

Northeast District

Rules of Competition

12th Edition



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Rules of Competition Revision History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
March 28, 2001	<i>Original Rules of Competition</i>
April 14, 2001	<i>Updated with minor revisions for clarity and typo errors.</i>
March 1, 2002	<i>Revisions reflecting January 2002 Competition Committee</i>
March 14, 2002	<i>Initial Publication</i>
March 13, 2003	<i>Revisions reflecting March 2003 Competition Committee</i>
March 31, 2005	<i>Revisions reflecting March 2005 Competition Committee</i>
March 13, 2006	<i>Revisions reflecting March 2006 Competition Committee</i>
April 15, 2007	<i>Small sided U11/U12 Division 4 and Division V Competitive Balance</i>
May 18, 2008	<i>Revisions reflecting Winter 2008 Competition Committee</i>
May 25, 2010	<i>Revisions reflecting Winter 2010 Competition Committee</i>
July 2, 2011	<i>Revisions reflecting Winter 2011 Competition Committee</i>
July 17, 2012	<i>Playing Up Policy</i>
March 10, 2015	<i>Playoff makeup guidelines, risk management emphasis</i>
March 31, 2016	<i>New calendar year league age; Small sided modifications; no heading</i>
May 31, 2017	<i>Revise Blowout Protocol; Introduce Build Out Line</i>
Winters 2020-2021	<i>Add HS Scholarship award; Consolidate Division III and IV; Support</i>
March 29, 2021	<i>Inter-district competition; housekeeping & Covid-19, Player Retention</i>
August 16, 2024	Align Division 5 playing logistics for Under 12 and Under 14/15

Northeast District - Rules of Competition

INTRODUCTION

This document governs the structure for the CJSA Northeast District inter-club league play. The standing Competition Committee, as appointed by the Northeast District Board of Directors, processes all document changes. The elements of this document and any subsequent changes must be approved by the Northeast District Executive Board and distributed to member club presidents. All coaches, referees, team parents and administrators should read this.

Mission Statement of the Northeast District - Rules of Competition

The Northeast District (NED) of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA), affiliated with U.S. Soccer, U.S. Youth Soccer, FIFA and the USOC, is a non-profit educational organization formed to organize, advance and foster the sport of soccer for players under nineteen years of age in the Northeast District of Connecticut. Specifically, the mission of the **Northeast District - Rules of Competition** is to:

1. Promote and develop the sport of soccer for all individuals throughout the Northeast District of Connecticut, including those in rural, suburban, urban and inner-city areas, without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, gender or physical ability.
2. Give every player, coach and referee the opportunity to develop his or her skills to the highest level of the individual's ability.
3. Provide a level of competition commensurate with each participant's ability, interest and desire.
4. Provide a healthy, safe and enjoyable soccer environment for all participants.
5. Foster honesty, integrity and good will within soccer.
6. Provide educational opportunities to all players, coaches, referees and the community at large regarding the sport of soccer.
7. Support and provide leadership within the national and international governing bodies of soccer.
8. Govern and administer the sport of soccer within the Northeast District of Connecticut in a fair, efficient, and exemplary fashion.
9. Provide administrative and/or technical assistance to individuals, local clubs and associations in areas pertaining to the sport of soccer and to the management of a sports organization.
10. Provide recognition of players, coaches, referees and clubs at all levels of participation.
11. Promote unity within the Northeast District soccer community.
12. Provide an equitable format for due process and adjudication within the sport of soccer through properly established rules and procedures for Northeast District players, coaches, referees, participants and spectators.
13. Be a sports organization which is a positive role model and which provides leadership to the sports community at large.

Player Retention Philosophy

In the spirit of creating a lifelong love of soccer for every player, CJSA NED recommends that each club adopt a player retention philosophy and policy to guide the club coaches, volunteers and administrators. The following philosophy **MUST** be observed in the absence of a specific club policy. With the publication of the 11th edition of the Rules of Competition, the Player Retention Philosophy is included as an extension of the Mission Statement for unambiguous clarity and significance. References to this philosophy are made throughout the balance of this document whenever guidance is provided regarding playing time. Clubs that adopt their own philosophy must file them with the NED leadership and specifically with the Competition Chairperson.

Player Development Philosophy:

NED advocates the U.S. Youth Soccer and CJSA Player Development Philosophy that aims to develop the individual skills of all players through the four components of soccer: Technical, Tactical, Psychological, and Physical.

Implementing age-appropriate training curriculum at all levels to ensure the best development of players. Focus on the development of players, not the short-term goal of winning a game or medal. Aim to provide a standardized and structured support plan to players, coaches and parents to implement player-centric programming at every level of the game. At the end of the day we must remember the game is for the kids, not the parents or the coaches.

The game can be the best teacher. Coaches are expected to provide fair playing time for all. Adjustments can be made depending on attendance, attitude, behavior, or prior agreement but not for skill. For skill fairness, a 50% minimum and proportional maximum with action in both halves is a good objective and strongly encouraged, but coaches maintain game day discretion. **Most importantly, the playing time expectation must be communicated in advance with the player especially when less than the encouraged objective is probable.** Further, the best way to develop well rounded and confident players is to provide opportunities to play different roles on the field under varying circumstances. Therefore, players aged 8-12 are to be exposed to a variety of positions (offense/defense), a variety of restarts (kicks, throw-ins, etc.) throughout the season and not just during less competitive games. The intent is to provide challenges that develop confidence and not to be so overwhelming that it creates self-doubt. The coach's first priority is the child's development needs not the quest for victory. Winning is a by-product of quality individual development.

Style of play based on sound technique and tactical understanding teaches players to play with the soccer ball in all areas of the field. They will play from the back and through the thirds of the field. The goalkeeper will be encouraged to deliver the ball to the defense then to midfield then moved forward by linking up with the strikers. This is a possession style with emphasis of comfort on the ball, playing in all directions (360-degree soccer) to retain possession and go forward to attack when possible. They will be taught that when their team has the ball, they are all on offense and when they lose it they are all defenders. The children need to develop a clear decision-making process on the ball and play with control and thought. A 'boot' or kick away should not be cheered as this play is not promoted by our coaches and goes against the Club's style of play.

The Club will encourage creativity around the whole team where children are promoted to express themselves without fear of failure. It is the coach's job to create an environment where it is ok to fail. This will allow for players to try moves/turns and individual skill without the coach scolding or quashing creative play. The players should have the freedom to play and learn from their experiences, both positive and negative.

Parental support and encouragement plays a HUGE role in a child's athletic experience. A child being on time to practice and games is important to how the child is perceived by the coach and their teammates. Considering all children develop at different speeds we ask that you show support for their efforts and not focus on the negatives. Coaches need to be positive and supportive and parents can carry that support through in the car ride home. Parents are encouraged to cheer for their child while they are playing but please leave the instructing to the coaches.

NED strives for every club to be successful and committed to providing fun activities, youth development, teaching life lessons, good sportsmanship, and community building, to help develop great kids with a passion for the game of soccer.

Overview of the Northeast District Competition

Northeast District Competition Committee

The Chair of the Competition Committee is appointed by the District VP and is approved by the NED District Executive Board including club representatives. Members of the Competition Committee are selected to represent Division III, IV and V, DRA, Coaching Director, district registrars, and jamboree directors.

League Commissioners

League Commissioner(s) are required for Division III, Division IV and Division V. These responsibilities are held by the respective District Officers as listed hereafter, subject to further delegation of duties. The Division III coordinator is the District Premier Director. The Division IV coordinator is the District Select Director. The Division V coordinator is the District Recreation Director. Separate assistant commissioners for Boys and Girls are advisable for each Division.

Referee Administrator

The Referee Administrator is responsible for educating all club referee assignors to insure the NED Rules of Competition are consistently applied. The Rules of Competition are to be distributed to referees in the district at least annually. Each club's referee assignor is expected to hold a rules review session with each referee. The NED Referee Administrator will maintain a record of each referee that has received the annual rules briefing to help ensure it happens. Referees that are not briefed are not expected to work NED Division III or IV league matches.

Mandate each club staff a district league assignment

17 assignments include:

Division 3	Division 4	Division 5	Other
12. Boys assistant commissioner *	14. Boys assistant commissioner *	8. District D5 Scheduler	1. District D3/D4 Scheduler & D3/D4 Commissioner
13. Girls assistant commissioner *	15. Girls assistant commissioner *	10. Boys Commissioner	2. Keep/Publish Standings
	16. U10, U9 Boys and Girls assistant commissioner *	11. Girls Commissioner	3. Referee Liaison (ensure referees & referee assignors know the district rules)
	17. U10, U9 Jamboree director	9. Recreational jamboree director	4. Coach Liaison (ensure travel coaches know the district rules)
			5. Recognition Awards
			6. Banquet Coordinator
			7. Championship finals venue director

* assistant commissioner responsibilities - monitor score reporting, blowout protocol, standings and any disputes
- typically involves challenges scheduling make up games at the end of the season

NED Playing League Structure

Division III (District) – Is a formally run district league offering the highest level of competition within NED. This league is intended for the strongest Connecticut Cup eligible club teams in the district to compete. Standings and results are maintained by the District and a league champion is recognized.

Division IV – Is a formally run district league strictly for Connecticut Cup eligible club teams where standings (*) and results are maintained by the Division Commissioner(s) and a league champion is recognized. The highest ranking team(s) earn the right to be promoted to the District's Division III League in subsequent playing seasons. Division IV and Division III leagues may be combined when an insufficient number of teams enter for any particular age bracket.
(* - only for U11 age groups and older)

Division V – Is a small-sided, developmental, non-results-oriented league. Results are not maintained, and each player plays in at least 50% of each game.

Summer League

This competition is considered to be a high school-aged player tournament and the only requirement is for the club to ensure that the players and coaches are properly registered as a recreational player to an affiliated CJSA club and a roster validated by the district registrar is available at each game.

District Jamborees

The NE District annually sponsors the U10 Jamboree for all U10 Division IV, Division V and in-house age-appropriate teams that choose to enter. Teams compete in three shortened matches within a three-hour span. No results are kept, and each player is awarded a medal or trophy for participating. This event is typically held during the first weekend in November. One or more clubs have typically (Marlborough Soccer Club & WAM United) have sponsored a District Division V Jamboree that same first weekend in November for Division V clubs, boys and girls. Other district events are posted on the NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> and other state approved events are posted on the CJSA web site <http://www.cjsa.org>. A member club interested in hosting a district event must receive approval from the NED executive board, and apply for such approval 60 or more days in advance of the event. Applicants should use the state form for hosting a tournament and submit to the NED VP. No out of District teams/clubs are eligible to participate in district jamborees.

