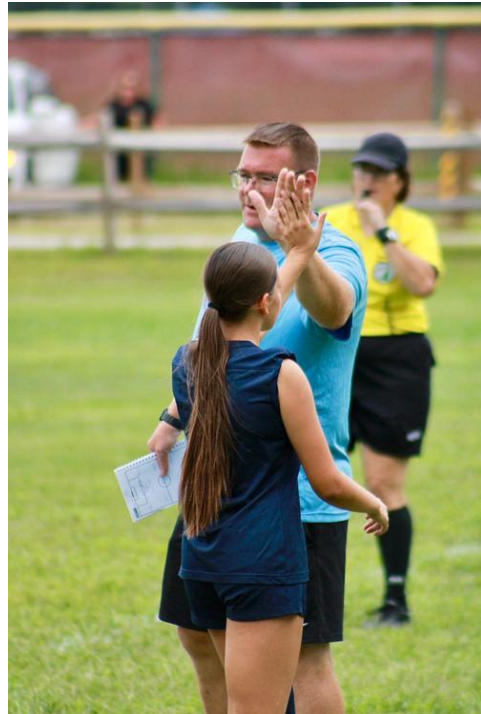


FALL '26

LEAGUE KICKOFF

MEETING





About myself

- **Been a coach for over 25+ years at multiple different levels**
- **Been involved in NH Soccer for over 15 years.**
- **LOC member for 14 years**

Governance

League Director

League Operating Committee

Competition / Placement Committee and Appeals

Disciplinary Committee



Rules

Familiarize your club,
teams, coaches, and
families

Ignorance of the rules
is not a defense for
non-compliance

Make best efforts
made to be consistent
and fair

Suggestions for
changes

<https://soccernh.com/nh-soccer-league/rules-policies/>

NHSL FALL 2026

Important dates

- **8/25 – Schedules back from Location Managers**
- **8/29 – Schedules are sent off to Referee assigner and schedule is final.**
- **9/7 – Rosters are due to the State**
- **9/12 – Opening Weekend**
- **9/29 - Roster Freeze**
- **11/6 – 11/8 - Playoffs**





FALL 2026 / SPRING 2027

CLUB ACTION ITEMS

GET READY FOR A GREAT SEASON! 

1



AFFILIATION REGISTRATION

- Complete your 2026/27 annual affiliation first
- One submission per club

2



BACKGROUND CHECKS & SAFESPORT

- Coaches, managers & volunteers must be current
- Complete requirements ASAP — background checks can take time

3



OUTSTANDING BALANCES

- Log in to GotSport Dashboard
- Go to Billing > Payor Accounts
- Review and pay any open invoices

4



CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE (COI)

- 2026/27 COIs are now available
- Request additional COIs as needed

5



PLAYER REGISTRATION & ROSTERS

- Submit updates by Wednesday at 5 PM the week before games
- NHSL roster freeze: September 29
- Use NHSA Player Passes 26/27
- Current photos required (players & coaches)
- Jersey numbers required for all players

