

Salem Youth Soccer  
Association, Inc.

PO Box 209 Salem, NH  
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BY-LAWS

SYSA BY-LAWS voted June 4, 2009

# INTRODUCTION

This document contains specific operating rules, hereinafter known as SYSA By-Laws, as adopted by the SYSA Board of Directors. Travel team association (GSYSL or GSGL) requirements shall take priority over these rules where contradictions occur.

## OPERATING RULES

### 1. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES:

The Salem Youth Soccer Recreation league shall follow the United States Youth Soccer (USYSA) Modified Playing Rules with the following adjustments-

#### LAW I -- THE FIELD:

Markings are optional until field locations which can be marked are found. Approved corner flags shall be used. Cones can only be used to mark the Halfway Line and Penalty Area if the field cannot be lined.

#### LAW II -- NUMBER OF PLAYERS RECREATION ONLY:

A. The recommended roster sizes, and the number of players per team on the field (including the goalkeeper) at any one time:

Division	Roster size	Format
U - 6	10 to 12 (session)	3v3 (no goalkeeper)
U - 8	9 to 12	5v5 (no goalkeeper)
U - 10	9 to 12	6v6
U - 12	12 to 15	8v8
U - 15	12 to 15	11v11

The goalkeeper position must be filled in all divisions (except U-6 and U-8)). A minimum of two players (U-10 and U-12) shall be used in the goalkeeper position for each game. Goalkeepers shall spend an approximately equal amount of time in that position during the game (except for injuries). Every rostered player must play this position at least once in the Fall and once in the Spring seasons. This rule is in keeping with the intent of the SYSA Constitution that no player shall advance to older divisions without benefit of having experienced all major positions.

Note: The SYSA Travel Division shall follow the recommended roster sizes and player formats as defined by the league in which they participate.

**LAW III -- OFF-SIDE:**

There shall be no off-sides for U-6, U-8, and U-10

**LAW IV -- FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:**

There shall be no cautions or send-offs for U-6 and U-8.

**LAW V -- FREE KICKS:**

There shall be no direct kicks for U-6 and U-8. Indirect free kicks shall be taken from the point of infraction or 12 yards from the goal, whichever is further.

**LAW VI -- PENALTY KICKS:**

There shall be no penalty kicks for U-6 and U-8.

**ADDITIONAL SYSA RULES:**

- 1 . THERE SHALL BE NO LEAGUE STANDINGS IN ANY RECREATIONAL DIVISION.
2. COACHES AND PLAYERS OF BOTH TEAMS SHALL SHAKE HANDS AT THE END OF EACH GAME.
3. COACHES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEMSELVES, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS. ABUSIVE OR FOUL LANGUAGE SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED.
4. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED NEAR THE PLAYING AREA. COACHES, REFEREES, PLAYERS AND LEAGUE OFFICIALS SHALL NOT SMOKE NEAR THE PLAYING AREA.
5. PARENTS/COACHES, NON-PLAYING PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS SHALL BE LOCATED NO CLOSER THAN TWO (2) YARDS FROM OUTSIDE THE TOUCH LINE NOR SHALL THEY POSITION THEMSELVES ALONG THE GOAL LINE AND MUST BE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PLAYER BENCH. NO INDIVIDUAL SHALL RUN THE LENGTH OF THE FIELD EXCEPT PARTICIPANTS OF THE GAME.
6. INDIVIDUALS EXHIBITING UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE FIELD AREA. MEMBER INFRACTIONS SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE DIVISION COORDINATOR/COACHING DIRECTOR/BOARD MEMBERS FOR ACTION. SEE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR REPORTING PROCESS.

## **2. PARTICIPATION.**

### ***2.1 Recreation League:***

Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the game time unless cited for misconduct or player is late to the game, injured, sick or refuses to participate. Players in U-8 and U-10 shall be rotated through all positions (e.g. forward line, midfield, backs, etc.) during the season with sufficient frequency that they become familiar with play in those positions. Players in U-12 and up should be given the opportunity to play in various positions while recognizing their desire to play some of their favorite positions. No SYSA player should complete all divisions of play without playing and learning the various positions, including goalkeeping. Coaches shall use the honor system to meet the spirit and intent of this by-law. Each season coaches shall determine what positions their players have not played and give them the opportunity to play new positions, based on the division of play. In the event that the team roster size prevents equal playtime, the coach will note and make appropriate adjustments from game to game.