Out of League Play

League teams shall not play in-house teams FROM OTHER CLUBS/ TOWNS. It is the intent of this rule to prevent the play of “a season full of friendly matches” between the teams subject to this rulebook and another town’s in-house intramural team without fulfilling district league obligations. Violators will be referred to the NED Disciplinary committee. Confirmation of any violation will result in an immediate suspension for the coach/ Assistant coach/ Team Manager or any registered adult who facilitates this competition. The Team(s) will be on probation for the remainder of the playing season.

Referee System

All matches shall use the three-man refereeing system. It is acceptable for U9/U10 matches and the Division V competition matches noted hereunder to be refereed by a single referee. Clubs are reminded to NEVER use the two-man, two-referee system for ANY NED matches. In the event that one referee and one AR show up, an acceptable modification to the three-man referee system is to use the referee, one assistant referee (where the AR does not use a whistle) and one club linesman. It is encouraged to use two assistant referees in the small-sided situation in order to promote the development of younger referees or entry-level referees.

Risk Management, Player Retention & Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Parents

Players, coaches, team managers, and parents shall comply with the NSCAA Code of Conduct found in Attachments D and E. The appropriate codes of conduct are to be distributed to every participating individual at the start of every playing season. The NED observes a Silent Sidelines weekend each playing season in conjunction with CJSA guidelines. All coaches, players and spectators shall comply with the Zero Tolerance Policy toward referees, found in Attachment Zero. Reference Attachment K for an overview of the NED risk management practices. Reference NED Player Retention Philosophy in the NED Mission Statement.

Order of Precedence

These rules shall be in full force and effect unless:

1. The club has a more restrictive rule, in which case that rule shall apply
2. CJSA has a more restrictive rule, in which case that rule shall apply.

Lack of knowledge of these rules will not relieve any Club President, Registrar, coach, team official, parent or player from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, parents and players, by their participation in the NED competitions, agree to be bound by these rules.

Interpretations and Appeals

Questions regarding rule interpretations must be forwarded electronically or by US Mail to the standing Competition Committee chair. The standing competition committee will address all questions within a timeframe appropriate to the issue. All decisions rendered by the competition committee must be circulated to the NED board of directors but are considered final. Any appeals regarding match outcomes must be filed via email within 72 hours to the competition committee chair and district VP. The chair will consult with the standing active competition committee, less any members involved in the dispute, and with district and/or area referee administrator, and seek input from both parties involved in the dispute. The chair will rule within another 72 hours or identify an appropriate ruling deadline beyond that by then. Substantial discretion remains with the competition committee chair and all decisions are final.

Rule Changes

Rule changes will be taken under consideration annually by the standing Competition Committee for incorporation and approval by the April NED board meeting. All proposed rule changes must be submitted in writing or electronically by an NED member club president by January 1 of each year to insure review by the Competition Committee.

NED League Fee Structure

Performance Bond - \$100.00 per club balance held

League fee (fall playing season) - \$25.00 / team for each team entering district Division 3 or Division 4 U11 or older

League fee (fall playing season) - \$50.00 / club if the club enters one or more Division 5 teams

Jamboree entry fee - approximately \$90.00-\$100.00 per team entry fee to cover expenses associated with the operation of the respective jamboree

Competition Overview

DISTRICT DIVISIONS (CT Cup Eligible Teams)

Division III

- Intended for strongest Connecticut Cup eligible club teams (residency rules)
- USYSA annual Coach & Player Passes required
- Max Roster Size 22 for 11v11 format; Max Roster Size 18 for 9v9 format
- Individual's playing time governed by NED or approved club Player Retention Philosophy
- Results are reported for all ages
- Standings are kept and champions recognized for U11 and older
- Formal deadlines, scheduling meetings, performance bond and team entry fee
- Under 11 and Under 12 teams play small-sided 9v9
- Sportsmanship rules including Blowout Protocol enforced
- In the absence of enough teams to form a league of at least 4 teams, Division III and Division IV may be combined OR two age groups may be combined to form a playing league

Division IV

- USYSA annual Coach & Player Passes required
- Max Roster Size 22 for 11v11 format; Max Roster Size 18 for 9v9 format; Max Roster Size 16 for 7v7
- Individual's playing time governed by NED or approved club Player Retention Philosophy
- Results are reported for all ages
- Standings are kept and champions recognized for U11 and older
- League champion eligible for promotion to Division III
- Formal deadlines, scheduling meetings, performance bond and team entry fee
- Under 13-15 teams play full-sided 11v11 OR small-sided 8v8
- Under 11 and Under 12 teams play small-sided 9v9
- Under 9 and Under 10 teams play small-sided 7v7
- Sportsmanship rules including Blowout Protocol enforced

Division V Small – Sided

- Players, Coaches and Referee development
- For developmental, non-results-oriented team play; but no running up goals
- Intended to maximize chances for every player to touch the ball
- Each player plays at least 50% of game; Div III or premier players get no more playing time than any others
- Unlimited roster size but game day limit of 12; no player passes required
- Players can concurrently play in Division III or IV with restricted rostering considerations
- Players rostered to a premier club U13 or older cannot be rostered or participate on a Division V team
- Coaches inspect opponent's rosters at each match
- Formal deadlines and scheduling meetings, club entry fee if entering 1 or more teams
- Under 8 plays 4v4, small field area and small goals, goal crease, no goalies

Division III

Division Play

It is the intent of Division III to provide the highest level of competition in the district. The league is intended to be a competitive environment for the strongest Connecticut Cup eligible teams. This document defines general guidelines for participating in this Division. In the absence of both Division III and Division IV leagues at an age group, the directives documented in the Division III paragraphs below will apply. NED WILL facilitate inter-district play where necessary at the UU1115 age levels. See the "Interdistrict Play" paragraph at the end of this section.

League Formation

There is a four-team league minimum. Failing to meet this minimum will mean that the league commissioner will use appropriate discretion to consider such actions as drafting one or more or all Division IV teams to join and other creative steps to form a viable league. Placement of teams into Division III is based upon strength and caliber of team. Teams that have earned a Division III spot through promotion from Division IV will be accommodated. Teams that have played Division III previously and avoided relegation will be accommodated. Strong teams can and should petition to enter Division III upon notification to play and such teams will be considered on a space available basis. The league scheduler will consider any evidence of past performance for petitioning teams to determine placement.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U11, U12, U13/U14/U15
- Ages covered (Spring) = U11, U12, U13/U14/U15
- All U11 and U12 plays small sided 9v9.
- Single age delineations are not guaranteed. It is the assumption of the registering club that in the absence of a league established in a given age group, the team will be placed in the next highest consecutive age group. The schedule planning committee will communicate such situations in advance with the affected club presidents.
- There is a minimum playing time recommendation for this competition league. All teams are expected to observe the player retention philosophy described in the Mission Statement above or in their club's approved philosophy.

Rosters

- Max Roster size: 22 players for 11v11 and 18 players for 9v9
- Rosters must be validated by Club Officer (Club President or Club Registrar) and the District Registrar or designated Assistant Registrar
- Team rosters must abide by the district and club playing up policies. Please reference Attachment J for specific guidelines.

Passes

- Passes are required for all players, coaches and team managers. Any number of adults may be associated with any one (1) Division III Team; however, the maximum number of adults on the sidelines for any match is four (4). Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check and Safesport training online. Adults on the sidelines must possess a valid coach pass.

Match Logistics

- See table below for field size, ball size, goal size, length of halves, offsides, heading restrictions.
- No overtimes are played for any regular season match.
- Home team wears pinnies or changes jerseys if both teams are wearing the same colors upon arrival at field.
- The NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> has detailed rules, league standings, and all the coach contact information posted as soon as possible after the scheduling meetings.

Match Results & Score Reporting

- Report results of every match by Monday 10:00pm each week to facilitate timely publication of standings. Both teams are required to report the score. For you busy coaches, this is a good task to delegate. Reporting logistics will be distributed each season at the scheduling meeting and posted on the district web site.

- Failure to report results is subject to district league fines. Any team that does not report the match score by the posted deadline is subject to a \$25 fine. The Competition Committee chair reserves the right to waive the fine for the first offense by any one team.

Results and Standings

- **Scoring:** 3 match pts for a win, 1 match pt for a tie, 0 match pts for a loss
- **Standings:** Teams with the most Points (Pts) are ranked higher in the standings. The tiebreakers for determining league standing position at the end of the season are: (1) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (2) least goals allowed; The tiebreakers for determining league champion or league playoff entrant (3rd place vs 4th place) if tied for most Pts are (1) most points in head-head competition-* (2) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (3) least goals allowed; and if still tied, then co-champs will be declared **for determining league champion**.
* - When more than two teams are tied for most Pts, compute Pts accumulated for matches between just those teams that are tied. If two or more teams are still tied, drop to tiebreaker (2) with ONLY those teams still tied. I.E. Eliminate any teams with fewer Pts than the leaders for the balance of the tiebreaking computation.
- **AGD** = adjusted Goal Differential (no more than 3 for or 3 against per match)
- **Blowout Penalty:** Team penalized 2 match points for any blowout win. A blowout penalty is assessed when a team wins by seven (7) or more goals AND does not follow the blowout protocol.
- **Forfeiture Of Matches:** Any match forfeited will result in a win for the team that was scheduled to play, appeared at the field and had at least seven (7) players on the field at the designated playing time plus fifteen (15) minutes. The result will be recorded as a 3-0 win and the appropriate team will be awarded 3 Points for the win.
- The **league champion** for the Fall playing season will be determined by a season ending playoff that includes 3 teams from Division III and one team from Division IV for any age group. This would be a two day event where 1st in Div III plays 1st in Div IV, and 2nd in Div III plays 3rd in Div III on Saturday. The winners play in the tournament final on Sunday immediately following the Saturday matches. The tournament finals are held at a predetermined venue selected to host this event. The semifinal Saturday matches will be played at the home field of the higher seeded team. The semifinal Saturday matches will be a format that produces a winner (two five minute golden goal overtime periods, followed by penalty kicks in the event of a tie) while the championship match could conclude in co-champs. This would be held in the Fall playing season only for ages U11, U12, U13/U14/U15, Boys and Girls. All league champions will be invited to the Fall banquet. Also see guidelines below for scheduling make ups in the event weather postpones play or for determining team substitutes in the event a qualifying team is unable to fulfill their playoff commitment.
- Championship venue procedures:
 - Each team must register with the tournament director at the field 45 minutes prior to kickoff.
 - Each team must show their roster and player passes to the tournament director at registration.
 - Each player must have their player pass validated by the tournament director prior to participating in the match.
 - The two teams and referees will participate in a pre-game ceremony at the field. The ceremony will include a coin toss and player by player greeting. Other events (national anthem, etc) may be added by the tournament director.
 - Spectators will be instructed to adhere to the "Distraction Prevention" sportsmanship practice. Spectators are asked to refrain from calling out the players names during active play.

