



# RULES



**STATE  
ASSOCIATION**



**US  
YOUTH  
SOCCER**

# **NEBRASKA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES**

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# **NEBRASKA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES**

## **SECTION I. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.01 Name of League**

The name of the League shall be the "Nebraska Youth Soccer League. (NYSL)

### **1.02 Mission**

The purpose of the Nebraska Youth Soccer League is to provide all levels of membership with place to find like-minded competition in positive and developmental friendly environments. NYSL will develop this mission through and parent education as well as professional administration leadership. The mission to educate and support membership is at the core of all NYSL programming and holds true at all levels of play.

In simplest form. NYSL will be committed to getting teams good games and providing children with the opportunity to enjoy the sport of soccer, while providing the administrative support to make it easy and understandable for parents and clubs.

The goal of NYSL will always be grow the game at all levels, for players, referees, coaches, and parents.

### **1.03 Owner of League**

The NYSL is owned and operated by the Nebraska State Soccer Association, Inc. (Nebraska State Soccer). Participation in the NYSL is governed by the rules adopted by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer), US Youth Soccer and Nebraska State Soccer, except where modified below.

### **1.04 Management of League**

The NYSL shall be managed and supervised, by the League Directors with advice from State Staff, the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) and the DAC (Directors Advisory Committee)

### **1.05 Rules, Policies and Procedures**

The League Directors will have authority, subject to the provisions of the Nebraska League Charter, to promulgate all league rules, policies and procedures reasonable and necessary for the administration and growth of the NYSL.

### **1.06 Matters Not Provided For**

The League Directors shall have final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by the policies or rules.

### **1.07 Age Group Management**

Each age group will be managed and supervised by the League Directors or league staff, which will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Approving venues
2. Creating game schedules
3. Serving as the liaison with the Nebraska Referee Committee and League Referee Assignors to ensure that game officials are assigned
4. Collecting and reviewing State Association approved League Player Rosters from teams/club
5. Recording and posting of scores and standings
6. Ensuring communication of age group news and information is shared with clubs and their teams

### **1.08 Site Coordinators**

All Site Coordinators shall be approved by the League Director.

1. In cases where a participating NYSL clubs are hosting multiple games at a club site, the host club must provide a Site Coordinator for the NYSL event as needed.
2. For NYSL events hosted at a non-NYSL club complex, the League Directors, working with the complex, will determine need of a Site Coordinator for the event. If needed, the League Director will determine the Site Coordinator.

### **1.09 Site Coordinators Duties and Responsibilities**

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The Site Coordinator's duties and responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the League Director shall include but not be limited to:

1. Serve as main contact for the League Director
2. Ensure that the game fields are ready for play
3. Contact the League Director on closures
4. Completing any other duties as assigned by the League Directors.

## **1.10 Playing Seasons**

The NYSL shall operate two separate time frames to complete playing seasons. The Spring season will be played between the middle of March and early June and the Fall season will be played between August and early November. The League Directors shall determine the start and end dates of each season. Seasons may be added as needed to promote soccer state-wide.

## **1.11 Precedence of Games**

US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup) competition will have priority over NYSL games.

## **1.12 Team Rights and Privileges**

Any team in the NYSL shall have the same rights and privileges those accorded to any team playing in a league within Nebraska State Soccer. At the 13U and 14U Age Groups, team participation in the NYSL during the Spring and Fall seasons will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup). At the 15U through 18U Age Groups, team participation in the NYSL during the Fall season will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup). At the 13U age group, the NYSL results will be used for Midwest Regional Leagues (MRL) qualifying for the 14U age group the following fall. At the 15U through 18U age groups the NL results will be used with the results from Nebraska State Cup to decide MRL qualifying.

## **1.13 Contact Information and Communication**

All member clubs / teams of the NYSL shall enter contact information during the application process, this will include, but not limited to:

1. The Head Coach's name, address, cell phone numbers and valid email address; and
2. The Team Manager's or Assistant Coach name, address, cell phone numbers and valid email address.
3. The club must also verify the required contact information for their respective club. This includes the club name, email address, current mailing address and phone number for its presiding officers.

Text, email and website forms will be the primary means of communication within the NYSL. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on the team account within NYSL software.

# **SECTION II. TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

## **2.01 Team Eligibility**

Any team affiliated with Nebraska State Soccer or another US Youth Soccer State Association may apply for entry to the NYSL.

