements for Guest Players**

Guest Players

- Will play no more than TWO (2) NVYSL matches in one day.
- Are currently rostered on another NVYSL Team within the same Club under ONE of the following conditions:
  - At a division level equivalent to or below the level of the Host Team. Divisions 1 and 2 are NOT considered equivalent, and Divisions 3, 4, and 5 are considered equivalent.
  - At an Age Group below the level of the Host Team.
- May participate in a Player Pass no more than THREE (3) times during a season.
- Are not permitted in MTOC qualifier postseason play.
- Are permitted for the Nashoba Cup Tournament, but no player can play for multiple teams in the Nashoba Cup Tournament. Player passes for the Nashoba Cup Tournament must be submitted to the NVYSL Roster Registrar 3 days in advance of the tournament.

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

Any Host Team intending to invoke a Player Pass must obtain approval from their Club, who will notify the NVYSL Roster Registrar that a Player Pass is being used.

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

- ONE (1) copy of the Host Team's NVYSL Valid Team Roster;
- ONE (1) copy of each NVYSL Valid Team Roster from which Guest Players are being drawn, with Guest Players clearly marked.

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 Match Time Changes**

Matches must be played as scheduled except as provided below.

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

Match time may be changed by mutual agreement of coaches, but only after the change has been approved by the Grade Director. Match time changes must have mutual agreement of the coaches, appropriate Referee Assignor, and approval of the Grade Director. Match time changes must be at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the match or within 2 days of schedule release. Within 10 days of the match or after 2 days of

schedule release, the match must be played as scheduled.

Match time may not be changed by mutual agreement of the coaches for Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG scheduled matches in the spring season. The match must be played as scheduled unless the field is unplayable. If a match 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 match. Grade Directors may allow exceptions in unusual circumstances, such as when the match was published as a “singleton” Saturday evening match.

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

Match time may be changed up to 2 hours before the scheduled 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.

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

Rescheduled matches requested by either team will be allowed up to 7 days in advance of the scheduled time of the match. The team requesting the change shall act as the Home Team and follow the Rescheduling policy.

#### **2.5.01(d) Columbus Day/Memorial Day Weekend**

Rescheduled matches requested by either team will be allowed up to 7 days in advance of the scheduled time of the match. The team requesting the change shall act as the Home Team and follow 2.5.02 [Rescheduling Matches](#).

#### **2.5.01(e) Spring School Vacation Weekends**

If matches are scheduled for two spring school vacation weekends, each team may request a reschedule for only one weekend of the spring vacation. Rescheduling requests will be allowed up to 7 days in advance of the scheduled time of the match. The team requesting the change shall act as the Home Team and shall follow section 2.5.02 [Rescheduling Matches](#).

#### **2.5.01(f) Grade 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 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 Club/team involved completes the necessary schedule and match time changes by the start of season play. The team requesting the change shall notify the responsible Referee Assignor, the NVYSL Grade 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 Grade Director will decide how to resolve the schedule conflict.

#### **2.5.01(g) Grade 9/10 and 9/PG Match Time Change Requests**

For the Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG teams that play on Sunday in the Spring Season, 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 such as Band trips, Chorus trips, Senior Class trips, and trips to another country. The request must be submitted to the NVYSL Scheduler prior to the start of the season. The request must include the reason and the number of players affected.

#### **2.5.02 Rescheduling Matches**

All missed matches shall be rescheduled within 7 days of their scheduled date. A rescheduled match shall be played within 14 days of the originally scheduled date unless otherwise approved by the Grade Director. For the spring season only, all Division 1 and Division 2 make-up matches must be played no later than the Wednesday prior to the playoff matches.

If a match must be rescheduled:

1. The coaches must agree on a makeup date and time or discuss it with the Grade Director.
2. The Home Team must secure a playable field.

3. The Home Team must get approval from their Club Referee Assignor.
4. The Home Team must get approval from the NVYSL Grade Director.

