

**NORTHWEST OHIO YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
*Amended 11/2010***

ARTICLE - 1 NAME

The name of this organization is the “Northwest Ohio Youth Soccer League (NWOYSL). This organization is a non-profit, educational organization as described under the United States Internal Revenue Service Code, which must be maintained. NWOYSL is affiliated with the “Ohio Youth Soccer Association North” (OYSAN), which is affiliated with the “United States Youth Soccer Association” (USYSA). The NWOYSL is a “League”, as defined as: “A team which participates in regularly scheduled league play.”

ARTICLE – 2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the NWOYSL is to promote youth soccer in Northwest Ohio. In doing so, the NWOYSL coordinates amateur soccer competition among the youth of Ohio. This is accomplished by cooperating with all agencies concerned with the promotion of soccer; by providing information through literature, films, clinics, and other materials to improve the level of soccer among member leagues and teams; by organizing and supervising interstate tournaments; by helping to establish new teams; and by improving the image of soccer throughout the League.

ARTICLE – 3 MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership Application:

Any Soccer Club (Club as defined as one or more teams from an organization) may qualify for membership within NWOYSL. A Club becomes a member when the NWOYSL Executive Board has accepted its written team applications(s). When a Club is accepted into NWOYSL, its team(s) is subject to all NWOYSL Constitution and Bylaws. Each Club rostered individual must complete the NWOYSL registration forms. The NWOYSL and United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) membership and season year extends from September 1st thru August 31st.

2. Voting Rights:

Each Club, in good standing, shall have voting powers as set forth herein. Current year League fees, fines, Club bond and registration fees must be current. Votes are determined by the greater of the following two: either the prior Spring/Summer season or the current Fall season.

Voting rights are as follows:

1 to 2 teams	One (1) Vote
3 to 6 teams	Two (2) Votes
7 to 10 teams	Three (3) Votes
11 to 14 teams	Four (4) Votes
15 to 19 teams	Five (5) Votes
20 or more teams	Six (6) Votes

Absent designated Club authorized personnel may vote via proxy, in writing. A simple majority vote determines all motions. In the event of a tie, the motion will be referred to the Executive Board, whose decision will be final.

ARTICLE – 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Election of officers will be held during the November General League Meeting each year. Officers will be elected from nominations received from throughout the League. In the event nominations are not received in November for an open position, the League President will appoint a person or persons to fill the vacant position(s).

The offices of President, Vice President of Juniors and Treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years, while the offices of Vice President of Youth and Secretary shall be elected in the odd numbered years. The terms of all elected members of the Executive Board shall be two (2) years with the terms conforming to the January through December calendar year. No board member may hold his/her position for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

A board member must be affiliated with a Club within the NWOYSL. That affiliated Club must recognize that individual board member as a member within their Club. There shall be no more than two (2) officers from any one Club that preside on the Executive Board at any given time.

VOTING MEMBERS:

President:

- a. Presides over all NWOYSL business and League office operations.
- b. Casts the deciding vote during the Executive Board Meetings.
- c. Remains in an advisory capacity to the Board for one year after completion of his/her term(s).
- d. Appoints voting members of the board and committee chairpersons.
- e. Sets the agendas for monthly meetings.
- f. Coordinates the league divisions each season.
- g. Coordinates the games reschedules due to inclement weather.
- h. “Officer on Call” duty.

Vice President of Youth:

- a. Becomes President in the event the President resigns or leaves office.
- b. Administers all discipline issues for the youth and junior teams.
- c. Assists with game reschedules and league divisions.
- d. Serves on subcommittees as deemed appropriate.
- e. “Officer on Call” duty.
- f. Chairperson of the Protest Committee (when dealing with junior teams).

Vice President of Juniors:

- a. Administers all discipline issues for the youth and junior teams.
- b. Assists with game reschedules and league divisions.
- c. Serves on subcommittees as deemed appropriate.
- d. “Officer on Call” duty.
- e. Chairperson of the Protest Committee (when dealing with the youth teams).

Secretary:

- a. Responsible for taking and distributing minutes from all League meetings and Executive Board meetings.
- b. Chairperson of the Appeals Committee.
- c. “Officer on Call” duty.
- d. Serves on subcommittees as deemed appropriate

Treasurer:

- a. Handles all money and financial matters.
- b. "Officer on Call" duty.

Advisor:

- a. Assists the Executive Board as needed.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: (Appointed Positions)

Registrar:

- a. Appointed position by the League President.
- b. Registers all teams and players through OYSAN.

Division Commissioners:

- a. Elected by coaches/managers at each Mandatory Scheduling Meeting.
- b. Term of office is one season.
- c. Receives game scores from divisional teams.
- d. Reports game scores to the NWOYSL office.
- e. May be asked to assist with league divisions.

Scheduler:

- a. Club appointed persons who schedule all field assignments for their Club.
- b. Coordinates field availability with the League Office.

Referee Assignor:

- a. Club appointed persons who schedule and assign referees to their Club's fields.
- b. Must already be or will be within one year of appointment, an USYS Certified Soccer Referee.

COMMITTEES:

Discipline Committee for Youth:

- a. Chaired by the Vice President of Juniors.
- b. Handles all discipline related issues for Junior teams, which include players, coaches and spectators.
- c. Maintains historical correspondence related to Junior discipline issues.

Discipline Committee for Juniors:

- a. Chaired by the Vice President of Youth.
- b. Handles all discipline related issues for Youth teams, which include players, coaches and spectators.
- c. Maintains historical correspondence related to Youth discipline issues.

Protest Committee:

- a. Chaired by the Vice President of Youth or the Vice President of Juniors (depending on the issue at hand.)
- b. In addition to the Chairperson, consists of a minimum of two (2) League members (appointed by the Executive Board.)
- c. Responsible for maintaining historical correspondence related to the protest issues.
- d. Charged with following all rules maintained within the NWOYSL Bylaws.

Appeals Committee:

- a. Chaired by the Secretary.
- b. In addition to the Chairperson, consists of a minimum of (2) League members (appointed by the Executive Board.)
- c. Responsible for maintaining historical correspondence related to the protest issues.
- d. Charged with following all rules maintained within the NWOYSL Bylaws.

At any time, the Executive Board or President may appoint a subcommittee to review a specific issue or policy, and will consist of League volunteers, which will also be appointed by the Executive Board or President.

Vacancies:

Whenever a vacancy occurs with the NWOYSL Executive Board by reason of death, resignation, removal or otherwise, a majority of the existing NWOYSL Officers, though less than a quorum, may fill the vacancy at any meeting. The new appointment must be confirmed by the NWOYSL Officers. The resignation of an Officer shall be effective upon receipt by the President (or if the President is vacating his/her position, then upon receipt by the Vice President of Youth). An Officer may be removed with or without cause, by a majority vote of the League membership. If an Officer misses three (3) consecutive monthly League meetings, he/she may be removed by a majority vote from the remaining Executive Board members.

Quorum:

A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all NWOYSL business.

ARTICLE -5 CODE OF ETHICS

The NWOYSL requires each coach, player, parent and/or team representative to uphold the USYSA Code of Conduct. A friendly relationship between teams and Clubs is mandatory. Before the onset of each seasonal year, the NWOYSL “Code of Conduct” form must be read and signed by all players, parents, managers, coaches and club representatives. No player or coach passes will be distributed unless all Code of Ethics forms have been filed in the League office.

The structure of NWOYSL is designed to allow tryouts as defined in Article 6.

No coach, player, trainer, sponsor, parent, or any other person from an existing team, new team or Club, may either directly or indirectly approach, contact, induce, or promise consideration for position on a team, a currently rostered player to leave their present team in order to join a different Club within a current seasonal year. Such activity constitutes the illegal recruitment of players and may be subject to disciplinary action. Individuals making an accusation must file a written protest with the League and provide facts of the case at the time of protest.

ARTICLE – 6 DEFINIATION OF CLUB TRYOUTS- *updated 8/2010*

A tryout is any act of a coach observing a player in action, formally or informally, or a player participating individually or in the context of a team or group of players which leads to a mutual decision to roster that player to any team. This definition specifically includes, but may not be limited to such acts as a coach observing the player in a match or practice, or a match with another team, the player participating as a guest player with another team, or the player participating in any indoor activities with a team other than the one to which he/she is initially rostered during the seasonal year.

A. Unrestricted Tryouts (Permitted only from June 1st through July 15th of each year.)

1. Used to form teams for play in the upcoming seasonal year.
2. Players currently rostered or unrostered may participate.
3. Any currently rostered player who is selected for a new team that will play in the next seasonal year may not train or participate with their new team until all activities of their current team have come to an end for the seasonal year.

B. Restricted Tryouts

1. According to Ohio North, there are no restricted try outs.

C. Recruiting of Players

No coach, player, trainer, manager, sponsor, parent, or any other person from a team or Club may, either directly or indirectly, ask a currently rostered player to leave their present team in order to join another team. Such activity constitutes the illegal recruitment of players. OYSAN and NWOYSL consider recruitment of currently rostered players to be illegal in any and all circumstances. Any person or organization found to be illegally recruiting rostered players during the same seasonal year shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but are not limited to suspension, fines, or limited or revoked travel privileges.

The Executive Board may take disciplinary action against any Club, coach, player, team or team representative who does not adhere to this policy.

ARTICLE – 7 AUDIT

Any member Club, by and through its designated Club contact may submit a written request bearing the signature of said Club contact for an independent audit of the financial records of the NWOYSL. The request for an audit may specify the names of an accounting firm which shall perform the audit.

Upon receipt of the bona fide request, the League Treasurer must provide all financial records, including but not limited to ledgers and banking records within one (1) week of the date of the first Executive Board meeting following the request.

An auditor must present the result of the audit at the next general or annual League meeting. All financial records provided by the Treasurer, for purposes of completion of the audit, shall be returned to the Treasurer within one (1) week of the date of receipt of the same.

All costs and expenses related to the performance of the requested audit will be paid by the requesting Club at the completion of the audit, with the following exception. In the event that it is discovered, upon

completion of the audit, that there are irregularities in the keeping of the records or the handling of funds, the cost of the audit shall be absorbed by NWOYSL. For purposes of this section, irregularities shall be defined by the qualified opinion as to the compliance with GAAP, “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles”.

BY-LAWS
FOR THE NORTHWEST OHIO YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

I. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Revised 08/2010)

- A. Each Club requesting membership must submit a completed NWOYSL Club Application and all corresponding application documents. Failure to submit all application documents will result in fines determined by the Executive Board.
- B. Full payment of dues, bonds, and fees are required with application. This money will be returned if the application is not accepted. Teams dropping or withdrawing from the League after application has been submitted will forfeit all registration fees. Players must conform to the allowable minimum player age (U7).
- C. All clubs must provide a home field for each of their age groups, and must meet the requirements set forth by the League on field specifications. All club membership applications must provide name and directions to their home field location.
- D. All clubs must complete a “Goal Safety” form for each of their home fields, and must comply with the rules governing the NWOYSL Goal Safety Policy.
- E. Approval of the application will be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- F. All Clubs must use a Certified Referee Assignor for assigning all league games.

II. ENTRANCE BOND, FEES AND DUES (*revised 6/09*)

- A. Performance bond is to be set by the Executive Board. The bond will be held in a separate reserve.
- B. Teams may elect to enter either the Fall and/or the Spring seasons. Roster sizes will be set by the Executive Board and published on the League’s Website before the new seasonal year’s tryouts (late May.)
- C. All teams in NWOYSL are subject to fees paid to USSF and OYSAN as long as NWOYSL is affiliated with them.
- D. A Club or team may forfeit all or part of its bond if it fails to comply with the NWOYSL Constitution and By-Laws.
- E. A team dropping out of the League after the Friday directly preceding the season’s Mandatory Scheduling Meeting will be assessed a penalty, equivalent to the team registration fee.
- F. All teams are required to declare team age (oldest player’s date of birth) at the time of registration of the team to the League office.
- G. Girls teams, boys teams, and coed teams (which play in the boys’ division) shall be established on an equal basis.

III. LEAGUE MEETINGS

- A. The League meetings will be held monthly unless otherwise decided by the Executive Board.
- B. League members and invited guests may attend the League meetings.
- C. Order of Business:
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - 3. Treasurer's Report
 - 4. Committee Reports
 - 5. Special Reports
 - 6. Old Business
 - 7. New Business
 - 8. Adjournment
- D. Amendment of the Constitution and or the By-Laws requires advance written notice to all Club contacts, and a two-thirds majority vote during the League meeting.
- E. Minutes of all regular League meetings will be provided to the Executive Board and can be provided to Club contacts upon request.

IV. REGISTRATION (Revised 11/2010)

- A. The NWOYSL Registrar will validate all USYSA forms and passes for players.
- B. A birth certificate (copy) must be submitted as proof of age or be on file with the League Registrar, with registration. All new players to the league must submit a copy with registration paperwork. Hospital records, baptism, or school records will not be accepted. Recent pictures are required for player passes.
- C. New photographs and player passes are required when a player changes any age division or team roster.
- D. Player registration must be validated every seasonal year by the League Registrar.
- E. Clubs (i.e., Maumee Express, Pacesetter, etc.) having more than one team in the same age division must roster each player to a specific team.
- F. Each player pass must include a current USSF registration number.
- G. Each player must be rostered to a NWOYSL team and must carry a NWOYSL player pass.
- H. Any player signing a registration form is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) unless they request a transfer. All transfers must be approved the Executive Board and are subject to Article V, Section C, Numbers 1 through 3. After July 1st, and upon signing a registration form and paying at least \$1.00 toward his/her fees, he/she is considered rostered to next year's seasonal team. Once rostered, the player can no longer attend unrestricted tryouts.

- I. A team may roster younger players provided the younger players would play on the same field size and under the same format when rostered to a team in the age group (i.e., ten U11 players can play on a U12 team.) At no time can a player carry more than 25% of the younger age, younger field size on a team.
- J. Any teams comprising of both male and female players will be named as a “coed” team. All co-ed teams will be scheduled to play in the boys’ divisions within the League.
- K. Girls are excluded from playing in any girl’s division while being rostered on a boy’s team or playing in a Boys Division.
- L. Boys’ division players may only guest play for higher boys division teams within the League. Girls’ division players may guest play in boys divisions equal to or higher or girls division higher than the current team.

For clubs with more than one boys or more than one girls’ team in the U9 age division, players will be rostered to one team. Players can be moved to different divisions within the U9 age group during a season with the following stipulations:

1. 75% of the team “game day” roster must be players from the “official” league roster.
2. No U9 player may play more than four league games within a 48 hour time period.
3. Guest player rules still apply. No player may guest play with another team within the club more than three times.
4. Maximum roster limits may not be exceeded.

- M. A team must register with a roster equal to or greater than the number of players maximum needed to field a team. (I.e., a U13 team must roster a minimum of eleven (11) players, which is the maximum number of players a team can field at any time during a game. A U9 team must roster a minimum of six (6) players, the maximum number of players a team can field at any time during a game.) Failure to comply will result in no acceptance into the League.
- N. A player may play up in age, but may not play up more than two years in age in the Youth Division. A player may play up more than two years in the Junior Division. (I.E.: A U9 player may play on a U11 team; however, a U9 player may not play up on a U12 team. A U15 player may play up on a U18 team, in the Junior Division.)
- O. A youth U15 roster may register as many true U15 players in eighth grades both in spring and fall seasons. If a player is in high school but is a true U14 age player, they are permitted to play only in the spring season. A player cannot be a member of a high school soccer team during the youth season.
- P. Guest players may not guest play for a team more than two years older. For example a U9 player may not guest play for a U12 team.
- Q. No player, younger than U14 may be registered to a junior team.

Players with the NWOYSL which are part of the same Club are allowed to play a total of three (3) games on an older age division team or a higher division within an age group per season. Guest players may not guest play for a team more than two years older. For example a U9 player may not guest play for a U12 team. (See Registration Handbook for further definition of eligibility of players.) Such

players must be clearly designated on the Referee Game Report before the game, must provide a current NWOYSL player pass from the currently registered team, and opposing coach must be notified prior to the game. If a player guest plays for the same team more than the allotted three times, and the team for which he/she played has a maximum roster, the player will return to his/her original team and will be ineligible to guest play for any team with their club for the remainder of the season. In addition, the older team will be disciplined as determined appropriate by the Executive Board. The paperwork must be completed at least three days prior to playing in the fourth game with the older age team. All transfers are subject to the discretion of the Executive Board.

V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY *(Revised 06/09)*

- A. A player must be completely registered to his/her team at least three days prior to playing in any NWOYSL game. (See Registration Handbook for definition of completely registered.)
- B. A player may be rostered on more than one team if they are in different competitive levels (i.e., classic, competitive, premier, etc.) in the League and have been pre-approved by the Executive Board prior to the start of the season. A player may be rostered to only one team within the League. A player may participate on other teams that play in different leagues (i.e., State League, MRL, etc), in addition to playing in the NWOYSL. Players do not need prior Executive Board approval to participate in leagues outside of the NWOYSL. Players, who participate in the League, must complete all mandatory paperwork, have paid all required fees, must be rostered to a NWOYSL team, and must carry an official NWOYSL player pass. A player may be rostered to both a youth team and a junior team at the same time.
- C. A player may not transfer during the seasonal year (Sept. 1 through August 31) except for one of the following reasons:
 - 1. The team for which he/she plays suspends operations.
 - 2. The player moves to a new address at a distance which makes it impractical for him/her to continue with the original team.
 - 3. Transfer request was not a result of any violation of Article 6.
 - 4. By Executive Board approval, transferring of players between teams within the same Club membership may be permitted as restricted by rules in Article V, Section A and B.

