

Northeast District

Rules of Competition



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Rules of Competition Revision History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
March 28, 2001	Original Rules of Competition
April 14, 2001	Updated with minor revisions for clarity and typo errors.
March 1, 2002	Revisions reflecting January 2002 Competition Committee
March 14, 2002	Initial Publication
March 13, 2003	Revisions reflecting March 2003 Competition Committee
March 31, 2005	Revisions reflecting March 2005 Competition Committee
March 13, 2006	Revisions reflecting March 2006 Competition Committee
April 15, 2007	Small sided U11/U12 Division 4 and Division 5 Competitive Balance
May 18, 2008	Revisions reflecting Winter 2008 Competition Committee
May 25, 2010	Revisions reflecting Winter 2010 Competition Committee

Northeast District - Rules of Competition

INTRODUCTION

This document governs the structure for the CJSA Northeast District inter-club league play. The standing Competition Committee, as appointed by the Northeast District Board of Directors, processes all document changes. The elements of this document and any subsequent changes must be approved by the Northeast District Executive Board and distributed to member club presidents. All coaches, referees, team parents and administrators should read this.

Mission Statement of the Northeast District - Rules of Competition

The Northeast District (NED) of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA), affiliated with U.S. Soccer, U.S. Youth Soccer, FIFA and the USOC, is a non-profit educational organization formed to organize, advance and foster the sport of soccer for players under nineteen years of age in the Northeast District of Connecticut. Specifically, the mission of the **Northeast District - Rules of Competition** is to:

1. Promote and develop the sport of soccer for all individuals throughout the Northeast District of Connecticut, including those in rural, suburban, urban and inner-city areas, without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, gender or physical ability.
2. Give every player, coach and referee the opportunity to develop his or her skills to the highest level of the individual's ability.
3. Provide a level of competition commensurate with each participant's ability, interest and desire.
4. Provide a healthy, safe and enjoyable soccer environment for all participants.
5. Foster honesty, integrity and good will within soccer.
6. Provide educational opportunities to all players, coaches, referees and the community at large regarding the sport of soccer.
7. Support and provide leadership within the national and international governing bodies of soccer.
8. Govern and administer the sport of soccer within the Northeast District of Connecticut in a fair, efficient, and exemplary fashion.
9. Provide administrative and/or technical assistance to individuals, local clubs and associations in areas pertaining to the sport of soccer and to the management of a sports organization.
10. Provide recognition of players, coaches, referees and clubs at all levels of participation.
11. Promote unity within the Northeast District soccer community.
12. Provide an equitable format for due process and adjudication within the sport of soccer through properly established rules and procedures for Northeast District players, coaches, referees, participants and spectators.
13. Be a sports organization which is a positive role model and which provides leadership to the sports community at large.

Overview of the Northeast District Competition

Northeast District Competition Committee

The Chair of the Competition Committee is appointed by the District VP and is approved by the NED District Executive Board including club representatives. Members of the Competition Committee are selected to represent Division III, IV and V, DRA, Coaching Director, Americas Cup / U10 Tourney and the Summer Under 19 League teams.

League Commissioners

League Commissioner(s) are required for Division III, Division IV and Division V. These responsibilities are held by the respective District Officers as listed hereafter, subject to further delegation of duties. The Division III coordinator is the District Premier Director. The Division IV coordinator is the District Select Director. The Division V coordinator is the District Recreation Director. Separate assistant commissioners for Boys and Girls are advisable for each Division.

Referee Administrator

The Referee Administrator is responsible for educating all club referee assignors to insure the NED Rules of Competition are consistently applied. The Rules of Competition are to be distributed to referees in the district at least annually. Each club's referee assignor is expected to hold a rules review session with each referee. The NED Referee Administrator will maintain a record of each referee that has received the annual rules briefing to help ensure it happens. Referees that are not briefed are not expected to work NED Division III or IV league matches.

NED Playing League Structure

Division III (District) – Is a formally run district league offering the highest level of competition within NED. This league is intended for the strongest Connecticut Cup eligible club teams in the district to compete. Standings and results are maintained by the District and a league champion is recognized. This division is distinct from State level Qualifying League, Qualifying Division or Division III premier play.

Division IV – Is a formally run district league strictly for Connecticut Cup eligible club teams where standings and results (*) are maintained by the Division Commissioner(s) and a league champion is recognized. The highest ranking team(s) earn the right to be promoted to the District's Division III League in subsequent playing seasons. Division IV and Division III leagues may be combined when an insufficient number of teams enter for any particular age bracket. (* - except for U9/U10 age groups)

Division V – Is a small-sided, developmental, non-results oriented league. Results are not maintained and each player plays in at least 50% of each game.

Summer League

This competition is considered to be a high school-aged player tournament and the only requirement is for the club to ensure that the players are properly registered to an affiliated CJSA club and a roster validated by the Club registrar and/or President is available at each game.

District Jamborees

The NE District annually sponsors the U10 Jamboree for all U10 Division IV, Division V and in-house age appropriate teams that choose to enter. Teams compete in three shortened matches within a three hour span. No results are kept and each player is awarded a medal or trophy for participating. This event is typically held during the first weekend in November. The Marlborough Soccer Club has sponsored a District Division V Jamboree that same first weekend in November for U12 and U14 clubs, boys and girls. Other district events are posted on the NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> and other state approved events are posted on the CJSA web site <http://www.cjsa.org>. A member club interested in hosting a district event must receive approval from the NED executive board, and apply for such approval 60 or more days in advance of the event. Applicants should use the state form for hosting a tournament and submit to the NED VP. No out of District teams/clubs are eligible to participate in district jamborees.

Out of League Play

League teams shall not play in-house teams FROM OTHER CLUBS/ TOWNS. It is the intent of this rule to prevent the play of “a season full of friendly matches” between the teams subject to this rulebook and another town’s in-house intramural team without fulfilling district league obligations. Violators will be referred to the NED Disciplinary committee. Confirmation of any violation will result in an immediate suspension for the coach/ Assistant coach/ Team Manager or any registered adult who facilitates this competition. The Team will be on probation for the remainder of the playing season.

Northeast District Indoor Tournament

Attachment I describes the tournament playing rules for the NE District Indoor tournament typically held during March. Participating age levels include U12, U14, U16 and U19. U10 and U11 brackets will be hosted based on time available and are limited to intra-district competition.

Referee System

All matches shall use the three man refereeing system. It is acceptable for U9/U10 matches and the Division V competition matches noted hereunder to be refereed by a single referee. Clubs are reminded to NEVER use the two-man, two-referee system for ANY NED matches. In the event that one referee and one AR show up, an acceptable modification to the three-man referee system is to use the referee, one assistant referee (where the AR does not use a whistle) and one club linesman. It is encouraged to use two assistant referees in the small-sided situation in order to promote the development of younger referees or entry-level referees.

Code of Conduct, Players, Coaches, Adults, Parents, Clubs

Players, coaches, team managers, and parents shall comply with the NSCAA Code of Conduct found in Attachments D and E. The appropriate codes of conduct are to be distributed to every participating individual at the start of every playing season. The NED observes a Silent Sidelines weekend each playing season in conjunction with CJSA guidelines. All coaches, players and spectators shall comply with the Zero Tolerance Policy toward referees, found in Attachment Zero.

Order of Precedence

These rules shall be in full force and effect unless:

1. The club has a more restrictive rule, in which case that rule shall apply
2. CJSA has a more restrictive rule, in which case that rule shall apply.

Lack of knowledge of these rules will not relieve any Club President, Registrar, coach, team official, parent or player from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, parents and players, by their participation in the NED competitions, agree to be bound by these rules.

