



CLASSIC SOCCER HANDBOOK

A MANUAL FOR NCYSA CLASSIC TEAMS

Published by the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association

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PLEASE READ!!

This publication of the Classic Handbook has been updated to address issues involving NCYSA Classic play.

The most current information will be posted on the CLASSIC MAIN PAGE at www.ncysaclassic.com. You can also access information by going to the CLASSIC PAGE of the NCYSA website (www.ncsoccer.org), and can be accessed by clicking on the "COMPETITIVE" tab at the top of the site, then "CLASSIC" on the drop down bar. Team managers, coaches and association representatives will be responsible for checking the website on a regular basis to receive the most updated information.

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PART 1

CLASSIC SOCCER - AN OVERVIEW

Mission Statement for Classic Soccer

It is the mission of the NCYSA Classic program to provide an environment to foster soccer competition at the highest level: age appropriate development of players who demonstrate talent and commitment with the desire to excel; and an appropriate level of team competition and the values of good sportsmanship to all who participate.

Introduction

The NCYSA Classic league, first introduced in the Spring of 1979, is a statewide league under the direction of the Executive Board position of Vice President of Classic. The Assistant Director, Classic, administers the Classic program at the NCYSA State Office.

The Classic Council represents the governing body for the Classic program. The Council is made up of Presidents and/or Classic Liaisons of NCYSA member Associations who register Classic teams. The Council meets to make recommendations for rules and policy changes. If you are interested in **changing** any portion of the Classic program, then you should contact your local Association President or Classic Liaison with your input.

Players wishing to play at the most competitive level possible (excluding the Olympic Development Program **ODP**) play Classic soccer. Players belonging to an NCYSA affiliated Association may try-out for the team of their choice. That team, which must be affiliated with an NCYSA member Association, then registers with NCYSA.

NCYSA Support Staff – The NCYSA Staff is available to help you with any questions that you may have. Staff duties change periodically, so if you need any assistant, please visit our website, www.ncsoccer.org. Scroll over ABOUT, then select STAFF, for a Staff Directory with a listing of current staff members and their responsibilities.

PART 2 THE CLASSIC EXPERIENCE AND ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Classic Association:

Before a team can form, it must belong to an Association providing Classic level play. Teams are not allowed to participate without local affiliation. When the situation arises where a team is dissatisfied with their current local Association, serious discussion and/or negotiation should take place between the team and the local Association to resolve differences. Teams considering joining new Associations or forming their own should consider the following responsibilities:

Philosophy of Training/Competition:

While NCYSA does not dictate how an Association should "run their program", a concise guideline of what is expected of your players, parents, coaches, spectators, etc. is strongly encouraged. It is also suggested that you establish training and development guidelines as well as establish a code of conduct for their players, parents, coaches, and spectators.

It is well known that children's learning abilities are different at different ages; so age-appropriate training is an important step in both the development of your players, as well as your teams.

All coaches are encouraged to attend coaching schools that are offered by NCYSA. Contact the Coaching Education & Player Development department at the state office (via email at coach@ncsoccer.org) for more information. To find out when the next scheduled coaching schools are, please check the NCYSA website under COACHING EDUCATION.

Dissemination of Information:

Associations should not only have a President, but also a Classic Liaison. This person is responsible for being a communications link between the State Office and teams. This is especially helpful if an Association has multiple levels of play (Challenge and Recreation). The information that comes from the State Office needs to be viewed by everyone in the Association. It is NCYSA's responsibility to get this information to the Association, and the Association's responsibility to get it to their member teams. We also ask that you **regularly check the Classic Main Page of the NCYSA website** (www.ncysaclassic.com) for updated information.

Voting at Classic Council:

When the above-mentioned information is sent to the Associations, some of that information will be in the form of proposals to be voted on at the Council meetings. Voting is weighted by membership of the local association. **The Council will set the policy YOU will play by; therefore, it is extremely important that you express your opinions on information/proposals sent out to your President (or Classic Liaison) so that they may vote your Association's wishes at the Council Meetings.** Minutes from past meetings, future meeting agendas and proposals, as well as proxy and motion forms can be found on the NCYSA website at www.ncsoccer.org > scroll over COMPETITIVE> click CLASSIC. There you will find the agenda and minutes.

Knowledge of the Classic Handbook:

Association officials and team officials (coaches and managers) are presumed to be familiar with the contents of the Classic Handbook and Rules.

Certified Registrar/Player Registration:

Each Association is required to have at least one Certified Registrar. It is the responsibility of the local Certified/Head Registrar to be the person that submits all paper work and online materials to NCYSA for your team's rosters, player passes, team staff ID cards (Team Staff is defined as any coach, asst.

coach, and/or team manager; ie ANY ADULT ON THE OFFICIAL ROSTER), any drops and adds during the year, etc. Teams should contact their local registrar with questions related to registration association to send a person to the Registrar's Certification Workshop.

If your local registrars have any questions, they will contact NCYSA.

TEAMS FAILING TO REGISTER IN A TIMELY MANNER RUN THE RISK OF NOT HAVING THEIR PASSES WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED. NO REGISTRATION WILL BE PROCESSED UNTIL PAID.

NO PAY = NO PASS = NO PARTICIPATION.

This includes all team staff and players.

If a player's pass/card and/or team staff pass/card does NOT have a registrar approved picture, registrar's signature AND a registrar's red stamp AND is not laminated, then this pass is incomplete and NOT valid. The situation resulting would be NO PASS = NO PARTICIPATION.

Contact your local registrar for information concerning:

- Player registration
- Transfers and Re-rosters
- Adding a Player
- Dual Rosters
- Team Rosters
- Guest Players/Interstate Permission for Guest Players
- Club Pass

Referees:

Associations are obligated to certify referees and form their own referee pools. It is the responsibility of your Association to send a person to the Referee Assignor Certification Class that is held each year. Each Classic Association must have a Certified Referee Assignor to assign referees for its Classic matches.

If your Association has NO referee program, then you are required to find a Certified Referee Assignor (from another area) that will book your home matches with certified officials. It is the responsibility of the local Association to negotiate reimbursement of the Certified Assignor for his/her work. (See section "Referee Fees" below)

Risk Management:

All associations are required to complete Risk Management applications (RMA) and be approved. This includes but is not limited to all team coaches, managers, volunteers, board members, team treasurer and any other personnel (for a detailed list, you can find information under RISK MANAGEMENT on the www.ncsoccer.org website). Team rosters and player passes will not be released from the NCYSA State Office until RMAs are completed and approved. For any questions relating to Risk Management, contact your RM Liaison for your local association.

Association Field Registration:

Each Association is required to provide a minimum of two (2) appropriately sized fields. The appropriate number of fields must meet the 6:1 teams to field ratio for BOTH full-sized and modified (small-sided) fields. For every six 13U-19U teams an Association sponsors, they must provide one full-sized field. For every six 11U-12U teams an Association sponsors, they must provide one modified field for small-sided games.