Sportsmanship

- The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent. Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded; play players out of position; Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken; stop taking shots completely. We have asked all club presidents to be diligent in classifying the caliber of team to minimize the chances of talent mismatches. Nevertheless, there will be a 2 match point PENALTY for any blowout win. This means you will be awarded 1 point instead of 3 for that match. A blowout win is categorized by a goal differential of seven (7) or more AND the measures defined in the Blowout Protocol were not followed.
- Blowout Rule (all ages): Reference the Blowout Protocol in Attachment G.

- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship. Reference the sportsmanship policy for additional important details.

Promotion and Relegation

- Relegation is determined by the lowest placed team in the league standings. Relegation means that this team must surrender its standing in Division III in the subsequent playing season if the Division IV champion registers for or is placed into Division III play. Relegation status also qualifies a team to register for Division IV in the subsequent playing season.

Notification of Intent to Play

- Each club president must notify the league commissioners of the number of teams intending to play in this Div. III.
- The club list must include the name of a coach or team representative, email address, text message address, phone number, age group and caliber of team. Reference attachment A for additional detail.
- The Deadlines for Notification of Intent to Play are August 1 for Fall play and the March NED Board meeting for Spring play unless otherwise advised by the League Commissioner.

Scheduling

- Scheduling will be handled through a scheduling committee consisting of or appointed by the District Competition Committee and League Commissioners.
- Each team must provide a \$25 league entry fee.
- Each club must post a \$100 annual performance bond subject to forfeiture for any occurrence of not showing up for a scheduled match; for not providing enough notice for a change in a match (at least 72 hours); for not reporting scores appropriately (by 10pm Monday following the match).
- The scheduling committee will designate a place, date and time for the Division scheduling meeting.
- The schedule provided will include pairings, weekends to play, who is home/away, logistics for reporting scores and communicating standings weekly.
- A coach or team representative from EVERY team is expected to attend the scheduling meeting. The scheduling meeting is regularly used to finalize their schedule and review all match logistics such as directions to fields, kickoff times and team contacts. The scheduling meeting is further used to get a briefing on the NED rules of competition, the coach's code of conduct and any other information pertinent to the coaching community for that playing season.
- Each team is expected to meet the district obligation of play before scheduling any out of district matches.
- A missed game is subject to forfeiture of the club's entire \$100 performance bond. Changes to scheduled games must be arranged at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kickoff, including notification of the league commissioner and opposing coach, subject to \$25 fine. Failure to report your score in a timely fashion is subject to a \$25 fine at the discretion of the league standings administrator and league commissioner.
- Reference Attachment A for logistics surrounding the scheduling meeting requirements.
- The policy for **rescheduling makeup matches** centers around making a very reasonable effort on both teams part to accommodate a date and time that both teams can play. All league matches including league make ups take precedence over friendly matches. The state Connecticut Cup tournament takes precedence over league matches. A team planning to participate in the Connecticut Cup should make every attempt to schedule their league matches on Sundays, or at least leave the Sunday of the same weekend available for a makeup. Weather related postponements should be considered only in the event of extreme weather conditions or unplayable fields, especially for league matches. Each team is expected to offer at least three reasonable makeup dates in order to have met the reasonableness criterion. If the home club cannot secure a field on dates that are otherwise open for the teams, the away club can host the match and the original home club is responsible for paying the referee team. The next available Saturday or Sunday as identified as open for both teams on the league schedule shall be the default playing date for any postponement. This can be modified by mutual agreement as long as the makeup is scheduled before the last playing date of the season. The last playing date of the season shall be clearly noted on the schedule at the beginning of the season. If unusual weather circumstances warrant an extension to the season, the League Commissioner shall notify each team representative via email as soon as that determination is made. Further, the league standings and schedule shall further indicate the last playing date. Teams are encouraged to play all scheduled matches where at all practical. Note that unplayed games result in no points awarded to both teams. In the

extreme case that one team makes a reasonable effort to play and the other team does not, a forfeit victory will be awarded to the team that makes a reasonable effort to play. It is strongly encouraged that the competition committee meets as a group in advance to attempt to resolve a situation where a forfeit may be impending.

- The policy for **playing semifinals and finals matches** centers around getting the matches played with the deserving teams during the playoff weekend or subsequent identified makeup weekend. Further, it is the intention of CJSA NED to substitute the next most deserving team into the playoff competition whenever a qualifying team is unable to meet their playoff match commitment. NED will identify a weekend at the end of the regular season for the postseason, and the following weekend will be identified as potential makeup dates. The state Connecticut Cup tournament does take precedence over playoff matches and the district will make every reasonable accommodation to target a kickoff time that a Connecticut Cup participant needs.
- For semifinals, qualifying teams must notify the league commissioner within 48 hours of the pairings announcement or within no less than 5 calendar days of the scheduled matches of their intention to play or NOT play. It is further encouraged that clubs notify the league commissioner in advance of any teams that are NOT planning to participate. In the event that a team is not going to fulfill their postseason commitment, the team seeded next highest in the final standings will be awarded the semifinal vacancy. The declining team will have the option of competing in the lower seed's postseason matchup at a time to be scheduled with the opposing team. Reasonable efforts to play the semifinal on or before the posted Saturday deadline are expected by both teams. This includes prioritizing kickoff times over external activities, except Connecticut Cup, and having a field secured by both clubs in the event one field is playable and the other not.
- For finals, the semifinal winners advance to the final. If either semifinal winner is unable to compete in the final, the semifinal loser will advance to the final. The final is scheduled for the Sunday immediately following the Saturday semifinal deadline at a location identified by NED at the beginning of the playing season. In the event that weather and/or unplayable field conditions warrant postponements beyond Sunday makeups are to be played on Saturday of the following weekend at the same times that were published for the primary date. In the event Saturday is postponed due to weather and/or unplayable field conditions, the makeups will be played on the Sunday of the makeup weekend. Kickoff times are Noon or 2:00pm on any of these three dates unless otherwise publicized in advance. If any team is unable to meet these mandated times, placement in the final will be substituted with the next most deserving team (semifinal loser).
- For any situations not clearly anticipated by these guidelines, the competition committee / league commissioner will determine a fair and suitable outcome. Decisions rendered by the competition committee are final.

Inter-district Classic Travel Play

Effective Fall 2021, teams of Division 3 and 4 caliber, aka classic travel, may be directed to inter-district competition with both the Central / North Central (C/NC) and Southeast (SE) districts. NE classic travel teams to join the leagues in C/NC for those clubs that border or nearly border C/NC, and similarly with SE. NE teams would join the border district leagues. The scope is U11 thru U15 Division 3 and Division 4 travel, boys and girls. The scope of inter-district play is reviewed annually by NE, C/NC and SE district leadership for applicability and best fit for the teams overall.

Bordering SE includes Lebanon, CWSA, RHAMYS, QVSA, WAM, Plainfield, Canterbury, Killingly.

Bordering C/NC includes Stafford, Ellington, Vernon, Bolton, Coventry, Tolland, WAM.

NECONN will compete in CT, RI or MA leagues at their discretion.

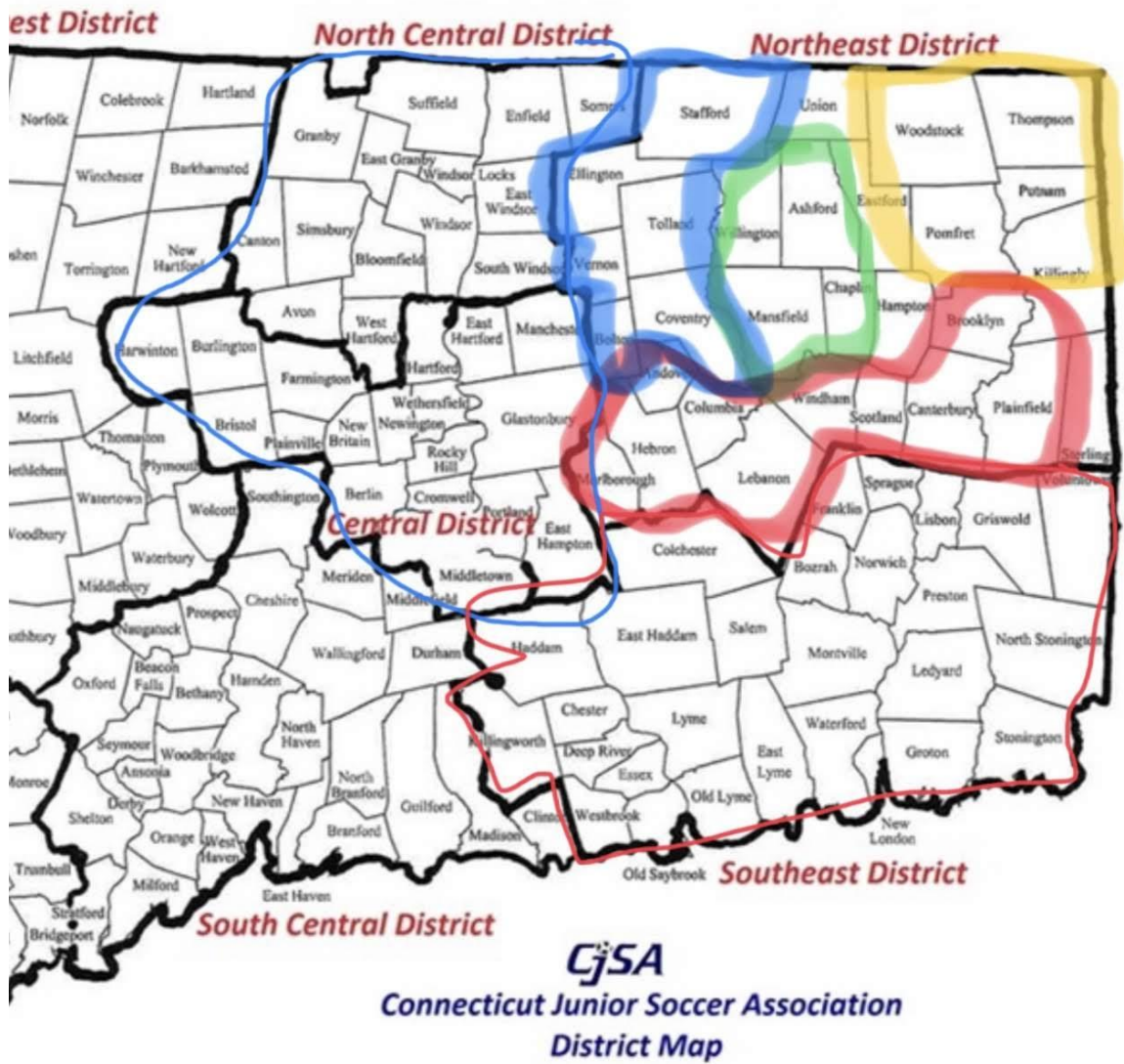
It is acceptable for some clubs, such as RHAMYS, WAM, Coventry to enter teams in either border district, including one age group in C/NC and another age group in SE during any one playing season.