Interpretations and Appeals

Questions regarding rule interpretations must be forwarded electronically or by US Mail to the standing Competition Committee chair. The standing competition committee will address all questions within a timeframe appropriate to the issue. All decisions rendered by the competition committee must be circulated to the NED board of directors but are considered final. Any appeals regarding match outcomes must be filed via email within 72 hours to the competition committee chair and district VP. The chair will consult with the standing active competition committee, less any members involved in the dispute, and with district and/or area referee administrator, and seek input from both parties involved in the dispute. The chair will rule within another 72 hours or identify an appropriate ruling deadline beyond that by then. Substantial discretion remains with the competition committee chair and all decisions are final.

Rule Changes

Rule changes will be taken under consideration annually by the standing Competition Committee for incorporation and approval by the April NED board meeting. All proposed rule changes must be submitted in writing or electronically by an NED member club president by December 1 of each year to insure review by the Competition Committee.

Competition Overview

STATE DIVISIONS (STATE CUP ELIGIBLE TEAMS)

Division I First Division

- 7 Teams per age group
- Relegation to Division II
- Strict requirements for team rosters, formal deadlines, and statewide travel

Division II Second Division

- 7 Teams per age group
- Promotion to Division I
- Relegation to Division III
- Strict requirements for team rosters, formal deadlines, and statewide travel

U13 Fall Qualifying League

- All U13 State Cup eligible teams compete in statewide league to determine placement for Spring Division I and II

Division III (State) Third Division (also known as Qualifying League or Qualifying Division)

- Minimum 4 Teams per age group
- Play in league for promotion eligibility to Division I and II

DISTRICT DIVISIONS

Division III (District) Third Division League

- Intended for strongest Connecticut Cup eligible club teams
- USYSA annual Player Passes required
- Connecticut Cup eligible teams: Max Roster Size 22 (residency rules)
- Results are reported and Standings are kept for all ages
- Formal deadlines, scheduling meetings, performance bond and team entry fee
- Only Connecticut Cup eligible teams allowed in U11/U12; No U9/U10 leagues in Division III
- Under 12 teams play small sided 8v8 starting Fall 2009

Division IV Fourth Division League

- USYSA annual Player Passes required
- Max Roster Size 22 players; Connecticut Cup eligible rosters only
- Results are reported for all ages
- Standings are kept and champions recognized excluding U9/U10 small sided
- League champion eligible for promotion to Division III
- Formal deadlines, scheduling meetings, performance bond and team entry fee
- State Division I, II or III players may dual register and roster for the purpose of CT Cup play
- Under 11 and Under 12 teams play small-sided 8v8

Division V Fifth Division League; Small – Sided

- Intended to maximize chances for every player to touch the ball
- For developmental, non-results oriented team play; but no running up goals
- Each player plays at least 50% of game
- Max roster size 16 players but strongly urge game day limit of 12
- Players can concurrently play in Division III or IV with restricted scheduling considerations
- Club generates and validates roster; Coaches inspect opponents rosters at each match
- Formal deadlines and scheduling meetings
- Players, Coaches and Referee development

Division III

Division Play

It is the intent of Division III to provide the highest level of competition in the district. The league is intended to be a competitive environment for the strongest Connecticut Cup eligible teams. This document defines general guidelines for participating in this Division.

League Formation

There is a four-team league minimum. Failing to meet this minimum will mean that the league commissioner will use appropriate discretion to consider such actions as drafting one or more or all Division IV teams to join and other creative steps to form a viable league. There is a nine-team league maximum. Placement of teams into Division III is based upon strength and caliber of team. Teams that have earned a Division III spot through promotion from Division IV will be accommodated. Teams that have played Division III previously and avoided relegation will be accommodated. Strong teams can and should petition to enter Division III upon notification to play and such teams will be considered on a space available basis. The league scheduler will consider any evidence of past performance for petitioning teams to determine placement.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U11, U12, U13, U14
- Ages covered (Spring) = U11, U12, U13, U14, U16, U19
- All U11 and U12 play will be small sided 8v8.
- Single age delineations are not guaranteed. The following “even” age groups will always be provided: U12, U14, U16, U19. It is the assumption of the registering club that in the absence of a league established in a given off age group (U11, U13, U15, U17, U18), the team will be placed in the next highest consecutive “even” age group.
- There is no minimum playing time requirement for this competition league.

Rosters

- Max Roster size: 22 players for 11v11 and 16 players for 8v8
- Rosters must be validated by Club Officer (Club President or Club Registrar) and the District Registrar or designated Assistant Registrar
- A team cannot play two age groups older without permission from Club President and League Commissioner.

Passes

- Passes are required for all players, coaches and team managers. Any number of adults may be associated with any one (1) Division III Team; however, the maximum number of adults on the sidelines for any match is four (4). Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check online.

Match Logistics (follow CJSA guidelines but included here for clarity)

- Match duration for U11 and U12 is 35-minute halves and use a #4 ball.
- Match duration for U13 and U14 is 40-minute halves and use a #5 ball.
- Match duration for U15 thru U19 is 45-minute halves and uses a #5 ball.
- No overtimes are played for any regular season match.
- Home team wears pinnies or changes jerseys if both teams are wearing the same colors upon arrival at field.
- The NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> has detailed rules, league standings, and all the coach contact information posted as soon as possible after the scheduling meetings.

Match Results & Score Reporting

- Report results of every match by Monday 10:00pm each week to facilitate timely publication of standings. Both teams are required to report the score. For you busy coaches, this is a good task to delegate. Reporting logistics will be distributed each season at the scheduling meeting and posted on the district web site.

- Failure to report results is subject to district league fines. Any match where a team has not reported the score by the posted deadline is subject a \$25 fine. The Competition Committee chair reserves the right to waive the fine for the first offense by any one team.

Results and Standings

- **Scoring:** 3 match pts for a win, 1 match pt for a tie, 0 match pts for a loss
- **Standings:** Teams with the most Points (Pts) are ranked higher in the standings. The tiebreakers for determining league standing position at the end of the season are: (1) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (2) least goals allowed; The tiebreakers for determining league champion or league playoff entrant (3rd place vs 4th place) if tied for most Pts are (1) most points in head-head competition-* (2) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (3) least goals allowed; and if still tied, then co-champs will be declared.
* - When more than two teams are tied for most Pts, compute Pts accumulated for matches between just those teams that are tied. If two or more teams are still tied, drop to tiebreaker (2) with ONLY those teams still tied. I.E. Eliminate any teams with fewer Pts than the leaders for the balance of the tiebreaking computation.
- AGD = adjusted Goal Differential (no more than 3 for or 3 against per match)
- **Blowout Penalty:** Team penalized 1 match point for any blowout win (win by seven (7) or more goals). Team penalized 2 match points for 2nd and subsequent “blowout” offenses.
- **Forfeiture Of Matches:** Any match forfeited will result in a win for the team that was scheduled to play, appeared at the field and had at least seven (7) players on the field at the designated playing time plus fifteen (15) minutes. The result will be recorded as a 3-0 win and the appropriate team will be awarded 3 Points for the win.
- The **league champion** for the Fall playing season will be determined by a season ending playoff that includes 3 teams from Division III and one team from Division IV for any age group. This would be a two day event where 1st in Div III plays 1st in Div IV, and 2nd in Div III plays 3rd in Div III on Saturday. The winners play on Sunday immediately following the 3rd place match. The tournament finals are held at a predetermined venue selected to host this event. The semifinal Saturday matches will be played at the home field of the higher seeded team. The semifinal Saturday matches will be a format that produces a winner (two five minute golden goal overtime periods, followed by penalty kicks in the event of a tie) while the championship match could conclude in co-champs. This would be held in the Fall playing season only for ages U11, U12, U13 and U14, Boys and Girls, and if at least five teams enter an age division. The league champion will be invited to the Fall banquet. The Div IV champion will be recognized with a team trophy at the start of the first playoff match.

