

# **NYCSL RULES – Effective September 2012**

## **Competitions: NYCSL League, NPL League, and NY CUP**

### **TEAM REGISTRATION**

#### **Season**

**Season means the competitive season beginning August 1 of each year and ending July 31 of the following year.**

#### **Age Groups**

**Each team must enter the age group consistent with the highest age of any of its players based upon the August 1st thru July 31st age brackets for that season.**

<b>Fall 2012 – Spring 2013</b>			
<b>U9</b>	<b>08/01/2003</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/2004</b>
<b>U10</b>	<b>08/01/2002</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/2003</b>
<b>U11</b>	<b>08/01/2001</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/2002</b>
<b>U12</b>	<b>08/01/2000</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/2001</b>
<b>U13</b>	<b>08/01/1999</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/2000</b>
<b>U14</b>	<b>08/01/1998</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/1999</b>
<b>U15</b>	<b>08/01/1997</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/1998</b>
<b>U16</b>	<b>08/01/1996</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/1997</b>
<b>U17</b>	<b>08/01/1995</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/1996</b>
<b>U18</b>	<b>08/01/1994</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>07/31/1995</b>

## **Eligibility**

**All teams must be registered with NYCSL and have their US Club Soccer passes and their official US Club Soccer team roster. All information must be current. The passes must all be from the same Club, except as described in the guest players section.**

## **Roster Size**

**The master roster size for US Club teams is 26. Master rosters are not frozen for the NYCSL league or the NPL league and may include any valid US Club carded player within the Club. Master rosters are FROZEN for the NY Cup prior to the first match of the season.**

## **Guest Players**

**Guest players, defined as players from an outside club, are only permitted in NY Cup play, by fulfilling the US Club Player Loan Requirements and adding guest player(s) to the official US Club Roster, prior to the NY Cup roster being frozen. Guest player MUST appear on stamped, approved NY Cup roster. There is no limit on the number of guest players.**

**NO guest players are permitted in the NPL league.**

## **NY Cup Official Roster**

**All teams are required to submit their official US Club or JSS roster for review, which must list all players including guest players. The roster must be accompanied with the US Club requisite paperwork for any guest players. An approved, stamped NY Cup roster will be returned to each team. Only this roster may be used for NY Cup play.**

# **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

## **Eligibility**

**Eligibility is open to all youth irrespective of race, nationality, color or religious affiliation or non-affiliation. The league is limited to youth players. A youth player is any person other than a professional or amateur player.**

## **Age Eligibility**

**Players must be registered with US Club or JSS. Players are bound to play on only one Club in the NYCSL league, except as provided in the guest player section. Players are bound to play on only one Club in the NPL league. Players are permitted to play on any age-appropriate team, from within their own Club, as long as they are using the same pass as the team on which they are playing (JSS or US Club). For the NY Cup, players are bound to one and only one team, but may guest play as provided in the guest player section.**

## **NY Cup-Tied**

**A player may play for one and only one team for the duration of each season's NY Cup competition and must appear on the NY Cup official roster.**

## **Player Release/Transfer**

**Teams utilizing US Club passes must satisfy US Club's transfer requirements for NYCSL league play. Players may transfer from one JSS Club to another by completing the JSS Player Transfer Form, if utilizing JSS passes. The player may continue to play on their existing club until a new JSS pass is issued to the new club.**

**Players may not transfer from one NYCSL NPL Club to another and play on any of the transfer club's NYCSL NPL teams during the NYCSL NPL season. Should a player elect to transfer from a NYCSL NPL Club, they may ONLY play on a non-NYCSL NPL team in the club to which they transfer, during the remainder of that season.**

**Should a cup-tied player transfer, they may still play with their cup-tied team as a guest player by fulfilling all of the guest player requirements. NYCSL will issue an updated, approved roster to reflect the change.**

## **COACH REGISTRATION**

### **Eligibility**

**Eligibility to coach is open to all adults irrespective of race, nationality, color or religious affiliation or non-affiliation. Clubs are responsible for selecting coaches. The Clubs' coaches must adhere to the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth by the league. The league is not responsible for the selection process or for providing coaches to the Clubs.**

### **Minimum Age of a Coach**

**An individual must have attained the minimum age of 18 years old in order to coach up to U14 and 21 years old in order to coach up to U18, prior to being issued a SS pass.**

### **Coach Presence at Games**

**The Club must have a coach from within the same club, at all scheduled matches in which the team participates. The coach must be in possession of a valid coaching pass, from the same USSF entity as the team, either US Club or JSS. A coach with a valid US Club pass may not coach a JSS team and vice versa. A Coach must be present throughout the entire match or the match will be terminated and forfeited to the opponent, 3-0. A maximum of 3 coaches are permitted on the team sidelines per match.**

## **Multiple Coaching Passes**

**Coaches may have a US Club (or JSS) pass for each Club in which they coach. Coaches may only coach for a team affiliated with the same Club and USSF entity, JSS or US Club, and the pass they use must be present at the scheduled match.**

