

# NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCCER LEAGUE



## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PUBLISHED – July 1st, 2019

Edition 11

## Contents

<b>SECTION I: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.01 Name of the League.....	5
1.02 Mission.....	5
1.03 Management of the League.....	5
1.04 Affiliation.....	5
1.05 Contact Information and Communication.....	5
1.06 League office.....	5
1.07 League Website.....	5
1.08 League Operating Committee (L.O.C.).....	5
1.09 Background Check – “Kids Safe”.....	6
1.10 Referees.....	6
1.11 Matters Not provided for.....	6
<b>SECTION II: TEAM APPLICATION &amp; ADMISSION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.01 Team and Coach eligibility.....	7
2.02 Registering Players and teams with US Soccer.....	7
2.02.01 League Structure.....	7
2.03 Good Standing.....	7
2.04 Application deadlines.....	7
2.05 Application Process.....	8
2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams.....	8
2.07 Promotion/Relegation.....	8
2.08 Seeding Procedure.....	8
2.08.01 Seeding Committee.....	8
2.09 Acceptance of the New Hampshire Soccer League Rules.....	9
2.10 League fees.....	9
2.11 Returned Checks.....	9
<b>SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER &amp; FORMATS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.01 Team roster.....	9
3.02 Roster Size & Game Day Roster.....	10
3.03 Player eligibility.....	10
3.04 Club Passes.....	10
3.05 Player & Coaches passes.....	11

3.06 Age Divisions ..... 11

3.07 Playing on Multiple teams..... 11

3.08 Player Transfers..... 11

3.09 Formats ..... 11

**SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES .....12**

4.01 Reporting of scores ..... 12

4.01.01 Referee Game Reports..... 12

4.02 Game day roster..... 13

4.03 Weather Alerts ..... 13

4.04 Schedule requests ..... 13

4.05 Game Change Policy..... 13

4.05.01 Re-schedule Policy ..... 14

4.05.02 Re-Scheduling games that are postponed.....15

4.06 Forfeits ..... 15

4.06.01 Assessing a Forfeit..... 15

4.06.02 Appeals Committee.....16

4.07 Cancelled Games ..... 16

**SECTION V: RULES OF PLAY .....16**

5.01 The Ball..... 16

5.02 Player Equipment..... 17

5.03 Duration of the Game ..... 17

5.04 Substitution..... 17

5.05 Point system..... 17

5.06 Tie-breakers ..... 18

5.07 Delay of kick off..... 18

5.08 Players and Spectators..... 18

5.09 Heading Restrictions at U11..... 18

**SECTION VI: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT .....19**

6.01 Responsible Parties ..... 19

6.02 Profanity..... 19

6.03 Compensation ..... 19

6.04 Smoking & Alcohol ..... 19

6.05 Referee Authority..... 19

6.06 Park Rules..... 19

6.07 Red Cards & Suspensions ..... 20

**SECTION VII: PROTESTS .....21**

7.01 Definition..... 21

7.02 Who can file a protest..... 21

7.03 Filing Procedure ..... 21

7.03.01 Filing Procedure - Playoffs..... 22

**Section VIII: League Discipline .....22**

8.01 Discipline Committee ..... 22

8.02 Discipline Appeal Process..... 22

**SECTION IX: Short-Sided Rules.....23**

9.01 Short Sided Rules of Play..... 23

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

### 1.01 Name of the League

The league shall be named The “New Hampshire Soccer League” or “NHSL” if abbreviated.

### 1.02 Mission

To provide a pathway for all clubs, at any level, who are looking for a fun, safe, and competitive atmosphere for their players of all ages and genders – with the purpose of putting our youth into situations where they can develop both as people and players; growing their passion for the game in the state of New Hampshire beyond local, recreational play.

### 1.03 Management of the League

The League shall be managed by the League Director with guidance from the League Operating Committee (L.O.C). All actions of the league are overseen by the Executive Board of New Hampshire Soccer Association.

### 1.04 Affiliation

The New Hampshire Soccer League is affiliated with the New Hampshire Soccer Association and US Youth Soccer, so any US Soccer affiliated club in good standing with NHSA and US Soccer may participate in the league.

### 1.05 Contact Information and Communication

All members of the New Hampshire Soccer League shall have contact information on file with the New Hampshire Soccer Association. Contact information must include team administration and coach information. The information must include valid e-mail addresses and phone numbers for each party.