In the event of the coaches not agreeing on a make-up day, each Age Group will have a designated day of the week to make up its matches. These days are as follows;

- a) Grade 3/4 - Monday
- b) Grade 5/6 - Tuesday
- c) Grade 7/8 - Wednesday
- d) Grade 9/10, Grade 9/PG – Saturday

Unscheduled matches may appear throughout the regular schedule in flights with an odd number of teams. An Unscheduled match shall be played within 14 days of its scheduled date. An Unscheduled match can be played prior to its scheduled date if agreeable to both coaches. If coaches cannot agree on a make-up day, the above make-up rescheduling rules apply.

The Grade Directors and NVYSL Board will address exceptions to these rules and make appropriate adjustments if necessary. For the spring season, Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG matches may be scheduled for Saturday to eliminate Unscheduled matches.

### **2.5.03 Replay of Suspended Matches**

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

## **Chapter 6 STANDINGS & TIEBREAKERS**

### **2.6.01 League Standings and Match Score Reporting**

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

In 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. Points will be deducted for Yellow Card/Red Card/Ejections as described in 5.2.01(c) Card Points. Each Grade Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of both match scores and Division standings. The Club has the responsibility of reporting scores as defined in 2.6.01(g) Match Score Reporting.

#### **2.6.01(b) Tiebreakers for a Spot in Post-Season Tournament Play**

If two teams are tied for a spot in a Post-Season Tournament, then the winner will be determined by a one match playoff at a date and time arranged by the Grade Director.

If there are more than two teams tied for a spot in the Tournament, there will be a series of matches 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 match would play the third team. The winner of that second match would be the representative.

The ORDER of play will be decided by Seeding For Post-Season Tournament Play. 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 match between the other two teams. If there was no clear cut head-to-head winner, then the team with the greatest goal differential would play the winner of a match 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 match 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) Seeding for Post-Season Tournament Play**

Teams will be seeded in a Post-Season Tournament in accordance with their season records and the tie breaker

procedure for seeding, if necessary. For all post-season matches, the higher seeded team 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 matches that count in the standings will be used. In case of a Forfeit, the match score shall be 4-0.

#### **2.6.01(d) MTOC Group**

NVYSL representatives to the MTOC Tournament will be based on results of play in the end-of-season NVYSL MTOC Qualifying Tournament. Team eligibility, seedings, policies and procedures for the NVYSL MTOC Qualifying Tournament are available on the NVYSL website.

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

If a playoff or tournament match is tied at the end of regulation play, then, for Grade 7/8 and below, two 10 minute overtime periods shall be played, for Grade 9/10 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/IFAB rules for penalty kicks shall be used to determine the winner.

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

Records of match 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 Grade Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of match scores.

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

The Club shall post to the NVYSL web site the scores for all matches within 48 hours of their completion. The Club shall report all matches NOT played within 48 hours of their scheduled playing time. For every 7 days that any score is not received on time, the Club shall be fined \$25.00.

If a score is not received within 7 days of the scheduled match 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 match will not be recorded and neither team will receive points in the standings. In addition, each team will be assessed the Forfeit fee at the Grade Director's discretion.

#### **2.6.01(h) Excessive and Unreasonable Goal Differentials**

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 Grade Director, as well as the Coaches and Club Officials of both Teams involved in the match. NVYSL Grade 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 Grade Director determines an EGD match constitutes a sportsmanship violation, the matter will be escalated to the NVYSL Sportsmanship Director 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 Director determines there were extenuating circumstances that warrant other action.

### **2.6.02 Match Protests**

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

- a) There was an incorrect application of the FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game or Rules of NVYSL for a specific incident which directly affected the outcome of the match.
- 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 Home Team to remove the cause of the objection, if this be possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

Protests relating to a specific match may only be lodged by a coach of a team playing in the match. Protests must be in writing and must be sent to the Protest Officer (NVYSL Vice President), 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 on the field at the end of the match. The referee must note this in the match report and within 1 hour notify the NVYSL Referee Director, who will then notify within 1 hour the Protest Officer. Protests will be accepted for hearing only for matches played in the Spring season for Division 1 and Division 2, playoffs, and tournaments.

### **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 Protest Officer and must have at least two other members chosen by the chairperson.

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

The Protest Officer, 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 NVYSL President, the NVYSL Secretary, the NVYSL Referee Director and the Grade Director. The Protest Committee shall report any activity at the next NVYSL Board meeting.