THESE FIELDS MUST ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR NEUTRAL SITE GAMES.

For every field short of the ratio there will be a \$3500 field fee due from the Association fourteen days after the Intent to Plays are due. This fine will be used to compensate the Associations that provide the substitute fields. (*Modified Classic Council 6/5/05*)

If teams are registered in the 15U or above divisions, then the fields need to be a MINIMUM of 60 x 110 yards (preferably larger). NCYSA will not knowingly schedule 15U and above on smaller fields. If an Association sponsors age groups that play on different size fields, then one field is needed for each age division.

The first size is the suggested minimum; the second size is the suggested *desired* size.

19U/18/17 - 65 x 110, 75 x 120

16U/15 - 65 x 110, 70 x 120

14U/13 - 60 x 110, 65 x 115

11U/12U – 45 x 70, 55 x 80

NCYSA must rely on our member Associations to provide appropriate dimensions for the fields provided by them.

Artificial turf is acceptable for fields of play as long as the turf meets the FIFA regulations and insurance requirements for the playing season.

Please make sure that your FIELD COORDINATOR and REFEREE ASSIGNOR are updated by your President in the Risk Management Database. We will need each Site address, individual field sizes at each site, and specific field closing dates if applicable.

There is a \$100 fine from the Association if the Field Registration Form is not postmarked by the deadline or in our office electronically by the due date. *(Passed at 1/4/04 AGM)*

NCYSA gives a deadline for submitting field forms, so teams will know the field availability. Associations may not zero out their fields for more than two dates, only one of which may be a Sunday.

**** If associations do not get their field forms in and fields inputted on time, their teams may lose their home games!****

NCYSA understands that all Associations do not have ownership/contract control over their fields and that there are times when an Association must deal with an emergency situation with a field (waterline broken, contractor double-booking – situations out of the normal control of an Association). NCYSA strongly discourages the submission of fields for classic scheduling that could result in consistent cancellations of games for field-related conditions and/or an Association constantly moving games for these reasons.

The VP of Classic has the authority to move the remaining home field matches of an Association canceling games on a consistent basis for reasons other than severe weather.

Performance (Team) Bond:

The Under 17, 18, and 19 Men's teams must submit a \$200 Performance Bond with their Intent to Play (in addition to the \$90 fee). At the end of the season, the Bond can be returned if the team has fulfilled its playing obligations or can roll over to the next season. To receive a refund of the Performance Bond: Submit a formal request through email to classic@ncsoccer.org. Include full team name, Check payable to, registration number and mailing address.

Ownership of Divisional Slots/Status of Team:

A team's standing will be determined by the end of regular season standings of the NC Classic League. A team's position or slot is "owned" by the local Association, regardless of the number of returning players for that team. If a team leaves an Association to start a new one somewhere else, for whatever reason, THE ORIGINAL ASSOCIATION RETAINS THE RIGHT TO THE DIVISIONAL SLOT OF THAT TEAM. If an Association does not field a team in that slot, then the Association must give the slot back to NCYSA.

The Association may not give the slot to another Association. NCYSA will then award the slot to another team based on current promotion/relegation rules.

For example: If a team (a member of the ABC Association) finishes in third place in the First Division and decide they want to move to another Association (the XYZ Association), then they are considered a NEW team. The ABC Association retains the third place slot in the First Division. The team that moves to XYZ Association must, as all teams must, conduct open tryouts and submit an intent to play. The moving team will be registered as a new team and will be placed in the second division (for ages U-14 to U-18). If the new team is participating at an age where teams 'self-select' their level of play, the new team shall have the right of self-selection. If the ABC Association cannot field a team for that slot, then that slot goes back to NCYSA who will offer it to another team based on the current promotion and relegation rules.

PART 3 TEAM FORMATION

PRESEASON PREPARATION AND INFORMATION:

Age Groups:

NCYSA offers the following age groups for CLASSIC league play:

- **MEN:** 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, 19U
- **WOMEN:** 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, 19U

At the end of this section, please see provisions relating to 19U players and their participation on 18U teams.

Divisions:

Within Classic League play there are different divisions of play.

14U and older MEN and WOMEN:

- Southern Regional Premier League (begins at 13U)
- Classic Premier League
- First Division
- Second Division

11U/12U/13U MEN and WOMEN:

At the 11U through 13U Age Groups, the teams self-select their level of play **UNTIL** the Spring 13U Season. Until the Spring 13U Season, the teams will select either:

Open Division (more competitive) or Second Division

In the Spring of the 13U season, an **ELITE** Division will be created by the Promotion and Relegation committee. Please see the Promotion and Relegation Rules regarding the creation of this **ELITE** Division. In the Spring 13U Season, any team not selected for the ELITE division per the PR guidelines will self-select Open and Second Division. Beginning in the Spring 2015, 13U teams will also be nominated to participate in the Southern Regional Premier League per a playoff conducted after the Fall season.

Tryouts and Recruiting:

Teams are created by way of open tryouts. There are specific rules regarding the recruitment of players. It is imperative that associations, coaches, officials, players and parents are aware of and knowledgeable about the recruiting rules. Find information about Recruiting in the D&A manual. Go to www.ncsoccer.org SCROLL over HOME in the menu bar and then CLICK on the D & A tab.

Two Game Sit out Policy:

The current registration rules provide that if a player is released from a Classic level team and desires to re-roster with another Classic level team during the same seasonal year (August 1, to July 31), absent a defined hardship, the player shall have a 2 game sit out.

The defined hardship is 1) if the player has moved his/her primary residence 50 or more miles during the seasonal year, or 2) if the player's team has folded and player passes have been returned to NCYSA.

The State Registrar will determine if the transfer meets our qualifications (hardship) for an exception to the rule. If the transfer does not, the State Registrar will advise the player and/or parents, the local registrar, the player's coach, and the VP of Classic.

Other exceptions have been considered in the past. However, NCYSA, and the NCYSA VP of Classic, has no obligation to consider exceptions other than those provided for by the Board of Directors and

would only do so for extreme extenuating circumstances. Should an exception (other than the hardship exceptions) be considered, it will be addressed by the NCYSA VP of Classic.

The two (2) game sit-out for classic players will not apply to a mid-year transfer for a player that began 'playing up' when no team in his/her precise age group had been formed in his/her association. This exception will apply only when such a transfer takes place during the first seasonal year in which the team corresponding to the player's age is formed.

