

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

INFORMATION BOOKLET

FALL 2019

ATHOL

FITCHBURG

MAYNARD

AYER-SHIRLEY

GROTON-DUNSTABLE

NASHOBA UNITED

BERLIN

HARVARD

OAKMONT

BOLTON

HUDSON

PEPPERELL

BOYLSTON

LEOMINSTER

STOW

CHAIR CITY

LITTLETON

TOWNSEND-ASHBY

CLINTON

LUNENBURG

TYNGSBORO

✓ CHECKLIST FOR NVYSL COACHES ✓

① Pre-Season

- Ensure that you have received your Massachusetts Youth Soccer coaching credential from your Club.
- Ensure that you have received your NVYSL Approved Team Roster and Referee Game Cards from your Club.
- Copy your NVYSL Approved Team Roster and keep multiple copies in your car and equipment bag.
- Inventory your equipment bag : practice balls, 2 game balls, pinnies, pump with needle, cones, first aid kit, etc.

② Pre-Game

- Contact your opposing Coach several days before your game.
- Bring 2 copies of your NVYSL Approved Team Roster with all uniform numbers listed to give to the Referee.
- Wear your Mass Youth Soccer Coaching credential at all times.
- Ensure all Player equipment is in good order, including enforcement of no jewelry and no casts.
- Convene a pre-game 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 game balls.
- Fill in the required information (Game ID, Date, Time, Division, Flight, Home & Visiting Team Names, Field, Location) on the Referee Game Card.

If you are the Visiting Team:

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

③ During Game

- Send all substitutes to center of the touchline to obtain Referee permission before entering the game.
- 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 3 feet behind the touchline (i.e., inside the Technical Area).
- Ensure that your Team's Spectators remain 3 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-Game

- Lead the post-game 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 game results (including any special notes) to your Club's designated Score Reporter in a timely manner.
- Complete an online Referee Evaluation on the NVYSL website: <http://www.nvysl.org/refreport.php>

⑤ Postponements and Game Rescheduling (see Policy 2.5.01)

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

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

⑥ MTOC Eligible Teams

- Ensure that you have received NVYSL Approved Player Passcards from your Club.
- Provide Approved Player Passcards, 2 copies of NVYSL Approved Team Roster, and filled out Referee Game Card to the Referee at time of pre-game check-in.
- Line up Players in alphabetical order by last name for pre-game check-in.

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Visit the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Website at:

<http://www.nvysl.org>

NVYSL FALL 2019 CALENDAR

JULY	
01	NVYSL Board of Directors Takes Office for 2019-2020
14	Issue Spring 2019 Season Forfeit Fees & Late Fees to Clubs
AUGUST	
01	Team Registration Open for Fall 2019 Season
02	Preliminary Club Registration with Mass Youth Soccer Association <i>Fee Submission Form, Player File Upload, Initial Payment, Annual Leadership Report</i>
18	Deadline for Final Team Registration
21	Competition Committee Meeting : Pre-Season Team Flight Assignments
24	Due Date for Roster Submissions, including Residency Waiver Requests
25	NVYSL PRE-SEASON LEAGUE MEETINGS Referees @2PM Assignors @3:30 Coaches @5 Special Meeting @6:30 Board Meeting @8PM
30	Publish Match Schedules for Weeks#1-4 (1H) and Post to Arbiter
SEPTEMBER	
02	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>
07	FALL2019 KICKOFF! FIRST MATCH FOR GRADE 3/4, 5/6 AND 7/8 DIVISIONS
27	Deadline for Final Payment of Fall 2019 Season Fees from Clubs
28	Week #4 Matches for Grade 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8 Divisions
30	Publish Match Schedules for Weeks#5-8 (2H) and Post to Arbiter
OCTOBER	
05	Week #5 Matches for Grade 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8 Divisions
06	NVYSL MID-SEASON LEAGUE MEETING
12	<i>Columbus Day Holiday : No Matches Scheduled</i>
19	Week #6 Matches for Grade 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8 Divisions
26	Deadline for Final Club Registration Payment to Mass Youth Soccer Association
NOVEMBER	
02	FINAL MATCH FOR GRADE 3/4, 5/6 AND 7/8 DIVISIONS
03	<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>
09	NVYSL LEN BENNETT CHILL TOURNAMENT (TENTATIVE)
10	NVYSL 10CUP JAMBOREE (TENTATIVE)
16	NVYSL POST-SEASON LEAGUE MEETING
28	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
DECEMBER	
02	Issue Fall 2019 Season Forfeit Fees & Late Fees to Clubs
28	Distribute Spring 2020 Season Registration Information to Clubs

ITEMS OF NOTE FOR FALL 2019 SEASON

FALL 2019 SEASON CALENDAR

The Fall 2019 season for the Grade3/4, Grade5/6 and Grade7/8 Divisions consists of 8 games, starting on Saturday September 7th and concluding on Saturday November 2nd. Consult the complete NVYSL League Calendar on page 2.

MID-SEASON FLIGHT REASSIGNMENTS

NVYSL Age Directors strive to assign Teams into flights that optimize competitive balance. Based on outcomes from the first 4 matches, NVYSL Age Directors will work in consultation with Clubs to re-assign Teams to new flights in order to enhance competitive balance and ensure that every Team is afforded the opportunity to play level competition each week.

NVYSL WEBSITE : www.nvysl.org

Game schedules, standings, field closures, contact information, etc. can change frequently, so please bookmark and visit the official information resource for NVYSL at www.nvysl.org. NVYSL member Clubs are responsible for posting accurate and updated information for their Coaches, Club Officials, and Fields on the NVYSL website.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Competition in the Grade3/4 Division is purely developmental and is non-outcome based, therefore no scores or standings are published for this age group. Standings for older age groups are available under the 'Scores, Schedules, and Standings' menu at www.nvysl.org.

SCORE REPORTING

All scores must be reported through the NVYSL online score reporting system within 72 hours of the match. This includes Grade3/4 games (scores are tracked but not published for this age group), as well as games not played due to weather, field conditions, forfeit, etc.

FALL 2019 TOURNAMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Pepperell Fall Classic Tournament is Columbus Day Weekend, October 12th - 14th
- The NVYSL Len Bennett Chill Tournament is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Nov 9th
- The NVYSL 10Cup Jamboree is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Nov 10th
- Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association maintains a list of sanctioned tournaments at <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournaments-in-ma/>

NVYSL GOVERNANCE CHANGES

The NVYSL Annual General Meeting on 09June2019 introduced an important change in league governance, whereby every member Club's appointed NVYSL Representative will now serve as an At-Large Director with full voting privileges on all Board decisions. NVYSL continues to seek smart, energetic, creative, dedicated, passionate volunteers to participate on our Board of Directors. If you are motivated by the desire to positively impact the soccer experience for thousands of children across NVYSL, please consider joining the NVYSL Board!

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. ELECTED DIRECTORS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
PRESIDENT	Andre Mignault	Bolton, MA	aamignault@gmail.com 978-502-1717
VICE-PRESIDENT	<< OPEN >>		
TREASURER	<< OPEN >>		
SECRETARY	<< OPEN >>		
ROSTER REGISTRAR	<< OPEN >>		
TEAM REGISTRAR	<< OPEN >>		

B. APPOINTED DIRECTORS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	<< OPEN >>		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Mark Hollinger	Littleton, MA	mark@thehollingers.net 978-337-3581
NASHOBA CUP COMMISSIONER	<< OPEN >>		
REFEREE ASSIGNOR	<< OPEN >>		
REFEREE CO-DIRECTORS	Chris Batinsey Ruben Seyde	Fitchburg, MA Leominster, MA	chris.batinsey@gmail.com ruben.seyde@leominster youth soccer.org
SPORTSMANSHIP REVIEW OFFICER	<< OPEN >>		
TOPSOCCER DIRECTOR	Becki Blanton	Berlin, MA	NVYSLTOPSdirector@gmail.com 978-505-1488

