

BYLAWS

NASHOBA VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

RULES OF PLAY

Current FIFA International rules shall govern play with exceptions as noted.

AGE GROUPING

For the fall 2005 and the spring 2006 playing seasons, players shall be grouped as follows:

- Under 19 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005
- Under 18 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005
- Under 16 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005
- Under 14 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005
- Under 12 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005
- Under 10 years of age on 1-Aug.-2005

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

NVYSL will offer three categories of play. MTOC Group will be for teams that want to compete to represent NVYSL at the MTOC in the spring season. Nashoba Cup Group will be for teams that want to compete for the Nashoba Cup in the spring season. Recreational Group will be Non-Outcome based play for U10 and Outcome based for U12 and older.

- Recreational Group play is offered for U10
- MTOC Group, Nashoba Cup Group, and Recreational Group play is offered for U12 and U14
- MTOC Group and Nashoba Cup Group play is offered for U16
- MTOC Group play is offered for U18 and U19

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

U18 and U19 teams may be combined by the League into a single Flight to provide viable play. In this combined Flight there must be at least three teams entered in a given gender/age to have a NVYSL champion eligible for the MTOC.

CLUBS IN GOOD STANDING

A NVYSL member club is in good standing with the League if (1) it has satisfied all its financial obligations to NVYSL and MYSA and (2) 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.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Purpose: The purpose of the Competition Committee is to attempt to provide evenness of competition.

Membership: The Competition Committee will be composed of the President, Team Registrar, Roster Registrar, and the Division Directors. Division Directors will make recommendations regarding team placement decisions. The President will serve as chairperson.

TEAM PLACEMENT

Clubs may submit teams in any Group that is offered. U10 teams will be placed in flights by the U10 Directors based on previous records in order to provide equal competition. MTOC teams will be placed in Division 1 and Division 2 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 Division will be by random draw. Nashoba Cup teams will be placed in flights by random draw. U12-U19 Recreational Group teams will be placed in flights as determined by the Age Director and the Competition Committee. In Nashoba Cup Group and Recreational Group consideration will be given to a club request to place multiple club teams in separate flights.

TEAM COMMITMENT

Any team refusing to play in a playoff, or refusing to represent NVYSL in a post season Tournament either MTOC or the Nashoba Cup will forfeit its right to the section championship and to all trophies.

If NVYSL suffers a monetary loss for such default by an MTOC-qualifying team, the team's town or club organization will be required to make good for the loss. This will include any fines levied on NVYSL plus the original MTOC entry fee.

The Competition Committee may impose additional sanctions after review.

ROSTER SIZE

For 11v11 play the maximum size for a team is 18.

For 6v6 play the maximum size for a team is 11.

For MTOC teams in the spring season, no overage players are permitted and there are no exceptions to the maximum roster size of 18. For MTOC teams in the spring season, three roster deletions (dropping a player from the roster) may be made during the playing season, up to the roster freeze date established by the MYSA Competition Committee for play in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC). If a roster has less than 18 players on it, players may be added at any time up to the roster freeze date. After a MTOC team's first scheduled League game, a copy of the MYSA Player/Team Status form, approved by MYSA, must be provided with any roster change that contains a player transfer to/from or player drop from a MTOC team.

For Nashoba Cup teams in the spring season, no overage players are permitted and there are no exceptions to the maximum roster size of 18. For Nashoba Cup Group teams in the spring season, players may be added, dropped, or transferred in accordance with the League Bylaws at any time up to the MTOC roster freeze date.

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

For U12 and older, all roster changes must be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar.

For U10, all normal roster changes must be validated by the town/club Registrar. U10 roster changes involving extra player, over age player, or non-resident player must still be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. The roster must conform to League registration documentation requirements. Only players on the roster at the time of validation are permitted to play.

PASS CARDS

For the SPRING playing season, a pass card is required for each player, each coach, and each assistant coach in MTOC Group. Pass cards are not required for players or coaches in Nashoba Cup Group or Recreational Group.

For the FALL playing season, pass cards are not required.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

The NVYSL registration process consists of the following series of events.

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 what competition is viable and 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.

Final Team Registration Date: Each member club submits its final list of teams and field assignments. The total registration payment is also due at this time. If a team is withdrawn after this date, then the total registration payment shall be forfeited. A team may only be added after this date with League approval. If another team is added after the final registration date, then a \$50 late registration fee shall be assessed.

League Team Freeze Date: This is the date on which the League freezes all teams and team placements. The League game schedule is based on the teams and field assignments of record on this date. No new teams will be accepted after this date. If a club withdraws a team after this date, then a \$250 late withdrawal fee shall be assessed for each withdrawn team. In addition, the club shall be placed on League probation for the next two seasons. 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.