The sit out applies to the TEAM'S FIRST TWO COMPLETED MATCHES following the imposition of the sit out. For example: *Player A is assessed a two game sit out. The next four matches are scheduled for March 1, March 2, March 9, and March 16. If the March 1 and 2 games are played as scheduled, then the player may play in the March 9 match. However, if the March 1 match is played, but the March 2 match is not played for any reason (rainout, forfeit, reschedule), then the player may not play in the next match that is played -- March 9. The player may then play in the March 16 match, and may play in the match rescheduled from March 2 (so long as the match is played after March 16).*

US Youth Soccer Roster Size Guidelines:

Includes number of players on the field per team in their specific age group below:

Age Group	# of Players on field per team	Minimum # of Players required to start play for match	Maximum Roster Size	Goalkeepers on the field
11U	9	7	14	Yes
12U	9	7	14	Yes
13U-19U	11	7	22 (18 Dress per game)	Yes

Team Manager Notebook:

NCYSA encourages each team manager create a "Classic Team Notebook" to be carried with you to matches.

The following items may be included in the notebook:

1. Current season Classic Division Contacts
2. Field Coordinator and Referee Assignor/Weather Hotline contact information
3. Printouts of Maps/Directions of fields from the Classic Main Page (www.ncysaclassic.com)
4. Team schedule
5. Match reports
6. Copy of your official NCYSA red-stamped roster
7. Official NCYSA player passes / Medical Release forms

Team Managers should have easy access to the following:

1. Current copy of the Classic Handbook/NCYSA Rules
2. Current copy of the Discipline and Appeals Manual

Association Commitment Form:

The Association Commitment Form (ACF) is a part of the online registration process. It is a form that will be filled out online prior to each season of play by your Certified Head Registrar and signed by your

President. This ACF, found under your Group Net Registration program, will now act as the official document to inform NCYSA of every team that will be participating from your association for that season. It will also designate the level of play for all your self-selection age group teams (11U-13UG/B: OPEN or SECOND). An additional column will be added to the ACF in which each 11U-13U team should be designated OPEN or SECOND by their association before turning it into NCYSA.

Once your association has completed their association's ACF, they will print a receipt audit that is to be signed by the association President officially submitting all teams listed on the form to have availability for the Intent to Play process.

Without this signed form, the online information submitted will not be approved by NCYSA. The only teams that will be available for their online Intents to Play to be completed are the teams that are listed on the Association Commitment Form. Intents to Play are not completed until this document is received at NCYSA. ***This process must be completed prior to each season.***

Online Intent to Play Form Information – (ITPs):

Teams are required to submit, **BEFORE EACH SEASON** (both Fall and Spring), an Intent To Play form for the Classic league. This form is completed and submitted online through the www.ncysaclassic.com site under REGISTER/ITP. Intents to Play will go live via the dates posted on the Classic webpage.

NOTE: Your association must complete your Association Commitment Form before you can complete your ITP.

****If an association fails to submit their online Intents to Play by the deadline, a \$100 late fee PER TEAM may be assessed, and their teams may or may not be accepted into the Classic League. It will be up to the discretion of the VP of Classic whether these teams will be allowed to be in the schedule.****

The person submitting each ITP is affirming that they have read the most current publication of the Classic Handbook and Discipline and Appeals Manual, and will share the contents of both documents with their team.

The fee PER TEAM for application to the Classic league is \$90.00 PER YEAR which was set by the Board of Directors.

If you play/pay in the Fall, then there is no fee for the Spring, but the Intent To Play Form must still be submitted online BOTH seasons.

Folding Fees:

If a team folds after the application deadline has passed, then their local Association is fined \$300. If a team folds within 2 weeks of the beginning of the season the fine is \$500.

(Passed at AGM 1/4/2004)

See NCYSA official calendar for specific dates.

An association failing to pay this fine within thirty days, or any other fine, is subject to having ALL of their teams placed in bad standing. Being placed in bad standing could prohibit participation in Classic league play, State Cups, refusal of Notifications to Travel, and registration information, etc.

Older boys teams playing in the 'Spring' only who wish to compete in FALL tournaments must contact your local Certified Registrar to register your players. ITPs for these teams are still NOT DUE UNTIL DATE SPECIFIED FOR SPRING TEAMS.

Special Instructions and Rules for 18U teams with 19U players:

18U teams with 19U age players Clarification:

Updated 6/2016

Associations forming 18U teams and do not have a 19U team:

19U players that are still in High School can roster to the 18U team and play in league play only.

Associations forming 18U and 19U teams:

19U players still in High School or not, should play for the 19U team.

NOTE: Any 19U player still in High School that is not selected for his association's 19U team can roster to the 18U team and participate with that team in League Play Only.

Eligibility for State Cup:

18U teams who have 19U age players on their roster would have to remove those "19U" players to participate in the 18U State Cup.

**If the team wishes to participate in the 19U State Cup Series, this currently registered 18U team would have to be re-carded and re-rostered as a 19U team by the roster freeze deadline.

PART 4 PRESEASON, SCHEDULING, AND STANDINGS

Currently, teams create their own schedules with the teams in their division. The following information is provided to assist teams in the scheduling process.

Classic League Play Date Range:

At the February 2008 classic council meeting, it was decided to adopt a play date range of dates for seasonal play (2/2008). The play date range for the Fall and Spring season will be determined at the classic council meeting (12/2008).

Scheduling:

1. Go to Classic Home Page at www.ncysaclassic.com and access the final brackets for upcoming season under TEAMS/SCHEDULES> TEAM LIST.

Go to DOCs & INFO to get all of the needed scheduling information and to download all materials related to scheduling.

2. Contact the teams within your bracket and complete the pre-scheduling process.

Once your schedules have been confirmed, contact your Association Field Assignor, who will then place you onto fields for your HOME MATCHES.

Required Scheduled Matches In Your Division:

For 14U-19U, all matches are used towards a Classic team's standing. Every team in the division will have the same number of required scheduled matches – one versus each team in their division unless otherwise advised.

For 11U-13U, standings are calculated the same way, however, they will self-select the division they will be participating in for the upcoming season.

For the Spring 13U season, an ELITE Division will be created from the previous Fall OPEN division results. See the current Promotion and Relegation Guidelines for more detailed information. They can be found at www.ncysaclassic.com under DOCS & INFO.

- 11U and 12U teams are allowed to play 2 games in one day, as long as there are 90 minutes between games.

- The Classic Council has passed (4/24/2005) that all teams 13U and older will have one match scheduled per day based on the recommendations from USYS.

- 11U and 12U standings will be posted on the official NCYSA Classic League site. (12/2008).

For the Promotion and Relegation of teams and for State Cup seeding, NCYSA requires that a team play a minimum of four (4) counting matches for the single season teams.

If the required scheduled matches have not been played as scheduled and assistance is needed to get the match rescheduled, NCYSA will ask both teams for 3 play dates. If the teams are in agreement on a date they may set up the match as a reschedule. If the teams cannot agree on a date, NCYSA will set up a date, contact the field coordinator and ref assignor and schedule the match. If a team doesn't show it will be a forfeit for their record and standings and they will pay all referee fees and forfeiture fees. NCYSA will contact the teams with the intention of setting up the match as soon as they are made aware of rescheduling issues.

