



League
Policies
and
Procedures

2020

NYSWYSA
Open Leagues

PO Box 1247, Corning, NY 14830

Contents

Policies and Procedures	4
Age Groupings.....	4
Team Registration.....	5
Team Rosters	6
Playing Up (Players)	7
Secondary Rostering	7
Players Passes, Risk Management Passes and Rosters.....	7
Team Performance	10
Guest Players	10
Player Eligibility.....	11
Rescheduling Games – Changes to the Preliminary Schedule	11
Rescheduling Games – Changes to the Final Schedule	11
Unscheduled Games	12
Make-Up Games (Rain outs).....	12
Field Closures for Weather	13
Cancellations.....	13
Scoring System.....	13
Unfinished Games.....	14
Protests	14
Appeals	14
Fields	15
Game Uniforms.....	15
Other	16
Other Notes	16
Cautions and Send Offs.....	17
Assault, Abuse and Harassment	18
Coach and Manager Responsibilities.....	19
Before the season	19

During the season19

20/21 Schedule of Fees and Fines20

 Fines21

NYS WEST Youth Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy.....22

 Parents & Spectators22

 Penalties (Parents & Spectators)23

 Players.....23

 Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel23

 Penalties (Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel)24

Policies and Procedures

This League will be known as *NYSWYSA Open League*. The League is affiliated with the New York State West Youth Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, the United States Soccer Federation, and FIFA.

Teams must be registered with New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) or an approved National State Association affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer).

Pursuant to USSF Policy 601-7, section 2 (a) Any team wishing to compete in a game, tournament, or league in a state other than the one in where it is domiciled must receive written permission to do so from both states involved:

- 1) The State Association where it is domiciled
- 2) The State Association where it wishes to play

Note: The conditions, fees and procedures to obtain such permission, and the duration of such permission, shall be determined by the State Association.

Teams from a State Association other than NYSW need to have the above stated permission on file with the league administrator each season prior to release of the final league schedule. Failure to have this permission on file will result in forfeits and fines. All forfeits shall also be deemed a game cancellation and subject to the fee schedule accordingly.

The participation fee in the League is \$175.00 per team. (*The League entry fee and all referee fees must be paid within 10 business days of the League commencement*). Failure to pay this fee will result in suspension from the League.

All games shall be officiated by referees who are registered with USSF. The League will pay the assigning fees for all league games.

The season will run as dates advertised.

Age Groupings

The League is comprised of age groupings. Each age group shall be separated into a boys and girls conference. There may be two divisions within each age group. All teams will, wherever possible, be required to play in the age appropriate division.

Team Registration

The entry of teams into the League must be accepted by the League officers whose decision is final. Acceptance and placement of entry may be based upon findings of competitive skills, risk of injury to players, the best interest of youth soccer, field submissions, certified referee availability, acceptance of the NYSW Zero Tolerance Policy, and previous history.

****All team registration and referee fees must be paid in full within 10 business days of the League commencement. Failure of qualified teams to pay these fees in full by the deadline will result in suspension from the league.****

Team Rosters

Team Rosters must be:

- a) Submitted for team registration
- b) Certified by NYSWYSA or an official certified roster of another NSA
 - a. NYSW team rosters will be considered certified when they are entered into the League in RosterPro on the NYSWYSA state system.

The roster limit for 9U–10U teams is 14 players, 11U-12U teams is 18 players and 13U and above is 22 players. (However no more than 18 may check in for any game 13U and above).

Playing Up (Players)

A team may have on its League roster only players of the following age groups:

- (1) Each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
- (2) When a player wants to play up more than two age groups, the coach/parent must submit a letter to the League Administrator requesting a waiver. The player will be evaluated by a panel of coaches who will submit their recommendation to the League officers.

Secondary Rostering

A player shall be rostered to one team and one team only participating in this league. A player can carry either a primary or secondary player pass, however if the player carries two passes, the other pass must be for another club not participating in the League.

Players Passes, Risk Management Passes and Rosters

Team Officials Passes: All team officials must possess a valid US Youth Soccer State Association Risk Management pass, bearing the approved mark of the US Youth Soccer State Association Risk Management officer.