### 1.06 League office

The league office is located at 1600 Candia Road, Suite 3, Manchester, NH 03109  
Phone: 603.317.5509

### 1.07 League Website

The league website can be found at [www.NHSoccerLeague.com](http://www.NHSoccerLeague.com)

### 1.08 League Operating Committee (L.O.C.) –

It is the belief that the New Hampshire Soccer League be a league focused on the needs of its member clubs. The New Hampshire Soccer League feels that clubs should have a voice when major decisions need to be made. The New Hampshire Soccer League will utilize a League Operating Committee (L.O.C.) to ensure that the voices of the member clubs are heard. All L.O.C. members must provide CURRENT contact information to be posted on the New Hampshire Soccer League Website.

The L.O.C. will consist of the league director, referee assignor, and a minimum of five (5) members from different member clubs, who will be available to listen to member club concerns, ideas, and criticisms. Members are volunteers from the clubs within the league.

L.O.C. Members meet at a minimum of two (2) times per season or four (4) times annually. **Meetings will typically take place at the beginning and at the conclusion of fall and spring seasons, respectively. The L.O.C. also maintain a year round form of contact, both virtually (email, etc.), and in-person meetings.**

**Any clubs interested in attending an L.O.C. meeting are welcome. Times and locations may change due to the geographic locations of its members. However, any individual looking to meet with, sit in, or participate in an L.O.C. meeting can reach out to the League Director to find out when the next meeting will take place.**

Meetings will be run in a professional and orderly manner with any business brought before the L.O.C. submitted prior to the meeting in which is to be heard.

### 1.09 Background Check – “Kids Safe”

All coaches, team officials and board members must have an update to date Kids Safe registration on file with New Hampshire Soccer Association and the New Hampshire Soccer League prior to the start of each season. All Kids Safe checks expire every 2 years and will need to be renewed every 2 years.

If you are a USSF referee working games in New Hampshire, and have completed a background check, you may email the NHSA Administrator to have your background check verified.

To renew your Kids Safe background check, you may log in to [www.gotsoccer.com](http://www.gotsoccer.com), click on User Login, then click on your coaches or team official login. At the top of the page, click on background checks and complete the required information. There is a fee applied for all background checks that are due at the time of the request. Coaches who have not completed the background check will not be added to a roster until completed and will not be permitted on the sidelines during a game.

### 1.10 Referees

All referees used in the New Hampshire Soccer League shall hold a current United States Soccer Federation certification and be in good standing with NHSA. It is the referee’s responsibility to maintain a current certification in order to remain officiating within the New Hampshire Soccer League.

Anyone interested in refereeing in the New Hampshire Soccer League shall contact the League Assignor at: [ryanfaria45@gmail.com](mailto:ryanfaria45@gmail.com).

### 1.11 Matters Not provided for

The NHSA Executive Board shall have the final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by these rules and policies.

## SECTION II: TEAM APPLICATION & ADMISSION

### 2.01 Team and Coach Eligibility

All teams affiliated with US Youth Soccer are eligible to apply for registration into the New Hampshire Soccer League. All player and team registration shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer and NHTA regulations unless otherwise specified.

NHSL reserves the right to refuse admittance or acceptance into any NHSL event, including the New Hampshire Soccer League, tournament and/or any other event upon notice of bad standing and/or suspension from all US Soccer sanctioning bodies: FIFA, US Soccer, USYS, US Club Soccer, AYSO, USASA and NHTA soccer

All premier and recreational coaches must have at a minimum **any coaching modules/licensures as recommended by US Soccer, NH Director of Coaching, or the NHTA Technical Director**. These requirements may change so make sure all coaches are up to date on all state level expectations. Coaches who have teams that participate in either Premier or Championship divisions are expected to have appropriate licensures/certifications. Select level coaches will need to show an intent to acquire said certifications within the next calendar year. The league reserves the right to make this a REQUIREMENT at any point. All coaches must pass a background check prior to being eligible to coach in the New Hampshire Soccer League.

### 2.02 Registering Players and teams with US Soccer

Each club or team is responsible for registering their teams with US Soccer and for obtaining the US Soccer Registration Forms from their designated Registrar or from the New Hampshire Soccer League or NHTA websites.

#### 2.02.01 League Structure

The New Hampshire Soccer League will offer competition for Boys and Girls teams from U8s through U19s. Divisions may be combined at the discretion of the League Director in order to provide a suitable level of competition for teams. Teams in the Under-15 divisions and below are eligible to play in both Spring & Fall season. Teams in the Under-16 division and above will play only in the spring season.

### 2.03 Good Standing

Each participating team must be in “good standing” with the league, the state association and with US Soccer.