Inter-district play is supported for normal NE league play for travel but not the recreation level of play or U9/U10. All Division 4 U9 and U10 leagues and all Division 5 leagues will continue to operate out of the NE District. NE District will continue to offer U15 8v8 leagues as interest demands. NED is open to the possibility of border districts joining NE in this endeavor.

Other ramifications include:

1. League entry fees and team entry timetables as required by the border districts must be respected. Further, clubs must identify the caliber of the team for placement in the appropriate division in the border district leagues.
2. The U15/U14/U13 teams MUST play 11v11. The border districts support single year age appropriate divisions at U13, U14, U15 in C/NC and U14, U15 in SE.
3. NE district will continue to offer U15 8v8 in district. We may be able to establish a more competitive level of play at that age. The border districts have been offered and expressed interest in sending teams to our 8v8 leagues.
4. All teams must be CT Cup eligible including residency rules.
5. There will be some long-distance matches where we will want to use a neutral field to minimize the travel for either team.
6. The identified home team is responsible for scheduling and paying referees.
7. Continue to register players and roster players to teams as part of the home club in NE district.
8. The teams will adhere to the Rules of Competition of the league they are participating in.

Visually:



Recommendations for Division 3 play are:

	U11	U12	U13, U14, U15
Field Size	75x47	75x47	112x75
# Players	9 v 9	9 v 9	11v11
Playing time	2x35min	2x35min	2x40min
Ball Size	4	4	5
Goal Size	6x18	6x18	8x24
Offside	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heading Allowed-*	No	No	Yes

* - No HEADING for U11 and younger is a MANDATE from CJSA and US Youth Soccer. Northeast District prohibits heading in all U12 and younger competitions because of the propensity of U11 players likely participating in those leagues.

US Soccer: Heading Restrictions Players who are 10 and younger (NED prohibits HEADING in competitions U12 and younger)

- No player who is 10 or younger may deliberately head the ball, regardless of the age group of the team they are playing on. This includes all activities where CJSA insurance applies, such as practices, scrimmages, and competitions at all levels.
- No player on a U11 team or a combined team including the U11 Age Group, (e.g. U12/U11), even if the player has turned 11, may head the ball deliberately. This restriction will be enforced in competitions for teams U11 and younger (including combined age brackets including U11 and younger) by award of an indirect free kick for the opposing team. Coaches and parents are responsible for applying this restriction for players who are 10 or younger and playing up.

Players who are 11-13.

Players who are age 11 to 13 and on teams for age groups U12 and older, are restricted to up to 30 minutes of practice heading the ball and no more than 15 headers per week. There is no restriction on the number of times these players can head the ball in a competition, unless the team is competing in a combined bracket that includes U11.

Division IV

Division Play

It is the intent of Division IV to provide small-sided and full-sided (*) formal and competitive play in the district in a results-oriented format. The league is intended to be a competitive environment for the State Cup eligible teams within the district. The rules of competition for this division comply with those defined as noted below. This document defines general guidelines for participating in this Division. In the absence of both Division III and Division IV leagues at an age group, the directives documented in the Division III paragraphs above will apply.

League Formation

There is a four-team league minimum. Failing to meet this minimum will mean that the league commissioner will use appropriate discretion to consider such actions as combining even and odd age groupings into a single division or combining with the age-appropriate Division III. In the event there are more than nine teams that enter, multiple round robin leagues will be established with equitable opportunity to compete for the league championship.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U9/U8, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14/U15
- Ages covered (Spring) = U9/U8, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14/U15
- All U11 and U12 plays small sided 9v9.
- Single age delineations are not guaranteed. It is the assumption of the registering club that in the absence of a league established in a given age group, the team will be placed in the next highest consecutive age group. The schedule planning committee will communicate such situations in advance with the affected club presidents.
- There is a minimum playing time recommendation for this competition league. All teams are expected to observe the player retention philosophy described in the Mission Statement above or in their club's approved philosophy.

Small Sided Soccer

- U9 and U10 matches are played small-sided, 7 versus 7. Match rule modifications for U9 and U10 teams playing in this Division IV are set forth at the end of this section. Results are reported to the league administrator but no standings are kept and no scores are posted.
- U11 and U12 matches are played small-sided, 9 versus 9. Match rule modifications for U11 and U12 teams playing in this Division IV are set forth at the end of this section. Results are reported and standings are kept and posted on the web site.
- U13 and U14/U15 matches are played small-sided, 8 versus 8. Match rule modifications for U13 and U14/U15 teams playing in this Division IV are set forth at the end of this section. Results are reported and standings are kept and posted on the web site.

Rosters

- Max Roster size: 22 players for full-sided 11v11 teams, 18 players for small-sided teams that play 9v9 or 8v8, 16 players for small-sided teams that play 7v7. No more than 13 players may dress for any 7v7 small-sided match.
- Rosters must be validated by Club Officer (Club President or Club Registrar) and the District Registrar or designated Assistant Registrar
- Team rosters must abide by the district and club playing up policies. Please reference Attachment J for specific guidelines.

Passes

- Passes are required for all players, coaches and team managers. Any number of adults may be associated with any one (1) Division IV Team; however, the maximum number of adults on the sidelines for any match is four (4). Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check and Safesport training online. Adults on the sidelines must possess a valid coach pass.

Match Logistics

- See table below for field size, ball size, goal size, length of halves, offsides, heading restrictions.

- No overtimes are played for any regular season match.
- Home team wears pinnies or changes jerseys if both teams are wearing the same colors upon arrival at field.
- The NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> has detailed rules, league standings, and all the coach contact information posted as soon as possible after the scheduling meetings.

Match Results & Score Reporting

- Report results of every match by Monday 10:00pm each week to facilitate timely publication of standings. Both teams are required to report the score. For you busy coaches, this is a good task to delegate. Reporting logistics will be distributed each season at the scheduling meeting and posted on the district web site.
- Failure to report results is subject to district league fines. Any team that does not report the match score by the posted deadline is subject to a \$25 fine. The Competition Committee chair reserves the right to waive the fine for the first offense by any one team.
- For Under 9 and Under 10, Boys and Girls teams, results must be reported by BOTH teams by Monday 10:00pm each week. No standings are kept, and no scores are posted for this age level. Scores and comments are monitored for sportsmanship, blowout protocol and potential league placement in future years. Failure to report is subject to \$25 fine. The Competition Committee chair reserves the right to waive the fine for the first offense by any one team.

Results and Standings

- **Scoring:** 3 match pts for a win, 1 match pt for a tie, 0 match pts for a loss
- **Standings:** Teams with the most Points (Pts) are ranked higher in the standings. The tiebreakers for determining league standing position at the end of the season are: (1) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (2) least goals allowed; The tiebreakers for determining league champion or league playoff entrant (4th place vs 5th place in the absence of a Division III) if tied for most Pts are (1) most points in head-head competition-* (2) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (3) least goals allowed; and if still tied, then co-champs will be declared for determining league champion.
* - When more than two teams are tied for most Pts, compute Pts accumulated for matches between just those teams that are tied. If two or more teams are still tied, drop to tiebreaker (2) with ONLY those teams still tied. I.E. Eliminate any teams with fewer Pts than the leaders for the balance of the tiebreaking computation.
- **AGD** = adjusted Goal Differential (no more than 3 for or 3 against per match)
- **Blowout Penalty:** Team penalized 2 match points for any blowout win. A blowout penalty is assessed when a team wins by seven (7) or more goals AND does not follow the blowout protocol.
- **Forfeiture Of Matches:** Any match forfeited will result in a win for the team that was scheduled to play, appeared at the field and had at least seven (7) players on the field at the designated playing time plus fifteen (15) minutes. The result will be recorded as a 3-0 win and the appropriate team will be awarded 3 Points for the win.
- The **league champion** for the Fall playing season will be determined by a season ending playoff that includes 3 teams from Division III and one team from Division IV for any age group. This would be a two-day event where 1st in Div III plays 1st in Div IV, and 2nd in Div III plays 3rd in Div III on Saturday. The winners play on Sunday immediately following Saturday matches. The tournament finals are held at a predetermined venue selected to host this event. The semifinal Saturday matches will be played at the home field of the higher seeded team. The semifinal Saturday matches will be a format that produces a winner (two five-minute golden goal overtime periods, followed by penalty kicks in the event of a tie) while the championship match could conclude in co-champs. This would be held in the Fall playing season only for ages U11, U12, U13, U14/U15, Boys and Girls. The league champion will be invited to the Fall banquet. Also see guidelines below for scheduling makeups in the event weather postpones play or for determining team substitutes in the event a qualifying team is unable to fulfill their playoff commitment.
- **Championship venue procedures:**
 - Each team must register with the tournament director at the field 45 minutes prior to kickoff.
 - Each team must show their roster and player passes to the tournament director at registration.
 - Each player must have their player pass validated by the tournament director prior to participating in the match.
 - The two teams and referees will participate in a pre-game ceremony at the field. The ceremony will include a coin toss and player by player greeting. Other events (national anthem, etc) may be added by the tournament director.

- Spectators will be instructed to adhere to the "Distraction Prevention" sportsmanship practice. Spectators are asked to refrain from calling out the players names during active play.

Sportsmanship

- Blowout Rule (league standings): The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent. Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded; play players out of position; Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken; stop taking shots completely. We have asked all club presidents to be diligent in classifying the caliber of team to minimize the chances of talent mismatches. Nevertheless, there will be a 2-match point PENALTY for any blowout win. This means you will be awarded 1 point instead of 3 for that match. A blowout win is categorized by a goal differential of seven (7) or more AND the measures defined in the Blowout Protocol were not followed.
- Blowout Rule (all ages): Reference the Blowout Protocol in Attachment G.
- Reference Attachment G Sportsmanship Techniques for additional important guidelines for sportsmanship expectations.
- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship.

Promotion

- The clear league champion earns the privilege of being promoted to play in Division III in the subsequent seasonal league. In the event of co-champions, the competition committee will bestow promotion privilege to both teams.

Notification of Intent to Play

- Each club president must notify the league commissioners of the number of teams intending to play in this Div. IV.
- The club list must include the name of a coach or team representative, email address, text message address, phone number, age group and caliber of team. Reference attachment A for additional detail.
- The Deadlines for Notification of Intent to Play is August 1 for Fall play and the March NED Board meeting for Spring play unless otherwise advised by the League Commissioner.

