

# METRO YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



## RULES AND BYLAWS

June 2005  
Amended August 2021

# Metro Youth Soccer League

## CONSTITUTION

Last Updated August 1, 2021

### I. NAME

A. The Name of the League shall be "Metro Youth Soccer League."

### II. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of the League is to foster and promote the game of amateur soccer for in our communities. In doing so, guideline rules will be developed to guard the interest of all affiliated organizations and players and to arrange formal contests among affiliated teams. Prime consideration shall always be for the youth program.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership is open to any club which agrees to abide by the rules and meets all requirements as set forth in the By-Laws.

### IV. LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

#### A. EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. Shall consist of the following League Officers:

a) President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Games Chairperson(s), Registrar, and Referee Assignor (non- voting)

2. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

a) PRESIDENT

(1) Presiding officer at League meetings and all League affairs and activities. Shall have one vote to be cast in the event of a tie vote. Make recommendations and appointments necessary to carry out the functions of the League. Authorize expenditures not in excess of \$1,000.00. Shall represent the League at all NJYS meetings and make a report to the membership at the monthly meeting. Chairperson of Appeals Committee. The President may appoint a League Administrator, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, to assist in the daily functions of the League.

b) VICE-PRESIDENT

(1) Presiding officer in the absence of the President. Will upon request or appointment by the President head any "ad hoc" committees necessary in maintaining the proper running of the League. Will be responsible for the League insurance requirements and represent the League as an alternate delegate to the NJYS. Shall be a member of the League Appeals Committee.

c) SECRETARY

(1) To keep accurate accounts of all League meetings, minutes of which shall be mailed to all members in a timely manner. Take care of all correspondence to and from the League. Shall furnish an agenda for each meeting. Shall report clubs who miss more than one (1) meeting to the Treasurer. Shall keep an updated directory of League officers, delegates and alternates, and committee chairpersons. Shall be a member of the Games Conduct Committee.

d) TREASURER

(1) Shall collect all League monies and deposit same into League bank accounts promptly. Shall keep a detailed record of the financial status of the League and make a report at each League meeting. Co-sign approved checks with the President or any other duly authorized person. A budget, approved by the Executive Board, shall be submitted to the membership at the June meeting. A fully itemized monthly financial report shall

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be submitted at the Executive Board meeting prior to presentation to the membership at the monthly meeting. Treasurer's monthly report will emphasize League accounts payable and receivable. Will issue invoices to all clubs affiliated with the League listing all bills and charges and their due date. Items on the invoices will show amount due for: A) team registration fees; B) select team surcharge; C) annual awards dinner; D) fines and forfeits fees assessed (in consultation with the Secretary, Games Chairperson(s) and Arbitrator). Clubs will be notified of any monies due on a monthly basis. Shall be a member of the Games Conduct Committee.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- a) Be responsible and sole authority for enforcing the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the League.
- b) Decide on interpretations of the By-Laws. Shall have the power to make decisions on matters that may not be covered herein.
- c) Report all cases of violent conduct or assault on the person of a referee to the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association.
- d) Propose to the Board of Directors new programs, League activities, By-Laws changes and all it shall consider appropriate subjects for Board consideration.
- e) Take the following actions regarding Board members: Should a member of the Executive Board resign before the end of his/her term, the President shall have the power to fill the vacancy with Board approval. Any Executive Board members absent from three (3) consecutive Board meetings, without an excuse, shall be relieved of his/her duties. Vacancy shall be handled as a resignation.
- f) Executive Board members shall be bonded upon being elected to office.

### **B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Shall consist of the League's elected officers and one delegate designated from each club affiliated with the League.

#### **2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- a) Approve membership of new clubs, as per Executive Board recommendation.
- b) Approve minutes, financial reports, League budget, League activities, By-Laws amendments, and all expenditures over \$1,000.00.

#### **3. VOTING**

- a) Each member organization in good standing shall be entitled to one vote through its delegate (alternate delegate shall be recognized only when the primary delegate is absent).
- b) Executive Board members shall have no vote at Board of Directors Meeting, except for the President (to break a tie).

## **V. DISCIPLINARY ADMINISTRATION**

A. The Executive Board shall have the power to take any action to protect the best interests of the League in between Board of Directors meetings, included, but not limited to, the suspension and/or expulsion or reinstatement of any club, team, coach, player or Board member for due cause, by a three-quarter majority vote.

