

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM RULES OF PLAY

19.1 The Recreational program shall be primarily an IN-HOUSE program. Teams will be fielded in the girls and boys divisions as coaches, fields, and equipment allow. All attempts will be made to accommodate all players who have registered. The goal of the Recreational program will be to equalize the levels of competition for play IN-HOUSE.

a. Any NBYSA member, after a minimum of two years participation, who moves out of the City of New Bedford, may be "grandfathered" and allowed to continue in the corporation for only the fall program. Participation in a spring program shall be governed by the rules of the MYSA (Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assn.) sponsored leagues.

19.2 The Fall Recreational program will run on Saturdays and Sundays, from September through November and the Spring Recreational program will run on Saturdays and Sundays from May through June.

19.3 Matches will be low key with emphasis on teaching the correct way to play the game of soccer. The virtues of sportsmanship and fair play are to be stressed.

19.4 New Bedford Youth Soccer Association Executive Committee is responsible for the final decision and execution of the Recreational program. Any matters of policy or direction shall be their responsibility.

19.5 AGE GROUP

- Under 6: Has reached 5th birthday by August 1st and has not reached 6th birthday by August 1st
- Under 8: Has reached 6th birthday by August 1st and has not reached 8th birthday by August 1st
- Under 10: Has reached 8th birthday by August 1st and has not reached 10th birthday by August 1st
- Under 12: Has reached 10th birthday by August 1st and has not reached 12th birthday by August 1st
- Under 14: Has reached 12th birthday by August 1st and has not reached 14th birthday by August 1st

19.6 Program Structure. A minimum of 2 teams will be required to have regular season play in each age group.

19.7 BALL SIZE

- Boys & Girls Under 6 - Size 3
- Boys & Girls Under 8 - Size 4
- Boys & Girls Under 10 - Size 4
- Boys & Girls Under 12 - Size 4
- Boys & Girls Under 14 - Size 5

19.8 Uniforms

- a. Players shall wear uniforms as selected and prescribed by the Board of Directors and distributed by the Equipment Manager. No Coach or Player is permitted to alter the appearance of a uniform unless such alteration (re-sizing) is required for the uniform to be worn by the Player.
- b. The Board of Directors must approve all Sponsors and the Sponsor name must appear on the reverse of the shirt.
- c. Shin guards are MANDATORY during practice and games.
- d. Molded turf shoes or rubber cleats are required.
- e. Safety glasses are strongly recommended for those who wear glasses.
- f. No jewelry is to be worn on the field.

19.9 PERIODS OF TIME (Duration of the Game):

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Boys and Girls Under 6 | 4 periods 6 minutes each |
| Boys & Girls Under 8 | 4 periods 8 minutes each |
| Boys & Girls Under 10 | 4 periods 10 minutes each |
| Boys & Girls Under 12* | 2 periods 25 minutes each |
| Boys & Girls Under 14* | 2 periods 25 minutes each |
- Rest time between periods not to exceed 5 minutes.

***These teams are permitted to substitute players consistent with FIFA laws. Players must be given a minimum amount of field playing time equal to 10 minutes per half.**

19.10 Each team is required to arrive at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the game.

19.11 The number of **PLAYERS** on the field for each team:

Boys & Girls Under 6 3 vs. 3

Boys & Girls Under 8 6 vs. 6

Boys & Girls Under 10 8 vs. 8

Boys & Girls Under 12 8 vs. 8

Boys & Girls Under 14 8 vs. 8

NOTE: No game will be forfeited due to a shortage of players.

19.12 Expectations of Coaches

- a. Promote good sportsmanship.
- b. Do not tolerate unsportsmanship by coaches, players, or spectators.
- c. Promote good soccer through the development of ball and game skills.
- d. Maintain accurate rosters and player ratings.
- e. Schedule at least one practice per week. A practice schedule, to include time and location, shall be submitted to the appropriate Division Director at the beginning of the season.
- f. Ensure that all players play at least **TWO QUARTERS** of each game. Exceptions should only be for injuries, illness, unsportsmanlike conduct during a game or unexcused absences from practices.
- g. Under 12-14 divisions, it is not mandatory that seasoned players play all positions. New players are required to learn all positions.
- h. Under 10, and 6 divisions - It is **MANDATORY** that all players learn all positions. Players should be rotated quarterly, including the goalie.

i. All new coaches are required to take a licensing course approved by NBYSA.

j. All coaches must wear league issued ID during all games. Failure to wear ID could result in removal from the field.