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

No one shall be a member of the Protest Committee if that member:

- a) Was involved in the match as a coach or referee
- b) Is a family member of an involved coach or referee
- c) Has a child playing on one of the teams involved
- d) Is from a Club so involved

If the Protest Officer needs to recuse, the NVYSL President shall assume the Protest Officer position.

#### **2.6.03(e) Appeal**

A decision of the Protest Committee may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer in accordance with the Mass Youth Soccer appeals process.

### **SECTION 3. RULES OF COMPETITION**

#### **Chapter 1 UNIVERSAL**

##### **3.1.01 Rules of Play**

Current FIFA/IFAB 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 IFAB web site.

##### **3.1.02 Ball Sizes**

- a) Grade 9/PG: Size 5
- b) Grade 9/10: Size 5
- c) Grade 7/8: Size 5
- d) Grade 5/6: Size 4
- e) Grade 3/4: 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/pinnies of a different color.

Athletic shorts or pants are required.

Each player shall wear fully covered shin guards or they will not be allowed to play.

Keepers are allowed to wear keeper gloves with finger savers.

Splints with soft, non-rigid, external flexible structure or covered non-rigid internal structural items (similar to finger savers on keeper gloves) are allowed. They may not have any 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 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.

##### **3.1.04 Playing Periods**

- |                            |   |                      |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| a) High School Rec         | : | Two 35 minute halves |
| b) Grade 9/10, Grade 9/PG  | : | Two 40 minute halves |
| c) Grade 7/8               | : | Two 35 minute halves |
| d) Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 | : | Two 30 minute        |

halves The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.

##### **3.1.05 Match Times**

Matches may be scheduled at different times than below to deal with lack of available fields or to make up a

postponed match.

### **3.1.05(a) Saturday**

- a) Girls Grade 3/4 : 9:00 AM
- b) Boys Grade 3/4 : 10:30 AM
- c) Girls Grade 5/6 : 12:00 PM
- d) Boys Grade 5/6 : 1:30 PM
- e) Girls Grade 7/8 : 3:00 PM
- f) Boys Grade 7/8 : 4:30 PM
- g) High School (Grade 9/11, Grade 9/PG) : 6:00 PM or earlier w/mutual agreement

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

High School (Grade 9/10, Grade 9/PG) : 1:00 PM or 3:00 PM or 5:00 PM

### **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.

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

The Home Team shall be allowed to select the touchline where the teams are to be located. Both team's credentialed coaches and players shall be located on the same touchline.

Spectators of both teams shall be located outside the touchline on the opposite side of the field from the teams. Spectators are not permitted behind goal areas or lines. Referees may enforce the separation of spectators to be designated across from their related teams.

All coaches, spectators, and players not involved in active play shall remain at least 4 feet behind the touchline. When possible, the home Club is encouraged to paint additional dashed lines a minimum 4 feet outside the touchlines on both sides of the field.

Coaches and players not involved in active play must remain a minimum of 8 yards away from the halfway line except for players waiting to be substituted. If there is a marked team technical area, coaches and players must remain within its confines. Coaches may attend to an injured player on the field with permission by the referee to enter the field.

This policy shall apply unless physically impossible as determined by the referee.

### **3.1.08 Substitutions**

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 Number of Players**

In eleven versus eleven (11v11) competition, a team shall have at least seven (7) and no more than eleven (11) players, including the goalkeeper, in order for the match to begin or continue. A team must have at least 7

players or Forfeit the match. A team is permitted to willingly and intentionally play shorthanded with fewer than eleven (11) but no fewer than seven (7) players.

The maximum roster size is listed in 2.4.01(b) Roster Size.

### **3.2.02 Limited Heading in Grade 7/8**

Consistent with the rule 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**

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

The Field of Play for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division as of the Effective Date shall have dimensions of 70 to 80 yards long (Touch Line) by 45 to 55 yards wide (Goal Line) as outlined by US Youth Soccer's Rules for Small-Sided Games.