B. League Arbitrator shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors and shall act upon review of the reports of the referees of all League games, in accordance with the IFAB rules of the game as modified by US Soccer, USYS, NJYS, the League's own By-Laws and Rules of Competition. Shall be Chairman of the Games Conduct Committee.

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### VI. MEETINGS:

- A. All meetings of the M.Y.S.L. shall be conducted according to the form presented in Robert's Rules of Order.
- B. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall take place each year (date, time, and location to be established).
  1. A simple majority of the affiliated organizations shall constitute a quorum for the translation of business.
  2. The following order of business will be adhered to at the AGM:
    - a) Roll Call
    - b) Minutes of previous meeting
    - c) Communications Treasurer's report
    - d) Report of Committees
    - e) Unfinished business
    - f) Officers' Reports
    - g) State delegate report Honoraria
    - h) Naming of Election Chairman Release of Officers
    - i) Election of New Officers
    - j) Amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws Good of Soccer
    - k) Adjournment
  3. A \$500.00 fine may be levied against any club not represented at the AGM.
- C. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four times per year.
  1. A simple majority of affiliated clubs shall constitute a quorum.
  2. The following order of business will be adhered to:
    - a) Roll Call
    - b) Minutes of previous meeting
    - c) Communications
    - d) Treasurer's report
    - e) Officers' reports
    - f) Report of Committees
    - g) State Delegate's report
    - h) Unfinished business
    - i) New business
    - j) Good of Soccer Adjournment
  3. Each club must send a representative to every meeting; a \$100.00 fine may be levied for each absence. After three (3) consecutive absences, the club will be suspended. Suspended clubs can be reinstated by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.
  4. All business to be proposed at Board of Directors meetings by any officer must first be presented at the Executive Board meeting preceding the Board of Directors meeting.

### VII. ELECTIONS

- A. Each member organization that has been active for one (1) full year shall be eligible to nominate and vote for any position on the Executive Board.
  1. Elections for the following positions on the Executive Board will be held at the AGM each June, in the following order: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Games Chairperson(s), Registrar, Referee Assignor
  2. All officers will be elected for the period of one (1) year and may succeed themselves in the same position indefinitely.
  3. A list of Executive Board members running for re-election shall be submitted to the Delegates thirty (30) days prior to the AGM. Additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor at the appropriate time at the AGM.
  4. All nominees must be members of organizations affiliated and in good standing with the League, and have served as Delegate or Alternate on the Board of Directors or the Executive Board.

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5. Elected Officers shall not be allowed to serve on the Executive Board if their club terminates its affiliation with the League voluntarily or by expulsion.

### BY-LAWS

Updated June 2021

#### I. MEMBERSHIP

##### A. REQUIREMENTS

1. Clubs must have the following to be a member:

a) At least one (1) or two (2) teams in any of the following age groups: U8/10, U11/12, U13/14 U15/16, or U 17/18/19 U19/18/17, U16/15. Must submit rosters on request.

b) A suitable playing field which will be inspected by a League representative, prior to recommendation for vote into the League.

c) Proof of insurance meeting the minimum coverage requirements imposed by the N.J.S.Y.S.A., or agreement to buy insurance through the League, unless liability or medical or both insurances are included with the player passes, making it mandatory for all affiliated teams.

d) Written notice advising the League that the club is not suspended or awaiting suspension proceedings by any League in the State.

e) Letter of intent to abide by the League Constitution and By-laws, and to pay all registration fees, if accepted for membership in the League.

2. If all requirements are met, the Executive Board will vote to accept new club into the League. A majority vote is needed to accept the club.

B. A club approved for membership shall submit to the Secretary the name, address, and telephone number of a delegate and an alternate who will represent that club at all meetings and be the means of communication with the League. The club must also submit the name of two candidates for a referee school or that of a licensed referee willing to officiate games in the League.

C. As an emergency measure, the Executive Board may admit a club or a team for one seasonal year, with no voting rights and a signed agreement to adhere to the League Constitution and By-Laws.

D. A club wishing to withdraw from the League must do so at the AGM. Clubs who terminate their membership after the AGM shall pay a penalty of \$500 per *team*.

E. New teams entering the League are on probation for a period of one year.

F. Any member club that is guilty of serious infractions of League rules may be placed on probation for one or more years by the Executive Board. At the conclusion of the probationary period, the Board of Directors must vote whether to reinstate or expel the club from the League.