Standings and Tie Breaking Procedures:

WIN = 3 Game Points

TIE= 1 Game Point

Loss= 0 Game Points

For example: A team's counting game record is 5-3-2. Five wins for 15 points, three losses for 0 points, and two ties for 2 points equals 17 total points.

This Game Point total is the number that will determine the team's standing for State Cup purposes and Promotion and Relegation.

If there are ties within a division (among required scheduled matches), then the following tie breaking procedures are used:

1. Winner of head to head competition. If teams tied or split their matches, then;
2. Most wins versus common counting opponents. If still tied;
3. Goal differential (difference in goals scored and goals allowed with a max of five goals) between common counting opponents;
4. Least goals allowed against common counting opponents;
5. Most goals scored against common counting opponents;
6. Coin toss by the VP of Classic, or their delegate.

The above procedures are taken one at a time until the tie is broken. If ties still exist among other teams, the process begins again with "step one".

To determine standings across divisions (for State Cup seeding and Promotion/Relegation), since teams do not have common opponents, PERCENTAGE POINTS are used. A team's percentage points are calculated by the number of points earned, divided by the number of required scheduled matches with in your division.

For example, the team with the 17 game points as calculated in the previous example (assuming at this time the team has played all its scheduled matches) would have a percentage point calculation of 1.7 (17 points divided by 10 scheduled games).

NOTE: A team that does not play all of their matches, will have their percentage points calculated by taking their game points earned and dividing that number by the number of SCHEDULED matches for that team, not just the matches played.

If there is a tie in PERCENTAGE POINTS between two teams in different divisions, the tie-breaking procedures for promotion/relegation will be decided by a match to be played within two weeks of State Cup finish at a neutral site decided by NCYSA or in a method determined by the VP of Classic if a playoff game is not feasible. Failure to play in a match scheduled, results in a forfeit and forfeiting team must cover all expenses.

This is done because there are no common matches between the divisions so it is unfair to seed based solely on record.

- FRIENDLIES MATCHES ARE NOT USED TO DETERMINE ANY SEEDINGS OR STANDINGS

NO PASS = NO PARTICIPATION

The NCYSA Classic Council (*Clarification Classic Council 8/12/06*) is in agreement that CLASSIC TEAMS will NOT be allowed to begin a league match if they do not have their player passes with them at the time of the scheduled start of play. There should be no changes or amendments to the existing rule. The current "wait time" is 15 minutes for delay of match. If a team cannot produce player passes within this time frame of 15 minutes, then the match will result in a forfeit and the appropriate forfeit fines and referee fees will apply.

If a player plays in a match and is not properly registered, his team shall automatically forfeit that game and may face further disciplinary action by the member association and/or the Board of

Directors of this association and/or the appropriate Vice President of Classic depending on the nature of the violation.

The Council wants each association to educate their coaches, managers and players of this rule. No exceptions will be allowed.

NCYSA Rule 12 -- What Constitutes A Match?

In order to constitute a match, the first half of the match must have been completed. In the event that before the completion of the first half, a match is abandoned due to weather conditions, field conditions, or other reasons not involving discipline or the actions of one or both teams, the match shall be considered not played. The match must be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety. All referee fees must be paid again.

If a match is terminated at any time by a referee due to fault of a coach, player(s), spectators, then the opposing team will be awarded the win using the same standard as a forfeiture. If the opposing team has a winning score at the time the match is terminated, it will be awarded the win and the score will stand.

A sit-out penalty will only be fulfilled in a match considered complete by NCYSA rules.

New Teams Entering in Mid-Year:

Sometimes, new teams form during the winter months to play in the Spring Classic league, while the rest of the division played in the Fall and Spring. New "Spring only" teams are only guaranteed four (4) matches and will enter in like a new team playing in the second division.

Travel Guidelines in Scheduling:

The nature of Classic play is being able to play soccer at the statewide level in order to experience a higher level of competition. **Travel is a part of this experience.**

NCYSA provides guidelines to be referred to concerning travel:

1. Approximate *recommended* earliest departure time from the home city is 7:00 a.m. so that a team can arrive at its match site thirty minutes (30) prior to game time.
2. The *recommended* guideline for maximum travel distance is 250-260 miles and 5 hours (+/-) one way.

Neutral fields may be scheduled for matches between teams that meet the travel guidelines at no cost. If teams do not meet the travel guidelines, there is a minimum \$80 fee (\$40 per team) for the use of the neutral site that may be charged by the host association. This fee is to cover field use and referee assignor fees.

The neutral site "host" Association will bill the teams directly and are responsible for collection of this fee within ten (10) days of the played match. If associations cannot collect the neutral fee, NCYSA Classic will be contacted for assistance in collection and appropriate action.

The neutral site association will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings and proper equipment. Nets and spectator lines are required.

Rescheduling Matches:

Teams will be given the opportunity to reschedule matches if necessary.

If your team needs to request a reschedule, begin by contacting your opponent and requesting that they reschedule your scheduled match to a new date. NOTE: your opponent does NOT have to agree to reschedule a scheduled match. If your opponent does NOT agree to your reschedule

request, your team will be required to maintain and show up for the originally scheduled date or forfeit the match. See fines and information on Forfeits on page 18.

We strongly encourage teams to work with their opponents requesting reschedules as there might come a time where your team will need the same grace in such a situation.

IF BOTH TEAMS AGREE TO PROCEED WITH A RESCHEDULE, it is important to gain written communication of the newly agreed upon date for your records. Once both teams have approved the new date/time, the home team will need to contact their field scheduler for the new field information.

AT THAT TIME, either the home team field scheduler or the team contacts involved in the reschedule can submit the new game information to Colby Morton at classic@ncsoccer.org to get it updated on the site. Be sure to include in the email: MATCH NUMBER, NEW GAME DATE, NEW GAME TIME, NEW GAME FIELD and FIELD NUMBER, and THE TWO TEAMS INVOLVED.

Saturday School:

In the event that a local school system mandates a Saturday for attendance, the team that is involved in Saturday School will need to contact the scheduled opponent and reschedule the match. Rescheduling due to Saturday school WILL BE ACCEPTED as a reschedule. Teams will work together to decide a mutually agreed upon date for a reschedule and follow the reschedule procedures in PART 4.

PART 5 PLAYING THE MATCHES

Rain Out and Weather Related Cancellations:

Canceling games for severe weather is appropriate (lightning, player safety, etc.). We encourage teams to focus on the safety of the players and spectators when handling weather related issues. If the fields are open and the game is in play, playable field conditions become the discretion of the referee as granted to them by the Laws of the Game as published by FIFA.