## **2.03 Good Standing**

All teams must be properly registered teams that meet the requirements for participation and are in good standing with their respective State Association.

## **2.04 Club Approval**

All teams applying for membership in the NYSL must be approved by their respective Club.

## **2.05 Structure**

The NYSL will offer competition for boys and girls age groups, including the 7U –19U age groups. For each season the League Directors will determine the number of divisions offered in each gender age group.

## **2.06 Additional League Competitions**

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NYSL will not provide facilities for scrimmages or friendlies. This is considered non-sanctioned play.

### **2.07 Application Deadlines**

All applications for participation in the NYSL must be received by the deadline established by the League Directors for each playing season.

### **2.08 Application Process**

Team Applications to participate in the NYSL must be completed online at the NYSL website by the advertised deadline by the League Directors.

### **2.09 Acceptance of Teams**

The League Directors will evaluate all applications from Club approved teams and determine final acceptance, and divisional placement into the NYSL.

### **2.10 Acceptance of NYSL Rules**

Any teams applying to play in the NYSL, agrees to accept, abide by and comply with all rules, policies, and decisions by the NYSL and/or League Director and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to the NYSL for participation.

### **2.11 Final Authority**

The League Directors after consultation with the Club shall have the final authority and right to suspend any team for violations. These violations include but are not limited to failure to play NYSL games as scheduled; failure to comply with NYSL rules; and/or failure to pay assessed NYSL fees or fines on time.

### **2.12 Fees and Other Expenses**

Each team playing in the NYSL will pay the seasonal fees established by the League Directors. The NYSL shall return any fees paid to the NYSL for any team that is not admitted into the NYSL. Teams added after registration will be subject to a late fee charge. Once the team divisions are posted on the NYSL website, the team fee for the season becomes non-refundable, which will be determined by the league directors.

The NYSL is not responsible for expenses incurred by teams through travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and other related team operating costs

## **SECTION III. TEAM ROSTERS**

**3.01 State/NYSL Team Rosters Teams must be rostered to the age group of the oldest player on the team. Teams can request to play up an age group for league play but the request application must be approved by registration deadline from the league director. Teams Request Forms are located on NYSL Webpage.**

Teams must enter an initial League Player Roster on the NYSL website by the deadline advertised by the League Directors. This roster will be checked verses the State Roster and the registration database.

The roster can be changed at any time, but a League Player Roster must be printed off prior to each game showing the active players for that game. The roster must be presented with the passes, paper or digital, to the referee during team check-in for the game. Once game time begins the roster is frozen. Only the players on the roster will be eligible to play in the game. Bring two rosters to the game, one for the referee and the other for your opponent at check-in.

### **3.02 Minimum and Maximum League Player Roster Size**

1. 7U the maximum number of active players on a League Player Roster shall be 8.
2. 8U the maximum number of active players on a League Player Roster shall be 10.
3. 9U and 10U age groups the minimum number of 9 primary players and the maximum number of players on a League Player Roster shall be 14
4. 11U and 12U age groups the minimum number of 11 primary players and the maximum number of active players on a League Player Roster shall be 18

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5. 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U or 19U age groups the minimum number of 13 primary players and the maximum number of active players on a League Player Roster shall be 18.to
6. Any exception to the league minimum or maximum should be approved by the league director prior to the league roster deadline. Exception forms are located on NYSL Webpage.

### 3.03 Member Passes

Valid Nebraska State Soccer or US Youth Soccer State Association member passes will be used for NYSL play. All passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo and be laminated or you may use Digital Passes (app) from the NYSL software.

### 3.04 Player's NYSL Participation on a Daily Basis

At no time may a player play in more than two games a day (e.g. they can play in one game for two different teams in a day).

### 3.05 Player's Rostering Limitation within an Age Group

At all age groups, players can be on a League Player Roster for more than one team within the same age group or any eligible age group (sharing of players). This will allow clubs/Directors of Coaching (DOCs) to manage player development according to their perspective/philosophy. Sharing of players and moving players will promote player development. Coaches must have the permission of their club/DOCs to share players as a Club Pass or Secondary player. Coaches/Clubs must define any limitation for play of a Secondary player. Sharing of players should be limited to a few players for each game. Any unethical issues, which would include moving players to just win a game, by a coach/club will be brought in front of the NYSL advisory board for review.