G. All clubs must designate a person to receive e-mail correspondence.

#### II. REGISTRATION

##### A. TEAM FEES

1. All clubs will pay a team registration fee as approved by the Board of Directors yearly.

a) Team Registration fees will be assessed on a per team basis, paid to NJ Youth Soccer prior to the flighting of the team in the league. All monies for U8 through U14 are due as of September 1, or each year and delinquent clubs will be declared not in good standing as of October 1, and

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b) shall be subject to punitive action and/or suspension.

c) All monies for U15 through U19 are due by December 1, and delinquent clubs shall be declared not in good standing as of January 15, and subject to punitive action and/or suspension.

### B. CUTOFF DATE

1. If the team roster is not fully completed pending registration no later than four weeks before the start of the season the team will not be flighted. Teams requesting flighting after the cut-off date shall pay an additional \$250.00 registration fee.

## III. PLAYER REGISTRATION

A. All players must be registered with NJ Youth Soccer, the League, and US Youth Soccer.

B. Each club shall be responsible for proper registration of players.

C. A team must submit a league roster that has no more than the maximum number of players defined by the NJYS Member Policies.

Age of Play	Maximum Game Day Roster Size	Minimum Game Day Roster Size	Maximum State Roster Size	Maximum Club Pass Players	Maximum Secondary Players
13U – 19U (11v11)	18	7	22	5	5
11U – 12U (9v9)	16	6	18	4	4
8U – 10U (7v7)	14	5	14	3	3*

### D. CLUB PASSES

1. A Player can be club passed to another team within the club at any flight equal to or higher than their primary team, so long as the team is at or above the player's age group.

2. Players can only be club passed, without prior approval from NJYS, to a team that is one flight lower than that of their primary team. Players from other leagues are permitted to play in the highest flight but would need permission to play in any other flight.

3. The maximum number of Club Pass players permitted to be listed on the game day roster is as follows:

a) 7v7 teams would be limited to 3 Club Pass players in a game

b) 9v9 teams would be limited to 4 Club Pass players in a game

c) 11v11 teams would be limited to 5 Club Pass players in a game

### E. SECONDARY PERMISSIONS

1. Secondary Permissions, allowing a player from a team in a different club and different NJYS member league to participate with a team in Metro Youth Soccer League, may be issued with the written consent of NJYS.

2. Secondary Permission players are not eligible to use club pass rules. The player may only participate with the team for which the secondary permission is issued.

3. Secondary Permission Passes will not be processed for the current season after week five of a season and are valid for the duration of the seasonal year (e.g., Fall permissions are valid in the Spring, and need not be submitted again).

4. Secondary Permissions are not provided to players 8U or younger.

5. The maximum number of Secondary Permission players permitted to be listed on the game day roster is as follows:

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- a) 7v7 teams would be limited to 3 Secondary Permission Pass players in a game
- b) 9v9 teams would be limited to 4 Secondary Permission Pass players in a game
- c) 11v11 teams would be limited to 5 Secondary Permission Pass players in a game

### IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. League divisional age groupings are as defined by USYS and NJYS, with January 1st of the competition year being regarded as the cutoff date. The MYSL age groups are as follows:

19U	19 and under	12U	12 and under
18U	18 and under	11U	11 and under
17U	17 and under	10U	10 and under
16U	16 and under	9U	9 and under
15U	15 and under	8U	8 and under
14U	14 and under	7U	7 and under
13U	13 and under		

B. Players may participate in only one League game on any given day; exceptions will be made for players on teams participating in tournaments or tie-breaker games.

C. When clubs have more than one team in each Division, players may not cross over from one team to another.

D. Players can play up on tie breakers and playoffs, in accordance with By-Laws IV.Band IV.C.

### V. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

#### A. FIELDS

1. The home club will provide suitable fields, marked and cleared of debris. Goalposts, nets and corner flags must be provided. The home club will have choice of touchlines for its team(s) and spectators. No one shall be allowed behind the goal line.

#### B. FIELD CONDITIONS

1. The day of the game the home club delegate will check the conditions of the field. If it is unplayable, the Games Chairperson(s) and the Referee Assign must be notified at least three (3) hours before game time; home field will be reversed if the opponent's field is available and playable. If so decided, League officials will notify all clubs involved. Otherwise, both teams must appear as scheduled, along with the referee. The decision on field conditions will then be the referee's.