### 2.04 Application deadlines

All applications to participate in the New Hampshire Soccer League must be received along with full payment on or before the registration deadlines established by the New Hampshire Soccer League.

## 2.05 Application Process

Teams must register with the league registrar by the deadline established each season (date published on league website). If you are practicing, you should be registered for insurance purposes with NHSA. The New Hampshire Soccer League will follow the NHSA player registration requirements.

Once the season starts you may register additional players up to the maximum based upon your age/division until the roster freeze date which is set prior to the season by the NHSL / L.O.C.

## 2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams

Decisions concerning a team's admittance into the New Hampshire Soccer League will be as objective as possible. The decision will be based on facts such as previous league records, state cup records and tournament records. If all else is equal, then a subjective point of view will be considered. **All submissions for division placement will be considered, but are not guaranteed. The League reserves the right to place all teams in the most competitive division possible. PLEASE NOTE: On occasion, divisions and age groups may be combined.**

## 2.07 Promotion/Relegation

All promotions and relegations are done at the discretion of the seeding committee. There will be promotion/relegation in the age groups where there are multiple divisions. Teams may request to stay within their said division however the decision of the seeding committee is final once schedule is published.

**Past season performance will weight greatly in promotion and relegation. Playoff performance may be considered, but will not have as much influence as regular season play. All teams who finished top two in their division are subject to be promoted. All teams in the bottom two of their division will be subject to relegation, unless requested by the club to "petition" up.**

Example: The lowest ranked teams in Division 1 will get relegated to Division 2 and the highest ranked Division 2 teams will be promoted into Division 1.

## 2.08 Seeding Procedure

The New Hampshire Soccer League Seeding Committee will pre-seed all teams and provide up to 72 hours for coaches' challenges to the seeding presented. Once the final seeding is posted, there will be no changes made by team/club request.

The League Director may reseed teams on a case-by-case basis. This is solely at their discretion.

### 2.08.01 Seeding Committee

The New Hampshire Soccer League Seeding Committee will consist of the League Director, two (2) members of the L.O.C., and NHSA VP of Youth Competitive



## 2.09 Acceptance of the New Hampshire Soccer League Rules

All teams applying to participate in the New Hampshire Soccer League agree to accept and abide to the New Hampshire Soccer League rules and policies and any decisions made by the league administrators. Lack of knowledge of these New Hampshire Soccer League rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in the league or seeking entry into the league, from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, parents and players by participating in the New Hampshire Soccer League agree that they are bound by these rules.

## 2.10 League fees

All league fees will be due by the announced due date for all divisions. If fees are not paid by the announced due date, the offending team/club may not be eligible to play in the league and may forfeit all games until all fees are paid in full, unless arrangements have been made and approved by the New Hampshire Soccer League. Teams who incur forfeits will also be assessed the Forfeit Fine (See section 4.06).

If league fees are outstanding, team will be ineligible to compete in league playoffs. It is the team's responsibility to ensure all fees are paid in full and by the appropriate due date.

Once accepted the application fee is non-refundable.

Any team dropping out of the league after the league drop date will be responsible for all league fees and/or fines.

## 2.11 Returned Checks

The New Hampshire Soccer League shall charge a \$100 service fee for all returned checks.

# SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER & FORMATS

## 3.01 Team roster

All teams playing in the New Hampshire Soccer League MUST use the official US Youth Soccer Roster provided to them by the NHSA State Registrar.

This roster shall have official state logo, verified age, verified season, registered coaches (only coaches listed will be allowed in the technical area), and the State Registrar Stamp. A PDF Version of this complete roster must be on file with the league prior to the first game.

Failure to provide the roster prior to the first game will result in an automatic forfeit of matches until the roster has been completed, unless the delay was caused or has been excused by the League in writing. Any time a roster is changed during the season a new State Roster must be submitted to the league office. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.

### 3.02 Roster Size & Game Day Roster

The roster size is determined by the team’s home state. Each team must submit a “game-day roster” to the referee prior to each game. The League will adhere to the following maximum “game-day” roster limits:

- 7v7 – 16 players
- 9v9 – 18 players
- 11v11 – 18 players

*The purpose of this rule is to allow teams to have the ability to have the same amount of players on game days.*

Teams may not add players to their official State roster to make-up our maximum “game day” roster limits, but they will now have the option of adding “club pass” players (see rule 3.04).

In divisions (usually U17-U19s) where State Associations allow more than 18 players to be rostered on a team, only 18 players may be dressed for a New Hampshire Soccer League game.

### 3.03 Player eligibility

Eligibility of players shall be in accordance with US Soccer and NHSA regulations, unless otherwise specified and approved in writing by the League & VP of Youth Competitive (or NHSA President).

### 3.04 Club Passes

Players properly registered with NHSA, on a roster to other team, with the same club name will be allowed to be added to the individual game roster.

We ask that “club pass” be used to increase playing opportunities and to allow a player to “play up” to experience better competition. **Clubs are not able to use the “club pass rule” to bring players “down” from their primary roster. In other words, a player playing on a “premier” team cannot club pass to play on a “select” team, or in any other situation along that vein. Players cannot play on two teams in same sub-division, club pass or otherwise. EXCEPTION: Non-competitive divisions (u10 and below) permitted.**

**Club passes cannot be used within the same age group, unless a team is pulling “up” players due to a lack of numbers or to provide players with more competitive playing opportunities.**

**The maximum number of club pass players allowed on a per game basis can be shown below.**

Playing Format	Max Number on Game Day Roster	Max Number of Club Passes
7 v 7	16	3
9 v 9	18	4
11 v 11	18	5

### 3.05 Player & Coaches passes

Each player and coach must have a valid (laminated and signed by an official of their home state **WITH PHOTO**) US Youth Soccer player pass in order to participate in the League. The player & coaches' passes must be brought to every game along with the game day roster.

The match officials will check the teams in prior to kick off. A team has until the end of the “grace period” to produce the player/coaches passes. Teams not able to produce the passes at that time will forfeit the match. (See 5.07 Delay of kick off)

### 3.06 Age Divisions

Age limitations shall be in accordance with US Soccer regulations except as modified by the New Hampshire Soccer League. Proof-of-birth shall be provided upon request.

### 3.07 Playing on Multiple teams

Players may not be rostered on more than one team (as a registered player) in the same club in the same age group. If a club has multiple teams in the same age group, “club pass” can be used. See rule 3.04 for more details on playing on multiple teams with club passes. **Players are allowed to play on two teams for two different clubs, as long as they are not in the same sub-division.**

Example: Club XYZ has two teams in Under-14 Division 1, Player may only “Club Pass” between the two teams. He/She may not be registered on more than on Club XYZ team.

### 3.08 Player Transfers

Players registered to a team are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and is granted a transfer/release. All additions and deletions of registered players to the official State roster at any time during the year will be deemed as transfers. A team may add an unregistered player to their roster at any time (until the roster freeze date). A transferred player will not be eligible to play on a team in their original division or a division lower for that season.

### 3.09 Formats

U8 teams will play 4v4 (NO OFFSIDE) – Coaches expected to manage game environment

U9-U10 teams will play 7v7 (**with Offside**) utilizing 1 referee.

U11-12 teams will play 9v9 (with Offside) utilizing a 3-person referee crew.

U13 and above teams will play 11v11 (with Offside) utilizing a 3-person referee crew.

## SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

### 4.01 Reporting of scores

It is the HOME team's responsibility to call the scores in each week.

All scores must be entered **within 48 hours of the completion of the match**. Scores that are not entered, may be subject to additional fees. **SCORES MUST BE ENTERED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.**

There are two options to report scores - Online or by calling the score in. You will need your GAME NUMBER prior to reporting scores. **All games must be submitted within 48 hours.**

#### On line:

[Click Here To Report Score](#)

#### Call in:

1. After the game has finished – please call 904-758-0875
2. Press 1 to enter NHSL scores when prompted
3. Enter your Event I.D.: **(LISTED ON [NHSL](#))** then press #
4. Then enter your EVENT PIN number **(LISTED ON [NHSL](#))** then press #
5. Enter the game number and press #
6. You will be prompted to enter either:
  - a. Number 1 to update score
  - b. Number 2 to update yellow cards
  - c. Number 3 to update red cards
7. Press number 1
8. You will be prompted to enter the HOME SCORE then press #
9. You will be prompted to enter the AWAY SCORE then press #
10. To save you press number 1 or to cancel press number 2
11. You can enter another NHSL score for another game by pressing number 2.

#### 4.01.01 Referee Game Reports

The referees assigned to each match shall submit their game reports via the assignment system (NHReferees.Gameofficials.net) within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. **Any cards with result in misconduct, red cards, unusual circumstances, or anything egregious that needs to be brought to league attention must be submitted by 10pm the day in which the game was played.**

Match reports should be complete with proper score, any misconduct, any coach/team personnel dismissals, and any other unusual incidences.

