

Coaches and Parents Handbook

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BACKGROUND

North Area Youth Soccer Association (NAYSA) was formed in 1983 by parents interested in providing RECREATIONAL soccer to central New York. The Association has offered thousands of children the chance to participate in a reasonably priced outdoor soccer program. Parents/guardians of all participants are automatically considered Trustees of the Association. The ages served by the Association are 5 through 18. To participate the child must be 5 by July 1st (July 1st is used as a cut-off date for

each division) of the current season and no older than 18 and in high school by the end of the season. NAYSA offers five divisions; a 6&Under (Instructional) Division, 8&Under, 10&Under, 13&Under and 14&Over. The focus of all divisions is teaching the children the game of soccer and skill development.

The Association is governed by a Board of Directors. Board consists of eight to twelve people willing to volunteer for a two-year term of office. NAYSA is an independent organization and will always stay independent. NAYSA carries general liability insurance. All coaches, players, spectators, referees and directors are covered. Please contact either the President or Vice-President of NAYSA if a claim is to be filed.

NAYSA PHILOSOPHY

TO TEACH THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY:

- BASIC SOCCER SKILLS
- SPORTSMANSHIP
- TEAMWORK
- AND TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN!

COACH SELECTION CRITERIA

All coaches must be at least 18 years of age. In order to respect and thank coaches for their past participation, NAYSA has established criteria to be used in the selection of coaches. In the event the number of coaches available exceeds the number of positions available, the following criteria shall be used for selection:

- a) Coach with child in the division,
- b) Number of teams already coaching,
- c) Years of experience as a NAYSA head coach,
- d) Years of experience as a NAYSA assistant coach, and
- e) Years of experience coaching in preferred division

Note: The NAYSA Board reserves the right to remove from consideration any person who registers to coach.

RULES FOR NAYSA COACHES

- Foster the philosophy of NAYSA - teamwork, sportsmanship and skill development. Discourage excessive competitiveness. The object of the game at this level is to TEACH AND HAVE FUN, not to always win. Play every child, regardless of ability, who is present for a game, at least two (2) quarters of every game, even if absent from practice.
- Avoid any form of foul language. Display ZERO TOLERANCE for it from your players and their parents, both on and off the field. Young children are always present, and both coaches and players of all levels are role models for them.
- Refrain from smoking always when on NAYSA fields.
- Notify team members, of team selection and practice information within one week of draft usually by mid-April.
- Keep parents informed of all team information, rules of the game, and
- goals of the organization, as needed.
- Always support referees and their decisions. If you have a specific question or concern, bring it to the attention of the Referee

Coordinator or Coordinator of the Day the day of the game.
Coordinator of the Day and Board members are listed on the web site.

- Conduct one (1) practice before each game, weather permitted. (Optional for 6&Under).
- Provide coverage through assistant coaches or parents in your absence.
- Ensure that all children leave the park BEFORE you leave. You MUST stay until all players have left.
- Sign NAYSA Game Score form each week following the end of each game to verify the score. The referees will provide the form. These sheets will be the basis for official league statistics.
- Complete an Incident Report form in the event of any injury.
- Ensure players conduct the post-game handshake with the opposing team.
- Ensure all players are properly dressed (cleats (optional for 6&Under, shin guards, no jewelry) before every game and practice. If not properly dressed, inform parent or guardian of player that the child is unable to participate. (tape is available at referee stand for players who cannot remove earrings)
- Complete rating of all players at end of season
- Coaches that do not follow these rules can be disciplined at the discretion of the NAYSA Board up to and including removal from position and inability to coach in future.

DRAFT

The draft for NAYSA occurs between the end of March and early April. It is done early to provide ample time for uniforms to be ordered and delivered before the opening game. A local hall in the North Syracuse area is used and all divisions draft teams the same evening, except for the 6&Under Instructional Division, for which there is no draft. If siblings are playing in the same division, they will be placed on the same team, unless the parents wish otherwise. We are unable to fulfill carpooling, friend or coach requests.