NOTE: If matches are cancelled for reasons other than excessive rain, the NCYSA Board of Directors, its Executive Board, or Classic Council have the authority to examine the situation, to fine, sanction and/or determine that Association's ability to host future Classic matches.

What To Do On Game Day Regarding Inclement Weather:

If a team suspects there might be a cancellation due to weather related issues, NCYSA recommends that teams follow the below procedure to assess if games are to be played.

1. CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION HOTLINE/ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE:

The hotline message/website of the host club should give you information regarding that Association's fields.

Please note: Associations are NOT responsible for placing a message on the Hotline/Website before 6:00 pm on the day prior to a match. Associations can wait until the day of a match, but a message should make every effort to update/post a message by 7:00am on game day even if it says that a decision will be made at the field.

Associations are asked to update their HOTLINES/WEBSITES continually if weather issues could prevent teams from reaching their locations or if associations are forced to close fields at any time on game days.

2. CONTACT THE HOST TEAM. Contact the opposing team's manager or coach. In most cases, by establishing that contact, the host team will contact YOU if they have information before you do. (These numbers can be found in your classic team contact list. Team managers should have these with them during travel.) If you happen to be the HOST team, you should contact your opponent as a courtesy to keep them informed if there are weather related circumstances that could affect your match.

3. If it is still raining and the message is to travel, then keep in periodic contact with the hotline number/website AND your host team contact.

As unfair as it may seem, some teams will travel and not play, but we hope to minimize that scenario. Some associations may not be notified of field cancellations until close to game time thus it may be a last-minute cancellation.

Only with open communication, can we minimize that scenario of needless travel.

Rained Out Matches:

If a required scheduled match is cancelled, then teams should work together to decide a mutually agreed upon date for a reschedule. unless otherwise directed by the VP of Classic.

ONCE BOTH TEAMS AGREE TO A NEW DATE/TIME, it is important to gain written communication of the newly agreed upon date for your records. Now that both teams have approved the new date/time, the home team will need to contact their field scheduler for the new field information.

AT THAT TIME, either the home team field scheduler or the team contacts involved in the reschedule can submit the new game information to Colby Morton at classic@ncsoccer.org to get it updated on

the site. Be sure to include in the email: MATCH NUMBER, NEW GAME DATE, NEW GAME TIME, NEW GAME FIELD and FIELD NUMBER, and THE TWO TEAMS INVOLVED.

GETTING TO THE MATCHES:

Maps and Directions:

Field Maps are linked on the Classic website on the schedule page and under the FIELD INFO tab in the menu bar. It is the associations' responsibility to provide accurate maps to their fields. Unfortunately, the State Office has not visited all fields used by NCYSA members, so if there are "discrepancies" in a map, or there is not a link to an association's field, please call the association's contact who is listed on the NCYSA website www.ncsoccer.org under (Scroll over) ABOUT> the click on MEMBERS.

Players Driving to Matches

NCYSA strongly encourages teams to not allow players to drive to and from matches. The players should be concentrating on the matches while traveling. After the matches are over, players may be too tired to drive safely back home.

BEFORE THE MATCH BEGINS:

Items Needed for Game Day:

There are several items that the team, players and coach need at game time. Listed below are items needed for the game day:

1. NCYSA PLAYER PASSES, TEAM STAFF PASSES, AND MATCH ROSTER.

It is the responsibility of the referees to check player passes AND team staff passes before each game. When the officials ask to check passes, then it is the responsibility of the teams to have them at the field.

NO PASS=NO PARTICIPATION

Match Rosters list all the players' uniform numbers and pass numbers along with coach's ID numbers for the referee's use. All teams must get a NEW Match Roster from their Registrar and make copies, to avoid giving away their official red-stamped roster.

Failure to have your player passes and at least one team staff member pass, will result in your forfeiting your games.

****NOTE: If an emergency or event occurs on game day in which the rostered coach or team official cannot be present at the game, another risk managed member of the association may step in but will still need to present an Association Pass within the association or a DOC pass for the association. This is to confirm he is risk managed in our system. It will be the referee's job to verify this pass.**

Failure to have passes for an individual(s) or improper passes (no picture, not stamped, etc.) will result in that/those individual(s) NOT PARTICIPATING until the pass(es) are corrected.

2. MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS.

Even though these forms are not checked, it is important that you have them at the field. In case of injury, these forms are usually required by a hospital to expedite treatment of the injured player.

3. TWO JERSEY OPTIONS.

Teams MUST have an alternate colored jersey in case of conflicts. Generally accepted "light" color jersey options include: white, yellow/gold, orange, neon, and similar colors. IF the color of your "light" jersey option is something other than the above *generally accepted* "light" colors, such as red or light blue, then your team MUST have another *back-up jersey or training shirt with numbers* that would fall into the *generally accepted* "light" colors. In addition, if WHITE socks (or another *generally accepted* "light" color sock) are not your usual "light" jersey socks, your team must have the back-up of white (or another *generally accepted* "light" color) socks in case of a conflict.

(For example: At issue becomes when a team's "light" color jersey is RED because it could also be considered another team's "dark" color. Thus, teams with RED as their "light" for instance, must have another *back-up jersey or training shirt with numbers* that would fall into the *generally accepted* "light" colors and WHITE socks (or another *generally accepted* "light" color sock) as a back-up.)

The home team will wear "light" colored jerseys. The visiting team will wear "dark" colored jerseys. The team in the incorrect color will have to change.

All players, including goalkeepers, must have a number. NCYSA WILL allow tape to be used for numbers on the jerseys IN LEAGUE PLAY ONLY.

Jersey numbers should coincide with jersey numbers on the approved team roster and player pass.

4. **GAME BALL.**

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a game ball. However, both teams should have an adequate "back up" in case of an errant kick that loses the game ball.

5. **FIELDS.**

Fields should be properly lined, with spectator restraining lines. **Goals must be anchored before play can begin.** Referees are instructed to not start a game if goals are unsafe. Do not blame the referee for protecting your players – this is the responsibility of the hosting Association. Fields should also have corner flags. Nets should be secure.

6. **OTHER PLAYER EQUIPMENT.**

It is an NCYSA requirement that our players wear shin guards. Referees have been instructed to require full size shin guards (player size appropriate). It is up to the discretion of the referee at the field to determine if a player's cleat option is acceptable or not.

THE MATCH ITSELF:

Referees on GAME DAY:

The Classic Council passed a motion on February 13, 2005 that for all Classic play (effective Fall 2005), there will be three referees assigned to all matches, consisting of one center and two assistant referees. **Associations failing to adequately cover games with certified officials (of an appropriate level) run the risk of having their remaining home matches moved.**

Age Division	Center Referee	Assistant Referee	Total Paid	Per Team
17U and up	\$60	\$42	\$144	\$72
15U/16U	\$54	\$35	\$124	\$62
13U/14U	\$46	\$28	\$102	\$51
11U/12U	\$40	\$22	\$84	\$42

No league or playing association may pay referee fees higher than these established rates for referee services for the designated division and competition level.

