

08-13-08

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF THE MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE**

### **1. General**

- a) There will be two playing seasons: FALL and SPRING
  - i) The Fall Season will be developmental; without formal championships, playoffs, etc.
  - ii) The Spring Season will be competitive as teams in each division will be trying to make it to championship playoffs (for MTOC) or for a spot in Commissioners' Cup
- b) To minimize confusion between the seasons, the same rules will generally apply with the exception of the competitive aspects of the rules for the Fall Season.
- c) These Rules are divided into the following groups:
  - ADMINISTRATION RULES 1 - 10
  - RESCHEDULING GAMES RULES 11 - 14
  - PRE-GAME RULES 15 - 18
  - GAME RULES 19 - 23
  - POST GAME AND REFEREES RULES 24-30
  - CHAMPIONS AND TOURNAMENTS RULES 31 - 35

### **2. Admittance**

- a) To participate in the League, a team must belong to a member organization defined in the Middlesex Youth Soccer League (MYSL) Constitution.
- b) Member organizations are referred to as Clubs or Town Organizations in these Rules.
- c) The Board will specify registration deadlines.
- d) Teams that have submitted a completed entry form, a roster, identification cards (Spring Season only) and a full non-refundable payment in accordance with Rule 9, before the set deadline, will be guaranteed a proper berth.
- e) Late registrations will be accepted with an additional non-refundable fee of \$25 per team and may be placed on a waiting list if a spot for the team is not immediately available.
- f) No additional teams will be admitted on a late basis except to fill open slots in a division.
- g) Clubs submitting late registrations will be placed on probation. A \$1,000 bond shall be posted prior to the start of the current season by each club that has submitted their registrations after the registration deadline. If the Club submits its registrations for the next season on time, the bond will be returned. If the Club submits its registration for the next season late, this bond will be forfeited and MYSL may elect to not allow the club to participate in the league. A club will be considered to be in compliance if it submits all required paperwork by the stated deadline (including but not limited to full payment of registration fees, map, field information form, complete coaches list for all teams, division placement forms, rosters and, where required, player pass cards).

### **3. Affiliation**

All teams shall affiliate with the Mass Youth Soccer. It is the responsibility of Club to make certain that all participants in MYSL activities are properly affiliated. MYSL may, at its own discretion, check on such affiliations and take appropriate measures when required.

### **4. Appearance Bond/Forfeit/Fines**

- a) New Clubs must post an appearance bond of \$1,000 per Club that will be held in escrow by the MYSL for three (3) continuous seasons.
- b) A Club will be assessed a fine of \$100 per game forfeited by one of its teams as determined by the appropriate Age Director. This fine must be paid along with the following season's registration fee.
- c) A Club will be assessed an additional fine of \$100 for each team which has forfeited two (2) or more games in the prior season in which that Club participated. This fine must be paid along with the following season's registration fee.

### **5. Rosters and Transfers**

- a) For each team, a current, complete and approved roster must be on file with the appropriate Commissioner.
- b) In MYSL games, players may play for one (1) team only.
  - i) MYSL is comprised of town members whose teams are populated with players from each of its respective towns. As such, the league does not sanction teams from other, non-member towns.
  - ii) for a roster to be approved by the league, at least 75% of that team's roster must comprise players who live in that town, with the exception that players on a team from a town that does not have a Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned youth program do not count against the 75%. This notwithstanding, any team that has over 25% of its roster comprised of players not living in that town will automatically be placed in Division 1 of its age bracket for both the fall and spring seasons.
  - iii) Any town organization that falsifies roster information with regard to this rule will be sanctioned by the league (see Rule 7)
- c) For the Spring Season, the following applies to transfers and changes:
  - i) A team is permitted to add players to its roster any time prior to the roster freeze date in order to get to the maximum roster size.
  - ii) Once at the maximum, a team is permitted to have a maximum of three player "drops" and three player "adds" per season prior to the roster freeze date in accordance with US Youth Soccer and Mass Youth Soccer rules.
  - iii) Note that the 75/25% rules still apply when adding and dropping players and a player add that would alter a team's division placement may be denied by the Commissioner.
- d) Players who move to a team in a lower division (regardless of age group) after May 10th may not play for their new team in any MYSL games. The only exception would be to

replace an injured player. Such a move is subject to the unanimous approval of the, Age Director and Commissioner involved.