## **RULES OF PLAY**

**All US Club sanctioned competitions must be played in accordance with the most current FIFA laws of the Game and the modifications noted within these rules unless specifically accepted by authorization of the NYCSL Executive Board. It is the responsibility of all coaches and referees to be thoroughly familiar with and abide by the FIFA laws and these modifications.**

### **Ball Size**

- **U9, U10, U11 and U12 teams all utilize ball size #4.**
- **U13 and older teams all utilize ball size #5.**

**The home team will provide the game ball.**

### **Duration of the Game**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Duration of the Game</b>
<b>U9, U10</b>	<b>2 – 25 minute halves</b>
<b>U11, U12</b>	<b>2 – 30 minute halves</b>
<b>U13, U14</b>	<b>2 – 35 minute halves</b>
<b>U15, U16</b>	<b>2 – 40 minute halves</b>
<b>U17, U18</b>	<b>2 – 45 minute halves</b>

- **Halftimes are 5 minutes for all age groups.**
- **There shall be no overtime periods in regular NYCSL League or NPL league competition.**
- **There shall be no overtime periods in NY Cup Group Stage competition.**

## **Game Format**

**Game format and maximum number of players dressed per game are listed.**

## **Age Group Format #Players Dressed**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>#Players Dressed</b>
<b>U9, U10</b>	<b>8v8</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>U11</b>	<b>9v9</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>GU12 NPL</b>	<b>8v8</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>BU12 NPL</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>U13 and Older</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>18</b>

# **PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

## **Uniforms**

**The visiting team's Coach or team manager will verify the uniform colors with the home team Coach or team manager, prior to the game date. All field payers on a team shall wear similar colored jerseys, shorts and soccer socks. A legible non-duplicating number on the back of each jersey is required. Players and substitutes shall not change numbers or remove their jerseys prior to the completion of the game without specific permission of the referee.**

**The color of a team's jerseys may be different from the color of the team's shorts and or soccer socks. At each game, both teams shall be able to make a change of jersey color. If both teams are wearing similar colored jerseys, the home team shall be required to change. Goalkeepers shall change jerseys as the referee directs, regardless of the home/visitor status. All players shall have their jerseys tucked into their shorts.**

**Teams may elect to display sponsorship on their team jerseys, but may only do so upon approval by the league. Decision of the league is final, without any permissible appeal.**

## **Shin Guards**

**Shin guards are required equipment for all players and are to be worn at all practices and matches. Shin guards are to be covered entirely by the players' socks. Shin guards are to be made of suitable-material, rubber or plastic to provide a reasonable degree of protection.**

## **Team Captain Identification**

**The captain(s) of a team shall wear an armband for identification purposes, which is to be displayed only on the arm.**

## **Safe Equipment**

**In addition to the authority granted to the referee under FIFA Law V to determine the safety of a player's equipment as defined in FIFA Law IV, the following shall not be permitted:**

- 1. Hair control devices with any hard parts;**
- 2. Earrings or any other jewelry, regardless of covering.**

**In addition to the authority granted to the referee under FIFA Law V, the following shall be permitted:**

- 1. A soft splint or a soft cast, provided that the match referee has determined that it is not a danger to himself or another player;**
- 2. A brace, joint or prosthetic device, provided that the match referee has determined that it is not a danger to himself or another player;**
- 3. Sports Spectacles: Protective sports spectacles or plastic prescription frames sports spectacles with the lenses fully contained with the frame, and held on by an elastic strap are expressly permitted. Any eyewear containing glass, metal or any sharp edges are prohibited.**
- 4. Headgear: Soft foam headgear for goalkeeper, Full 90 type headgear for player, provided that the referee has determined that it is not a danger to himself or another player**

**If the Referee finds that a player is wearing articles not permitted by the Laws or this Rule, the Referee shall order the player to remove them. If a player fails to carry out the Referee's instruction, the player shall not take part in the match.**

## **Severe Weather**

**In the event of severe weather conditions, players will be permitted to wear a sweat suit or similar trousers and stockings, or other type of clothing under their team uniform. Sweat pants must have no metallic buckle, snaps, buttons or other items that the referee considers dangerous to any player.**



## **Goalkeeper**

**The Goalkeeper is permitted to wear a tracksuit or similar trousers and stockings or other type of clothing in all League sanctioned activities. The Goalkeeper is also permitted to wear a vinyl foam soft soccer helmet.**

## **Coaching from the sidelines**

**Coaching from the sidelines is permitted, so long as one is giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy, tactics and position provided that the following conditions are complied with:**

- a. No mechanical devices are used;**
- b. The tone of voice is informative and sportsmanlike;**
- c. No coach, substitute, or player is to be anywhere but within an area extending along his sideline, no more than 20 yards on either side of the mid-field line.**

**No Club official, Club member, team manager, player, or spectator may enter the field of play regardless of the circumstances, unless the Referee has given them permission. If this is disregarded, they shall become subject to disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee.**

## **Accidents or Unusual Incidents**

**The team coach or manager must report any accident or unusual incident to the league.**

## **Suspended Coach**

**Any Coach who has been placed on suspension is not permitted to participate in any manner whatsoever in the activities of the League during the suspension. The suspended person is not permitted to be present at the site of a match or areas immediately adjacent.**