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 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.

Initial Pass Card Submission Date: This is the date on which teams are required to submit their pass cards (if required) to the League for certification. If a valid set of team pass cards (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 pass cards (if required) that is late.

Club Affiliation Date: Each club must be affiliated by MYSA before any of its teams are permitted to participate in NVYSL matches. If a club is not affiliated by 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.

Final Fee Payment Date: Each club must have all its registration fees and past fines paid in total before they will be permitted to participate in NVYSL matches. If a club has not paid its registration fees and past fines in total 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 total 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.

REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION

All registration documentation shall be typed, in alphabetical order where applicable.

The coach must provide 2 validated copies of his team roster and pass cards (if required) to the referee prior to each NVYSL match.

If a team shows up without a valid roster, then they must provide a written list of all participating players along with their date of birth, and jersey number to the referee before the match so he can check them in and the match can be played. The referee must submit this substitute roster with his paycard to the referee paymaster. The coach must also send by US mail no later than the next day a copy of his official roster and a \$25 check payable to NVYSL to the referee paymaster. The paymaster will check the roster from the coach against the written list provided by the

referee and give a summary report to the League President. For each case the paymaster will be paid a \$10 processing fee. If the coach does not comply with this, then the game will be a forfeit and the team will be assessed the \$25 forfeit fee.

If a team forgets the passcards, then the referee shall note this in his report to the paymaster. The coach must also send by US mail the next day his passcards and a \$25 check payable to NVYSL to the referee paymaster. The paymaster will check the passcards from the coach against the roster provided by the referee (or the coach), give a summary report to the League President, and mail the passcards back to the coach. For each case the paymaster will be paid a \$10 processing fee. If the coach does not comply with this, then the game will be a forfeit and the team will be assessed the \$25 forfeit fee.

For U12 and older, rosters must be validated by the League Roster Registrar

For U10, normal rosters must be validated by the town/club Registrar. U10 rosters involving extra player, over age player, or non-resident player must still be validated by the NVYSL Roster Registrar. The rosters validated by the town/club Registrar must conform to the registration documentation requirements described above. The validation must include (1) the Registrar's signature, (2) the official title, and (3) the date of the validation. Blank lines for additional players shall be crossed out. A copy of the validated roster shall be mailed to the League Roster Registrar before the roster can be used in a League match.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Residency

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

1. The player resides in the town(s)* served by the NVYSL club.
2. The player is a full time student at a school located in the town(s)* served by the NVYSL club.
3. 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.
4. 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.

In all cases except number one 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.

* 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-Orange	serves	Athol and Orange
Ayer-Shirley	serves	Ayer and Shirley
Chair City	serves	Gardner
Groton-Dunstable	serves	Groton and Dunstable
Nashoba-United	serves	Bolton, Lancaster, and Stow
Oakmont	serves	Ashburnham and Westminster
Townsend-Ashby	serves	Townsend and Ashby

U10s from Gardner or Templeton playing for Oakmont in spring 2001 are grandfathered in Oakmont Club

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.

COACH ELIGIBILITY

1. 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.
2. A head coach or assistant coach cannot also be a player on his or her team.
3. 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.
4. 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 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 MYSA.

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

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 MTOC Group or Nashoba Cup Group team and an MTOC eligible team from another League at any given time.

Dual Rostering on MAPLE teams

A NVYSL player U14 or younger may be dual rostered on a MAPLE team. NVYSL players U15 and older cannot be dual rostered on a MAPLE team. A MAPLE player U14 or younger may be rostered on a NVYSL U15 or older team.

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.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

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 school choice school is located.

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.

BALL SIZES

Under 19 - Size 5

Under 16 - Size 5

Under 14 - Size 5

Under 12 - Size 4

Under 10 - Size 4

Under 8 - Size 3

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. Knee or elbow braces must be covered by protective padding.

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

REFEREES

Referee quality is an important factor in the success of our program. It is only through the regular receipt of ratings that the Board can actively monitor the referees. Each coach is urged to report the referee's name and rating to the Referee Director and to follow up at least all below average ratings with a rating sheet. The rating sheet is not to be used to file a protest.

Either a one-man system or a three-man system shall be used for League games.

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 POOL

In the spring each club shall provide a list of referees available for assignment to League games. Each club shall provide enough referees to cover the level and the number of home games that the club plays. In the event a club doesn't provide enough referees to cover their home games, the League may require that the club find neutral referees for their home games.