Scheduling

- Scheduling will be handled through a scheduling committee consisting of or appointed by the District Competition Committee and League Commissioners.
- Each club must post a \$100 annual performance bond subject to forfeiture for any occurrence of not showing up for a scheduled match; for not providing enough notice for a change in a match (at least 72 hours); for not reporting scores appropriately (by 10pm Monday following the match).
- Each team must provide a \$25 league entry, except for U9 and U10 entries.
- The scheduling committee will designate a place, date and time for the Division scheduling meeting.
- The schedule provided will include pairings, weekends to play, who is home/away, logistics for reporting scores and communicating standings weekly.
- A coach or team representative from EVERY team is expected to attend the scheduling meeting. The scheduling meeting is regularly used to finalize their schedule and review all match logistics such as directions to fields, kickoff times and team contacts. The scheduling meeting is further used to get a briefing on the NED rules of competition, the coach's code of conduct and any other information pertinent to the coaching community for that playing season.
- Each team is expected to meet the district obligation of play before scheduling any out of district matches.
- A missed game is subject to forfeiture of the club's entire \$100 performance bond. Changes to scheduled games must be arranged at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kickoff, including notification of the league commissioner and opposing coach, subject to \$25 fine.
- Reference Attachment A for logistics surrounding the scheduling meeting requirements.
- The policy for **rescheduling makeup matches** centers around making a very reasonable effort on both teams part to accommodate a date and time that both teams can play. All league matches including league makeups take precedence over friendly matches. The state Connecticut Cup tournament takes precedence over league matches. A team planning to participate in the Connecticut Cup should make every attempt to schedule their league matches on

Sundays, or at least leave the Sunday of the same weekend available for a makeup. Weather related postponements should be considered only in the event of extreme weather conditions or unplayable fields, especially for league matches. Each team is expected to offer at least three reasonable makeup dates in order to have met the reasonableness criterion. If the home club cannot secure a field on dates that are otherwise open for the teams, the away club can host the match and the original home club is responsible for paying the referee team. The next available Saturday or Sunday as identified as open for both teams on the league schedule shall be the default playing date for any postponement. This can be modified by mutual agreement as long as the makeup is scheduled before the last playing date of the season. The last playing date of the season shall be clearly noted on the schedule at the beginning of the season. If unusual weather circumstances warrant an extension to the season, the League Commissioner shall notify each team representative via email as soon as that determination is made. Further, the league standings and schedule shall further indicate the last playing date. Teams are encouraged to play all scheduled matches where at all practical. Note that unplayed games result in no points awarded to both teams. In the extreme case that one team makes a reasonable effort to play and the other team does not, a forfeit victory will be awarded to the team that makes a reasonable effort to play. It is strongly encouraged that the competition committee meets as a group to attempt to resolve a situation where a forfeit may be impending.

- The policy for **playing semifinals and finals matches** centers around getting the matches played with the deserving teams during the playoff weekend or subsequent identified makeup weekend. Further, it is the intention of CJSA NED to substitute the next most deserving team into the playoff competition whenever a qualifying team is unable to meet their playoff match commitment. NED will identify a weekend at the end of the regular season for the postseason, and the following weekend will be identified as potential makeup dates. The state Connecticut Cup tournament does take precedence over playoff matches and the district will make every reasonable accommodation to target a kickoff time that a Connecticut Cup participant needs.
- For semifinals, qualifying teams must notify the league commissioner within 48 hours of the pairings announcement or within no less than 5 calendar days of the scheduled matches of their intention to play or NOT play. It is further encouraged that clubs notify the league commissioner in advance of any teams that are NOT planning to participate. In the event that a team is not going to fulfill their postseason commitment, the team seeded next highest in the final standings will be awarded the semifinal vacancy. The declining team will have the option of competing in the lower seed's postseason matchup at a time to be scheduled with the opposing team. Reasonable efforts to play the semifinal on or before the posted Saturday deadline are expected by both teams. This includes prioritizing kickoff times over external activities, except Connecticut Cup, and having a field secured by both clubs in the event one field is playable and the other not.
- For finals, the semifinal winners advance to the final. If either semifinal winner is unable to compete in the final, the semifinal loser will advance to the final. The final is scheduled for the Sunday immediately following the Saturday semifinal deadline at a location identified by NED at the beginning of the playing season. In the event that weather and/or unplayable field conditions warrant postponements beyond Sunday makeups are to be played on Saturday of the following weekend at the same times that were published for the primary date. In the event Saturday is postponed due to weather and/or unplayable field conditions, the makeups will be played on the Sunday of the makeup weekend. Kickoff times are Noon or 2:00pm on any of these three dates unless otherwise publicized in advance. If any team is unable to meet these mandated times, placement in the final will be substituted with the next most deserving team (semifinal loser).
- For any situations not clearly anticipated by these guidelines, the competition committee / league commissioner will determine a fair and suitable outcome. Decisions rendered by the competition committee are final.

Recommendations for Division 4 play are:

	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14, U15
Field Size	60x40	60x40	75x47	75x47	75x47	112x75
# Players	7v7	7v7	9 v 9	9 v 9	8v8	11v11
Playing time	2x30min	2x30min	2x35min	2x35min	2x40min	2x40min
Ball Size	4	4	4	4	5	5
Goal Size	5x12 or 7x12	5x12 or 7x12	6x18	6x18	6x18	8x24
Offside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heading Allowed-*	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

* - No HEADING for U11 and younger is a MANDATE from CJSA and US Youth Soccer. Northeast District prohibits heading in all U12 and younger competitions because of the propensity of U11 players likely participating in those leagues.

US Soccer: Heading Restrictions Players who are 10 and younger (NED prohibits HEADING in competitions U12 and younger)

- No player who is 10 or younger may deliberately head the ball, regardless of the age group of the team they are playing on. This includes all activities where CJSA insurance applies, such as practices, scrimmages, and competitions at all levels.
- No player on a U11 team or a combined team including the U11 age group, (e.g. U11/U12), even if the player has turned 11, may head the ball deliberately. This restriction will be enforced in competitions for teams U11 and younger (including combined age brackets including U11 and younger) by award of an indirect free kick for the opposing team. Coaches and parents are responsible for applying this restriction for players who are 10 or younger and playing up.

Players who are 11-13.

- Players who are age 11 to 13 and on teams for age groups U12 and older, are restricted to up to 30 minutes of practice heading the ball and no more than 15 headers per week. There is no restriction on the number of times these players can head the ball in a competition, unless the team is competing in a combined bracket that includes U11.

Division IV 7 vs 7 Match Rules Modifications

COACHES MUST BE PREPARED TO PRESENT AND REVIEW A COPY OF THESE RULES TO THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH

- Applies to boys and girls competitions designated to play 7 vs 7
- Max roster size - 16 players per team roster, maximum 13 may dress for any match
- 7v7 (six field players plus goalie). In the presence of a large field with both teams fielding large rosters, coaches may agree to play 8 v 8 to maximize playing time.
- All teams play 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.
- Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Can use club referees for lines.
- No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
- Throw-ins follow normal FIFA rules; illegal throw-ins will **NOT** be retaken.
- Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules, subject to build out lines when used.
- Normal CJSA substitution rules.
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
- Field dimensions (see table)
- Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field.
- Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area.
- For U9 and U10 competitions, penalty kicks WILL NOT BE AWARDED under any circumstances. Any foul inside the penalty area will be restarted with an indirect free kick.
- On free kicks, defenders must be at least 6 yards from ball.
- Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules, subject to build out lines when used.
- Build out lines will be used for NED Division 4 U9 and U10 ages. Reference Build Out Lines for more info.

Revised: 02/08/2021

Division IV 7 vs 7 Match Rules Modifications

Build Out Line

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.

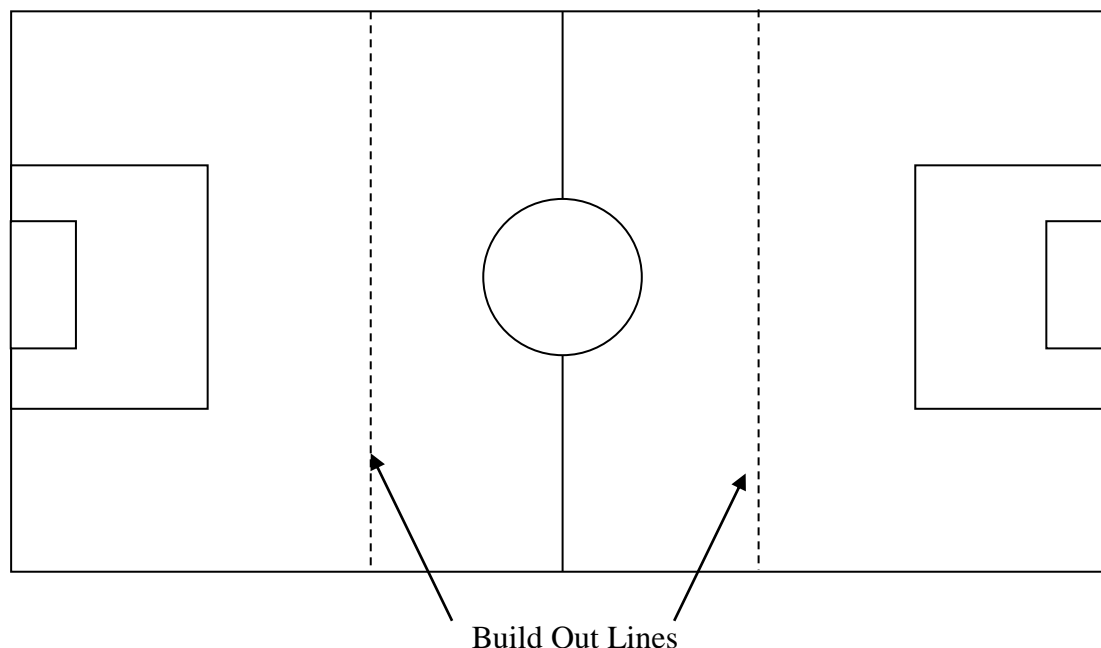
If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.

Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play. Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players. Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate. Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.

The build out line is drawn across the field midway between the halfway line and the top of the penalty area.



Division III/IV 9 vs 9 Match Rules Modifications

COACHES MUST BE PREPARED TO PRESENT AND REVIEW A COPY OF THESE RULES TO THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH

- Applies to boys and girls competitions designated to play 9 vs 9
- Max roster size- 18 players per team roster
- 9 versus 9 (eight field players plus goalie) and no fewer than seven
- All teams play 35-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.
- Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Certified AR's are strongly recommended.
- No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
- Throw-ins follow normal FIFA rules; illegal throw-ins will **NOT** be retaken.
- Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules
- Normal CJSA substitution rules.
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field.
- Field dimensions (see table)
Ideal Length x Width: 75 x 47 yards.
Size of Goal: 6'x18' or 6.5'x18.5' recommended
- Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field
- Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area.
- Penalty kicks from 10-yard spot.
- On free kicks, defenders must be at least 8 yards from ball.
- Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules.

Revised: 02/08/2021

Division IV 8 vs 8 Match Rules Modifications

COACHES MUST BE PREPARED TO PRESENT AND REVIEW A COPY OF THESE RULES TO THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH

- Applies to boys and girls competitions designated to play 8 vs 8
- Max roster size- 18 players per team roster
- 8 versus 8, seven field players plus goalie and no fewer than six
- All teams play 40-minute halves with a 5 minute halftime.
- Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Certified AR's are strongly recommended.
- No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
- Throw-ins follow normal FIFA rules; illegal throw-ins will **NOT** be retaken.
- Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules
- Normal CJSA substitution rules.
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field.
- Field dimensions (see table)
Ideal Length x Width: 75 x 47 yards.
Size of Goal: 6'x18' or 6.5'x18.5' recommended
- Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field
- Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area.
- Penalty kicks from 10-yard spot.
- On free kicks, defenders must be at least 8 yards from ball.
- Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules.