C. AGE DIRECTORS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DIRECTOR	<< OPEN >>		
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS DIRECTOR	<< OPEN >>		
GRADE 7/8 GIRLS DIRECTOR	Mark Hollinger	Littleton, MA	mark@thehollingers.net 978-337-3581
GRADE 7/8 BOYS DIRECTOR	Mark Hollinger	Littleton, MA	mark@thehollingers.net 978-337-3581
GRADE 5/6 GIRLS DIRECTOR	Drew Holmes	Maynard, MA	drewholmes@hotmail.com 617-899-4902
GRADE 5/6 BOYS DIRECTOR	Robert Thibeault	Boylston, MA	jkrocky@hotmail.com 508-981-3077
GRADE 3/4 GIRLS DIRECTOR	<< OPEN >>		
GRADE 3/4 BOYS DIRECTOR	Brad Pierantozzi	Groton, MA	Bpierantozzi@gmail.com 617-999-5388

D. STIPEND POSITIONS

OFFICE	OFFICER	TOWN	CONTACT INFORMATION
BOOKKEEPER	<< OPEN >>		
REFEREE ASSIGNOR	Dan Beauregard	Westminster, MA	djb5169@gmail.com 978-337-2794
REFEREE PAYMASTER	<< OPEN >>		
ROSTER PROCESSOR	Rosemary Laverdiere	Leominster, MA	rlaverdier@aol.com 978-534-0365
MATCH SCHEDULER	<< OPEN >>		

E. AT LARGE DIRECTORS (NVYSL REPRESENTATIVES)

CLUB	REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT INFORMATION
ATHOL SOCCER CLUB	Jamie Sonnabend	jj82199@yahoo.com
AYER-SHIRLEY YOUTH SOCCER	Keith Begun	hkbegun@comcast.net
BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER	Chris Casperson	ccasperson72@gmail.com
BOLTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Evelyn Cubero	nvysl-rep@boltonsoccer.net
BOYLSTON YOUTH SOCCER	Robert Thibeault	jkrocky@hotmail.com
CHAIR CITY SOCCER	Sean Creney	seancreney@hotmail.com
CLINTON YOUTH SOCCER	Laura Taylor	taylorl@clinton.k12.ma.us
FITCHBURG YOUTH SOCCER	Paul Cosgrove	Paulcosgrove@comcast.net
GROTON-DUNSTABLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB	David Pitkin	dpitkin@gmail.com
HARVARD SOCCER CLUB	Andrew Thomas	board@harvardsoccer.org
HUDSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Ed Hannan	u10@hysa.org
LEOMINSTER YOUTH SOCCER	Geoff Anthony	coachingdirector@leominsteryouthsoccer.org
LITTLETON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB	Bobby Chrenc	President@LittletonYouthSoccer.org
LUNENBURG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Baron Bowser	president@lunenburgsoccer.com
MAYNARD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Steve Charron	stevecharron@comcast.net
NASHOBA UNITED	Thomas Kostas	tom@kostas.org
OAKMONT OUTLAWS	Kevin Madden	kevinmce@yahoo.com
PEPPERELL YOUTH SOCCER	David White	travel@pepperellsoccer.org
STOW YOUTH SOCCER	Thomas Kostas	stowsoccerpres@gmail.com
TOWNSEND-ASHBY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Matt Crean	president.taysa@gmail.com
TYNGSBORO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION	Greg Kosiorek	thekosioreks@verizon.net

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
<i>ANDRE MIGNAULT</i>	<i>Bolton</i>	<i>Jul 2017 - Present</i>

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Principles Applicable to All Members of the NVYSL Community

- 1.1 A member of the NVYSL Community is any person present at an activity sponsored by NVYSL, or an activity in which s/he represents NVYSL. This includes Players, Coaches, Referees, Administrators, and Spectators.
- 1.2 **All members of the NVYSL Community shall treat one another and all other people with dignity and respect. Participants shall behave according to the rules of soccer and shall avoid conduct that demeans, harasses, or threatens any person.**
- 1.3 All members of the NVYSL Community must be aware of, must understand, and must comply fully with the requirements to which they are subject, including principles in this Code of Conduct, policies of their local soccer Club, and requirements of Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL), Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), US Youth Soccer (USYS), and US Soccer (USSF).

2. Principles Applicable to NVYSL Coaches

The above principles apply with special force to NVYSL Coaches because of their influence in the lives of youth soccer Players, and because they represent their local soccer Club in dealing with Players, opposing Teams, Officials, Administrators, and other Sports Organizations.

- 2.1 Coaches shall never engage in conduct that is verbally or physically threatening or abusive, belligerent, or harassing.
- 2.2 Coaches shall not show prejudice or bias.
- 2.3 Coaches shall actively promote the good health and well-being of their Players.
- 2.4 Coaches shall actively promote honesty and forthrightness among their Players, and shall exhibit the highest standard of such behavior themselves.
- 2.5 Coaches shall serve as a role model of both compliance with the requirements to which they are subject and the high standard of behavior required by this Code of Conduct.

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Directors of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Incorporated (Mass Youth Soccer) and the leaders of the affiliated Leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct :

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, 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 game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, and you may need to be forceful and direct, from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all. Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

Mass Youth Soccer, April 2018

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 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 Laws of the Game.
- (3) I agree to respect and support all Referees. I acknowledge that administration of each game 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 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 game suspension or dismissal from the league.

CLUB AFFILIATION :	
TEAM NAME :	
COACH NAME :	
COACH SIGNATURE :	
DATE :	

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Bring the following items to each game :

- (a) Coach credentials issued by Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association
- (b) First Aid Kit, especially ice packs
- (c) Two (2) copies of your NVYSL approved roster with jersey numbers, to be given to the Referee
- (d) Player and Coach pass cards (MTOC divisions only)
- (e) Two (2) Game balls (home team)
- (f) Referee game card, to be given to the Referee (home team)
- (g) Pinnies of alternate color, if home and visitors have the same uniform color (visiting team)

2. After each game, both coaches should :

- (a) Submit the game score to your Club Score Reporter.
- (b) Complete an online Referee evaluation.

3. Game Cancellation and Rescheduling

- (a) For games cancelled due to unplayable field conditions, the Visiting Coach will be notified by the Home Coach at least 2 hours prior to game time.
- (b) Games may be postponed/cancelled on-site by the Referee, due to unsafe conditions.
- (c) If a game is canceled for any reason, the Home Coach must contact :
 - the Visiting Coach, to prevent visiting families from making wasted travel
 - Home Club Referee Director, who will cancel or reschedule Referees as required
 - the appropriate NVYSL Age Director
- (d) To reschedule a game, Coaches must agree upon a time and place to play. The Home Coach bears the responsibility to contact the Home Club Referee Director as far in advance as possible to schedule a Referee for the game.

4. Roster Changes

- (a) Before a Player may be added to a roster and be eligible to play, documents must be submitted to the NVYSL Roster Registrar by the Club Registrar.
- (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 game to allow participation of the new player.
- (c) Coaches must ensure that all Players and Coaches are properly affiliated and registered with Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. Liability insurance from Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association 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

Coaches are expected to know the Laws of the Game and any modifications of these Laws governing local rules of competition, as outlined in NVYSL Policies & Procedures.

6. Referees

Coaches who experience a serious disagreement with a Referee must keep quiet during the game. All Coaches are invited to complete an online Referee Evaluation after every game, 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 games. 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 MTOC-eligible matches in each Spring season, consisting of all D1 and D2 games in Grade56, Grade78, and High School divisions.
2. Club Referee Assignors/Directors assign all games in the NVYSL Fall season, as well as all non-MTOC games in the Spring season (i.e., Grade56 and Grade 78 games in D3 and below; all Grade 34 games). During both Fall and Spring seasons, the Club Referee Assignors/Directors process any changes to the schedule (e.g., TBA and other rescheduled games).
3. Referees must ensure that their contact information is up to date in ArbiterSports. All game contact information is available in Arbiter's Game Details.
4. **The Referee's Club Referee Assignor/Director is their main point of contact. The Club Referee Assignor/Director 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/Director as soon as possible, even if a substitute has been identified. If the Referee cannot make direct contact with their Home Club Referee Assignor/Director, the Referee must establish contact with the Visiting Club Referee Assignor/Director, the Home Coach, and/or the Visiting Coach. The more notice the better!
6. NVYSL will not pay uncertified Referees. Only currently certified Referees registered in Arbiter may be scheduled to referee a game and be paid by NVYSL. The Referee must file an online game report in Arbiter within 48 hours after the game in order to be paid.
7. Referees must report all yellow cards, red cards, and other notable misconduct to the NVYSL Referee Paymaster. The Paymaster 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.