2. Clubs that are not allowed by city ordinance to play on their field within 24 hours of inclement weather must switch the game to the opponent's field, if available and playable.

#### C. REFEREE FEES

1. Both clubs are responsible for splitting the referee fees 50/50. Payment of such fees is to be made prior to the start of the game

2. The Board of Directors shall set referee fees at the beginning each seasonal year. The fees are currently as follows:

Age Group	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee (x2)
17U-19U	\$90	\$50
13U-16U	\$80	\$45
11U-12U	\$70	\$40
8U-10U	\$60	\$35

D. Each club is expected to supply at least one referee per team to the League per seasonal year.

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### **E. BEHAVIOR OF COACHES AND SPECTATORS**

1. A club whose coach refuses to complete a game and withdraws his/her team from the pitch for reasons deemed not sufficient justification for such act, shall be fined \$100.00 and shall forfeit the game.
2. Coaches are to remain within 10 yards of the midfield line while the game is in progress.
3. Any team whose coaches, officials or players have been found guilty by the League of poaching or use of illegal player(s) shall be prohibited from being declared division or conference champion and shall not be allowed to participate in Cup play. If a team guilty of one of these offenses finishes in first place, the team with the next highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
4. Coaches are responsible for their own conduct and that of their players and spectators. Misconduct by parents and/or spectators will be referred to the league for disciplinary action.
5. Misconduct Toward Game Officials (e.g. Referee Abuse and Assault) is not tolerated and will be referred to the NJYS Appeals and Discipline Committee for sanctions.
6. All parents and spectators will remain on the spectator sideline during the match and until such time as the coaches have released the players after the match and referees have vacated the field of play. Failure to remain off the field of play until such time will result in a send-off for the coach and possible forfeit of the match.
7. Coaching is only permitted from inside the technical area. Coaches are not permitted to coach from the spectators' side of the field and may not use electronic communication during the match.
8. Disruption of a game by a spectator may result in a fine and other discipline against the offending team at the discretion of the Arbitrator.
9. Coaches are primarily responsible for the conduct of their respective players and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated TOWARD ANYONE. The referees should be instructed to caution coaches for their own, or their spectators' unsportsmanlike conduct. In the event that a coach and or the spectators persist after a caution, the referee shall issue a red card to the coach and abandon the game if he/she feels that the situation is out of control. In the event a suitable carded coach is unavailable to take over for the red carded coach the game shall be abandoned. A referee does not have to issue a caution or warning before issuing a red card or abandoning a game. (added August 2006)

### **F. NOTIFICATION OF NUMBER OF TEAMS**

1. A club that enters a team for an upcoming season and withdraws that team after the Games Chairperson makes the season schedule may be subject to a \$500 fine per withdrawn team.

## **VI. COACH ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Per NJYS policy, each Travel coach must present to the referee a valid NJYSA Coach pass prior to participating in any NJYSA sanctioned event or competition. Coaches without a pass or who do not present a valid pass (e.g. missing photograph) are ineligible to participate in a game and may be subject to sanctions.

## **VII. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. A team must have a minimum of (7) players on the field to start a game, if not, it shall be reported to the League Arbitrator for action and forfeit of the game. No team shall be allowed to continue to play when reduced to less than seven (7) players on the field. A small-sided team must have a minimum of five (5) players to start or continue a game.

### **B. STARTING TIME**

1. The visiting team will be allowed a 15-minute starting time grace period. There is NO grace period for the home team.
2. In the event that neither team appears to a scheduled game, and, in the opinion of the referee, the grounds are playable, each team shall be reported to the League Arbitrator for action and possible forfeit.



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### C. GAME BALLS

1. Each team must have at least one game ball ready at game time. Referee will pick the best one to start the game with. Sizes are specified in the rules of the game. The use of a ball of different size than required will not be reason for protest.

### D. UNIFORMS

1. When two teams have similar color uniforms, the home team must have alternate uniforms available (T-shirts, vests, etc. will be acceptable).

## VIII. FINES

A. The League reserves the right to levy fines on member organizations for infringements and violations of the rules and By-Laws. Fines should be set by the Executive Board but may be imposed by the Arbitrator or Games Conduct Committee. Fines that involve player or coach passes must be paid before the pass will be released. All other fines must be paid within thirty (30) days or before the start of the next General Meeting, whichever is earlier. Unpaid fines incurred by teams that leave the League will be reported to the NJYS. for collection.