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 8 yards from the Center Mark
- 3) Penalty Area marked by two lines drawn at right angles to the Goal Line, 14 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for 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 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, 6 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for 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) 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 to begin or continue. One Player on each Team must be a designated 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 designated Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size is listed in 2.4.01(b) Roster Size.

#### **3.3.01(d) 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.

#### **3.3.01(e) 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 going beyond the top of 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(f) GOAL KICK**

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 going beyond the top of 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(g) NO HEADING IN MATCHES IN THE Grade 5/6 DIVISION**

Consistent with the rule adopted by MYSA in March 2016, 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**

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

The Field of Play for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division as of the Effective Date shall have dimensions of 55 to 65 yards long (Touch Line) by 35 to 45 yards wide (Goal Line) as outlined by US Youth Soccer's Rules for Small-Sided Games.

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 8 yards from the Center Mark
- 3) Penalty Area marked by a Penalty Line extending from one Touch Line to the other, 12 yards from and parallel to the Goal Line. No Goal Area is required.
- 4) Penalty Mark drawn 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) 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 designated 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 designated Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size is listed in 2.4.01(b) Roster Size.

#### **3.4.01(d) 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.

#### **3.4.01(e) 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(f) GOAL KICK**

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(g) 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(h) 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(i) OFFSIDE LAW**

The Offside Law shall be enforced only for 7v7 matches in the Division 1 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(j) NO HEADING**

Consistent with the rule adopted by MYSA in March 2016, NVYSL prohibits heading by Players 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 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 NVYSL matches. If there are only two referees available, their roles are center referee and assistant referee.

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 (NVYSL 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 NVYSL member 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 Club Referee Assignor, is expected to contribute referees to the NVYSL referee pool, and to encourage the recruitment and development of referees. Referees are independent contractors. As such, Clubs do not have exclusive use of their referees. There are two exceptions:

1. The referee does not show as available to be assigned in your town.
2. When the season or mid-season schedule is released for Grade 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 matches, the Club Referee Assignors are asked not to assign other Club's referees without a discussion with that Club's

assignor for a period of at least 48 hours after the release of the schedule. This time may be adjusted by the NVYSL Referee Director based on when schedules are released, and whether there are other mitigating circumstances.

#### **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 the town of residence of the referee.

## **Chapter 2 PROCESS**

#### **4.2.01 Referee Assignment – Responsibility**

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

In the FALL season, the Home Club Referee Assignor assigns referees to all scheduled matches, unscheduled matches, and makeup matches.

##### **4.2.01(b) Spring Season**

In the SPRING season the following applies:

##### NVYSL Assignor:

- a) All regular season matches for Grade 9/10 and Grade 9/PG teams
- 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 groups
- b) All rescheduled matches, including Grade 9/10, Grade 9/PG and unscheduled matches

#### **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 certified referee for the entire match and the match counts in the standings.
- b) Do not play the match and set a make-up date.
- c) Agree on a single substitute non-certified match facilitator, and the match is played as a scrimmage which will not count in the standings.

NVYSL will only pay certified referees.

Coaches must report ALL referee no-shows to the responsible NVYSL Grade 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 including:

- Verify that goals are properly anchored against tipping over.
- Corner flags meet FIFA standards.
- Ensure that the entire playing surface is safe.
- Verify that goals in close proximity to the field are anchored or laid to prevent tipping over.

The referee should apprise the home coach of any issues with the field, which are to be addressed by the home coach.

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. Check in consists of:

- Ensure that coaches have proper credentials. Official MYSA Credentials must be displayed and worn by all team officials on the team sideline. Electronic versions are not valid. Any coach without credentials cannot be present on the team sideline.

- Review NVYSL Valid Team Rosters provided by Coaches:
  - Check off the name of each coach and player present, including Guest Players (see 2.4.04(b) [Requirements for Guest Players](#)).
  - Note each coach and player not in attendance.
  - Ensure that the correct uniform numbers are recorded for each player.
  - In MTOC flights, verify that the photos on the roster match the players..
- Verify player uniforms meet Uniforms and Equipment policy.

Any issues must be noted in the referee Game Report.

#### **4.2.04 Referee Post-Match Responsibilities**

Following all matches, Referees shall do the following.

