

NEYSO PLAYING RULES

2009-2010

I. Age Level Definitions

A. The following age levels will be used for the 2009-2010 seasonal year.

Under 19 years of age – August 1, 1990 to July 31, 1991
Under 18 years of age – August 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992
Under 17 years of age – August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993
Under 16 years of age – August 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994
Under 15 years of age – August 1, 1994 to July 31, 1995
Under 14 years of age – August 1, 1995 to July 31, 1996
Under 13 years of age – August 1, 1996 to July 31, 1997
Under 12 years of age – August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998
Under 11 years of age – August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999
Under 10 years of age – August 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000
Under 9 years of age – August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001
Under 8 years of age – August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002
Under 7 years of age – August 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003
Under 6 years of age – August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004
Under 5 years of age – August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005

Player MUST be age 4 by first game of the season to register

B. Divisions of Competition:

1. Division IV – (Recreational, age levels U5 – U10, U9/U10 Academy)
2. Division III (Recreational, age levels U11-U19)
3. Division II (1st Level of Competitive Play, age levels U11-U19)
4. Division SII (2nd Level of Competitive Play, age levels U11-U19)
5. Division I (Top Level of Competitive Play U11-U13, 3rd Level U14-U19)
6. Premier Division (Highest Competitive Level U14-U19)

C. Additional age-level policies:

1. No player may play at a younger age level. If a medical condition exists that will prohibit or severely hinder a player from playing in his or her own age group (substantiated in writing by a licensed physician) the player may seek special approval to play in a younger age group.
2. Players at the U6-U19 levels, with their parents' and Coach's permission may play at an older age level, subject to the exception below:
 - a. Players at the U5 level must play with their age level.
 - b. Players at the U6 through U10 levels may play up only one age level, i.e. U9 to U10 and U10 to U11 not U9 to U11 or U10 to U12.
 - c. U11 teams playing 8v8 may not have more than three (3) U10 players who are playing up as per STYSA rules.
 - d. These age level policies also apply to tournament play.

II. Team Formation Recreational Divisions III and IV.

- A. Team formation – Rostering players is normally performed by club officials for the purpose of creating fair and balanced distribution of playing talent among the teams.
- B. NEYSO generally honors requests from returning players to be placed on teams for which they have played on in the past, so long as all registration requirements have been met by the registration deadline. This system will continue to be used as long as competition within NEYSO is reasonably fair and even.
- C. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others. However, if one or more teams consistently win a large majority of its games in a lopsided manner, this team shall not be permitted to return intact in the next season in the recreational IV play.
- D. For purposes of this rule, the team shall be considered to be the same team as the prior season if 50% plus one remains on the team from the roster in effect at the time the violation occurred.
- E. A division III or IV team may not recruit players or participate in try-outs as per STYSA rules.
- F. Any violation of this rule shall subject the coach of the team as well as NEYSO to possible disciplinary action and shall cause all games played by the team outside of NEYSO to be forfeited.

III. Rules of Play, Modifications to FIFA Laws.

These rules shall apply unless superseded by playing rules at a higher level of competition; i.e., AAYSA, Western District, or STYSA. FIFA Laws apply unless changed by the following rules.

- A. Law 1 – The Field of Play-
 - 1. Field and Goal Specifications

Age Group	Length [yards]	Width [yards]	Goals [feet]	Penalty Spot [yards]	Goal Area [yards]	Penalty Area [yards]	Center Circle [yards]
U15-U19	110-120	70-75	8x24	12	6x20	18x44	10
U13-U14	100-110	65-70	8x24	12	6x20	18x44	10
U12	60-70	40-50	7x21	9	5x14	14x35	8
U11	60-70	40-50	7x21	9	5x14	14x35	8
U10	60-70	40-50	7x21	9	5x14	14x35	8
U9	60-70	40-50	7x21	9	5x14	14x35	8
U8	45-55	30-40	6x18	N/A	4x12	10x26	5
U7	45-55	30-40	6x18	N/A	4x12	10x26	5
U6	20-30	15-20	4x6	N/A	2 yard arc	None	4
U5	20-30	15-20	4x6	N/A	2 yard arc	None	4

- 2. The arc on U5 and U6 games is “No Mans Land”. No defender or attacker may play the ball inside this arc.