#### 4.02 Game day roster

Both teams must complete a game day roster and provide it (and USYS passes) to the referee prior to each game. Game day roster **MUST** include the coach(s), team manager, players, substitutes, and non-dress players (when applicable). Please refer to rule 3.04 for more information on game day rosters.

#### 4.03 Weather Alerts

Every reasonable effort will be made to play all games. However, in cases of inclement weather updates will be available on the New Hampshire Soccer League website. **These forms may only be used for field closures, change of fields, or postponements due to weather, and are used within 48 hours of kickoff. If it falls outside of the 48 hour window, the club needs to request an administrative form to be approved by the league.**

#### 4.04 Schedule requests

All scheduling requests must accompany the team registration by utilizing 3 black-out dates on GotSoccer. We will attempt to schedule around all requests provided via Black-Out Dates. Requests made after final schedule is posted will fall under our re-scheduling policies. **Please email the league director with any blackout dates.**

#### 4.05 Game Change Policy

- It is the understanding of all teams that once the final schedule has been released, all league games (regular season/tournament/playoffs) including EDP–non weather related changes fall under the game change policy.
- Once the schedule is posted, **all game changes are subject to fees, and are not guaranteed. Game changes will be considered for the following circumstances, but not limited to:**
  - Field closing due to sudden unavailability (State, city/town mandated events)
  - Conflict with USYS Regional or National Tournament
  - School Event (at the discretion of the league director)
  - Religious occasions
  - NHSA Sanctioned events
- Requests must be submitted using the form at the top of the New Hampshire Soccer League Website Home Page. Forms include:
  - Game Change Request **48 Hours – 14 days** (\$75 fee)
  - Game Change Request More Than 14 Days (\$20 fee)
- **Game change requests made less than 48 hours to kickoff will not be approved and are subject to forfeit, unless they fall under weather related postponements.**
- All requests are subject to approval by the NHSL Director.
  - Any denied requests will be refunded to the team.
  - **Making a request does not mean the request will be approved. Please check getsoccer for updated changes reflected from the request.**

- Due to the excessive nature of game changes in 2019 (86% of games were changed at least once), the league will not be making changes for individual requests due to “inconveniences”, or things not communicated to the coaches by their parents/teams. Club schedulers will be responsible for communicating dates/times that will not work prior to the season starting. The League Director will work with teams, but cannot continue to approve requests for date changes that could have been avoided. Some examples include, but not limited to – not being able to play due to:
  - Non-major holidays (mother’s day, father’s day, etc.)
  - Graduations
  - Proms
  - NHIAA events
  - Other sport commitments
  - Coaches working with multiple teams
  - School vacation weeks
  - And more...
- In the event a team does not play a game as scheduled, for other than weather or field reasons, cancellation by the Field Coordinator or an authorized change to the schedule has been made, any team that fails to appear for or play a game shall forfeit. The opposing team (11v11 or 9v9) will be credited with a 4—0 win for standings purposes. Any game that is not played, the team that did not show will pay an additional fee equal to the referee fees for that game (see rule 4.06).
- No games will be rescheduled without approval of the NHSL Director

In the event the team and/or costs are not paid forthwith, NHSL shall be authorized to place the offending Club in bad standing and will not be allowed to participate in any playoffs or tournament for the NHSL or in the following season until the fines are paid in full.

#### 4.05.01 Re-schedule Policy

- We have a flexible re-scheduling policy and will work with teams to the utmost of our abilities.
- A valid reason must be provided for a re-schedule. Re-scheduling games causes issues/concerns for both teams, managers, referees, assignors and families. Abusing this system will create an adjustment to our flexible re-scheduling policy.
- Missing key player(s) would NOT be considered a valid reason!
- Requests may only be submitted by the team manager or coach
- Coaches talking to opposing coaches and postponing games without league approval, or lack of communication with the league could be deemed as a forfeit. Referees should not show up at fields where teams are not there.
- Re-schedule requests should not be submitted to the league PRIOR to getting approval from the opposing club.

#### 4.05.02 Rescheduling Games that are postponed (weather, fields, etc.)

Any game that is not played for any reason (game was not played at time and date as scheduled), and is pending a reschedule date, and was not deemed a forfeit, **MUST BE RESCHEDULED WITHIN 72 HOURS OF THE SCHEDULED GAME**. It is the home team's responsibility to set up a reschedule proposal to the opposing team, and it is both parties responsibility to be proactive in finding a new date to play.

If both parties do not come up with a rescheduled game time after 72 hours, both clubs could be subject to a game change fee, according to rule 4.05 (\$75 if new game will be played from 48 hours – 2 weeks; \$20 if the game will be played outside of two weeks).