REFEREE ASSIGNMENT - RESIDENCE

Fall Season. In the FALL playing season, in-town referees may be assigned.

Spring Season – MTOC Group and Nashoba Cup Group: In the SPRING playing season, referees from a neutral town shall be assigned for all MTOC Group and Nashoba Cup Group matches. In the event of a rescheduling or a referee cancellation for one of these matches, the town Referee Director shall first try to find a neutral town referee, and only after failing to find a neutral town referee and receiving approval from the NVYSL Referee Director or his designated alternate(s), may assign a referee from a town of one of the competing teams. If approval is not given, then the match must be rescheduled at a time when a neutral town referee can be found.

Spring Season – Recreational Group: In the SPRING playing season, in-town referees may be assigned to all Recreational Group matches.

REFEREE ASSIGNMENT - RESPONSIBILITY

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

In the SPRING season, the League Referee Assignor assigns referees to U12 – U19 scheduled games. The home club Referee Director assigns referees in case of referee cancellation, to TBA games, to makeup games, and to all U10 games.

REFEREE NO-SHOWS

If the scheduled referee does not show up at the field for the match, the opposing coaches have the following options.

1. Agree on a single substitute referee for the entire match and the match counts.
2. 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 of the substitute referee.

REFEREE PAYMENT

If a registered referee shows up at the field for a match that referee has been assigned to do, then that referee shall be paid whether or not the match is played.

NVYSL will not pay non-registered 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 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 U12-U19 matches based on pay cards submitted by the referee. Referee payment for U10 matches is provided by the home team club in accordance with the pay scale established by the NVYSL Board.

REFEREE SUPPORT

The coaches shall provide support to the 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.
- (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.

NVYSL ZERO TOLERANCE BY-LAW

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 the game!

Coaches - Allowable Exceptions:

During the game:

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

At half time or at the end of the game:

- A coach can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way.
- A coach may give polite and friendly feedback to a referee.
- Absolutely no sarcasm, no harassment, and no intimidation.

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

Spectators –Allowable Exceptions:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- 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.

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

UNPLAYABLE FIELDS

It shall be up to the referee to determine if the field is unplayable.

GAME TIME CHANGES

Games must be played as scheduled except as provided in the following paragraphs.

- 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 Division Director. Game time may not be changed by mutual agreement of the coaches for U16, U17, U18, and U19 scheduled games in the spring season.
- Unplayable Fields Due to Unforeseeable Situations: 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 Division Director, and the visiting coach of any such changes.
- Easter Weekend: 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 Division Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.
- Columbus Day Weekend: Reschedules will be allowed as a matter of right to allow teams to participate in the 3-day 6v6 Columbus Day tournament in Pepperell. This will be allowed up to one week in advance of the scheduled time of the game.
- 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 Division Director, and the opposing team coach prior to this time or the game must be played as scheduled.
- U10, U12, and U14 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 Division 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 (e.g. class trip, class play, school academic competition), 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 Division Director will decide how to resolve the schedule conflict.

- g. U16, U17, U18, and U19 Game Time Changes in the Spring Season: Game time change of a scheduled game by mutual agreement of coaches (paragraph 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.
- h. U16 Game Time Change requests prior to the start of the Spring Season: For the U16 teams that play on Sunday, no schedule change requests due to any reason will be accepted by the NVYSL Board.
- i. U17, U18, and U19 Game Time Change requests prior to the start of the Spring Season: For the U17, U18, and U19 teams that play on Sunday, only one schedule change request per team will be permitted by the NVYSL Board. Furthermore, the only acceptable reason for a change request is High School graduation. The request must be submitted to the League prior to a date established by the NVYSL Board.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR 11V11 COMPETITION

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

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;

U10 - Monday	U14 - Wednesday
U12 - Tuesday	U16/U18/U19 - Thursday

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. 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, U16, U18, and U19 games will be scheduled for Thursday to eliminate TBAs.

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.

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.

FORFEITS

A team that forfeits a game shall be fined \$25 for each occurrence. The fine is due at the end of the season.

A team that does not play at least 70 percent of its games shall be fined \$100. A team that does not play at least 60 percent of its games shall be fined \$250 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

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.

In the SPRING: In addition to the provisions above applicable to the fall, 3 points shall be deducted from the team's point count used to determined League standings and division champions.

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.

PLAYING PERIODS

U19, U18, and U17	Two 40 minute halves
U16 and U15	Two 40 minute halves
U14 and U13	Two 35 minute halves
U12, U11, and U10	Two 30 minute halves

The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.