The Classic League rates are mandatory for all state league games.

No tournament may pay referee fees higher than these established rates for referee services for the designated division and competition level, unless authorized in writing prior to the sanctioning of the tournament by NCYSA.

Each team will SPLIT the referee fees EVENLY (*except in the case of a forfeit: if a team forfeits a match, it is THE FORFEITING TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY to pay the FULL AMOUNT of the referee fees*).

Referees normally prefer cash, but they must accept a check as payment.

Referees responsible for the late start of a game may be disciplined by the proper authority.

Referees may, at any time, be called upon by the proper authority to explain their reports.

In the event that less than 3 officials show up to the match:

- *If only two referees show up to the match:*

One referee will run the center, the other will be a linesman, and a volunteer club linesman will be used. **The two officials get their NORMAL RATE OF PAY (the center referee gets only the fee for the center referee, the linesman gets only the fee for a single linesman).** The two-man whistle system is **NOT ALLOWED** under any circumstances (where both referees are on the field calling the game). There can be only one center referee on the field.

- *If only one referee shows up to the match:*

The referee will be the center and two volunteer club linesmen will be used. **That official gets the center fee PLUS ONE LINESMAN'S FEE.**

- *If no referees show up to the match:*

If both teams play the match with uncertified officials (volunteer/parent) then the time to question the certification is BEFORE the match, not after. If certified referees are not present, **BOTH teams MUST agree IN WRITING on the match report** PRIOR to playing the match and it is **official** and cannot be contested.

If one or both teams refuse to play the match, or decides to play the game as a "friendly" it MUST be WRITTEN on the match report, and it will be the responsibility of the home field Association to coordinate the reschedule.

NOTE: In the event referees, do not show up for a scheduled match, and the teams DO NOT choose to play the match with uncertified referees, the match is NOT a forfeit. The match must be rescheduled and replayed.

- If a team is "forced" to pay an official anything more than is listed above, then the rate of pay, the officials name, date and location of game(s) should be put in writing and sent to the NCYSA State Office. NCYSA will not tolerate officials "overcharging" its member teams, nor will NCYSA tolerate team's withholding the proper pay from officials.

Sides for teams and spectators:

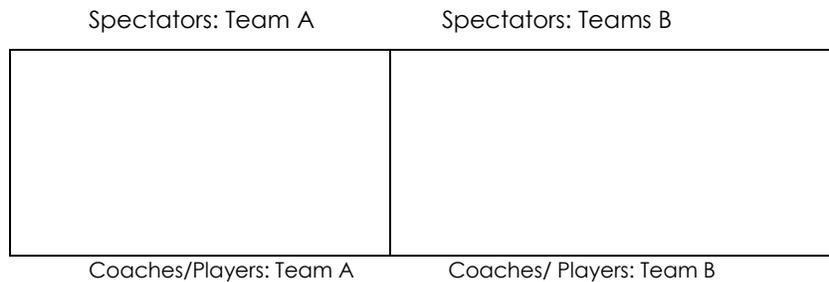
-Coaches and spectators must remain between the penalty areas.

-The referee or referee assistants may, at any time, restrict the sideline movement of coaches, players and spectators.

-No one will be permitted behind the goal lines.

-Players from both teams will share the same sideline of the field, while the spectators from both teams will share the opposite sidelines of the field, directly opposite their respective teams. NCYSA would encourage spectators to remain on their own half of the field.

NOTE: In the event that this is not practical for any reason, the referee shall have the final decision as to where players, coaches and spectators are situated.



(Passed at 04/16/2011 CC)

Substitution Guidelines:

During Classic games, players may be substituted only during certain stoppages of the game. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless the rules of a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this association specifically determine otherwise.

Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times:

- A.** Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession.
- B.** Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
- C.** After an injury, by either team.
- D.** At half-time.
- E.** Before the taking of a kick-off.
- F.** After a yellow card has been awarded, a substitution may be made for the player receiving the yellow card. (Does not apply to Cup Competitions).

In any case, a substitute may not enter the middle of field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee and the player being replaced has come off the field.

Time Periods and Ball Sizes:

The following times will be used in the various age divisions. Ball sizes are also listed below.

Age Division	Min. per Half	Half-time	Ball Size
19U, 18, 17	45 minutes	15 min*	5
16U, 15	40 minutes	15 min*	5
14U, 13	35 minutes	15 min*	5
12U, 11	30 minutes	15 min*	4

*This is the maximum allowed by FIFA. Most half times will be approximately five (5) to ten (10) minutes in duration.

Forfeits:

There are certain situations that may occur in Classic league play, which will result in a forfeit.

FOR CLASSIC LEAGUE PLAY ONLY, in these situations, the score will be recorded as **5-0**:

1. Failure to make up required scheduled matches. If teams cannot agree to a make-up date and time, then NCYSA will (a) reschedule the game based on the guidelines in PART 4 (reschedules), and/or (b) give teams double forfeits per the advisement of the VP of Classic.
2. Teams that do not show up to play their scheduled games.
3. Teams that fail to have their player passes at a scheduled match and at least one (1) team staff member's pass. NO PASS=NO PARTICIPATION. **SEE BELOW
4. If a player plays in a match and is not properly registered, his team shall automatically forfeit that match.
5. Any team delaying the start of a scheduled match more than fifteen (15) minutes without the sanction of the proper authority shall forfeit the match to the opponent.
6. Any player who has received a red card would be ineligible for at minimum the team's next played match.

NOTE: If the team plays an ineligible player (a player whose red card sit-out/sanctions had not yet been fulfilled), that team would automatically forfeit that match.

****NOTE: If an emergency or event occurs on game day in which the rostered coach or team official cannot be present at the game, another risk managed member of the association may step in but will still need to present an Association Pass within the association or a DOC pass for the association. This is to confirm he is risk managed in our system. It will be the referee's job to verify this pass.**

It is the duty of the referee to check all passes of any individual (player or adult) that is present on the team bench sidelines. *If they refuse for whatever reason to check the passes, it should be notated on the match report and NCYSA should be notified immediately.* Your team should not play if the opponent's passes have not been checked and verified.

In the event referees do not show up for a scheduled match, and the teams do not choose to play the match with uncertified referees, the match is NOT a forfeit. The match must be rescheduled and replayed.

If teams forfeit more than ONE WEEKEND of play, then those teams are NOT eligible to participate in ANY NCYSA State Cup Series Tournament that seasonal year absent a request to the VP of Classic. The VP of Classic will have final determination. The decision of the VP of Classic can be appealed to the NCYSA Executive Board. Teams that simply refuse to show up for matches with no call to anyone will face stiff penalties and fines, including possible suspension from league play. Association sanctions could follow. NCYSA suggests that if you apply for the league, play the games.