### 3.06 Club Pass/Secondary Players

Club Passing should be used on a game-by-game basis for player development, to cover player shortages, or to fill a specific need for that team.

Players in Premier I Divisions, USYS National League, or Midwest Regional League are not allowed to club pass to Premier II or a lower-level division in the same age group. However, two players in a Premier I Division are allowed to club pass from a younger age division to Premier II in an older age group.

Exceptions could be granted on a case by case situation by league director. All requests need to be emailed to the league director at least 48 hours before match is schedule.

Consequences for breaking the club pass rules will be forfeit of match in which club pass rules were abused and possible suspension from all league events.

Divisions	Number Of Players Allowed
Premier I to Premier II	None 2 Club Pass players are allowed from a younger age division
Premier I to First Division or Lower Division	None
Premier II to Premier I	4 club Pass players
Premier II to First Division Premier II to Second Division	4 club pass players 2 Club pass players
Premier II to Third Division or lower	None
First Division to Premier I and II	4 club pass players
First Division to Second Division	4 Players
First Division to Third Division	2 club players
First to Fourth Division	None
Second Division to Premier I/Premier II/First Division	4 club pass players

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Second Division to Third Division	4 Players
Second Division to Fourth Division or lower	2 club players
Third Division to Premier I/Premier II/First/Second Division	4 club pass players
Third Division and Lower Division	4 club pass players are allowed for all 3 <sup>rd</sup> division and lower

1. A Secondary Player is a player that is registered to a second team within the State Association and may be added to the League Player Roster.
2. "Stranded Players" -Stranded players will only be accepted in the Red Conference on a case-by-case basis and approved by the roster deadline date.
3. In the spring season, "trapped" 15U and 16U players may play, but the team they play on will have to be rostered to their age groups. A "trapped" player means they are an 15U/16U player but not playing high school soccer.

### SECTION IV. FORMATION OF DIVISIONS AND SUB-DIVISIONS

#### 4.01 Divisions of Competitions and Sub-Divisions

The divisions of competition may be named: Premier, Premier II, First Division, Second Division, Third Division, etc. Within each division, based on the number of teams participating in a gender/age group, the League Director may further split the teams into sub-divisions. The NYSL may conduct qualification competitions to determine placement of teams into tiers for future seasons of play.

#### 4.02 Team Selection and Division Placement including Promotion and Relegation - Premier Level

The League Director will submit a list of teams and divisions to the TAC to review prior to each seasonal year. The League Director and TAC will meet and finalize the divisions of each boys and girls age group. The process of determining the placement of teams into final placement of a team's divisions may include promotion or relegation of teams based on the finish of teams in the previous year's NYSL standings, head to head competition and Nebraska State Cup results.

At 7U through 15U age groups, teams will be placed in divisions for the Fall season and may be relegated or promoted for the Spring season. The mission of the league is to get teams of similar ability into the proper division. At the 16U, 17U, and 18U/19U age groups teams will only play the Fall season.

### SECTION V. REMOVAL OF TEAM AND NEW TEAMS

#### 5.01 Removal of Team from a Division

Teams that had previously earned placement in any division team may need to show continuity of roster to retain their slot. If the roster has a significant change from the previous season the team may be relegated.

#### 5.02 New Teams in the NYSL

New teams will be placed based on the information provided or known, but in most cases, will not be placed at the Level 1. For new Teams in the Level 2 and Level 3 teams will be placed on information provided or directive of the clubs DOC.

### SECTION VI. GAMES - OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

#### 6.01 Scoring Method

The standings of teams within divisions/sub-divisions are based upon the number of points earned. Standings will not be kept for 7U through 10U age groups. Teams earn points as follows:



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Three (3) points for a win  
One (1) point for a tie  
No (0) points for a loss  
Minus three (-3) points for a forfeit

## 6.02 Forfeits

In the event of a forfeit, the team that forfeits the game will have three (3) points deducted, and the game score will be recorded as 0-4. The opponent will be awarded three (3) points and a 4-0 win. If a team forfeits more than one game, the League Director shall review the impact that such forfeits have on the standings and may consider dropping all results by all teams versus the team that has committed forfeits from the standings. This shall only be done if forfeits have a direct impact on promotion and relegation or the team has been suspended from the league.

## 6.03 Forfeited Games

A team that forfeits a game shall be subject to the following: The team (1) shall be subject to a fine, (2) could be suspended from the league, and (3) may be relegated one division despite its finish in the standings.