- e) Rosters are frozen on the end of day on the first Tuesday in October for the Fall Season. Rosters are frozen on the end of day on the first Tuesday in May for the Spring Season.

## **6. Player and Coach Registration**

- a) A player is considered registered if he/she is properly affiliated with the Mass Youth Soccer, listed on the approved roster of the team he/she is playing for, and has a current identification card (U12 and above for the Spring Season only)\_ stamped by the Commissioner.
- b) The head coach and assistant coach(es) of each team are considered registered if they are properly affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer, listed on the approved roster of the team they are coaching, and have a current identification card (Spring Season only) stamped by the Commissioner. Coaches must also complete a CORI form online with Mass Youth Soccer.
- c) It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that each player and coach in its organization is properly registered with Mass Youth Soccer and that all adults have completed a CORI form.

## **7. Compliance and Sanctions**

- a) Any game played by a team that does not have an approved roster on file with the Commissioner shall be considered an automatic forfeit.
- b) Each coach is responsible for verifying all the players' registration information. Any request for age verification by the Commissioner and/or Protest Officer shall be complied with within five (5) days of the request or the player involved will be considered unregistered and ineligible.
- c) If it is determined that a team has used a non-roster, suspended, ineligible or overage player in a game, that game shall be considered a forfeit. In addition, by a majority vote, the Board of Directors may suspend that team, without refund, for a certain number of games if the offense is considered to be of a serious nature.
- d) Any player found to be misrepresenting his/her age will be suspended for the remainder of the season. A coach knowingly using a non-roster, suspended, ineligible or overage player in a game will be immediately suspended by the President, and only re-admitted to the MYSL after applying in writing and showing cause for re-admittance. Any Club in which one or more teams have been found of using a non-roster, suspended, ineligible or overage player shall be required, by a majority vote of the Board, to provide to the Commissioner proof of age for all players for all teams in that Club. This requirement may be rescinded only by a majority vote of the Board.

## 8. Age Groups

- a) All players under the age of 19 and at least eight (8) years of age by December 31 of the current playing year will be eligible to play for a team. Current playing year is fall/spring seasons.
- b) Age groups for the 2008/2009 season:
  - U10 August 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000
  - U12 August 1, 1996 to July 31, 1998
  - U14 August 1, 1994 to July 31, 1996
  - U16 August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1994
  - U18 August 1, 1990 to July 31, 1992
  - U19 August 1, 1989 to July 31, 1990
- c) Each club should go to [www.middlesexsoccer.org](http://www.middlesexsoccer.org) to confirm the dates for each age group.
- d) For age groups Under-14 and lower, players can only play up one age year. If a player chooses to play up in an older age bracket in the Fall Season, that player must play in the same age bracket for the following Spring Season.
- e) If a player is in the first year of a two-year age group, that player cannot play in a higher age bracket (i.e., a 10 year old cannot play U14), but a player in the second year of an age bracket can play in the next highest age bracket (i.e., an 11 year old can play U14).

## 9. Team Costs

- a) The cost per team will be set by a majority vote of the Board, in accordance with the MYSL Constitution, and will be communicated to the Clubs at least one (1) month prior to the registration deadline.

## 10. Team Placement

- a) In each age group, there may be up to five (5) division levels. Each level may be further divided into sections.
- b) The Age Director will recommend placement in specific divisions taking into consideration the following guidelines:
  - i) Fall Season: Any Club with 3 or more teams in an Age Group or any large Club should place one team in the First Division. A large club is defined as having 500 or more registered players U6 and up in their entire town program .
  - ii) Spring Season: Any Club with 3 or more teams in an Age Group should place at least one team in either the First Division or Second Division, based on their record for the previous Fall Season.
  - iii) There will be a non-competitive Division 5 in the spring season only.
  - iv) The desire of the team and any other consideration submitted with the team's entry form.
  - v) Statistical data from the previous season and other relevant information submitted.

- vi) Recommendations from the MYSL's Competition Committee.
- c) Final team placement will be decided by a Board placement meeting that will resolve any disagreements with the Age Director's recommendations.
- d) If circumstances necessitate changes in a team's division after the placement meeting, the Age Director with the approval of the Commissioner will determine the changes. All teams affected by such changes will be informed immediately. If necessary, the Board will vote on final placement.
- e) For the Fall Season, no Number 1 team will be allowed in Division 4.
- f) After placement in a division, all teams within the division are considered equal.