Forfeiture Fees:

Once NCYSA Classic league play has begun, teams that forfeit a match for any reason will be assessed a fee of \$100 per game and are required to pay the ENTIRE referee fee for that match, REGARDLESS OF WHEN THAT TEAM INFORMS THE STATE OFFICE OF ITS INTENT NOT TO PLAY the match.

A letter will be sent to the forfeiting team with a bill for this \$100 fee and referee fees.

The team may petition to the VP of Classic to have the forfeit fee "waived" or "altered". The VP's decision will be on a case-by-case basis, as NCYSA does recognize that emergencies do come up.

The decision of the VP of Classic can be appealed to the NCYSA Executive Board.

AFTER THE MATCH:

Online Score Reporting:

After a match, both team officials, as well as the referee of the match, will complete the online match reporting process.

- Both team officials are to post the score in they SINC system using the online reporting process.
- At that point the game will be listed as UNVERIFIED in the system on the schedule page.
- Once the referees have posted their score, the match score will then be verified.
- Both team officials and the referees will retain your paper copy of the match report in case of discrepancies.

The match report is used for verification purposes. Teams are not required to sign the match report, however by not signing, you are waiving your right to verify the score written on the match report. Please look over the match report for discrepancies BEFORE YOU SIGN IT. The hard copy of the match report will be used as the official document if needed.

Protests:

See the NCYSA D&A Handbook for guidelines when protesting a match. A classic protest will need to be made with the VP of Classic. The handbook can be found at www.ncsoccer.org , in the D & A section.

NOTES Regarding the NCYSA Match Roster:

13U-19U teams may have a TEAM roster size of 22 players. However, on game day, the MATCH roster will allow for 18 players.

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for the 22-player match roster guidelines:

- **What is the 22-player team roster?**
US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy Rules 101 and 221 have allowed for teams in the 13U- 19U age division to carry up to twenty-two players on their team roster.
- **How many players may play in a match?**
Only eighteen players may participate in a match. These players will be designated by your Match Roster (see #5 below) and handed to the referee on the field.
- **How many players may warm up before a match?**
All twenty-two players may warm up before a match, however once the referee asks for the Match Roster, only eighteen players will be allowed on the field/bench area at that time.
Players not listed on the Match Roster must change into "street clothes" (clothes distinctly opposite/different than the team is wearing), and move to the spectator side of the field.
- **Do I need additional paperwork?**
NCYSA will provide teams with two rosters:
A team roster that has all contact information for players and coaches, and a Match Roster. The Match Roster has the same information, but is missing contact information (address, etc.). This Match Roster should be red-stamped by your local registrar. This will be your "master copy".
Make copies (black and white copies are acceptable) of the stamped Match Roster and carry them with you to games, marking off the players NOT playing in that match. Be sure to include the date and match number of your game!
- **Does my Match Roster need to be red-stamped?**
Yes, (see above). Keep the red-stamped copy for your files and make copies (black and white copies) and out at matches.

- **A player on my Match Roster has injured themselves before the start of the match. May I replace them with someone else that is listed on my NCYSA team roster (but not listed on the already-submitted Match Roster)?**

No. Once you have marked players off the Match Roster and handed it to the referee, it is frozen for that match. In fact, if you had five injuries, you would be playing with 13 players.
- **What should players not listed on the Match Roster wear and do during the match?**

Players that attended warm ups, but are not listed as eligible on the Match Roster MUST change clothes into something distinctly different than their team is wearing (i.e.: street clothes) and move to the spectator side of the field.

Only the eighteen players listed on the Match Roster are allowed on the team bench.
- **Teams and spectators are on the same side of the field in some associations. Is that a problem for players not listed on the day's Match Roster?**

No. However, to avoid any conflicts, the players NOT listed on the Match Roster should be wearing VERY distinctive clothing (i.e.: street clothes) that contrasts from their team.
- **Should I (as Coach) set my team on the night before the match or may I decide the day of the match?**

It isn't mandatory that a coach set their Match Roster the evening before a match. However, a coach that constantly has players travel and warm up only to not play could find internal problems (i.e.: dissension within the team from players and parents). If a coach is going to wait until game day to set their Match Roster, all players should be aware of the need to have a change of clothing in case of not being eligible for that match.
- **What will be the procedures for teams with twenty-two player team rosters during State Cup competitions?**

The procedures during Cup competitions will remain the same as listed above except players not on the Match Roster MAY remain on the team bench for Cup play ONLY. Any deviation from these procedures will be communicated to the teams beforehand.
- **Is there a minimum number of players that I need on my team roster?**

Yes. A team may not have fewer than seven players on their Team Roster or on their Match Roster.
- **May I use the 22-player team roster to dual-roster players to an "A" team and a "B" team in the same age group?**

No. Players may NOT dual roster in the same age division. Please see your local registrar for clarification on dual rostering.

PART 6 **NCYSA STATE CUP SERIES**

NCYSA offers State Cups each year for Classic Teams which are hosted by local Associations that “bid” for the right to bring that part of the Series to their local Associations.

Local Associations will host the series for that one seasonal series. After each year, new bids will be sent out.

The State Cups in the Series available to Classic teams are the USYS State Cup, Kepner President's Cup and the Singer Cup.

NOTE: ONLY 2nd Division Classic teams can participate in the Singer Cup tournament.

The US Youth Soccer State Cup:

The US Youth Soccer State Cup is held in the Fall for 15U-19UG and then in the Spring for 13U-14 G/B and 15U-19UB.

The event play is divided into two preliminary weekends and is open to all Classic, Challenge and Recreation teams.

For more information go to www.ncstatecup.com.

The Kepner President's Cup:

The NCYSA Kepner President's Cup is named after long time President Robert Kepner and his family. Bob has contributed much to NCYSA soccer and the naming of this tournament was to honor that contribution.

The Kepner President's Cup is held in the Fall for 15U-19UG and then in the Spring for 13U-14 G/B and 15U-19UB and is open to First and Second Division (including Elite teams at the 13U age group in the Spring) Classic, Challenge and Recreation teams.

For more information go to www.ncstatecup.com.

The Singer Cup:

The NCYSA Singer Cup is named after former President Bob Singer. Formerly known as the SINGER CHALLENGE CUP, the event was named after Bob due to his overwhelming contributions to NCYSA and his devotion to the Challenge level of play.

The tournament was changed to “The SINGER CUP” after the formation of the Select Program. The intent was to provide an opportunity to 2nd division Classic, Select Program, and Challenge level players.

The Singer Cup is held in the Spring for 13U-14 G/B and 15U-19UB.

For more information go to www.ncstatecup.com.

Seeding for the Cup:

State Cup seeding placement is determined by your standings in your seasonal play.

