

Tonawanda Soccer Club House League Rules:

Reminder, this is a recreational league. We promote sportsmanship, personal growth and player development above competition. The below rules are to ensure matches are safe, fun, and good for player development.

The rules of USYSA will govern all play except as modified by this League.

Game lengths

Lower house: 50 minutes, consisting of 4 11 minute quarters, Upper house: 60 minutes, consisting of two 28 minute halves, Premier: 60 minutes consisting of two 28 minute halves.

In the event of a late start due to severe weather conditions, the referee will consult both coaches regarding playing shorter periods. Game lengths may also be altered at the discretion and agreement of all coaches and referees, or by declaration from club officials in the event of extreme heat, poor air quality, or other environmental conditions.

Players in the field:

Lower house: 6 players per team, no goalie. 1 Coach/ team is allowed on the field to guide players

Upper house: 8 players, including one goalie who shall wear something to distinguish themselves from the outfield players.

Premier: 11 players, including one goalie who shall wear something to distinguish themselves from the outfield players.

Players are expected to adhere to the following criteria:

- Be a rostered individual on the team they are playing (no guest players in this league.)
- Wear a jersey color that matches their team.
- Wear appropriate and safe footwear (no open toe shoes, no cleats with metal spikes, no steel toe boots.)
- Wear shinguards at any time they are on the field of play.
- NO JEWELRY of any kind. All jewelry must be removed before entering the field of play. This includes bracelets, necklaces, earrings, watches, rings, etc.

Both teams must have a bench area on the same side of the field to ease substitutions. Parents and spectators are to sit on the opposite side as the players.

Balls shall be provided by the home club team and are subject to approval of the referee.

Lower house shall use a size 3 ball, Upper house shall use a size 4 ball., Premier shall use a size 5 ball.

Unlimited substitutes for a team can be made as per USYSA rules. Players may be substituted and re-substituted as frequently as desired with the consent of the referee per FIFA Laws of the Game. Substitutes must wait at the midline and be acknowledged by the referee before entering the game.

When a player is sent off the field due to a red card, the referee must report the details in the game report.

In the event that a game is not completed due to inclement weather or unplayable conditions, it will be considered an official match if the first half of play has been completed. If the game is not deemed completed, the match may be replayed in its entirety. A TSC Administrator shall review and make a determination regarding the rescheduling of any match which was not completed for any non-weather related reason.

If lightning or thunder occurs during the match, all players and coaches will leave the field and find a safe place to wait. The referee may restart the match after 30 minutes of clear weather. If the lightning continues and there is inadequate time to finish the game, the referee may abandon the match.

Per USYSA guidelines for 8 and Under and 10 and Under games (Upper House), when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in his or her hands, the following procedure for live play shall be followed: The opposing team must move behind the build out line and remain behind the build out line until the ball is in play. The ball is considered to be in play once the goalkeeper either throws, kicks or otherwise releases the ball

Referees shall remain on the field at the conclusion of the game to observe the handshake between players. Referees are allowed to issue yellow or red cards to players during the handshake for unsporting behavior or violent conduct.

Disciplining Players, Coaches, Club Teams and Clubs:

A player who receives a yellow card may be immediately substituted upon receiving the yellow card except when such action results in a reduction of the number of players on the field to less than the minimum allowed.

A player who has accumulated 3 yellow cards in the playing season will be suspended for one game immediately following the issuance of the third card in the playing season. In addition, the League Disciplinarian will review players who accumulate six or more cards during the season for any additional action that may be deemed necessary. When two yellow cards are given in the same game and thus become a red card for that game, those yellow cards will not be counted toward this policy. 3. A player issued a Red Card or 2 yellow cards on the field shall be automatically and immediately suspended for the following minimum durations: First Offense Minimum two game suspension Second Offense Minimum four game suspension Third Offense Minimum twelve month suspension

Goalies (Lower House):

Goalies are not permitted at the Lower House Levels, meaning no player can use their hands to prevent a goal. Players are not allowed to stand directly inside the net, and coaches must do their best to encourage players to stay outside of the goalie box when the ball is not in their half. Players are allowed inside the goalie box when defending, but coaches should do their best to ensure all players are physically outside of the net and no more than one defender is directly in front of the net (within 1 foot) at any time.