Sportsmanship

- The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent. Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded; play players out of position; Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken; stop taking shots completely. We have asked all club presidents to be more diligent in classifying the caliber of team so this shouldn't occur so much. Nevertheless, there will be a 1 match point PENALTY for any blowout win. This means you will be awarded 2 points instead of 3 for that match. A blowout win is categorized by a goal differential of seven (7) or more. Offenses beyond the first offense in one season will be penalized 2 points.
- **Blowout Rule (all ages):** In the event that a team wins by seven (7) or more goals, the match is considered a blowout. The head coach of the winning team is obligated to write a match report to the competition chair, their own club president and the division coordinator indicating why the score got out of hand and what measures were taken to keep the score in check. This report must be submitted prior to the team's next match or such match will be considered a forfeit loss. The report can be submitted electronically when the score is reported. The purpose of the correspondence is educational for the coaches involved and for the competition committee to understand the circumstances causing these situations.
- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship. Reference the sportsmanship policy for additional important details.

Promotion and Relegation

- Relegation is determined by the lowest placed team in the league standings. Relegation means that this team must surrender its standing in Division III in the subsequent playing season if the Division IV champion registers for or is placed into Division III play. Relegation status also qualifies a team to register for Division IV in the subsequent playing season.

Notification of Intent to Play

- Each club president must notify the league commissioners of the number of teams intending to play in this Div. III.
- The club list must include the name of a coach or team representative, email address, phone number, age group and caliber of team. Reference attachment A for additional detail.
- The Deadlines for Notification of Intent to Play are August 1 for Fall play and the March NED Board meeting for Spring play unless otherwise advised by the League Commissioner.

Scheduling

- Scheduling will be handled through a scheduling committee consisting of or appointed by the District Competition Committee and League Commissioners.
- The scheduling committee will designate a place, date and time for the Division scheduling meeting.
- The schedule provided will include pairings, weekends to play, who is home/away, logistics for reporting scores and communicating standings weekly.
- A coach or team representative from EVERY team is expected to attend the scheduling meeting. The scheduling meeting is regularly used to finalize their schedule and review all match logistics such as directions to fields, kickoff times and team contacts. The scheduling meeting is further used to get a briefing on the NED rules of competition, the coach's code of conduct and any other information pertinent to the coaching community for that playing season.
- Each team is expected to meet the district obligation of play before scheduling any out of district matches.
- A missed game is subject to forfeiture of the club's entire \$100 performance bond. Changes to scheduled games must be arranged at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kickoff, including notification of the league commissioner and opposing coach, subject to \$25 fine. Failure to report your score in a timely fashion is subject to a \$25 fine at the discretion of the league standings administrator and league commissioner.
- Each team must provide a \$25 league entry fee.
- Each club must post a \$100 annual performance bond subject to forfeiture for any occurrence of not showing up for a scheduled match; for not providing enough notice for a change in a match (at least 72 hours); for not reporting scores appropriately (by 10pm Monday following the match)
- Reference Attachment A for logistics surrounding the scheduling meeting requirements.
- The policy for **rescheduling makeup matches** centers around making a very reasonable effort on both teams part to accommodate a date and time that both teams can play. All league matches including league makeups take precedence over friendly matches. The state Connecticut Cup tournament takes precedence over league matches. A team planning to participate in the Connecticut Cup should make every attempt to schedule their league matches on Sundays, or at least leave the Sunday of the same weekend available for a makeup. Weather related postponements should be considered only in the event of extreme weather conditions or unplayable fields, especially for league matches. Each team is expected to offer at least three reasonable makeup dates in order to have met the reasonableness criterion. If the home club cannot secure a field on dates that are otherwise open for the teams, the away club can host the match and the original home club is responsible for paying the referee team. The next available Saturday or Sunday as identified as open for both teams on the league schedule shall be the default playing date for any postponement. This can be modified by mutual agreement as long as the makeup is scheduled before the last playing date of the season. The last playing date of the season shall be clearly noted on the schedule at the beginning of the season. If unusual weather circumstances warrant an extension to the season, the League Commissioner shall notify each team representative via email as soon as that determination is made. Further, the league standings and schedule shall further indicate the last playing date. Teams are encouraged to play all scheduled matches where at all practical. Note that unplayed games result in no points awarded to both teams. In the extreme case that one team makes a reasonable effort to play and the other team does not, a forfeit victory will be awarded to the team that makes a reasonable effort to play. It is strongly encouraged that the competition committee meets as a group to attempt to resolve a situation where a forfeit may be impending.

Division IV

Division Play

It is the intent of Division IV to provide small-sided and full-sided (*) formal and competitive play in the district in a results oriented format. The league is intended to be a competitive environment for the State Cup eligible teams within the district. The rules of competition for this division comply with those defined as noted below. This document defines general guidelines for participating in this Division.

League Formation

There is a four-team league minimum. Failing to meet this minimum will mean that the league commissioner will use appropriate discretion to consider such actions as combining even and odd age groupings into a single division or combining with the age appropriate Division III. In the event there are more than nine teams that enter, multiple round robin leagues will be established with equitable opportunity to compete for the league championship. Two teams from one club can enter into a single division only if one of the teams is comprised entirely of younger age age-specific players. In order to enter additional teams from a single club, the club president must petition the league commissioner for entry and will be accepted only if player registration in the age group supports such expansion.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14
- Ages covered (Spring) = U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U16, U19
- Single age delineations are not guaranteed. Even age groups will always be provided (U10, U12, U14, U16, U19). It is the assumption of the registering club that in the absence of a league established in a given odd age group (U9, U11, U13), the team will be placed in the next highest consecutive even age group. A minimum of 4 teams is needed to form a league.
- There is no minimum playing time requirement in this competition league.

Small Sided Soccer

- U9 and U10 matches are played small-sided, 7 versus 7. Match rule modifications for U9 or U10 Teams playing in this Division IV are set forth at the end of this section. Results are reported to the league administrator but no standings are kept and no scores are posted.
- U11 and U12 matches are played small-sided, 8 versus 8. Match rule modifications for U11 or U12 teams playing in this Division IV are set forth at the end of this section. Results are reported and standings are kept and posted on the web site.

Rosters

- Max Roster size: 22 players for full-sided teams U13 through U19 and 16 players for small-sided teams U9, U10, U11, U12. No more than 13 players may dress for any U9/U10 small-sided match.
- Rosters must be validated by Club Officer (Club President or Club Registrar) and the District Registrar or designated Assistant Registrar
- A team cannot play up two age groups older without permission from the Club President and the League Commissioner
- For leagues U10 through U14, no more than 3 players on a roster can be younger than the two year age specific range of the league they are participating in and none more than one year younger. Please reference Attachment J for specific guidelines.
- U8 Teams and younger are not allowed in Division IV.

Passes

- Passes are required for all players, coaches and team managers. Any number of adults may be associated with any one (1) Division IV Team; however, the maximum number of adults on the sidelines for any match is four (4). Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check online.

Match Logistics (follow CJSA guidelines but included here for clarity)

- Match duration for U9 and U10 is 35-minute halves and use a #4 ball.
- Match duration for U11 and U12 is 35-minute halves and use a #4 ball.
- Match duration for U13 and U14 is 40-minute halves and use a #5 ball.
- Match duration for U15 thru U19 is 45-minute halves and uses a #5 ball.
- No overtimes are played for any regular season match.
- Home team wears pinnies or changes jerseys if both teams are wearing the same colors upon arrival at field.
- The NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> has detailed rules, league standings, and all the coach contact information posted as soon as possible after the scheduling meetings.

