

ITEMS OF NOTE FOR FALL 2010 SEASON

FALL SEASON

The fall season for U10 through U14 consists of 8 games and starts on Saturday, September 11th. The High School division plays a 7-game season starting on Sunday, September 19th. No games are scheduled for Columbus Day weekend, October 9th and 10th, in order to allow league teams to participate in tournaments.

ATHOL SOCCER CLUB

Starting with the fall 2010 season, the Athol Soccer Club has joined NVYSL. As per NVYSL Bylaws approved on July 18th, 2010, the Athol Soccer Club will serve players from the towns of Athol, Orange, Royston, Petersham, and New Salem.

REFEREE CREWS

NVYSL will be utilizing 3-person referee crews for U12 and U14 play in NCUP and MTOC flights. The home club will assign all referees and assistant referees.

IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE NVYSL WEB SITE

The NVYSL member towns are responsible for keeping information accurate and up to date for their coaches and club officials on the NVYSL web site. The NVYSL board and other coaches use this information to communicate with one another. It is critical that this information is correct so that key contact person can be reached when necessary.

NVYSL CHECKLIST FOR COACHES

NVYSL has created a checklist for coaches covering important responsibilities for ALL coaches. The list covers pre-season, pre-game, during-the-game, and post-game responsibilities along with important steps to be taken for postponements, rainouts, and TBA matches. This is a succinct list that should be reviewed and followed by all coaches, regardless of age group coached or years of experience. The checklist is printed on the inside front cover of this book.

GAME SCHEDULES

In order to provide more-timely and cost-effective game schedule information, the NVYSL game schedules will NOT be distributed to each player in the form of a printed book. All game schedules, updates, rescheduled matches, etc., as well as field maps, are available online at www.nvysl.org. Use of the web site for dissemination of schedule information allows for real-time access to all players, parent, and coaches. Please note that the games schedules, contact information, etc. posted on the NVYSL web are the **official** information for NVYSL. Check the web site regularly during the fall season for updates.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

All competition in the U10 division is non-outcome based and no standings are issued. Standings for all other age groups will be available at the league web site: www.nvysl.org.

MTOC DIVISION STRUCTURE

For the **Fall** 2010 season, all MTOC-level teams will play in mixed flights. The number of flights at each age group will be determined by the number of teams participating at the MTOC level in that age group. Assignment of MTOC-level teams to Division 1 and Division 2 will not take place until the Spring 2011 season. The NVYSL Competition Committee will assign MTOC-level teams to Division 1 and Division 2 prior to the start of the Spring season

8 v 8 PLAY FOR U12 AGE GROUP

All play for the U12 age group in NVYSL is 8v8. This format is used at all levels: MTOC, Nashoba Cup, and Recreational. The 8V8 game is played on a slightly shortened version of an 11v11 field using appropriately-sized goals and the FIFA Offside Rule **DOES APPLY** to 8v8 play.

8 v 8 PLAY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Unlike high school play in the spring which is 11v11, the High School Division games in the fall will be 8v8 format. These games will follow the Modified Rules for 8v8 Play as detailed in the Bylaws section of this book. This division is strictly intended for recreational players only, not for those playing junior varsity or varsity high school soccer.

SCORE REPORTING

Each town is required to report the scores of all its teams (including U10) via the NVYSL web site. Scores must be reported no later than midnight on Tuesday following the week the games were played or scheduled to be played.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Each player **MUST** wear shin guards or will not be allowed to play. 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 includes studded earrings) is permitted. Wristbands and cloth bracelets must be removed or taped. Hard casts or splints on arms, legs, wrists, or fingers are not allowed. Protective padding must cover knee or elbow braces.

SCORE REPORTING

All scores and match results (including matches postponed or not played) must be reported through the NVYSL web-based score reporting system within 72 hours of the scheduled time of the match. For each week that a club has an unreported score, that club will be assessed a \$25 fine.

ITEMS OF NOTE: RULES AND BYLAWS

SUBSTITUTIONS DUE TO PLAYER INJURY

If the referee stops the game for a player injury, then that player must come off the field and be substituted for before play is restarted. After the coach's evaluation, the player may return to the field at the next substitution opportunity.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

Each coach must read and follow the League Bylaws and Coach Responsibilities Sections of this book. Each team in NVYSL is required to have a signed and dated Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Coach's Pledge on file with the league. A copy of this pledge is on page 7 of this book. All coaches are expected to support the referee during the game. Visible or vocal disagreement with a referee's call (or lack thereof) represents inappropriate behavior. The proper time to critique a referee's performance is after the game. The proper way is to report your comments to your Town Referee Director, and/or filling out and mailing an extended referee report to the League Referee Director.

The club and coach now have the responsibility to assure that ineligible players are not on the team roster. An unauthorized player name on a roster will constitute unsporting conduct and will result in an immediate caution (yellow card) and will be reported to the Sportsmanship Review Committee for further review.

MATCHES WITH A LARGE GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

Effective with the start of the fall 2010 season, NVYSL has eliminated the rule strictly limiting the goal differential in a match to 6 or less. Although, from an administrative standpoint, this rule has been eliminated, it is because coaches, in most cases, have discovered ways to maintain a low goal differential while not embarrassing an opponent. The Sportsmanship Review Committee will continue to monitor scores and will investigate any result that has the appearance of being unsporting.. Age Directors will continue to investigate large goal differentials and complaints and now have much more flexibility to make changes in division alignments and team placement.

YELLOW CARDS, RED CARD, AND CARD POINTS

A significant clarification of the Bylaws related to yellow cards, red cards, and card point is contained on pages 14 and 15 of the NVYSL Bylaws. Although disciplinary actions taken against players and coaches apply to both the fall and spring seasons, card points are only accumulated during the spring season. Please note that a player receiving a yellow card **MUST** leave the field of play. This has been an NVYSL bylaw for many years, however, has often been misunderstood.

COACH'S PLEDGE

Each team in NVYSL is required to have a signed and dated Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League Coach's Pledge on file with the league. A copy of the pledge is on page 7 of this book.

MANDATORY PRE-SEASON LEAGUE MEETINGS

The pre-season Coaches Meeting have been replaced with mandatory pre-season 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. 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.

REFEREE EVALUATION

The proper channel to submit a referee evaluation is through the NVYSL web site. Your input will go directly to the Nashoba Valley Soccer Referee Director. Please submit fair, constructive comments. The evaluation form can be found at: <http://www.nvysl.org/refreport.php>

ZERO TOLERANCE BY-LAW

Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League has instituted a Zero Tolerance By-Law. All coaches and spectators should be familiar with this. Specifics are found on Bylaw pages 7 and 8.

NVYSL CODE OF CONDUCT

NVYSL has adopted a League Code of Conduct for all participants. Please make all coaches, players and spectators aware of the Code.

ELECTRONIC AND MECHANICAL NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED

Use of electronic or mechanical noisemakers during a match is prohibited. Although individuals who use noisemakers are showing their enthusiasm and support for their team, 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.