- a. If the attacker plays the ball in the arc, the restart will be a goal kick.
- b. If a defender plays the ball in the arc, a goal will be scored and the restart is a kickoff.
- c. If the ball should come to a stop inside the arc but not wholly across the goal line then the restart shall be a goal kick.

B. Law 2 and 7 – Ball Size and Duration of Match

Age Group	Ball size	Game Length (Minutes)	Overtime Periods (Minutes)
U15 – U16	5	Two 40 minute halves	None - except as
U13 – U14	5	Two 35 minute halves	Defined by
U12	4	Two 30 minute halves	tournament rules
U11	4	Two 30 minute halves	
U10	4	Two 25 minute halves	
U9	4	Two 25 minute halves	League games tied at
U8	3	Two 20 minute halves	the end of regulation
U7	3	Two 20 minute halves	time are scored as
U6	3	Four 8 minute quarters	ties.
U5	3	Four 8 minute quarters	

C. Law 3 Number of Players

1. Team Sizes

Level	Maximum Roster Size (see note)	Number of Players On field	Minimum number of players to avoid forfeit
U13-U19	18	11	7
U11-12	14	8	6
U10	12	8	6
U9	12	8	6
U8	10	6	4
U7	10	6	4
U6	8	4	3
U5	8	4	3

NOTE: Super II and Division II coaches may limit their rosters at their discretion. Division IV coaches may not limit their rosters.

2. Playing Time – In Divisions SII, Division II, Division III and Division IV coaches must make every effort to play each registered player that is present one-half (50%) of the game unless unable to do so due to player's illness or injury or for disciplinary reasons. In the event that a player is present, but will not be playing, the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach as to the reason that player will not participate.

3. Substitutions – Substitutions shall be unlimited. The prior permission of the referee is required in order to make any substitution at any time, except at the resumption of play after the half time break. Substitutions may be made as follows:

- a. On a throw-in (by the team in possession).
- b. On a goal kick (by either team).
- c. After any goal (by either team).
- d. After a stoppage of play for an injury (by either team).
- e. At half time (by either team).
- f. After a caution (the player receiving the caution).

4. U5 and U6 – There are NO Goalkeepers.

D. Law 4 – Uniforms and Player Equipment

1. Minimum requirement for uniform is jersey or "T" shirt of the same color, shorts and knee high socks. The goalie will wear a jersey of a color different from his team and the opposing team. Soft caps may be worn in very cold weather. Also, warm clothing may be worn under the uniform. Shirts must be worn tucked into the shorts.

2. Soccer shoes or tennis shoes must be worn by all players. Heels and metal shoes are not permitted. Shoes with toe cleats (football, baseball) are not permitted. Elbow pads and knee pads are permissible. **SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES.**

3. Shin guards are to be worn during all soccer activities. They are worn against the skin under the socks, or between 2 pairs of socks. The sock must totally cover the shin guard. This does not allow socks to be pulled up and then folded over the shin guard.

4. CASTS ARE NOT ALLOWED. No player will be allowed to play with a hard cast (padded or otherwise).

5. Braces, such as knee braces, with exposed metal or hard plastic parts will not be allowed unless covered by the manufacturer's covering or one-half inch high density foam.

6. NEYSO Uniform Policy

1. NEYSO Jerseys.

1.1. NEYSO will supply jerseys to all registered players for Division four and all Division three registered players, except Academy or Developmental players.

- 1.2. Primary Jerseys will be ordered at the start of the fall season
- 1.3. Players will be responsible to supply their own shorts and socks
- 1.4. Replacement Jerseys will be ordered for the spring season as needed
 - 1.4.1. Replacement Jerseys will be ordered for teams where more than half of their players return from the fall season
 - 1.4.2. For teams where less than half the players return, or where new teams are formed, full sets of Jerseys will be ordered
- 1.5. If returning teams change their names, the returning coach should inform NEYSO so inventory sheets can be updated to insure no duplicate colored Jerseys are ordered
2. NEYSO and sponsor Logos-Honoring Sponsorship Agreements
 - 2.1 To honor NEYSO sponsorship requirements, all Division four (except Academy or Developmental programs) must wear the NEYSO supplied uniform at all NEYSO league games.
 - 2.1.1. Any additional sponsors must receive approval of NEYSO President or NEYSO Director.