Players with the NWOYSL which are part of the same Club are allowed to play a total of three (3) games on an older age division team or a higher division within an age group per season. Guest players may not guest play for a team more than two years older. For example a U9 player may not guest play for a U12 team. (See Registration Handbook for further definition of eligibility of players.) Such players must be clearly designated on the Referee Game Report before the game, must provide a current NWOYSL player pass from the currently registered team, and opposing coach must be notified prior to the game. If a player guest plays for the same team more than the allotted three times, and the team for which he/she played has a maximum roster, the player will return to his/her original team and will be ineligible to guest play for any team with their club for the remainder of the season. In addition, the older team will be disciplined as determined appropriate by the Executive Board. The paperwork must be completed at least three days prior to playing in the fourth game with the older age team. All transfers are subject to the discretion of the Executive Board.

- D. Effective for the Fall 2007: All players must conform to the allowable minimum age (U7). This adheres to the minimum age that players can participate on any team given that no player may play up more than two years in age.

VI. COACH REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY (Revised 11/06)

- A. Registrar of NWOYSL will validate all USYSA forms and passes for coaches.
- B. Coaches are required to fill out a NWOYSL Coach Registration Form and all other forms required by the League and higher affiliated associations (i.e., coaches' background search application.)
- C. Coaches will be selected by the individual Clubs and can serve as coach, assistant coach, or manager. The Clubs accept all responsibilities and obligations regarding said coach's behavior and actions while participating in all League functions.
- D. There will be no more than three (3) carded coaches to an individual team.
- E. All coaches in NWOYSL coaching "Under Twelve" to "Under Fourteen" aged teams are strongly recommended to have an "E" State coaching license. All coaches for "Under Fifteen" to "Under Nineteen" aged teams are strongly recommended to have either a "D" State coaching license or higher license.
- F. All NWOYSL coaches must be identified by a NWOYSL coach's pass, which must be signed by the named individual, and have a current photograph of named individual permanently affixed, laments and signed by the League Registrar. Coach passes will not be signed by the League Registrar until proof that he/she has completed their Risk Management Application.
- G. Coach Responsibilities:
 - 1. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, other team officials and spectators before, during, and after the game, and shall instruct all of the above to behave in a proper and respectful manner.
 - 2. Each coach is responsible for correctly submitting a legible Referee Game Report with the proper and accurate information to the referee prior to the start of the game.
 - 3. Each coach is responsible for submitting proper pass cards prior to the start of the game. Fees are to be paid at the completion of every game.
 - 4. Each coach must comply with the "Coaches Procedures" on game day.
 - 5. In the event that a coach wishes to protest a game, he/she must inform the referee prior to the start of the match if possible. If not possible, the coach will inform the referee at the end of the match so the referee may note the reasons for the protest on the Referee Game Report.
 - 6. Only authorized coaches for that individual team may be in the team's area on the sideline. No more than three (3) authorized coaches may be in the team's area.
 - 7. Coaches are recognized as part of the League games, and are subject to all rules of the game.

H. Club Coaches:

A Club, prior to a season (See Registration Handbook) may request to have an individual(s) carded as a “Club Coach” for NWOYSL play only. This individual(s) must be rostered to at least one team in NWOYSL and be in good standing in the League. This card, which is separate from the coach’s pass received from the rostered team, will allow the Club Coach to perform all the duties stated in Article VI, Section G. There will be a fee per Club Coach pass, which will be established by the Executive Board and administered through the NWOYSL policies and procedures.

The following criteria must be met in order for a Club to qualify for a “Club Coach Pass”:

1. The coach identified must be rostered to at least one team with that Club.
2. Club teams must fill their two (2) carded coach positions on all teams’ rosters.
3. The “Club Coach Pass” must designate only one individual per pass.
4. The “Club Coach Pass” must be visible at all times during the game.

A Club may purchase additional passes for other coaches; however, no Club may obtain more than three (3) Club passes.

Any ejections from matches or unbecoming behavior determined by the Executive Board may result in suspension or termination of the Club Coach’s pass for the remainder of the seasonal year. No refund of fees paid will be given. Additional disciplinary action may be administered beyond the removal of the Club Coach’s pass.

VII. AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS

- A. NWOYSL Executive Board will have full discretion to determine competitive divisions in all age brackets.
- B. The divisions will be determined by the age of the players, or at the discretion of the Executive Board.

VIII. SUBDIVISIONS

- A. Any division may be subdivided based upon the number of teams participating in that division. The Executive Board must approve all divisions or subdivisions.

IX. LENGTH OF MATCHES (6/08)

AGE GROUP	LENGTH OF MATCHES
U9, U10	Four, fifteen minute quarters
U11, U12	Two, thirty minute halves
U13, U14, U15 (Youth – Middle school students - only)	Two, thirty-five minute halves
U15 thru U19 (Juniors)	Two, forty-five minute halves

- B. Crossover games are defined as a younger age team playing in an older age team division. In these games, teams will play the older age group match duration and pay the referee fees for the older age.
- C. Teams whose oldest player's date of birth would allow them to play in a younger age group, but are placed in an older age group division, will play the older age game duration and pay the referee fees for the older age. The placement of younger teams in an older age group is subject to approval by the Executive Board.
- D. Points for League standings for U10's and older will be awarded as follows:
 - Win = 3 Points
 - Tie = 1 Point
 - Loss = 0 Points
- E. Final standings are determined by (in order):
 - Total points obtained.
 - Head to head matches.
 - *Least goals against.
 - Head to head matches – greatest goal differential obtained within the head to head matches.
 - Coin toss. A representative from each of the tied teams must be present to witness the coin toss as initiated by one of the two NWOYSL Vice Presidents.

*A maximum of five “goals for” will be recorded for each game, or a total goal differential of five for any given game in order to eliminate the “running up of scores” in the younger age divisions. All scores reported will only reflect the allowed goal differential.

X. – SESSION SCHEDULES

- A. Team schedules will be provided to each team.

XI. – GAME RULES (Revised 08/2010)

- A. To constitute a game, each team (U13 through U19) must have a minimum of seven (7) registered players on the field (one of whom is the goalie) at all times. Each team (U9, U10, and U11) must have a minimum of five (5) players on the field (one of whom is the goalie) at all times.
- B. All games will be played under FIFA rules, and amended as follows for USYSA and Ohio High School Rules.

Substitutions:

- a. A team may make substitution on any team's throw-ins.
- b. After a goal, period end or half-time, either team may substitute.
- c. Either team may substitute on their own throw-ins when the game is stopped for injury as long as the team with possession is substituting at the same time.

- d. Either team may substitute at a goal kick.
- e. Either team may substitute when the game is stopped for injury. Substitution will be one player for one player.
- f. Substituted players may return to the game.
- g. Players issued a yellow card must be substituted by another player.

Game Ball:

- a. Game ball will be round and made of leather or another FIFA approved material.
- b. Divisions U12 and younger will use a size 4 game ball.
- c. Divisions U13 and older will use a size 5 game ball.
- d. The home team will provide a game ball. The game referee will make a final decision as to which ball to use.

C. Responsibility:

Each team must be accompanied by a NWOYSL carded adult coach to every League game. During a match, coaches and substitute players are restricted to an area behind the same touchline and to one side of the half-way line. No more than three (3) carded coaches may be on one team. Only carded coaches and players are permitted on the team side of the field.

D. Equipment:

The FIFA equipment rules apply to all League matches.

E. Uniforms:

- 1. Teams must furnish to the League office their home colors before the start of each season. If two teams have the same color jerseys, the home team must change to an alternate, distinctly colored jersey.
- 2. Numbers must be displayed on the team uniforms. NWOYSL requires numbers to be prominently displayed on the back of the jerseys.

F. Field Conditions:

The home team is responsible for the conditions and marking of the playing field, including nets and corner flags. All field playing conditions will be subject to the discretion of the referee at the match time and site. Corner flags must be five (5) feet high and in accordance with FIFA standards.

G. Approved League Rosters:

All teams will furnish League rosters to the referee prior to the start of every League match.

H. Number of Players/Roster Sizes:

The number of players on the field (including the goalkeeper) will be as follows: The maximum roster size will be twelve (12) for teams playing 6 v 6; fourteen (14) players for teams playing 8 v 8; and eighteen (18) players for teams playing youth seasons 11 v 11. Junior Season teams (U16, U17, U18, U19) will allow for twenty two (22) for teams playing 11 v11. Game Day rosters will still only allow

eighteen(18) to be present for any one game. The minimum roster size will be six (6) for teams playing 6 v 6; eight (8) for teams playing 8 v 8; eleven (11) for teams playing 11 v 11.

I. Approved Passes:

Every player must give his/her player pass to the referee prior to the start of every League match. Players and/or coaches without authorized NWOYSL passes will not be permitted to play or coach in the match. Failure to play or coach without a validated pass will result in a team forfeit and a penalty with the amount to be determined by the Executive Board.

J. Match Times:

1. Both teams must be present and ready to play at the assigned match time. A twenty (20) minute grace period is allowed after which time the match is called, and reported by the referees on the Game Report.
2. Matches called by the Referee: Matches called by the referee before the first half ended, (due to inclement weather) may be rescheduled. If a match is called following the end of the first half, the score will stand as it was at the end of the first half.
3. Rescheduling League Matches:
 - a. Arrangements for rescheduling any match after the schedule has been published must be made with the consent of both teams' coaches. The team requesting the match reschedule must send a written notification, along with a check payable to NWOYSL, in the amount determined by the Executive Board to the League office within seven (7) days prior to the originally scheduled date. Approval of any match reschedule rests with the Vice President, Juniors, or the Vice President, Youth, depending on the type of team making the request. The League office or Vice President will confirm or deny the rescheduled match. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a fine imposed upon each team, which will be determined by the Executive Board.
 - b. All rescheduled matches must be played before the end of the Spring or Fall League Season.
 - c. In extreme inclement weather, the Club Representative is responsible for contacting the League officer or the League office to discuss the conditions of their fields. NWOYSL may reschedule any matches cancelled due to inclement weather, if time permits within the season.
 - d. Teams that are registered with the NWOYSL and make the State Cup Finals and have league matches scheduled for those dates may have those matches rescheduled, without penalty, unless the State Cup schedules had been posted prior to the League's Mandatory Scheduling Meeting.

K. Forfeits: The following infringements constitute a forfeit:

- a. Failure to show up for a regularly scheduled match unless permission was granted previously by the Executive Board, and a penalty with the amount to be determined by the Executive Board.

- b. Failure to field seven (7) players (U13 and older) or five (5) players (U9 through U12), one of whom must be a goalkeeper, within twenty (20) minutes after the scheduled match time will result in a team forfeit and a penalty with the amount to be determined by the Executive Board.
- c. Playing an ineligible player, as determined in Article V in a match will cause the team to forfeit that match, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board. An ineligible player causes his/her team to forfeit any other match in which he/she played, as deemed by the game reports.
- d. Removing a team from the field without the referee's permission.
- e. Any other offense as determined by the Executive Board may constitute a forfeit.
- f. A forfeit in any one season may result in a fine to be determined by the Executive Board, and due no later than the following League meeting after the fine was levied.
- g. A second forfeit in a season may be punishable by a fine determined by the Executive Board.
- h. A third forfeit in any one season is punishable by a penalty in the amount determined by the Executive Board, and may result in the suspension of the team, players, and coaches for the remainder of the seasonal year (September 1 through August 31.)
- i. All decisions by the Executive Board are final.

XII. GAME PROTESTS AND RULES VIOLATION PROTESTS

- A. Only violations of the League's Articles and By-laws and misapplication of them may be subject to protest.
- B. The Protest Committee, will hear all protests. The decision of the Protest Committee is final.
- C. All protests must be made in writing and sent with a fee (determined by the Executive Board), made payable to NWOYSL. The protest should be directed to the Protest Committee Advisor and mailed to the League office. All pertinent information must be included with the protest notification.
- D. If a protest involves a match, such protests must be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the match date.
- E. The Protest Committee will rule on all protests after listening to both parties involved.
- F. The fee for the protest will only be returned if the protest is upheld.
- G. Protests not heard due to improper application may result in a partial reimbursement of the protest fee.
- H. If the protest is based upon the alleged breaking of the By-Laws as they pertain to a match, then the referee's written game report or subsequent written report will be the basis of all match conduct. All referees decisions/calls, as long as they are contained within the USYSA rules, may not be challenged.
- I. If the protest involves non-game situations (i.e., recruiting violations, etc.) the application for protest is the same as in "C" above.

- J. If the Protest Committee determines that the protest is to be upheld, then the person, Club or organization what was found to commit the offense will be subject to discipline as determined by the Discipline Committee.

XIII. DISCIPLINE (*revised 08/2010*)

- A. The Discipline Committee shall handle all matters related to discipline. All decisions made by the Discipline Committee are final.
- B. Each carded coach is held responsible for the conduct of his/her coaches, players, parents, and other spectators.
- C. Any player ejected from the match by the referee will receive a “RED” card. This will be noted on the Referee’s Game Report. The player is automatically suspended for the next sanctioned match. His/Her player pass will be kept by the referee and sent to the NWOYSL office. The player is also subject to further disciplinary action by the Discipline Committee.
- D. Any player receiving a second “RED” card in the same season year (September 1 thru August 31) may be suspended for a minimum of three (3) matches and is subject to majority review by the Discipline Committee.
- E. Any player receiving a third “RED” card in the same season will be subject to suspension for twelve (12) months or disbarment for life from further participation in NWOYSL competition at the discretion of Discipline Committee upon review of the Game Report concerning the incident.
- F. All those attending the match must treat the game officials with respect before, during and after every match.
- G. Coaches are not permitted to move up or down the touchline. If a coach interferes with a match in any way, or allows interference, the game officials may ask him/her to leave. If a coach refuses to leave the field, the match will be terminated. NWOYSL will take strong disciplinary action in such cases. If a coach is asked to leave the field, and another carded coach cannot replace the suspended coach, the match will not be permitted to proceed and is subject to forfeit. Coaches can receive “YELLOW OR RED” cards, per Ohio High School rules.
- H. It is not necessary to give a “YELLOW” card before giving out a “RED” card. The nature of the offense and the referee’s discretion will prevail.
- I. Any coach removed from a second match during a seasonal year (September 1 through August 31), will be required to appear before the Discipline Committee for possible suspension from the League or possible disbarment.
- J. The Discipline Committee will deal with falsification of records of players, coaches, scores, etc.
- K. The Discipline Committee will deal with any breach or misconduct not specifically covered by the above.

XIV. APPEALS

- A. The Appeals Committee, as defined in Article 4, will hear all appeals to rulings made by the Protest Committee or Discipline Committee.
- B. The Appeals Committee function is to determine if the rules and procedures adopted by the Executive Board were followed by the Protest Committee or Discipline Committee when conducting hearings or making decisions. The Appeals Committee is not empowered to change or overrule the findings of the Protest Committee or Discipline Committee.
- C. An appeal must be made with five (5) business days of any decisions made by the Protest Committee or Discipline Committee. The appeal fee of \$50, made payable to NWOYSL, must be included, as well as all documentation to support the appeal.
- D. The Appeals Committee may make the following decisions:
 - 1. The appeal was not properly made, therefore no appeal will be heard and the fee will be refunded.
 - 2. The appeal is heard, and the Appeals Committee finds that the proper procedures were followed, thus resulting in a denied appeal. The fee will not be returned.
 - 3. The appeal is heard and the Appeals Committee finds that the Protest Committee or the Discipline Committee did not follow proper procedures. The appeal will be upheld and the Appeals Committee Chairperson will oversee a new Protest or Discipline hearing to ensure proper procedures will be followed. The appeal fee will be refunded.

XV. GAME OFFICIALS

- A. All game officials will be assigned by the Referee Coordinator for said fields, or in his/her absence, by a member of the Executive Board.
- B. The game officials have all powers granted to them through FIFA to enforce the laws of the game.
- C. Referee fees will be as agreed upon by the NWOYSL and the Referee's Association for the current season.
- D. The game official uniform is as decreed by the USSF.
- E. Assigned game officials not in uniform should be reported to the Referee Coordinator for said field location.
- F. The game officials are responsible for providing linesmen flags.
- G. The game officials must inspect each player's equipment to determine if it meets FIFA requirements. No player whose equipment is in violation will be permitted to compete until it is corrected and approved by the referee. The start of the match must not be delayed to make equipment changes. Failure to check equipment by the referee should be reported to the League office.

- H. The game officials must inspect each individual player pass prior to the start of the match, and keep the passes during the game. All discrepancies must be noted on the Game Report and the opposing team notified. Failure to do this by the game officials should be reported to the League office.
- I. The game officials have the power granted to them by FIFA to call a match on account of unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, parents and/or spectators.
- J. The game officials have the power to cease a match during its progress or before it starts due to inclement weather conditions.
- K. The referee must forward the Game Reports to the League office within three (3) days of the match.
- L. The referee must keep player passes of those who were sent off the field, and send them to the League office, along with the Game Report, and all incidents must be clearly stated on the Game Report. Failure to mail these items to the League office will be brought to the attention of the Referee's Association.
- M. If a game official does not show up for a League match, a substitute game official may be appointed by both coaches or they may choose to officiate half of the match each. If the coaches cannot agree, then the match is not played, and the Executive Board will decide what, if any, action should be taken. Unscheduled substituted certified game officials who officiate the game, are entitled to be paid the regular game official fee for duties rendered. Uncertified game officials are not entitled to be paid by either team.
- N. It is recommended that all game officials pass the FIFA minimum standards before officiating any League match. Game officials may be rated by the Referee Coordinator or an appointed person by the Executive Board.
- O. The FIFA three-man system must be used for all League matches involving U11 and older teams. A one-man system will be used for all League matches involving U9 and U10 teams.

XVI. GAME RESULTS *(Revised 6/09)*

- A. Both teams are responsible for reporting results of all League matches to NWOYSL via the website within twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of each match.