Match Results & Score Reporting

- Report results of every match by Monday 10:00pm each week to facilitate timely publication of standings. Both teams are required to report the score. For you busy coaches, this is a good task to delegate. Reporting logistics will be distributed each season at the scheduling meeting and posted on the district web site.
- Any match where a team has not reported the score by the posted deadline is subject a \$25 fine. The Competition Committee chair reserves the right to waive the fine for the first offense by any one team.
- For Under 9 and Under 10, Boys and Girls teams, results must be reported by both teams by Monday 10:00pm each week. No standings are kept and no scores are posted for this age level. Scores are monitored for sportsmanship and potential league placement in future years. Failure to report is subject to \$25 fine. No fines will be levied for the first offense for each team.

Results and Standings

- **Scoring:** 3 match pts for a win, 1 match pt for a tie, 0 match pts for a loss
- **Standings:** Teams with the most Points (Pts) are ranked higher in the standings. The tiebreakers for determining league standing position at the end of the season are: (1) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (2) least goals allowed; The tiebreakers for determining league champion if tied for most Pts are (1) most points in head-head competition-* (2) best adjusted goal differential (up to 3 per match); (3) least goals allowed; and if still tied, then co-champs will be declared.
* - When more than two teams are tied for most Pts, compute Pts accumulated for matches between just those teams that are tied. If two or more teams are still tied, drop to tiebreaker (2) with ONLY those teams still tied. I.E. Eliminate any teams with fewer Pts than the leaders for the balance of the tiebreaking computation.
- AGD = adjusted Goal Differential (no more than 3 for or 3 against per match)
- **Blowout Penalty:** Team penalized 1 match point for any blowout win (win by seven (7) or more goals). Team penalized 2 match points for 2nd and subsequent “blowout” offenses.
- **Forfeiture Of Matches:** Any match forfeited will result in a win for the team that was scheduled to play, appeared at the field and had at least seven (7) players on the field at the designated playing time plus fifteen (15) minutes. The result will be recorded as a 3-0 win and the appropriate team will be awarded 3 Points for the win.
- The **league champion** for the Fall playing season will be determined by a season ending playoff that includes 3 teams from Division III and one team from Division IV for any age group. This would be a two day event where 1st in Div III plays 1st in Div IV, and 2nd in Div III plays 3rd in Div III on Saturday. The winners play on Sunday immediately following the 3rd place match. The tournament finals are held at a predetermined venue selected to host this event. The semifinal Saturday matches will be played at the home field of the higher seeded team. The semifinal Saturday matches will be a format that produces a winner (two five minute golden goal overtime periods, followed by penalty kicks in the event of a tie) while the championship match could conclude in co-champs. This would be held in the Fall playing season only for ages U11, U12, U13 and U14, Boys and Girls, and if at least five teams enter an age division. The league champion will be invited to the Fall banquet. The Div IV champion will be recognized with a team trophy at the start of the first playoff match.

Sportsmanship

- The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent. Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded; play players out of position; Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken; stop taking shots completely. We have asked all club presidents to be more diligent in classifying the caliber of team so this shouldn't occur so much. Nevertheless, there will be a 1 match point PENALTY for any blowout win. This means you will be awarded 2 points instead of 3 for that match. A blowout win is categorized by a goal differential of seven (7) or more. Offenses beyond the first offense in one season will be penalized 2 points.
- Blowout Rule (all ages): In the event that a team wins by seven (7) or more goals, the match is considered a blowout. The head coach of the winning team is obligated to write a match report to the competition chair, their own club president and the division coordinator indicating why the score got out of hand and what measures were taken to keep the score in check. This report must be submitted prior to the team's next match or such match will be considered a forfeit loss. The report can be submitted electronically when the score is reported. The purpose of the correspondence is educational for the coaches involved and for the competition committee to understand the circumstances causing these situations.
- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship. Reference the sportsmanship policy for additional important details.

Promotion

- The clear league champion earns the privilege of being promoted to play in Division III in the subsequent seasonal league. In the event of co-champions, the competition committee determines promotion privilege. This may include negotiation with the teams, a playoff game, or a coin toss. The committee may bestow promotion privilege to both teams.

Notification of Intent to Play

- Each club president must notify the league commissioners of the number of teams intending to play in this Div. IV.
- The club list must include the name of a coach or team representative, email address, phone number, age group and caliber of team. Reference attachment A for additional detail.
- The Deadlines for Notification of Intent to Play is August 1 for Fall play and the March NED Board meeting for Spring play unless otherwise advised by the League Commissioner.

Scheduling

- Scheduling will be handled through a scheduling committee consisting of or appointed by the District Competition Committee and League Commissioners.
- The scheduling committee will designate a place, date and time for the Division scheduling meeting.
- The schedule provided will include pairings, weekends to play, who is home/away, logistics for reporting scores and communicating standings weekly.
- A coach or team representative from EVERY team is expected to attend the scheduling meeting. The scheduling meeting is regularly used to finalize their schedule and review all match logistics such as directions to fields, kickoff times and team contacts. The scheduling meeting is further used to get a briefing on the NED rules of competition, the coach's code of conduct and any other information pertinent to the coaching community for that playing season.
- Each team is expected to meet the district obligation of play before scheduling any out of district matches.
- A missed game is subject to forfeiture of the club's entire \$100 performance bond. Changes to scheduled games must be arranged at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kickoff, including notification of the league commissioner and opposing coach, subject to \$25 fine.
- Each team must provide a \$25 league entry, except for U9 and U10 entries.
- Each club must post a \$100 annual performance bond subject to forfeiture for any occurrence of not showing up for a scheduled match; for not providing enough notice for a change in a match (at least 72 hours); for not reporting scores appropriately (by 10pm Monday following the match).
- Reference Attachment A for logistics surrounding the scheduling meeting requirements.

- The policy for **rescheduling makeup matches** centers around making a very reasonable effort on both teams part to accommodate a date and time that both teams can play. All league matches including league makeups take precedence over friendly matches. The state Connecticut Cup tournament takes precedence over league matches. A team planning to participate in the Connecticut Cup should make every attempt to schedule their league matches on Sundays, or at least leave the Sunday of the same weekend available for a makeup. Weather related postponements should be considered only in the event of extreme weather conditions or unplayable fields, especially for league matches. Each team is expected to offer at least three reasonable makeup dates in order to have met the reasonableness criterion. If the home club cannot secure a field on dates that are otherwise open for the teams, the away club can host the match and the original home club is responsible for paying the referee team. The next available Saturday or Sunday as identified as open for both teams on the league schedule shall be the default playing date for any postponement. This can be modified by mutual agreement as long as the makeup is scheduled before the last playing date of the season. The last playing date of the season shall be clearly noted on the schedule at the beginning of the season. If unusual weather circumstances warrant an extension to the season, the League Commissioner shall notify each team representative via email as soon as that determination is made. Further, the league standings and schedule shall further indicate the last playing date. Teams are encouraged to play all scheduled matches where at all practical. Note that unplayed games result in no points awarded to both teams. In the extreme case that one team makes a reasonable effort to play and the other team does not, a forfeit victory will be awarded to the team that makes a reasonable effort to play. It is strongly encouraged that the competition committee meets as a group to attempt to resolve a situation where a forfeit may be impending.