6



RECREATIONAL PLAYER REPORTING

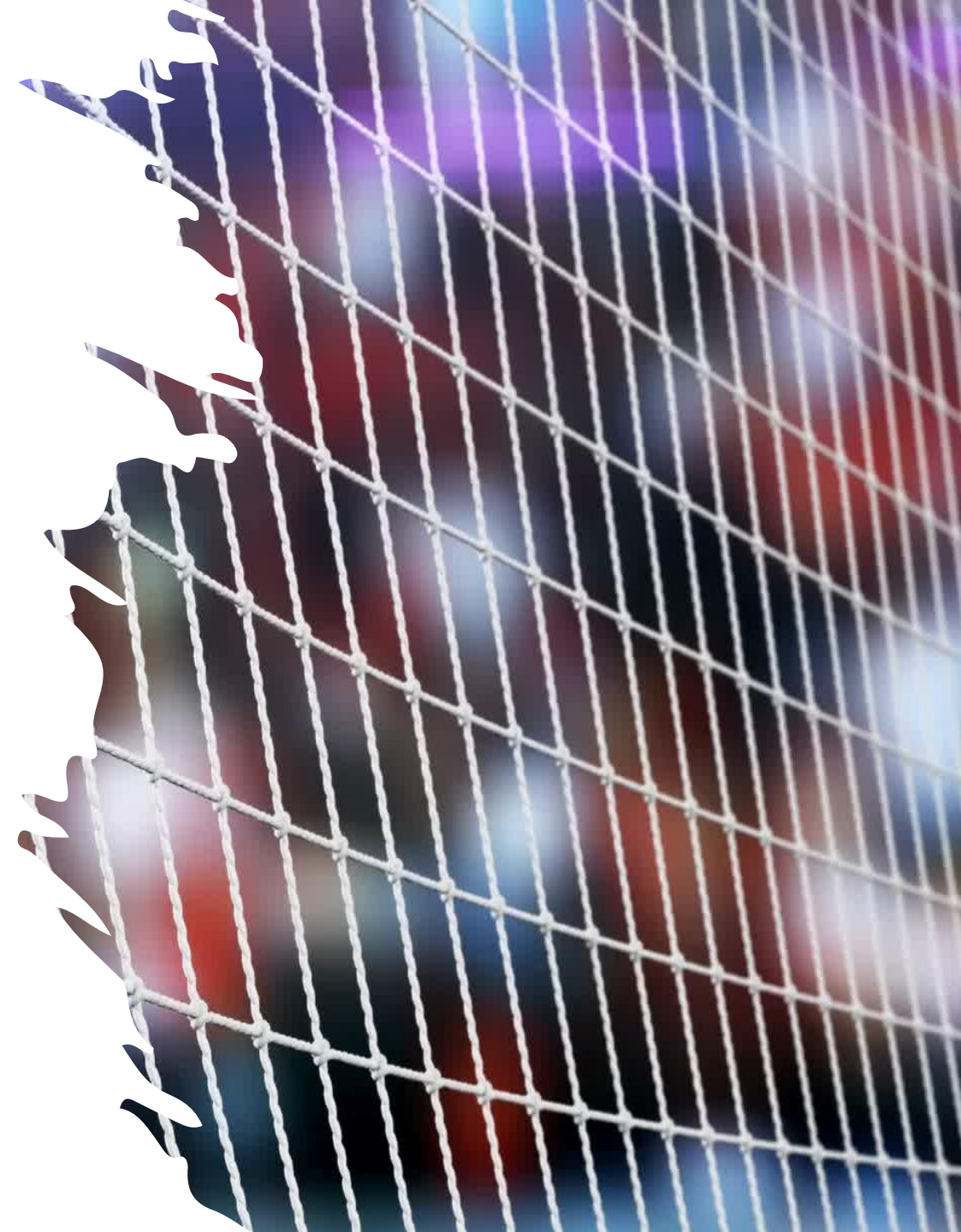
- Report any 2025/26 recreational players still outstanding
- Report 2026/27 numbers as soon as players are registered
- Insurance coverage is based on reported recreational player numbers



**THE EARLIER YOU COMPLETE THESE ITEMS,
THE SMOOTHER YOUR SEASON WILL BE!**

Rosters

- Don't wait to the last minute as processing takes time.
- Know the League rules – ignorance of them is not a defense if an issue is raised. They are available on the website – if you have a question, please ask.
- Wednesdays are weekly submission deadlines
- Roster freeze date is September 29th
- You **DO NOT** need player cards for Fall 2026
- **DO** need to bring 2 copies with current **photos and numbers** to games (1 for referee and 1 for opponent) – these should be color.