If the team official is less than 18 years of age, the team official must possess a valid US Youth Soccer Risk Management pass, bearing the approved mark of the US Youth Soccer State Association Risk Management officer, signed by the team official, and stamped by the State Risk Management Officer indicating that the team official is not as yet of age.

No game may begin unless there is at least one team official for each team that possesses a valid NYSWYSA Risk Management pass and is older than 21 years of age present on the team's sideline.

Players and Team Officials Passes and Game Rosters: The team must present the referee crew with an original NYSWYSA League roster. Referees are to check to be certain that the players and gameday rosters match. At the conclusion of the match, the official roster will be returned to a team official. Any non-coaching team official may be on the team sideline without being on the roster, however they MUST have a valid NYSWYSA Risk Management pass.

There are no exceptions to the rules regarding rosters and must be strictly enforced by all referees at all League games.

Any team appearing without a roster shall be deemed as forfeiting the game and will be fined the forfeit penalty, plus applicable referee fees per occurrence. Any individuals who do not possess a valid pass will not be allowed to remain on the team side of the field.

There will be a 15 minute grace period at the beginning of the match for each team and team official to present their required documentation or the game shall be deemed a forfeit to all parties who were unable to provide the proper and required documentation. The game shall not start until the documentation is complete. If a team official at the game site refused to provide said documentation AND said team is not at full strength BUT has enough players to start the match (typically 7), the referee shall have the authority to abandon the match and the match shall be considered a forfeit. DOCUMENTATION SHALL NOT BE USED AS A DELAYING TACTIC. In any case, the team officials must always have the original risk management passes. No photocopy of said Risk Management documentation will be considered valid.

If for whatever reason, a team is unable to have an adult with a valid Risk Management pass on the team side of the field at any point during a match, the game shall be terminated and considered a forfeit by said team with all the penalties that any forfeit implies.

NOTE: Adults who are properly on the sideline with the team will be responsible for the actions of all members of the team; including youth team officials. Should an adult team official refuse or be unable to control the actions of his or her team, the game shall be terminated and the adult team official will automatically be penalized for failure to control the bench area. The penalty shall be the same as if the team official had been dismissed from the match.

Referee's Passes: All referees that are assigned to officiate League matches are required by USSF to be certified in the current year and assigned to said match by a USSF Certified Assignor; and are required by NYSWYSA to have a current and valid RM pass. Referees on League matches within the boundaries of NYSWYSA are also required by NYSWYSA to possess said pass at all games they

officiate. If the referee is an adult, the pass must bear the seal of the US Youth Soccer State Association Risk Management Officer, be sealed with a photograph of the referee that is not more than 2 years old and be signed by the referee. If the referee is not as yet 21 years old, the pass must still bear the signature of the US Youth Soccer State Association Risk Management Officer and stamped that the referee is not as yet of age but need not be signed by nor bear any photograph of the referee.

Under certain conditions described below, coach or other adult bench personnel who is listed on the team roster may request to see/verify the referee's Risk Management passes.

1. The team official must first present the team roster and his or her Risk Management pass to the referee so that the referee can validate that the team official is allowed to make the request.
2. The match must be taking place within the territorial boundaries of NYSWYSA. A team official has no right to see the passes of any referees outside of those boundaries regardless of where said referee is domiciled. Should such a request be made, the team will be completely responsible for any actions the league takes because of said inappropriate request or subsequent actions of the team officials or the team.
3. The team official must request to see the passes prior to his or her team taking the field at the start of the match. No request made after that time shall be honored and may be construed by the referee as irresponsible behavior by the team official and punished as such by both the referee and the League.
4. If the referee does not have his or her pass with them, the team official has several options:
 - a. Since the referees are required to be assigned to matches by a USSF certified assignor, and all certified assignors have a listing of all referees' risk management status, and are prohibited by NYSWYSA to assign an official to any match that does not possess a valid Risk Management pass; it can be assumed that the referee does possess a pass but neglected to bring it to the game.
 - b. The team official may decide to play the game with said referee and report the absence of a referee Risk Management pass to the State association. The league does not have authority to take any action in said cases but should be informed of the action via email to the league administrator. Any action involving referee Risk Management passes will not be considered grounds for a protest of the match result.
 - c. The team official may decide to not allow the said referee to participate. If there are no other adults with a current Risk Management pass in attendance at the game who are willing to take said referees place, the game will be abandoned with no penalty to the team but said match MUST be rescheduled according to League policies which may involve a financial risk to the team if the game is not so rescheduled. Note: By USSF policy, under no circumstances can an uncertified volunteer in said circumstance replace a center referee. They can only assume the position of a club linesperson. The team official can report the absence of a referee Risk Management pass to NYSWYSA. The league does not have the authority to take any action in said cases but should be informed of the action via email to the League administrator.