## **11. Rescheduling Games**

- a) When a team cannot play a scheduled league game for legitimate reasons, the coach shall prove in writing, with significant documentation to the satisfaction of the Age Director, that fewer than eleven (11) players (Eight (8) players for U12 or six (6) for U10) will be available.
  - i) A coach should know his/her players' availability for the whole season; ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse. Legitimate reasons may include, but not be limited to:
    - graduation,
    - sanctioned invitational tournament,
    - school trip, or
    - religious activity.
  - ii) Lack of players due to a vacation is not a legitimate reason to reschedule a game.
- b) Notification of the need to reschedule must be given to the Age Director and the opposing coach at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled game date or within two (2) days after the reason for rescheduling appears or is known.
- c) For Spring Season games, the league referee assignor must be notified by the Age Director at least 48 hours in advance of a rescheduled game's date.
  - i) Rescheduled games must be made up in advance of the scheduled date except with the permission of the Age Director.
  - ii) If the reason for rescheduling appears within the two weeks prior to the game date, the Age Director will set a reasonable deadline.
  - iii) If the HOME coach reschedules the game, he/she must give three (3) reasonable dates on which the game may be made up.
  - iv) If the AWAY coach reschedules the game, the HOME coach will set the make-up date.
  - v) The Age Director will arbitrate and decide on any disagreements.
- d) If the coach who wants to reschedule violates any part of this Rule, the opposing coach may claim a forfeit. The final decision will rest with the Age Director.

## **12. Postponing Games**

- a) If the field is unplayable or in the case of another legitimate last day justification, the HOME coach shall inform the Age Director and the opposing coach before 9:00 a.m. (by 8:00 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. game). An authorized town representative shall be responsible for contacting the Referee Assigner and Referee Coordinator immediately to inform him/her of all cancelations at that town's fields
- b) If the authorized town representative is not available, the HOME coach is responsible for contacting the Referee Assigner and Referee Coordinator. If the HOME coach does not properly inform the Age Director, Referee Assigner or Referee Coordinator, and the referee appears for the game, the HOME team will be liable for the referee fee. Failure to notify the opposing coach may result in a forfeiture of the game as determined by the Age Director.
- c) If all home games of a Club are canceled, the authorized town representative shall be responsible for notifying the Referee Assigner and/or Referee Coordinator as soon as possible.

## **13. Make-up Schedule for Postponed Games**

- a) The home team coach must give the opposing coach three (3) reasonable dates, within seven (7) days of the original game date, on which the game may be made up. The home team coach will confirm the date, time and place for the make-up game by calling both the Age Director and the opposing coach at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled make-up date.
- b) In cases where both coaches cannot agree on a make-up date, the Age Director will have the authority to set the date, time and place of the make-up game.
- c) Games played without the prior knowledge and consent of the Age Director should result in a forfeit to both teams. Games not made up before the last weekend of the season will be ruled a forfeit for one or both teams by the Age Director.

## **14. Holiday Weekend Games**

- a) If the MYSL schedules games on a holiday weekend, they shall be played as scheduled with the exception of Easter Sunday and Memorial Day weekend. If Clubs want to play games on Memorial Day weekend, they must inform the appropriate Age Director who will ask the league Referee Assigner if it is possible to schedule a USSF certified referee. The recommendation is to play the game prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

## **15. Number of Players on a roster**

- a) Team roster sizes for the fall or spring seasons must adhere to the following for the team to be sanctioned by MYSL:
  - U10: 8 minimum, 12 maximum

- U12: 11 minimum, 15 maximum
- U14+: 14 minimum, 18 maximum

b) Teams may be coed but, if coed, the team must be placed in a boys division.

## **16. Coaches/Supervision –**

- a) Each team must have a designated head coach and may have up to two (2) assistant coaches.
- b) For each team, a registered coach or assistant coach must be present during the entire game.
  - i) If no such coach is present, or if the coach is ejected or leaves the game for other reasons, the referee may accept another person, including a player, as the substitute coach.
  - ii) The game will not be played or continued if the referee, at anytime, decides that no proper supervision is present.
  - iii) If the referee abandons the game, a forfeit will be assessed at the discretion of the Age Director.