## 6.04 Uneven Number of Games

If the teams in a division/sub-division do not play the same number of games due to unforeseen circumstances, not including games that teams refuse to play (i.e. forfeits), the Final Standings may be determined by using the percentage of points earned versus the maximum points the team could have earned. The League Director will also determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

## 6.05 Reporting of Scores

Head Coaches or Team Managers from both teams shall report game scores within forty-eight (48) hours on the Game Report on the NYSL website. If there is discrepancy the game will show as "contested", the League Director will use the Referee Game Report to determine the game result.

## 6.06 Tiebreakers

If two teams are tied based on points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If more than two teams are tied, Winner of head to head will not be used until a criterion creates a situation where a team or teams are eliminated. The tiebreakers are used to eliminate a team. If the elimination of more than one team creates a winner, the process is done. If two teams are still involved, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied resorts to the tiebreakers starting with Winner of Head to Head:

- a. Winner of head to head competition.
- b. Most Total Wins (all games).
- c. Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals against) in all games with a maximum of plus/minus four goals per game.
- d. Fewest goals against.

## 6.07 Uniforms

Teams playing in the NYSL are only permitted to wear the following on their game uniforms:

- a. Nebraska Youth Soccer League or affiliate (USYS National League, Nebraska State Soccer, etc) logo
- b. Their individual club and/or team logo and team sponsor logo
- c. Manufacturer of uniform logo
- d. Name and number of players

No other patches or logos (e.g. another governing body) are permitted unless written permission is granted by the League Director.

## 6.08 Number of Games

The scheduled number of games shall be determined by the League Directors based on the number of teams in a division, MRL, USYS National League and / or Midwest Conference schedules and any play-off process. League

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Directors will attempt to schedule teams for seven (7) or more games. Fees will be based off seven (7) games and no refunds will be issued for teams requesting less than 7 games.

## 6.09 Scheduling of NYSL Games

All NYSL games will be scheduled by the League Director or designee. Level 1 teams must take part in the self scheduling meeting.

## 6.10 Travel/Hosting

For NYSL competition, Notification to Travel/Permission to Travel Forms will not be required.

## 6.11 Game Schedule and Rest Periods

All games will be played as scheduled unless weather conditions dictate otherwise. It is the intent of the league to play only one game per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two games a day will be scheduled.

## 6.12 Inclement Weather

Each complex is responsible for notifying the league of Field Closure due to inclement weather as soon as possible. Field closures will be posted no later 3:30 PM on weekdays, 7:00 AM on Saturdays, and 8:30 AM on Sundays. Remember that weather can pop up at any time and the final decision to play will be made by the Referee at the game site. NYSL will follow the Nebraska State Soccer weather plan for suspending games.

# SECTION VII. RULES OF PLAY

## 7.01 Laws of the Game

Games will be played under the applicable rules of Nebraska State Soccer, US Soccer and US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the FIFA Laws of the Game as they govern play subject to the modifications noted herein. The FIFA Laws of the Game are posted in the Resources tab on the NYSL website.

## 7.02 Substitutions

Substitutions In all divisions and age groups, unlimited substitutions will be permitted. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee. Referee may limit the number of substitutions per half based on over substitution.

Level 1 and 2 - Teams are recommended to follow the league guideline for total team substitutions per half to enhance players and team development as well as better game flow for both teams. Substituted players may reenter the field of play.

7v7 Teams should substitute only 4 times per half

9v9 Teams should substitute only 5 times per half

11v11 Teams should substitute only 6 times per half

## 7.03 Game Length, Ball Size and Play Format

Age Group	Length of Half	Ball Size	# of Players on Field
7U	10 min.	3	4 v 4
8U	10 min.	3	5 v 5
*(7U/8U 4 ten min quarters with a two- minute break between quarters and a five-minute halftime)			
9U and 10U	25 min.	4	7v7
11U and 12U	30 min.	4	9v9
13U and 14U	35 min.	5	11v11
15U and 16U	40 min.	5	11v11
17U and 19U	45 min.	5	11v11

## 7.04 Field Size

Fields for all age groups must meet the FIFA requirements. The NYSL recommended field size for:

- a. 7U 1. Length: Minimum 35 yards  
Width: Minimum 25 yards

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- b. 8U 1. Length: Minimum 35 yards  
2. Width: Minimum 25 yards

- c. 9U and 10U

- 1. Length: Recommended 60 yards - minimum 55 yards maximum 65 yards.
- 2. Width: Recommended 40 yards minimum - 35 yards maximum 45 yards.