- d. The team official may decide to not play the game. Note: Any match played without a certified official assigned to the match in accordance with USSF policies cannot in any way be treated as an official match by the League. In said instances, the team will not be penalized for refusing to play the match BUT may be penalized if the match is not rescheduled according to League policies. The team official can report the absence of the referee Risk Management pass to NYSWYSA. The league does not have authority to take any action in said cases but should be informed of the action via email to the League administrator.

Team Performance

Teams will not be required to provide performance bonds. For each forfeit there will be a fine, payable by the club. The clubs will be billed and have to pay the fines in order to remain in good standing. If a second game is forfeited the team will be expelled from the league for the following season. Any team which either withdraws from the league shall be subject to a \$175.00 fine and shall forfeit their team registration fee. In addition, they will be responsible for all fines incurred by the team up to the point of withdrawal. The League encourages clubs to collect bonds from those teams the club feels are at risk for incurring forfeit charges. Remember, the final responsibility for all fees and fines lies with the CLUB. All forfeits shall also be deemed a game cancellation.

Guest Players

Club guest players will be permitted by the league for all teams. The intent of using guest players is for player development.

- a) A maximum of 3 club guest players will be allowed at any league game for teams playing in small sided format games (9U to 12U).
 - b) A maximum of 5 club guest players will be allowed at any league games for teams playing in full sided format games (13U and older).
 - c) Club guest players are to be included in the maximum number of players permitted to be dressed for a match. Rosters cannot exceed the maximums.
 - d) The same club guest player used in more than 3 consecutive matches for a specific team is not permitted. The player appearing in a 4th match will be considered an illegally rostered player and will result in a forfeit of the match or subsequent matches the player participates in for that specific team. This is not in the spirit of the guest play rule for player development.
- Guest players MUST be registered members of the club they are guest playing for and hold a club pass of the club that league team is a member and may not be a player on any other League team playing in the same division.
 - If a guest player holds passes in multiple clubs that participate in the League and they are rostered to a team in the League, they are only eligible to guest play for the same club in which they are rostered, even if they hold a pass in another club. They cannot play for two different clubs in the League.

- ② Guest players are only permitted to play up in age group or competition level, regardless of their age appropriate group. Any incorrect use of a guest player will be treated as an ineligible player.
- The guest player's name, name of the team he/she is regularly rostered with, date of birth and jersey number must be **neatly printed** to the bottom of the match roster prior to the game in which they play.

Player Eligibility

All players must appear on the team's official roster. If it is discovered that an ineligible player was used, all games that the player may have participated in will be deemed forfeits.

Requests concerning player eligibility should be directed to the League administrator.

Investigation of player eligibility shall not be construed as a protest. For the good of the game and the league, any questions concerning player eligibility must be resolved within 10 days.

Scheduling Games – Changes to the Preliminary Schedule

The preliminary League matchups will be published to the website prior to the Season commencement. If games go unscheduled teams will be fined. Please note that for competition purposes, a team cannot play two games in one day.

Rescheduling Games – Changes to the Final Schedule

*No request to cancel a scheduled game will be honored by the league with less than the 24-72 hour timeframe unless the requesting team's club president requests the change to the League administrator and the League administrator agrees to allow the change. **If this permission is not obtained, the game shall be deemed a forfeit.***

To reschedule a game the team coach or manager MUST:

- a) Contact the opposing team and mutually agree to cancel the original game and schedule a make-up game.
- b) Contact the League administrator with that information. (Remember – all game changes will consist of a late game re-scheduling fee. Either or both of these acts may involve fines.)

- c) Contact the field coordinator for the game field to provide a note of the facility closing
- d) Arrange a make-up date acceptable to both teams and notify all persons listed above in a reasonable time cycle prior to the new date. Failure to notify the league in the proper time cycle will result in a fine.
- e) Submit the request via an email to the league administrator.
- f) All schedule changes will result in a \$35 league surcharge to make the change.

For each game not made up, there will be a forfeit and a fine will be assessed to the team or teams refusing or unwilling to make up the game. Clubs will be invoiced for the fees and fines. The check for these is made payable to NYSWYSA and sent to the PO Box.

If the fees/fines are not paid within 30 days of the invoice, the team will be deemed 'not in good standing', not allowing the team to register for the following season (until fines are paid). Clubs are liable for all penalties incurred by their teams. If the club does not pay the fine, then the club is put in bad standing. This will prevent all teams from that club from playing in the League until the fine is paid. Fines will be published on the League website at the beginning of every month.

Unscheduled Games

If over the course of the season a game remains as unscheduled, the following procedure will be administered by the league in an attempt to get the game properly scheduled:

- a) The League administrator will contact both teams and ask each to submit three dates by a specific date to determine when they are available to play.
- b) The League administrator will review the dates submitted by each team to see if there is any mutually agreeable date.
- c) If there is a mutually agreeable date, the League administrator will choose that date first.
- d) If there is no mutually agreeable date, the League administrator will choose a date for the match (last weekend of league season).
- e) Teams will be expected to play on the chosen date. If either team chooses not to play, the team(s) that does not show will be charged with a late cancellation fee, a forfeit fee, and the surcharge fee. Teams may also be assessed for field rental charges if the league has to arrange for a field for the match to take place.
- f) If both teams are found to be culpable in not scheduling the game, the match will be declared a double forfeit. A double forfeit shall mean that both teams are charged with a loss in the standings, both teams are charged forfeit fines, cancellation fines, and surcharge fines.

Make-Up Games (Rain outs)

Coaches are **expected** to work with each other and the League administrator to arrange whatever convenient times may be available to make up their games.

All make-up games must be rescheduled and played by the final day of the League season.

A \$175.00 fine will be paid by the team or teams refusing or unwilling to make up or reschedule the game. The check for this fine is made payable to the League and to be sent to the NYSWYSA PO Box.

Field Closures for Weather

Any cancellation due to a field closures for weather **MUST BE** reported to the league office **no later than Noon the day of the game** in order for the league office to have adequate time to give notice to all parties involved in the match. Failure to notify the office by Noon of a given day will result in a late rescheduling fee. Field closures **MUST BE** accompanied by documentation of the closure by the field operator.

Cancellations

Teams must play all games and be willing to travel. If a team refuses to travel to a game site, that team may be subject to sanctions in addition to the \$175.00 forfeit fine and/or late game cancellation fines which may include expulsion from the league. The team will also have to apply for future acceptance into the league.

Scoring System

The following will be used to determine a winner for each division within an age group:

Win = 3 points, Loss = 0 points, Tie = 1 point

League standings will be kept for the 11U – 18/19/20U age groups.

If teams are tied at the end of the season:

1st Tiebreaker: Head to Head

The team with the best record against the tied opponent in direct league competition will be declared the winner.

2nd Tiebreaker: Goal Differential

The team with the best goal differential for the season will be declared the winner. Goal differential is determined by subtracting the goals allowed from the goals scored for each game of the season. The maximum difference is 3 for each game, both positive and negative.

3rd Tiebreaker: Goals Against

The team with the fewest goals allowed over the entire league season will be declared the winner.

4th Tiebreaker: Co-Champions

If all of the above is equal, the teams shall be League Co-Champions.

If one team forfeits, the result shall be a 1-0 score for the team not forfeiting. If both teams are at fault, the score shall be a 0-1 result for both teams. Teams assessed forfeits are ineligible for League Championships.

The League will provide a team finishing in first place of each division within a competitive age grouping a winner's trophy provided the team has played at least 85% of their games.