E. Law 5 – The Referee

1. Regardless of age, referees are responsible for controlling the game. Coaches must provide the referee with all possible assistance. Open disagreement is not allowed, no matter how obvious the error. A display of dissent is not only discourteous, but risks inciting parents and players, causing serious problems for the referees, particularly for the younger or newer ones. Unsporting conduct will be cause to be brought before the D and P Committee. Referees may not officiate games in playing divisions in which their own team or children plays.
2. U5 and U6, A parent, coach or manager may officiate the game if a referee is not available. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

F. Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

1. Assistant Referees are optional. At the referee's request each team shall supply a club assistant referee who shall assist the referee. Official assistant referees, assigned by the referee in a three man system will signal fouls. Assistant referees may not coach while acting as an assistant referee. Coaches will not serve as assistant referees for their own games.
2. U5 through U8 does not have assistant referees.

G. Law 7 – The Start and Restart of Play- Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

1. U9 and U10 – Opponents must be 6 yards from the ball until it is played.
2. U7 and U8 - Opponents must be 5 yards from the ball until it is played.
3. U5 and U6 – Opponents must be 4 yards from the ball until it is played.

H. Law 8 – The Ball In and Out of Play- Conform to FIFA

I. Law 9 – The Method of Scoring-Conform to FIFA

J. Law 10 – Offside-Conform to FIFA except:

1. U5 through U8 – There is no offsides.

K. Law 11 – Fouls and Misconducts-Conform to FIFA except:

1. U5 through U10 – NO SLIDE TACKLES. Any player using a slide tackle to capture the ball being played by another player will result in a foul being called and an Indirect Free Kick given unless such slide tackle results (in the referees opinion) in a penal foul, then a Direct Free Kick shall be awarded or if such play occurs in the penalty area, then a penalty kick will be awarded.

2. U5 through U8 – Other Rules

- a. All fouls are Indirect Kicks.
- b. No cards will be shown for misconduct.
- c. All fouls will be briefly explained to player.

L. Law 12 – Free Kicks-Conform to FIFA except:

2. U5 through U8

- a. All kicks are indirect.
- b. Any infringements such as double touch results in a retake of the kick.

M. Law 13 – The Penalty Kick-Conform to FIFA except NO PENALTY KICKS in U5 through U8.

N. Law 14 – The Throw In-Conform to FIFA except:

1. U5 and U6 – No Throw-Ins

- a. Play will be restarted with a kick-in.
- b. Kick-In is taken from the spot the ball crossed over the touch-line.
- c. Kick-Ins are indirect and opponents must be 4 yards away.

O. Law 15 – The Goal Kick- Conform to FIFA except:

1. U5 and U6

- a. Goal kick is taken from any point along the goal line or arc.
- b. Goal kicks are indirect and opponents must be 4 yards away.

P. Law 16 – The Corner Kick- Conform to FIFA except:

1. U5 and U6 corner kicks are indirect and opponents must be 4 yards away.

IV Coaching Responsibilities

- A. Excessive coaching from the sidelines is not allowed. If the infringement continues

after a caution by the referee, the game may be stopped at the referee's discretion, or the coach may be ejected.

B. Coaches shall be directed to the coach's box and to give all instruction during the course of the game from this area. No coach, parent, spectator may cause interference with the game, players, or referee during the course of the game by positioning themselves at a location with the sole purpose of instructing a player. Examples: behind the goal, constantly moving along the sidelines with the players.

C. All adults on the team sideline must be registered with the team and be wearing a kid safe badge.

V. Spectators

A. Only players and referees are allowed on the playing field unless invited (or given permission to enter field) by the referee as may occur in the case of an injury. This includes coaches.

B. The coach is responsible for the behavior of the team's spectators and fans. Spectators and fans must occupy the same end of field as players opposite their team:

SPECTATORS:

1. Are not allowed in the goal line area.
2. Must remain at least 1 yard away from the touchline at all times.
3. May not openly criticize the referee.
4. Must stay on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players.

B. Fans will not be issued cards, but may be cautioned and/or sent off by the referee. Any such send off must be reported to NEYSO for possible further disciplinary actions.

VI. Home Team

The home team is the first team listed on the schedule. For all age groups, the fields are set up to have all spectators on one side and only coaches/players on the other side. The home team changes jerseys if both teams are wearing the same color, and provides a game ball suitable to the referee and a score card. All efforts should be made to play the game as scheduled.

VII. Visiting Team

Provides a game ball if the ball provided by the home team is not suitable to the referee. For all age groups, the fields are set up to have all spectators on one side and only coaches/players on the other side. All efforts should be made to play the game as scheduled.

VIII. Referee No-Shows

If the assigned referee is not present at game time and no substitute referee is available, a representative from either team may referee the game if mutually agreed to by both coaches. That person becomes the game referee with all the rights inherent in U.S.S.F. and U.S.Y.S.A. rules. If neither team has such a representative, the game will be postponed. Report referee no-shows to the Commissioner of Referees.

IX Forfeits

Teams unable to field the required number of registered players within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time forfeit the game. If the coach does not request the 15 minute

“grace period” from the referee, the forfeit occurs at game time. If both teams fail to appear a double forfeit shall be declared by the referee and so noted on the official game card.

No Show Policy for NEYSO Teams:

Recreational U5 through U10 NEYSO teams must notify the opposing team, their age level commissioner, and the NEYSO scheduler of their team's inability to compete at the scheduled game time by the Sunday prior to the scheduled game day. Fines will be charged to the coach of the offending team to cover referee expenses and administrative costs if their team fails to show at game time. Fines must be paid prior to their next scheduled game. Failure to pay fines will result in a D&P hearing with possible removal of coaching privileges.

X. Abandoning the Game

Once play has started, only the referee can abandon the game. No coach can abandon the game for any reason. If a coach chooses to not finish the game, the team shall not be allowed to play until the situation is reviewed by the AAYSA/NEYSO Discipline and Protest Committee. The D&P Committee shall hold a hearing before the next game for the team in question.

XI. Incomplete Game

If a game is terminated in the second half due to weather, it will be considered a full game.

XII. Rain-Out Policy

A. The NEYSO President, or his representative, is the only person permitted to declare a rain-out. Games scheduled on fields judged by the President not to be in playable condition will be postponed. When a game on a field is canceled prior to the first game of the day, all games on that field will be canceled for that day. Notification will be on the rain-out recorded telephone number and through the website www.neyso.org.

B. A referee has the authority to call off any game where conditions change and the field becomes unplayable; however, a referee's decision applies to that one game only.

C. Each association within AAYSA or STYSA has differing rain-out rules for their home fields. A NEYSO rain-out decision has no effect on away games.

XIII. Game Reschedule Policy

A. Rainouts

1. Rainouts for U10 and Below NEYSO only games that are cancelled due to the weather will be automatically rescheduled by the NEYSO Scheduler.
2. All other games that are inter-association have rules for rainout reschedules that vary by each level and association. Check with your association such as AAYSA or Western District and if they require you to arrange the reschedule follow the details below. Inter-association are those games in which the opponent is not a NEYSO team.

B. Reschedules

1. Reschedules for coach's convenience and/or missing a few players is not generally an acceptable reason to reschedule. Conflicts such as parties, scout camps, church activities, school activities, etc. should be asked about by the coach and known about early in the season. For this reason any reschedule after the third weekend of play will incur a \$25 fee payable to NEYSO.
2. All reschedules for any reason other than weather must be completed in the time fashion below. The cancellation of the original game must be completed by 10pm on the Sunday prior to the originally scheduled game. This includes all approvals from coaches, associations, etc. The game reschedule must be then completed by 10pm on the Sunday prior to the proposed rescheduled game. Again this includes all approvals from coaches, associations, etc.
3. Any reschedule not completed before these deadlines will incur a fee payable to NEYSO before the game can be rescheduled. Fees are as follows and will be in lieu of the above \$25 fee:
 - a. U5-U8 = \$30
 - b. U9-U10 = \$48
 - c. U11-U12 = \$70
 - d. U13-U14 = \$76
 - e. U15-U16 = \$83
 - f. U17-U19 = \$98
4. No fees will be charged for any weather induced reschedules.
5. To reschedule send an email to scheduler@neyso.org. You must include Name, Team Name, Age Group, Gender, Play Level, Date and Time of original game and preferred date/times of new game. Incomplete emails will delay the process.

Scheduler will reply with available times and await a reply to confirm acceptance of the time. Game will be removed if confirmation reply is not received. The team making the request must get all appropriate approvals from the opponent and association reps.

XIV. Awards and Recognition

NEYSO gives awards and recognition in the following areas:

A. Sportsmanship – Earl Woodell Sportsmanship Award – this team award (with individual awards to the players and coaches) is based on the following criteria:

1. Sportsmanship Awards will be decided by nomination from all coaches in that age group. Head coaches will nominate the team they feel showed the best sportsmanship for that season and the team with the most nominations will be presented with the sportsmanship award for their age level.

XV. Standings

Season standings in Division II and Division III will be determined by rules adopted by AAYSA. Season standings will not be maintained for U10 and below age levels.

NOTE: There is no reason to run up scores, and doing so will be considered unsportsmanlike.

XVI. Alcoholic Beverages, Smoking and Pets

A. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at youth soccer games. Coaches, spectators, and players may not smoke or use tobacco products at any NEYSO field.

B. NO Pets Allowed!

XVII. Field Care

A. All teams are expected to clean up after themselves. Many of our fields are provided by schools or private institutions. If we do not keep the fields clean, we will lose them. Comply with parking restrictions.

B. NEYSO fields are used for both practice and for games. NEYSO spends a great deal of money in maintaining these fields. In trying to establish a balance between “raising grass” and “raising kids”, the board has established the following policy: When practicing on NEYSO fields, do not use the goal area more than one-half of your practice session.

C. Do not practice on wet fields.

XVIII. Protest Procedures

A. Protests based on a judgment call by the referee are not allowed. A team protesting a game based on the infringement of the laws of the game must advise the center referee and the opposing coach before leaving the field of play of their intent to file a protest. This notice of intent must be made within 30 minutes of the end of the game by the coach of record, not a parent or trainer. The referee will note this on the game card. Protests must be submitted to the chairman of the D&P Committee in writing stating all pertinent facts within five calendar days of the game. The protest must be accompanied by a \$250.00 fee which shall be turned over to the AAYSA Treasurer for deposit.

1. Protests based on late starts or field conditions shall be filed with the referee and so noted on the game card prior to the start of the game.

2. Protests or questions involving player eligibility must be presented to the referee prior to the game or immediately after the game.

3. No protests will be accepted by the committee if the above guidelines are not strictly adhered to committee decisions will be supplied in writing to the parties involved within five days of the D&P meeting.

NOTE: NEYSO has adopted the STYSA/AAYSA Discipline and Protest Procedures. These will be provided when required.

XIX. Identification Cards

All players must have USYSA identification cards. The cards will be supplied to the teams by the Registrar of NEYSO. The team coach is responsible for permanently attaching an appropriate picture of the participant to the card, obtaining the necessary signatures, and laminating the card. A player who does not have a laminated USYSA identification card will not be allowed to participate in the soccer match. In the absence of the team coach or the assistant coach, a responsible adult may act as coach in an emergency situation. Kid-safe badges must be worn on a lanyard around the coach's neck at all times at NEYSO fields; this includes practice sessions as well as games.

XX. Complaints, Grievances and Protests

A. NEYSO shall comply with AAYSA and STYSA policies and procedures with regard to grievances and protests. These policies only allow a single referral from local clubs to state. Therefore, NEYSO will defer to AAYSA unless authority is specifically granted by AAYSA for Discipline and Protest (D & P) matters. NEYSO will assist AAYSA and STYSA D & P committees in all referrals from NEYSO home games or club actions. Any written report of incident shall be considered a complaint unless accepted by a D & P committee as a disciplinary actions, grievance or protest. Specifically:

1. The NEYSO Director of Coaching will record and track all complaints, suspensions, disciplinary actions, grievances, protests, referee assaults, referee abuse and coach's misconduct.
2. The NEYSO Director of Coaching will verify timely and accurate reporting of incidents to AAYSA and STYSA as formal written referrals and assist in administrative processing where applicable.
3. The NEYSO Director of Coaching will follow up on each incident and report to the board the disposition of each case immediately to involved members and by written summary to the NEYSO board on a monthly basis.
4. Any incident not accepted for AAYSA or STYSA D & P proceedings will be considered a member complaint and handled administratively by the NEYSO board.
5. The NEYSO Director of Coaching will report to all interested parties the outcome of each case using the simple rule that a written complaint deserves a written answer.
6. The NEYSO Director of Coaching and the NEYSO Commissioner of Referees will assist in timely reporting by providing the NEYSO President copies of any incident involving referees or NEYSO coaches.
7. Any NEYSO coach receiving a game send-off (formerly a RED Card) will be required to serve a one game suspension as per the STYSA Progressive Discipline Policy. Any failure to observe a game suspension as per the policies will be immediately reported to the STYSA D & P committee