- d. 11U and 12U

- 1. Length: Recommended 75 yards - minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards.
- 2. Width: Recommended 50 yards minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards.

- e. 13U and 14U

- 1. Length: Recommended 100 yards - minimum 100 yards maximum 110 yards.
- 2. Width: Recommended 65 yards - minimum 62 yards maximum 68 yards.

- f. 15U – 19U

- 1. Length: Recommended 110 yards - minimum 105 yards maximum 120 yards.
- 2. Width: Recommended 75 yards - minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards.

### 7.05 Official Game

A game shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the game is abandoned, the entire game must be replayed, subject to NYSL review by the League Director. If a game is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the game is abandoned. If a game is abandoned for any other reason including but not limited to gross misconduct, the League Director will decide the disposition of the game score following review of all information available including but not limited to Referee Game Reports, Head Coach Game Reports, etc.

### 7.06 Forfeits - Lack of Appearance

A ten (10) minute delay in the start of a game due to the minimum number of players for a team due to lack of appearance is permitted for scheduled games before the game is abandoned. The Referee will report the Lack of Appearance to the League Director within twelve (12) hours. The League Director will determine the outcome of the game, but Lack of Appearance is normally a forfeit.

Minimum number of players to start a game:

7U – 3 players

8U – 4 players

9U/10U – 5 players

11U/12U – 6 players

13U – 19U – 7 players

### 7.07 Anchored Goals

The coaches and referees should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Games shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured with at least one anchor, if the goal cannot be anchored, the game will not be played. Ideally, there should be two anchors on each goal. In the FIFA Laws of Play – Law 5 indicates that the referee has the final determination as to properly anchored goals. NYSL will ask parent's to also check to make sure goals are anchored, if not, they should not allow their child to play. Any unanchored goals or integrity issues will be reported to League Directors by the Head Coaches in their game report and to the Referee Assignor by the Referee in their game report within twelve (12) hours. The Referee Assignor will notify the League Director.

### 7.08 League Player Rosters and Player/Bench Personnel Passes

Prior to printing the League Player Roster, the Head Coach or Team Manager must login on the website, go to "League Player Roster" and set the players participating in the next game to "Active". Once the players are set to "Active" and the Roster printed, the date is printed on the Roster. The Roster can be changed at any time before the game, but the last Roster printed will be the "Frozen" game Roster. The Roster will be available to print off up to Four (4) days prior to the game. Teams need to bring two copies of the Roster to each game. One for the referee and one for your opponent. Each team must bring their laminated Nebraska State Soccer member passes or have the app for Digital Passes and their Rosters to every game. Rosters and passes are to be given to the Referee prior to the start of a game at check-in. No more than fourteen (14) players at the 9U/10U age group, no

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more than eighteen (18) players at the 11U/12U age group and no more than eighteen (18) players at the 13U through 19U age group from a team may appear as "Active" on the Roster and play in any game.

### 7.08A League Club Rules

Club Passing should be used on a game-by-game basis for player development, to cover player shortages, or to fill a specific need for that team.

Players in Premier I Divisions, USYS National League, or Midwest Regional League are not allowed to club pass to Premier II or a lower-level division in the same age group. However, two players in a Premier I Division are allowed to club pass from a younger age division to Premier II in an older age group.

Exceptions could be granted on a case by case situation by league director. All requests need to be emailed to the league director at least 48 hours before match is schedule.

Consequences for breaking the club pass rules will be forfeit of match in which club pass rules were abused and possible suspension from all league events.

Divisions	Number Of Players Allowed
Premier I to Premier II	None 2 Club Pass players are allowed from a younger age division
Premier I to First Division or Lower Division	None
Premier II to Premier I	4 club Pass players
Premier II to First Premier II to Second	4 club pass players 2 Club pass players
Premier II to Third Division or lower	None
First Division to Premier I and II	4 club pass players
First Division to Second	4 Players
First Division to Third Division	2 club players
First to 4 <sup>th</sup>	None
Second Division to Premier I/Premier II/First Division	4 club pass players
Second Division to Third Division Second Division to Fourth Division or lower	4 Players 2 club players
Third Division to Premier I/Premier II/First/Second Division	4 club pass players
Third Division and Lower Division	4 club pass players are allowed for all 3 <sup>rd</sup> division and lower

### 7.09 Playing of Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: forfeiture of the game, a fine, suspension of the team's coach from NYSL competition, or expulsion of the team from the NYSL.

