



# SPRING 2025 MATCH DAY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**MAKE IT FUN !**



# PRIORITIES

Everything about match days should focus on the player. The NHSL believes in creating and facilitating developmentally and competitively appropriate playing and learning environments for players that are truly player-centered. It is imperative that all parties comply with the rules, policies, and procedures and act with the best interests of the players in mind at all times.

Complying with the Rules, Policies and Procedures can help to ensure that the soccer families of New Hampshire and beyond have fun, positive experiences that foster a love for the game of soccer. Please make sure to review the rules in full.



# KEY PROTOCOLS

1

## ROSTER EXCHANGES

Teams are required to bring two (2) copies of their roster to each match and provide one to the opposing team and one to the referee. Any club pass player's roster must also be shared with both parties,

2

## COACHING CARD

Coaches and any adult on the player sideline must be on the roster and be visibly displaying their league approved coaching card at all times (a lanyard is the simplest form of compliance).

3

## GOAL DIFFERENCES

4 goals is the cap for goal difference in standings. More than an 8 goal difference is deemed excessive and sanctionable by the league.

4

## SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

It is the expectation that spectators will keep matches player-centered and offer only positive comments and celebrations. Improper sideline behavior can result in the coach and club being carded or sanctioned and match suspension

# REFEREES

In and around New Hampshire we have a lot of excellent referees that referee at the highest levels. We also have younger referees continuing their development. Respect for referees is a must from everyone. We may not agree with every call or we may feel aggrieved at times, but referees are human and should be treated with the utmost respect because without referees the matches don't happen.

**There is zero tolerance for referee abuse and lack of respect towards referees. Giving referees a hard time is completely unacceptable, it is especially egregious when adults are giving youth referees a hard time.**

As adults we set the example for the youth players, so set the right example of respect.

Complete match feedback forms, don't engage with referees over disagreements.



# COACHING CARDS

- **Coaches are required to have a Coaching Card displayed and visible at all times at matches.**
- The Cards can be downloaded and printed once rosters are completed.
- **Players do not need Player cards but Coaches Do.**
- This rule is in place to confirm that adults on the sideline are background cleared and have completed the SafeSport Requirement.
- The Rule is in place to protect the youth players.
- The most common and simple way to comply is to wear a coaching lanyard - there may be extra available for pickup at the State Office and they are also available cheap on Amazon.
- **Failure to comply should result in the coach being removed from the coaching sideline and can result in the game being stopped, fines, forfeits, and suspensions.**



# COACH BEHAVIOR

- Coaches are role models and should act in a player-centered manner at all times from when they arrive at the fields until they drive away.
- Coaches must display their coaching card at all times.
- Coaches should not enter the field of play unless invited first by the referee to tend to an injury.
- Coaches should not engage with opposing players or opposing coaches.
- Coaches should not engage with the referees - file a game feedback form with issues.
- Coaches can receive cards for spectator behavior.
- **Thank you for all you do for the soccer families of NH and beyond!**



# GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

- Sportsmanship is key!
- **The goal differential is 4 goals per match** for standings, tiebreakers, and playoff considerations.
- The league understands that some matches may see circumstances where one team is stronger than an opponent for any number of reasons, thus impacting the competitiveness of the match.
- **Goal differentials in excess of eight (8) goals in a match are determined excessive.**
- Excessive goal differences that exceed the eight (8) goal differential will result in the team and member club being issued a warning. This warning may also be accompanied with a fine or sanction.
- Repeat violations by the team and/or club will be fined.

# GAME MANAGEMENT TIPS

- TEAMS SHOULD LEARN TO MANAGE UNBALANCED MATCHES AND HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE.
- THE LEAGUE STRONGLY ENCOURAGES AND SUGGESTS THAT WHEN A TEAM REACHES THE 4 GOAL DIFFERENTIAL WITH SUBSTANTIAL TIME REMAINING IN THE MATCH, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A COMPETITIVE IMBALANCE, THE COACH OF THE LEADING TEAM BEGIN TO PLAY SHORTHANDED BY VOLUNTARILY REMOVING 1 OR MORE PLAYERS FROM THEIR SIDE. IF THAT SIDE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE MATCH, ADDITIONAL PLAYERS WOULD BE REMOVED UNTIL BALANCED PLAY IS ACHIEVED, OR THE MINIMUM REQUIRED PLAYERS THRESHOLD FOR THE AGE GROUP IS REACHED.



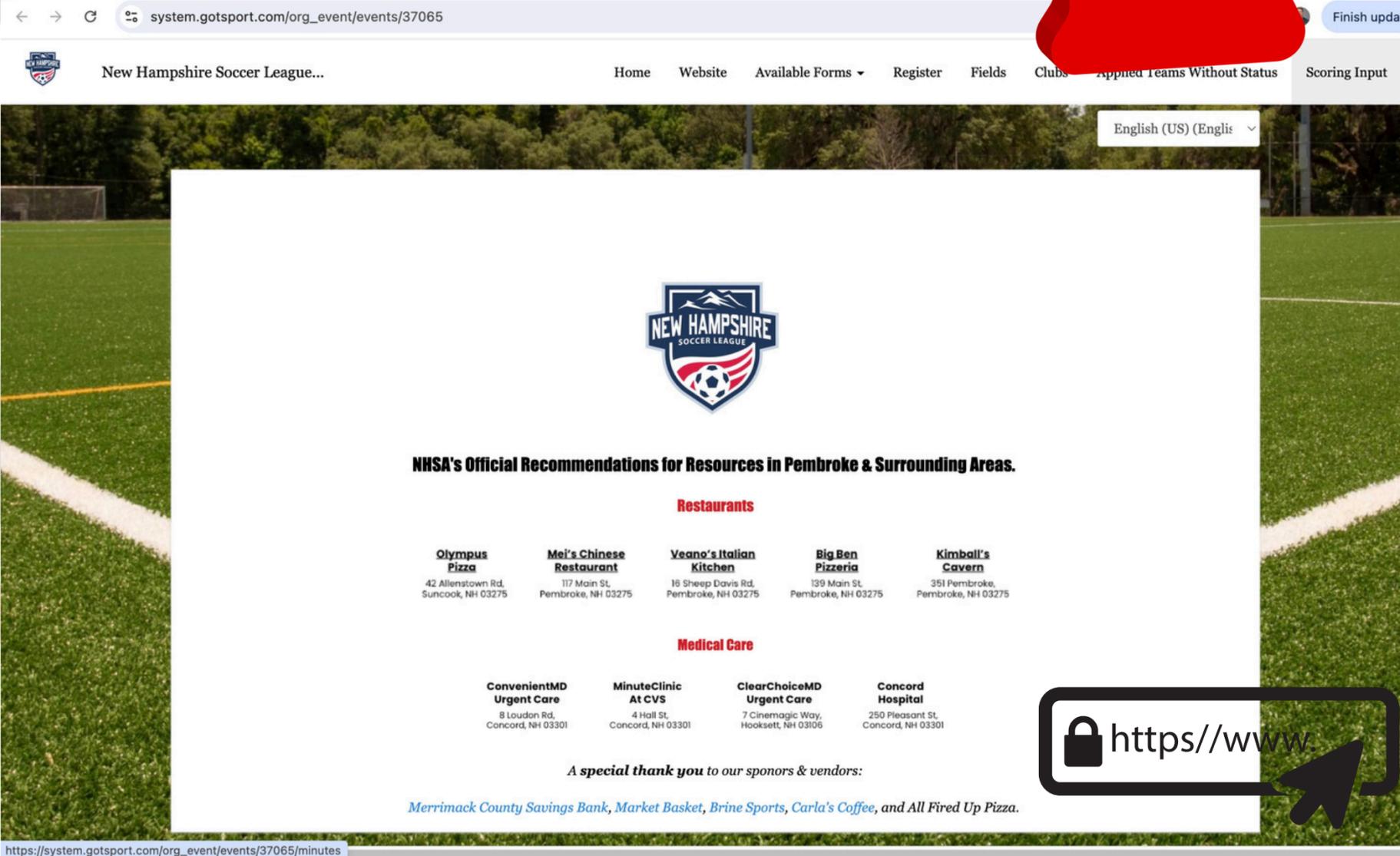
# SPECTATORS AND REFEREE INTERACTION

- Spectator behavior is expected to be positive and player-centered.
- Direct communication with opponents that is deemed negative is unacceptable.
- Direct commentary and interactions with referees can lead to sanctions.
- Direct engagement with opposing fans can lead to issues and should be avoided.
- Referees may issue cautions to the coaches for spectator behavior and may stop matches if they determine it is warranted.
- Please ensure that your spectators are having fun and encouraging positive play and behaving in a player-centered way.



# SCORE REPORTING

- It is the home team's responsibility to input scores.
- Scores must be input for all age groups, U8-U19.
- The deadline to input scores is 48 hours after match completion.
- The scoring input tab is in the upper right part of the schedule (see arrow in adjacent picture).
- You will need the match number.
- The PIN to report scores is **6319**
- Additional resources for score reporting are available here: <https://soccernh.com/nh-soccer-league/score-reporting/>
- Inaccurate reporting of scores to mask goal differential issues or for competitive advantage can result in sanctions.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [system.gotsport.com/org\\_event/events/37065](https://system.gotsport.com/org_event/events/37065). The page header includes the New Hampshire Soccer League logo and navigation links: Home, Website, Available Forms, Register, Fields, Clubs, Applied Teams Without Status, and Scoring Input. A red arrow points to the 'Scoring Input' link. The main content area features the league logo and a section titled 'NHSA's Official Recommendations for Resources in Pembroke & Surrounding Areas.' This section is divided into 'Restaurants' and 'Medical Care'.

Restaurants				
<b>Olympus Pizza</b> 42 Allentown Rd, Suncook, NH 03275	<b>Mei's Chinese Restaurant</b> 117 Main St, Pembroke, NH 03275	<b>Yeano's Italian Kitchen</b> 16 Sheep Davis Rd, Pembroke, NH 03275	<b>Big Ben Pizzeria</b> 139 Main St, Pembroke, NH 03275	<b>Kimball's Tavern</b> 351 Pembroke, Pembroke, NH 03275

Medical Care			
<b>ConvenientMD Urgent Care</b> 8 Loudon Rd, Concord, NH 03301	<b>MinuteClinic At CVS</b> 4 Hall St, Concord, NH 03301	<b>ClearChoiceMD Urgent Care</b> 7 Cinemagic Way, Hooksett, NH 03106	<b>Concord Hospital</b> 250 Pleasant St, Concord, NH 03301

*A special thank you to our sponsors & vendors:*  
*Merrimack County Savings Bank, Market Basket, Brine Sports, Carla's Coffee, and All Fired Up Pizza.*

At the bottom right, there is a black box containing a padlock icon and the text <https://www>, with a mouse cursor pointing to it.

# GAME FEEDBACK FORMS

- The NHSL collects data on matches to aggregate the data and to identify excellence, issues, and challenges.
- At the conclusion of matches, coaches can complete Game Feedback Forms to provide feedback (both positive and negative) on Referees, fields, spectators, other teams / coaches, and other facts related to the matches.
- The place to raise issues is the feedback forms and with the league, not a direct confrontation at the fields.
- **Feedback forms can be completed here:**  
<https://system.gotsport.com/forms/9511011N3>
- More details about Feedback Forms are available here:  
<https://soccernh.com/nh-soccer-league/score-reporting/>



# DISCIPLINARY ISSUES / MATCH ISSUES



## **MATCH REPORTS**

Should an issue arise during a match the NHSL receives referee match reports. In the event of cards or sanctionable behavior the NHSL will review for appropriate action if deemed appropriate.



## **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES**

Matters that may involve a sanction are reviewed by a disciplinary committee made up of members of the League Operating Committee. The committee reviews incidents and the rules to reach a determination of appropriate sanction (if any).

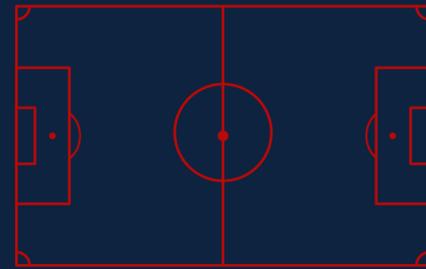


## **NOTICE**

The club and interested party will receive notice of league determinations regarding discipline along with appeal rights that may exist.

# NHSL LEAGUE RULES & POLICIES

**PLEASE REVIEW**



**AND BE FAMILIAR**

**COMPLETE LEAGUE RULES AND POLICIES**

# NEED ASSISTANCE?

NHSL League Rules and Policies:  
<https://soccernh.com/nh-soccer-league/rules-policies/>

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 **www.NHSoccerLeague.com**