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.

v. 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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ORGANIZATION NAME

This organization shall be known as: NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC., hereafter referred to as the NVYSL.

The NVYSL is a non-profit corporation affiliated with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (Mass Youth Soccer) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and

shall adhere to the Mass Youth Soccer Constitution in all respects.

OBJECTIVE

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

DESCRIPTION AND GOVERNING BODY

The NVYSL shall be an association of soccer clubs within the Nashoba Valley geographical area. NVYSL will be responsible for setting policy objectives and providing for game scheduling, League rules, officials and League organization.

The governing body of NVYSL will be the Executive Board, hereafter referred to as the BOARD, which shall consist of the following:

ELECTED	APPOINTED
President	Age Directors (G3/4, B3/4, G5/6, B5/6, Gr7/8 and High School)
Vice President	IT Director
Secretary	Referee Director
Treasurer	Sportsmanship Review Officer
Team Registrar	TOPS Director
Roster Registrar	Immediate Past President
	Nashoba Cup Commissioner
	Referee Assignor
	At-Large Directors
	<i>consisting of one NVYSL Representative per member Club</i>

The NVYSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during the second half of the spring soccer season at a specific date to be determined by the Board. Executive Directors 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 Executive Directors, but may vote in only one capacity.

Board members elected at that meeting shall take office effective as of the end of the spring soccer season, or July 1st, whichever occurs first.

The Referee Director, Referee Assignor, the Age Directors, Sportsmanship Review Officer, the Immediate Past President, TOPS Director, and Nashoba Cup Commissioner will not be elected but will be appointed by the President. All appointed Board Members shall be approved by a majority of the Board.

OFFICERS - TERM OF OFFICE

Officers shall hold office for a one-year term and are eligible for re-election.

BOARD DECISIONS

All matters of policy shall be decided by a simple majority vote, except as noted under "Modifications to the Constitution". Fifteen (15) Board members shall constitute a quorum.

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 meetings may be called by the Board as necessary or by the member towns. Member towns can call a meeting by written request to the President and signed by enough towns 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 entered for play in the spring season immediately prior to the General Meeting (AGM or Special). The number of votes is as follows:

NUMBER OF TEAMS	VOTES
1-5	1
6-10	2
11-20	3
More than 20	4

Towns that only participate in fall play will have one vote at the meeting. Towns may vote by proxy, but at least one representative from the town must be present to carry the town's votes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Duties and responsibilities of the members of the Board shall be as follows:

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 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 his/her absence. He/she shall be Chairperson of the Protest Committee, shall be responsible for preparation of the spring and fall League 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 the NVYSL; keep detailed minutes of all

Board and general meetings; keep records as necessary; be responsible for public relations and correspond on behalf of the NVYSL only with the knowledge and permission of the President. The secretary shall also be responsible for updating the changes in the Constitution and Policies for the League book and preparing the data for the other parts of the book, except the town pages and the game schedule pages. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Secretary.

Team Registrar

The Team Registrar shall be responsible for managing all team registrations, preparing team data for the game scheduler, and providing inputs for the League book, as required. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Team Registrar.

Roster Registrar

The Roster Registrar shall be responsible for overseeing the roster submission/validation process and acting as League liaison with Mass Youth Soccer regarding rosters. The Roster Registrar shall also be responsible for interpreting League Policies and Mass Youth Soccer roster requirements. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Roster Registrar.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have charge of all the finances of NVYSL. He/she 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. He/she shall be authorized to co-sign checks. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of Treasurer.

Referee Director

The Referee Director shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and retaining referees to officiate in the NVYSL. He/she shall work jointly with the referee directors of the member clubs to provide support and development for all NVYSL referees.

Referee Assignor

The Referee Assignor (1) shall verify that all assignors of the member clubs are currently certified with US Soccer, (2) shall verify that all NVYSL referees are currently certified with US Soccer, (3) shall track rejected assignments or turned back assignments, and shall provide the NVYSL board a report of any serious assignment issues. The Referee Assignor shall provide support and guidance to town Assignors. The Referee Assignor will work jointly with the assignors of the member clubs and the Referee Director to ensure that referee rankings are accurate. The Referee Assignor will work with the Referee Director in providing opportunity to develop the skill level of the referees and ensure that our referees are given the opportunity to accept more challenging assignments when appropriate.

Age Director

The Age Directors shall have the responsibility for the administration of the affairs of the NVYSL within their age divisions. This includes the reporting of scores and the keeping of division statistics.

TOPS Director

The TOPS Director shall have the responsibility of coordinating activities with like-minded people in other Massachusetts youth soccer leagues and the Mass Youth Soccer TOPS Director. US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers.

Nashoba Cup Commissioner

The Nashoba Cup Commissioner shall have the responsibility for planning and coordinating the NVYSL Nashoba Cup tournament contested in late June among teams playing in Nashoba Cup flights.

Sportsmanship Review Officer

The Sportsmanship Review Officer shall preside at all sportsmanship review committee hearings, unless disqualified under the conflict of interest section of the sportsmanship review committee Policy. The Sportsmanship Review Officer shall schedule hearings, select committee members, and invite involved parties. The sportsmanship review officer shall report all activity to the NVYSL board.

Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President is the NVYSL President who served prior to the current President. The Immediate Past President shall provide guidance to the Board and assist where appropriate.

IT Director

The IT Director is responsible for recommending and maintaining technology-based products and services to support the operation of the league. This includes software and online providers such as the league website. 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.

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 Association.

FINANCIAL POLICY**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.

Major Expenses

Major, non-budgeted expenses over \$250 from any individual or corporation shall require approval by a majority of the Board.

Bank Account

All moneys shall be promptly deposited in either a savings or a checking account in the NVYSL's name.

Expenses

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.

Expenditures

Funds shall be spent only in the interest of the NVYSL.

Disposition of Funds

Should the NVYSL be dissolved, all funds currently in the treasury will be donated to a recognized 501c(3) organization.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board shall have the power to deal with any matters not explicitly covered by the Policies.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The NVYSL Constitution and Bylaws, or any section thereof, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the AGM or at a special 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.

MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The NVYSL Policies & Procedures, or any section thereof, may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Board members present at a Board meeting. In addition, changes may be proposed by the membership at the AGM and approved by a simple majority of the voting members present.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was first approved at a General Meeting on December 18, 1984 and last amended on June 9, 2019.

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

BYLAWS

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SECTION 1. PROCESS

1.01 : Amendment of Bylaws [*Updated Jun2019*]

These printed Bylaws were last amended on June 9, 2019. Updates to these Bylaws since the last printing can be found at the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League website: www.nvysl.org . These Bylaws may be modified by a two-thirds vote of the NVYSL Board at any scheduled board meeting.

Additionally, Bylaws may be modified by a two-thirds vote of the NVYSL Board over email, in accordance with the following procedures :

- 1) Any Board member may make a motion, which is distributed by email to the entire Board.
- 2) Another Board member must second the motion. This second and all subsequent responses should use “reply all”.
- 3) Once seconded, a discussion period is opened for 72 hours.
- 4) At that time, discussion ends and a voting period is opened for 72 hours.
- 5) At that time, the Chairperson (i.e., President) tabulates the votes and publishes the decision.

The NVYSL board may make a change in the operation of the league on a single season trial basis without changing the bylaws. If it does so, member clubs will notified of the change in a timely manner.

1.02 : Due Process

For any potential finding or action by the NVYSL more serious than proscribed by the bylaws against one of its members, the NVYSL will assure that said member is afforded due process in the form of an open public hearing on the matter in question. An NVYSL member is any one of a town club, a coach, a player or a club official, or a duly elected or appointed NVYSL board member, all of whom are affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer for the current soccer season. Said hearing must be scheduled to allow the party(s) involved the opportunity to attend the hearing, with a minimum of 72 hours notice required. If the party(s) decline to attend with good cause and do not propose an alternative date and time, they waive their right to due process.