RATINGS

At the end of the season, coaches will rate their players for soccer skills. These ratings are then used during the next season's draft. Since many coaches are new each year and are not familiar with many of the children, the ratings can give them some idea of a player's ability. Coaches are also asked to rate any player for field skills and goalie skills. A rating of did not play is available for a player who did not play goalie during the season. It is imperative to rate the children truthfully. If a coach is rating the children untruthfully, the NAYSA board will determine appropriate action.

NOTIFICATION OF PLAYERS

Team rosters will be sent to each coach after the draft. Coaches then contact players' families. Since practices begin at the end of April and since some children registered in January, please notify ALL players within one week after the draft. Notification can be done by via e-mail or phone at the coach's discretion. The website provides a simple tool

for the coach and league to email all team families, so this is the default from of communication. Practice for the Fall Session may begin in mid-August. ALL players should be notified by the first week of August. Coaches will be notified regarding any possible schedule changes for the Fall session and these should be communicated to the players.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

One Parent Meeting is held in the spring each year. This meeting is an informational session held prior to the beginning of the Spring Session. The purpose of the meeting is to let the parents know about the league and encourage them to participate in the various events that the league sponsors. It will also be a time when parents may meet their child's coach. Coaches are asked to encourage parents to attend this meeting and to become involved in all the league's activities.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are selected based on price, quality, and availability, at the discretion of the Board members. The Board of Directors will select the supplier for the season. The Board tries to rotate to a new uniform every few years to provide a different uniform for players. Coaches and Assistant Coaches will be provided a coach's shirt with the NAYSA logo. Uniforms will be delivered to coaches prior to the opening of the Spring Session. When possible, they are delivered during the Parents Meeting otherwise they will be distributed at the NAYSA fields. Each player will receive a shirt with a logo and a number on the back; black shorts and matching soccer socks. SHIRTS CAN NOT BE EXCHANGED OR RETURNED. A REPLACEMENT SHIRT CAN BE ORDERED FOR A \$20 FEE. Please ensure the correct size is selected during registration. Players must wear their full uniform on game day. Players who do not wear their whole league uniform will be given a warning (yellow card) on the first occurrence. On the second occurrence (a second yellow card) the player will not be allowed to play.

FIELDS

All practices and games MUST be conducted at Clay Park Central fields on Wetzel Road. Coaches will be held to ONE practice per week at an assigned time chosen during the draft. Any exceptions must be coordinated with the Board.

A copy of the Town of Clay park permit is distributed to all coaches. It will detail times the fields are available to NAYSA. Coaches should be sure to review it and to bring a copy to all practices.

The field locations can be found on the map on the website.

Spectator lines have been established to provide for the safety of players and spectators. Parents and team members are to remain at least six feet from the outer edge of the playing fields. Additionally, there should be no spectators around or behind the net area.

If the Town of Clay closes the fields due to field conditions, teams are not allowed to practice on/in any areas of the park. For specific field closures the Board will work with coaches for alternate practice field locations within the park.

NETS, FLAGS, EQUIPMENT

The league has nets that are used throughout the season. All nets are put up at the beginning of each session and are not taken down until the end

of the session. Corner flags and cones are set up and removed every Saturday. Referees are responsible for setting up and for putting away the appropriate equipment.

FIRST AID **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER IS 911**

A stocked first aid box is located at the referee stand (side of Concession Stand). Remember, gloves must be worn anytime there is blood. In the event of an emergency, a phone is located at the Concession Stand.

A general rule of thumb for any injury is: IF A CHILD IS UNABLE TO MOVE OFF THE FIELD BY HIMSELF, DO NOT MOVE HIM UNTIL TRAINED PERSONNEL ARRIVE. If an injury occurs on a game day, please fill out an Incident Report Form with a Board member when an incident occurs. Forms are available at the referee stand (side of concession stand).

If an injury occurs on a practice night please collect all pertinent information of the injury (name, field location, type of injury, cause of injury, field conditions, result [parent took child home, urgent care, ambulance, etc.], other information of value). Send this information to the NAYSA organizational email or to the president and division coordinator that evening.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found will be kept in the referee stand with the Game Balls. Items will be kept until the end of the Fall Session and then given to a local charity. The most often lost items are a soccer ball and water bottles. Please have the children put their names on these items so they can be returned to them.