Throw ins:

Throw Ins must consist of the following criteria to be considered a valid throw in:

- ball must come from outside the touchline and enter into the field of play.
- throwing players must use two hands and bring the ball from behind their head, throwing forward.
- throwing players must keep both feet on the ground during the process of throwing the ball in.
- Lower House players are allowed unlimited attempts to complete a proper throw in. Upper House players are allowed one re-do per player per game if they do not successfully execute a throw in on the first attempt. Premier league players will not be given other attempts, and an improper throw in will result in a turn over.

Offside:

The offside law shall apply as usual in the upper house and premier league. Lower House will not adhere to this Law of the Game. For the Upper House, the rule will be enforced only if egregious in the first half of the season, but will be fully enforced during the second half of the season.

Starting Play:

At the start of the game, a half, or after a goal is scored, the play will start in the middle of the field. The team in possession is allowed 3 players in the circle and no players from the opposing team are allowed in the middle circle to start. The starting play may be forward or backwards and does not have to go to a player inside the circle. The player who makes the starting contact with the ball is not allowed to touch the ball a second time until another player has touched it. The starting kickoff is considered a direct kick.

Goal Kicks:

Goalies are not required to take the goal kicks, any player may do so. Only the goalie and the player taking the goal kick are allowed inside the 18 yard box. All other players on both teams must be outside the 18 yard box. The goal kick must leave the 18 yard box before any other players are allowed to touch it.

- For the Upper House, the non-kicking team must back up behind the build out line for goal kicks. The kicking team is allowed in front of the build out line, but still needs to be outside of the 18 yard box unless they are the kicker/ goalie. As soon as the goal kick is made, the opposing team may cross the build out line.
- For Lower House Teams, players of the opposing teams should be at least 10 feet from the goal kick or the corner kick, and should give the kicking team room to get the play off.

Sportsmanship Rule: If a team is down by 4 points, the losing team is allowed to play one extra player on the field. When the point deficit shrinks to 3, the additional player is removed.

Build out line (Upper House): When the goalie has the ball or for goal kicks, the opposing team must retreat to behind the build out line. When the ball is put back in to play, they are allowed past the build out line again

Teams should switch sides at the half at all levels.

Hand Balls:

A Hand Ball violation may be called any time a player other than the goalie touches the ball with their arm below the shoulder. Hand ball violations may be called if: a player intentionally makes contact with the ball with their arm, the execution of the hand ball violation results in an advantage for the offending team, the arm is in an unnatural position when it is hit by the ball, or at any time by at the discretion of the referee. The game may be allowed to continue without a call following a handball violation if: a player used their arms/hands to protect their face/body (this again is at the discretion of the ref, players are encouraged to use their chests to collect balls when possible. Intentionally using your hands when the ball could have been taken with proper chest technique may still result in a call), the ball accidentally makes contact with a player below the shoulder while their arm is in a natural position and no advantage is given, and/or the team that did not commit the handball violation maintains possession of the ball and keeps their advantage. All hand ball calls are made at the discretion of the referee.

Playing Time:

At all levels, playing time should be roughly equal for all players, regardless of skill, experience, or practice attendance. Unequal playing time may be permitted on the grounds of disciplinary reasons, injury or illness, or for goalies if there are no other players who wish to take upon that position. Players should gain experience playing multiple positions throughout the course of the season, and should not be locked in to a singular position all season.

Referee Interactions:

All spectators, players, and coaches must respect the authority of the referees at all times during the games. Referees may be asked questions or for clarifications by coaches, but coaches are not to argue with the calls of the referees. Referee instructions are to be followed at all times.

The initiation and enforcement of rules based or disciplinary calls is made at the discretion of the referees. The above list includes some of the rules and nuances of soccer. For a full list, please reference USYSA guidelines.