If games are not rescheduled by the end of the season, games could be subject to forfeitures for either team, both teams, or game will not be played, and will be assessed on a case by case basis, with potential forfeiture fines addressed to either or both clubs, regardless of who is the home team.

#### 4.06 Forfeits

Forfeits shall be recorded with a score of 4-0. In the case of a double forfeit, both teams will record a 0-4 loss to their records.

The minimum number of players that must be on the field to avoid forfeit are:

- 11 v 11 Minimum of 7 players
- 9 v 9 Minimum of 5 players
- 7 v 7 Minimum of 4 players.

Teams who forfeit for any reason will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine. If a double forfeit, both teams will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine and split the referee fees due.

##### 4.06.01 Assessing a Forfeit

There are many situations that could lead to a forfeit, and forfeitures are looked at game by game. Teams who forfeit for any reason will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine. Many times, the timing of the communication comes into play. In the event that a team cannot play a scheduled league match, it is recommended to reach out to the opposing team immediately to set up a re-schedule. **PLEASE NOTE:** The opposing team is not obligated to reschedule a game, but both parties should be open to play the game if it can be done, for the sake of giving the players games to play.

Any communication initiated less than 48 hours from kickoff to an opposing club is subject to forfeit. If it is outside of 48 hours it is encouraged to work out a reschedule, and the initiating team will be responsible for reschedule fees.

If league is not notified of any game changes, both teams could be subject to fines, or a possible double forfeit, as referees need to be notified as well.

Any game assessed as a forfeiture can be appealed.

#### 4.06.02 Appeals Committee

- A. Any player, team official or club found in violation of the New Hampshire Soccer League Policies and Procedures for which a fine has been issued may file an appeal.
- B. All matters of concern to the New Hampshire Soccer League Appeals Committee must originate from a formal appeals request submitted in writing, with any documented evidence, by the party found in violation of New Hampshire Soccer League Policies and Procedures, within 10 calendar days of official notification of violations from the New Hampshire Soccer League.
  - a. Appeals shall be addressed to:  
*New Hampshire Soccer Association  
ATTN: Appeals Committee - NHSL  
1600 Candia Road, Suite 3,  
Manchester, NH 03109*
- C. The New Hampshire Soccer League Appeals Committee shall consist of one (1) NHSL League Operating Committee member (from a different region than that of the player/coach/club filing the appeal), the NHSA VP of Youth Competitive (or his/her designee), and the NHSA President (or his/her designee).
- D. The petitioning party has the right to appear before the committee to state their case before a decision is made by the New Hampshire Soccer League Appeals Committee.
- E. The New Hampshire Appeals Committee shall notify the offended party 72 hours prior to the date and time in which their appeal will be heard.
- F. The decision of the New Hampshire Soccer League Appeals Committee shall be promptly sent via email within seven (7) calendar days of the hearing to all concerned parties. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility. Mailed out (US Mail) forms can be provided upon request.

#### 4.07 Cancelled Games

Only the “home team” Field Coordinator may cancel games for unplayable conditions or unexpected field emergencies, always excepting the determination by Referees on the field of play that field conditions are unsafe and the scheduled game therefore cancelled. See Re-Schedule Policy (Section 4.05.01). **All cancelled/postponed games that fall within 48 hours of kickoff must be posted to the blog provided by the league.**

## SECTION V: RULES OF PLAY

### 5.01 The Ball

The home team (listed first in the schedule) shall provide the match balls. A minimum of 2 match balls must be presented to the referee prior to the start of each match.

- U8 will use a size 3 ball.
- U9 through U12 divisions will use a size 4 ball.
- U13 and older divisions will use a size 5 ball.



## 5.02 Player Equipment

The jersey of all players, except for the goalkeeper must contain a visible number, unique from the other members of the same team. No jewelry may be worn. Hard casts must be covered and be deemed safe for opposing players by the match officials. Match officials have the final say on safety determination.

Shin guards are **mandatory** for all players.

In case of a color conflict, the home team (listed first in the schedule) shall change colors.

## 5.03 Duration of the Game

- Under-8 – 3 x 15 minute periods
- Under-9 and Under-10 – 2 x 25 minute halves
- Under-11 and Under-12 – 2 x 30 minutes halve
- Under-13 and Under-14 – 2 x 35 minute halves
- Under-15 and Under-16 – 2 x 40 minute halves
- Under-17, 18 and 19 – 2 x 45 minute halves

All games are considered final if at least half the game is completed. If the game is stopped prior to half time due to weather conditions, the complete game will be replayed

## 5.04 Substitution

Except as noted, substitutions shall be “unlimited” and any time after any dead ball situation (corner kicks, free-kicks, throw-ins etc.).