TEAM PARENT

A Team Parent(s) May be selected by each coach at the beginning of the Spring Session. Primarily, the Team Parent responsibilities are to assist the coaching staff with administrative tasks. These may include:

- Assisting on Picture Day by helping to assemble the team at the right place at the right time
- Phoning parents to notify of practice changes
- Coordinating a team snack list for games

PICTURES

Team and individual pictures are taken usually on a Saturday in May with a potential rain date. These pictures are taken by a local photographer. This activity is entirely optional. Order forms with the available packages and costs are distributed with the uniforms but are also available at the referee stand. Coaches will not need to handle any money or take any orders, just distribute the information.

Teams are assigned a specific time to have their pictures taken. We ask that all players take part in the team picture, even if they are not purchasing any pictures. Please be on time as the schedule is arranged to avoid any delays in game starting times.

TYPICAL FUND RAISERS

Picnic:

Toward the end of the Spring Session NAYSA holds a fundraiser picnic for all the players and their immediate family. Families are encouraged to

attend and to assist with the picnic preparations. If enough people volunteer each person typically only needs to work for 1-2 hours.

REFEREES

Referees for these divisions are generally individuals who have played for or are currently playing for NAYSA. These "student" referees are monitored by a referee coordinator-a Board member or parent interested in performing this role. The referee coordinator is responsible for scheduling two referees per game when possible, adjusting in scheduling as needed and training/preparing the referees to perform their duties. Please keep in mind that these are children/young adults providing NAYSA with a valuable service.

AT NO TIME IS ANY MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF TO BE VERBALLY ABUSIVE OR PHYSICALLY THREATENING TO ANY REFEREE!

All referees will be issued red and yellow cards to be used as necessary for players, coaches and spectators.

YELLOW CARD

Used as a warning for excessive physical, foul or verbal abuse. Any player attempting to instigate a fight may be issued a red card and ejected from the game, at the referee's discretion.

Actions after a yellow card:

- Player suspended from current game
- Player MAY be substituted for
- 2nd yellow card in a single game equals 1 red card

Any member of the Board of Directors has the authority to Yellow/Red Card any player, parent, or coach if that player, parent or coach is not adhering to the NAYSA philosophy of Sportsmanship, Teamwork and Fun.

RED CARD

A Red Card is given for fighting or in place of a second yellow card. Any players involved in a fight will be given a red card and automatically ejected from that game and suspended from playing in the next game whether it is a regular season game, a playoff game, or a championship game. The team will play a man down for the completion of the game and if the team does not have enough players, they must forfeit the game.

Actions after a red card:

- Player suspended from current game and next game (including playoffs and championship games)
- Player may NOT be substituted for
- If Player receives red card during championship game, then second suspension will occur on first game (not scrimmage) of the following year
- Players, coaches, or spectators given a red card must leave the field area or the team will forfeit the game
- Coaches given red cards are suspended for minimum 2 games and subject to further disciplinary action by the Board of Directors
- Any coach or player who gets 2 red cards in the course of a complete season (Spring & Fall session including playoffs) will not be allowed to coach or play for NAYSA the next year.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS PRACTICE / GAME RULES

Only players who are REGISTERED, have paid their registration fees in NAYSA, and have been placed on a team's roster may participate in practices and games.

Players can only play for the team they are drafted by / assigned to. This is necessary due to the insurance coverage. Coaches that disregard could be forced to forfeit the games where illegal players have participated. If this rule is ignored more than once, the NAYSA Board will determine the appropriate punishment.

ALL players (except for 6&U division) are always REQUIRED to wear shin guards and soccer cleats (shoes) even for practice. Soccer cleats are to have soft, rounded, molded cleats. They DO NOT have a center toe cleat that football/softball/ baseball cleats have. NO metal or wedge type cleats are permitted. Children in the 6&U (Instructional) division are not required, but are encouraged, to wear soccer cleats.

The referee will prevent a child from playing if he is not properly attired.

Sweatshirts may be worn UNDER the uniform shirt in all divisions.

Sweatpants may be worn either under or over the uniform shorts, however, the socks need to be visible on the shin. Hats are not permitted on the field. If the weather is inclement, a winter cap is permissible.

Mouth guards are recommended but not required.