Division IV U9/U10 Match Rules Modifications

- **REFEREES ARE TO CHECK ALL TEAMS FOR PASSES AND FOR PROPERLY VALIDATED ROSTERS PRIOR TO EACH MATCH**
- **COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A COPY OF THESE RULES TO, AND REVIEW WITH, THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH**
 - Applies to boys and girls competitions U9 & U10
 - Max roster size - 16 players per team roster, maximum 13 may dress for any match
 - 7v7 (six field players plus goalie).
 - All teams play 35 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime and use #4 ball.
 - Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Can use club referees for lines.
 - No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
 - Throw-ins follow normal FIFA rules; illegal throw-ins will **NOT** be retaken.
 - Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules.
 - Normal CJSA substitution rules.
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
 - Field dimensions (guideline)
Width: 45 yds. min.; 55 yds. max.; **Length:** 60 yds. min.; 75 yds. max.; **Ideal:** 50x70 yds.
Penalty area: 14 yards from endline and 14 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
Goal Box/Area: 4 yards from endline and 4 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
Size of Goal: 6'x18' recommended; 7'x12' permitted
 - Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field.
 - Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area.
 - Penalty kicks from 8 yard line.
 - On free kicks, defenders must be at least 6 yards from ball.
 - Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules.

Revised: 03/25/2010

Division IV U11 / U12 Match Rules Modifications

- **REFEREES ARE TO CHECK ALL TEAMS FOR PASSES AND FOR PROPERLY VALIDATED ROSTERS PRIOR TO EACH MATCH**
- **COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A COPY OF THESE RULES TO, AND REVIEW WITH, THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH**
 - Applies to boys and girls competitions U11 and U12 small-sided format
 - Max roster size- 16 players per team roster
 - 8 versus 8 (seven field players plus goalie) and no fewer than seven
 - All teams play 35 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime and use #4 ball.
 - Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Certified AR's are strongly recommended.
 - No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
 - Throw-ins follow normal FIFA rules; illegal throw-ins will **NOT** be retaken.
 - Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules
 - Normal CJSA substitution rules.
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field.
 - Field dimensions (guideline)
Width: 45 yds. min.; 55 yds. max.; **Length:** 60 yds. min.; 75 yds. max.; **Ideal:** 50x75 yds.
Penalty area: 14 yards from endline and 14 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
Goal Box/Area: 4 yards from endline and 4 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
Size of Goal: 6'x18' recommended; 7'x12' permitted
 - Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field
 - Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area.
 - Penalty kicks from 10 yard line.
 - On free kicks, defenders must be at least 8 yards from ball.
 - Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules.

Revised: 03/25/2010

Division V

Division Play

This division is intended to provide a forum for play for the non-results oriented teams and clubs where enrollment cannot support a full 11-a-side team. The primary objective is a fun, developmental, non-results oriented event marked by good sportsmanship and a tolerable travel scenario (0 or 1- far distance; 1 or 2- near and 4 + Home). A mandatory playing time minimum of 50% game time for each player (except for discipline or injury) emphasizes the goal of maximizing participation and player development. Leagues are formed for Girls and Boys. Co-ed teams are encouraged and assigned to the Boys leagues. A club fielding 3 or more Division V teams in a single age group should consider assembling a Division IV team. Efforts are made by the scheduling committee to match stronger skilled teams together (ex. Otherwise competitive teams playing numbers down) and weaker skilled teams together.

Ages

- Ages covered (Fall) = U10, U12, U14, U15, (U16, U19)
- Ages covered (Spring) = U10, U12, U14, U16, U19
- Each player must play at least 50% (Exception is Injury or Discipline)

Rosters

- Max Roster size: 16 but you must meet the 50% playing time minimum at each match.
- The recommended roster maximum is 12.
- Validated rosters are required.
- Rosters must be validated by a Club Officer (President or Registrar). Club Officer maintains a copy of all rosters.
- All coaches and club registrars are educated on the player eligibility requirements prior to each playing season.
- Players rostered to Division III or IV teams are allowed to play in Division V with some restrictions.
- Players are permitted to roster to multiple Division III, IV or V teams within a club but only two such dual rostered players are permitted to play at the same time, subject to CBF scenarios described below.
- Any teams formed with any of the following **competitive balance factors** (CBF) must declare such when entering teams to the scheduler for league play to enhance scheduling competitiveness:
 - CBF #1: Roster includes players rostered to Division III or IV teams
 - CBF #2: Roster includes players previously entered into Division III or IV leagues but are short numbers.
 - CBF #3: Team has a large roster also competing in Division III or IV leagues, but not enough players for two teams. Team is expected to play the weaker portion of their roster in the Division V league.
- Teams without such CBFs will be scheduled appropriately within Division V.
- For leagues U10 through U14, no more than 3 players on a roster can be younger than the two year age specific range of the league they are participating in and none more than one year younger. Please reference Attachment J for specific guidelines.

Team Size

- U10 and U12 play 7 v 7 or less as agreed to by coaches. In the presence of a large field with both teams fielding large rosters, coaches may agree to play 8 v 8 to maximize playing time.
- U14, U15, U16 play 6 v 6 or less as agreed to by coaches.
- U19 play 6 v 6 or less as agreed to by coaches; No goalkeeper for U19.

General

- Scores will not be kept but honor the Sportsmanship Policy by not RUNNING UP THE SCORE
- Field size is approximately 50 x 70 yards but intended to fit on half of a full sized field
- 6' x 18' foot goals are recommended. 7' x 12' foot goals are acceptable.
- Normal CJSA substitution rules
 - Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
- Ball size is #4 for U10 and U12; #5 for all others
- Off-sides rules apply to all ages

- Match Duration: - All Ages: Four 15 minute quarters.
- No goal kicks or distribution by goalkeeper over half field in the air, ball must touch a player or the field in your own half. The penalty and restart is an indirect free kick by the opposing team from where the ball crossed midfield.
- Refereeing system is one center but three-man system is always encouraged.
- Licensed or certified coaches are encouraged. Be advised that participating adults must complete the mandatory CJSA background check online.

Rule Modification for U10 Only

- Goal kicks can be taken anywhere in the penalty area

Division V Player Eligibility

Players on teams playing in the NED Division V league MUST be properly registered with CJSA and rostered to one or more Division 5 teams within the club. Players rostered to any state Division I, II, III (premier) team are not eligible to play with a Division 5 team at any age level.

All Adults in the Division V will use the annual USYSA Pass, validated by the NED Registrar, or designee. Be advised that participating adults must complete all voluntary disclosure requirements including background check.

Rosters will be generated by the respective clubs and signed by either the Club President or the Club Registrar attesting to the proper registration of said player. The club registrar must hold a copy of every roster validated for the club. The coach must present the roster to the opposing coach prior to each match for inspection in the presence of the referee. Upon request, any roster can be inspected by the Division V League Commissioner(s).

The template for the Division V club roster can be found at <http://www.cjsaned.org> and downloaded as a Microsoft Word form.

All Division V coaches will be instructed on the player eligibility rules and process for insuring conformance at the seasonal scheduling meeting. Complete instructions are included as part of the Division V roster form as a reminder. The coach instruction is mandatory at the scheduling meeting prior to each season. The instruction reviews the Division 5 playing rules and the Division 5 club roster and pregame player/roster inspection process. The instruction emphasizes the need to enforce the rules and the nature of the exposure to coaches, club and league officials when ineligible players are allowed to participate. Violations reported are subject to review by the disciplinary committee. The entire club will be placed in bad standing upon repeat occurrences, at the discretion of the disciplinary committee, and therefore affecting the eligibility of any teams to participate in district competitions at all levels.

Sportsmanship:

- The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scoring or grossly uneven play. It is mandatory that play adjustments be made if the score differential is 4 or higher. The type of adjustment(s) made is at the coaches' discretion. Some suggested adjustments are; play a player down at 3-0, play 2 down at 5-0, 5 passes before going forward, all players have to touch ball before going forward, put high scorer in goal, change forwards to defense and defense to forwards, limit attackers to 2 or 3 over mid-field as situation dictates. GK cannot play ball with hands except for saves, GK can only hand feed the balls into own half, etc. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.
- Each league may additionally recognize one team for most outstanding sportsmanship. Reference the sportsmanship policy for additional important details.

