

NH 9v9 WINTER SOCCER LEAGUE



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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Contents

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.01 Name of the League.....	4
1.02 Mission	4
1.03 Management of the League	4
1.04 Affiliation	4
1.05 Contact Information and Communication.....	4
1.06 League office.....	4
1.07 League Website.....	4
1.08 Background Check – “Kids Safe”	4
1.09 Referees	5
1.10 Matters Not provided for	5
SECTION II: TEAM APPLICATION & ADMISSION	6
2.01 Team and Coach eligibility.....	6
2.02 Registering Players and teams with US Soccer	6
2.02.01 League Structure.....	6
2.03 Good Standing.....	6
2.04 Application deadlines.....	6
2.05 Application Process.....	7
2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams.....	7
2.07 Acceptance of the New Hampshire Soccer League Rules.....	7
2.08 League fees.....	7
2.09 Returned Checks.....	7
SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER & FORMATS.....	8
3.01 Team roster.....	8
3.02 Roster Size & Game Day Roster	8
3.03 Player eligibility	8
3.04 Club Passes	8
3.05 Player & Coaches passes	8
3.06 Age Divisions.....	9
3.07 Playing on Multiple teams.....	9
3.08 Formats	9
SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES	9

4.01 Reporting of scores..... 9

4.01.01 Referee Game Reports 9

4.01.02 Game Feedback Forms..... 10

4.02 Game day roster..... 10

4.03 Weather Alerts..... 10

4.04 Game Change Policy 10

4.04.01 Re-schedule Policy 10

4.04.02 Re-Scheduling games that are postponed..... 11

4.05 Forfeits 11

4.06 Appeals Committee..... 11

4.07 Cancelled Games 12

SECTION V: RULES OF PLAY 12

5.01 The Ball..... 12

5.02 Player Equipment 12

5.03 Duration of the Game 12

5.04 Substitutions 12

5.05 Point system 13

5.06 Delay of kick off..... 13

5.07 Players and Spectators..... 13

5.08 Heading Restrictions at U11 13

SECTION VI: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT 13

6.01 Responsible Parties..... 13

6.02 Profanity 13

6.03 Compensation 13

6.04 Smoking & Alcohol..... 13

6.05 Referee Authority..... 14

6.06 Facility Rules 14

6.07 Red Cards & Suspensions 14

6.07.01 Coaches Receiving Yellow Cards..... 15

Section VIII: League Discipline 15

8.01 Discipline Procedures..... 15

8.02 Discipline Appeal Process..... 16

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1.01 Name of the League

The league shall be named The “New Hampshire Winter Soccer League” or “NHWSL” 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. All actions of the league are overseen by the New Hampshire Soccer Association Executive Board.

1.04 Affiliation

The New Hampshire Winter 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 Winter 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 soccernh.com/nhsa-9v9-winter-league/

1.08 Background Check – Risk Management and SafeSport

All coaches, team officials and bench personnel must have an up-to-date Risk Management and SafeSport registration on file with New Hampshire Soccer Association and the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League prior to the start of each session.

All Risk Management / SafeSport checks expire every year on August 1st and will need to renew annually at this time prior to being added to a roster. All adults working with children must also go through both Risk Management AND SafeSport training. Both Risk Management and SafeSport need to be completed prior to any interactions with minors, including data sharing of player info.

Risk Management: You may log into system.gotsport.com, click on User Login, enter in your email account associated with your coach's account and password (ask your club admin if you have issues). Here, you will be able to initiate a new background check clicking on background checks, then complete the required information. Clubs will be billed \$11 per coach/manager/team parent/board member. 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.

SafeSport: All adult members will need to complete an annual training of SafeSport. Every three (3) years you will need to take the full course over; off years will be a refresher course. Once this is completed, go into system.gotsport.com, under documents tab, upload your most up to date SafeSport certificate. Coaches who have not completed the annual SafeSport course or refresher will not be added to a roster until completed and will not be permitted on the sidelines during a game.

It is mandatory that all players, coaches, volunteers, or anyone in contact with our youth players – aged 18 or older (or turning 18 midseason) - to be SafeSport Certified. All persons 18 years or older who interact or play with those who are under the age of 18 will need to be SafeSport certified starting the fall of 2020. Anyone who turns 18 in season will also need to complete the certification. This comes from the legal counsel.

Example: Player X is turning 18 on May 15th. Player Y is his teammate and he will be 17 years old for the entire spring. Player X will need to be SafeSport certified by the time he/she turns 18.

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.

1.09 Referees

All referees used in the New Hampshire Winter 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.

1.10 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 Winter Soccer League. All player and team registration shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer and NHSA regulations unless otherwise specified.