### 7.10 Member Passes Presented to Referee

At all divisions and age groups due to the unlimited substitution rule for these age groups, all passes are to be presented to the Referee prior to the game. Referees are to collect the passes for any non-participating player that is sitting on a team's bench for the game prior to the game to ensure that such players do not participate in the game. Such passes are to be returned to the team following the game.

### 7.11 Uniform Color Conflict

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The home team will be responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, if necessary, as determined by the referee. Generally, the home team shall wear a light jersey and the away team shall wear a dark jersey. A pinnie or practice bib may be used as an alternate jersey.

### **7.12 Coaching from Sidelines**

Limited coaching from inside the team's respective Technical Area is permitted. Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area. Bench Personnel may not leave their team's Technical Area or enter the field of play without permission from the Referee. If the Technical Area is not marked on the field, the technical area will extend 1 yard on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to 1 yard from the touch line. The Referee should define the Technical Area prior to the start of the game within the guidelines of this section.

### **7.12A Team Bench Supervision**

1. At all age groups and divisions, a coach assistant coach, manager or team official must supervise a NYSL team always at the Team Bench Area. Coaches, assistant coaches, managers and team officials are required to provide the Referee with a bench personnel pass certifying that the coach, manager or team official is currently rostered with the team/club. If by expulsion or emergency, a team does not have a coach, assistant coach, manager or team official to supervise the NYSL team during a NYSL game, then the game shall be abandoned and reported to the League Director. The League Director shall declare the game a forfeit.
2. All Spectators must sit on the spectator sideline only. There is also no sitting or standing behind the goal area.

### **7.13 Heading - Concussion Initiatives**

The Nebraska State Soccer Association has adopted the recommendations from US Soccer concerning concussion initiatives, including providing outreach and education to our Members. As part of this initiative, effective July 1, 2016 no intentional heading of the ball (competition or practice) will be allowed by: (1) all 11U and lower age groups regardless of the actual age of the player, and (2) all individual players 10 years or younger playing above the 11U age group. When such a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

### **7.15 Offsides**

Due to US Soccer mandates offsides will be in effect for 9U through 19U age groups.

### **7.16 Build Out Line**

Due to US Soccer mandates at the 9U/10U age group we will be using "Build Out Lines" on the fields. The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass or throw/roll the ball to a teammate (no punting or drop kicking is 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.

### **7.17 Artificial Noise Makers**

No artificial Noise Makers are allowed at or during any NYSL games. This includes but is not limited to Air Horns, Megaphones, Drums, and any electronic device that is used to make noise. If someone is using these types of devices at or during a NYSL game, they will be asked to leave the premises.

## **SECTION VIII. GAME CONTROL**

### **8.01 Three-Person System**

Games should be officiated by the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System for 11U through 19U age groups. At 7U-10U, only a center ref will be used. In the event an assigned official fails to appear by game time, one of the referees should contact the Referee Assignor for that community. If the Referee does not appear within 5 minutes of the game time the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines. US Soccer does

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NOT allow for Dual Two-person Crew. The result of the game will be considered official if there is one Certified Referee on the game.

### **8.02 Game Officials**

Games officials will be assigned under the authority of the NYSL working with Nebraska State Soccer NRDP or State Youth Referee Administrator. The NRDP and SYRA will recruit and approve the Referee Assignor in each community or region.

### **8.03 Payment of Referees**

Referees and Assistant Referees assigned under the provisions of these NYSL Rules shall be paid twice a month by the Nebraska Referee Development Program or its designee. Referee Assignors/State Referee Administrator will provide pay sheets to the League Director showing individual Referees, their pay for games called during the requested date range. The League Director will determine the dates for submittals and payments.

The league will use the Nebraska State Soccer Pay Scale advertised on the Nebraska State Soccer website. No one will submit a request for payment unless the Referee has submitted a game report on the approved referee software system.

Referees must submit a W-9 to the NRDP before they will be paid.

If fields are closed and/or games are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled game only.