The substitutes must be at the center line ready to enter before the referee will allow the substitution to take place.

The referee has the authority not to allow the substitution if he/she believes that the procedure will stop the flow of the game or is being used as tactical time wasting play.

It is suggested (but not mandatory) that all substitutes in the U13 and above age groups wear a different color shirt or pinnie when not on the field of play.

## 5.05 Point system

Each team will be awarded

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

### 5.06 Tie-breakers

If at the conclusion of the league season a tie breaker is needed the following criteria will be utilized:

- A. Head to head (not used if more than two teams are involved in the tie)
- B. Goal difference (i.e. goals scored minus goals allowed - maximum of 4 per game)
- C. Fewest goals allowed
- D. Most goals scored (maximum of 4 per game)
- E. Most Wins
- F. Most shut-outs
- G. **Coin Flip to be held at the league office, with both clubs represented**

### 5.07 Delay of kick off

If a game is delayed due to the tardiness of a team, players, coach or manager, or missing player/coaches passes; a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes of “grace” time shall be awarded. After fifteen (15) minutes if the team is still not able to start the game, it shall be declared a forfeit.

The grace period might be extended if the team that is late has a valid reason and the league director grants the extension (needs to be done verbally and via email to both coaches and the referees). The referee will note the extension in his/her game report. See rule 4.06 for minimum number of players necessary to start a game.

**PLEASE NOTE: This does not apply if games are being played on the field prior to your game kicking off. On occasion, fields fall behind – and in these situations, please be aware it cannot always be controlled.**

### 5.08 Players and Spectators

Players and coaches will set up on the opposite side of the field from all spectators. This will be mandatory at all New Hampshire Soccer League locations.

### 5.09 Heading Restrictions at U11

Per US soccer recommendations there will be no deliberate heading at U11 and below. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

## SECTION VI: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT

### 6.01 Responsible Parties

All coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct.

Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team shall be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of The League. Any coach or team official can be held responsible for any individual associated to their team at any match.

### 6.02 Profanity

The New Hampshire Soccer League has a Zero Tolerance Policy for Foul & Abusive Language. Profanity and unsporting conduct by any individual will not be tolerated either on or off the field.

### 6.03 Compensation

No player shall receive any compensation for services rendered to a team or receive any promises of compensation.

### 6.04 Smoking & Alcohol

There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking in the soccer parks. **This includes vaping.**

### 6.05 Referee Authority

The referee(s) are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart. The referee(s) is empowered to:

- i. Rule on what equipment is considered playable and enforce the Laws of the Game
- ii. Issue Yellow or Red cards to players and dismiss coaches during that entire period

The referee may terminate a game for coach, players, or spectator misconduct. Teams causing the termination may forfeit the game.

Referees will NOT show red cards to coaches during any league (jamborees, regular season, or playoff) games.

### 6.06 Park Rules

All Park rules where games are played shall be respected and obeyed.

## 6.07 Red Cards & Suspensions

Players or coaches are subject to match suspensions according to the following:

- A. Any coach, team official, and/or player whom is sent-off/dismissed shall have their pass mailed by the referee to the NHTA office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

*Passes shall be addressed to:*

*New Hampshire Soccer Association*

*ATTN: Disciplinary Committee - NHSL*

*1600 Candia Road, Suite 3,*

*Manchester, NH 03109*

- B. Any player, coach, team personnel, etc. whom is serving a suspension shall be listed in the “NHSL Suspension Log” on the NHSL Website. Anyone listed on the NHSL Suspension Log shall not participate in any match until the return date listed.
- C. Any player or coach that is ejected from any league match due to striking, punching, hitting, kicking, spitting, or any action that reflects harmful intent shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) sanctioned games.
- D. Any player, coach or fan verbally abusing a referee during any league match as documented on the Referee’s Report of the match shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) league matches.
- E. Any player receiving a red card or coach being ejected, in any league match other than the circumstances listed above shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of one (1) league match.
- F. The New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to add additional or reduce the number of matches in a suspension without a hearing. This could include but not be limited to any derogatory comments of a racial nature.
- G. Players or coaches that are ejected from a game, for whatever reason, shall serve their suspension at the next sanctioned event(s) for that particular team.
- H. Failure of a coach/player/team official to remain out of sight and out of sound after being ejected may result in a forfeit.
- I. Any coach that is ejected from a game is liable to sanctioning at the league and state level. Their Club will be assessed a \$250 fine by New Hampshire Soccer League, this must be paid before the coach has their card returned and is eligible to coach that team again. This is in addition to any game suspensions.
- J. Any coach receiving 3 dismissals in one calendar year (regardless of what team they may be coaching) will not be eligible to coach within the New Hampshire Soccer League for the next season.
- K. Any player, coach, or manager, who participates in a match while under suspension, shall cause his or her team to forfeit that match and will be subject to additional penalty.