19.13 Participation

a. Players are expected to participate in practices and games. Parents are expected to participate by insuring that their players are on time and picked up on time for games and practices and that they have their equipment with them. If a player cannot be present for a scheduled practice or match, the coach should be notified in advance.

b. Participation in the fall/spring recreational program shall be open to any child who is a resident of the City of New Bedford and who will attain the age of five (5) years during the year of play, and will not have attained the age of fourteen (14) by August 1st of the year of play, provided there are a sufficient number of registrants in a given division to form a sufficient number of teams within that division as shall be determined by vote of the Board of Directors.

c. Parents should support the coach and promote good sportsmanship. If problems should arise that cannot be mutually resolved, they should be brought to and resolved in the following manner:

1. Coach speaks to parent...if it cannot be resolved,
2. Coach speaks to Division Director...if it cannot be resolved,
3. Division Director speaks to parent...if it cannot be resolved,
4. Division Director speaks to Sportsmanship Review Committee; SRC submits recommendation to the Board of Directors.

d. ALL volunteers, and the Board of Directors involved with players during practices or games, MUST fill out an NBYSA CORI/Kidsafe form annually and be screened in accordance with the NBYSA Kidsafe Policy.

d. Zero Tolerance

All persons responsible for a team and all the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all the other participants and spectators.

No one is to address the referee during the game except as allowed below.

a) Coaches and Managers

During the Game:

- May respond to a referee initiating a communication
- May ask for substitutions
- May point out emergencies or safety issues

At halftime or at the end of the game:

- May ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way
- May give a polite and friendly feedback to the referee
- Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed in any conversation with the referee

Penalties:

1. 1st Minor Infraction - The referee should ignore
2. 1st Serious Infraction - Caution or ejection depending on the seriousness of the infraction (FIFA)
3. 2nd Minor Infraction - A verbal warning
4. 3rd Infraction - Caution
5. 4th Infraction – Ejection

Any serious infractions or ejections must be reported to the board of directors in writing for referral to the SRC.

b) Spectators

During the game:

- May respond to a referee initiating a communication
- May point out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

1. 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator
2. 2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.
3. 3rd Infraction - The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the game if the spectator refuses to leave the field.

If a spectator is asked to leave the field a member of the board of directors must be informed immediately or as soon as possible following the game. The board of directors shall review the incident and determine if the individual(s) should be barred from any NBYSA field.

20.0 FEES

20.1 The Board of Directors shall fix fees for participation for each season.

20.2 Any request for a waiver or reduction of the fee shall be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Treasurer for validity and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

20.3_With respect to refunds, in the case of a participant who withdraws prior to the first game of the season, the registration fee will be refunded less the cost of any fee paid to MYSA if not refunded. Requests for refunds for a player that withdraws after the first game of the season must be submitted in writing for review by the Board of Directors.

21.0 COACHING GUIDELINES

21.1 Look at all player registration forms for medical problems, physician preferences, and parental comments. If necessary, make reminders on roster sheets.

21.2 Appoint a parent who is interested in helping to act as a Team Parent. This person should assist you by:

- A. Calling players if a match is canceled.
- B. Calling players for practices.
- C. Setting up schedule for bringing water and/ or oranges

21.3 The league issued First Aid Kit must be available where practices are held and where the matches are being played.

21.4 Standings will NOT BE KEPT to discourage the "Win at any cost" syndrome and to encourage the instructional element.

21.5 REMEMBER this is a volunteer program with people trying to do their best. The idea is for the matches to be enjoyable while players develop their skills.

21.6 The Division Director is your contact person for questions, suggestions, game cancellations, etc.

21.7 There will be no smoking on school property, and no smoking while coaching.

22.0 GAME GUIDELINES

22.1 Report to the field fifteen minutes before the game and check in at the field table for information updates, league news and to pick up club announcements:

- A. Warm up with brief stretching exercises.
- B. Brief practice session.
- C. Get players together and explain who is starting in what positions.
- D. Select a Captain or Co-Captain (different each game) to represent the team at the coin toss.
- E. Verify players are properly attired.

22.2 Halftime

- A. Let the players rest
- B. Make sure refreshment is available for the players
- C. Assign player positions

22.3 Game Completion

- A. Team players should line up and shake hands with the other team ***and*** referees. **DISCOURAGE** snide remarks, spitting, and forceful handshakes. Stress good sportsmanship, win or lose!
- B. Announce next practice time. Pass out any club announcements to parents.
- C. Parents are to remain on designated spectator side.

22.4 During Game

A. Keep a sharp eye out for players who are getting over tired or are injured. If a player is injured, ALL players are to STOP play and remain in their current positions until the game resumes.

B. Encourage good sportsmanship and fair play by removing players from a game if he/ she starts arguing with the referee, etc.

C. Feel free to speak to over zealous spectators who interfere with the best interests of the game by yelling non constructive criticisms at coaches, players, referees, etc.

D. Matches should be instructional in that incorrect throw ins, goal kicks, etc. should be retaken for U6, U8 Division Boys & Girls ONLY, so that the correct way of doing a skill is learned.

E. Remember, the referee is in charge and, while mistakes may be made, the referee will be doing his/ her best.

F. NO coaches in any Division, with the exception of the U6 Division, are allowed on the field or near the goal during games. Coaches should not allow anyone to stand near the goal.

22.5 Practices

A. For planning purposes, try to have the practice at the same day and time each week.

B. Encourage attendance at practice. Most coaching should occur during practices, not during the game. Players should be allowed to play and enjoy the game.

C. Each player should bring a ball to practice. Make the practices fun by covering different aspects of the game and not making any drill too long. Remember ideas from MYSA.