Complete Game Reports within 48 hours of the match. Game Reports must include:

- Final score
- All use of the NVYSL Player Pass by Home or Visitor Teams
- Any special circumstances (e.g., cards issued, field conditions, player conduct violations, injuries, spectator conduct, referee absences, etc.)

Report issued cards to the Referee Assignor and Sportsmanship Committee at [reports@nvysl.org](mailto:reports@nvysl.org).

Retain the NVYSL Referee Field Card and paper rosters until 14 days past the end of the season.

#### **4.2.05 Referee Payment**

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

NVYSL will only pay certified referees.

NVYSL will not pay referees who do friendly matches between two NVYSL teams. The referees 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 Forfeit 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 NVYSL Referee Paymaster for Grade 5/6 – Post-Graduate matches based on Game Reports submitted by the referee, and referees are paid in a timely manner. Referee payment for Grade 3/4 matches is provided by the Home Team Club in accordance with the pay scale established by the NVYSL Board.

Bonuses, as outlined in the NVYSL pay scale, may be earned for Grade 5/6 matches and above. All bonuses are paid after the end of the season in which they are earned.

- If a referee attends the pre-season NVYSL referee meeting, a bonus is paid for every match officiated during the season.
- If a referee officiates 10 or more Grade 9/10 or Grade 9/PG matches, a bonus is paid for every Grade 9/10 or Grade 9/PG match officiated during the season.

### **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 match will be subject to a review by the Sportsmanship Committee and may be prohibited from viewing matches for a period deemed appropriate. The enforcement of this prohibition will be the responsibility of the Club of the fan.



- 3) Any team/Club 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 disagreement with a referee, they are expected to adhere to the NVYSL zero- tolerance bylaw before, during and after the match. The coach is expected to express their opinions about the referee, stating facts via a REFEREE EVALUATION found on the [NVYSL website](http://www.nvysl.org) ([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 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. Referee Mentors are observers at a field of play and they have no special standing to intervene in the proceedings of a match. If a Referee Mentor chooses to intervene due to a perceived safety issue, they are expected to do so with considerable discretion and tact.

### **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 one of the Sportsmanship Committee Members and shall consist of at least three impartial members chosen by the Chairperson. 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 Sportsmanship Director, when notified of a sportsmanship issue, and after fact finding, shall have the authority to immediately suspend 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 Grade 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 Club 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 SRC 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, they will not be allowed to play/coach in the next match played by their 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 tables below will take place:

In a Match	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 match. <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 match. <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 match)	Player may continue to play in that match. Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2 (2 for Red Card)

In a Season	Action Required / Notes	Card Points <sup>d</sup>
		equivalent)
3rd Yellow Card (Red card in same match 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 match. <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 match as result of separate sending off)	Player must leave the field of play. <sup>b</sup> Team plays with one less player for the balance of the match. <sup>c</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 match. 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 match. 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 NVYSL matches.	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 match and for 60 minutes following the match. 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 match. See examples below.
- e) The season includes playoffs and tournament matches.
- f) If fewer than four (4) matches 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 match, they 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 match until 60 minutes following the match. 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 match. In addition, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next TWO matches played by that team.

If a coach accumulates TWO cautions in matches from which they were not dismissed, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next match played by that team.

To eliminate any uncertainty about a referee's action toward a coach, the referee must 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.

### 5.2.01(c) Penalties

Penalties for offenses shall be assessed as follows:

Category	Description	Penalty <sup>a</sup>
Excessive Scoring	Scoring difference = 7 to 9 goals - First offense	Warning from Grade Director
Excessive Scoring	Scoring difference = 7 to 9 goals - Second or subsequent offense	1 Match Suspension of Acting Head Coach. <sup>b</sup>
Excessive Scoring	Scoring difference = 10+ goals - First offense	1 Match Suspension of Acting Head Coach. <sup>b</sup>
Excessive Scoring	Scoring difference = 10+ goals - Second or subsequent offense	2 Match Suspension of Acting Head Coach. <sup>b</sup>
Spectator Conduct	Spectator verbally questioning referee - First minor offense	Verbal warning to Head Coach. <sup>c</sup>
Spectator Conduct	Spectator verbally questioning referee - Second offense	Yellow Card to Head Coach. <sup>c</sup>
Spectator Conduct	Spectator verbally questioning referee - Third offense	Red Card to Head Coach. <sup>c</sup>
Spectator Conduct	Spectator approaching Referee after the match	Team forfeits next match.
Spectator Conduct	Spectator approaching Opposing team personnel	Team forfeits next match.