Similarly, a town club as a member of the NVYSL will assure due process for any potential finding or action against one of its members or the NVYSL itself. Any action by the NVYSL or its officials in exact compliance with written bylaws is not subject to due process. Examples of actions to which due process does not apply include one-match player or two-match coach suspensions for dismissal from a match, match forfeiture fees, late score reporting fines, and town club probationary status for failure to meet required obligations to the league or to Mass Youth Soccer.

SECTION 2. MEMBER CLUBS

2.01 : Mandatory League Meetings

The league requires mandatory attendance by a town soccer club official (e.g. League Representative, President, Vice President, Referee Director, Registrar) duly registered with Mass Youth Soccer at each of two scheduled pre-season meetings prior to the fall and spring seasons. Town soccer clubs not in attendance at a mandatory meeting will be fined 10% of its team registration fee for that season, plus any expenses incurred by the league to provide printed and other materials to the club. The fine may be waived by unanimous vote of the NVYSL board if there are extenuating circumstances.

Pre-season meetings provide necessary direct contact between league and town officials, and they provide the means to distribute league books, approved team rosters and other materials to town clubs.

Clubs registering only high school 8v8 teams in the fall season or recreational 11v11 teams in the spring season are exempted from attendance, are encouraged to attend, and may be required to attend a separate mandatory organizational meeting.

2.02 : Clubs in Good Standing

A NVYSL member club is in good standing with the League if :

- a) It has satisfied all its financial obligations to NVYSL and Mass Youth Soccer; AND
- b) It 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 the MTOC or other tournament. The NVYSL replacement team shall be selected from the other teams in the division in accordance with League Standings Bylaw.

2.03 : 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 game skills.
4. Maintain rosters.
5. Provide a list of potential candidates for voting and nonvoting members of the Board.
6. For the FALL playing season, ensure that all players on all teams play at least half of each game. For all Rec teams, ensure that all players play at least half of each game 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 the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League.

NVYSL Fields of Play

v. March 2018

CLUB	FIELD	ADDRESS	ACCOMMODATIONS			DIVISIONS PLAYED			Field Counts				
			Pets Allowed	Rest Rooms	Concessions	Gr34	Gr56	Gr78	HS	11v11	9v9	7v7	
ATHOL SOCCER CLUB (www.atholsoccerclub.org)													
1)	Athol High School	2363 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	1	1		
2)	Athol Royalston Middle School	1062 Pleasant Street, Athol, MA 01331	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	1	1		
3)	Mahar Regional High School	507 South Main Street, Orange, MA 01364	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	1	1		
AYER-SHIRLEY YOUTH SOCCER													
1)	Wilde Road Field	51 Shaker Road, Shirley, MA 01464	NO	yes	yes	YES	YES	YES	1	1	1		
BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER (www.berlinyouthsoccer.com)													
1)	Berlin Memorial School	34 South Street, Berlin, MA 01503	ok	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	1	1		
BOLTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.boltonsoccer.net)													
1)	Forbush Mill Fields	250 Forbush Mill Road, Bolton, MA 01740	ok	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	2	2		
BOYLSTON YOUTH SOCCER (boylstonyouthsoccer.org)													
1)	Hillside Field	215 Main Street (Rte70), Boylston, MA 01505	ok	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	2	2	2		
CHAIR CITY SOCCER													
1)	Gardner High School	200 Catherine Street, Gardner, MA 01440	NO	yes	NO	no	YES	YES	1	0	0		
2)	Waterford Street Elementary School	70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES	YES	1	2	2		
CLINTON YOUTH SOCCER (www.clintonyouthsoccer.org)													
1)	South Meadow Fields (Clinton High School)	2 South Meadow Road, Clinton, MA 01510	NO	yes	yes	NO	YES	YES	2	1	2		
FITCHBURG YOUTH SOCCER (www.fitchburgyouthsoccer.org)													
1)	Coolidge Park Fields	1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420	NO	yes	yes	Wallace Civic Center.	YES	no	YES	YES	1	0	1
2)	Moran Park Fields	445 Ashburnham Street (Rte12), Fitchburg, MA 01420	NO	yes	NO	Next left after Beth Eden Church at 350 Ashburnham Street.	no	YES	YES	YES	1	1	0
GROTON-DUNSTABLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB (www.gdyssc.org)													
1)	Cow Pond Fields	99 Cow Pond Brook Road, Groton, MA 01450	NO	yes	yes		YES	YES	2	2	4		
2)	Larter Fields	100 Groton Street, Dunstable, MA 01827	NO	yes	NO		YES	YES	2	2	4		
HARVARD SOCCER CLUB (www.harvardsoccer.org)													
1)	Charlie Waite Field	19 Lancaster County Road, Harvard, MA 01451	NO	yes	NO		YES	no	0	1	2		
2)	Harvard Park Field	18-36 Lancaster County Road, Harvard, MA 01451	NO	yes	NO		no	YES	1	0	0		
3)	Lower & Upper Depot Fields	51-55 Depot Road, Harvard, MA 01451	NO	yes	NO		YES	YES	2	1	1		
HUDSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.hysa.org)													
1)	Brook Street Corn Field	26 Brook Street, Hudson, MA 01749	ok	yes	NO	Parking not permitted along Hummock Way.	YES	YES	YES	YES	1	2	3
2)	Cherry Street Field	61 Cherry Street, Hudson, MA 01749	ok	yes	NO		no	no	0	0	2		
3)	Intel Field	105 Technology Drive, Hudson, MA 01749	ok	yes	NO		YES	YES	1	1	2		
4)	Sauta Field	530 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749	ok	yes	NO	Upper & Lower fields	no	YES	YES	YES	2	2	0
LEOMINSTER YOUTH SOCCER (www.leominsteryouthsoccer.org)													
1)	Doyle Field	103 Priest Street, Leominster, MA 01453	NO	yes	NO	No smoking. Lower field is Turf. No concessions at Upper Field.	no	YES	YES	YES	2	0	0
2)	Fall Brook Elementary School	25 Decicco Drive, Leominster, MA 01453	NO	yes	NO	No smoking.	YES	no	0	1	1		
3)	Samoset Middle School	100 Decicco Drive, Leominster, MA 01453	NO	yes	yes	No smoking. Upper & Lower fields. Parking can be tight	YES	YES	YES	YES	1	1	3

NVYSL Fields of Play

v. March 2018

CLUB	FIELD	ADDRESS	ACCOMMODATIONS			DIVISIONS PLAYED			Field Counts		
			Pets Allowed	Rest Rooms	Concessions	Gr34	Gr56	Gr78	HS	11v11	9v9
LITTLETON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB (www.LittletonYouthSoccer.org)											
1) Koerper Fields		51 Ayer Road, Littleton, MA 01460	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	1	2	2
2) St. Anne's Fields (St. Anne Catholic Church)		75 King Street, Littleton, MA 01460	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	0	2
LUNENBURG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.lunenburgsoccer.com)											
1) Lunenburg Middle/High School		1079 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg 01462	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1	1	2
Please do not allow any player, siblings or parents to climb the fences or to slide through the openings of the fence. No one is allowed to be running or horse playing on the bleachers or climbing goal posts!											
MAYNARD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.maynardyouthsoccer.org)											
1) Maynard High School : Front Field		1 Tiger Drive, Maynard, MA 01754	NO	0	0	NO	NO	NO	0	1	2
2) Fowler Middle School		3 Tiger Drive, Maynard, MA 01754	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	0	0
3) Rockland Fields		40 Rockland Avenue, Maynard, MA 01754	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	1	2
OAKMONT OUTLAWS (www.oakmontoutlaws.org)											
1) Landry Field		8 Williams Road, Ashburnham, MA 01420	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1	1	2
2) Oakmont Regional High School		9 Oakmont Drive, Ashburnham, MA 01420	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1	1	2
3) TRW Field		180 State Road East, Westminster, MA 01473	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1	1	2
PEPPERELL YOUTH SOCCER (www.pepperellsoccer.org)											
1) Comiskey Fields (Varnum Brook Elementary School)		10 Hollis Street, Pepperell, MA 01463	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	0	0
2) Glow Fields (Nissitissit Middle School)		33 Chace Avenue, Pepperell, MA 01463	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	0	3
3) Leao Fields (Nissitissit Middle School)		33 Chace Avenue, Pepperell, MA 01463	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	2	0	0
4) Varnum Brook Fields (Varnum Brook Elementary School)		10 Hollis Street, Pepperell, MA 01463	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	2	0
STOW YOUTH SOCCER (www.stowsoccer.org)											
1) Pine Bluff Fields		299 Sudbury Road, Stow, MA 01775	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1	1	3
2) Stow Community Park Fields		60 Old Bolton Road, Stow, MA 01775	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	0	2	2
NASHOBA UNITED (www.nashobaunited.org)											
Lancaster Schools Fields (Mary Rowlandson Elementary & Luther Burbank Middle School)											
1) Rowlandson Elementary & Luther Burbank Middle School		1 Hollywood Drive, Lancaster, MA 01523	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	1	2
2) Nashoba High School		15 Green Road, Bolton, MA 01740	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	1	0
TOWNSEND-ASHBY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.taysa.info)											
1) Squannacook Meadows Field		20 Mason Road, Townsend, MA 01469	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	1	1	2
Fields are on conservation land. Please keep to the field area (no climbing on sand dunes). Abide by carry in carry out policy. Parking must be limited to designated area.											
TYNGSBORO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.tyngsborosoccer.com)											
1) Bridge Meadow Fields		99 Swan Road, Tyngsboro, MA 01879	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	0	2	2
2) Tyngsboro Elementary School		205 Westford Road, Tyngsboro, MA 01879	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	0	0
3) Tyngsboro High School		36 Norris Road, Tyngsboro, MA 01879	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	0	0