Unfinished Games

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and the play has not begun in the second half of regulation time. If play is stopped during the second half of regulation time and cannot be resumed, and neither team is at fault, the game shall be declared finished and complete. Should play be stopped at any time due to one (1) of the teams being adjudged at fault, whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit shall be at the discretion of the League Administrator and the Board of Directors.

Protests

All protests must be submitted in writing to the League Administrator within 1 week of the game in protest and must be accompanied by a non-refundable certified bank check or money order (no personal checks) in the amount of \$300.00 made payable to the league.

Mailing Address:

NYSWYSA Open Leagues

PO Box 1247 Corning NY 14830

A referee's judgment is normally not considered a valid reason for protest. Incorrect application of The Laws of the Game is considered valid reason for protest. *The game officials must be advised that the contest is being played under protest.*

All protests will be heard at an executive meeting called by the League administrator. A team losing a protest will lose any points earned in the game protested.

Appeals

Should a team wish to appeal the decision by the executive meeting, the line of authority for appeals is as follows:

- a. New York State West Youth Soccer Association
- b. United States Soccer Federation Appeals Committee

Appeals normally have appeal fees and specific timeline requirements to be considered a valid appeal.

Fields

There must be an active field coordinator for each club. This person will be responsible for all fields used by their club. The League reserves the right to use this person as a liaison between the club and the League on issues pertaining to the fields used by the club.

The home team is responsible for proper preparation of their fields. This means the grass must be cut, fields properly lined, fields dimensions are of the League requirements, nets properly secured in all areas, corner flags installed, spectator lines clearly visible, no obstacles on the playing field and the field is in playable condition. At game time a referee may declare the field unplayable. If unplayable for the above reasons, not acts of God, the home team is responsible for payment of the referees for the cancelled game, reporting to the League Administrator and will be charged with a forfeit. In addition to the fees for forfeiting the game, a fine of \$50.00 for improper maintenance or marking of the field shall be levied against the home team.

The Technical Area: All fields must have a technical area drawn for coaches, substitutes, and other team officials. This area must be no closer than 5 yards from an extension of the halfway line (we strongly recommend 10 yards) and must not be any closer than 1 yard from the touchline. The maximum length of the technical area is 15 yards. No seating shall be placed closer than 2 yards from the front of the technical area. Minimum marking shall consist of the line parallel to the touch line closest to the field and a side marking at least 1 yard long perpendicular to said line at either end of the line. All coaches, substitutes and team staff must remain inside the technical area during the run of play and shall only leave the technical area to report to the halfway line in order to report as a player into the match.

On fields where a technical area exists for another governing body of soccer (i.e. High School Federation, NCAA, NISOA, etc.), the said technical area shall be honored for League games. If no technical area can be drawn, a seating area must be provided for each team no closer than 3 yards from the touchline and no closer than 7 yards from an extension of the halfway line. In such cases, team coaches, staff, and substitutes are restricted to the area within 1 yard of said designated area on all sides.

If a technical area is not clearly marked, the referee can decide what constitutes the technical area and use other means to mark the boundaries.

Game Uniforms

Socks and jerseys of opposing teams must be of contrasting colors. The team in error must change their jersey if there is a color issue.

For the 2020 season forward, it will be required that:

- the home team will be in their “dark” jerseys
- the away team will be in their “light” uniforms.

Other

If an occasion should arise that is not fully covered by the League Policies and Procedures, then the League Officers shall have absolute power to decide that case.