ALL jewelry MUST be removed before playing. There is an exception for earrings that can't be removed but they must be protected. Medical tape is available at the referee stand to cover them if needed. Metal hair accessories are also not allowed. NO EXCEPTIONS

NO "decorations" or modifications may be made to the uniforms. No stars, names, etc. are to be added to the uniforms.

ALL COACHES ARE TO CHECK THEIR PLAYERS BEFORE EVERY PRACTICE AND EVERY GAME. IF CHILDREN DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET ABOVE, THEN THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY. IF ANY PARENT DISAGREES WITH THIS, PLEASE REFER THEM TO A BOARD MEMBER OR A DIVISION COODINATOR.

Arguing with the referees will not be tolerated. If necessary, the coach on field rule will be revoked. Remember, coaches should display good sportsmanship throughout the game. The referees may have little experience officiating and may make errors from time to time. It would be greatly appreciated if all coaches, players and parents would make their best effort to appropriately deal with this type of situation if or when it arises.

Each child must play at least one-half of each scrimmage/game, and it is encouraged that each child plays at different positions throughout the season.

If a team is down by 5 or more goals, they can add another player to the field. The additional player is on the field until the goal differential is 3 goals.

Each quarter the kick-off is switched between teams and a kick-off follows any goal scored, by the non-scoring team. The ball is in play after it has traveled one revolution unless the kick is taken by the defense inside its own penalty area. In this case, the ball must leave the penalty area before it may be touched by another player.

The goalkeeper must wear a different color shirt. This makes it easier to distinguish the goalie from the other players. The shirt must be a neutral color, different in color or pattern from either team on the field.

Encourage all players to bring a water bottle to scrimmages and practices.

A two-minute break is allowed between quarters and a 5-minute break at half time.

Ends of the field will be changed at half time.

Teams can play with the same reduced number of players on the field if both coaches agree.

Games will be postponed or cancelled only in the event of lightning, field conditions, or at the discretion of the town and/ or Board.

A team may wait up to twenty minutes before forfeiting for U8 and the upper divisions.

Offsides WILL be called starting at the 8 & Under division. It is expected coaches will try to teach their players to look for defenders between themselves and the goal.

Goalkeepers may take an unlimited number of steps within the penalty area but may not do so to attempt to delay the game. All fouls and kicks will be taken in accordance with applicable FIFA rules starting at the 10&U division (e.g., Any foul committed in the penalty area by the defense will result in a penalty kick).

SLIDE TACKLING IS PROHIBITED

Slide tackling is illegal in ALL NAYSA divisions and referees may issue yellow cards when necessary. Slide tackling (sliding while trying to take the ball from an opponent) is inherently dangerous and should be discouraged in both practice and games. Slide kicks (when a player slides while kicking a free ball or a ball in his/her control) are permitted when there is no danger to any player on the field, including himself/herself.

KICK-OFF

A kickoff is used to start play at the beginning of each quarter and after each goal.

Teams will alternate quarters for taking the kick.

All players from each team must be on their defensive end of the field prior to the kick, and the defensive team must be outside the center circle prior to the kick. A whistle is required to start play with this kick

The ball is in play as soon as it has traveled one revolution forward.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until the ball has been touched by another player of either team. A goal may not be scored directly from the kickoff.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions may be made after the referee has acknowledged the coaches request.

Once the substitutions have been made, the referee's whistle will signal that play is to resume.

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at the following times: at the end of a quarter, after a goal is scored, before a throw-in or corner kick for your team, or before a goal kick for either team.

A substitution may be made for an injured player at any time. At this time both teams may substitute any number of players.

THROW-INS

A throw-in is used to bring the ball back into play after it has gone off the field over a sideline.

The throw-in is taken by the team that did not last touch the ball while it was in play. The throw-in is taken at the approximate spot that the ball crossed the sideline. A whistle is NOT required.

The ball must be delivered with both hands, starting from behind the head and going forward directly over the head. At the time of the throw-in, both feet must be completely touching the ground.

The ball is in play as soon as it crosses the sideline, even when it is in the air.

A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in. The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

Throw-In Redoes Rules are specific for each division and are as follows:

6&U- Unlimited redoes in Spring and Fall Season

8&U- 1 redo and then opposition gets throw-in.

10&U, 13&U and 14&O - No redoes.