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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SECTION 2. LEAGUE OPERATIONS

Chapter 1 : LEAGUE STRUCTURE

2.1.01 : League Structure

The NVYSL offers three categories of play. The Division 1 Group is for teams to compete to represent NVYSL at the Division 1 MTOC Tournament in the spring season. The Division 2 Group is for teams to compete to represent NVYSL at the Division 2 MTOC Tournament in the spring season. The Recreational Group is Non-Outcome based play for Grade3/4 and Outcome based for Grade5/6 and older.

- 1) Recreational Group play is offered for Grade3/4
- 2) Division 1 Group, Division 2 Group, and Recreational Group play are offered for Grade5/6 and Grade7/8
- 3) Division 1 Group and Division 2 Group play are offered for Grade9/10 in the spring season
- 4) Division 1 Group play is offered for Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate in the spring season
- 5) Recreational Group play is offered for high-school-age players in the fall season

A minimum of four teams will be required to have regular competition in each Group unless the Board makes a specific exception.

In the spring season the League representatives to the MTOC tournament will be based on the results of play in the end-of-season NVYSL Nashoba Cup (NCup) Tournament.

Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate teams may be combined by the League into common flights to provide viable play. A team declared as Post-Graduate must finish high enough in a combined Grade11/12 & Post-Graduate flight to be the NVYSL Post-Graduate representative at MTOC, or else a Grade11/12 team finishing higher in the standings will

represent the NVYSL as Post-Graduate. Whether by regular season standings or by playoffs, as decided by the NVYSL board, the normal order in which Grade11/12 & Post-Graduate MTOC slots are awarded is as follows:

- 1) First place : Grade11/12 NVYSL champion
- 2) Second place : Grade11/12 NVYSL wildcard (when available)
- 3) Second/Third place : Post-Graduate NVYSL representative.

If a team(s) declared as Post-Graduate finishes higher than third, the order of awarded MTOC slots changes accordingly.

2.1.02 : Age Grouping

For the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 playing seasons, players shall be grouped as follows:

- 1) Under 19 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 2) Under 18 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 3) Under 16 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 4) Under 14 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 5) Under 12 years of age on 31 July 2016
- 6) Under 10 years of age on 31 July 2016

To meet US Youth Soccer and Mass. Youth Soccer requirements, no exceptions will be approved to permit players older than the given age to play in any age group except that:

- 1) An age exception may be granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act, subject to formal documented proof
- 2) The NVYSL Roster Registrar may grant an age waiver (at the request of a town only) to a child who is grade-appropriate for the age group but is otherwise too old for the age group, subject to two conditions:
 - (a) The team on which the child plays is placed in Division 3 (Recreational); AND
 - (b) The age group in which the child is playing is U-14 or younger.

For purposes of determining grade-appropriateness, a child who is not age-appropriate must be in Grade 8 or below to play in U-14, Grade 6 or below to play in U-12, or Grade 4 or below to play in U-10.

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.

An affiliated adult, at least 18 years of age, 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, an adult affiliated with the team's club may serve as the responsible coach for the match. This adult must present evidence of his/her club affiliation to the match referee by means of a coach passcard from another team, a roster from another team with said adult

as coach, or a driver’s license matching the name and address of one of the club officials shown in the current NVYSL book. For purposes of this by-law, “affiliated” also means formally affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer.

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

2.2.03 : Player Eligibility [Updated Jul2015]

2.2.03(a) Residency

A player is eligible for a NVYSL team of a member club if he/she meets any ONE of the following criteria:

- a) The player resides in the town(s)* served by the NVYSL club.
- b) The player is a full time student at a school located in the town(s)* 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, he/she is eligible to continue playing for that club.
- e) An Under-15-and older player who resides 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 high school team for a school different than his/her own through an MIAA-sanctioned cooperative arrangement may play on the team of the town where the school is located.

In all cases except criterion (a) above, supporting documentation, as stipulated by the NVYSL Board, must be submitted with the team roster. In particular, if a player resides in a town outside the NVYSL, then a written release must be obtained from both :

- 1) the President of the soccer club that serves that town; AND
- 2) the President of the soccer League that serves that town.

2.2.03(b) NVYSL Multi-Town Clubs [Updated Jul2015]

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 :

Athol	serves	Athol , Orange , Royston , Petersham , New Salem
Ayer-Shirley	serves	Ayer , Shirley
Chair City	serves	Gardner , Templeton , Baldwinville
Groton-Dunstable	serves	Groton , Dunstable
Harvard	serves	Harvard , Still River
Nashoba United	serves	Lancaster, Stow
Oakmont	serves	Ashburnham , Westminster
Townsend-Ashby	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 Division1 Group or a NVYSL Division2 Group team and an MTOC-eligible team from another League at any given time.

2.2.03(d) Dual Rostering on Select Club Teams

Per current Mass Youth Soccer rules, an NVYSL player Grade7/8 or younger may be dual rostered on a Region One, New England Premiership, MAPLE or MASC team. NVYSL players Grade 9 and older cannot be dual rostered on a Region One, New England Premiership, MAPLE or MASC team, or any team declared for the Massachusetts State Cup, or any team playing in a league whose champion gains direct placement in the US Youth Soccer Region One Championship Tournament. A Region One, MAPLE, New England Premiership or MASC player Grade7/8 or younger may be rostered on any NVYSL team, regardless of the age of the NVYSL team.. Mass Youth Soccer rules

supercede this section.

2.2.03(e) 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 League 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 Unregistered or Ineligible Players

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

- 1) The game or games involving the unregistered or ineligible player shall be forfeited and the League forfeit fine shall be assessed for each game.
- 2) The town shall be assessed an additional \$50.00 fine.
- 3) The player shall be suspended from the next game, following notification by the Board, if it is determined that the player "knowingly" played as an unregistered or ineligible player.
- 4) And the coach shall be suspended from the next game, following notification by the Board, if it is determined that the coach knew of the player's unregistered or ineligible status beforehand.
- 5) In the SPRING season three (3) points shall be deducted from the team's point count used to determine League standings.

The Board may assess a more severe penalty or impose sanctions against the player, coach, team, and/or club as the 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 along with any requests for exceptions to the League placement rules. This provides both the League and the member clubs a clear picture of which competitions are viable and of any exceptions to the placement the League must consider. The League will review all waiver requests and inform the clubs of their decisions prior to the final team registration.

2.3.01(b) Final Team Registration Date

Each member club submits its final list of teams and field assignments.

2.3.01(c) Late Team Registration

A team may only be added after the Final Team Registration Date with League approval. If a Grade5/6-or-older team is added after the final registration date, then an additional \$250 late registration fee per added team shall be assessed. The late registration fee for a Grade3/4 team is \$125. These fees cover penalties and any rescheduling costs.

2.3.01(d) Late Team Withdrawal

If a club withdraws a Grade5/6-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 Grade3/4 team is \$250. These fees cover penalties and any rescheduling costs. The registration payment shall be returned to the club.

2.3.01(e) Initial Roster Submission Date

This is the date on which teams are required to submit their initial team rosters to the League for certification. If a valid initial team roster is not received by the League Roster Registrar by this date, then a \$25 late roster submission fee shall be assessed for each team that is late. A valid roster must have (1) the minimum number of

players for a match and (2) a coach.

2.3.01(e) Initial Passcard Submission Date

This is the date on which teams are required to submit their passcards (if required) to the League for certification. If a valid set of team passcards (if required) is not received by the League Roster Registrar by this date, then a \$25 late passcard submission fee shall be assessed for each set of team passcards(if required) submitted late.

2.3.01(f) Club Affiliation 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 Date, then that club shall be assessed a \$100 fine. If a club is not affiliated before its first scheduled League game, then that club shall be assessed an additional \$200 fine. In addition, the club shall be placed on League probation for the next two seasons of League competition. If a second offense occurs in either of the next two seasons during the probation period, then the Sportsmanship Review Committee will determine an appropriate action.

2.3.01(g) Final Fee Payment Date

Each club must have all its registration fees and past fines paid in full before they will be permitted to participate in NVYSL matches. If a club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in full on or before the Final Fee Payment Date, then that club shall be assessed a \$100 late payment fee. If a club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in full before its first scheduled League game, then that club shall be assessed an additional \$200 fine. In addition, the club shall be placed on League probation for the next two seasons of League competition.

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 Registrar, Roster Registrar, and the Age Directors, and others knowledgeable of the sport and the league, who will be appointed by the President.. Age 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 Group that is offered. Grade3/4 teams will be placed in flights by the Grade3/4 Directors based on previous records to provide the most even competition. MTOC teams will be placed in Division1 and Division2 Groups 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. The placement of MTOC teams in flights within a MTOC Group will be by random draw. Grade5/6 – Post-Graduate Recreational Group teams will be placed in flights as determined by the Age Director and the Competition Committee. In the Recreational Group, consideration will be given to a club request to place multiple club teams in separate flights.

2.3.04 : Team Commitment

Any team refusing to play in a playoff, or refusing to represent the NVYSL in a post season tournament (MTOC or other league-sponsored tournament entry) will forfeit its right to the division championship and to all awards.

If NVYSL suffers a monetary loss for such default by its tournament team, the team's town or club organization will be required to make good for the loss. Said loss may include fines levied on the NVYSL for non-participation of its team, tournament entry fees and fines imposed by the tournament sponsoring organization for match forfeits.

The Competition Committee may impose additional sanctions after review.

Chapter 4 : ROSTERS & PASSCARDS

2.4.01 : Valid Team Rosters [Updated Mar2017]

2.4.01(a) Roster Requirements

A roster is valid if it is typed, with players' names on the roster in alphabetical order by last name, and includes :

- 1) the Registrar's signature.
- 2) the official Registrar title.
- 3) the date of the validation.

In addition, blank lines for additional players shall be crossed out.

Coaches are responsible for making sure that the correct player numbers appear on the rosters for each game. Player numbers may be either handwritten or typed on rosters.

If processed by a town/club registrar, a copy of the validated roster shall be submitted to the League Roster Registrar before the roster can be used in a league match.

Only players on the roster at the time of validation are permitted to play.

2.4.01(b) Roster Size [Updated Mar2017]

For 11v11 play the maximum size for a team is 22.

For 9v9 play the maximum size for a team is 16.

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

2.4.01(c) Permissible Roster Changes [Updated Mar2017]

For Division1 and Division2 teams in the spring season, no over-age players are permitted and there are no exceptions to the maximum roster size of 22. For Division1 and Division2 teams in the spring season, three roster deletions (dropping a player from the roster) may be made during the playing season, prior to the roster freeze date established by NVYSL. 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.

The roster freeze date for Division1 and Division2 teams in the spring season is May 15th.

For Recreational Group teams, players may be added to, dropped from, or transferred between teams at any time during the season in accordance with the League Policies.

2.4.01(d) Validation of Roster Changes

For Grade5/6 and older, all rosters and roster changes must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar.

For Grade3/4, the original roster must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. Any Grade3/4 roster changes involving an extra player, an over-age player, or a non-resident player must still be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. All other normal roster changes must be validated by the town/club Registrar.

2.4.02 : Valid Passcards

For the SPRING playing season, a passcard is required for each Player on an MTOC team. Passcards are not required for Players on Recreational teams. For the FALL playing season, Player passcards are not required.

All NVYSL Coaches will be issued passcards which they will use to identify themselves as Coaches at all matches. Coach passcards will be required for both the Fall and Spring seasons. On an exceptional basis, a Coach may identify him/herself with another form of photo identification such as a driver's license.

Passcards must have all Player or Coach information typed on the front, with a photo of the Player or Coach on the back. A passcard is valid only if the non-photo side has

- (1) the NVYSL Roster Registrar's signature
- (2) the official registrar title, and it is laminated in plastic.

Coaches are responsible for separating laminated sheets of passcards into a deck of individual pass cards prior to the first scheduled match of the season, and for putting the passcards in alphabetical order by Players' last names with Coaches' passcards first for each match.

2.4.03 : Team Rosters and Passcards for Games [Updated Jun2017]

The coach must provide two (2) validated copies of his team roster and passcards (required for spring MTOC teams) to the referee prior to each NVYSL match. Only players named on a valid team roster may play. See the previous sections entitled VALID TEAM ROSTERS and VALID PASSCARDS.

If a coach is unable to present an NVYSL-approved roster, then before the match may begin, a temporary roster including the name and date of birth of each player must be prepared. This roster will be sent to the NVYSL Roster Registrar for player eligibility verification.

Chapter 5 : RESCHEDULING

2.5.01 : Game Time Changes [Updated Dec2015]

Games must be played as scheduled except as provided below:

2.5.01(a) Mutual Agreement of Opposing Coaches

Game time may be changed by mutual agreement of coaches, but only after the change has been approved by the Age Director. Any game time changes must have mutual agreement of the coaches and approval of the Age Director at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the match. Within 10 days of the match, it must be played as scheduled. Game time may not be changed by mutual agreement of the coaches for Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate scheduled games in the spring season.

2.5.01(b) Unplayable Field Conditions

This will be allowed within 24 hours and up to 2 hours before the scheduled time of the game. The host town/club shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the visiting coach of any such changes.

2.5.01(c) Rescheduling

If a match must be postponed due to weather or unavailable field, the coaches must agree on a makeup date and time, then the home team must secure a playable field, take responsibility for contacting the referee assignor, and notify the NVYSL Age Director. For spring season MTOC matches, both teams must notify the NVYSL Age Director at least 72 hours before the rescheduled date/time.

2.5.01(d) Easter Weekend/Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur

This will be allowed up to 1 week in advance of the scheduled time of the game. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.

2.5.01(e) Columbus Day Weekend

Rescheduled games will be allowed as a matter of right to allow teams to participate in Columbus Day weekend tournaments. This will be allowed up to 10 days in advance of the scheduled time of the game.

2.5.01(f) Memorial Day Weekend

This will be allowed up to 1 week in advance of the rescheduled time of the game. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.

2.5.01(g) Grade3/4, Grade5/6, and Grade7/8 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 town/team involved completes the necessary schedule and game time changes by the start of season play. The team requesting the change shall notify the Referee Director, the Age 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 Age Director will decide how to resolve the schedule conflict.

2.5.01(h) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate Game Time Changes in the Spring Season

Game time change of a scheduled game by mutual agreement of coaches (paragraph 2.5.01(a)) is not permitted. The game must be played as scheduled unless the field is unplayable. If a game 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 game.

2.5.01(i) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate Game Time Change requests prior to the start of the Spring Season. [Updated Dec2015]

For the Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate teams that play on Sunday, 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. This policy covers organized school trips such as Band trips, Chorus trips, Senior Class trips, and trips to another country. The request must be submitted to the NVYSL Team Registrar prior to the start of the season. The request must include the reason and the number of players affected.

2.5.02 : Make-Up Games

All missed games shall be rescheduled within one week of their scheduled date. A rescheduled game shall be played within two weeks of the originally scheduled date unless otherwise approved by the Division Director.

Each age group will have a designated day of the week to make up its games. These days are as follows;

- a) Grade3/4 - Monday
- b) Grade5/6 - Tuesday
- c) Grade7/8 - Wednesday
- d) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate – Saturday

If the coaches can mutually agree on a different day, it will be acceptable as long as the game is played within the two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Any conflicts shall be discussed with the Division Director.

TBAs will be assigned throughout the regular schedule in flights with an odd number of teams. A TBA should be played within two weeks of its scheduled date. A TBA can be played prior to its scheduled date if agreeable to both coaches.

The Division Directors and Board (if necessary) will address exceptions to this rule and make appropriate adjustments if necessary. For the spring season, Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate games will be scheduled for Saturday to eliminate TBAs.

2.5.03 : Replay of Abandoned Games

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

Chapter 6 : STANDINGS & TIEBREAKERS

2.6.01 : League Standings and Game Score Reporting [Updated Mar2016]

2.6.01(a) Spring Season

League standings and game score records will be kept during 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. Standings points will be

deducted for Yellow Card/Red Card/Ejections as described elsewhere in these Policies. Each Age Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of both game scores and Division standings. The town (club) has the responsibility of sending a game report for all games scheduled for the previous week by the following Tuesday via the NVYSL web site score reporting procedure.

2.6.01(b) MTOC Group Tiebreakers for a Spot in NCup tournament

If two teams are tied for a spot in the Nashoba Cup Tournament, then the winner will be determined by a one game playoff at a date and time arranged by the Age Director.

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

The ORDER of play will be decided by the tie breaker procedure for seeding above. 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 game between the other two teams. If there was no clear cut head-to-head winner, then the team with greatest goal differential would play the winner of a game 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 game 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) MTOC Group seeding for Nashoba Cup Tournament

The teams will be seeded in the NCUP in accordance with their season records and the tie breaker procedure for seeding, if necessary. For all NCup matches, the higher seeded team will provide 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 games that count in the standings will be used. In case of a forfeit, the game score shall be 4-0.

2.6.01(d) MTOC Group *[Updated Mar2016]*

NVYSL representative(s) to the MTOC Tournament will be based on results of play in the end-of-season NVYSL NCup Tournament. Team eligibility, seedings, policies and procedures for the NVYSL NCup Tournament are available on the NCup Information page on the NVYSL website at: <http://www.nvysl.org/NCup.php>.

2.6.01(e) Breaking Ties in Playoff or Tournament Matches

If a playoff or tournament game 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 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 rules for penalty kicks shall be used to determine the winner.

2.6.01(f) Fall Season

Records of game 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 Age Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of game scores.

2.6.01(g) Game Score Reporting

The town/club shall post to the NVYSL web site the scores for all games within 72 hours of their completion. The town shall report all matches NOT played within 72 hours of their scheduled playing time. For each week that the

game report is not received on time or is not complete, the town/club shall be fined \$25.00.

If a game report is not received within one week of the scheduled game 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 game will not be recorded and neither team will receive points in the standings. In addition, each team will be assessed the forfeiture fee at the Division Director's discretion.

2.6.02 : Protests

Protests relating to a specific game may only be lodged by a coach or manager of a team playing in the game. Protests must be in writing and must be sent to the Protest Officer, 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 or a League officer on the field at the end of the match. Protests will be accepted for hearing only for games played in the spring season in the MTOC regular season, playoffs, and tournaments.

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

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

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 Vice President (who is the NVYSL Protest Officer) and must have at least two other members chosen by the chairperson.

2.6.03(c) Procedure

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

2.6.03(d) Conflict of Interest

A member of the Protest Committee shall be disqualified from deliberating or ruling on a particular protest if that member :

- a) was involved in the game as a coach or referee;
- b) is the spouse of an involved coach or referee;
- c) has a child playing on one of the teams involved; OR
- d) is from a town or association so involved.

The President shall appoint acting members to serve in the place of those disqualified.

2.6.03(e) Appeal

A decision of the Protest Committee may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer.

SECTION 3. RULES OF COMPETITION

Chapter 1 : UNIVERSAL

3.1.01 : Rules of Play

Current FIFA International 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 referee section of the US Soccer Federation web site, <http://www.ussoccer.com>.

3.1.02 : Ball Sizes

- a) Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : Size 5
- b) Grade9/10: Size 5
- c) Grade7/8 : Size 5
- d) Grade5/6 : Size 4
- e) Grade3/4 : 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 of a different color.

Cutoffs, jams, and visible boxer shorts are not allowed. Sweats, spandex, etc., are only allowed if weather or medical conditions dictate their use. NO JEWELRY (this also means studs) is permitted and wrist bands must be removed or taped.

Hard casts or splints on arms, legs, wrists, or fingers are not allowed. Referees have no latitude regarding casts and splints. Knee or elbow braces with exposed metal must be covered by protective padding.

Each player must wear shinguards or he/she will not be allowed to play.

3.1.04 : Playing Periods [Updated Aug2016]

- a) High School Rec : Two 35 minute halves
- b) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : Two 40 minute halves
- c) Grade7/8 : Two 35 minute halves
- d) Grade3/4 and Grade5/6 : Two 30 minute halves

The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.

3.1.05 : Game Times [Updated Dec2015]

3.1.05(a) Saturday

- a) Girls Grade3/4 : 9:00
- b) Boys Grade3/4 : 10:15
- c) Girls Grade5/6 : 11:30
- d) Boys Grade5/6 : 1:00
- e) Girls Grade7/8 : 2:30
- f) Boys Grade7/8 : 4:00
- g) Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : 6:00 or earlier w/mutual agreement

3.1.05(b) Sunday [Updated Dec2015]

- Grade9/10, Grade11/12 and Post-Graduate : 1:00, 2:45, 4:30

Matches may be scheduled at different times than above to deal with lack of available fields or to make up a postponed match.

3.1.06 : Stoppage for Player Rehydration [Updated Jul2015]

In conditions of high heat and humidity, the referee may stop play for 1 minute per half to allow the participants to rehydrate. Such stoppages may be initiated by the referee directly or pursuant to a request by either coach.

3.1.07 : Team and Spectator Location

The home team shall be allowed to select the touchline where the teams are to be located. Eligible coaches and players of both teams shall be located on the same touchline. Spectators of both teams shall be located outside the opposite touchline. Spectators are not permitted behind goal areas or lines. All coaches, spectators, and players not on the field shall remain at least 3 feet behind the touchline. When possible, the home club is encouraged to paint additional dashed lines a minimum 3 feet outside the touchlines on both sides of the field. If there is a marked team technical area, coaches and players not involved in active play must remain within its confines. The exceptions are player substitutions and a coach attending 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 [Updated Mar2016]

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 : Minimum Number of Players for 11v11 Competition

In eleven versus eleven (11v11) competition, a team shall have at least seven (7) players including the goalkeeper on the field at all times or forfeit the game.

3.2.02 : Limited Heading in Grade 7/8 [Updated Mar2016]

Consistent with the 'Recognize to Recover (R2R)' Player Health & Safety Campaign announced by USSF in December 2015, and further 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 [Updated Aug2016]

3.3.01(a) THE FIELD OF PLAY

The Field of Play for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 70 yards long (Touch Line) by approximately 55 yards wide (Goal Line).

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 approximately 8 yards from the Center Mark
- 3) Penalty Area marked by two lines drawn at right angles to the Goal Line, approximately 14 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for approximately 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 approximately 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, approximately 6 yards from the inside of each goalpost, extending into the field of play for approximately 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) THE BALL

The Ball for 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall be Size #4.

3.3.01(d) 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 in the Grade 5/6 Division to begin or continue. One Player on each Team must be a 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 Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size for the Grade5/6 Division is 15 Players.

3.3.01(e) DURATION OF PLAY

All 9v9 matches in the Grade 5/6 Division shall consist of two 30 minute halves, with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

3.3.01(f) 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, rather than 10 yards as normally required for 11v11 play.

3.3.01(g) 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.

3.3.01(h) GOAL KICK

The Goal Kick shall be taken from anywhere in the Goal Area. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the Penalty 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 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.

3.3.01(i) NO HEADING IN MATCHES IN THE Grade 5/6 DIVISION [Updated Mar2016]

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 [Updated Aug2016]

3.4.01(a) THE FIELD OF PLAY

The Field of Play for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall have dimensions of approximately 60 yards long (Touch Line) by approximately 50 yards wide (Goal Line).

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

The Ball for 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall be Size #4.

3.4.01(d) 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 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 Goalkeeper.

The maximum roster size for the Grade3/4 Division is 11 Players.

3.4.01(e) DURATION OF PLAY

All 7v7 matches in the Grade 3/4 Division shall consist of two 30 minute halves, with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

3.4.01(f) 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, rather than 10 yards as normally required for 11v11 play.

3.4.01(g) PENALTY KICK

A Penalty Kick shall be taken from a stationary ball placed at the Penalty Mark within the Penalty Area. All Players except the Goalkeeper and Kicker must be outside the Penalty Area until the ball is kicked.

3.4.01(h) 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(i) GOAL KICK

The Goal Kick shall be taken from anywhere in the Penalty Area, up to and including the Penalty Line. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the Penalty Area.

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(j) 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(k) 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(l) OFFSIDE LAW

The Offside Law shall be enforced only for 7v7 matches in the Rec1 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(m) NO HEADING [Updated Mar2016]

NVYSL prohibits heading by Players in 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, or other recognized USSF organizations 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 League games. The two-person system used by some non-FIFA leagues MUST NOT be used. If there are only two referees available, their roles are center referee and assistant referee. If the two-person system is used, the result of the match will not count in the standings.

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 (League 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. The Referee Evaluation Form cannot serve as the basis for a match protest.

4.1.02 : Referee Assignors

Each member NVYSL town 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 Town Referee Assignor, is expected to contribute referees to the NVYSL referee pool, and to encourage the recruitment and development of referees.

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 town of residence of the referee.

Chapter 2 : PROCESS

4.2.01 : Referee Assignment – Responsibility [Updated Jan2017]

4.2.01(a) Fall Season

In the FALL season, the home club Referee Assignor assigns referees to all scheduled games, TBA games, and makeup games.

4.2.01(b) Spring Season [Updated Jan2017]

League Assignor:

- a) All regular season matches for the high school age groups
- 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 age groups
- b) Rescheduled matches and TBAs

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 referee for the entire match and the match counts in the standings.
- b) Do not play the match and set a make-up date.

If the match is played with a substitute referee, then no protests will be heard on the judgment or decisions of the substitute referee.

Matches officiated by non-certified referees are neither sanctioned nor permitted. The NVYSL will not pay uncertified referees and it will not reimburse town clubs for assigning them.

Coaches must report ALL referee no-shows to the responsible NVYSL age 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, checking that goals are properly anchored against tipping over and making sure that the entire playing surface is safe.

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. Roster check-in includes verifying the coaches' names, checking off the name of each player present, assuring that the correct uniform numbers are recorded for each player, and, in MTOC flights, verifying that the photos on passcards match the person shown on the roster. Any exceptions must be noted by the referee with submittal of game card and rosters for payment. Physical player check-in requires that all players conform to the uniform and equipment policy.

4.2.04 : Referee Payment

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

NVYSL will not pay non-certified referees.

NVYSL will not pay referees who do friendly matches between two NVYSL teams. The referee(s) 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 forfeited 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 League Referee Paymaster for Grade5/6 – Post-Graduate matches based on pay cards and team rosters submitted by the referee, and referees are paid in a timely manner. Referee payment for Grade3/4 matches is provided by the home team club in accordance with the pay scale established by the NVYSL Board.

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 game will be subject to a review by the Sportsmanship Committee and may be prohibited from viewing games for a period deemed appropriate. The enforcement of this prohibition will be the responsibility of the town of the fan.
- 3) Any team/town 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 serious disagreement with a referee, he/she is expected to adhere to the NVYSL zero-tolerance policy before, during and after the game. The coach is expected to express his/her opinions about the referee, stating facts via a REFEREE EVALUATION found on the league website (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 Assessors and 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, either as an assessment for upgrade or for a general critique. Referee assessors and referee mentors are observers at a field of play and they have no special standing to intervene in the proceedings of a match. If an assessor or referee mentor chooses to intervene due to a perceived safety issue, he/she is expected to do so with considerable discretion and tact.

4.3.03 : NVYSL Zero Tolerance Policy *[Updated Nov2015]*

Every coach and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and has the potential to create a hostile environment for players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators. Consequently, NVYSL has adopted the following rule:

No coach or spectator is to address the referee during or after the game!

4.3.03(a) Coaches - Allowable Exceptions *[Updated Nov2015]*

- a) Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- b) Making substitutions
- c) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Minor Infraction - Referee should ignore
- 1st Serious Infraction - Caution or ejection depending on seriousness of infraction per FIFA
- 2nd Minor Infraction - A verbal warning
- 3rd Infraction - Caution
- 4th Infraction - Ejection

4.3.03(b) Spectators –Allowable Exceptions

- a) Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- b) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- 2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.

- 3rd Infraction - The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the field. If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report, and NVYSL may impose a forfeit on the spectator's team.

4.3.03(c) Players

Communications among players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game.

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 NVYSL Constitution, Bylaws or Policies & Procedures.

5.1.01(b) Membership

The SRC will be chaired by the Sportsmanship Review Officer and shall consist of at least three impartial members chosen by the Chairperson. Membership will have at least as many NVYSL board members as non-board members. 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 Chairperson, when notified of a sportsmanship issue, and after fact finding, shall have the authority to suspend immediately 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 Division 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 town 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 Constitution, Bylaws, or Policies & Procedures.

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 Sportsmanship Review Committee 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, he/she will not be allowed to play/coach in the next game played by his/her 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 table below will take place :

In a Game	Action Required / Notes	Card Points ^d
1st Yellow Card	Player must leave field. ^a 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. ^b Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. ^c 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. ^b Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. ^c 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 ^d
1st Yellow Card	Follow rules as above.	1
2nd Yellow Card	Follow rules as above.	1
3rd Yellow Card (No red card in same game)	Player may continue to play in that game. Player is prohibited from playing in the next match for this team while representing the NVYSL.	2 (2 for Red Card equivalent)
3rd Yellow Card (Red card in same game as a result of two yellow cards)	Player must leave the field of play. ^b Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. ^c 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 game as a result of separate sending off offense)	Player must leave the field of play. Team plays with one less player for the balance of the game. 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 game. 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	Player may continue to play in that game. 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	1

red card status)	can participate in league games.	
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. ^e	2 ^f

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 game and for 60 minutes following the game. 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 game. See examples below.
- e) The season includes playoffs and tournament matches.
- f) If fewer than four (4) games 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 game, he/she 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 game until 60 minutes following the game. 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 game. In addition, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next TWO games played by his/her team.

If a coach accumulates TWO cautions in games from which he/she was not dismissed, the coach will be suspended from coaching the next game played by his/her team.

To eliminate any uncertainty about a referee's action toward a coach, the referee is advised to 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. Failure of the referee to show a yellow or red card will not be allowed as a basis for an appeal of the caution or dismissal of the coach.

5.2.01(c) Card Points

Card points shall be assessed as follows:

- 1) 1 card point for each yellow card issued to a player
- 2) 2 card points for each red card issued to a player
- 3) 2 card points for each caution / yellow card issued to a coach
- 4) 3 card points for each dismissal / red card issued to a coach

A team which receives a total of eight (8) card points within one season shall be penalized three (3) points in its division standings.

A team with twelve (12) card points shall be penalized an additional three (3) points in its standings.

A team with sixteen (16) card points shall be penalized an additional three (3) points in its standings and shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee for further disciplinary action.

5.2.01(d) Suspensions

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

The Sportsmanship Officer 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 game. 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 game (which will not count toward competitive standings, i.e., the forfeit stands), utilizing the time until the next scheduled game.

5.2.04 : Forfeits

A team that forfeits a game or games shall be fined as described below. This fee may be waived on a case by case basis by the League President. The fine is payable at the end of the season.

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



NOTES