### B. FORFEITS

1. A team that does not show up for a scheduled game may be fined \$150.00 plus referee fees. The team will also forfeit the game.
2. A team which refuses to complete a game and withdraws from the field shall forfeit the game, and the parent club may be fined up to \$200.00 plus referee fees.

### C. POACHING

1. Per NJYS, member playing policy 5.3, poaching is actively encouraging a player to leave his/her current team or club to join another team through his/her own actions, or those of players, parents or others associated with a team or club the Coach is affiliated with within the same seasonal year. All coaches at all levels are prohibited from recruiting Youth Players from any team or club within NJYSA once a seasonal year has started. Complaints regarding allegations of poaching should be reported to NJYSA and may result in sanctions against the Coach and may be considered prior to a Travel Player request to transfer or be released.

### D. REPORTING SCORES

1. Any club not posting scores of home games on the web site or calling/e-mailing those scores to the appropriate Games Chairperson 24 hours after game day be fined \$50.00. This only applies to 11U and older teams as scores and standings are not posted for 10U and younger.

### E. PAYMENT OF FINES

1. All fines are due as indicated from receipt of League notification. Delinquent clubs will not be allowed to participate in any League function and will forfeit its next scheduled game(s). Hardship cases will be reviewed by the Executive Board and its recommendations will be reported to the Board of Directors. In an appeal case, any fines due are to be attached to the appeal letter. (modified September 21, 2009)

### F. WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE

1. Any team that drops out of the League after flighting is completed maybe fined \$500.

### G. GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

1. Any team that scores more than a six (6) goal differential at the conclusion of a scheduled game shall be subject to the following:
  - a) First Time: The coach is to be counseled by his/her club Representative, who will make a complete report to the League Arbitrator on the substance of said counseling.
  - b) Second Time: The coach(s) will be required to appear before the Board and may be subject to a fine of \$200.00 and/or additional penalties.

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### H. COACH MISCONDUCT

1. Any coach who enters the field of play without the referee's permission to argue or discuss a referee's call, shall be issued a red card and will be automatically suspended for three games and fined \$100.
2. A coach who is issued a red card shall be fined \$100, and the infraction will be reviewed by the League Arbitrator or NJYS. If warranted, the League Arbitrator or NJYS may impose additional disciplinary action including suspension or additional fines.

### I. PLAYER MISCONDUCT

1. Players and/or coaches may be sent off from a match for offenses listed in the Laws of the Game. MYSL will issue a minimum suspension for the offenses below:

<b>Send-Off Offense (Red Card)</b>	<b>Minimum Penalty</b>
Second Caution in the Same Match	1 game
Denying a goal an Obvious goal Scoring Opportunity by Offense other than Handling	1 game
Denying a Goal or an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity by Handling	1 game
Serious Foul Play	2 games
Offensive, insulting, abusive language, and/or Gestures	2 games
Violent Conduct	3 games
Spitting or Biting	3 games

2. A second infringement of any of the above may result in a hearing before the Games Conduct Committee for determining further disciplinary action. Disciplinary action that results in a suspension of more than five games must be ratified by the Board. A player suspension shall begin at the following scheduled league game.
3. Suspensions will carry over to the following seasonal year if not completed in the current seasonal year.

## IX. REFEREES

A. Referees must be licensed and carry a current U.S.S.F. registration card. This card must be available upon request of either coach prior to the game. Referees certified by an authority other than the U.S.S.F. must be approved by the Referee Assignor.

1. The Referee Assignor assigns referees to all the League games.
2. A referee assigned to officiate a game may not be affiliated in any capacity with the participating clubs' soccer program.
3. All referees will file reports on the games they officiate.
4. Referees will follow IFAB rules of play as modified by agreement of the League.
5. Referees shall instruct linesmen of their duties. Shall strive to have games started on time, as scheduled.
6. If the Referees do not show up then the game shall be given the same consideration as with a weather cancellation. The teams will have 3 weeks to play the game (or by end of season whichever comes first), but in this instance the game reverts to the away teams fields, with the original home team still paying the referee fees and the away team Referee Assignor earning the game assignment fees.
7. The delegate of the home team must notify the Referee Assignor that no referee showed up for the game. It should also be noted that there was no referee when the game scores are reported.
8. Referee fees will be set by the League.