### **8.04 Abandonment of Games**

Referees may abandon games for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsportsmanlike circumstances. Each coach is responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players and spectators. Upon request by the Referee or Assistant Referee, coaches are responsible to assist in the control of parents, fans, and spectators. The Referee will report the abandonment of any game to the League Director within twelve (12) hours. The League Director shall ascertain the facts and determine appropriate disciplinary action that may include:

1. Reprimand / Fine
2. Forfeiture of game as appropriate
3. Suspension from future NYSL games or
4. A more severe penalty.

If play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the League Director whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

### **8.05 Filing of Referee Game Report**

The Referee must file such Game Report on the approved referee software within twenty-four (24) hours of the game. In the event of a send-off, expulsion of bench personnel or incident, the Report must be filed within twelve (12) hours of the game. Filing shall be defined as providing pertinent game information on the Report and filling out the appropriate forms.

## **SECTION IX. SEND-OFFS, EXPULSION, INCIDENTS AND DISCIPLINE**

### **9.01 Send-Offs and Expulsions**

See Nebraska State Soccer Discipline and Procedures Policy

#### **9.01A Coaches Dismissal**

See Nebraska State Soccer Discipline and Procedures Policy

#### **9.01B Spectator dismissal**

See Nebraska State Soccer Discipline and Procedures Policy

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### **9.02 Disciplinary Actions**

See Nebraska State Soccer Discipline and Procedures Policy

### **9.03 Violation of Rules**

Any violation of the rules herein or Nebraska State Soccer rules will be subject to disciplinary action by the NYSL based on the NYSL or Nebraska State Soccer rules or governing documents.

### **9.04 Disciplinary Issues/Fines**

See Nebraska State Soccer Discipline and Procedures Policy

## **SECTION X. PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

### **10.01 Definition of a Protest**

A *Protest* is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules, policies, or procedures related to a specific game. Referee judgement (e.g. calls) decisions cannot be protested. Only those teams directly involved in a game (i.e. the two competing teams) are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, club administrators, parents, cannot file protests on a specific game.

### **10.02 Filing Procedures**

A Protest must be filed in writing and must include:

1. The nature and specifics of the complaint
2. A listing of the rules, policies, or procedures that have been violated
3. A statement of the desired resolution
4. Copies of all documents relevant to the Protest
  
5. The filing fee for a protest is \$300.00 (certified check or money order – made payable to Nebraska Youth Soccer League.)

All Protests must be filed with the League Director. The original document of the Protest along with all supporting documents, must be sent by Registered or Certified U. S. Mail – Return Receipt Requested.

### **10.03 Return of Filing Fee**

If a Protest is upheld, then the filing fee shall be returned to the entity filing the Protest; otherwise the filing fee is non-refundable.

### **10.04 Notification of Parties**

The League Directors shall notify all parties involved, no later than three (3) business days from receipt of an Protest, that an Protest has been filed.

### **10.05 Protests of Games Played**

Notice of intent to Protest activity that occurred during a game must be registered with the League Director within twenty-four (24) hours of completion of the game. All Protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee to the League Directors. The Protest must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from game completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 10.03. The Referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with the respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters are final. The League Directors are authorized to settle disputes which arise during a NYSL game. The League Director will hear the Protest, investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved related to such game and may impose appropriate sanctions for any violation found. A decision on a Protest must be made within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of a Protest. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted).

### **10.6 US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1**

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USYSA Bylaw 704, section 1 states that: "No member of USYSA, official, league, club team, player, coach, administrative, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, as provided within USYSA." Additionally, for violation of USYSA Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and/or fines, and shall be liable to the NYSL, Nebraska State Soccer and USYSA for all expenses incurred by the NYSL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following: (a) court costs; (b) attorney's fees; (c) reasonable compensation for time spent by the NYSL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; (d) travel expenses; and (e) expenses for holding special meetings by the NYSL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA necessitated by court action.



