

# **2025 North Reading Youth Soccer**

## **Fall Kickoff Classic – Rules**

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The 2024 Fall Kick-Off Classic follows the FIFA Laws of the Game as amended by the Rules of Local Competition for the Essex County Youth Soccer Association (ECYSA) and further amended or clarified below.

### **GAME PLAY RULES**

1. Size of the Ball:
  - U10 and U12 divisions will use a #4 size ball
  - Grades 7 and 8 will use a #5 size ball
2. Game Length:
  - All divisions will have two 25-minute halves
3. Substitutions may be made by either team, after proper notification to the referee, at any of the following times:
  - At half-time
  - After a goal is scored
  - Prior to a goal kick
  - Prior to a throw-in, provided the team taking the throw substitutes first
  - After an injury for the player involved (only the injured player may be substituted)
4. All players must wear shin guards.
5. No jewelry of any kind will be allowed.
6. No casts of any kind will be allowed.
7. Opposing teams will remain on the same side of the field during the games. Families, friends, accompanying parties, and other spectators must be on the opposite side of the field. Spectators are not allowed at the goal lines.
8. Failure to place the required minimum number of players on the field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time will result in a game forfeit to the opponent with a score of 1-0.
9. Protests will not be considered.

## TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION RULES

1. All team rosters and Medical Liability Release forms must be submitted to the NRFKC Committee prior to the beginning of the tournament. Teams that do not provide certified rosters will not be allowed to play and forfeit their registration fee. Out of state teams must provide written Permission to Travel forms from their respective state associations.
2. Players can only play for one team in the Classic. Failure to comply with these rules results in a forfeiture of any games played.
3. The first team listed in each game-pairing on the schedule will be considered the home team and will be responsible for wearing alternate-colored jerseys when and if they are required.
4. Any player or coach ejected from any game shall be ineligible to appear in his or her team's next game. The NRFKC Committee may determine if other action is warranted. The NRFKC Committee shall notify the ejected player or coach's local and state youth soccer association of the ejection.
5. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any of the NRFKC sites. Violators will be asked by the Field Marshals or Police to leave the venue.
6. In the event of conditions beyond the control of the NRFKC Committee, final decisions with respect to game cancellation or termination shall lie solely with the NRFKC Committee.
7. Patches or pins are to be exchanged by players and coaches after each game.
8. Coaches and players must report to the designated Field Marshall 15 minutes prior to each game.
9. Rain/Inclement weather: The NRFKC Committee will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all games are played during the weekend. In the event of inclement weather or other safety hazards, the NRFKC Committee will make the decision to change, delay, reduce the length of games, count partially completed games or cancel games. If lightening or thunder is detected there will be a ½ hour delay after the last lightning or thunder is detected in the area, teams must leave the field, but be ready and stay in the area. Only the Referee, Field Marshall or NRFKC Committee can cancel or postpone a game. If games are canceled, the NRFKC Committee, at its sole discretion, shall determine the winners based on games already played.
10. The Classic has been organized to promote healthy competition between players in the game of soccer. It is hoped that all participants, including players, coaches, and fans will join in the positive support of referees and officials. Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the behavior of their players and fans. The NRFKC Committee reserves

the right to disqualify a team from the Classic for gross misconduct on the part of any or all of its coaches, players, and/or fans. The decision of the NRFKC Committee shall be final.

### **ADDITIONAL U10 (GRADES 3 AND 4) RULES**

1. Play 7v7 with the maximum number of players on any team's roster 14.
2. The minimum number of field players is five (5).
3. Penalty kicks are not used. If the defending team commits a foul or misconduct in its own penalty area, the free kick shall be taken on the 14-yard line at the spot nearest where the infraction occurred.
4. Offside will be enforced inside the attacking 14-yard line.
5. Goalkeepers may not distribute the ball (by kicking, throwing, or punting) past the halfway line.
6. Heading or attempting to head the ball is not permitted.

### **ADDITIONAL U12 (GRADES 5 AND 6) RULES**

1. Play 9v9 with the maximum number of players on any team's roster 16.
2. The minimum number of players is six (6).
3. Heading or attempting to head the ball is not permitted

### **ADDITIONAL U14 (GRADES 7 AND 8) RULES**

1. Play 11v11 with the maximum number of players on any team's roster 22.
2. The minimum number of players is seven (7).

### **FORMAT – U10 DIVISION**

1. All Grade 4 teams participating in the 2025 Fall Kickoff Classic will play a minimum of three games with a possibility of a fourth game during the weekend.
2. All players will receive a participation award.

## **FORMAT - U12 AND U14 DIVISIONS**

The 2024 Fall Kickoff Classic will consist of two (2) rounds as follows:

### **Preliminary Round**

1. Teams will be placed in 3, 4, or 5 team brackets. In brackets with 4 or 5 teams, each team will play every opponent once for a total of 3 or 4 games. In brackets with 3 teams, each team will either play every opponent once for a total of 2 games, plus 1 or 2 additional cross-over games with an opponent in a different bracket. Alternatively, each team in a 3-team bracket may play every opponent twice for a total of 4 games.
2. The NRFKC Committee will determine the number of divisions of competition to create, based on the number of teams and other factors. The number of teams continuing to the Championship round will be based on the number of entries and is at the sole discretion of the NRFKC Committee.
3. Scoring: Each team will receive three (3) points for a win; one (1) point for a tie; and no points for a loss. Teams will also receive one (1) point for a shutout, and one (1) point for every goal scored in a game (up to 3 goals).
  - Coaches should verify scores by the end of each day. Discrepancies or inquiries need to be made to the NRFKC Committee or the Official Scorer by the end of each day.
  - Game scores will be posted. The official scorer reserves the right to post game scores only showing the maximum 3 goal differential – (the maximum goal differential used to determine preliminary round bracket winners).
4. In the case of a tie in total points, the following criteria will be used (decisions of the NRFKC Committee are final):
  - a) Result of head-to-head competition.
  - b) Fewest goals allowed.
  - c) Most shutouts.
  - d) Goal differential
  - e) A coin toss.

### **Championship Round**

The division finalists will play under "Elimination Rules" for a first-place cup. These teams will have their team's name placed on the Fall Kickoff Classic Winners web page.

1. Championship round games will have two 25-minute halves.
2. If games are tied after regulation play, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine a winner.

3. Only those players on the field of play at the conclusion of regulation play may take penalty kicks.