## **17. Certified Rosters and Identification Cards**

- a) A certified roster shall be that roster reviewed by and stamped with the appropriate Commissioner's signature prior to the beginning of the season. Adds/Drops to the original certified roster will be in the form of a supplemental roster attached to the original certified roster. Before the match, each coach will hand to the referee two copies of the team's certified roster. The referee shall write his name on and pass one copy of the team's certified roster to the opposing coach.
  - a. No handwritten player or coach information except uniform numbers is permitted on the game roster.
  - b. Player's names, uniform numbers and birthdates must appear on the game roster.
  - c. Coaches are encouraged to blank out player contact information (addresses & phone numbers) from game rosters.
- b) If either team fails to submit copies of the certified roster before the match, the game will not be played. It will be the responsibility of the each coach to report this violation to the Age Director. The Age Director will assess a forfeit.
- c) During the Spring Season, each coach and assistant coach(s) will have in their possession an identification card for themselves and each player (U12 and above players only) properly stamped by the appropriate Commissioner. Identification cards shall be made available to the referee.
- d) During the Spring Season, a player without a valid passcard shall not be permitted to play until a valid passcard can be given to the referee, unless prior approval to play has been given by the appropriate Commissioner to the referee.
- e) In U10 and Division 5, passcards are required only for the coaches of each team, not for the players. Note that all players must appear on the certified roster.

## 18. Game Times

- a) Fall and Spring Seasons – General Rule: Girls play in the morning, Boys play in the afternoon. The higher division teams play in the earlier time slots. Each town is responsible for scheduling its U10 home games.
- b) U12 and U14 recommended times
  - Saturday 9:00 a.m.
  - Saturday 10:30 a.m.
  - Saturday 12:00 p.m.
  - Saturday 1:30 p.m.
  - Saturday 3:00 p.m.
  - Saturday 4:30 p.m.
- c) Teams (Under-12 and Under-14) that must play home games at times other than those specified above shall request approval of their alternate game times from the Board of Directors or the appropriate committee prior to the start of the season. Approval will be granted only for field availability or referee utilization reasons.
- d) Note that fields should be scheduled back to back with the same age groups (preferably with similar divisions) in order to make scheduling referees easier for the Referee Assignor.
- e) A team (Under-12 and Under-14) playing its home games at times other than those specified above must notify the AGE DIRECTOR and each VISITING COACH of the game time before the start of the season.
- f) Under-10 teams shall play their games on Saturday with the game times subject to scheduling by the individual club. Each VISITING COACH shall be given proper notice of the game time before the start of the season or as soon as possible thereafter (one week notice if possible).
- g) No change in game times is allowed without appropriate notice (one week notice when possible) to the VISITING COACH and with the approval of the AGE DIRECTOR.
- h) Failure to comply with the provisions of the game time rules above shall result in a loss by forfeit for the home team.
- i) Under-16 and above teams (Spring Season only) shall play their games in venues with the game times and locations determined by the League.
- j) Teams shall be present at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time to allow the referee sufficient time to check the player identification cards, etc. Referees will be allowed to leave the field fifteen minutes after game time if one team cannot field seven (7) players. In this case, the Age Director shall assess a forfeit.

## 19. Duration of the Match

- a) The length of the match shall be determined by the age group:
  - Under 10 – divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each
  - Under 12 – divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.
  - Under 14 – divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each.

- Under 16 – divided into two (2) equal halves of forty (40) minutes each.
  - Under 18 – divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
  - Under 19 – divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- b) The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.
- c) The allowance for time lost in either period is at the discretion of the referee.
- d) There will be no overtime in regular season matches.

## **20. Game Rules**

- a) The FIFA Laws of the Game shall govern all games except as noted in the Middlesex modifications in Sub-sections 11v11, 8v8 & 6v6, of these rules. This includes, but is not limited to:
- The Field of Play (Law 1)
  - The Ball (Law 2)
  - Number of Players (Law 3)
  - The Player's Equipment (Law 4)
  - The Referee (Law 5)
  - The Assistant Referee (Law 6)
  - Duration of the Match (Law 7)
  - The Start and Restart of Play (Law 8)
  - The ball in and out of play (Law 9),
  - The method of scoring (Law 10),
  - Offside (Law 11),
  - Fouls and Misconduct (Law 12)
  - Free Kicks (Law 13),
  - Penalty Kicks (Law 14),
  - Throw-ins (Law 15),
  - Goal Kicks (Law 16), and
  - Corner Kicks (Law 17).