GAME TIMES

	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u> U16, U17, U18,U19
G-U10	9:00	1:00
B-U10	10:15	3:00
G-U12	11:30	5:00
B-U12	1:00	<u>Thursday</u> U16, U17, U18,U19
G-U14	2:30	6:00
B-U14	4:00	

SUBSTITUTION

Substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the Rules and Regulations for a special competition. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor
- b. Prior to a goal kick by either team

- c. After a goal by either team
- d. After an injury by either team, when the referee stops play
- e. Or at half time
- f. If a team has 11 or fewer players available for a match, and one player leaves the field for a non-penal reason (e.g. injury, removal of jewelry, bleeding, improper equipment), once the player has recovered sufficiently from the injury or remedied the cause for leaving the field, that player can re-enter the field of play with permission of the referee at ANY stoppage in play.

YELLOW CARDS/RED CARDS/EJECTIONS

If a player receives a YELLOW CARD, then that player must come off the field and be substituted for before play is restarted. The player may return to the field at the next substitution opportunity.

If a RED CARD is given to a player in a game, he/she will be ejected from the game and must leave the field of play. His/her team will play minus one player for the remainder of the game. In addition, the player will not be allowed to play in the next game played by his/her team.

If a player receives a SECOND RED CARD in a season, he/she will be ejected from the game and must leave the field of play. His/her team will play minus one player for the remainder of the game. In addition, the player will not be allowed to play in the next two games played by his/her team.

If a player receives a THIRD RED CARD in a season, he/she will be ejected from the game and must leave the field of play. His/her team will play minus one player for the remainder of the game. In addition, the player will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the season.

If a player accumulates THREE YELLOW CARDS in games where he/she did not receive a RED CARD then that will be the equivalent of one RED CARD and will be considered to apply as one RED CARD in the above paragraphs. Ejections from a game only occur in the event of a RED CARD. If the first YELLOW CARD, given during a game, is that player's third YELLOW CARD in the season, he may continue playing in that game. However, that third YELLOW CARD will be considered to be a RED CARD for the next game(s) as appropriate.

for example:	<u>Card Given</u>	<u>Action</u>
	Game 1: 1 YELLOW	No Action
	Game 2: 1 RED	Ejection And One Game Suspension
	Game 4: 1 YELLOW	No Action
	Game 5: 1 YELLOW	Two Game Suspension
	Game 8: 1 YELLOW, 1 RED	Ejection And Suspension For The Remainder Of The Season

These same rules apply to coaches, and game suspensions apply to all games including any Championship games.

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. Card points shall be assessed as follows:

- 1 card point for each yellow card issued to a player
- 2 card points for each red card issued to a player
- 2 card points for each caution issued to a coach
- 3 card points for each send off issued to a coach

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.

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.

SPORTSMANSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

Purpose: The purpose of the Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC) is to promote good sportsmanship within NVYSL and to review issues of (1) lack of sportsmanship; (2) inappropriate conduct; (3) unbecoming conduct; or, (4) violation of the Constitution, Bylaws or NVYSL rules.

Membership: The SRC will be chaired by the Sportsmanship Review Officer and shall consist of three to five impartial members chosen by the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall vote only in cases where there is a tie. Whenever possible, one or more members shall be from outside the NVYSL Board.

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.

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.

Penalties: The SRC shall have the authority to suspend an individual, a team or a club, to reduce a team's points, or to take any other actions provided for in the Bylaws or Constitution.

Appeal: The decision of the SRC may be appealed to MYSA.

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.

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 is not protestable.

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.

PROTEST COMMITTEE

Purpose: The purpose of the Protest Committee is to rule on all protests and to determine the disposition of abandoned matches.

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.

Procedure: The chairperson, when notified of a protest, shall cause the committee to factfind 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.

Conflict of Interest: A member of the Protest Committee shall be disqualified from deliberating or ruling on a particular protest if that member: was involved in the game as a coach or referee; is the spouse of an involved coach or referee; has a child playing on one of the teams involved; or is from a town or association so involved. The President shall appoint acting members to serve in the place of those disqualified.

Appeal: The decision of the Protest Committee may be appealed to MYSA.

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND GAME SCORE REPORTING

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. Each Division 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 Thursday to the Division Director.

MTOC Group

- NVYSL representative(s) to MTOC Division 1 will be based on the standings of the Division 1 teams at the end of the spring season. NVYSL representative(s) to MTOC Division 2 will be based on the standings of the Division 2 teams at the end of the spring season.