**PENALTY: Disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee.**

### **Suspended Player**

**A player who has been placed on suspension is not permitted to dress for any match during the time period of his/her suspension, nor be present at the site of a match or areas immediately adjacent (player may participate in team practices).**

**PENALTY: Disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee.**

### **Field of Play**

**The field of play shall conform to FIFA Law I, except as listed.**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Approximate Field Size</b>	<b>Goal Size*</b>
<b>U9, U10, U11, GU12 NPL</b>	<b>50 x 70/80</b>	<b>7 x 21</b>
<b>BU12 NPL, U13 and Older</b>	<b>60 x 110</b>	<b>8 x 24</b>
<b>* Both Goals must be the same size</b>		

### **Number of Players**

Two teams shall play a match with no more than the listed number of players on the field at one time, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of Players</b>
<b>U9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>U10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>U11</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GU12 NPL</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BU12 NPL</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>U13 and Older</b>	<b>11</b>

### **Standings (NYCSL League, NYCSL NPL, NY Cup Group Stage)**

- a. **Standings Determined Standings are kept for all NYCSL league, NYCSL NPL games and NY Cup group stage games and are determined by the following point system:**

<b>WIN</b>	<b>3 points</b>
<b>TIE</b>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>0 points</b>

**At the conclusion of NY Cup group play/stage 1, the winners and runners up in each bracket will progress to the first knockout round (the round of 16). In groups of less than 32 teams, wild card teams will also progress to the first knockout round of 16 (NY Cup Knockout Format). This will be based on the listed tiebreakers. If the teams are still tied, then a single match elimination game will be played. The home team will be decided on a coin flip.**

**In the event that the NY Cup or NYCSL NPL teams in any of the brackets finish tied for first place, based on points, at the conclusion of the group stage, the winning team will be decided by the following tiebreakers, in order:**

- **Head to Head**
  - **Goal Differential**
    - **NY Cup - maximum of 5 goals per game**
    - **NYCSL NPL – no maximum (will publish a maximum of 8 goals per game)**
  - **Fewest Goals Allowed**
    - **NY Cup - maximum of 5 goals per game**
    - **NYCSL NPL – no maximum (will publish a maximum of 8 goals per game)**
  - **Number of Shutouts**
- b. **If two teams are tied after all of the tied breakers above, they will play a special play-in games shall be scheduled to determine who will advance to the knock out round for NY Cup and to be crowned first place winner for NYCSL NPL.**
- c. **Play-off Games In the event of a tie for first place in the standings at the completion of the NYCSL league season’s regular game schedule, a play-off game will not be required in order to determine a champion in any age groups (Boys and Girls). Should play-off games be necessary for either the NY Cup or NYCSL NPL, criteria are detailed under Standings.**
- d. **Tie Games If an NYCSL league, NPL league or NY Cup group stage scheduled game ends in a tie score at the end of regulation playing time, the game and score shall stand as official.**
- e. **Team Withdraws from Competition: If a team withdraws from competition prior to having completed half of the original schedule of games, results of these games will be deleted from the records.**
- f. **Team Withdraws from Competition After Half of the Original Schedule of Games: If a team withdraws from competition after half of the original schedule of games has been completed results of such games will be recorded as played and all remaining games as forfeits.**

## **NY Cup Knockout Stage**

### **GROUP STAGE OF 32 TEAMS**

**On conclusion of the group play/stage 1, the remaining 16 teams will contest the first knockout round of the tournament. A public drawing will determine the matchup for the**

**knock out rounds of the tournament. All top finishers shall be matched against the runner-ups or wild card teams. This shall be accomplished by placing top finishers and runner ups/wild card teams in two separate pools for the public drawing. During the first knock out round teams that were in the same group will not be allowed to matchup against each other. However, they will be allowed to matchup in later knock out stages.**

**For starting groups of less than 32 teams, teams will progress directly to the quarterfinals round as indicated.**

### **GROUP STAGE OF 30 TEAMS**

**In groups of 30, the winners and runner-ups in each four-team bracket will progress directly to the quarterfinals round. The next 2 best teams, based upon the listed tiebreakers, will also qualify for the quarterfinals round.**

### **GROUP STAGE OF 28 TEAMS**

**In groups of 28, the winners and runner-ups in each bracket will progress directly to the quarterfinals round. The next 2 best teams, based upon the listed tiebreakers, will also qualify for the quarterfinals round.**

### **GROUP STAGE OF 24 TEAMS**

**In groups of 24, the winners and runner-ups in each bracket will progress directly to the quarterfinals round. The next 4 best teams, based upon the listed tiebreakers, will also qualify for the quarterfinals round.**

### **GROUP STAGE OF 20 TEAMS**

**In groups of 20 teams, the winners of each bracket (5 teams) will progress directly to the quarterfinals round. The next best team, based upon the listed tiebreakers, will also qualify for the quarterfinals round. Based upon tiebreakers, the 7th place team will play the 10th place team and the 8th place team will play the 9th place team in a play in game to qualify for the quarterfinals round.**