Published: 05/31/2017 for use with small-sided U13 and U15/U14 competitions

Division V

Revised: 08/16/2024

Division Play

This division is intended to provide a forum for play for the non-results-oriented teams and clubs where enrollment cannot support a full 11v11 team. The primary objective is a fun, developmental, non-results-oriented event marked by good sportsmanship and a tolerable travel scenario (0 or 1- far distance; 1 or 2- near and 4 + Home). Playing time mandates (minimum of 50% game time for each player (except for discipline or injury), and evenly proportional maximum game time for each player) emphasizes the goal of maximizing participation and player development. Leagues are formed for Girls and Boys. Co-ed teams are encouraged and assigned to the Boys leagues. Efforts are made by the scheduling committee to match stronger skilled teams together (ex. Otherwise competitive teams playing numbers down) and weaker skilled teams together.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U8, U9/U10, U11/U12, U13/U14/U15
- Ages covered (Spring) = U8, U9/U10, U11/U12, U13/U14/U15, U19
- Each player must play at least 50% (Exception is Injury or Discipline). Each player must not play more than their proportional allotment (goalie excepted). All teams are expected to observe the player retention philosophy described in the Mission Statement above.

Rosters

- Max Roster size: unlimited but you must meet the 50% playing time minimum at each match.
- The recommended game day roster maximum is 13.
- Validated rosters are required. Please reference Attachment J for specific guidelines regarding playing up policies.
- All coaches and club registrars are educated on the player eligibility requirements prior to each playing season.
- Players rostered to state premier clubs age U12 and younger are allowed to play in Division V, subject to the proportional play mandate.
- Players rostered to Division III or IV teams are allowed to play in Division V with some restrictions.
- Players are permitted to roster to multiple Division III, IV or V teams within a club but only two such dual rostered players are permitted to play at the same time, subject to CBF scenarios described below.
- Any teams formed with any of the following **competitive balance factors** (CBF) must declare such when entering teams to the scheduler for league play to enhance scheduling competitiveness:
 - CBF #1: Roster includes players rostered to Division III or IV teams
 - CBF #2: Roster includes players previously entered into Division III or IV leagues but are short numbers.
 - CBF #3: Team has a large roster also competing in Division III or IV leagues, but not enough players for two teams. Team is expected to play the weaker portion of their roster in the Division V league.
- Teams without such CBFs will be scheduled appropriately within Division V.

Team Size

- U8 play 4v4 without a goalie
- U9/U10 play 7 v 7 on a 60-yard field. In the presence of a large field with both teams fielding large rosters, coaches may agree to play 8 v 8 to maximize playing time.
- U11/U12 play 9 v 9 on a 75-yard field. In the presence of a small field with both teams fielding small rosters, coaches may agree to play 8 v 8 or 7 v 7 to maximize spacing.
- U15/U14/U13 play 8 v 8 on a 75-yard field. Modifications to # players and field size are allowed only if BOTH coaches agree.

General

- Scores will not be kept but honor the Sportsmanship Policy by not RUNNING UP THE SCORE and making adjustments as directed in the Blowout Protocol (Attachment G)
- Normal CJSA substitution rules

- Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
- Ball size is #4 for U12 and younger; #5 for U13 and older
- Off-sides rules apply to all ages
- No goal kicks or distribution by goalkeeper over half field in the air, ball must touch a player or the field in your own half. The penalty and restart is an indirect free kick by the opposing team from where the ball crossed midfield.
- Refereeing system is one certified center but three-man system is always encouraged.
- Licensed or certified coaches are encouraged. Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check online and possess a valid coach pass.

Rule Modification for U10 and younger

- Goal kicks can be taken anywhere in the penalty area
- No RED cards are issued. A yellow card is issued where a red card would otherwise be warranted.
- No penalty kicks are taken. All restarts in the offensive penalty area are indirect free kicks.

Division V Player Eligibility

Players on teams playing in the NED Division V league MUST be properly registered with CJSA and rostered to one or more Division V teams within the club. Players U13 and older rostered to any premier league team are not eligible to play with a Division V team.

Division V Adult Eligibility

Any number of adults may be associated with any one (1) Division V team; however, the maximum number of adults on the sidelines for any match is four (4). Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check and Safesport training online. Adults on the sidelines must possess a valid coach pass.

A verified recreational CJSA roster is required for each division V team.

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all Division V coaches be instructed on the player eligibility rules and process for insuring conformance prior to each seasonal scheduling meeting. The coach instruction can be provided at the scheduling meeting prior to each season. The instruction reviews the Division V playing rules and the Division V club roster and pregame player/roster inspection process. The instruction emphasizes the need to enforce the rules and the nature of the exposure to coaches, club and league officials when ineligible players are allowed to participate. Violations reported are subject to review by the disciplinary committee. The offending team or the entire club can be placed in bad standing upon repeat offenses, at the discretion of the disciplinary committee, and therefore affecting the eligibility of any teams to participate in district competitions at all levels.

Sportsmanship:

- The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scoring or grossly uneven play. It is mandatory that play adjustments be made if the score differential is 4 or higher. Reference Attachment G Sportsmanship Techniques and Blowout Protocol for a comprehensive list of potential adjustments and should be made discretely. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent by following the measures defined in the Blowout Protocol.
- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship. Reference the sportsmanship policy for additional important details.

Scheduling for U8 teams

Effective in 2020, recreational inter-club district play for Under 8 teams that want to compete in district is sanctioned. The district will solicit team entries at the boys and girls Under 8 age level along with the older age groups. Players MUST be limited to the two-year age group comprised of Under 8 and Under 7. Play will be division 5 recreational and all adults must be properly vetted and registered just like any other age group. The target playing format is 4v4, no goalies, no offsides, no heading, 4'x6' goals on a small field (see table below), 6' radius goal crease no players w/o ball.

Recommendations for Division V and younger ages play are:

	U6	U7	U8	U10/U9	U12/U11	U15/U14/U13
Field Size	30x20	30x20	30x20	60x40	75x47	75x47
# Players	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7 but up to 8v8 allowable with coaches' consent	9v9	8v8
Playing time	4x 8min	4x 8min	3x 15min	2x 30min or 4x15min	2x 30min or 4x15min	2x 35min or 4x17min
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	5
Goal Size	4x6	4x6	4x6	5x12 or 7x12	6x18	6x18
Offside	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heading Allowed	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Goalie	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crease	6' arc	6' arc	6' arc	Penalty area	Penalty area	Penalty area

Division V Match Rules Modifications

COACHES MUST BE PREPARED TO PRESENT AND REVIEW A COPY OF THESE RULES TO THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH

COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT PRE-GAME ROSTER INSPECTION PRIOR TO EACH MATCH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE REFEREE

- Max roster size- 16 players per team roster, maximum 13 may dress for any match. For U8, max roster size is 8.
- Playing time minimum: 50% playing time minimum for every player must be honored.
- Maximum playing time guideline: Player game time participation must be proportionally distributed across all active players on the roster. (Give all players roughly equal time on the bench.)
- 7v7 (six field players plus goalie) for ages U10 (Acceptable to play 8v8 by mutual consent of both coaches especially when playing on a large field.) Played on a 60-yard field.
- 9v9 (eight field players plus goalie) for ages U12. Played on a 75-yard field.
- 8v8 (seven field players plus goalie) for ages U15/U14/U13. Played on a 75-yard field.
- 4v4 (four field players no goalie) for ages Under 8. Played on a 40-yard field, with a goal crease. Players refrain from entering the crease unless the ball is in there.
- Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Can use club referees for lines.
- No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
- Throw-ins- Illegal throw-ins can be retaken once (all age levels)
- Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules. (Exception: No offsides for U8)
- Normal CJSA substitution rules
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
- Field dimensions (see table for age-appropriate dimensions)
- Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field.
- Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area, **except for U10 and younger** where they are taken from anywhere in the penalty area.
- Goal kicks or goalkeeper distribution must touch a player or the field prior to passing over half field. The restart is an indirect free kick from the midfield spot closest to where the ball crossed.
- Penalty kicks from 8-yard line or as marked at the field. **For leagues U10 and younger**, no penalty kicks are awarded. An indirect free kick is awarded instead.
- **For leagues U10 and younger**, no RED cards will be issued.
- On free kicks, defenders must be at least 6 yards from ball.
- Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules. Referees are instructed to be lenient in determining intent to pass the ball to the goalie at this level.

Revised: 08/16/2024

ATTACHMENT A

Scheduling Process - *online schedule distribution*

Logistics for managing the scheduling process for a season are outlined here. The objective of the scheduling process is to establish a fair and competitive schedule, communicate all match logistics and rules, and to ensure the season runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Clubs submit request for team entry into each Division by appropriate deadline. The appropriate deadline for the Spring and Fall playing seasons is published in January for the upcoming calendar year. Typically this is the March NE District meeting for the spring and August 1 for the Fall playing season. It is incumbent on the club representatives submitting their roster of teams to accurately profile the caliber of each team to ensure fair scheduling. Follow instructions on the template or online form to provide team info.
2. Scheduling coordinators form leagues from team applicants, create an 8-week schedule for each league; identify home/away team for each match; and assemble a consolidated contact list for publication on the NE District web site.
3. Every team representative should review the schedule published online and identify the field, kickoff time / date for each of their assigned home games and notify the opponent prior to the start of the season
 - **In addition to any coordination you accomplish at the scheduling meeting, always make contact one week in advance to confirm the details of the match(es) for the next weekend.**
 - Color of Home and Away jerseys
 - Addresses of and / or directions to the fields that the matches will be played on
4. The teams / clubs are further responsible for notifying their local referee assignor to ensure a referee team is assigned to cover each home match.
5. All Division V coaches and club registrars must review the Division V playing rules and guidelines, pre-game roster inspection process, and player eligibility requirements.

Scheduling Process - *in person participation*

Logistics for managing the scheduling process for a season are outlined here. The objective of the scheduling process is to establish a fair and competitive schedule, communicate all match logistics and rules, and to ensure the season runs as smoothly as possible.