Division V Match Rules Modifications

- **COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A COPY OF THESE RULES TO, AND REVIEW WITH, THE REFEREE PRIOR TO EACH MATCH**
- **COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT PRE-GAME ROSTER INSPECTION PRIOR TO EACH MATCH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE REFEREE**
 - Max roster size- 16 players per team roster, maximum 13 may dress for any match and a 50% playing time minimum for every player must be honored.
 - 7v7 (six field players plus goalie) for ages U10, U12
 - 6v6 (five field players plus goalie) for ages U14, U15, U16, U19
 - For U19, it is recommended to play without goalies.
 - Certified Referee is required for the middle only. Can use club referees for lines.
 - No coaches allowed on the playing field during the game.
 - Throw-ins- Illegal throw-ins can be retaken once (all age levels)
 - Offsides WILL BE enforced in accordance with FIFA rules.
 - Normal CJSA substitution rules
Any stoppage of play, from the halfway line and when the referee beckons the players onto the field
 - Field dimensions (guideline)
 - **Width:** 45 yds. min.; 55 yds. max.; **Length:** 60 yds. min.; 75 yds. max.; **Ideal:** 50x70 yds.
 - **Penalty area:** 14 yards from endline and 14 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
 - **Goal Box/Area:** 4 yards from endline and 4 yards wide of each goal post or as marked
 - **Size of Goal:** 6'x18' recommended; 7'x12' permitted
 - Corner kicks taken from edge/corner of field.
 - Goal kicks taken from within goal box/area, **except for U9 and U10** where they are taken from anywhere in the penalty area. Goal kicks must touch a player or the field prior to passing over half field. The restart is an indirect free kick from the midfield spot closest to where the ball crossed.
 - Penalty kicks from 8 yard line or as marked at the field.
 - On free kicks, defenders must be at least 6 yards from ball.
 - All teams play 15 minute quarters.
 - Goalie restrictions applied in accordance with current FIFA rules. Referees are instructed to be lenient in determining intent to pass the ball to the goalie at this level.

Revised: 03/25/2010

ATTACHMENT A

Scheduling Process

Logistics for managing the scheduling process for a season are outlined here. The objective of the scheduling process is to establish a fair and competitive schedule, communicate all match logistics and rules, and to ensure the season runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Clubs submit request for team entry into each Division by appropriate deadline. The appropriate deadline for the Spring playing season is the March NE District meeting. The appropriate deadline for the Fall playing season is August 1. It is incumbent on the club representatives submitting their roster of teams to accurately profile the caliber of each team to ensure fair scheduling.
2. Scheduling coordinators form leagues from team applicants, create an 8-week schedule for each league; identify home/away team for each match; and assemble a consolidated contact list for distribution at the scheduling meeting and publication on the NE District web site.
3. The date, time and place for the appropriate scheduling meetings is set, announced and published on the NE District web site. One scheduling meeting is used for Division III and Division IV Boys; one for Division III and Division IV Girls; and One for All Division V (Boys and Girls).
4. Every team must send a representative to the scheduling meeting. The representative should sign in at the door, pick up all paperwork that will be used at the meeting and sit at the appropriate table for their age division. Each representative attending the scheduling meeting must have the following in hand for distribution:
 - Specific date and times every weekend for home field availability, or bring your field coordinator
 - Team point of contact and second contact including home telephone number, work number, mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses – Exchange/Validate this contact information at the scheduling meeting
 - **In addition to any coordination you accomplish at the scheduling meeting, always call one week in advance to confirm the details of the match(es) for the next weekend.**
 - Color of Home and Away jerseys
 - Maps and directions to the fields that the matches will be played on – approximately 12 copies
5. The League Commissioners will facilitate the meeting. The commissioners will review league rules, coach and player pass requirements, reporting requirements and logistics, sportsmanship expectations and techniques, and coach and player codes of conduct. It is appropriate to engage the District Referee Administrator and Registrar for these reviews.
6. Team representatives establish a date, time and place for each scheduled match, and exchange contact information with the other representatives at the table. A master schedule for each table must be completed and reviewed by the league commissioner before anybody can leave the meeting. At the end of the scheduling meeting a copy of each teams schedule must be given to the commissioner(s) for that league.
7. The teams / clubs are further responsible for notifying their local referee assignor to ensure a referee team is assigned to cover each home match.
8. All Division V coaches and club registrars will be provided mandatory instruction at each scheduling meeting. The purpose of the instruction is to review the Division V playing rules and guidelines, pre-game roster inspection process, and player eligibility requirements.

No NED team may schedule matches outside the District UNTIL the district league schedule is established (including play dates, times and places). It is the intent that all clubs and all team will give scheduling priority to the Northeast District, NED clubs and teams prior to scheduling any matches with clubs from other Districts, other District teams not a part of the district league schedule, or teams from other National State organizations. Any violation of this rule or the spirit of this rule will be brought to the attention of the Commissioners of the league and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

Remember: In addition to any coordination you accomplish at the scheduling meeting, always call one week in advance to confirm the details of the match(es) for the next weekend.

ATTACHMENT B

USYSA Players Rights

1. The right to decide when to participate in soccer.
2. The right to play in every game. At younger ages (NED editorial; and in Division V), every child should have an opportunity to play at least 50% of every game. No child should have to stand and watch at practice.
3. The right to participate at a level that corresponds to each child's maturity and ability.
4. The right to be taught the fundamentals of soccer.
5. The right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
6. The right to play as a child and enjoy participation in the sport.

USYSA Players Code

- **Play the game for the game's sake.**
- **Be generous when you win.**
- **Be graceful when you lose.**
- **Be fair always, no matter what the cost.**
- **Obey the laws of the game.**
- **Work for the good of your team.**
- **Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.**
- **Believe in the honesty of your opponents.**
- **Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.**

ATTACHMENT C

USYSA Guide to Safety, Player Development and Ethics

Safety

1. My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home away;
 - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ ice
 - 911 emergency procedure / telephone location
 - Location of nearest emergency medical facilities
 - Always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
 - Follow up all injuries with parents / guardians
4. Know and understand the laws of the game.
5. Inspect player's equipment and field conditions for safety reasons.
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play.
7. Implement appropriate training program to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
8. Supervise and control your players as to avoid injury situations.

Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in perspective.
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the player's age group.
6. Allow players to experience all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach their full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model.
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sport in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility.
8. Just "SAY NO" to drugs and alcohol.
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.

ATTACHMENT D

National Soccer Coaches Association of America Code of Ethics

(adopted by Ethics Committee, 5/24/99)

1. Soccer is the players' game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
2. Coaches bear responsibility for teaching their players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game and the highest levels of sportsmanship.
3. Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity, and shall teach their players to do the same.
4. Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise.
5. In both victory and defeat, the behavior of a coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.
6. Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: clubs, schools, sponsoring organizations and sports governing bodies.
7. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the interests of soccer, including treating media with courtesy, honesty and respect.
8. Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer.
9. Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, and prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, both in their own lives and in the lives of their players.
10. Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of soccer.
11. Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of all players, and shall adhere to all guidelines and regulations on recruiting established by the governing bodies having oversight of their teams and leagues.
12. Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport—violence, abuse, dishonesty, disrespect and violations of the laws of the game and rules governing competition.

ATTACHMENT E

Parents Role, Guidelines and Code of Conduct

PARENTS ROLE:

1. Provide transportation to and from all practices and games ensuring that the player is prompt not only in arriving but also their departure.
2. Stay and watch practices or games and lend the young players your support in a positive manner. Do not point out their mistake, leave that up to the coach, but dwell on their accomplishments as well as their efforts.
3. If unable to attend the practice or game, encourage the child not to talk with or leave practices or games with strangers.
4. Ensure child brings equipment to and from all soccer games and practices when appropriate.
5. Be available to kick the ball around with your child when invited to do so.
6. Avoid material rewards. Build an attitude of “**the rewards lie in the fun of being able to play**”.
7. Be a good listener. Make them feel important and let them know that they are contributing to a team effort.
8. Be positive. Never criticize. Suggest an alternate way if they are not performing correctly...”Hey that is pretty good, but why don’t you try it this way.”
9. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BE A CHILD.

GUIDELINES TO SOCCER PARENTHOOD:

1. In competition someone always loses. If you win, do it gracefully, not boastfully. If you lose, do not allow the child to become negative.
2. Too much competition, too soon, can slow down a child’s progress in skill development.
3. MAKE FUN AND TECHNIQUE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.
4. Your child’s coach will need all the support and help you can offer. Please, make yourself available and volunteer all the time you can spare.
5. Disagreements with the coach or officials do not belong on the public soccer field. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach and/ or club in an adult atmosphere. (The youth player should not be present.)
6. The overall purpose is to enjoy the game and the opportunity to be with your child on the field of play.

OTHER GUIDELINES:

Before the game: “I Love You” “Have Fun” “Do your Best/ Good Luck”

After the game: “I Love You” “It was fun to watch you play” ”Where do you want to eat?”

Parents Contract (Code of Conduct)

Northeast District - *Town Club*

I/ We _____ the proud parent(s)/ Guardian(s) of _____ of Northeast *Club* _____ do hereby promise to be a model spectator(s) at games which my/ our daughter/ son is a participant or other games where they are present with me/ us.

I/ We will:

1. Encourage Fair Play
2. Cheer in a positive manner for all players.
3. Not criticize the opponents of our children.
4. Not embarrass my own child (ren) with my behavior.
5. Let the coach do the coaching.
6. Show respect for the game officials by not openly or otherwise criticizing them, which would undermine their authority in the eyes of my/ our child (ren).
7. Display good sportsmanship.
8. Remember the pre-game talk with your child (ren), "I love you, have fun and good luck"
9. Remember the post-game talk with your child (ren), "It was fun to watch you play, I love you and where do you want to eat".

I/ We understand the coach (es), Team Manager(s), other parents of this team and/ or the Club will hold us accountable for our actions and behavior.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Witness Club

Coach/ Team Mgr.: _____ Date: _____

SILENT MATCHES ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED

ATTACHMENT Zero

SUPPORT FOR REFEREES - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Every person responsible for a team and each and every spectator and player will respect the authority of the referee. This respect is essential to the proper play of the game, the development of our players and the retention of quality, experienced referees. Failure to respect the authority of the referees, especially by the person(s) responsible for the team, undermines the authority of the referee, sets a bad example for everyone else, especially the players, and can rapidly lead into a hostile, negative game environment where playing the game of soccer is no longer the focus of the activity. This is entirely inconsistent with the sportsmanship goals that the Northeast District is trying to promote. Therefore, the basic rule is that spectators and persons responsible for the team will not address the referee at all before, during, and after a match. The prohibitions, exceptions, the penalties for violation, and policy execution are described as follows:

A. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TEAM

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, making a substitution, or pointing out an emergency safety issue during the play of a match, the persons responsible for a team should not say anything to a referee. Nor should they do anything that conveys in any way any criticism of the referee. Coaches may ask questions before the start of play or direct questions properly through their captains, but may not approach the referee at halftime or at the end of the match. **Coaches who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns verbally or in writing to the District Referee Administrator (DRA). They may not express those concerns to the Referee.**

The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. Instances of infrequent and reasonably low key dissent can be ignored.
2. The first instance of persistent dissent is to be acknowledged with a verbal warning. The second instance will result in the coach's dismissal from the field. Coaches are not to be issued a card of any kind, but a referee must clearly indicate
3. Player dissent is to be dealt with according to FIFA law.

B. SPECTATORS

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, or pointing out an emergency safety issue, spectators will not say anything to a referee. Nor will they do anything that in any way conveys criticism of the referee. The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions in the following manner:

1. Infrequent or reasonably low key dissent can be ignored.
2. At the instance of the first infraction of persistent dissent, the referee will stop the match and ask the person responsible for the team to quiet the offending spectator.
3. At the instance of the second infraction, the referee will stop the match and inform the person(s) responsible for the team that the spectator must immediately leave the match and surrounding area. Failure to comply will result in the match being abandoned. The referee will file the necessary reports and send them to the DRA, who in turn will forward them to the District VP.
4. Due to the age and experience of some officials, they may need the assistance of responsible people to help if the spectator is not affiliated with either team.

C. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

If a member or members of a team, any persons responsible for a team, or a team's spectators engage in unbecoming conduct before, during, or after a match, they will be subject to discipline by the N.E. District Discipline Committee. This discipline can include suspension of the entire team from their next scheduled match.

D. POLICY EXECUTION

Clubs are directed to post signs at all fields at places where coaches and spectators gather and can read publicizing the nature of the zero tolerance policy.

ATTACHMENT F

Forms

Please reference the NE District web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> or the CJSA web site <http://www.cjsa.org> or the Registrar's handbook for access to the latest version of these forms.

- 1 Disclosure Statement Pursuant to NED Risk Management policy, each District Club is required to have each adult volunteer complete the CJSA background check once every three years.
- 2 REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF CLUB REGISTRATION This form is required to transfer players from one CJSA affiliated club to another CJSA affiliated club. Please note requirement to turn in old passes upon approval of transfer by the CJSA.
- 3 Voluntary Release **CAUTION!!!! *This form releases a player from playing soccer for any CJSA affiliated club and the player is not allowed to play with a CJSA affiliated club until the next seasonal year.***
- 4 Reimbursement Request This form is to be used for seeking reimbursement for expenses incurred which are related to NED activities. Receipts are to be attached to the request form. Retain a copy of the request and the receipts for your personal file.
- 5 Medical Release This is a form to be used to obtain medical release if your current club form is inadequate or doesn't request such release.
- 6 Permission To Travel Out of State Available through the CJSA web site <http://www.cjsa.org> "E Travel" program
- 7 Division 5 Club Roster and instructions Available on NE District Web site <http://www.cjsaned.org> or from the NE District Division V coordinators

ATTACHMENT G

Sportsmanship Techniques

At every level of play in our district, in our game, in all our games, sportsmanship can make every encounter we have with other players be an enjoyable one. The following are some ideas for coaches, players and fans to carry with them to demonstrate good sportsmanship. Emphasize sportsmanship by example. Respect the authority of the referee. While the referee will make mistakes just like the players will, complaining about missed calls delivers a very counterproductive message to our kids that such behavior is acceptable. Please don't argue with the referee, coaches or other players as it detracts from playing the game. Please keep your instruction from the sideline positive and encouraging. Encourage spectators to do the same. The kids and coaches shake hands with the opposing team after EVERY match. It is also a nice gesture for the captains to shake hands with the referees and thank them for a job well done. Your demeanor visibly reflects on yourself, your team, your club and your town. Display exemplary decorum at all times. Please leave good impressions all over the state and region!

Sportsmanship:

The Competition Committee is extremely concerned about matches with very lopsided scores and/or grossly uneven play.

Please take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.

Play shorthanded, even several players shorthanded

Play players out of position

Play 5 -10 touches before a shot is taken

Stop taking shots completely

Play a player down at 3-0, play 2 down at 5-0

Require 5 complete passes before going forward

All players have to touch ball before going forward

Put high scorer in goal

Change forwards to defense and defense to forwards

Limit attackers to 2 or 3 over mid-field as situation dictates

GK cannot play ball with hands except for saves

GK can only hand feed the balls into own half

Be discrete about playing shorthanded or not shooting

Substitute for a player (U14 and younger) who receives a yellow card caution to explain or to cool off or both

Please take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.