## **GROUP STAGE OF 16 TEAMS**

**In groups of 16 teams, the winners and runner-ups in each bracket will progress directly to the quarterfinals round. This will be based on the listed tiebreakers.**

## **KNOCKOUT ROUND**

**Extra time and penalty shootouts will be used to produce winners at this stage if necessary. If a match is tied after regulation, two 5-minute overtime periods for U9-U12 and two 10-minute overtime periods will be played for U13 and older in their entirety.**

**Teams will have a 5-minute break before the first overtime. After the first overtime period, teams will change sides, with no break, and play the remaining overtime period. If the match is still tied after the two overtime periods, then penalty kicks (FIFA rules) will determine the winning team.**

**Should circumstances arise beyond the control of the home team (weather, onset of darkness etc.), causing the referee to halt the game during any portion of the overtime, the game will be rescheduled and resumed at the start of the first overtime period.**

**All additional round(s) including the finals and the game to determine 3rd place will follow the same structure.**

### **Quarter Finals Home Field Determination**

**If the 2 teams advancing were both HOME or both AWAY in the Round of 16, then the team listed on the TOP of the bracket will be the Home Team**

**If only one of the teams advancing was the HOME team in the Round of 16, then they will be the Home team in the QF as they are the higher seed**

### **Finals**

**The NY Cup winner will be decided with a single game.**

## **Protests/Appeals**

**For the NY Cup tournament, all decisions determined by the NYCSL Management Committee are final. No protests or appeals are allowed.**

# **GAME REGULATIONS**

## **Scheduling**

**Prior to the seasons' start, Clubs are to do their best to accommodate the visiting team's requests when scheduling their home team games. When there is a conflict between the NYCSL league and NPL league home team and visiting team requests, the home team request will prevail.**

**For NY Cup matches, should the visiting team play its league games on the opposite day of the home team; the home team must schedule the Cup game on the home team's league game day.**

## **Fields**

**Home Team Responsibility** The Home team is responsible for the condition of the playing area including the proper field markings, and proper equipment - Nets and corner flags are required. If the referee determines that the field is not playable due to improper conditions (unrelated to weather), then the home team will forfeit the match and be responsible to absorb the full cost of referee, assignor and field rental fees.

**Neutral Playing Field** If a neutral playing field is used, the designated Home team must provide the field markings including placing the lines which represent the field of play, setting up the goal nets and corner flags. At the neutral site, the designated Home team is not responsible for the condition of the playing area. For failure to comply, the Home team

**will forfeit the match and be responsible to absorb the full cost of referee, assignor and field rental fees.**

**Confirmation of Time, Field, and Colors** The Visiting Team's Coach or team manager shall confirm the game time, field location, and will verify uniform colors with the Home team's Coach prior to the game date.

**Position of the Team and Spectators at the Game Site** Spectators for each team will take a position on the opposite side of the field than the valid Coaches and rostered players. The Home Team shall have the choice of which side the spectator's will be positioned.

**Minimum Number of Players** A minimum number of players shall be required for a scheduled match. Should a team not have at least the minimum number of players within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time, it shall forfeit the game 3-0, and be responsible for the entire referee and associated assignor fees. The minimum number of players per age group is listed.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Players</u>
U9, U10, U11, GU12 NPL	6
BU12 NPL, U13 and older	7

**Start at the Scheduled Time** At the scheduled time for the match, the minimum number of players will constitute a team and the match will start at the scheduled time. There is no permissible waiting period to wait for additional players to arrive at the game site.

**Substitutions for NYCSL League, NY Cup** Unlimited Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the Referee at any stoppage in play.



**Substitutions for NYCSLNPL U12-U15 Unlimited Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the Referee at any stoppage in play.**

**Substitutions for NYCSL NPL U16 and U18 - No re-entry in a half for all U16 and U18 NYCSL NPL league games. All players reporting into the game will provide a player pass to the referee prior to entering the field. The referee will return all player cards at halftime to both teams for the second half.**

- 1. Change With The Goalkeeper Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper provided that the Referee is informed before the change is made, and that the change is made during a stoppage in the game.**
- 2. Substitution Procedure When a goalkeeper or any other player is to be replaced by a substitute, the following conditions shall be observed:**
  - a. The Referee shall be informed of the proposed substitution before it is made.**
  - b. The substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player he is replacing has left, and then only after having received a signal from the Referee.**
  - c. Enter the field during a stoppage in the game, and at the halfway line.**

## **Referee System**

**All matches shall be officiated by a 3-person referee crew, provided by NYCSL, with referee fees split equally by the two teams playing, regardless of which team is the home team, at the rate posted on the NYCSL website. Referees must be paid prior to the match. Yet if a full referee crew is not present, payment should be adjusted accordingly.**

**NPL ONLY – No referee fees are paid on the field, they are handled directly by NYCSL**

**Delaying the Start of a Scheduled Match Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game more than fifteen (15) minutes without the sanction of the League shall forfeit the game 3-0. This condition is waived should the game be delayed by a preceding game. The fifteen (15) minute forfeit time will commence upon completion of the previous match on fields with multiple games.**

**If a Team Fails to Appear The team that does appear must complete the Game Roster Form, line up, and kick off. The Referee will then terminate the match and file a referee's**

**report. Team that fails to appear will be responsible for the entire referee and associated assignor fees.**

**If Both Teams Fail to Appear In the event both teams do not appear for a scheduled match, and the Referee rules the ground playable, both teams will be assessed a forfeit. Each team will be responsible for their share of the referee fees.**

**Option to Forfeit (Home or Visiting Team) for NYCSL and NY Cup Should the Home team or the Visiting team exercise the option to forfeit a scheduled match, the forfeiting team must inform the League. The League will notify the opposing team of the status of the match. In this situation, upon notification from the League the opposing team is not required to appear at the site of the match. No fee will be assessed if the forfeiting team informs the League with a minimum seven (7) days notice.**

**Forfeiture for NYCSL NPL \$500 fine will be assessed upon 1st NPL team forfeit. Club president MUST write a formal letter to NYCSL & US Club regarding forfeit. Club President will present NYCSL with a \$500 check within 3 business days. If NYCSL does not have the check within the required timeframe, then that team's succeeding week's match will NOT be played and the team will be issued a 3-0 loss. Should a second forfeit occur within a Club, by same or different NPL team, then the Club will be asked to leave the NYCSL NPL LEAGUE. Club would then no longer be in good standing and, as such, not be under consideration for NYCSL NPL play the succeeding season.**

**Forfeiture and Failure to Compete (Complete One's Scheduled Games) If a team fails to complete its scheduled games, the matter will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee, which shall have the authority to take such actions against the team as it deems appropriate.**

**If the Referee Fails to Appear If a Referee should fail to appear for a scheduled match, the Coaches of the competing teams must agree upon a person to substitute for the Referee. If one of the AR's assigned to the game is a grade 8, he/she will become the center referee with the other AR doing one sideline and a volunteer AR the other sideline. If the AR's assigned are grade 9 they can only work the lines and both coaches must agree on a substitute volunteer referee. The substitute need not be a certified Referee. The substitute must officiate the complete match. The substitute Referee shall have those prerogatives granted to him/her by the 'Laws of the Game', as published by FIFA and amended by NYCSL. The home team must furnish to NYCSL, a report of the match and the**

**appropriate NYCSL league, NYCSL NPL or approved NY Cup 'Game Roster Forms' within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the match.**

## **Bad Weather and/or Poor Field Conditions**

**Inspection of Playing Site** It shall be the home team Coach or team manger with the Club's designated governing authority's responsibility to inspect the game field prior to the match. In the event of bad weather, the Home Team's Club Official, after inspection of the field, must notify the League no later than 2 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the match that field conditions may require postponement of the match. ONLY a Club Official can cancel a match, not the coach.

**Both Teams Must Appear** Should any part of the two (2) hour notification period lapse, regardless of weather and/or field conditions, Coaches and their teams must appear at the match site, ready to play at the scheduled time of the match, or forfeit the match. Once any part of the two (2) hour notification period has lapsed, the Referee is the only person authorized to cancel the match. In the event that weather and/or field conditions are questionable for playing the match and the Referee fails to appear, the decision to play or cancel is granted to the Home team.

**Game Terminated by the Referee** Should the match be terminated by the Referee prior to the time specified in the rules, for reasons of bad weather, poor field conditions, or darkness, the entire game must be replayed. (FIFA Law VII)

**Game Terminated by the Referee for other Reasons** Should the referee terminate the match for any other reason the Disciplinary Committee will decide whether the game should be replayed.

**Availability of Home Field** Should a Home team find itself without a match site due to circumstances beyond the control of the team and/or Club, the Home team's Coach or team manger must notify the League no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled time of the match.

**Rescheduled Match** The League must be informed so that Referee(s) can be assigned to the match. The responsibility for rescheduling rests with the Home team. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit. Should the Coach or team manager of the two (2) teams in question

**fail to agree on a rescheduling date within seven (7) days of the date of the canceled or postponed match, the League will establish a date.**

**Change A Scheduled Match Under no circumstances will a Coach, team manager or any other Club representative change a scheduled match or reschedule a match without permission from the League. Should this occur, both teams will forfeit the match and will be responsible for their share of the referee and associated assignor fees.**

**Change of Game Location Should there be a last minute change to a match site; the Home Team must provide a person at the original site to escort the Referee and the Visiting team to the new site.**

**Reporting the Score Home Team Responsibility It is the responsibility of the Home team to notify the League's designated authority on the day and hours specified by the League, in order to notify him/her of the score.**

**Ejection from a Match In instances where the designated Coach has been ejected from a game, or has failed to control the activities at the match site to the detriment of the match, the Referee will not hold the Coach's card, but will provide a supplementary report to the League. The League's Disciplinary Committee, at its discretion, will implement disciplinary action.**

## **Referees**

### **a) Player Verification**

- 1. Game Roster Form The Referee shall require that both teams enter all the appropriate information on the League's Game Roster Form prior to the start of the match.**

2. **Collect Player Passes** The Referee shall collect the player's laminated passes prior to starting the match and retain them until the conclusion of the match. The Player's Pass is the sole property of the League.
3. **Verify the Player's Identity** The Referee shall verify the identity of the players represented on the player's pass by inspecting the Player's photograph, which is on the pass.
4. **Player Not Permitted to Participate** The Referee will not permit a Player to participate unless a valid player pass has been furnished.
5. **Verify Written Data** The Referee shall verify that the Player's pass indicates the correct Club name and age group.
6. **Discrepancy in the Data** Should there be a discrepancy in the Age Group, and/or Club name, the player shall be permitted to participate in the match. The Referee shall retain the pass and shall forward the Player's pass in question, with his/her report, to the League, which will administer disciplinary action for any or all infringements and violations regarding Player eligibility.

#### **b) Referee Reports**

1. **Submit Referee Reports** The Referee shall submit (mail or email) a Referee Report for each match officiated, within forty-eight (48) hours (Holidays excluded) after the completion of the match. The Referee shall attach to the Referee Report, a copy of the league's Game Roster Form.
2. **Supplementary Referee Report** The Referee shall submit (mail or email) a Supplementary Referee Report for each player and/or Coach ejected from the match, to the League within forty-eight (48) hours (Holidays excluded) after the completion of the match. The Referee will not retain the pass of the ejected player or Coach.
3. **Violation Will Be Held In Abeyance** In the event that the Supplementary Referee Report is not received by the League within forty-eight (48) hours (Holidays excluded) after the completion of the match, the violation will be held in abeyance until the report is received.

#### **c) Caution**

1. **Yellow Card - Cautioned** A Yellow Card is displayed by the Referee to indicate that a Player or Coach is being cautioned for violating FIFA, Laws of the Game. **Two (2) Cautions** If a Player or Coach receives two (2) cautions during one match, the Player or Coach will be ejected from the match, and a suspension is in effect.

2. **Five (5) Cautions** If a Coach receives five (5) cautions during a season, a suspension is in effect.
3. **Disciplinary Committee** The Disciplinary Committee, at its discretion, will determine the length of the suspension and any other punishments, fines, and/or assessments.

#### **d) Ejection**

1. **Red Card - Ejection** A Red Card is displayed by the Referee to indicate that a Player or Coach is ejected from the match, and a suspension is in effect.
2. **Disciplinary Committee** The Disciplinary Committee, at its discretion, will determine the length of the suspension and any other punishments, fines and/or assessments.
3. **Appear Before Disciplinary Committee** A player or Coach who receives a red card or the equivalent, will, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, be summoned to appear at a hearing. Should the player or Coach fail to appear, he/she will be suspended until such appearance is made. The Disciplinary Committee, at its discretion, will determine the length of suspension and/or any other punishments, fines, or assessments. The club will be assessed a minimum of \$50.00 each time a coach (Coach) is issued a red card, unless waived by the Disciplinary Committee. Should a player be summoned to appear, the Coach or Club representative from his/her designated team must accompany him/her.
4. **Suspended from Consecutive Competition** A player or Coach shall be suspended from consecutive competition in the league.
5. **Team Refuses to Continue** If a team refuses to continue to play after being so instructed by the Referee, the team will forfeit the game, 3-0.
6. **Reports Will Be Reviewed By The Disciplinary Committee** The Referee Report and the Supplementary Referee Report shall be reviewed by the League's Disciplinary Committee, who shall determine the punishment, fine, and/or assessment. The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the parties involved, in writing, of the decision.

**Eligibility Protest** Protests on questions of eligibility must be filed in writing, with substantiating facts to the Disciplinary Committee, anytime within the current season.

## **PROTESTS and APPEALS**

**Disciplinary Committee** It shall manage all matters requiring arbitration that pertain to League sponsored competition(s). The Disciplinary Committee will administer Game

**Protests and Behavioral Incidents. The Disciplinary Committee has the authority to suspend or fine any Player, Coach, Team, Team Official, Club Official, Team and/or Club Supporter. The Disciplinary Committee has the authority to fine any Member Club.**

- 1. Composition There will be no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members, plus a Committee Chairman on the NYCSL Disciplinary Committee. Disciplinary Committee members and selection of its Chairman shall be selected by the League's President.**
- 2. Voting of this Committee shall be one (1) vote for each member of the Committee including the Chairman. The Chairman may cast a vote only in case of a tie. A minimum of three (3) voting members, which includes the Chairman, will be required to hear a case and render a decision. No member of the NYCSL Disciplinary Committee shall participate at any other level of appeal or discipline.**
- 3. Participants at a Disciplinary Committee Meeting The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Disciplinary Committee meeting.**
- 4. Convene Disciplinary Committee The Disciplinary Committee will convene at the discretion of the Chairman.**
- 5. Club Notification Each Time An Coach is Issued a Red Card In the event that a coach (Coach) or player is issued a red card, the Disciplinary Committee will notify the Club President in writing of the offense.**
- 6. Coach to Appear at the Disciplinary Committee Hearing In the event that an Coach is awarded a Red Card, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, said Coach will be notified by the Disciplinary Committee to appear in person, at the Disciplinary Committee hearing of the case.**
  - a. The Disciplinary Committee will notify the Coach of the date, time and location of the hearing.**
- 7. Player to Appear at the Disciplinary Committee Hearing In the event that a Player is awarded a Red Card, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, said Player and the Coach of the said Player's team may be notified by the Disciplinary Committee to appear in person, at the Disciplinary Committee hearing of the case. The Coach must accompany the player to such a hearing.**
  - a. The Disciplinary Committee will notify the Coach of the date, time and location of the hearing.**

**Protests and Disputes All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors or interpretation of the rules or any dispute or protest whatever, shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the NYCSL. Protests and disputes are filed by the Member Clubs who will bear responsibility for adherence to the rules regarding disputes and protests and guarantee all fees and fines. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided for in Rule 6, Part 4.**

**Valid and Eligible for Consideration** To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest or dispute must:

- a. Be submitted on the League's Game Protest Form. The form must describe in full detail the grounds for the protest or dispute and bear the signature of the Club's President and/or Registrar, as well as the signature of the coach of the team initiating the protest or dispute.
- b. Be accompanied by any information to be presented by witnesses and/or supporting documents.
- c. Be provided by certified or registered mail (along with all supporting information and documents) to the opposing team and/or Club.
- d. Pertain to a League sponsored competition.
- e. Be initiated by a party directly involved in the incident under protest or dispute. An involved party, as used throughout this Part, is defined as a team coach, a club President and/or a club Registrar.
- f. Include all information necessary to allow a fair and just decision.
- g. Be e-mailed to the [info@justsaysoccer.com](mailto:info@justsaysoccer.com), addressed to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, no less than midnight of the third business day following the incident giving rise to the protest or dispute. A business day, as used throughout this Part, is defined as any weekday excluding legal holidays. A business day shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.

**Lawyer Shall Not Represent An Disciplinary Committee** hearing is not a legal proceeding, thus, legal counsel may not represent involved parties. Attorneys may appear before the Board only as involved parties in an individual capacity and not as legal counsel.

4. **Ignorance of the Rules** A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the League is not sufficient grounds for the filing of a protest or dispute.
5. **Conflicts of Interest** The members of the Disciplinary Committee shall avoid both apparent and actual conflicts of interest. In the event that a member of the Board may be considered on any basis by a reasonable individual to have a bias for or against any interested party in a protest or dispute, that member shall excuse himself/herself from the deliberations concerning that protest or dispute.
6. **Convening the Board and Notifying Involved Parties** The Disciplinary Committee shall be convened by the Chairman at his/her discretion. Notice shall be given to involved parties and those others invited to aid in the Board's deliberations and/or to present relevant information, no later than five business days prior to the scheduled meeting.



7. **Forfeiture of Appeal Rights** An involved party failing to appear before the Disciplinary Committee after having received notice as required in the section headed **Convening the Board and Notifying Involved Parties** shall forfeit all rights to appeal.
8. **Basis of Decision** The Disciplinary Committee shall render a decision on any protest or dispute on the basis of any information, from any source, that it deems appropriate under the circumstances.
9. **Timeliness of Decision** The Disciplinary Committee shall render a decision within fifteen (15) days of receipt by the Board of a protest or dispute. Failure to render a decision within this period shall entitle the party filing the protest or dispute to submit the protest or dispute to the Appeals Committee without determination and the protest fee submitted shall be applied to the appeal fee.
10. **Notification of Decision** All parties to a protest or dispute shall be notified in writing within (10) days of a hearing of the decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee.
11. **Rejection of Protests or Disputes** Any protest or dispute not submitted to the Disciplinary Committee in full compliance with Rule 6, Part 2, Section 1 shall be returned, along with all submitted documents and fees, without consideration.
12. **Appeal of an Disciplinary Committee Decision** A Club may appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Committee only to the Appeals Committee of the League in accordance with Rules contained within this Protests and Appeals sections.

### **Part 3. Appeals Committee**

**The NYCSL Appeals Committee shall be responsible for hearing appeals pertaining to a decision rendered by the League's Disciplinary Committee, Standing or Ad Hoc Committees. All avenues of appeal must be exhausted at all levels below this body before the Appeals Committee will consider hearing an appeal.**

- a. **Composition of the Appeals Committee** There shall be no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members plus a committee chairman. Committee members shall be selected by the League's President. No more than one member from the League's Executive Board shall be a member of the Appeals Committee. The League's President shall appoint the Chairman of the Appeals Committee.
- b. **Authority of the Appeals Committee** The Appeals Committee has the authority to suspend or fine any Player, Coach, Team, Team Official, Club Official, Team and/or Club Supporter. The Appeals Committee has the authority to fine any Member Club.

- c. **Minimum Number of Voting Members Voting of this Committee shall be that one (1) vote for each member of the Committee including the Chairman. The Chairman may cast a vote only in case of a tie. A minimum of three (3) voting members, which includes the Chairman, will be required to hear a case and render a decision. No member of the NYCSL Appeals Committee shall participate at any other level of appeal or discipline.**
- d. **Participants at an Appeals Committee Meeting The Appeals Committee reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Appeals Committee meeting.**
- e. **Convene Appeals Committee The Appeals Committee will convene at the discretion of the Chairman.**
- f. **Records of the Appeals Committee The records of the Appeals Committee will be maintained for a three (3) year period.**

## **Part 4. Appeals**

**All appeals of a decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee, a League Standing Committee, or a Special (Ad Hoc) Committee shall be referred to the Appeals Committee of the NYCSL. Appeals are filed by the member Clubs who will bear responsibility for adherence to the rules regarding appeals and guarantee all fees and fines. Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided within this document.**

- 1. **Valid and Eligible for Consideration To be valid and eligible for consideration, each appeal must:**
  - a. **Be accompanied by an appeal fee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), in the form of a check or money order made payable to the NYCSL.**
  - b. **Be submitted in triplicate on member Club stationery. The submittal must describe in full detail the grounds for the appeal and bear the signature of the member Club's President and/or Registrar.**
  - c. **Be accompanied by three (3) copies of any information to be presented by witnesses and/or supporting documents.**
  - d. **Be provided by certified or registered mail (along with all supporting information and documents) to all affected parties.**
  - e. **Pertain to a decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee, NYCSL Standing Committee or Special (Ad Hoc) Committee, or result from the lack of a timely decision by the Disciplinary Committee.**

- f. **Be initiated by a party directly affected by the decision under appeal. An affected party, as used throughout this Part, is defined as a team coach, a club President and/or a club Registrar who was party to the decision under appeal.**
  - g. **Include all information necessary to allow a fair and just decision.**
  - h. **Be mailed to the League's office, addressed to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, by certified or registered mail, and postmarked no later than midnight of the fifth business day following the date of notice of the decision giving rise to the appeal. A business day, as used throughout this Part, is defined as any weekday that the offices of the League are normally open for business. A business day shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays observed by the League office.**
2. **Appeals Fee Forfeited** The appeals fee shall be forfeited to the League if the appeal is not upheld by the Appeals Committee.
  3. **Lawyer Representation** An attorney or other advisor may attend the Appeals Committee hearing. During the course of the hearing, the party may confer briefly or request a recess in order to confer with the attorney or other advisor. The attorney or advisor may not present the party's oral argument, question any witness or directly address the hearing panel.
  4. **Ignorance of the Rules** A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the League is not sufficient grounds for the filing of an appeal.
  5. **Conflicts of Interest** The members of the Appeals Committee shall avoid both apparent and actual conflicts of interest. In the event that a member of the Committee may be considered on any basis by a reasonable individual to have a bias for or against any affected party in an appeal, that member shall excuse himself/herself from the deliberations concerning that appeal.
  6. **6. Convening the Committee and Notifying Affected Parties** The Appeals Committee shall be convened by the Chairman at his/her discretion. Notice shall be given to affected parties and those others invited to aid in the Committee's deliberations and/or to present relevant information, no later than five business days prior to the scheduled meeting.
  7. **Forfeiture of Appeal Rights** An affected party failing to appear before the Appeals Committee after having received notice as required ,shall forfeit all rights to appeal.
  8. **Burden of Proof** The appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is clearly erroneous.
  9. **Basis of Decision** The Appeals Committee shall render a decision on any appeal on the basis of any information, from any source that it deems appropriate under the circumstances.
  10. **Timeliness of Decision** The Appeals Committee shall render a decision within fifteen (15) business days of the hearing of an appeal. Failure to render a decision within this period shall entitle the party filing the appeal to submit the appeal to the next level of authority without determination and the appeal fee submitted shall be refunded.

11. **Notification of Decision** All parties to an appeal shall be notified in writing within twenty (20) business days of a hearing of the decision rendered by the Appeals Committee.
12. **Rejection of Appeals** Any protest or dispute not submitted to the Appeals Committee in full compliance shall be returned, along with all submitted documents and fees, without consideration.
13. **Appeal of an Appeals Committee Decision** A Club may appeal a decision of the Appeals Committee only to the State Youth Association.

## **Part 5. Matters Not Provided**

**Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the Executive Board of NYCSL and decisions so made shall be final and binding.**

## **Part 6. Penalties**

**No NYCSL official, club, league, team, coach, referee, player, or other representative may invoke the aid of the Courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations.**

**For violation of this rule the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines and shall be liable to the NYCSL for all expenses incurred by the NYCSL and its officers in defending any court action, including but not limited to the following:**

1. **Court costs Attorneys fees**
2. **Reasonable compensation for time spent by NYCSL officers and/or employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearance.**
3. **Travel expenses**
4. **Expenses for holding special NYCSL meetings necessitated by court action.**

## **Part 7. Line of Authority for an Appeal**

**The line of authority for an appeal of a decision rendered by the League's Executive Board or Appeals Committee shall be:**

- 1. SAY National**
- 2. USSF National Appeals Committee**

**Appeals following the line of authority listed above are made directly to each level. The fee for an appeal is prescribed by each level of appeal and are made payable to each level.**