KICKS

Corner kick

A corner kick is awarded to the offensive team whenever the defensive team kicks the ball over the goal line outside of the goal.

The corner kick is taken from a stationary ball, on the ground, within the corner arc specified by the referee.

The kicker may NOT move the corner cone or flag when taking this kick but may move the ball anywhere within the corner arc before taking the kick. Hands can be used to position the ball in the arc.

If there is no arc on the field, it is at the referee's discretion where the player can place the ball. A whistle is NOT required to start play.

The ball must travel one revolution before it is in play. However, the kicker may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

A goal may be scored directly from this kick.

Goal kick

A goal kick is awarded to the defensive team whenever the offensive team kicks the ball over the goal line but not into the goal. The goal kick is taken from a stationary ball, on the ground, within the goalie's box. A whistle IS required to start play with this kick.

The ball must leave the penalty area from a single kick by the defensive team before it is in play. Therefore, if the defensive team accidentally kicks it into their own goal while inside the penalty box, the kick is retaken, and the goal is disallowed. If the kick does not leave the penalty area or is touched before it leaves the penalty area, the kick is retaken.

All offensive players must be outside of the penalty area.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

Note: It is suggested to keep the goalie in the goal area and have another defensive player (usually a fullback) take the kick.

Free Kicks/Fouls

They are classified under two headings. (DIRECT: From which a goal can be scored directly against the offending side). (INDIRECT: From which a goal

cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

Direct Kick Fouls

HANDBALL - The touching of the ball with a hand or arm by any player except the goalkeeper, or by the goalie if he/she is outside of the penalty area. This does NOT include a player playing the ball back to his/ her goalie.

KICKING - Deliberately kicking another player.

STRIKING - Deliberately striking another player with the hand or any other object.

TRIPPING - Deliberately causing another player to fall or stumble by tripping. A tackle which causes the opposing player to trip over the ball without touching the tackling player is a legal play. If the tackling player does not make contact with the player, then it is not tripping.

PUSHING - Causing another player to lose control of the ball or prevent them from gaining control of the ball by pushing with the hand or arm.

HOLDING - Hindering the motion of a player by holding with the hands, or arms, or by pressing the player between two or more players, or by pressing the player against the ground or any other object.

CHARGING from behind (unless the opponent is obstructing) or in a violent or dangerous manner.

JUMPING AT - Jumping towards another player and coming in contact with that player.

Indirect Kick Fouls

DANGEROUS PLAY - Any of the following constitutes dangerous play: playing the ball when on the ground, sliding tackles, raising the feet above the waist to play the ball when another player is near.

CHARGING even if done when the ball is not within playing distance and the players are not trying to play the ball.

OBSTRUCTING an opponent by running between an opponent and the ball when not playing the ball so as to form an obstacle to the opponent.

CHARGING THE GOALIE except when the goalie is holding the ball, is obstructing an opponent, or is outside the goal area.

GOALIE EXCEEDS STEPS - The steps rule is no longer in force. An indirect kick foul can be called, however, if the goalie delays the game or indulges in tactics which the referee determines are designed to hold up the game and waste time.

PLAYING BACK TO GOALIE - If the ball is intentionally played back to the goalie it results in an indirect kick from the spot the goalie touches the ball. This rule does not apply to the U6 division.

OFFSIDES

In order to be offsidess, a player must be on their attacking half of the field, be involved in the play, and be closer to the goal line than the ball and any of the opposing team's players. Offsidess does not apply on corner kicks, throw ins, and goal kicks. If offsidess is called, the opposing team gets a free kick wherever the offsidess player was when he/she was offsidess. If the player is level with his last opponent, he is not offsidess.

Offsidess is applied in all divisions except the 6&Under Instructional Division in accordance with FIFA rules.

GOALKEEPER RULES

There will be no charging of the goalkeeper allowed under any circumstances. Charging means physical contact when the goalkeeper possesses the ball with his hands.

The goalkeeper must wear a different color shirt. This is to distinguish the goalie from the other players. Any type of T-shirt or sports scrimmage vest is acceptable.

If the ball is passed back to the goalkeeper by a teammate with the feet or legs, he/she may not use the hands to play the ball. The hands may be used if a ball is headed or thrown at the goalie. This foul results in an indirect kick at the point the foul was committed, but no closer than outside the penalty box. This rule does NOT apply in the 6&Under division.

SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES

Each game will consist of four quarters in every division. The length of each quarter shall be:

Division	Quarters	Players/Goalie	Ball Size
6&U	10 minutes	7 + 1	3
8&U	12 minutes	7 + 1	3
10&U	15 minutes	10 + 1	4
13&U	15 minutes	10 + 1	5
14&O	15 minutes	10 + 1	5

Coaches if in agreement may reduce the number of players and/ or game times depending on game time situation (weather, number of players at game, etc). The Board may alternate game times and player sizes for a season to account for registration numbers. If this is done the board will communicate those changes to coaches prior to start of season.

Rules For The 6&Under Instructional Division

Each team must have a minimum of 5 players. Because this is an instructional division, with both coaches in agreement, players may be shared if one team is short a significant number of players. This should be done with care given to players why they are playing for the opposing team.

One coach from each team may coach from on the field. It is understood that the coach will attempt to stay out of the way of the players and the ball. This rule is intended to help the coach to instruct and encourage his or her players. No coach or spectator may position themselves behind the goal lines.

SCORE IS NOT KEPT

A 5-yard clearance must be given on all kicks.

An Indirect kick will be used for ALL fouls in this division. A goal may not be scored directly from this kick. For a goal to score from an indirect kick, the ball must touch another player from either team in addition to the kicker before entering the goal.

The first 20 minutes of the scrimmage can be used for warm-ups by each team. Followed a game which consists of four 10-minute quarters. This can be adjusted if both coaches agree to change scrimmage time.

Coaches may schedule a practice during the week in addition to the Saturday practice. Children are not required to attend this practice.

Rules For The 8&Under Division

Each team must have a minimum of 5 players. If not, then the team forfeits, and the opposing team is awarded a 1-0 win. No more than a two-player advantage is allowed for the case when one team has less than the maximum of 8 but more than or equal to the minimum of 5. The only two player advantages are 7 against 5 and 8 against 6. Usually teams will only play with a one player advantage.

Coaches will not be allowed on the field at any time.

A 5-yard clearance must be given on all kicks.

An indirect kick will be used for ALL fouls in this division. A goal may not be scored directly from this kick. For a goal to score from an indirect kick, the ball must touch another player from either team in addition to the kicker before entering the goal.

Any foul committed in the penalty area by the defense, which would normally result in a direct or penalty kick will instead be taken as an INDIRECT kick from just outside of the penalty area. The defending team may put all its players inside of the penalty area but must be at least 5 yards from the placement of the ball.

A whistle is not required before the kick is taken.

The ball may be played back to the goalkeeper without penalty for use of hands.

Rules For The 10&Under Division

Each team must have a minimum of 8 players. If not, then the team forfeits, and the opposing team is awarded a 1-0 win. No more than a two-player advantage is allowed for the case when one team has less than the maximum of 10 but more than or equal to the minimum of 7. The only two player advantages are 10 against 8 or 11 against 9. It is a common practice to use only a 1-man advantage.

Coaches must remain on the sidelines. Coaches are to remain on their side of the field and ARE NOT to cross the centerline. Arguing with the referees will not be tolerated. Remember we should display good sportsmanship throughout the game. The referees may have little experience in officiating and may make errors from time to time. It would be greatly appreciated if all coaches, players, and parents would make their best effort to appropriately deal with this type of situation if or when it arises.

A 10-yard clearance must be given on all kicks.

Rules For The 13&Under Division

Each team must have a minimum of 8 players. If not, then the team forfeits, and the opposing team is awarded a 1-0 win. No more than a two-player advantage is allowed for the case when one team has less than the maximum of 11 but more than or equal to the minimum of 8. The only two player advantages are 10 against 8 or 11 against 9. It is a common practice to use only a 1-man advantage.

Coaches must remain on the sidelines. Coaches are to remain on their side of the field and ARE NOT to cross the center line. Arguing with the referees will not be tolerated. Remember we should display good sportsmanship throughout the game. The referees may have little experience in officiating and may make errors from time to time. It would be greatly appreciated if all coaches, players, and parents would make their best effort to appropriately deal with this type of situation if or when it arises.