Other Notes

- 1) Every member of the organization is responsible for the actions of its coaches, players, officials and spectators before, during, and at the conclusion of the game.
- 2) Every coach during the game is responsible for the verbal and physical actions of its team, coaches, and spectators. ***A coach may be asked to leave the field as a result of a violation of this rule and will be subject to all fines as if he/she had committed the misconduct. If a spectator is ejected, the team shall be fined \$50.00 for each occurrence.***
- 3) Any League player, coach or spectator involved in any unsporting like incident reported by the game officials in any competition, shall be suspended immediately from any involvement in League related activities for a period to be determined by the League.
- 4) Any player, coach or team official who assaults (civilly or criminally) a referee, shall automatically be suspended for the rest of the season. NYSWYSA must be notified of the occurrence through the League administrator.
- 5) There will be a maximum of 3 non-players allowed for each team on the player's side of the field. This includes coaches, assistants, managers, photographers, spectators, trainers, and parents. EACH ADULT ON THE TEAM SIDE OF THE FIELD WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A CERTIFIED RISK MANAGEMENT PASS. THIS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM TO ENFORCE.
- 6) Ejection of a coach or team official will be fined \$50.00 and required to sit out a minimum of one game.
- 7) If a referee does not arrive, the game can be played only if USSF certified replacement referees can be found. If teams choose to play without certified referees, the game will be unofficial and not count in the league standings, no exceptions. Both coaches should contact the League administrator to arrange a make-up game.
- 8) When a player, coach, manager, or club official assaults a referee or a referee assistant, and the assault amounts to physical violence, the State association has the sole right and authority to adjudicate the matter. The League administrator having information about such assault will, on completion of an investigation and determination that an assault did occur will immediately notify the proper State Association authorities and give them all the information the League has compiled.
- 9) If a player starts bleeding during the game resulting from an injury, they must be removed from the game until the bleeding stops and is properly dealt with.

Cautions and Send Offs

- 1) All rules covering cautions and send offs are covered by the FIFA Laws of the Game. The League has also added to these laws with additional rules.
- 2) Coaches and all other non-players/non-substitutes on the team side of the field are reminded that any verbal warning received from a referee shall be considered a CAUTION just as if the referee had shown a yellow card. If any non-player is asked to leave the premises, he or she may or may not be shown the red card BUT the League will treat the situation as if the red card had been shown. This carries a \$50.00 fine and the person will be required to sit out the next scheduled league game. Depending on the severity or volume of offenses committed, the Board of Directors reserves the right to increase the amount of time to be served.
- 3) If a player during the game is sent off, they must sit out the remainder of the game (while their team plays short) plus their next league game. A send off in a League games costs the player \$50.00. The fine must be paid before the player can resume playing or attending games.
- 4) A send-off will result in that person's member pass (coach) being sent to the League Office. The pass will be returned after that person has sat out their required suspension and paid their fines to the League. It is the responsibility of the club to that this fine is paid to the League.
- 5) Any person who is sent off more than once during the League season shall appear before a review committee appointed by the League administrator. This review committee shall have the power to suspend the person from further participation. Failure to appear shall result in immediate suspension.
- 6) Strong or vulgar language is punishable for players and coaches with a send-off.
- 7) Any ADULT team official sitting out a game, or who is sent off from a game, cannot be within sight of the remainder of the game or the game they are sitting out. In addition, the adult sitting out shall not have any communication, electronic or otherwise, with anyone present while the game is in progress. If the League is informed and after investigation finds that a coach or team official was in sight of or in any way involved with the game, severe disciplinary action will be taken.
- 8) Sitting out games by team officials is a serious matter under the NYSWYSA Zero Tolerance Policy. Failure to do so properly is serious breach of that policy.
- 9) If a player has been shown 4 yellow cards during league play, they will receive a one match suspension for yellow card accumulation. Along with the suspension, yellow card accumulation comes with a \$50.00 fine.

Assault, Abuse and Harassment

A Guide for Players, Spectators and Coaches

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU?

In the case of assault:

- You WILL be arrested.
- You WILL need an attorney.
- You WILL be convicted.
- You WILL either do jail time, pay fines, or do community service.
- Your name WILL appear in the local news.

Your soccer life will also change:

- USSF MANDATES minimum suspensions to be enforced nationally for any assault or abuse. These can be up to 5 years or longer! These cases are normally handled by the state association. You will also face league fines and sanctions.

In the case of harassment:

- The league will take significant action suspending you from numerous matches and charging you fines. You may also endanger future involvement with the league.

IT IS JUST A GAME!

STOP! THINK! CALM DOWN!

Coach and Manager Responsibilities

Before the season:

- 1) Familiarize yourself with proper protocols and policies of the League. The League will not be responsible if you are unaware of the appropriate procedures and responsibilities you have assumed as a coach or manager.
- 2) Review your match ups as soon as they are released. Please be aware of any scheduling deadline. Do not wait until the last minute to schedule your games.
- 3) Please ensure that all players and coaches are properly registered and have original official rosters and coaches passes for the games. Be certain that all team fees have been paid.
- 4) Please note, teams can only participate in one game a day.