6. Clubs submit request for team entry into each Division by appropriate deadline. The appropriate deadline for the Spring playing season is the March NE District meeting. The appropriate deadline for the Fall playing season is August 1. It is incumbent on the club representatives submitting their roster of teams to accurately profile the caliber of each team to ensure fair scheduling.
7. Scheduling coordinators form leagues from team applicants, create an 8-week schedule for each league; identify home/away team for each match; and assemble a consolidated contact list for distribution at the scheduling meeting and publication on the NE District web site.
8. The date, time and place for the appropriate scheduling meetings is set, announced and published on the NE District web site. One scheduling meeting is used for Division III and Division IV Boys and Girls; and One for All Division V Boys and Girls.
9. Every team must send a representative to the scheduling meeting. The representative should sign in at the door, pick up all paperwork that will be used at the meeting and sit at the appropriate table for their age division. Each representative attending the scheduling meeting must have the following in hand for distribution:
 - Specific date and times every weekend for home field availability, or bring your field coordinator
 - Team point of contact and second contact including home telephone number, work number, mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses – Exchange/Validate this contact information at the scheduling meeting
 - **In addition to any coordination you accomplish at the scheduling meeting, always make contact one week in advance to confirm the details of the match(es) for the next weekend.**
 - Color of Home and Away jerseys
 - Addresses of and / or directions to the fields that the matches will be played on

10. The League Commissioners will facilitate the meeting. The commissioners will review league rules, coach and player pass requirements, reporting requirements and logistics, sportsmanship expectations and techniques, and coach and player codes of conduct. It is appropriate to engage the District Referee Administrator and Registrar for these reviews.
11. Team representatives establish a date, time and place for each scheduled match, and exchange contact information with the other representatives at the table. A master schedule for each table must be completed and reviewed by the league commissioner before anybody can leave the meeting. At the end of the scheduling meeting a copy of each team's schedule must be given to the commissioner(s) for that league.
12. The teams / clubs are further responsible for notifying their local referee assignor to ensure a referee team is assigned to cover each home match.
13. All Division V coaches and club registrars will be provided mandatory instruction at each scheduling meeting. The purpose of the instruction is to review the Division V playing rules and guidelines, pre-game roster inspection process, and player eligibility requirements.

No NED team may schedule matches outside the District UNTIL the district league schedule is established (including play dates, times and places). It is the intent that all clubs and all team will give scheduling priority to the Northeast District, NED clubs and teams prior to scheduling any matches with clubs from other Districts, other District teams not a part of the district league schedule, or teams from other National State organizations. Any violation of this rule or the spirit of this rule will be brought to the attention of the Commissioners of the league and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

Remember: In addition to any coordination you accomplish at the scheduling meeting, always make contact one week in advance to confirm the details of the match(es) for the next weekend.

ATTACHMENT B

USYSA Players Rights

1. The right to decide when to participate in soccer.
2. The right to play in every game. At younger ages (NED editorial; and in Division V), every child should have an opportunity to play at least 50% of every game. No child should have to stand and watch at practice.
3. The right to participate at a level that corresponds to each child's maturity and ability.
4. The right to be taught the fundamentals of soccer.
5. The right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
6. The right to play as a child and enjoy participation in the sport.

USYSA Players Code

- **Play the game for the game's sake.**
- **Be generous when you win.**
- **Be graceful when you lose.**
- **Be fair always, no matter what the cost.**
- **Obey the laws of the game.**
- **Work for the good of your team.**
- **Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.**
- **Believe in the honesty of your opponents.**
- **Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.**

ATTACHMENT C

USYSA Guide to Safety, Player Development and Ethics

Safety

1. My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home away;
 - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ ice
 - 911 emergency procedure / telephone location
 - Location of nearest emergency medical facilities
 - Always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
 - Follow up all injuries with parents / guardians
4. Know and understand the laws of the game.
5. Inspect player's equipment and field conditions for safety reasons.
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play.
7. Implement appropriate training program to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
8. Supervise and control your players as to avoid injury situations.

Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in perspective.
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the player's age group.
6. Allow players to experience all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach their full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model.
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sport in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility.
8. Just "SAY NO" to drugs and alcohol.
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.

ATTACHMENT D

National Soccer Coaches Association of America Code of Ethics

(adopted by Ethics Committee, 5/24/99)

1. Soccer is the players' game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
2. Coaches bear responsibility for teaching their players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game and the highest levels of sportsmanship.
3. Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity and shall teach their players to do the same.
4. Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise.
5. In both victory and defeat, the behavior of a coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.
6. Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: clubs, schools, sponsoring organizations and sports governing bodies.
7. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the interests of soccer, including treating media with courtesy, honesty and respect.
8. Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer.
9. Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, and prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, both in their own lives and in the lives of their players.
10. Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of soccer.
11. Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of all players and shall adhere to all guidelines and regulations on recruiting established by the governing bodies having oversight of their teams and leagues.
12. Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport—violence, abuse, dishonesty, disrespect and violations of the laws of the game and rules governing competition.

ATTACHMENT E

Parents Role, Guidelines and Code of Conduct

PARENTS ROLE:

1. Provide transportation to and from all practices and games ensuring that the player is prompt not only in arriving but also their departure.
2. Stay and watch practices or games and lend the young players your support in a positive manner. Do not point out their mistake, leave that up to the coach, but dwell on their accomplishments as well as their efforts.
3. Refrain from calling out instructions to your child on the field. Refrain from calling their name during play to avoid distracting them.
4. If unable to attend the practice or game, encourage the child not to talk with or leave practices or games with strangers.
5. Ensure child brings equipment to and from all soccer games and practices when appropriate.
6. Be available to kick the ball around with your child when invited to do so.
7. Avoid material rewards. Build an attitude of **“the rewards lie in the fun of being able to play”**.
8. Be a good listener. Make them feel important and let them know that they are contributing to a team effort.
9. Be positive. Never criticize. Suggest an alternate way if they are not performing correctly...”Hey that is pretty good, but why don’t you try it this way.”
10. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BE A CHILD.

GUIDELINES TO SOCCER PARENTHOOD:

1. In competitions someone always loses. If you win, do it gracefully, not boastfully. If you lose, do not allow the child to become negative.
2. Too much competition, too soon, can slow down a child’s progress in skill development.
3. MAKE FUN AND TECHNIQUE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.
4. Your child’s coach will need all the support and help you can offer. Please, make yourself available and volunteer all the time you can spare.
5. Disagreements with the coach or officials do not belong on the public soccer field. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach and/ or club in an adult atmosphere. (The youth player should not be present.)
6. The overall purpose is to enjoy the game and the opportunity to be with your child on the field of play.

OTHER GUIDELINES:

Before the game: “I Love You” “Have Fun” “Do your Best/ Good Luck”

After the game: “I Love You” “It was fun to watch you play” ”Where do you want to eat?”

Parents Contract (Code of Conduct)

Northeast District - *Town Club*

I/ We _____ the proud parent(s)/ Guardian(s) of _____ of Northeast *Club* _____ do hereby promise to be a model spectator(s) at games which my/ our daughter/ son is a participant or other games where they are present with me/ us.

I/ We will:

1. Encourage Fair Play
2. Cheer in a positive manner for all players.
3. Not criticize the opponents of our children.
4. Not embarrass my own child (ren) with my behavior.
5. Let the coach do the coaching.
6. Show respect for the game officials by not openly or otherwise criticizing them, which would undermine their authority in the eyes of my/ our child (ren).
7. Display good sportsmanship.
8. Remember the pre-game talk with your child (ren), "I love you, have fun and good luck"
9. Remember the post-game talk with your child (ren), "It was fun to watch you play, I love you and where do you want to eat".

I/ We understand the coach (es), Team Manager(s), other parents of this team and/ or the Club will hold us accountable for our actions and behavior.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Witness Club _____

Date: _____

Coach/ Team Mgr.: _____

Date: _____

SILENT MATCHES ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED

ATTACHMENT Zero

SUPPORT FOR REFEREES - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Every person responsible for a team and each and every spectator and player will respect the authority of the referee. This respect is essential to the proper play of the game, the development of our players and the retention of quality, experienced referees. Failure to respect the authority of the referees, especially by the person(s) responsible for the team, undermines the authority of the referee, sets a bad example for everyone else, especially the players, and can rapidly lead into a hostile, negative game environment where playing the game of soccer is no longer the focus of the activity. This is entirely inconsistent with the sportsmanship goals that the Northeast District is trying to promote. Therefore, the basic rule is that spectators and persons responsible for the team will not address the referee at all before, during, and after a match. The prohibitions, exceptions, the penalties for violation, and policy execution are described as follows:

A. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TEAM

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, making a substitution, or pointing out an emergency safety issue during the play of a match, the persons responsible for a team should not say anything to a referee. Nor should they do anything that conveys in any way any criticism of the referee. Coaches may ask questions before the start of play or direct questions properly through their captains but may not approach the referee at halftime or at the end of the match. **Coaches who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns verbally or in writing to the District Referee Administrator (DRA). They may not express those concerns to the Referee.**

The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. Instances of infrequent and reasonably low-key dissent can be ignored or acknowledged with a verbal warning.
2. The first instance of persistent dissent will result in a yellow caution. The second instance will result in a red card dismissal from the field.
3. Player dissent is to be dealt with according to FIFA law.

B. SPECTATORS

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, or pointing out an emergency safety issue, spectators will not say anything to a referee. Nor will they do anything that in any way conveys criticism of the referee. The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions in the following manner:

1. Infrequent or reasonably low-key dissent can be ignored or acknowledged with a verbal warning.
2. At the instance of the first infraction of persistent dissent from spectators, the referee will stop the match and inform the person(s) responsible for the team that the spectator must immediately leave the match and surrounding area. Failure to comply will result in the match being abandoned. The referee will file the necessary reports and send them to the DRA, who in turn will forward them to the District VP.
3. Due to the age and experience of some officials, they may need the assistance of responsible people to help if the spectator is not affiliated with either team.

C. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

If a member or members of a team, any persons responsible for a team, or a team's spectators engage in unbecoming conduct before, during, or after a match, they will be subject to discipline by the N.E. District Discipline Committee. This discipline can include suspension of the entire team from their next scheduled match.

D. POLICY EXECUTION

Clubs are directed to post signs at all fields at places where coaches and spectators gather and can read publicizing the nature of the zero tolerance policy.

ATTACHMENT G

Sportsmanship Techniques

At every level of play in our district, in our game, in all our games, sportsmanship can make every encounter we have with other players be an enjoyable one. The following are some ideas for coaches, players and fans to carry with them to demonstrate good sportsmanship. Emphasize sportsmanship by example. Respect the authority of the referee. While the referee will make mistakes just like the players will, complaining about missed calls delivers a very counterproductive message to our kids that such behavior is acceptable. Please don't argue with the referee, coaches or other players as it detracts from playing the game. Please keep your instruction from the sideline positive and encouraging. Encourage spectators to do the same. The kids and coaches shake hands with the opposing team after EVERY match. It is also a nice gesture for the captains to shake hands with the referees and thank them for a job well done. Your demeanor visibly reflects on yourself, your team, your club and your town. Display exemplary decorum at all times. Please leave good impressions all over the state and region!

Distraction Prevention: Spectators should avoid calling out the players names during active play. Focus your encouragement on the team and not the individual.