Rosters



2026 - 2027 New Hampshire Soccer Association Roster

Club Keke Demo

Club Keke Demo Good Vibes



Association: NH
Season: NHSA Roster and Passes 26/27
Division:
Team Number: 305257

Age: U13
Gender: Male
Level: Travel
Color: ☐ ☐

Role	Name	Jersey	Reg#	State	Date of Birth	m/f	Status	Assignment/Approved Date
1	Buchanan, Callum	4	25472108	FL	12/2014	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
2	Cupcake, Lisa	33	42085079	KY	05/2010	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
3	Harris, Ashley	7	10759733	NY	08/2010	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
4	Hartley, Harrison	10	42609579	NY	01/2013	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
5	Hartley, Fiona	45	17520440	NY	04/2016	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
6	Hartley, Takeshi	00	42609578	NY	07/2012	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
7	Hartley, Harry	99	15049305	NY	01/2013	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
8	Natta, Uma	11	25078217	NY	03/2012	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26
9	Test, John	3	10759726	FL	02/2014	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Coach

Missing Photos



2026 - 2027 NHSA Rosters & Passes 2026/2027 Check In Document

Club Keke Demo

Club Keke Demo Good Vibes

Association: NH

Season: NHSA Roster and Passes 26/27

Division:

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Rosters

	Role	Name	Reg#	Phone	Email/UserID			
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Rosters



2026 - 2027 NHSA Rosters & Passes 2026/2027 Check In Document

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5	 Hartley, Takeshi	5	42609578	07/2012	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26	
6	 Hartley, Harry	6	15049305	01/2013	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26	
7	 Hartley, Fiona	11	17520440	04/2016	F	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26	
8	 Natta, Uma	1	25078217	03/2012	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26	
9	 Test, John	3	10759726	02/2014	M	P	08/22/26 / 08/22/26	

Rosters



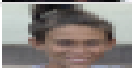
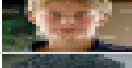
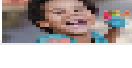
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Scheduling

- **Schedule games in sets. Try not to schedule games with gaps in them or there could be coverage issues.**
- **Game Change Forms**
- **Changes – Contact opponent and coordinate – cc Director if an issue or dispute, not general requests unless it is time sensitive**
- **Weather: New Google Form embedded on the website – plus communicate with opponent – check it if weather may be issue.**

A soccer ball with white, blue, and black panels sits on a wet, green grassy field. In the background, a blurred view of a stadium with spectators and a bright sky suggests a rainy day.

Weather

- **Weather: Website has a form and sheet to check**
 - **Post to website**
 - **Call opponent, text opponent, and email them and league director**
 - **If things are up in the air communicate early and often and put player safety at the forefront.**
 - **Notify players**

Coaches

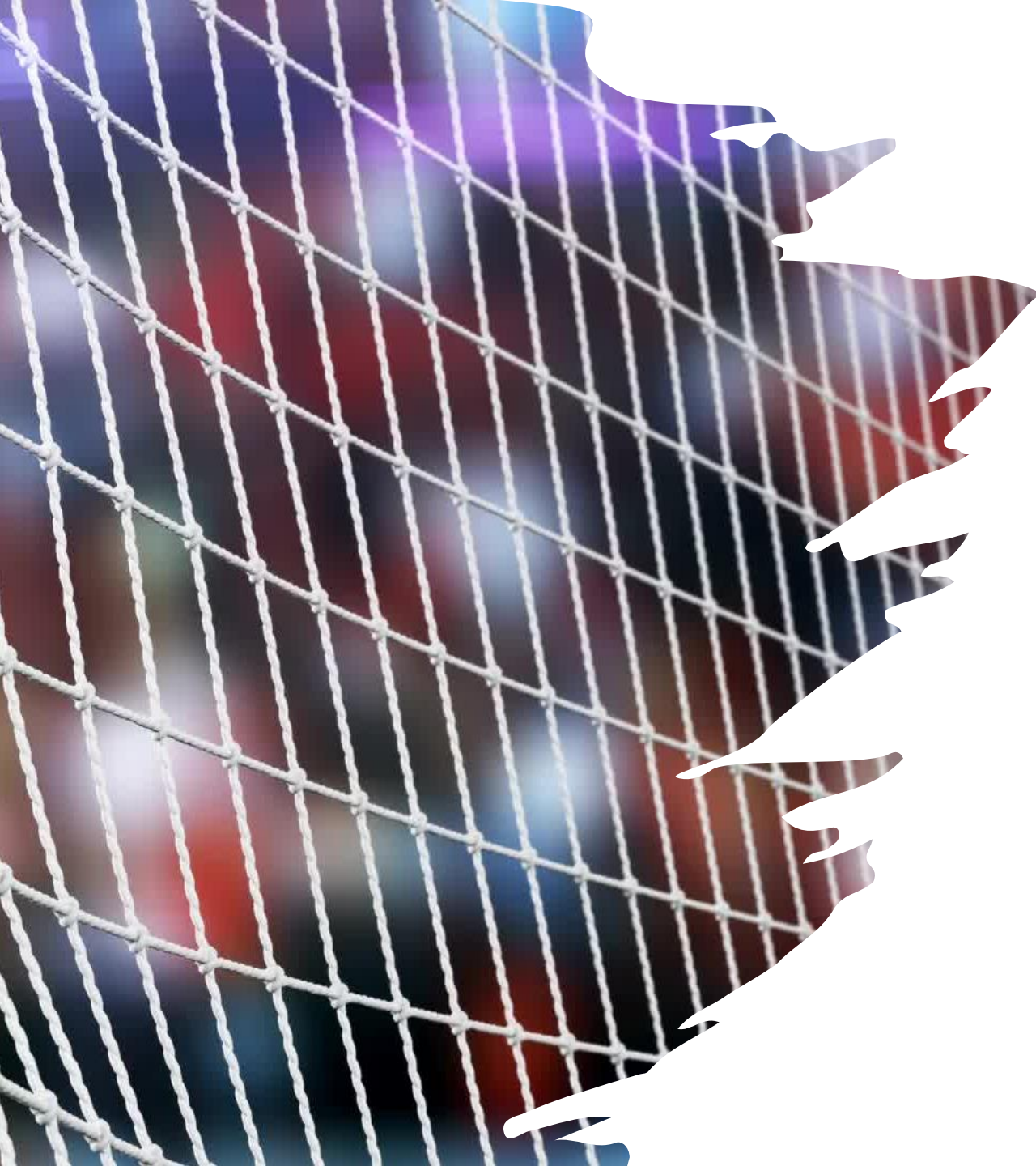
- **Coach cards / Lanyards / Visibility = strict enforcement**
- **Coach behavior – Respect for referees, players, other coaches, and yourself – be a role model!**
 - **Players are always watching and look up to you**
 - **Stay off the field**
- **Licensure Required appropriate to the level of play**



GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

- THIS WILL BE MONITORED
- SPORTSMANSHIP - BE MINDFUL OF THE OTHER TEAM
- AREAS TO LOOK AT IF GAME IS GETTING OUT OF HAND
 - REDUCE YOUR PLAYERS ON THE FIELD. TAKE OFF YOUR BETTER PLAYERS
 - IMPOSE TOUCH RESTRICTIONS
 - FOCUS ON POSSESSION
 - EMPHASIZE DEFENSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES
 - LIMIT YOUR SCORING METHODS





Other topics

- All scores for every age group must be added within 48 hours of each game.
- Feedback forms are required when submitting scores. This allows us to see how games are going and try to address any issues ahead of time.
- Build out Line for U10 and under is midfield line.

NHSL Assignors



Shawn Coventry

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Deputy Director of Assigning Operations

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**MATCHDAY
OPERATIONS**
— GROUP LLC —

<https://matchday-og.com/nhsl-club-team-resources>



Referees

- Most Importantly – there needs to be respect towards referees – be a role model for the kids!
- NHSL needs to increase the accountability - from everyone from the referees (rules enforcement), clubs, teams, and especially from coaches and spectators.
- Better Game Reports when incidents occur. This goes for referees and clubs.
- Feedback form for data collection and future assignments
- Notify the director if not a full referee squad or of issues and even good performances.
- You will not teach a referee or change their mind in a match – **DO NOT ARGUE** or be abusive or sanctions will occur – New Referee Abuse Policy





REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Dealing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **"minor multiplier"** resulting in **triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 2: HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION

Occurs when language or body language is intended to make a referee feel unsafe but where the threat of violence remains unspoken.

DEFINITION

Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive or Threatening (Non-Physical) Language.

EXAMPLES

- **Using Expletives:**
"That call was complete \$H*t!"
- **Personal Attacks:**
"You're a F-ing joke!"
- **Escalating Intensity:**
"You can't make a single good f***** call!"
- **Getting In The Referee's Face.**

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Take a moment to gather yourself before you speak to the referee. Ask for clarification calmly, aiming for constructive communication rather than causing conflict.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



Laws of the Game Update

Mark Sadler, NH SRA



Wasted Time – Key Change



MANAGING MATCH TEMPO
REMEMBER THE TIMINGS

The new time limits referees enforce under the 2026/27 changes.

5-5-8-10-1

THE **SECONDS** – AND ONE **MINUTE** – TO REMEMBER.

 5 SECONDS GOAL KICK	 5 SECONDS THROW-IN	 8 SECONDS GOALKEEPER HOLD	 10 SECONDS SUBSTITUTION	 1 MINUTE OFF INJURY
---	---	---	---	---

Know the timings. Manage the tempo. Keep the game moving.

OFFICIAL PROPERTY OF U.S. SOCCER

U.S. REFEREEING WAY

24

OTHER CHANGES · LAW 4

ACCESSORIES – EXAMPLES



PERMITTED EXAMPLES

Not dangerous, and safely and securely covered.

- ✓ Medical alert bracelet, taped flat to the skin
- ✓ Religious item worn under the kit and secured
- ✓ Soft fabric or rubber wristband, no hard edges
- ✓ Smooth wedding band, taped over
- ✓ Fitness trackers worn during play secured via a vest under the playing shirt



PROHIBITED EXAMPLES

Dangerous, or cannot be made safe.

- ✗ Earrings or studs, including taped-over earrings
- ✗ Rings or bracelets with stones, prongs, or hard edges
- ✗ Necklaces or chains that cannot be safely covered
- ✗ Smartwatches or watches

Note: Match officials' watches and timing devices form part of their required equipment and are not affected by these restrictions.

THE TEST Is it dangerous? Can it be safely and securely covered? If it stays a risk, it comes off. Same standard for players and officials, grassroots to national – referee's judgment is final.



OTHER CHANGES • ONLY THE CAPTAIN

ONLY THE CAPTAIN • HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

If multiple players approach after a key decision, the referee blows the whistle, steps back, and signals that only the captain may communicate.

01 Blow the whistle to stop the interaction.

02 Raise both arms above the head and cross them at the wrists.

03 Uncross the arms and move them in front of the body, palms open, in a forward motion.

04 Players move back four meters from the referee.

05 Quickly and succinctly explain the decision to the captain.

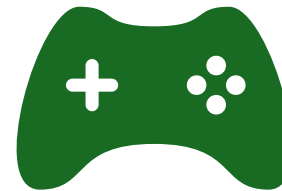
06 Restart play promptly – allow the captain a brief moment to inform teammates.



If interested in seeing full explanation:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/laws-of-the-game-changes>

Gives more information on rationale for changes



NH State Referee Program looking for help

Game videos to help train referees

Link to submit videos –
nhreferee.org/resources

Full games, short clip...looking for good action





OPEN FORUM / QUESTIONS?



THANK
YOU