- L. During a coach's suspension he/she must not be within sight nor sound of the game that they are suspended for.
- M. A referee may request the coaching staff of either team to deal with any parent whom, in the Referee's opinion, is bringing the game into disrepute. Should that parent continue to behave in a way that, in the referee's opinion, continues to bring the game into disrepute, it could lead to the referee terminating the game and resulting in a forfeit win for the opponent. In the case where it is not readily determined whose parent it is, both teams will forfeit and be fined a forfeit fee.

## SECTION VII: PROTESTS

### 7.01 Definition

A protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules policies or procedure. Protests will only be accepted in regard to illegal players, and misapplication of the laws of the game. There will be no protests in regard to referee decisions.

### 7.02 Who can file a protest

Only a coach or team-administrator can file protests. Only those teams involved are allowed to file a protest. Third parties, i.e. coaches/administrators from other teams, cannot file a protest on a specific game.

### 7.03 Filing Procedure

1. Must inform referee that you will be protesting the match prior to leaving the field
2. A protest must be filed in writing with the league director and must include:
  - a. Details of the complaint
  - b. A listing of the players/situations that are deemed to be illegal.
  - c. A statement of the desired resolution
3. All protests must be filed within 48 hours of the incident
  - a. Exception being for playoff matches – see 8.03.01
4. Protest must include a cash/ bank check made payable to "New Hampshire Soccer League" with the memo: "Protest Fee" in the amount of \$250.
  - a. If protest is granted, the money will be refunded to your team.

NOTE: No protests will be heard on referee judgment calls.

### 7.03.01 Filing Procedure - Playoffs

1. Must inform the referee you will be protesting the match prior to leaving the field
2. A protest must be filed in writing with the league director and must include:
  - a. Details of the complaint
  - b. A listing of the players/situations that are deemed to be illegal.
  - c. A statement of the desired resolution
3. All protests must be filed within 1 hour from the conclusion of the match in which is being protested
4. Protest must include a cash/ bank check made payable to “New Hampshire Soccer League” with the memo: “Protest Fee” in the amount of \$250.
  - a. If protest is granted, the money will be refunded to your team.

NOTE: No protests will be heard on referee judgment calls.

## Section VIII: League Discipline

### 8.01 Discipline Committee

- G. All matters of concern to the New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee must originate from the referee’s game report or from a formal protest submitted in writing by the offended party.
- H. Any player, team official or spectator alleged to have been guilty of any violation of the laws of the game, the bylaws, rules and regulations of the association or any misconduct detrimental to the game, shall be subject to appropriate penalty as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- I. The New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the association League Director, League Assistant Director, League Assignor, two (2) L.O.C. members and the NHSA VP of Youth Competitive.
- J. The league director shall notify the player/coach/club of any penalty or suspension determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- K. The decision of the New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall be promptly sent via U.S. Mail. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.

### 8.02 Discipline Appeal Process

- L. Any, club, team, or individual not wholly satisfied with any decisions made by New Hampshire Soccer League has the right to appeal to the New Hampshire Soccer Association Executive Board. This appeal must be in writing and must be received by the NHSA State President within ten (10) days of the decision handed down by the League. The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$75.00 made out to “New Hampshire Soccer League” with the memo: “Appeal Fee”.

## SECTION IX: Short-Sided Rules

### 9.01 Short Sided Rules of Play

The New Hampshire Soccer League shall use the most current US Soccer Standards & [US Soccer Player Development Initiatives \(PDI\)](#) in order to provide its players with the player development model in which focuses the individual player's development.

[CLICK HERE FOR US SOCCER'S PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES](#)

All US Soccer Standards & US Soccer PDI's shall be made available on the NHSL Website & NHSA Website.

The New Hampshire Soccer League reserves the right to make amendments to any US Soccer Standard and/or Player Development Initiative that will be in the best interest of the league. All amendments to any policy shall be signed by the League Director, NHSA Vice President of Youth Competitive and/or NHSA President.

**PLEASE NOTE: U8 will play in a 7v7 environment starting in the fall of 2019. 4v4 will not be offered at this time.**