Only SYSA registered players can participate in a game between Recreational teams. No SYSA player is allowed to play in a game in a younger division than the age group he/she is rostered in. No SYSA player is allowed to play in a game in a division that is more than one level older than the age he/she is rostered in.

### ***2.2 Travel League:***

Coaches shall recognize that some players will play more than others due to the level of competition, but that all players in good standing shall be given the opportunity to participate in each game. Non-competitive divisions within the travel program, U11 and below, shall strive to follow the 50% playing time rule with the exception of a U11 team that may be participating in a competitive tournament. A player may be considered “not in good standing” as per the note below. In this circumstance, the coach may choose to limit playing time as appropriate for the offense.

NOTE: Examples of misconduct - Disrespect in the form of foul/abusive language/gestures towards the coach, referee, or players of either team, unexcused absences from practices or games, uncooperativeness in following the coach's directions or rules, or other reasonable offenses that the coach deems inappropriate towards good sportsmanship or willingness to follow directions.

## **3. PARTICIPANTS**

SYSA members who are suspended from league activities shall not participate in any SYSA or NHSA activity. Suspensions for more than one game shall be under the sole authority of the Board of Directors. Coaches may suspend a player for one game due to misconduct, but must report it to their division coordinator and to the Board.

## **4. LEAGUE**

All teams within the SYSA shall be classified as either Recreation or Travel/EDP.

### ***4.1 Recreation***

The Recreation divisions shall organize teams by balancing, to the extent possible, skills, age, gender, experience and other factors determined by division coordinators. The focus of the divisions is to teach appropriate techniques, improve game skills, foster sportsmanship and friendly competition and to provide fun and an appreciation for the sport of soccer. Normally, teams within the same age division will play each other in an intramural-style format. Recreation league members may participate in other Recreation (recreational) games (such as 6 v 6 team format games or recreational tournaments) with other NHSA affiliated teams' with the President's approval.

### ***4.2 Travel***

The Travel divisions shall organize its boys and girls teams within the guidelines of the Granite State Youth Soccer League, NHSA and EDP League. This is a more competitive level than the Recreation, in which players are selected, based on tryouts, to represent the team in in-state competition. The focus of this league is to provide and develop a higher level of competition and instruction for the youth of Salem, therefore providing to the willing player the opportunity to achieve higher game skills. Teams at this level compete with other GSYSL teams and various in-state/out-of state tournaments. Members of current season travel teams may not participate in scheduled Recreation division games unless granted permission by the VP of Recreation or the Director of Coaching.

#### ***4.2.1 EDP (Early Developmental Program)***

EDP consists of U8 and U9 travel divisions. This is a non-competitive developmental program and is regulated by SYSA, GSYSL, and NHSA.

## **5. AGE GROUPS/TEAM GENDER**

Although separate girls and boys divisions may exist, boys and girls may participate on the same teams. Girls playing on boy's teams will fall into a boys division.

### ***5.1 Recreation***

The Recreation League shall consist of the following age divisions: U-6 – U-18. The minimum age to enter the league is four years old (before August 1 of the new season). Revisions can be made based on player's age at enrollment with permission of registrar.

## **5.2 Travel**

The girls and boys travel coordinators may arrange any number of travel teams at various age groups consistent with the NHSA, GSYSL and EDP guidelines and with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Directors. Available resources shall be considered before expansions take place. The creation and placement of teams will be done with consideration of the available players keeping in mind the skill level and development of the players. Teams U12 and above are considered competitive teams and player placement will be based on this.

## **6. REGISTRATION**

All prospective Travel/EDP and Recreation players shall register with the SYSA Registrar. Recreation league registration for the fall season shall be held in early-mid spring and again in mid-late winter for the spring season. Travel registrations will be held no later than 2 weeks prior to try-outs. Late registrations will be accepted and subject to a late fee.

## **7. FEES**

Travel/EDP and Recreation fees for the next season shall be determined with the approval of the next season's budget by the Board of Directors.