## X. PROTEST AND APPEALS

A. All protests must be mailed to the Arbitrator from the delegate of the protesting club with a \$300.00 fee payable

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to the League; fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. Protests must be postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game in question. Reason(s) for the protest(s) must be specified.

B. Appeals of decisions of the League may be appealed to NJYS.

### **XI. COMMITTEES**

#### **A. APPEALS COMMITTEE**

1. Will entertain any appeals that may arise from a Games Conduct Committee decision.
2. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the following members: Arbitrator as chair, President, and Secretary.
3. Any member of the Appeals Committee whose parent organization is involved in a dispute under consideration will disqualify himself/herself from the case in question.
4. Appeals of the Appeals Committee decisions must be submitted to the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association.
5. If the appeal is successful, Committee will refund all fees and fines paid.

### **XII. FUNDS**

A. The Treasurer shall maintain at least one (1) bank account (and such other accounts as directed by the Executive Board).

### **XIII. SCHEDULE RATIFICATION & CHANGES**

A. The League recognizes inclement weather and State Cup matches as the only recurring valid reasons for not playing a match as scheduled. From season to season, however, special circumstances may occur that warrant a league supported rescheduling of a match. Major religious holidays or ceremonies are examples. It is the responsibility of the Club with teams affected by such occurrences to notify the Second Vice President (Games Commissioner) in writing, not less than one (1) month before a scheduled match of the impending schedule conflict. The Board will then coordinate schedule revisions. Failure to notify the Games Commissioner will place the team(s) requesting the change at risk.

B. In the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather, the home team is responsible to notify the visitor and the Referee Assigner at least two (2) hours before the time of the first scheduled game. (Notification after this time will require payment of the referee fees for the first game.)

C. All cancellations for reasons other than inclement weather which are made after 9pm the Sunday prior (7 days prior) to the scheduled date will be subject to payment of the referee fees for both the originally scheduled match and the eventual match. Only the area Referee Assigner can waive payment of the referee fees on any cancellations for which referee had already been assigned.

D. All cancellations must be reported by the Home Team coach to the Games Commissioner via email by 8:00pm of the game day. Give reasons, i.e. bad weather, state cup, conflict, etc. by 8:00 PM of the game day. Give reasons, i.e. bad weather, state cup, conflict, etc.

E. A postponed/canceled game must be played within three (3) weeks of the originally scheduled time. If the game is not made up within this time period, it will be recorded as un-played (NO GAME) and cannot be made up. Additionally, all games must be completed by the date shown on the schedule for each Division as the final date for completion of divisional play.

F. Any team which forfeits a game shall be responsible for payment of the referee fees for that game.

G. If the teams involved cannot agree on a date and time for a make-up game within the three (3) week period, they should contact the Games Commissioner for resolution. If either team fails to show up for a Board scheduled game, the result will be recorded as a forfeit.

H. If 50% or more of a game is completed and then ended pre-maturely due to weather, the result of the game shall stand as final. If less than 50% of a game is completed and ended early, then the game shall restart at the other team's home field and referee fees will still be responsibility of the original home team.

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### **XIV. AMENDMENTS**

- A. Amendments to these By-Laws will only be allowed at the Annual General Meeting.
- B. All proposed By-Laws amendments must be submitted to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting scheduled for consideration of such changes. All member organizations will be sent a copy prior to that meeting.
- C. The approval of any amendment to these By-Laws shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
- D. All approved amendments become effective with the closing of the meeting wherein they are adopted.
- E. Amendments to the Standing Rules may be adopted at any meeting

## **RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

All League games shall be played under the rules set by IFAB and modified by the NJYS for modifications for rules of the game.

### **I. GAME PLAY DURATION AND BALL SPECIFICATION**

A. The table below indicates the duration of the match, halftime, overtime periods, and size of the ball by age group:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Halftime</b>	<b>Ball Size</b>
17U, 18U and 19U (11v11)	Two [2]-45-minute halves	10 min	5
15U, 16U (11v11)	Two [2]-40-minute halves	10 min	5
13U, 14U (11v11)	Two [2]-35-minute halves	5 min	5
11U, 12U (9v9)	Two [2]-30-minute halves	5 min	4
8U-10U (7v7)	Two [2]-25-minute halves	5 min	4

### **II. SUBSTITUTIONS**

A. Unlimited substitutions can occur at any stoppage in play with the permission of the referee.

### **III. SUSPECTED HEAD INJURIES**

A. If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, he/she must be evaluated.

B. MYSL recommends the player receive professional medical clearance prior to returning to play.

C. The referee must report all suspected head injuries as an apparent serious injury through the appropriate game report.