#### NOTES:

- Sportsmanship Hearings can be requested at any time. The penalty may be overturned, upheld, or increased at a Sportsmanship Hearing.
- At Grade 5/6 and younger, the penalty may be waived by an NVYSL Sportsmanship Director. At Grade 7/8 and older, the penalty may be imposed by an NVYSL Sportsmanship Director.
- Referee shall follow IFAB rule 12.

### 5.2.01(d) Card Points

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 caution / yellow card issued to a coach
- 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(e) Suspensions**

Game suspensions apply and carry forward to all NVYSL-sanctioned matches including any championship matches (playoffs, MTOC, and Nashoba Cup matches). 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(f) Sportsmanship Review**

The Sportsmanship Director 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 match. 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 match (which will not count toward competitive standings, i.e., the Forfeit stands), utilizing the time until the next scheduled match.

#### **5.2.04 Forfeits**

A team that Forfeits a match or matches shall be fined as described below. This fee may be waived on a case by case basis by the NVYSL President. The fine is payable at the end of the season.

- 1) A team that plays at least 70 percent of its matches shall be fined \$50 for each Forfeit match.
- 2) A team that plays less than 70 percent of its matches but at least 50 percent of its matches shall be fined \$200.
- 3) A team that plays less than 50 percent of its matches 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.

### **SECTION 6. Glossary**

#### **Abandoned match**

A match that is terminated prior to completion of playing time. Abandoned matches will not be continued at a later time.

#### **Age Group**

Defined by MYSA, the age and grade requirements for players to participate.

#### **Blended Divisions**

A combined Division, such as a Division 1/Division 2 (D12).

#### **Club**

A NVYSL affiliated soccer program.

#### **Club Affiliation Material**

The required materials that a Club must submit to MYSA including, but not limited to, Fee Submission Form, Player File Upload, Initial Payment, Annual Leadership Report.

**Competitive play**

Teams registered with NVYSL to play in Division 1.

**Credentialed**

Formally credentialed by Mass Youth Soccer, Mass State Referee Committee, or US Soccer.

**Effective Date**

The date of the current revision of these policies.

**Excessive Goal Differential (EDG)**

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.

**Forfeit**

A match that is not played due to policy violations.

**Game Report**

The report a referee files in Arbiter after a match is played.

**Guest Player**

A player temporarily added to a team using the Player Pass Policy.

**Host Team**

The team temporarily adding a Guest Player.

**Ineligible Player**

An unregistered player, registered player not eligible to play, or a player not meeting the Player Pass Policy.

**Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC)**

A Spring Season tournament held by MYSA

**Mass Youth Soccer (MYSA)**

The governing body of which NVYSL is affiliated.

**NVYSL Valid Team Approved Roster**

A team roster approved by the NVYSL Roster Registrar.

**PG**

Post grad - Players that are within 1 year out of high school.

**Player Pass**

The NVYSL policy that enables flexibility in personnel movements on a per-match basis, while respecting the sanctity and integrity of the NVYSL Valid Team Roster. A Host Team may, for one match at a time, host Guest Players from another Team in their Club.

**Postponed match**

A match that is suspended and able to be played at a later time.

**Recreational play**

Teams registered with NVYSL to play in Divisions 2 and below.

**Seasonal Calendar**

The published NVYSL calendar for the spring or fall playing season.

**Suspended match**

A match that is stopped prior to full running time. The match may be resumed at a later time.

**Team**

All of the players listed on a Valid Team Roster. Guest players are part of a Team when using the Player Pass Policy.

**Unscheduled Match**

A match that is listed in the NVYSL schedule as "Unscheduled". Unscheduled matches may appear throughout the regular schedule in flights with an odd number of teams.

**Valid Team Roster**

A roster approved by the NVYSL Roster Registrar.



## NOTES