- Fees are due at time of registration
- A deposit, equal to the Recreation fee, is due at time of registration for participation in the Travel/EDP Division. Travel fees are due at the time of team placement.
- Registration fees are refunded to players who are cut from Travel Division teams and do not wish to participate in the Recreation division. Refunds will not be given after a player has accepted a position on a travel team.
- Players will be responsible for all fees and may be considered ineligible for future play for failure to pay completely and timely all monies owed.
- The executive board reserves the right to offer full or partial reduction of fees to players based on need or other extraordinary circumstances.
- The executive board may vote to offer discounts of fees to individuals who fill volunteer positions as needed to support the league.

## **8. Scholarships**

The SYSA board will vote annually to create a college scholarship to be awarded to deserving high school athletes. The criteria for this award will be published and available to all Salem high school seniors. Selection of the recipients will be done by committee appointed by the President consisting of SYSA volunteers and local community representatives.

## 9. FORMING OF TEAMS

All Recreation teams shall be formed and initial rosters completed by July 31. Special requests will be considered only to the extent that they do not affect the balance of the division. Teams shall not be reorganized to meet any special requests of late registrants. Team rosters are based on optimum size to allow players ample playing time to develop their skills. All efforts will be made to accommodate late registrations, but they may not be registered if all teams are filled or no new ones can be formed due to lack of volunteers. Brothers/sisters and children of coaches/assistant coaches shall be placed on the same team unless instructed otherwise by the parents. Players may move up into a higher age division upon verbal agreement of the Vice President of Recreation. The player's safety and potential for enjoyment shall be paramount in the decision to move him/her up. Players may not remain in a division in which they are above the maximum playing age. Extreme circumstances will be considered and waivers approved by the Vice President of Recreation. Players must wait five days after registering before they may join their team for practice or games. This ensures that their names have been forwarded to the NHSA for insurance coverage. No coach/asst. coach may trade, or switch players on their roster without expressed consent from the VP of Recreation and approval from the Registrar.

### 9.2 Travel Division Teams

- All Travel Division teams will be formed based on tryouts conducted at the end of the Spring season.
- Teams will be formed based on the appropriate age and skill of the players available. Players are allowed to tryout in an upper division and placement shall follow approved tryout guidelines.
- Evaluations will be conducted by the Vice President of Travel, Director of Coaches, and/or their designees.
- All players will be notified of their acceptance or cut from a team in a timely manner.
- Appeals must be made in writing to the Vice President of Travel within 48hrs of the player's notification.
- All player cuts should be approved by the Vice President of Travel based on approved tryout guidelines.

## 10. INSURANCE

**No player may participate in any SYSA activity unless that player's name has been registered with NHSA.** No SYSA team may participate in any game or scrimmage with a team that is not registered with NHSA. Should any SYSA team enter either in-state or out of state tournaments, the responsible SYSA official must obtain proof of sanctioning from that tournament director. No SYSA team shall participate in any out of state tournament, game or scrimmage unless the registrar receives written permission to travel from NHSA. Volunteer coaches and referees are covered under NHSA only if they participate in NHSA affiliated league games. In summary, SYSA teams, coaches and referees will be covered by the NHSA insurance plan if the following criteria are met:

- All players are registered with NHSA.
- Both teams playing are registered with NHSA.
- The activity is team related.

## **11. ROSTERS**

Only players listed on an official team roster may participate in an SYSA event. Players may not be swapped, traded or moved without the permission of the designated division coordinator and registrar. The Registrar's master roster shall be the official document of registered SYSA members.

The Travel rosters are covered by the NHSA guidelines.

### **12.1 RECREATION GAME MAKEUPS**

There shall be one rain date scheduled per season. If more than one game date is canceled, Teams may make up that game sometime before the last game of the season provided there are no conflicts. All rules remain in effect and the VP of Recreation must be notified of the date, time and location.

### **12.1 TRAVEL GAME MAKEUPS**

Travel makeup games are governed by GYSL guidelines.

## **13. GAMES/PRACTICES**

There must be a recognized SYSA coach or assistant coach present at all games and practices for every team. If only the assistant coach is to be present and he/she is not an adult, one adult (parent or otherwise) must be present during the practice/game. The Division Coordinator must be notified if either coach or assistant coach is available. If no appropriate substitutes can be found, there will be no practice or game. Coaches should keep their team roster, registration forms (with medical release) with them at all SYSA events.

### **14.1 RECREATION COACHES**

- SYSA encourages all coaches and assistant coaches to attend the NYSCA Certification course (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> year classes) or have at least an F-License (USYSA), in town clinics and workshops to provide the best available coaching to the players.
- Coaching positions are volunteers and will be filled on a first come first basis provided the coach is in good standing with SYSA and other soccer organization.
- Coach volunteers must be legal aged adults, assistant coaches may be under legal adult age. In such cases, a legal adult must be present with the assistant coach at practices and games. All coaches and assistant coaches must attend the NYSCA



- Certification course (1st, 2nd and 3rd year classes) or have at least an F-License (USYSA) or both or produce equivalent qualifications to the Coaches Director
- Either the head coach or assistant coach should be over the age of 18 years, but no one under the age of 16 years of age is allowed to coach.
  - Coaches scheduled for the first game time should arrive at least 45 minutes early to allow time to set up the goals and flags. All coaches need the time to warm up (including stretches) their players, inspect the field/equipment and to have the referee inspect the players. Coaches must arrive at least 30 minutes before scheduled game time. Coaches and referees shall inspect the field conditions for unsafe conditions and proper placement/condition of flags and goals. Last game on the field, coaches are required to break down goals and lock them up in the shed.

## **14.2 TRAVEL COACHES**

Any coaches selected without the proper license will have one season to obtain the proper license. (U10 and younger modular license or E-License (U11-U14) and a D license U15 and older or equivalent.)

SYSA strongly encourages all coaches to attend workshops or other activities that will enhance their ability to provide the best available coaching to the players.

- Travel Division coaches must fill out and submit applications prior to the start of the season.
- Coaches' selections will be done by a committee made up of the President, Vice President of Travel, and Boys and Girls Coordinators and Director of Coaches.
- SYSA will recognize one head coach and one Asst. Coach per team provided there are qualified applicants for each role.
- Any coach not in good standing with SYSA or other soccer organizations will not be considered.

Coaches must remain current in their NYSCA Certification while an active coach/assistant coach. In addition, all coaches must attend basic skills clinics. SYSA strongly encourages all coaches/referees to attend workshops or other activities that will enhance their ability to provide the best available coaching to the players. All coaches/league officials shall wear their coach's shirt or sweatshirt at games as a means of identification for parents and other league officials.

## **15. PLAYING SEASON**

The Recreation playing season officially begins August 1st of each year. The season is split into two halves: the Fall and Spring sessions, with games normally held on Sunday afternoons. The first game of the Fall session will normally begin on the first Sunday of the Salem school year while the first game of the Spring session will normally begin in

April, depending on field conditions. Each session will normally consist of eight games. Exact start dates, length of season, number of games, opponents schedule, locations and times will be passed out during the coaches meeting and will become part of the By-laws for that season.

The Travel teams playing season will be established by their respective leagues.

## **16. GAME PLAY**

Recreation league games shall be played in two equal time periods with at least a 5 minute break between halves in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. U-15 two 35 minute halves.
- b. U-12 two 30 minute halves.
- c. U-10 two 25 minute halves.
- d. U-8 two 25 minute halves.

Coaches must be sensitive to the flow of the game and take measures against one-sided scores from occurring to the best of their ability. This may include rotating certain players or working specific plays with the less skilled players. Deliberate running up of scores will not be condoned. **As a rule of thumb, coaches should take measures to control the score when there is a four (4) goal difference in the game.**

Each team shall have an equal number of players on the field. If one team does not have enough players, the coaches should agree to play with fewer players, with the recommendation that at least one substitute be available to each team.

Both teams shall shake hands immediately after each game, regardless of outcome. Abusive or foul language or gestures or ungentlemanly-like conduct (such as spitting or hitting) of any kind is strictly prohibited and is subject to future game suspensions or other punitive action decided upon by the Board. Everyone must realize that the referee's authority does not end until he leaves the general area of the field of play.

### **16.1 TRAVEL**

Game play will be measured and controlled by GSYSL and NHSA.