A 10-yard clearance must be given on all kicks.

Rules For The 14&Over Division

Each team must have a minimum of 8 players. If not, then the team forfeits, and the opposing team is awarded a 1-0 win. No more than a two-player advantage is allowed for the case when one team has less than the maximum of 11 but more than or equal to the minimum of 8. The only two player advantages are 10 against 8 or 11 against 9. It is a common practice to use only a 1-man advantage.

Coaches must remain on the sidelines. Coaches are to remain on their side of the field and ARE NOT to cross the center line. Arguing with the referees will not be tolerated. Remember we should display good sportsmanship throughout the game. The referees may have little experience in officiating and may make errors from time to time. It would be greatly appreciated if all coaches, players, and parents would make their best effort to appropriately deal with this type of situation if or when it arises.

A 10-yard clearance must be given on all kicks.

LEAGUE STANDINGS, PLAYOFF & CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

LEAGUE STANDINGS & PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY

During the season there could be games which are considered "scrimmages" and do not count toward final standings and others which will be considered official games.

All wins, losses, and ties of official games are used to determine division standings. All divisions will have playoffs consisting of the top 4 teams in each division having the chance to move onto the Championship game. League standings will be available on the web site.

Official rules for determining final standings are as follows:

Official games will record points based on 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie. These will be used to determine standings. In the event of a tie for a position, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used, in the following order:

- Goal differential but there is a maximum difference of 3 goals per game. This is done to discourage teams from running up scores.
- Best Win/Loss percentage excluding ties (i.e., 2-3-0 =.400; 1-2-2=.333)
- Team with fewest goals allowed
- Coin toss

AWARDS

ALL players will receive an award (trophy, medallion, movie pass) at the end of the Fall session. The board will decide on the award for each season. First and second place teams in the 8&U, 10&U, 13&U and 14&O divisions will receive slightly larger versions of the award. All players receive a participation award to reward all player effort, regardless of standing, and to help reduce a competitive environment.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Once the teams participating in the playoffs are established, the 1st place team will face the 4th place team and the 2nd place team will face the 3rd place team in the semifinals. The winners of these two games will face each other in the championship game in the final week of the Fall

session. In the event there are only three teams in the division the 2nd will play the 3rd place team in the first week of the playoffs and the 1st place team will receive a bye week.

In the event that a Playoff or Championship Game is tied at the end of regulation play, the following process will be used to break the tie and determine the winner:

Overtime periods will be equivalent to two periods (times for each period indicated below) with ends switched during the one-minute break between periods. The length of these periods shall be:

8&U: 4 Minutes each

10&U: 5 Minutes each

13&U and 14&O: 6 Minutes each

The first period of the overtime shall begin by a coin toss (Visitors or lower seed calls the toss). The second period shall begin with an alternate kickoff, as is customary during regulation play.

If the score is tied after these two periods, a third "Sudden Death" period of the same duration as the 2 periods will be played, ending immediately if one team scores. The start of this period is identical as that of the first period as described above, except the Home (higher seed) calls the toss.

If the "Sudden Death" ends without a score, rounds of shoot-outs will be done until the tie is broken. The first shoot-out round begins by each team choosing 5 players before the shoot-out, with the referees recording the numbers of each player. Each player will be awarded a penalty shot against the opponent's goalkeeper. Teams will alternate turns shooting, with a coin toss deciding who has choice of shooting first. As soon as one team cannot tie or beat the other after each team has shot an equal number of times, the shoot-out is over and the game is decided, with the team with more shoot-out goals declared the winner. If after 5 players have shot a tie still exists, 5 more players may be selected by each coach and the next round begins as described above. No player shall shoot an additional time until all players on that team have shot an equal number of times, including the goalkeeper.

NAYSA INCIDENT REPORTING

If an injury occurs on a Game Day, please fill out an Incident Report Form with a Board member when an incident occurs. Forms are available at the referee stand (side of concession stand).

If an injury occurs on a Practice Night please collect all pertinent information of the injury (name, field location, type of injury, cause of injury, field conditions, result [parent took child home, urgent care, ambulance, etc.], other information of value). Send this information to the NAYSA organizational email or to the president and division coordinator that evening.