**NEBRASKA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE  
RULES**

Attachment One:



## **NYSL 7U and 8U RULES AND REGULATIONS**

<b>REFEREES</b>	Due to the referee shortage NYSL will not be assigning referees for 7U/8U, teams can play without a referee in these age groups. If a team wants to use a volunteer referee, it will be the responsibility of the home team to schedule. If a team chooses to use a volunteer to referee a game, they must be a registered member of the team/club staff or approved member that has completed all Risk Management requirements. The fees for these age groups does not include referee fees, so if a team chooses to use a referee it will be only as a volunteer - NYSL will not be paying them.
<b>NUMBER OF FIELD PLAYERS</b>	7U will consist of 4 vs. 4 field players 8U will consist of 5 vs 5 field players.
<b>ROSTER SIZE</b>	7U can have 8 players on a roster. 8U can have 10 on a roster
<b>FIELD SIZE</b>	Length: Minimum 35 yards Width: Minimum 25 yards
<b>CLUB PASS &amp; SECONDARY PLAYERS</b>	Club pass and secondary players are allowed on a team's roster if needed
<b>GAME ROSTERS</b>	Game day rosters are necessary to bring to each game and give to the opposing team check in.
<b>FLAGS</b>	None required
<b>CORNER ARC</b>	3 feet radius
<b>BALL</b>	Size 3. Home team to provide a suitable game ball
<b>GAME TIME</b>	Game consists of two equal halves of 20 minutes each. The game will be divided into 4 ten-minute quarters. There will be a 2-minute break between quarters and a 5-minute halftime break
<b>SUBSTITUTIONS</b>	Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage, with permission of the referee
<b>FIELD DIMENSIONS</b>	Rectangular between 35 yards by 25 yards. Two equal halves will divide the field

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GOAL SIZE	4 feet x 6 feet
GOAL BOX	6 feet X 12 feet
CENTER CIRCLE	5 yard radius
PENALTY AREA	None
<b>NO GOALIES</b>	All players must be field players. No defensive player is allowed to “camp out” in the goal area. Players are allowed to play in the goal box area, but no one is allowed to play goalie. Players are allowed to defend/attack the ball in the goal box then must vacate the goal box when the ball is not in the area
KICK OFF	Kick offs to start a match, restart after halftime and restart after each quarter is to be at the center circle. Teams switch sides at halftime.
BUILD-OUT LINE	Players must retreat behind the mid field line on all goal kicks
OFFSIDES	Does not apply
GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS	The ball is in play once the player taking the kick touches the ball. All defending players must be 4 yards away at the time of the corner kick
FREE KICKS	The ball is in play once the attacking player touches the ball. All defending players must be 4 yards away at the time of the kick, to include kicks when ball is played from sideline
PENALTY KICKS	There are no penalty kicks
HEADERS	Intentional headers are not permitted. A purposeful header shall result in the opposing team taking a direct free kick.
SLIDE TACKLES	Slide tackles are not permitted.
FOULS & PENALTIES	All fouls/penalties shall result in a direct free kick for the opposing team
THROW-INS	No Throw Ins. All restarts should be played by the feet as a free kick.

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EQUIPMENT	Each player must have the same color jersey. Numbers are not necessary. Pennies are allowed if needed.
JEWELRY	No jewelry of any kind is allowed. This includes taping of piercings of a player's ears
SPECTATORS	<b>NYSL asks that team spectators sit directly across from their team benches on opposites sides (touch lines) of the field. Spectators/teams should be at least 15 feet back of the touch lines. No Spectators should be behind the goal lines or goals.</b>

**NEBRASKA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE  
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Attachment Two

## **NYSL 7v7 (Ages 13U-19U 7v7)**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

REFEREES	One (1) Referee
NUMBER OF FIELD PLAYERS	7 v 7 including a Goalkeeper
ROSTER SIZE	18
FIELD SIZE	Length: Recommended 75 yards - minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards. Width: Recommended 50 yards minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards.
CLUB PASS & SECONDARY PLAYERS	This division is considered the equivalent to Third Division so all Third Division rules apply.
GAME ROSTERS	Game day rosters are necessary to bring to each game and give to the opposing team/referee during check in.
BALL	Size 5. Home team to provide a suitable game ball
SUBSTITUTIONS	Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage, with permission of the referee
GAME LENGTH	Two 35 Minute Halves
GOAL SIZE	Either 7x21 or 6x18 Size can be used
CENTER CIRCLE	10 Yard Radius
PENALTY AREA	14 Yards
GOALIES	They can only throw the ball or play the ball with their feet. They can not punt or drop kick the ball.
OFFSIDES	Follow IFAB Laws of the Game
PENALTY KICKS	Follow IFAB Laws of the Game. 10 Yards from goal line.
FOULS & PENALTIES	All Free Kicks follow IFAB Laws of the Game.