## **17. UNIFORMS**

- Shin guards completely covered by socks (or shin guards that have their own protective cloth cover)

- Footwear is mandatory. Jewelry (e.g. rings, chains, necklaces, anklets, earrings, hard barrettes, watches, bracelets and the like, metallic or non-metallic) shall not be worn.
- Medic alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn but must be securely taped in place.
- The goalkeeper must wear a uniform of a different color than his and the opponents' teams.
- Players cannot be permitted to play with casts, splints or exposed metal on orthopedic braces unless wrapped with a soft wrap and with a note from the doctor to the coach.
- Players may not wear headgear with visor extensions or sunglasses.
- Players must wear their team shirts over any cold weather clothing.

## **18. GIRL'S USE OF ARMS**

Girls may use their arms to protect the upper body by crossing their arms over the upper part, flat against the chest, but may not trap or direct the ball, in which case a hands violation shall be called.

## **19. BALL SIZES**

FIFA approved balls shall be used as follows-

U-6 & U-8 size 3

U-10 & U-12 size 4

U-13 and up size 5

## **20. OFFICIALS**

Referees shall be assigned for each game. All referees must be certified. A listing of all eligible referees for recreational, EDP and U10 travel games will be maintained by the Director of Referee. The referee in conjunction with the referee coordinator will work with the opposing coaches and make the final decision on whether the field is unsafe to begin or continue play. In case of a referee no-show, and no acceptable substitute can be found, coaches/assistant coaches must be prepared to referee their own games. The referee shall inspect the condition of all players' uniforms and equipment for unsafe conditions or unauthorized items. Broken or non-manufactured shin guards and metallic or broken/sharp cleats are not allowed. Ball possession and defending goal shall be determined by the toss of a coin by the referee and two opposing players who shall be called "team captains".

## **21. SUBSTITUTES**

Free substitution is allowed under the following conditions:

- Substitutions may not take place without the referee's consent.
- Players must enter from midfield.
- The referee shall allow reasonable time to complete the substitution. Player(s) shall exit first, and then the substitute(s) shall be allowed to enter.
- Substitutions may take place only during stoppage of play.

## **22. INJURIES**

The referee shall clear the area around an injured player and motion the coach to enter the field. The coach may then determine if additional help is needed. All injuries shall be reported on the game report and to the division coordinators within 24 hours of the occurrence. Any injury requiring professional medical attention must be reported via form located on internet to the attention of the President of SYSA.

## **23. CAUTIONS AND SEND-OFFS**

All cautions (yellow cards) and send-offs (red cards) shall be noted on the game report (not for publication), Consistent offenders will be reviewed for possible disciplinary action.

## **24. SPECTATORS**

Spectators should sit on the opposite side of the player bench and not on the goal line. Parents should encourage their players to remain with their coach throughout the game.

## **25. PROTESTS**

There shall be no protests allowed in Recreation play. If a coach feels that a referee is misapplying a game law (i.e., not an opinion call), he may discuss his/her concerns with the referee at half-time or after the game, or bring it to the attention of the Referee's Coordinator, Division Coordinator, Coaches Director, or other Board Member. Coaches shall remember that all referees have the final say and conduct themselves with courtesy and sportsmanship at all times.

## **26. INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION**

It is the policy of SYSA to restrict the use of fields and cancel games and practices in the event of inclement weather where field conditions are considered to be unsafe. Unsafe conditions include but are not limited to:

- Standing water on the field of play
- Unstable or excessively slippery footing
- Observed lightning in the area

The league President or his designee will have the authority to cancel all or some of league practices or games or activities on any field.

In order to maintain the conditions of the fields and ensure player safety SYSA will create and maintain a notification procedure for cancellation of games and practices. Notification to coaches will be by either direct contact by a league designee or instruction to the coach to obtain field use status from either town or league position. This procedure will take into consideration the need to have adequate notification for teams traveling.

In the event that unsafe or unstable field conditions develop after a game or practice has begun, coaches along with referees or other officials must use their best judgment.

Individuals found to be in flagrant or willful violation of league policies will be subject to discipline from the league. The executive board will vote for form a review to investigate any complaints and recommend any actions.

(The above section is added to provide rules governing the use of fields and comply with Town of Salem requirements).

## **27. CHANGES**

Changes to the By-laws must be approved by majority vote of the Board Members present at the board meeting with 30 days prior notice to SYSA members of intended changes and their option to vote.