Teams will be seeded based on their standings by the dates set forth on the Classic calendar prior to the cup season. NOTE: Only matches played by that cup seeding date will count toward your seeding standing.

Guidelines and Structure for seeding of each cup in the NCYSA State Cup Series are detailed in each event's Information and Rules which can be found under the DOCS&INFO page on their respective sites.

If there is a tie among teams for seeding for State Cup Purposes, the following tie breaking procedure will be used:

Tie Breaking for Seeding Purposes for State Cups:

1. Winner of head to head competition. If teams tied or split their matches, then;
2. Most wins versus common counting opponents. If still tied;
3. Goal differential (difference in goals scored and goals allowed with a max of five goals) between common counting opponents;
4. Least goals allowed against common counting opponents;
5. Coin toss by the VP of Classic, or their delegate.

The above procedures are taken one at a time until the tie is broken. If ties still exist among other teams, the process begins again with "step one".

PART 7 **MISCELLANEOUS PARTS**

Promotion and Relegation Guidelines:

The Classic program follows a Promotion and Relegation system to determine slots for all age groups 13U (after the Fall season) and up.

The most current Promotion and Relegation guidelines can be found at www.ncysaclassic.com under 'DOCS & INFO' section.

Notification to Travel/Attending a Non-Sanctioned Event:

For more information on Notification to Travel forms and Attending Non-Sanctioned Events, go to www.ncsoccer.org, go to TOURNAMENTS in the top menu.

Any questions, contact Debbie at 336-856-7529.

Discipline and Appeals:

NCYSA publishes a "Discipline and Appeals Handbook" yearly. This manual addresses the NCYSA Code of Conduct, NCYSA Appeals procedure, recruitment, and suggested discipline actions and can be downloaded from the website.

This is located at, www.ncsoccer.org, Scroll over HOME and then click on D & A.

All parents and team officials are presumed to be aware of the contents of this manual.

Southern Regional Premier League (SRPL):

The US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Premier League (SRPL) provides an opportunity for the most competitive teams in Region III to play each other on a scheduled basis. NCYSA has been a strong supporter of this highly competitive program from its inception in 2001.

All SRPL teams must still submit their Intent to Play Form (no \$90 application fee required) even if they choose to opt out of NCYSA Classic League regular season play to participate in the SRPL league.

In the event an SRPL team is not eligible to participate in the current year's program, said teams will be allowed re-entry to their currently earned NCYSA Divisional slot.

Full details on the Southern Regional Premier League can be found at the league website, including rules, application form, schedule and up-to-date results. Find their website by going to www.ncysaclassic.com, scroll over COMPETITIVE and then click on SRPL.

Establishment of Time Minimum For Newly Passed Competition Rules- *modified at Classic Council*

6/5/10

- ALL proposals for Classic Council MUST be submitted to the Assistant Director of Classic, a minimum of 30 days in advance of the next scheduled Classic Council meeting. Any proposal received less than 30 days in advance of the next scheduled Council meeting will not be considered for a vote at that meeting.
- Amendments to **competition proposals** offered at Classic Council, which are adopted by the council will cause vote on the proposal to be delayed until the next scheduled classic council meeting.
- Proposals from the floor at Classic Council meetings will not be accepted, but will be discussed under 'New Business'.
- Any competition proposal that is adopted will remain a competition rule for a period of two full Classic seasons. (15U-19U: One GIRL's season and one BOY's season constitutes two full

seasons). If a competition rule is gender specific, it shall remain in effect for two (2) full seasons regardless of age.

- It will take 65% of the *total available votes* for Classic Council to address a new competition rule prior to the completion of the two seasons. If 65% of the votes are in favor at a Classic Council meeting, then proposals to amend, change or abolish the competition rule will be open for discussion. For instance, if there are 100 available votes in Classic Council, and only 80 votes are represented in the meeting, it will still take 65 votes in order to pass.

NOTE: These rules do not apply to administrative business or proposals, discussion and decisions before Classic Council that do not address competition format or player eligibility.

PART 8
MODIFIED GUIDELINES FOR 11U AND 12U GAMES

The following was passed by the **Board of Directors at the AGM on January 4, 2004** and was taken from the minutes verbatim:

The Small Sided Committee was put together to determine the recommendations to be made to the NCYSA Recreation, Challenge and Classic Councils for 12U and below soccer. These guidelines outline various topics, which are affected by the change to small-sided games at various levels and ages. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: format, keeps, roster size, goal size, pitch size, center circle, corner arc, goal box, penalty area, penalty spot, score kept, throw in, fouls, offside, game times, number of periods, substitutions and playing time.

NOTE: *The USSF Player Development Initiative is mandated for all NCYSA programs, example – Academy, State Cups, Sanctioned Tournaments. We encourage all our membership honor the mandate.*

If a recreation association feels they need to modify the mandate, the decision to do so will rest with the recreation association.

11U & 12U Small-Sided Game Facts:

The Executive Board has agreed to the following modifications (highlighted) for USYS 11U & 12U Small-Sided Games:

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards

Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards

NCYSA Suggested Dimensions: Length – 70 yards, Width – 50 yards

If 11U& 12U modified fields are not in compliance of these small-sided dimensions, associations may be subject to loss of remaining home matches.

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen and one half (18.5) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six and one half (6.5) feet.

NCYSA Acceptable Alternative: 6x18 to 7x21 (range)

NCYSA has advised our member associations that the USSF Standards of Play for Small Sided Play will be mandatory starting with the 2017-2018 season (4 v 4, 7 v 7, 9 v 9). NCYSA ask that

the recommended goal sizes be used when replacing goals that are currently in use at our member associations. NCYSA is not asking that small sided goals currently in use, if they meet safety standards, be replaced immediately to meet the Standards of Play.

NCYSA Acceptable Alternative: If local situations dictate, both teams' players, coaches, parents and spectators can be on the same side of a field.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than nine players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: During Classic and Challenge games, players may be substituted only during certain stoppages of the game. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless the rules of a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this association specifically determine otherwise. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times: A) Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession B) Prior to a goal kick, by either team C) After an injury, by either team D) At half-time (E) Before the taking of a kick-off. *[Taken from North Carolina Youth Soccer Association Rules: Section 7, Rule 5] (Passed by the Executive Board, November 4, 2004)*

Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered referee.

NCYSA Acceptable Alternative: For all Classic play, there will be three (3) referees assigned to all matches, consisting of one center and two assistant referees. (See "Referees" for rules, and fees.) *(Passed by BOD at AGM 2/13/05)*

Law 6 –The Assistant Referee: Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen/women.

Law 7 –The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two

(2) halves of thirty minutes (30) each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 –The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 –The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 –The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 –Offside: Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 –Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

Law 13 –Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Law 14 –The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

Law 15 –The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 –The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 –The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

In addition, the maximum roster size for NCYSA games shall be 14 players.