## **21. Coach and Fan Conduct**

- a) Coaches and assistant coaches must set a proper example for their team by conducting themselves properly, supporting the referees and assisting in maintaining order before, during and after the game. They are responsible for their fans who shall not be permitted to disrupt the game or direct verbal or physical abuse to players and/or referees.
- b) Failure to comply with this Rule may result in a suspension for the individual, loss of home games for the team, or other penalties as determined by the Board of Directors.

## 22. Ejections

- a) In the case of a player or coach ejection, the referee shall send the identification card (Spring Season only) to the respective Commissioner immediately following the game. At the same time, the referee shall also submit a misconduct report to the Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials.
  - i) Each ejection not covered by the subsequent Rule will carry an automatic one (1) game suspension. The Commissioner may impose further suspension.
  - ii) The suspension will start with the first game following the ejection.
  - iii) The Commissioner will hold the identification card and the player (or parent) shall make arrangements to pickup his/her identification card.
  - iv) If the Commissioner considers the offense to be of a more serious nature, he/she shall refer the matter to the Sportsmanship Committee who will hear the case of all parties concerned and decide upon appropriate action.
- b) Coaches or assistant coaches who are ejected from a game/dismissed from the match must leave the playing complex and may not in any way continue to coach. Failure to comply could result in permanent suspension from the MYSL.
- c) A coach, assistant coach or player who has been ejected or suspended may not return to any team in any capacity until such time as the suspension has been lifted. Failure to abide by this could result in permanent suspension from the MYSL.

## 23. Player/Coach Infractions

- a) Yellow Cards
  - i) In the case of a player receiving a yellow card, the referee shall submit a misconduct report to the respective Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials immediately following the game.
  - ii) The accumulation of yellow cards by any player in a specific season shall be subject to an additional suspension per the schedule below:

Total Yellow Cards	Additional Suspension
4	one (1) game
5	two (2) games
6	one (1) year from date of infraction
- b) Red Cards
  - i) Any coach dismissed from a match (receiving a red card) will be immediately suspended for two (2) games. Note: Per the Laws of the Game, coaches should not be shown (given) cards in MYSL Games.
  - ii) Any coach receiving a second suspension during the season will be suspended indefinitely. Said coach must appeal to the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee for reinstatement.
  - iii) The Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee will suspend any player receiving a second red card during a season indefinitely pending a hearing.
- c) Fighting

- i) In cases of fighting, a player shall be suspended for three (3) or more games and the coach may be suspended pending a review of the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.
  - ii) In the event of players leaving the bench area to enter the field to participate in a fight, the coach and assistant coach must appear before the Board of Directors for a hearing to determine whether or not the team should be suspended for the remainder of the season.
  - iii) If a player leaves the bench area to participate in a fight on the field and is ejected by the referee, he/she shall be suspended for three (3) or more games pending a review of the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee.
  - iv) If a coach leaves the bench area to take part in a fight, the Commissioner and the Sportsmanship Committee may suspend him/her indefinitely pending a hearing. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.
- d) Referee Assault
- i) Any player, coach or team official physically or verbally assaulting a referee will be suspended a minimum of one (1) year. If the incident is considered serious, the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee may impose an indefinite suspension.

## **24. Protests**

- a) Protests relating to a specific game may only be made by a coach of a team playing in the game and only within the 48 hours following the game by notifying the Protest Officer by telephone. Any protest of a championship or playoff match must be initiated by notifying the referee or MYSL official at the field at the end of the match.
- b) Per the Laws of the Game (Law 5) Referee decisions concerning the facts of play are final and cannot be protested.
- c) Protests relating to goals, crossbars, or other field related issues will not be considered unless the objection has been lodged with the referee prior to the start of the match. The referee will require the responsible team to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the match.
- d) Protest Procedure
  - i) A protest shall be in writing and must be received by the Protest Officer, with a non-refundable fee of \$25, within three (3) days after the above stated telephone notification. The Protest Officer will render a decision and inform all parties involved within three (3) days of receiving the protest.