NHWSL reserves the right to refuse admittance or acceptance into any NHWSL event, including the New Hampshire Winter 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 NHSA soccer

All head coaches must be working towards, at a minimum, any coaching modules/licensures as recommended by US Soccer, NH Director of Coaching, or the NHSA Technical Director. Starting in the winter of 2022/2023, all Head Coaches will be REQUIRED to hold a coaching certification/licensure. Failure to present licensure will deny admittance into the league. All first-year coaches will have a one session grace period to obtain proper certification (session #1 or session #2). All coaches must pass a background check prior to being eligible to coach in the New Hampshire Winter 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 NHSA websites.

2.02.01 League Structure

The New Hampshire Winter Soccer League will offer competition for Boys and Girls teams from U11s through U20s. Divisions may be combined at the discretion of the League Director in order to provide a suitable level of competition for teams. All games will be played in a 9v9 format.

Multiple sub-divisions within the same age group could occur if demand for this requires it.

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 Winter Soccer League must be received along with full payment on or before the registration deadlines established by the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League.

2.05 Application Process

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

Once a session starts you may register additional players up to the maximum based upon your age/division until the roster freeze date which will be up through the fourth week of games played.

2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams

Decisions concerning a team's admittance into the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League will be as objective as possible. 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 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 Winter Soccer League rules and policies and any decisions made by the league administrators. Lack of knowledge of these New Hampshire Winter 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 Winter Soccer League agree that they are bound by these rules.

2.08 League fees

All league fees will be due for all divisions. If fees are not paid, 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 Winter Soccer League.

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.

2.09 Returned Checks

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

SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER & FORMAT

3.01 Team roster

All teams playing in the New Hampshire Winter 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), uniform numbers, PASSPORT STYLE pictures of each player, and the State Registrar Stamp. A PDF Version of this complete roster must be on file with the league prior to the first game and will be kept on file at the facility where games will be held.

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. The League will adhere to the following maximum "game-day" roster limits*:

- 9v9 – 18 dressed players (maximum of 22 on the roster)

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

*In divisions where State Associations allow more than the "game-day" maximum to be rostered on a team, only the "game-day" limits listed above 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

Unlike outdoors, club passes will not be used for the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League.

3.05 Coaches' Passes

Each coach, assistant coach, or any bench personnel must have a valid (laminated and signed by an official of their home state **WITH PHOTO**) US Youth Soccer coaches' pass in order to participate in the League. The coaches' passes must be brought to every game and be worn by each coach (visible; ex: on a lanyard).

Any coach unable to provide their bench pass will not be allowed on the player's side of the field.

3.06 Age Divisions

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

3.07 Playing on Multiple teams

Players may be rostered on more than one team (as a registered player) in the same club in different age groups, as long as they are age eligible for both teams.

If a club has multiple teams in the same age group, players are permitted to be rostered on both teams. Players are allowed to play on two teams for two different clubs, as long as they are not playing for both teams in the same game (player must choose one team in the event of a conflict of schedule between both teams).

3.08 Formats

All teams will play 9v9 (with offside) utilizing a 1-person referee crew.

*Please note the PDIs in accordance with punting and heading at it relates to the U11 age group.

SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

4.01 Reporting of scores

It is the HOME team's responsibility to call the scores in each week. SCORES MUST BE ENTERED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS and can be done online.

You will need your GAME NUMBER and EVENT PIN (provided by the league) prior to reporting scores. All games must be submitted within 48 hours.

On line:

[Click Here To Report Score](#) – [link needs to be updated](#)

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.

4.01.02 Game Feedback Forms

At the conclusion of each game, a Game Feedback Form may be filled out. Only coaches and administrators may provide feedback. No spectator responses will be accepted. Any assessments of a three (3) or less must have supplemental information typed in, or the form will be discarded.

4.02 Game day roster

Game day rosters will be printed out by the league and kept on file at the NH SportsDome facility. It is strongly recommend that each coach keeps a copy of their roster on their person in case any roster questions come to fruition where a roster check is required. **PLAYERS OR COACHES NOT ON THE ROSTER WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE.**

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 Winter Soccer League blog. All games will be played unless the facility makes the call to close down, which at that point, it will be posted to the blog.

If a team chooses not to show up for a game, for any reason (weather or otherwise) the team in question must notify the League Director, the facility (call in), and the opposing coach. No refunds will be given for team's failure to show up for a scheduled game. Any team who fails to show up to a scheduled game without notification to those listed above are subject to additional fines.

*all no shows must be communicated no less than 3 hours prior to scheduled kickoff.

4.04 Game Change Policy

All teams, upon registering and being accepted into the league, are agreeing to play in all scheduled league games. Failure to appear for a league game could result in a forfeit fine.

Once the league schedule is posted, the schedule will be final.

Although it will not be anticipated, games are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as change to facility schedule, weather related cancellations, or any other event that could force a time or date change.

4.04.01 Re-schedule Policy

- 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 no less than 7 days in advance and are not guaranteed.
- Coaches talking to opposing coaches and postponing/cancelling games without league approval, or lack of communication with the league and facility 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.

4.04.02 Rescheduling Games that are postponed (weather, etc.)

Any game that is not played for any reason (game was not played at time and date as scheduled), will be attempted to be rescheduled (if time and space permits), but is not guaranteed.

4.05 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:

- 9v9: Minimum of 5 players

Teams who forfeit for any reason will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine. If there is a double forfeit, both teams will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine.

Any game assessed as a forfeiture can be appealed.

4.06 Appeals Committee

- A. Any player, team official or club found in violation of the New Hampshire Winter 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 Winter 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 Winter Soccer League Policies and Procedures, within five (5) calendar days of official notification of violations from the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League.
 - a. Appeals shall be emailed to the League Director, NHSA State Administrator, and the NHSA VP of Youth Competitive.
- C. The New Hampshire Soccer League Appeals Committee shall consist of 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 Winter 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 Winter Soccer League Appeals Committee shall be promptly sent via email within five (5) business days of the hearing to all concerned parties. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.

4.07 Cancelled Games

Only the league director, NHSA VP of Comp, or league facility (NH SportsDome) can cancel games for driving conditions, unexpected field emergencies, or any other unforeseen circumstance. All cancelled games that fall within 24 hours of kickoff must be posted to the blog provided by the league. Game cancellations initiated by either club must be communicated no less than three (3) hours prior to kickoff, and posted to the blog.

Failure for a team to communicate with the league (via blog), facility, and opposing club are subject to forfeit.

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.

- U11 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

- All games will play two (2), thirty (30) minute halves, unless otherwise specified.

5.04 Substitutions

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. ****Please see new laws of the game rules on substitutions on players leaving the field****

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 ploy. It is suggested (but not mandatory) that all substitutes 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 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 five (5) minutes of “grace” time shall be awarded. After five (5) minutes if the team is still not able to start the game, it shall be declared a forfeit.

5.07 Players and Spectators

Players and coaches will set up on the opposite side of the field from all spectators.

5.08 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 Winter 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 abandon a game for coach, player, or spectator misconduct. Teams causing the abandonment are subject to a \$500 fine, and dismissal from the league. These decisions can be appealed.

6.06 Facility Rules

All facility 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 be reported by the referee no later than 48 hours past the conclusion of the match in question.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. The League Director 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Failure of a coach/player/team official to remain out of sight and out of sound after being ejected may result in a forfeit.
- H. 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 Winter Soccer League. This must be paid before the coach is eligible to coach that team again. This is in addition to any game suspensions.
 - Any coach ejected from a league game will not be allowed to coach any other NHWSL team (same club or otherwise) until the suspension for the dismissal is completed.
- I. Any coach receiving two (2) dismissals in one calendar year (regardless of what team they may be coaching) will not be eligible to coach within the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League for an indefinite amount of time and must appear in front of a NHSA disciplinary

committee for potential re-instatement.

- J. 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.
- K. During a coach's suspension he/she must not be within sight nor sound of the game that they are suspended for.
- L. 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.

6.07.01 Coaches Receiving Yellow Cards

For coaches receiving yellow cards, the following procedures will take place:

- A. Any coach, assistant coach, or personnel receiving two (2) yellow cards in the same game, resulting in a dismissal, will face a MINIMUM one (1) game suspension.
- B. Any coach, assistant coach, or personnel receiving a yellow card in two (2) consecutive games will be handed a one (1) game suspension.
- C. Any coach, assistant coach, or personnel receiving an accumulation of three (3) cards at any point in a season (spring or fall) will be handed a one (1) game suspension and a \$125 fine.
- D. All yellow cards received in a season reflect on the head coach of the team. If a coaching staff accumulates more than three (3) yellow cards in a single season, each subsequent yellow card will accrue a \$250 fine assessed to the team.

Please see league policies for red cards received. This is on top of any potential suspensions delivered for dismissal, dissent, or misbehavior, and will be looked at on a case by case basis. Any coach receiving two (2) yellows in the same game – resulting in a dismissal – could face more than a one (1) game dismissal depending on the nature of the cards. Please refer to league rules for coach dismissal policies.

Section VIII: League Discipline

8.01 Discipline Procedures

- A. All matters of concern will originate from the referee's game report or from a formal protest submitted in writing by the offended party.
- B. 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 League Director.

- C. The league director shall notify the player/coach/club of any penalty or suspension in a timely fashion.
- D. The decision of the New Hampshire Winter Soccer League Director shall be promptly sent via Email. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.

8.02 Discipline Appeal Process

- E. Any, club, team, or individual not wholly satisfied with any decisions made by New Hampshire Winter 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 five (5) 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 Winter Soccer League” with the memo: “Appeal Fee”.