Sportsmanship:

The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores and/or grossly uneven play.

Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.

Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded

Opposing team can ADD players

Play players out of position

Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken

Play 2 touch maximum per player

Stop taking shots completely

Require 5 complete passes before going forward

All players have to touch ball before going forward

Put high scorer in goal

Change forwards to defense and defense to forwards

Limit attackers to 2 or 3 over mid-field as situation dictates

GK cannot play ball with hands except for saves

GK can only hand feed the balls into own half

Be discrete about playing shorthanded or not shooting

Substitute for a player (U15 and younger) who receives a yellow card caution to explain or to cool off or both

Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.

Blowout Protocol

Blowout Protocol

The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores and/or grossly uneven play. NED has instituted a ***Blowout Protocol*** to raise the awareness of coaches and enhance the experience for the players. The ***Blowout Protocol*** goes into effect whenever there is a 4 goal (or more) differential in the first half or a 5 goal (or more) differential in the second half. Division 3 and 4 teams that follow the ***Blowout Protocol*** will not be penalized in the standings for exceeding the blowout threshold. It is incumbent upon the coaches to notify each other and to communicate with the referee when the match enters ***Blowout Protocol***. The referee will permit the modified play but not enforce it. The referee can be requested to document that the ***Blowout Protocol*** was followed if the coaches don't agree. The coaches must document that the ***Blowout Protocol*** was followed when they submit their scores to be relieved of potential penalty. Application of the ***Blowout Protocol*** applies to the U10 and younger competitive leagues as well as all Division 5 leagues. Documentation of a blowout situation is not required for Division 5 clubs, but it is recommended that the coach notify their respective club president when it occurs.

Teams **MUST** take one or more of the following steps when the ***Blowout Protocol*** occurs. This is not a priority order, nor is it considered complete. Other measures with equivalent intent are acceptable.

Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded

Opposing team can ADD players

Play players out of position

Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken

Play 2 touch maximum per player

Require 5 or more complete passes before going forward

All players have to touch ball before going forward

Put high scorer in goal

Change forwards to defense and defense to forwards

Limit attackers to 2 or 3 over mid-field as situation dictates

GK cannot play ball with hands except for saves

GK can only hand feed the balls into own half

Take extended measures to keep play balanced while providing a challenging experience for both teams.

ATTACHMENT R

CJSA NE District Awards and Recognition

Recognition Awards: The NE District holds the Chafik Rebai Fall Awards Celebration at the end of each Fall playing season to recognize the league champions of each of the competitive district leagues, youth referees of the year, coach of the year, volunteer of the year, sportsmanship awards, and any special contributors. The awards presented at this event are as follows:

- **Youth Referees of the year:** Generally, one male and one female youth referee is selected for outstanding and levelheaded refereeing, great attitude, prompt and reliable appearances at their assignments. The youth referee should exhibit outstanding refereeing skills as well as terrific attitude and enthusiasm for kids playing soccer. Nominations are submitted to the District Referee Administrator. All club referee assignors are to be encouraged to submit nominations each year.
- **Coach of the year:** Generally, one coach or coaching team is selected. Criteria include the ability to bring an enjoyable experience to a team, to guide a competitive team to achieve its fullest potential, to consistently demonstrate sportsmanship, and to foster a lifelong passion for the game of soccer in each player. Nominations are submitted to the Competition Committee Chair and District VP. Criteria for coach of the year should include comments on how the coach enhances the experience of the players from a technical perspective, from a teamwork perspective, from a sportsmanship perspective and from a social perspective.
- **Volunteer of the year:** Generally, one person who has effectively dedicated substantial time, energy and enthusiasm on a volunteer basis to ensure the success of the local club's soccer program is a candidate for Volunteer of the year. The spirit of volunteerism is strong in the NE District and essential to the continued operation of the NE District's member club programs. Volunteer of the year is an opportunity to recognize important contributors to the operation of your voluntary organization.
- **Special recognition award:** Generally reserved for some special accomplishment by a team or individual from the NE District, or a graduate of the NE District programs.
- **Distinguished Service award:** Generally given to an individual who has exhibited exemplary and substantial service to the NE District activities over the course of many years. This award is not necessarily awarded each year.
- **NED Sportsmanship Awards:** Generally given to teams that have demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. While all teams are candidates, teams participating in the NE District U10 Jamboree or the NE District Division V leagues are targeted. Sportsmanship criteria include the team's attitude, their treatment of other players and referees, etc. Multiple awards are allowed, and all recipients are recognized at the fall awards celebration.
- **NED League Champions:** Players and coaches from each league champion are invited to the banquet and awards ceremony to be recognized for their accomplishments. Each player is welcome to bring their immediate family. Each player receives an individual award (T-shirt or trophy, for example). The Northeast District provides complimentary pizza and soft drinks after the awards presentations.
- **Scholarships:** Two scholarships in the amount of \$500-\$1000 each (or alternate amount as determined by NED executive board) are awarded annually. Recipients will be one male and one female high school senior intending to attend college. Nominations are to be submitted to the District VP for review by the NED scholarship committee no later than April 30 for award by June 1 of each calendar year. Applicants must have been participants in district club leagues and/or activities. Activities that include playing, refereeing, coaching,

volunteering for the soccer programs will be considered favorably for the award. Scholarship application form is available on the NED website.

- **COVID-19 Directors:** Recognize all Covid directors for their contributions to the sport providing an ability to play for all players.

ATTACHMENT J

NE District Roster Guidelines

Team rosters are required for NE District competition. Limitations on the ages of players allowed on rosters U15 and younger is based upon the league that the team is participating in.

All Division III and Division IV teams participating in a NE District 7 v 7 League must have no fewer than seven (7) rostered players whose birth dates are within the two-year (24 month) period of the cut-off dates for the respective U10, U9, U8 eligibility. All Division III and Division IV teams participating in a NE District 9 v 9 League must have no fewer than eight (8) rostered players whose birth dates are within the two-year (24 month) period of the cut-off dates for the respective U11 and U12 eligibility. All Division III and Division IV teams participating in a NE District 11 v 11 League must have no fewer than ten (10) rostered players whose birth dates are within the two-year (24 month) period of the cut-off dates for U13 and U14/U15 eligibility. Reference Playing Up Table 1 for specific examples.

All U8, U9, U10, U11, U12 recreational (Division V) teams participating in a NE District 7 v 7 League must have no fewer than seven (7) rostered players whose birth dates are within the two-year (24 month) period of eligibility for recreational U10/U9 and U12/U11 teams. (Specifically, for U10/U9 this includes U10 and U9 players and for U12/U11 this includes U12 and U11 players). All U15/U14/U13 recreation (Division V) teams participating in a NE District 6 v 6 League must have no fewer than six (6) rostered players whose birth dates are within the three-year (36 month) period of eligibility for recreational U15/U14/U13 teams. Reference Playing Up Table 1 for specific examples.

No players may play down (no older player may play on a younger team -- a U12 player may not roster on a U11 team, for example). After the minimum age-specific requirement is met, clubs may permit players to play up according to their own playing up guidelines and policies without District restriction. Clubs are advised to consider age, maturity, athleticism, and size of each player relative to the competition they permit to play up. Further, clubs must file a copy of their local playing up policy with the district competition committee and district VP for that club to submit rosters with any players younger than the two-year age range for that team.

District play for Under 8 is the appropriate level for U7 and U8 players. District play for U8 will consist of a series of regional jamborees. Play will be small sided. The default format is 5v5 including a goalie. Coaches are allowed to use their discretion to agree to play with a different number of players at the field. Two teams with large rosters are encouraged to split their rosters at the field and get two games playing concurrently. Rosters will follow CJSA recreational guidelines and be restricted to this two-year age range. It is appropriate for U8 players to participate with the U9 teams as well, but U7 players are not permitted in the U9 or older competitions.

The following table shows which U-ages may play in a given District division:

Playing Up

The following table summarizes the roster makeup of the U-ages in the district play.

Table 1: Playing Up Permitted by Division

Division	U-Ages That <u>Must</u> Play in a Division	U-Ages That Are Disallowed from Playing in a Division
U15/U14/U13 11 v 11 format	A minimum of ten (10) U15, U14 and U13 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U15 Div 3 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U12 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U15/U14 8 v 8 format	A minimum of eight (8) U15 and U14 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U15 Div 4 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U13 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U15/U14/U13 8 v 8 format	A minimum of six (6) U15, U14 and U13 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in the U15 Div 5 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U12 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U13 8 v 8 format	A minimum of eight (8) U13 and U12 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U13 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U11 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U12 9 v 9 format	A minimum of eight (8) U12 and U11 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U12 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U10 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U12 Div 5 9 v 9 format	A minimum of seven (7) U12 and U11 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U12 Div 5 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U10 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U11 9 v 9 format	A minimum of eight (8) U11 and U10 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U11 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U9 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U10 7 v 7 format	A minimum of seven (7) U10 and U9 players <u>must</u> be rostered on a team for it to be eligible for play in a U10 league	Club Presidents must follow club playing up policy submitted to NED to permit any player U8 or younger to play in this league. U7 or younger prohibited
U9 7 v 7 format	Teams competing in the U9 leagues may be comprised only of players that are U9 or U8 ages.	No U7 or younger players are permitted in this division.
U8 4 v 4 format	Teams competing in the U8 competitions may be comprised only of players that are U8 or U7 ages.	No U6 or younger players are permitted in this division.

ATTACHMENT K

Northeast District (NED) Risk Management Guidelines

CJSA NED fully complies with CJSA risk management practices requiring EVERY volunteer register with CJSA and submit for a background check processed by CJSA through a service determined by CJSA. CJSA NED fully complies with any and all risk management practices identified by CJSA.

CJSA NED mandates that all coach volunteers on the sidelines for every youth soccer event have a completed and current CJSA background check, have completed Safesport training, have a CJSA Coach pass and display the Coach pass in plain view at every event including practices, scrimmages and matches. CJSA NED provides lanyards and pouches to each club for every volunteer registered.

CJSA NED mandates that every parent / guardian of players competing in district leagues sign a code of conduct waiver as a condition of their child participating in district league play. The code of conduct waiver can be collected either electronically or with paper signature. Each coach should have access to the parent code of conduct for every player. It is strongly encouraged that coaches carry it with them.

CJSA NED mandates that all coach volunteers complete minimum training requirements including basic first aid training, concussion awareness, sensitivity dealing with children, and coach code of conduct.

CJSA NED will proactively advertise its sportsmanship and zero tolerance policies at district league venues, and through its member's actions and behaviors.

CJSA NED club presidents are required to administer these policies for their club on behalf of the CJSA NED Board of Directors.

CJSA NED will abide by any Covid-19 CJSA Return To Play (RTP) restrictions, protocols and procedures. This includes each club appointing a club COVID-19 Director. The NED board, in consultation with Covid-19 directors can institute further protocols to adhere to local department of health guidance.