## **25. Appeals Procedure**

- a) Any party affected by a decision may appeal that decision to the President via the Secretary. To be valid, the appeal shall be in writing and must be received by the Secretary, with a fee of \$200, within three (3) days of receiving the decision that is being appealed. The President will appoint an Appeals Board within three days of receiving the appeal. The Appeals Board will consist of at least 5 members, at least 2 of whom must be standing Board members. The Appeals Board will render a decision on the appeal within one (1) week of being appointed, if possible. However, if the Appeals Board deems it

necessary to call a Special Board of Directors meeting regarding the appeal, the decision will be rendered within 24 hours following the specially called Board of Directors meeting. If the appeal is successful, the \$200 will be refunded.

- b) If any party affected by the decision of the Appeals Board or Board of Directors Meeting is not satisfied, an appeal may be made to Mass Youth Soccer in accordance with the Mass Youth Soccer rules then in effect.
- c) The time limits specified above do not apply if time is of the essence (e.g., at the end of the season). In these cases, only such time limits are allowed that will guarantee timely completion of the appeal and of the competition.

## 26. Reporting Game Results

- a) The home and visiting team coaches and the match referee shall enter the results of each game on the Middlesex League websites (or call the Age Director if necessary within two (2) days of the completion of the match, to report the game results.
- b) The Age Director shall review the results posted on the websites and resolve any discrepancies.

## 27. Referee Administration

- a) Referees shall be assigned to MYSL matches consistent with Rule 28a & 28b
- b) Referees for regular season matches and the Commissioner's Cup shall be paid the rates set by the Board. If assistant referees are assigned, they will be paid one-half (1/2) of the listed rates.
- c) Assistant referees shall be assigned to matches as stipulated in Rule 28. The rates of pay for MYSL referees shall be:
  - Under-10 \$20.00 per game
  - Under-12 \$30.00 per game
  - Under-14 \$35.00 per game
  - Under-16/18/19 \$60.00 per game
- d) During post-season playoff matches for U12 and above, referees and assistant referees shall be compensated according to the following schedule:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Referee</u>	<u>Assistant Referee</u>
U12 – U14	\$40.00 per game	\$25.00 per game
U16 – U19	\$75.00 per game	\$40.00 per game

- e) If a match requires as assistant referee, as stipulated in Rule 30, and only one referee is assigned or appears for the match, the referee working the match shall receive on and one-half times the normal game fee. To receive the fee, the referee must have the home and visiting coach sign the back of the roster stating that there was only one referee prior to the start of the match. The rosters must then be mailed to the referee coordinator for verification. The normal game fee shall be paid if the referee has at least one assigned assistant referee in a match or does not have the "single referee verification" signed and submitted to the referee coordinator. Referees who fall under the provisions of Rule 28-e shall also be eligible for this compensation.

- f) Referees for U12 and older matches who do not report their matches within 1 week of the match date will forfeit ½ of their fee for the match per rule 29.
- g) Referee assignors hired by the MYSL shall be compensated at the rate of \$3.50 per assigned match.

## **28. Referee Assignments**

- a) A currently registered USSF referee shall be used for all matches.
- b) For Division 1-4 U12 and above matches, only referees that are currently registered as USSF Grade 8 or higher may be used. For the fall season, any town program that is found to be assigning USSF Grade 9 or below referees to U12 and/or U14 travel matches shall be assessed a fine of \$100 per violation. Review and assessment of these fines shall be carried out by the MYSL Referee Committee. The Referee Committee may, at its discretion, waive the fine if it can be shown that the Grade 9 referee filled in at the match consistent with USSF Policy 531-8 Section 2. The referee's involvement as center referee in the match must not have originated with the assignor for the waiver to be granted.
- c) USSF Grade 9 referees may be used on all U10 matches, U12 and U14 Division 5 matches and as Assistant Referees for all U12 and U14 matches only.
- d) All clubs, and the league, must use a USSF certified referee assignor to assign matches at any level. During the Spring Season, referees for U12 and above matches shall be assigned by the league central assignor. Matches at the U10 level and below shall be assigned by the HOME club's referee assignor. During the Fall Season, all games shall be assigned by the HOME club's referee assignor. Any club found in violation of this requirement shall be assessed a fine of \$100 per week until a certified assignor is utilized by said club. During either season, the total fine shall not exceed \$1,000.
- e) If the assigned referee has not appeared for the game within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, the game may be played, as scheduled, with a referee agreed upon by the two coaches involved. Such substitute referee shall be paid the fee in accordance with Rule 27, provided that he/she submits a Referee Report.

## **29. Referee Responsibilities**

- a) The Referee will arrive at the field with sufficient time prior to the match to inspect the field and goals, check in the teams and perform any other duties necessary to start the games on time. After checking in the teams, the referee should legibly write their name on one copy of each roster and give it to the opposing coach.
- b) The Referee will submit an on-line game report with the final score. The Referee Report will be the official record of the game and, at the same time, the referee's pay voucher. Referees must submit the game report within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. For U12-U19 games, if the referee does not submit the game report within 1 week (7 days) of the match, they will forfeit ½ of their pay for that match. The referee coordinator may, at his discretion, waive this forfeiture if the referee provides an adequate reason for the late submittal.

- c) In the event of misconduct (cautions, ejections, red/yellow cards) or serious injuries; the referee shall also submit a misconduct report to the respective Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials reporting the event(s). This must be done immediately after the game.
- d) In the Spring Season, the referee will send the appropriate Commissioner the passcard(s) for any coaches or players sent off or dismissed (Red Card, ejection). This must be done immediately after the game.

### **30. Assistant Referees**

- a) During the Spring Season, linesmen (assistant referees) will be assigned by the MYSL referee assignor for the following matches:
  - i) All regular season under-16 and above matches; and
  - ii) All post season matches, under-12 and above, that will determine The League Champion or teams advancing to MTOC
- b) All other matches, either in the Spring or Fall seasons, may use linesman (assistant referees) assigned by either the home team's referee assignor or the league at the discretion of the center referee.

### **31. Referee Evaluations**

- a) Each coach is urged to complete a referee evaluation after each match. Referee quality is an important factor in the success of the program. It is only through the regular receipt of evaluations that the Referee Committee and the Board can actively monitor the referees.
- b) Referee ratings and no-show complaints should be submitted online to the Referee Coordinator using the proper procedure.

## **CHAMPIONS AND TOURNAMENTS RULES**

### **32. Division Champions (Spring Season only)**

- a) A section champion will be the team that has the most points in the standings, at the end of the season, as determined by the Age Director. Points will be awarded as follows:
  - Win (or forfeit by an opponent) 3 points
  - Tie 1 point
  - Loss (or forfeit) 0 points
- b) Note: After a team has accumulated two (2) red cards for serious offenses, each further red card will result in that team losing one (1) point in the standings. Violent play and fighting will always be considered serious. For other offenses to be considered serious, the Commissioner must obtain the concurrence of at least three (3) impartial Board Members.
- c) If teams are tied in points, the following tie-breaker rules will be used, in order:
  - head to head competition (if still tied)
  - least goals allowed head to head (if still tied)

- least goals allowed (if still tied)
  - tie-breaker game
- d) The Age Director will organize all tiebreaker and playoff games in order to determine a division champion. Tiebreaker and playoff games shall be played on neutral fields (whenever possible).
  - e) The Age Director has complete authority in these matters and shall use his/her best judgment in complicated matters taking into account that tournament bound teams shall be determined at least three (3) days before the tournament starts.
  - f) The MYSL will give an award to each player and coach of the *Champion team* of each Under-12 and above division. The MYSL will award a ribbon to each player and coach of *the section* winner of each Under-10 division.

### **33. Massachusetts Tournament of Champions**

- a) Participants in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions will follow the rules set by Mass Youth Soccer. Since this tournament may change from year to year, interested coaches may obtain the appropriate information from the Mass Youth Soccer office.

### **34. Championship Playoffs for Divisions 1 and 2**

- a) The MYSL will hold playoffs among the top finishers in each division for U12 through U19 in Divisions 1 and 2. The winners of these playoffs will represent the league in their respective age groups at *MTOC*.
- b) Additional teams may be included in the playoffs at the option of the Vice President of Development after consultation with the appropriate Age Director.

### **35. Commissioner's Cup Tournament for Divisions 3 and 4**

- a) The MYSL will hold a Commissioner's Cup Tournament for all division winners in Divisions 3 and 4.
- b) Additional teams may be included at the option of the Vice President of Development after consultation with the appropriate Age Director.

### **36. Changes to the Rules of the MYSL**

- a) The rules of the league may be altered or changed by a majority vote of the league's Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting, provided that
  - i) The content of the new rule and the old rule is presented to the board at least one week prior to the meeting at which it will be discussed.