ATTACHMENT I

NE District Indoor Tournament Playing Rules

FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to this indoor competition with the following modifications:

1. The field of play shall be scaled down including the penalty box and distance to the penalty kick spot.
2. The ball shall be deflated to 5 lbs. The size of the ball shall be in accordance with USSF modifications for youth soccer.
3. The number of players on a team shall be six including a goalkeeper. The roster maximum is 16. All players and coaches must have passes and be rostered. Rosters are frozen with the first game.
4. The NED requires that ALL rosters presented at the tournament be stamped as “Indoor Tournament” only.
5. Division I, II or III registered players, that reside in town, may be rostered and have a Club pass marked “For Indoor Play Only” – (Change of Club Registration is not required)
6. Substitutes are unlimited and shall be made in accordance with USSF modifications of youth soccer (goal kicks, possession throw-ins, after a goal is scored, at stoppage for injury, at halftime).
7. Indoor training shoes, turf shoes or sneakers will be worn. No cleats are allowed.
8. The duration of the game shall be two 12-minute halves with a 2-minute halftime interval. The tournament director has the right to alter the game time to be two 10-minute halves if necessary. Both halves must be equal length.
9. Balls that hit obstructions shall be declared out of play and put back into play by an indirect free kick by the other team at the halfway line.
10. Law 11 Offsides is eliminated.
11. (a) Sliding tackles are not permitted and carry a mandatory caution. Penalty is an indirect free kick for the other team from the spot of the infraction.
(b) The goalkeeper is not permitted to punt or drop kick the ball.
(c) The goalkeeper is not permitted to throw the ball over the halfway line on the fly.
(d) Goal kicks must touch a player or the floor in the defensive half of the field. Violations of (9b, c, and d) are restarted with an indirect free kick for the other team from the halfway line.
(e) Defensive players shall stand five yards from the ball on all free kicks. There are NO warnings.
12. All players with the exception of the goalkeeper and the kicker shall be behind the halfway line until penalty kicks are taken.
13. Disciplinary measures for send-off’s are subject to review by the tournament Director. For the first send-off offense (**RED CARD**) player automatically sits out the next match. For the second send-off offense (**RED CARD**) player is **ELIMINATED** from further tournament play. Multi-rostered players are eliminated from further competition at any level if they receive a second send-off offense. Any players removed from a match for fighting will be **ELIMINATED** immediately from further tournament play. Any team, or teams, involved in fighting will be **ELIMINATED** immediately from further tournament play. Any team found using suspended players will **FORFEIT** all matches played with suspended players.
14. The following procedure will be used for advancement out of round robin play.
Teams are awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss. The team with the most points is placed higher, second most is placed second, etc. If tied the following order will be used:
 - (a) The result of head to head competition (unless three or more teams are tied).
 - (b) The largest goal difference up to 3 per game.
 - (c) Least goals allowed.
 - (d) Penalty kicks as defined by FIFA
15. For semifinals and finals matches, if tied at the end of regulation play:
 - (a) Play two five-minute golden goal overtimes (1st goal scored wins).
 - (b) Penalty kicks as defined by FIFA.

The Competition Committee reserves the right to modify these playing rules in advance of the tournament.

ATTACHMENT R

CJSA NE District Awards and Recognition

Recognition Awards: The NE District holds a banquet at the end of each Fall playing season to recognize the league champions of each of the competitive district leagues. Several individual awards are also presented at this event as follows:

- **Youth Referees of the year:** Generally one male and one female youth referee is selected for outstanding and level headed refereeing, great attitude, prompt and reliable appearances at their assignments. The youth referee should exhibit outstanding refereeing skills as well as terrific attitude and enthusiasm for kids playing soccer. Nominations are submitted to the District Referee Administrator. All club referee assignors are to be encouraged to submit nominations each year.
- **Coach of the year:** Generally one coach or coaching team is selected. Criteria include ability to bring an enjoyable experience to a team, to guide a competitive team to achieve its fullest potential, to consistently demonstrate sportsmanship, and to foster a lifelong passion for the game of soccer in each player. Nominations are submitted to the Competition Committee Chair and District VP. Criteria for coach of the year should include comment on how the coach enhances the experience of the players from a technical perspective, from a teamwork perspective, from a sportsmanship perspective and from a social perspective.
- **Volunteer of the year:** Generally one person who has effectively dedicated substantial time, energy and enthusiasm on a volunteer basis to insure the success of the local club's soccer program is a candidate for Volunteer of the year. The spirit of volunteerism is strong in the NE District and essential to the continued operation of the NE District's member club programs. Volunteer of the year is an opportunity to recognize important contributors to the operation of your voluntary organization.
- **Special recognition award:** Generally reserved for some special accomplishment by a team or individual from the NE District, or a graduate of the NE District programs.
- **Distinguished Service award:** Generally given to an individual who has exhibited exemplary and substantial service to the NE District activities over the course of many years. This award is not necessarily awarded each year.
- **NED Sportsmanship Awards:** Generally given to teams that have demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. While all teams are candidates, teams participating in the NE District U10 Jamboree or the NE District Division V leagues are targeted. Sportsmanship criteria include the team's attitude, their treatment of other players and referees, etc.
- **NED League Champions:** Players and coaches from each league champion are invited to the banquet and awards ceremony to be recognized for their accomplishments. Each player is welcome to bring their immediate family. Each player receives an individual award (T-shirt or trophy, for example) The Northeast District provides complimentary pizza and soft drinks after the awards presentations.

ATTACHMENT J

NE District Roster Guidelines

Team rosters are required for NE District competition. Limitations on the ages of players allowed on rosters U14 and younger is based upon the league that the team is participating in. The two year age specific range is the two years including the age of the oldest player on the roster and one year younger. For a league, the two year age specific range is the two years including the league age of the playing format and one year younger. Players that fall into the two year age specific range and up to 3 players one year younger than the two year age specific range are permitted on a roster. Exception: No player younger than U8 is allowed to participate in these competitions. Point of enforcement is with the district registrars only at the time the roster is validated. No exceptions will be granted for U7 or younger players.

The following table shows which U-ages may play in a given District division:

Table 1: Playing Up Permitted by Division

Division	U-Ages That May Play in a Division Without Restriction	U-Ages for Which There is a Three-per-Team Number Restriction in a Division	U-Ages That Are Disallowed from Playing in a Division
U14	Any number of U14 and U13 players may play on a team in a U14 division.	A maximum of three U12 players may play on a team in a U14 division. This rule applies even if there is no U13 division.	No U11 or younger permitted in a U14 division. This rule applies even if there is no U13 division.
U13	Any number of U13 and U12 players may play on a team in a U13 division.	A maximum of three U11 players may play on a team in a U13 division.	No U10 or younger permitted in a U13 division.
U12	Any number of U12 and U11 players may play on a team in a U12 division.	A maximum of three U10 players may play on a team in a U12 division.	No U9 or younger permitted in a U12 division.
U11	Any number of U11 and U10 players may play on a team in a U11 division.	A maximum of three U9 players may play on a team in a U11 division.	No U8 or younger permitted in a U11 division.
U10	Any number of U10 and U9 players may play on a team in a U10 division.	A maximum of three U8 players may play on a team in a U10 division.	No U7 or younger permitted in any division.
U9	Any number of U9 and U8 players may play on a team in a U9 division.	No U7 or younger players permitted in any division.	No U7 or younger players permitted in any division.