During the season:

- 1) Call the opposing coach two or three days ahead of your scheduled game to confirm the time and place.
- 2) *If the coach is unavailable for the game arrange for an assistant coach to coach the team. **Note:** Each coach on the team side of the field **must** have a coach's pass so make sure you have more than one adult designated to help with a team. No team will be allowed more than 3 adults on the player's side of the field. Please comply with the referee when they enforce this rule.*
- 3) As home team, along with your club's field coordinator, ensure that nets are secured, corner flags are in place, fields are lined properly, and the field is playable.
- 4) Make sure you remember to bring your roster to all games.
- 5) Ensure that all players are properly dressed in shin guards and uniforms.
- 6) Have first aid supplies available, know the location of the closest telephone, and know the telephone number of the nearest emergency squad.
- 7) Be responsible for the conduct of the coaches, players, parents, and spectators. Have a team-parent-coaches meeting to discuss appropriate conduct and team responsibilities.
- 8) Show respect to all officials of the game, regardless of the quality of the game they are officiating.
- 9) **The home team is responsible to report the score on the League website within 24 hours of the game completion.** A \$10.00 fine will be assessed for failing to make a timely report.
- 10) Game rescheduling after the grace period: It is the responsibility of the coach who request the cancellation or the home team in case of weather related cancellations to initiate rescheduling. Please note weather related rescheduling can only be initiated by the club field coordinator by closing the field or by the referee at the game site.
 - a. If a game is being rescheduled in a season for a reason other than weather related, the coach requesting the reschedule must obtain agreement from the opposing coach on the reschedule and the time and place of the rescheduled game. The coach should

contact the club field coordinator before contacting the opposing coach to find possible playing times for rescheduling the game. He/she should have four or five options to present to the opposing coach.

- b. The coach requesting a reschedule must notify the League Administrator at least 72 hours before the date of the rescheduled game. If the reschedule is within 24-72 hours, a fine will accrue.
- c. A game reschedule cannot take place within 24 hours of the game.
- d. The coach must ensure the field is available and ready for play by checking with the club field coordinator.
- e. All cancelled games must be rescheduled before the end of the season or the game may be deemed a forfeit.
- f. All game reschedules consist of a fine if it falls within the 24-72 hour window.
- g. Periodically check the League website to be certain that your team's record is correct in the standings. If an inaccuracy is found, report it immediately to the League Administrator.

2020 League Schedule of Fees and Fines

2020 Team Registration Fee - \$175.00

Referee Game Fees (Per match, 3 officials, 6 game schedule)

Age Group	2020 Referee/Asst. Referee	Responsibility per match for each team
17-20U	\$80/\$40	\$80
15/16U	\$70/\$35	\$70
13/14U	\$56/\$28	\$56
11/12U	\$50/\$25	\$50
9/10U	Ref \$45/Mentor \$45	\$45

Teams will pay the referee game fees to the League during their registration process and the League office will pay the individual referees when the match is complete. Teams do not bring cash to the field and pay the referee.

Late Rescheduling Fee – paid by the team responsible for cancellation

Age Group	24-72 Hours	72 hours +
17-20U	\$50	\$25
15/16U	\$50	\$25
13/14U	\$50	\$25
9-12U	\$50	\$25

*PLEASE NOTE – All game reschedules that fall within 24-72 hours before the scheduled game will carry a Late Rescheduling fee. All games reschedules (other than weather will also carry a \$35.00 per incident League surcharge. Late reschedules are subject to the availability of referees.

Fines

Forfeit **\$175.00**

Charged to team unable to prove to the assigned referee that they are fielding a legal team or who do not show up at the scheduled game site within 15 minutes of game time. *All forfeits are also considered late game rescheduling fines.*

Failure to Make a Timely Game Report (HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITY) **\$10.00**

Charged to any team not making a game report.

Send Off (Player) **\$50.00**

Charged to any team that has a player shown a red card. This fine is per person *and* per occurrence.

Yellow Card Accumulation **\$50.00**

Charged to any team that has had a player accumulate 4 yellow cards during league play. This fine is per person *and* per occurrence.

Coach, Assistant, Manager or Spectator Ejection **\$50.00**

Charged to any team that has an affiliated coach, assistant, manager or spectator asked to leave a game site. This fine is per person *and* per occurrence.

Physical Assault **\$250.00**

Charged to any team that has an affiliated coach, assistant, manager, or spectator with assault. USSF mandates minimum suspensions to be enforced nationally for assault. These can be up to 5 years or longer! Please take all appropriate actions to prevent this from happening.

Failure to produce a League Game-day roster **\$50.00**

Charged to any team which shows up at a game without an official roster.

Improper Maintenance or Marking of Field **\$50.00**

Charged to any home team if a referee reports that a field is not appropriately marked or equipped, this fine may be charged even if the game is played. The referee also has the option of refusing to allow the game to be played which will result in a forfeit for the home team.

Early Withdrawal/Expulsion**100 % Team Registration Fee + \$175.00**

Charged to any team which withdraws or is expelled from the league after the division placement has been determined.

Withdrawal After the Season is Underway**All associated forfeit, game fines, and surcharge fees for the remainder of that team's league schedule**

Charged to any team which withdraws after the season is underway and has played one or more games of their schedule and then decides to withdraw from the League.

NYS WEST Youth Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy

To help prevent physical assault and verbal abuse in the leagues and clubs within the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA, or Association); the Association has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting and other behavior (including, but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players and spectators resides with the member clubs.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the member clubs to provide instructions to their coaches on how they are expected to carry this out. This policy applies before, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

Parents & Spectators

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee or assistant referees at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
- b. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- c. Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

- a. Parents and spectators may respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the referee terminates the conversation.

- b. Parents and spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting.

Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.

Penalties (Parents & Spectators)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the coach of offending party's team.
- b. The referee may stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent/spectator to leave the field.
- c. The referee may abandon the game if the parent/spectator does not leave the field.

Players

The conduct of the players is governed by the Laws of the Game as stated by FIFA and USSF. The Laws themselves describe penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional penalties for players who engage in misconduct may be established by the club and/or league but may in no case be less severe than penalties established by FIFA, USSF, or NYSWYSA.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, bench personnel and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in a New York State West Youth Soccer Association sanctioned event are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, coaches, assistant coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent, referees and spectators at all times. The New York State West Youth Soccer Association will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the match official. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the club that the coach or assistant coach represents, the league that the match is being played under, or as allowed by New York State West Youth Soccer Association policies after a review of the match report.

- Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the

opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.

- Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.
- Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:
 - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
 - b. Point out emergency or safety issues.
 - c. Make substitutions.
 - d. Ask the referee, "What is the proper restart (i.e. direction and Indirect Free Kick or Direct Free Kick)?
 - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
- Coaches are allowed to ask a referee after a game or during the halftime interval, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul, but not judgment calls made in the game.
 - a. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the referee may abandon the exchange at any time.
 - b. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

NOTE: It is recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the match official once the match has concluded.

Penalties (Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel.
- b. The referee may eject the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.

NOTE: Referees are instructed not to display any cards to bench personnel. They are strictly reserved for players and substitutes.

- c. The referee should abandon the game, if the coach, assistant coach or bench personnel do not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after having been instructed to do so. Additional penalties associated with the ejection of a coach, assistant coach or bench personnel may be assessed by the local club or league which sanctioned the match in accordance with their documented policy. These penalties may be no less stringent than sanctions as may be imposed by NYSWYSA following their review, if conducted, of the incident.

All cases of alleged abuse or assault of a referee shall be reported to the NYSWYSA State Office and State Referee Administrator within 48 hours of the match that engendered said behavior. NYSWYSA will then conduct a verification of the complaint and subsequent actions as required by applicable sections of USSF Policy in effect at the time of the incident. Although NYSWYSA is continually bound by USSF Policy and its various revisions, definition of referee

abuse and referee assault found in USSF Policy 531-9 as of the creation date of this Zero Tolerance Policy is offered by way of information as follows:

Referee Abuse

(a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

(b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's physical property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Referee Assault

(a) (i) Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.

(ii) For purposes of this Policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable.

Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

(b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc