

NORTHERN REGION SOCCER LEAGUE



RULES 2018



I. LEAGUE AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. The NRSL is administered by the Chairpeople or their designated representative of the participating Recreation Councils.
- B. The leagues of the Northern Region Soccer League for the season will be:
Recreation Leagues: U9, U10 & U11 (8vs8).
All others age groups as follows: U13 & U16 (11vs11)
- C. Age Determination for the season is July 31st of the current year.
- D. High school players (freshman/sophomore team, JV and Varsity) and club/travel players are ineligible to play on any U16 or below Northern Region Soccer League team. Exceptions can be brought to the board and approved on a case by case basis.
- E. If a U16 player or below plays on JV or Varsity, they must play up on U18, unless an exception has been granted due to roster size.
- F. If an area cannot fill a roster in a specific age group with rec players alone (11 for 8vs8 and 14 for 11vs11), then the chairperson can come to the board for exceptions to meet the minimal number of players to include up to two travel/club players. Travel/club players that are being requested due to team shortages must be from a younger age group OR not be the oldest age of a multiple age group (i.e. U13/U16). Roster size needs to be balanced within your program before exceptions will be made.
- G. Teams will be put in the age group of the oldest reported player on the team. Example: your team has ten eight year olds and one nine year old, the team would play in the Under 10 age group.
- H. A team or player may play in a bracket higher than their age, but not lower. Teams playing up will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the league each year.
- I. A player who "**Plays Up**" this season will not jeopardize eligibility in his/her regular age group in the future.
- J. Each player must be listed on one (1) valid roster. A valid roster is the roster that has been submitted, by age group, and is on file with their program chairman.

II. ROSTERS

- A. All rosters must include name, date of birth, age, travel/club/highschool affiliation.
- B. Any additions or changes to the roster are to be made in writing with an updated copy on file with the program chair person.
- C. Each council will determine roster size for their teams.
- D. Recreation council Programs with more than one team in an age group are expected to "Balance their teams."
- E. A team may make individual player changes until **Sept. 30th** of the current year, when rosters will be frozen. **NO ADDITIONS AFTER THIS DATE.**
- F. During the season, not the tournament, a team that is short players can either:
 - 1. Ask players from the age group below to play up for that game (ideally choosing players that can play at the older level) and the number of players should reflect the same number that are missing (short).
 - 2. Or...That team can ask players from another team in the same age group to play in that game, again the number of replacement players should reflect the number of players short. This is to be done in the spirit of preventing the game from being cancelled and not to increase the talent level of the team in need.

III. PLAYING RULES

- A. FIFA Laws of the game, except as modified herein, shall apply to all Northern Region Soccer League and Tournament play.
- B. U9 through U13 cannot head the ball in practice or in a game. If the Ball is headed outside of the penalty box, there will be an indirect kick where the penalty occurred. If the ball is headed **inside** of the penalty box (whether offensive or defensive), the ball will be placed at the top center of the arc for an indirect kick."
- C. Slide tackling is not allowed in games or in practice for all age groups. If a slide tackle occurs outside of the penalty box the ball will be placed at sight of the foul and will be a direct kick. If the slide tackle occurs inside of the penalty box, the foul results in a penalty kick. 1st offense will be a yellow card, and 2nd offense will be a red card. Slide tackle from behind is an immediate red card."
- D. Under 9 and under 10 goal kicks may be taken from anywhere within the penalty area.
- E. In full sided age groups (U-13 and older), there must be a minimum of nine (9) players present to begin a game. If a team has nine (9) players present, the game must begin. A team can finish with less than nine (9) players, (i.e., injuries). Any team that does not

have a minimum of nine (9) players present will forfeit. It is recommended that each player receive an equitable amount of playing time. U-9, U-10 and U-11 league teams must have six (6) players present, minimum, to start a game. U-9, U-10 and U-11 teams may finish with less than minimum requirement as above.