Nashoba Cup Group

Teams in the Nashoba Cup Tournament will be selected from Nashoba Cup Group teams based on the top finishing teams. The number of teams will depend on the number of flights. The teams will be selected as follows:

- One flight in Group – top four teams
- Two flights in Group – top four teams in each flight
- Three flights in Group – top two teams in each flight plus two wild card teams based on best record among the other finishers
- Four flights in Group – top two teams in each flight

MTOC Group and Nashoba Cup Group seeding for Playoffs

The teams will be seeded in playoffs in accordance with their season records and the tie breaker procedure for seeding, if necessary.

Tie breaking procedure for seeding

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.

MTOC Group and Nashoba Cup Group Tiebreakers for a Spot in Playoffs

If two teams are tied for a spot in the MTOC or for a spot in the Nashoba Cup Tournament, then the winner will be determined by a one game playoff held on a neutral field at a date and time arranged by the Division Director.

If there are more than two teams tied for a spot in the MTOC or 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.

Breaking Ties in Playoff or Tournament Matches

If a playoff or tournament game is tied at the end of regulation play, then, for U14 and below, two 10 minute overtime periods shall be played, for U15 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 kickoff immediately. There is no break between overtime periods. During the overtime periods, the team that scores the first goal is declared the winner. If no goals are scored during the overtime periods, then FIFA rules for penalty kicks shall be used to determine the winner.

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 Division Director will have the responsibility of maintaining a record of game scores. The town (club) has the responsibility of sending a game report for all games scheduled for the previous week by the following Thursday to the Division Director.

Game Score Reporting

The town/club shall send in game reports (including games not played) by email no later than Tuesday following the week the games were played or scheduled to be played. For each week that the game report is not received on time or is not complete, the town/club shall be fined \$25.00 and the games not reported shall be recorded as 4-0 losses, until proven otherwise.

If a game report is not received within two weeks of the scheduled game date, one of the following actions will be taken:

1. If one team has reported the score, that score shall be recorded as the final result.
2. 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.

MODIFIED RULES FOR 6 ON 6 PLAY

PLAYING FIELD

The game will be played side to side in half a normal field. The goal line and halfway line of the normal field will make the touchlines of the small field. The field dimensions shall be approximately 50 by 60 yards.

MARKINGS

- Kick-off point at center of the small field
- No goal area

- Penalty area marked by the penalty line 12 yards from the goal line, one side of the field to the other

GOALS

- Approximately 6 feet tall by 4 yards wide, where available
- If these small goals are unavailable, standard 8 feet tall by 8 yards wide will be used

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A team will consist of 6 players (including the goalkeeper) and a minimum of 4 players. The maximum roster size will be 11 players.

THE BALL

The ball size is the same as for 11v11.

DURATION OF PLAY

All 6v6 games shall consist of two 30 minute halves with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

OFFSIDE LAW

The offside law does not apply.

8 YARD RULE

Opposing players shall be 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. On goal kicks opposing players are only required to be outside the penalty area.

PENALTY KICK

The penalty spot will be 9 yards from the center of the goal where goals 6 feet by 4 yards are used. Where goals 8 feet by 8 yards are used, the penalty spot will be 12 yards from the center of the goal. All players except the goalie and kicker must be behind the center of the field until the ball is kicked.

GOALKEEPER SAVE

After a goalkeeper takes possession, the ball must next touch a player or the field in the defensive half of the field or there is loss of the ball. Play restarts with an indirect free kick at the halfway line. This rule applies to throws, punts, and drop kicks.

GOAL KICK

The goal kick shall be taken in the penalty area from anywhere at least 6 yards behind the penalty line. On a goal kick, the ball must next touch a player or the field in the defensive half of the field or there is a loss of the ball. Play restarts with an indirect free kick at the halfway line.

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.

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.

EXPECTATIONS OF CLUBS

- Promote good sportsmanship.
- Do not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players or spectators.
- Promote good soccer through the development of ball and game skills.
- Maintain rosters.
- Provide a list of potential candidates for voting and nonvoting members of the Board.
- For the FALL playing season, ensure that all players play at least half of each game. Exceptions shall only be for injuries, sickness or discipline.
- A player shall only play for one team in the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League.

TEAM AND SPECTATOR LOCATION

Coaches (maximum of 3) and players of both teams shall be located on the same touchline. Spectators of both teams shall be located outside the opposite touchline. The home team shall be allowed to select the touchline where the teams are to be located. All coaches, spectators, and players not on the field shall remain at least 3 feet behind the touchline. This Bylaw shall apply unless physically impossible (as judged by the referee).

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws were last amended on May 2, 2004.