### **IV. HYDRATION BREAKS**

A. Prior to the match's start, the referee will decide to implement a hydration break when the heat index is above 85 degrees at game time.

B. The break occurs at the midpoint of each half and at the end of each overtime period (if played).

C. The break will be given at a normal stoppage of play, and all players must remain on the field.

### **V. DELIBERATE HEADING (8U-11U AGE GROUPS)**

A. Players in U11 and younger age groups may not deliberately head the ball.

B. If a player deliberately heads the ball and the ball remains in play, the referee will immediately stop play and restart with an indirect free kick.

C. If a player deliberately heads the ball and the ball immediately goes out of play, the referee will restart in accordance as to how the ball went out of play (throw-in, goal kick, corner kick).

D. If a player is inadvertently struck in the head with the ball, there is no rule infraction. However, if the referee deems the player to be injured the referee will immediately stop play, have the player removed and restart with a drop ball.

### **VI. BUILDOUT LINE (8U-10U AGE GROUPS)**

A. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must

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move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play (restart is an indirect free kick for the opposing team if there is an infraction).

B. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed and the restart is an indirect free kick taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred).

C. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

D. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play (kicked and moved).

E. Ideally the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line.

F. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

G. To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play.

H. Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players

I. Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate

J. Referees should be flexible when enforcing the six second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.

K. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during defensive direct or indirect kicks taken from inside the penalty area.

### **VII. OFFSIDE (8U-10U AGE GROUPS)**

A. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the midfield line and the build out line

B. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the opposing goal line

### **VIII. PUNTING (8U-12U AGE GROUPS)**

A. Punting is not allowed in the 8U-10U age groups.

B. Punting is allowed in the 11U-12U age groups; however, once punted the ball cannot land in the penalty area of the opposing team from the air. If the ball does then an indirect free kick should be taken on the penalty area line where the ball crossed into the penalty area.

### **IX. PASSES**

A. Coach passes, player passes, and team rosters must be presented to the referee before the start of the game.

B. No player will be allowed to play if not in possession of a valid player pass.

C. In emergency cases, team passes may be presented before the start of the second half of a scheduled game.

### **X. REPORTING OF SEND-OFFS BY THE REFEREE**

A. In the event of a send-off, the referee shall forward a report of the game and a detailed explanation of the cause of the send-off to the League Arbitrator within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

B. The Arbitrator will notify club of sent-off player of the length of his suspension if it falls within the guidelines for automatic suspension. In more severe cases, the Arbitrator shall convene the Games Conduct Committee.

### **XI. ABANDONED GAMES**

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A. Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it will be at the discretion of NJYS as to whether the game is to be replayed or forfeited.

B. First Half Completed – Neither Team at Fault

1. Unfinished games due to any cause will ***not*** be replayed, provided neither team is at fault, and the first half has been completed.

C. First Half Not Completed – Neither Team at Fault

1. If the first half has not been completed and provided neither team is at fault, NJYS will determine the appropriate action.

## XII. TIE BREAKERS

A. The following procedure will be used to break any ties in Division standings:

1. Division standings will be kept on an accumulated points system: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, no points for a loss. If two teams are tied in points at the end of the season, placement will be determined by the following:

a) Head-to-Head competition

b) Least Losses

c) Most Wins

d) Least Red Cards

2. If two teams are tied for first place after the above four (4) tie breakers, then both teams will be declared as co-champs and NO second-place award will be given.

3. All other ties are determined by the same four (4) tie breakers as for first place if a tie still exists the head-to-head goal differential (least goals against each other) will determine placement. In the case of a three (3) way tie head-to-head will be disregarded and all other tie breakers will prevail.

**STANDING LEAGUE RULES**

1. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times per year, one of which will be the AGM.
2. Minutes of all meetings will be distributed to all affiliated clubs and to members of the Executive Board in a timely manner.
3. A quorum for all meetings shall be constituted by the majority of the affiliated clubs of the League.