- F. Forfeit time will be five (5) minutes after scheduled game time.
- G. **The length of periods will be:**
Under 9 & 10 Leagues (4)12-minute Quarters with a 5 minute break between each quarter. **NOTE: Kickoff – possession will alternate each quarter. Teams will change direction at the half.** Under 11 thru Under 18 Leagues 30 minute Halves with a 5 minute break between halves.
- H. **Game Balls:**
Under 9 thru Under 11—#4 balls
Under 13 and older—#5 balls
- I. For the **safety of players**, all players **MUST** wear shin guards, worn under socks, to be eligible to play, (also during practices). Jewelry, (i.e. earrings, rings and watches) may **not** be worn during the game. It is recommended that other safety equipment (i.e., mouthpieces, eye protection, cups, etc.) be worn. No hard casts, are allowed. Finger and hand splints/braces must be covered and padded.
- J. Substitutions: U9 and U10 only. Both teams may substitute on all throw-ins and goal kicks. U11 and older may substitute on all goal kicks and their own team's throw-ins. Teams may also have unlimited piggy back when the opposing team is substituting.
- K. The **HOT HEAD RULE** will be in effect for all leagues. If a referee places a **Yellow caution card** on a player, the coach will have the immediate right to make a substitution, for that player, without liability.
- L. Referees shall eject from the game and the playing area, any player, manager, coach who commits a flagrant offense, such as the use of profanity, obscene gestures, or physical violence. **Coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of their spectators.** Referees shall have the prerogative to end the game for any violation of this rule. The referee's judgment concerning this rule shall be final and non-appealable.
- M. Any player issued a **Red Card** will be suspended for the next league/tournament game. Any coach issued a **Red Card** will be suspended for the next two (2) league/tournament games. A **Red Card** suspension will carry over from one Fall playing season to the next Fall season. Area Representatives and Coaches will be responsible for ensuring league rules are followed with regard to Red Cards. All Red Cards must be reported to the Local Program Chairman (by Head Coach of team receiving Red Card) within 48 hours after the game. Program Chairmen must in turn report to their league within 48 hours upon receiving their notification of a Red Card violation. The program chairman must immediately notify the participant of their suspension. If, after return from suspension, a player or coach is **Red Carded** again during the season, that player or coach will be suspended from league play for one (1) calendar year from the date of the second

incident.

IV. REFEREES

- A. The association agrees, manpower permitting, to provide competent soccer officials for the council's League programs according to the following:
Under 13 and older 2 Officials per game
If the assigned association's referee fails to show up, the coaches can mutually agree on volunteer referees, one (1) from each team. If volunteer referees are used, the event shall be considered an official game.
- B. Local recreation council officials. It is required that local councils provide officials for U-9, U-10 and U-11 age brackets. It is recommended that these referees attend a clinic provided by the officials association within two years.

V. FIELDS

- A. **Under 9, 10 & 11 Leagues** will be scheduled to play on small fields (80x50 yards, where possible, and 6x18 ft goals, where possible).
- B. If a team's scheduled field is unplayable, as determined mutually by the coaches, and another field is available at that site, the alternate field can be used. **Player safety MUST BE a primary concern.**
- C. Both team areas shall be on the same side of the field. Parents and spectators shall be on the opposite side only. **Coaches are limited to fifteen (15) yards, on their side of the center line.** Home team shall be responsible for determining designated sides.

VI. CANCELLATIONS

- A. **Local representatives will notify each other by 7:00 a.m. and all teams involved before 7:30 a.m. Saturday if the field is unplayable because of weather. The league will then notify the Official's Association no later than 7:30 a.m.**
- B. The Soccer League will not schedule make up games.

VII. PROTEST PROCEDURE

- A. The only item that can be questioned is the eligibility of a player. If a team wishes to contest the eligibility of a player, the concerned coach must arrange a meeting with program chairmen.
- B. **The decision of the program Chairmen will be final.**

VIII. LEAGUE GOVERNANCE

The Northern Region Soccer League is administered by the chairpeople, or their designated representative, of the participating Recreation Councils.

It will be the responsibility of the Recreation Council Soccer Program Chairmen to review and resolve all league and tournament issues not specifically addressed within the rules.

All volunteers and participants are first and foremost governed by their own Recreation Councils Code of Conduct.

NORTHERN REGION SOCCER LEAGUE

Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation