



**Team Handbook**

**A concise supplement to accepted policies**

- **SPRING 2023–**

### Paul Maloney

District Chairman, State Assoc. Vice President

### Scott Shakley

District Registrar

### John Hester

District Referee Administrator

### Rich Zimmerman

District League Commissioner

### Dave Brouillette

District State Representative

### Karen Puskas

District Treasurer / League Administrator

[***www.nwdteams.com***](http://www.nwdteams.com/) ***(District)*** [***www.cjsa.org***](http://www.cjsa.org/) ***(state)***

**District Personnel**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vice President | Paul Maloney | [phmaloney1@gmail.com](mailto:phmaloney1@gmail.com) | 203-588-1802 |
| Representative | Dave Brouillette | [nwdistrictvp@yahoo.com](mailto:nwdistrictvp@yahoo.com) | 860-836-5485 |
| Secretary | Vacant |  |  |
| Treasurer | Karen Puskas | [kandew1@charter.net](mailto:kandew1@charter.net) | 203-515-9013 |
| League Commissioner | Rich Zimmerman | [NWDLeagueCommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:NWDLeagueCommissioner@gmail.com) | 203-470-8946 |
| Registrar | Scott Shakley | [saslsc@optonline.net](mailto:saslsc@optonline.net) | 860-567-5583 |
| Protest Chair | Vacant |  |  |
| District Ref Assignor (DRA) | John Hester | [ajhester5344@att.net](mailto:ajhester5344@att.net) | 860-542-5344 |
| Disciplinary | Corrado Perugini | [habs13@optonline.net](mailto:habs13@optonline.net) | 203-578-7085 |

**District Clubs**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brookfield [300] | Lauren Janofsky | [bscpresident@broookfieldsoccer.com](mailto:bscpresident@broookfieldsoccer.com) | 203-313-4124 |
| CT Impact United | Ricardo Schmidt | [rschmidt@impactusact.com](mailto:rschmidt@impactusact.com) | 203-648-6668 |
| Danbury Youth [310] | Michael Diker | [michaelfdiker@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfdiker@gmail.com) | 203-746-9989 |
| Litchfield [311] | Dave Shannon | [dshannonlsc@gmail.com](mailto:dshannonlsc@gmail.com) | 860-567-4789 |
| Highlander (New Hartford) [325] | Dyan Viccari | [dvaccari07@hotmail.com](mailto:dvaccari07@hotmail.com) | 860-307-3867 |
| New Fairfield [320] | Chad Schaefer | [cschaefer@hopenn.com](mailto:cschaefer@hopenn.com) | 917-681-3627 |
| New Milford (SCNM) [330] | James Bishop | [Jamesnrosie97@gmail.com](mailto:Jamesnrosie97@gmail.com) | 860-248-5251 |
| Northwest United [327] | Samantha Case | [skcaselcsw@gmail.com](mailto:skcaselcsw@gmail.com) | 860-248-1088 |
|  | Kristin Swati | [kristinswati@gmail.com](mailto:kristinswati@gmail.com) | 917-952-2141 |
| Pomperaug [342] | Jay Zalewski | [Zalewski.jay@gmail.com](mailto:Zalewski.jay@gmail.com) | 617-512-2736 |
| Shepaug [353] | Joe Abdella | [Jjabdella@yahoo.com](mailto:Jjabdella@yahoo.com) | 203-948-9273 |
| Terryville [343] | Teresa Bilodeau | [teresabilodeau@yahoo.com](mailto:teresabilodeau@yahoo.com) | 860-883-9574 |
| Thomaston [344] | Jeff Hepp | [jeffhepp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffhepp@sbcglobal.net) | 203-525-7006 |
| Torrington [345] | Jen Lopez | [jhmlopez@aol.com](mailto:jhmlopez@aol.com) | 860-309-0674 |
| Watertown (WAYS) [350] | Dave Santangeli | [dsantangeli@clearheart.com](mailto:dsantangeli@clearheart.com) | 203-948-6615 |
| Winchester United [352] | Kevin Lillie | [Klillie21@gmail.com](mailto:Klillie21@gmail.com) | 860-379-6029 |
|  | Nelson Waters | Nelsonwaters.com | 203-228-2270 |
| Wolcott [351] | J Gibson | [coachj@jdgibsonjd.com](mailto:coachj@jdgibsonjd.com) | 203-525-4502 |
| Woodbury-Bethlehem [355] | Dan McGuirk | [president@wbysclub.com](mailto:president@wbysclub.com) | 203-241-8447 |

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**Table of Contents**

[Prologue 3](#_TOC_250029)

[SafeSport ACT 4](#_TOC_250028)

[Before You Get Started 5](#_TOC_250027)

[Team Safety 5](#_TOC_250026)

[Risk Management Policy 6](#_TOC_250025)

Risk Management Procedure 6

[Field Safety 7](#_TOC_250024)

[Leagues 7](#_TOC_250023)

Classic Leagues 7

Classic League Structure & Rules… 7

[Promotion & Relegation 10](#_TOC_250022)

[Seasonal Team Commitments 10](#_TOC_250021)

Recreational Plus Leagues 11

[Commissioners 12](#_TOC_250020)

[Seasons & Programs 12](#_TOC_250019)

[The Roster & Player Pass 13](#_TOC_250018)

Roster Limits 14

[Coach’s Checklist 15](#_TOC_250017)

[Length of Game & Ball Sizes 15](#_TOC_250016)

[Seasonal Schedule 15](#_TOC_250015)

[Reporting Game Results 16](#_TOC_250014)

Home Team Responsibilities 16

[Game Rescheduling 17](#_TOC_250013)

Rescheduling Due to Inclement Weather or Unsafe

Field Conditions 17

Rescheduling Unfinished Games 17

Rescheduling Due to Conflicts (Lack of Players) 18

[Failure to Appear 19](#_TOC_250012)

Table of Contents

*Continued*

[Forfeits 19](#_TOC_250011)

[Scrimmage Games 20](#_TOC_250010)

[Game Officials 20](#_TOC_250009)

Mandatory Referee Fees for District League Games… 21

Mandatory Referee Fees for Premier & Cup Games… 21

[Cards & Ejections 22](#_TOC_250008)

Yellow Cards 22

Red Cards 22

Ejection of Registered Adults 23

[Insurance & Injuries 23](#_TOC_250007)

[Rules of the Game 24](#_TOC_250006)

[Protests 24](#_TOC_250005)

Standing & Championships 26

Point System 26

Standings 26

League Champions 26

Tournament & Travel 27

[Discipline 28](#_TOC_250004)

[U‐09 & U‐10 Modifications 29](#_TOC_250003)

[U‐11 & U‐12 Modifications 30](#_TOC_250002)

[U‐19 Modifications 31](#_TOC_250001)

NW District Table of Minimum Standards & Sanctions 32

[How To Be a Good Sports Parent/Coach 35](#_TOC_250000)

## PROLOGUE

This booklet is intended to supplement the CJSA Handbook and Policies Manual as well as The Northwest District Constitution and By-Laws. These publications are available on the CJSA website (www.cjsa.org) and the Northwest District website (www.nwdteams.com), and it is strongly recommended every travel coach be familiar with exact verbiage contained in these publications.

This is our policy book. It has been published so you can see how we govern our leagues. Throughout this book, if you see something in **bold or boxed, it is important to read.** Please pay close attention to the material.

We will enforce the rules of this handbook. Ignorance is no excuse.

# SafeSport ACT

The *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* (the **“SafeSport Act”**), amends the Sports Act, and requires applicable amateur sports organizations to:

* Comply with the SafeSport Act’s reporting requirements and prohibit retaliation by the applicable amateur sports organization against any individual who makes a report.
* Establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of the applicable amateur sports.
* Offer and provide consistent training to adult members in regular contact with minor amateur athletes and, subject to parental consent, to members who are minors, regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse. The purpose of the CJSA Athlete and Participant Safety Policy is to require an Athlete and Participant Safety/Safe Soccer program as part of CJSA’s risk management program.

**All adult members of clubs, from boards to team managers, must complete all SafeSport and U.S. Soccer Abuse Prevention training, and are now considered Mandatory Reporters.**

To enroll in this program, you will first need to obtain the proper access code. To do so, you must send an email to [*safesport@cjsa.org*.](mailto:safesport@cjsa.org)

The SafeSport training and refreshers are online and about 90 minutes and is MANDATORY. Please read and educate yourself and understand your requirements by going to the District website and click on the administrative documents tab to find the SafeSport information. You will also find it under the documents tab.

## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

These are some helpful items to have before you even start your season:

First Aid Kit with plenty of ice packs – VERY IMPORTANT Schedule of practices and games with field directions Multiple copies of certified roster (explained later) Medical Release Forms (usually part of registration form)

Complete SafeSport Training

Have a working knowledge of the game and its rules Cell phone or other means of communicating an emergency

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE GAME!

## TEAM SAFETY

CJSA has established a risk management program to communicate to its members, clubs and districts methods of minimizing risk to CJSA players, coaches, administrators and other volunteers. The purpose of these policies is to provide a safe and healthy environment for the members of CJSA. Risk Management involves many different aspects of the game of soccer, from equipment to field and goal conditions, to child abuse and safety issues. CJSA is committed to make every attempt to control risk exposure.

The following Risk Management policies and procedures apply to coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, administrators (including paid employees of CJSA and its affiliates), other volunteers (team helpers, team managers) and referees.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

It is the intent of CJSA to deny any person who has been convicted of a crime of violence or a crime against a person, or a felony involving the welfare of a child, the opportunity to be involved in any capacity (such as a coach, volunteer, player, administrator, employee or referee) with CJSA youth soccer players.

It is the intent of CJSA to suspend immediately any person who has become involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of any child or litigation based on activity detrimental to the welfare of any child until the completion of the litigation.

RISK MANAGMENT PROCEDURE

Volunteers/Staff must complete a risk management assessment available at cjsa.org. Individuals will be permitted to begin participation pending completion of a satisfactory background check. The disclosure statement must be updated any time the information supplied as to criminal history becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any respect.

Please help your club ensure compliance with this mandate.

# FIELD SAFETY

When on the field, check the following:

Ensure proper anchoring of goals

Check for holes, grates or other unsafe field conditions Listen and observe close lightning or dangerous wind Use your common sense!

If you arrive at the field and are presented with any of these situations, first discuss it with the opposing coach. Many times, simple remedies can be attained such as sandbags for goals or mats to cover an exposed sprinkler head. If you are still uncomfortable, approach the referee. **He is the one with the final say as to safety issues. If the game is not played, contact the NWD administrator via email within 48 hours of the day of assigned game.**

## LEAGUES

CLASSIC LEAGUES

Classic League Structure & Rules

The Northwest District maintains two distinct Classic travel leagues in the fall and spring. Remember, the seasonal year is a complete fall and spring which commences September 1st and ends August 31st. Winter training and leagues are also considered part of the seasonal year.

**Classic Boys:** A league of boys or mixed teams who were rostered and may or may not have been chosen by ability, ranking or some other method of assessment.

**Classic Girls:** A league of only girls teams who were rostered and may or may not have been chosen by ability, ranking or some other method of assessment.

When possible, each age group in the Girls and Boys Classic Leagues will have two brackets, A and B. At times we will have an A/B bracket:

 A Bracket: This bracket is for the most competitive teams. 

B Bracket: This bracket is for moderately competitive teams.

 A/B Bracket: A combination bracket of A and B teams due to not enough teams for one of the brackets. **When an A team is playing a B team, the 6‐goal max differential applies.**

The table below lists the game format, roster restrictions, minimum playing time, days of the week games are scheduled, and maximum goal differential allowed for each bracket.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **A Bracket** |  |  |  | **B Bracket** |  |  |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | **U9/U10** | **U11/U1**  **2** | **U13/U15** | **U1**  **9** | **U9/U1**  **0** | **U11/U1 2** | **U13/U15** | **U19** |
| **Game Format Maximum roster size** | 7 v7 | 9 v 9 | 11 v 11 | 11 v 11 | 7 v7 | 9 v 9 | 11 v 11 | 11v11 |
| 22\* 14ongameda y | 22\*  16ongameday | 22 | 22 | 22\*  14 on game day | 22\*  16ongameday | 22 | 22 |
| **Standings kept &**  **championships awarded** | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Recommended Game Day Maximum goal differential**  **Minimum Playing Time** | **Sundays** but change to this is acceptable if mutually agreed upon | | | | Saturdays  6 | Saturdays  6 | Saturdays  6 | Sundays None |
| 6 | None | None | None |
|  | | | | Equal | Equal | Equal |  |

Notwithstanding the number of players on the roster, no more than 14 (U9/U10) or 16 (U11/U12) players will be allowed to participate in a specific game.

A roster used for CUP play must be compliant with the limits defined by that event; 11U/12U - 16, U13/U19 – 22. A specific Cup roster may have to be made if your NWD roster exceeds these limits

##### The following bullets apply to the preceding table:

For U9 and up, standings will be kept on the district website [www.nwdteams.com](http://www.nwdteams.com/) and champions will be declared for U11 and up. The district will provide league championship trophies each fall and spring season for U11-U12 leagues and championship t- shirts for U13-U19 leagues. The U9/10 leagues are not results oriented. As a result, no champions will be declared

Equal playing time in the B division means that all players are to play the same amount of time of each game except in the event of illness, injury, or discipline.

Exceeding the maximum 6 goal differential in the B League will result in a ***forfeit, fines, and loss of standings***. (Loss of standings does not apply to U9/10.)

For combined A/B leagues: Game days should stay consistent when A teams play each other, and B teams play each other. When an A plays a B, it should be Sunday but can be changed if mutually agreed upon. Coaches need to confirm which day well ahead.

U15 teams cannot contain players currently in the 9th grade and playing on a high school team. All 9th grade players must play in the high school bracket (U16/19) in the spring and are not eligible for fall play.

\*Exception are private schools that encompass an education model with the 9th grade in middle school.

##### Promotion & Relegation

Classic teams will be promoted/relegated each season in accordance with the following guidelines:

The winner of a league will automatically be promoted to the next higher bracket if:

* The team wins the league the prior season, or
* The Commissioner and District Chairman deem that the team dominated the League.
* This will be done even if it means playing in the A League.

The last finish team in a league will automatically be relegated to the next lower bracket if by request of the club.

##### Seasonal Team Commitments

Seasonal commitments are submitted each season now through [www.nwdteams.com.](http://www.nwdteams.com/) When Clubs input team commitments each season they should designate which bracket they feel the team should be assigned to. Clubs should also identify whether it team is “Returning” or “New”. In general, returning teams should play in the same bracket unless they have been relegated or promoted. New teams (or those which have had a substantial change in their roster affecting their competitiveness) will generally be assigned based on Club preferences as indicated in the Seasonal Team Commitments. For the fall season, the U9 brackets will be formed based on Club preferences as indicated in the Seasonal Team Commitments. It may be required to combine age brackets, particularly for U12 and up.

Individual teams wishing to play up in the next age bracket can make the request using the Commitment Form. It must be determined by the Commissioner, in conjunction with the District Chairman, that it is in the best interest of all teams affected. In addition, teams may be placed in leagues in the next age bracket or a combined age bracket if there are an insufficient number of teams to form a league at their age bracket.

League assignments are reviewed with all Clubs at the Northwest District Meeting just prior the start of each season. The Commissioner, in conjunction with the District Chairman, have the final say as to competition assignment of any given team.

|  |
| --- |
| **·Teams added to team commitments after the deadline** but before leagues assignments are finalized at the Northwest District Meeting will charged a ***$75 late fee per team.*** |
| ·**Teams dropped after the deadline** but before the league assignments are finalized will result in ***loss of regular and late league fees. These fees are NOT refundable.*** |
| ·**Teams dropped after league scheduling meeting** will result in a ***loss of performance bond ($500) and a fine of $50 foreach game not played up to a maximum of $400.*** |

RECREATIONAL LEAGUES

Clubs within the district also run Recreational Leagues. These can be set up as travel leagues for Recreational teams where the players are not chosen by ability, ranking, special invitation, or any method of assessment or just run in house. It is up to each Club to contact other NWD Clubs and set up Recreational leagues and schedules.

***Premier rostered players are not allowed to play in Recreational leagues.***

## COMMISSIONERS

There will be at least one Classic League Commissioner. The Commissioner(s) are listed on the front of this book as well as on the district website. The Commissioner’s job includes but is not limited to:

Assigning teams to leagues/brackets

Administer the formation and conduct of the league Formulate seasonal schedule

Maintain performance data and team standings Mediate disputes related to games played or not played due to weather or other conditions. (Vice President) Mediate disputes between clubs related to other league issues. (Vice President)

Assist in scheduling make-up games (as necessary) Declare forfeits

Assess league related fines and penalties. (Administrator) DECISIONS OF COMMISSIONERS ARE FINAL!

Although the decision of the commissioners is final, the District Vice President may appoint an independent arbiter to investigate a controversial ruling by a commissioner. If the arbiter finds significant cause illustrating the fact procedure was not followed or some other evidence presented, it may then be presented to the general membership for consideration, which would necessitate a 2/3 majority vote of board members present.

## SEASONS & PROGRAMS

The Northwest District is active two seasons of the year, operating in the following time frame:

**Fall Season** – Classic and Recreational, boys and girls Commences 1st weekend in September thru mid- November

**Spring Season** – Classic and Recreational, boys and girls Commences 1st weekend in April thru mid-June

## THE ROSTER & PLAYER PASS

The Northwest District strictly adheres to the NO ROSTER, NO PLAY rule. **There are no player passes any more. Game day rosters should contain player’s pictures for identification along with the team’s name.**

#### ALWAYS CARRY MULTIPLE COPIES OF YOUR TEAM ROSTER IN THE EVENT A REFEREE NEEDS TO RETAIN A COPY.

PRESENT YOUR CURRENT TEAM ROSTER TO THE GAME OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THE GAME FOR VERIFICATION.

**NO GAME OFFICIAL, TEAM COACH, CLUB REPRESENTITIVE OR THE LIKE, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND THE NO‐PLAY RULE!** GAMES PLAYED WITHOUT PROPER VERIFICATION OF REGISTRATION (ROSTERS) EXPOSES THE COACH, CLUB AND PROPERTY OWNERS TO UNNECESSARY LIABILITY IN THE EVENT OF A SERIOUS INJURY. IT IS THE COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE HE OR SHE HAS THESE ITEMS BEFORE ARRIVING AT A GAME!

In the event you don’t have an official roster and you can pull up an electronic copy on your phone on the field, the game may be played.

**ROSTER RESIDENCY RULES**

Each player on a district Classic roster must:

1. Be a resident of the town in which the team’s home field is located *(Clubs serving multiple towns are covered by this)*, OR
2. Be a resident of a NW District town in which no Classic team exists in the player’s age division in the current playing season, OR
3. If one of not more than two players not provided for in subsections 1 and 2 above.

State, tournament, and indoor rosters may have different requirements. Be familiar with these rules if it becomes applicable. Remember, any “out of district” player is considered an “out of town” player.



At least one properly registered coach must be on the roster. While multiple coaches, assistants, managers, trainers, etc. can be listed on a team roster, ***no more than three (3) properly registered non- players (coaches, assistants, managers, trainers, etc.) are allowed on the team side of the field*** during league games. Anyone, regardless of age, on the team side of the field who is not a referee or NWD board member, must be on the roster. Violation of these rules WILL result in offending team forfeiting the match and a club fine of $150.

Registration and rosters are handled and prepared by the club registrar. Consult your club president and/or club registrar with questions regarding district & state registration.

## COACH’S CHECKLIST

·All players must have minimum equipment including shin- guards and appropriate soccer shoes – molded rubber or plastic cleats only.

·All players must be listed on team roster

## LENGTH OF GAME & BALL SIZES

In certain instances, coaches and game officials may decide to play a shorter game than recommended. This is acceptable provided it is mutually agreed upon and the game consists of ***two equal halves***.

U-09 & U-10: 2 – 35 - minute halves, size 4 ball U-11 & U-12: 2 – 40 - minute halves, size 4 ball U-13 to U-19: 2 – 40 - minute halves, size 5 ball

## SEASONAL SCHEDULE

Each fall and spring, teams will be provided with a seasonal schedule illustrating game dates and opponents. ***It is MANDATORY for each team to complete the assigned schedule.*** Generally, a ten (10) week time frame is allotted for completion of a minimum, eight (8) games. Whenever possible, a grace period of two (2) weeks is given for make-up games. Bye -weeks along with “holes” for holiday tournaments are inserted into the schedule whenever possible.

Each league will consist of between four (4) and ten (10) teams. Teams will be assigned to league brackets with the aim of making competitively balanced brackets. Fall U9 brackets may be created based on geographic considerations. League assignments are ultimately created at the discretion of the Commissioner and the District Chairman.

## REPORTING GAME RESULTS

The results of all games (including U9/10) must be reported to the District through your team at [www.nwdteams.com.](http://www.nwdteams.com/) Both the home and away teams should report the results of each game.



**REPORT YOUR GAME!**

**FAILURE TO PLAY OR REPORT ALL GAMES ON A SEASONAL SCHEDULE, WHETHER HOME OR AWAY, WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF STANDING AND ASSESMENT OF A CLUB FINE of $150. While**

**the home team should report the score, both home and away teams are responsible for reporting the score within 48 hours of playing the match.**

## HOME TEAM REPONSIBILITIES

Certain responsibilities are assigned to the home team:

·Provide and compensate officials

·Provide a safe and adequate playing field

·Provide regulation goals, ball, nets and flags

·Take reasonably prudent measures to ensure the safety of players, spectators and game officials.

·Report game results

·**Confirm game time and location with visiting coach no later than *1 week prior to scheduled match***

·Responsible for shirt change in the event of like colors

**If you have any trouble contacting a coach, contact the coach’s Club President for assistance (see front cover for contact info).**

## GAME RESCHEDULING

Certain circumstances may arise throughout the season, which necessitate rescheduling of a game. There are strict rules governing rescheduling that if not followed can result in heavy sanctions. IF rescheduling is needed, follow the procedures ahead to ensure proper finish:

1. RESCHEDULING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, UNSAFE FIELD CONDITIONS, OR LACK OF REFEREES

In the event of inclement weather, lack of referees, the closing of fields by town officials, or ***the referee*** deems the field unsafe for play (due to weather or non-weather related conditions) and the safety issue can’t be immediately remedied, the game should be rescheduled. Remember, as long as town officials have not closed the field, it is the game official who determines if a game is played or not on the assigned date.

If a reschedule is necessary due to weather, notify your club president within 24 hours. Then, it must be mutually agreed upon by both coaches and ***played within two weeks of original assignment.*** If the game is rescheduled due to inclement weather, the game location remains with the home team. If the game is rescheduled due to lack of referees or unsafe field conditions, the home team will ***lose home field*** (become the away team) and be required to ***pay the referee fees*** for the rescheduled match. The game duration may be reduced (***two equal halves***) if both teams mutually agree.

1. RESCHEDULING UNFINISHED GAMES

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be rescheduled and replayed in their entirety ***within two weeks of original assignment*** if neither team is at fault, and there were not two equal halves. Unfinished games due to fault of a team as judged by the Commissioner shall be ***declared a forfeit*** by the adjudged team.

1. RESCHEDULING DUE TO CONFLICTS (LACK OF PLAYERS)

In the event a team notifies their opponent at least 1 week in advance that they can’t field the ***minimum required 5 players for U9/U10, 6 players for U11/U12, 8 players for U13 and up*** on the scheduled game date, the match can be rescheduled to a date mutually agreed upon by both coaches, but ***within two weeks of original assignment***.

·Conflicts due to a CT Cup tournament match should always be rescheduled without question.

·Conflicts due to a non-holiday tournament should be avoided. ***District matches take precedence.*** All effort shall be made to play the match on the scheduled date, even if one team has to play multiple games. In the event a team can’t play on the original scheduled game date because they are attending a non-holiday tournament, that team will ***lose home field*** (become the away team) and be required to ***pay the referee fees*** for the rescheduled match.

IF A GAME CAN NOT BE RESCHEDULED WITHIN 3 DAYS AND PLAYED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED DATE, AND A MUTUAL AGREEMENT CAN’T BE REACHED, THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE HOME TEAM TO ASSIGN A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE GAME TO TAKE

PLACE! Also, if the away team is not contacted by the home team within two (2) weeks of the originally scheduled date, the away team should contact the league commissioner.

**Please make sure to change the game date on nwdteams.com when needed**.

## FAILURE TO APPEAR

Failure of a team to appear for a scheduled match without notification or with less than 48 hours’ notification, will result in assessment of a forfeit by the Commissioner.

A team that is delayed on the way to a regularly scheduled match will ***not*** automatically be assessed a forfeit. Bound by §NW5020, the offending team will be assessed a loss and forfeit if they arrive at the scheduled location with less than the ***minimum REQUIRED*** properly registered players within thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled game start time.

Similarly, a team that fails to produce a current valid roster within thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled game start time will be assessed a loss and forfeit.

Inclement weather should not cause a failure to appear. When inclement weather is forecasted for your match contact the opposing coach to arrange a mutually agreeable deadline for the home team to contact the away team and confirm the game is on.

## FORFEITS

#### ONLY A COMMISSIONER CAN DECLARE A FORFEIT.

When a forfeit is assessed by the Commissioner (whose ruling is final), the offending team will:

***·Be disqualified*** from current season divisional standings ·Be ***fined*** not more than $150 and loss of bond

·Be required to ***pay*** game officials (for failure to appear only)

·Have possible disciplinary action towards the head coach

## SCRIMMAGE GAMES

For CJSA insurance purposes, all inter- club scrimmage games (games between teams from different clubs) must have at least one USSF game official. This rule does not apply to intra- club scrimmage games (games between teams from the same club).

All players participating in inter-club or intra-club scrimmage games must be registered.

## GAME OFFICIALS

It is important to remember the following with respect to game officials:

·Game officials have ultimate jurisdiction over a match.

·Game officials’ calls cannot be protested.

·Game officials have the right to a safe and dignified working environment.

·This district has a ***zero‐tolerance policy*** for abuse, insults, threats, assaults, or the like directed towards any game official.



**Parents & Spectators:**

\*Should not dispute calls

\*Shall not make remarks to the referees or the players

**Coaches, Assistants and Team Personnel:**

\*Shall be role models to show support and respect of each other,

players and referees

\*Coaches shall not address referees during the game except:

\*\*To respond to referees who have initiated a conversation \*\*Point out emergency or safety issues

·On all district travel matches, the home team is required to provide a currently certified center and two (2) currently certified assistant referees (linesmen). If circumstances exist that you do not have certified AR’s (linesmen), a club representative can perform the duties but **IS RESTRICTED TO ONLY CALLING OUT OF BOUNDS.**

·Center officials must be two age-groups older than the game they are officiating up to U-15 and one age-group older from U-15 on. (Only the State Referee Administrator can waive the age requirement.)

·This district does not have disciplinary jurisdiction over game officials. They fall under the jurisdiction of the State Referee Program and the State Referee Administrator. Contact is [syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net)

As stated earlier, it is the duty of the home team to ensure payment of game officials. Although most clubs have developed standards for referee and assistant referee payment, these are the current minimum amounts required: (CJSA App. B)

**Mandatory** Minimum Referee Fees for District League Games (Higher rates are at the discretion of the clubs)

##### DISTRICT LEAGUE Referee Fees Qualified Linesperson

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| U19, 18, 17 | $80 | $50 |
| U16, 15 | $70 | $45 |
| U14, 13 | $60 | $40 |
| U12, 11 | $50 | $30 |
| U10, 9 | $50 | $30 |
| U12 single | $70 |  |
| U11-U9 single | $60 |  |

**Mandatory** Minimum Referee Fees for Premier League & Cup Games

**PREMIER Referee Fees Qualified Linesperson /AR**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| U19, 18, 17 | $100 | $60 |
| U16, 15 | $90 | $55 |
| U14, 13, 12, 11 | $80 | $50 |

**CUP Referee Fees Qualified Linesperson /AR**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| U19-15 | $100 | $60 |
| U14-11 | $80 | $50 |

#### COACH/TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches are role models and are expected to behave as such. ***Coaches are also responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators and lead by example. Coaches will suffer the consequences of their parents and spectators’ behavior if the situation arises.*** One of the goals of the NWD is to instill in its’ number’s good sportsmanship. All referees are to be treated with respect. Our younger, teenage referees are still learning the game and need respect and patience. **Any referee abuse will be remanded to the State.**

**Coaches, Teams and Spectators:**

* Both teams should, whenever possible, be on the same side of the field with all spectators on the opposite side. Coaches must remain in their technical area or ten (10) yards off the center line of the field: on his/her own half of the field and on the same side as the “bench.” A three (3) yard spectator line is recommended.
* Coaches are responsible for their own conduct AND the conduct of their players and spectators. Abuse of referees will not be tolerated. Misconduct by coaches, players, parents and/or spectators may be referred to the CJSA’s Appeals/Discipline Committee for disciplinary action.

#### CARDS & EJECTIONS

Game officials may issue red and yellow cards. These are issued accordingly for infractions in accordance with the FIFA laws of the game. These are final and CANNOT BE UNDONE.

Coaches can be issued yellow and/or red cards and can be dismissed or ejected from a game. Games can be terminated by the official as well for inappropriate spectator behavior.

Yellow Cards:

·Given for minor infractions or fouls or misconduct.

Red Cards:

·Given for more serious infractions

·A report is filed with state referee reporting system

·Pass retained by game official and sent to CJSA State Office

·Player is suspended for remainder of game

·Player suspended at a MINIMUM for next scheduled game

·Minimum two (2) game suspension for acts of aggression towards teammates or opponents

·Minimum three (3) game suspension for acts of aggression towards game officials fitting the description of “referee abuse.”

·Suspensions are automatic. Case may be referred to district disciplinary committee by the District Chairman or the DRA for further sanctions.

Ejections of Coaches and Team Personnel:

·A report filed with state referee reporting system

·Pass retained by game official and sent to CJSA State Office.

·Case reviewed and referred to district disciplinary committee by the District Chairman or the DRA for further sanctions.

Alcohol

Alcohol possession is NOT TOLERATED AND IS UNACCEPTABLE AT ALL GAMES. Player and coaches sanctions are on page 33 if violated. Spectators consuming alcohol will be reprimanded to the police.

In cases of additional suspension and hearings, the District maintains a qualified, independent disciplinary committee. Due process is followed, and the accused is offered an opportunity to present his/her case with representation if desired. Discipline is subsequently discussed herein.

## INSURANCE & INJURIES

As members of this district, each properly registered player and adult is insured for accidents and medical expenses incurred while participating in sanctioned events. In most cases this insurance is secondary to a primary carrier. Insurance certificates and the actual policy is available for inspection from your club president. There are strict guidelines imposed by the insurance company, which is one of the reasons this district insists upon absolute compliance with all registration policies.

IF AN INJURY OCCURS:

·Be sure to administer appropriate first aid and call for

additional help if needed.

·Have signed medical release forms handy. These are most often included on the club’s registration form.

·Notify parents if they are not present.

·That evening, notify your club president.

·Also notify the District Chairman by telephone or e- mail within 24 hours of the incident.

·File an accident report form with the District Chairman (available from the CJSA and district websites) within one week of the incident.

·If follow-up medical treatment is necessary or additional claims are filed, put the family in contact with the District Chairman who will assign a claim number and provide further instructions.

## RULES OF THE GAME

With exceptions noted herein, currently accepted “FIFA Laws of the Game” shall govern all play in The Northwest District.

NOTE: Substitutions can be made at any stoppage of play with permission from the referee. Substitutions must report to the middle of the field and then the referee will admit them on the field.

## PROTESTS

This district maintains a qualified protest committee. There are only certain items which may be officially protested. Below is a brief listing of items that come up for protest. Remember, a protest requires submission of $200.

#### ITEMS THAT *ARE* PROTESTABLE:

·Qualifications of game officials (current certification)

·Age of game officials (required differential)

·Field dimensions and goal size

·Illegal registration issues

·Unequal halves (playing time). The referee’s recording of playing time can’t be protested ·Safety issues

**ITEMS THAT *ARE NOT* PROTESTABLE:**

·Calls by game officials

·Actions of opposing players or coach ·Actions of spectators ·Lack of corner flags

·Lack of assistant referees for U-12 and below ·“Light” markings on field

·Long grass, wet field, excessive mosquitoes, etc.

If presented with what you believe to be a legitimate protest, you must follow these steps:

·Notify the center official in writing of your intent BEFORE you start the game. PLAY THE GAME HONORABLY!

·Notify your club president, the district protest committee chairman and the District Chairman by telephone or e-mail within 24 hours of match being protested.

·Submit a written report, in duplicate, to the protest committee chairman with the fee of $200 (returned if upheld), postmarked no later than 72 hours after match being protested.

If a coach feels there is a safety issue but the referee does not agree, the coach should play the game. If a coach still chooses not to play the game for safety reasons, notify your club, the League Commissioner, and the District Protest Chairman by telephone or e-mail within 24 hours of the match being protested. The district will determine if the game is to be rescheduled or forfeited depending on the legitimacy of the safety concern.

Protests are heard at the discretion of the protest committee and most often, cases are decided in the absence of parties initiating the protest. The result of the protest committee is final and not appealable. The only two outcomes of a protest are: “Results Stand” and “Replay the Game”. In the event a protest is upheld and the game is ordered to be replayed, the $200fee is returned to the team filing the protest. The district commissioner will assign a neutral field and time for the match to be replayed. Referees will be hired by The Northwest District. Results of a game replayed due to the upholding of a protest can’t be protested.

## STANDINGS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

Records will be kept and tallied for all district Classic games for each fall and spring season. Standings will be reported, and winners declared for all brackets from U-11 and up. Fall winners will be recognized at a district- wide awards banquet where trophies/shirts will be distributed. Spring winners are recognized with trophies/shirts.

POINT SYSTEM

In determining the standings at the end of a playing season, the following point system will be implemented:

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

In the event two or more teams earn the same number of points upon concluding the season, the first tiebreaker is the result of head to head competition after which an accounting of most games won followed by least games lost will be employed to determine the victor.

STANDINGS

Game results are to be reported to the District through [www.nwdteams.com.](http://www.nwdteams.com/) The web site also reports the results and standings. Timely information is dependent upon timely reporting. Both clubs are assessed not more than $50 per game not reported by the posted seasonal deadline.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

A team will be declared League Champion when:

Assigned schedule has been completed and all game results reported by announced deadline, whether home or away

Team accumulates the greatest number of points based upon above point system

There are no outstanding requirements for competition Team roster and players are legal, and no participating

member is under suspension Team has not forfeited any games

Team declared “in good standing” by appropriate division commissioner and/or district chairman

### Co‐champions will be declared when two or more teams meet the requirements above and there is no victor based on points and tiebreakers. Post season declarations of the commissioners are final.

The NWD League Commissioner will declare League Champions and provide notification to the winning teams within two weeks of the end of the season. The standings on the NWD CJSA website (www.nwdteams.com) will also be updated to reflect the final standings.

Champions will be relegated in accordance with the Relegation and Promotion Policies on page 11.

## TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

District accident and medical insurance is valid only when participating in approved USYS sanctioned events. When participating in a tournament, a sanctioned event is required to furnish an approved “USYS Application to Host” document. If this is not supplied, please check with the CJSA office to make sure our insurance covers the event. USYS events are the only events insured. You will need to ask for a waiver if the event is not USYS to make sure it is covered.

TRAVEL

When traveling for a tournament or game(s), please be sure to follow these policies:

In District:

No notification or paperwork required Out of District but within Connecticut:

Notify District Chairman in writing or by e-mail

Out of Connecticut but within US, USVI, DC, & PR:

* Follow E-Travel Procedures as illustrated by following the links from the district or state website

## DISCIPLINE

In accordance with UUSF, USYS, and CJSA, this district maintains a qualified, independent board of internal discipline. This district has disciplinary jurisdiction over all registered members including, but not limited to, parents, players and coaches.

This district takes issues of non- compliance, willful misconduct, and ignorance of accepted policy very seriously. Membership in this organization is a privilege, not a right, and as such, the privilege of inclusion must be respected if the organization is to continue and prosper. Sanctions range from formal reprimands to monetary fines, to suspensions of varying terms, to being placed in bad standing, etc. Examples of common offenses and penalties is included herein (see last page).

Although individual clubs are encouraged to handle their own matters of discipline under §CJSA7310, statutorily, only the district chairman and the DRA have the authority to refer matters to the district disciplinary board. If done so, standards illustrated in the current USYS Appeals Manual are followed to ensure due process of the accused. Decisions of the district disciplinary committee may or may not be appealed based upon certain circumstances. Your club president or the district chairman can provide more information on the disciplinary process should this become necessary.

### Northwest District Rules of Competition

In the Northwest District, certain modifications to our leagues are observed:

## U‐09 & U‐10 MODIFICATIONS

Results are non-competitive. No winner is declared at the end of the season.

Records are maintained to aid in future league assignments.

Roster sizes are limited to the numbers previously stated. While roster limits are 22, a maximum of 14 of those players can be on a game day roster each game only.

Game time is limited to the times previously stated.

Play is limited to 7v7 (6+keeper).

Pitch is 55-65 yards in length x 35-45 yards in width Build out lines should be equidistant between

the penalty area line and the halfway line

Goals can be 6’x12’ but no larger than 6’ x 18’. Center Circle and penalty arc is 8yd radius.

Goal area is 4 yds from each goal post and 4 yds into pitch Penalty area is 12 yds from each goal post and 12 yds

into pitch

Free kicks must be taken with opponent 8 yds from ball All players will have equal playing time in the game, regardless of which bracket they are in.

##### No player may head the ball.

**BUILD OUT LINE RULES for U9 & U10 LEAGUES**

**·**When the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he/she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. The goalkeeper essentially has 6 seconds to get rid of the ball once all opponents have moved behind the build out line.

·Once the opposing team is behind the build outline, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (**punts and drop kicks are not allowed)**

·After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

·The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.

·If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

·If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

·The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players can’t be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line.

## U‐11 & U‐12 MODIFICATIONS

Roster sizes are limited to the numbers previously stated. Game time is limited to the times previously stated.



Play is limited to 9v9 (8+keeper).

Pitch is 70-80 yards in length x 45-55 yards in width Goals are 6’x18’ but no larger than 7’ x 21’

Center Circle and penalty arc is 8yd radius. Goal area is 16 yds wide by 5 yds into the pitch.

Penalty area is 36 yds wide by 14yds into the pitch. Free kicks must be taken with opponent 8yds from ball.

**No player on a U11 team may head the ball regardless of age.**

## U‐19 MODIFICATIONS

To provide a productive playing league in the **SPRING ONLY**, so as not to interfere with CIAC rules, The Northwest District organizes boys’ and girls’ U-16 and U-19 leagues with the following modifications:

All games are played on a regulation pitch Normal standings are kept

Unless mutually agreed upon, games are played 11v11. In the event a team has 11 or less players present, the game will be played with that number of players which would allow that team, at the start of the game, to have one sub. For example, if one team had only 11 players present; 10v10. 10 players present, 9v9. 9 players present, 8v8.

No team will be forced to play with less than 8 players. The size of the pitch can be modified by mutual agreement of the coaches.

**Sanctions**

This table is in supplement to §NW12000 and serves to illustrate minimum sanctions to be imposed for various infractions, due in part to minimum sanctions presented by The US Soccer Federation. The District Vice President and/or DRA, reserve the right to remand any incident to the district disciplinary committee for further sanctioning of actions which, in their opinion, are contrary to the ideals and philosophies of this district.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monetary  **OFFENSE** Minimum Consequence  Sanction to offending | | |
|  |  | club |
|  |  |  |
| Referee abuse by coach (as defined by current CJSA definition) | 2 game suspension | $250 |
| Referee abuse by player (as defined by current CJSA definition) | 3 game suspension |  |
| Referee assault by player or coach (as defined by CJSA definition) | Remanded to State | $500 |
| Team or spectator actions requiring any game official to summon police | Varied | $500 |
| Subsequent actions requiring any game official to summon police | Varied | $1,000 |
| Playing of a NWD match without presenting roster | 1 game  suspension of coach | $150 |
| Indecent gesticulation by coach on playing field | 1 game  suspension of  coach |  |
| Alcohol possession by coach on playing field | 1 year suspension | $150 |
| Alcohol possession by player on playing field | 1 year suspension |  |
| Alcohol possession by spectator at playing field | is unacceptable and police will be notified |
| Fighting, attempting to fight, threatening or attempting to threaten, intimidate, spit upon, strike, bite or otherwise engage or attempt to engage any other coach, player or spectator in an intimidating fashion | 3 game suspension | 1st offense:  $250  2nd offense:  $500 |
| Ejection of player (red card) | 1 game suspension |  |

**Sanctions (continued)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monetary | | |
| **OFFENSE** | Minimum Consequence  Sanction to offending | |
|  | club |
| Ejection of coach which results in official report  being filed | 2 game  suspension | $250 |
| Refusal to leave field after ejection coach or player and the game is terminated | Additional 1  game suspension | $150 |
| Exceeding three (3) adult maximum on team side of  field | Forfeit of  match | $150 |
| Violation of accepted administrative policy |  | $150 |
| Team added to commitments after deadline but before league assignments are finalized |  | $75 team late fee |
| Team dropped after commitment deadline but before league assignments are finalized |  | Loss of league fees |
| Teams dropped after league scheduling meeting | Loss of bond  $500 | $50/game up to $400  maximum |
| Non-reporting of played games |  | $50/game |
| Forfeit/unplayed games | Loss of bond | $150 and no championship |
| Exceeding the maximum 6 goal differential in the B league | Forfeit of  match/Loss of standings | $150 |
| Disregard for published or expressed district deadlines |  | $25/day |

**Sanctions (continued)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OFFENSE** | Minimum Sanction |
| Illegal Players on team – 1st Offense | Coach Suspended 1 game |
| 2nd Offense | Coach suspended 3 games, loss of bond,  $150 club fine |
| 3rd Offense | Coach 1 year suspension, loss of bond,  $150 club fine |
| Falsifying player information - 1st Offense | Club needs to provide both parent licenses of town player is playing in plus a report card from the player’s school |
| 2nd Offense | Club fine of $250, loss of bond plus club is labeled “not in good standing” and put on probation for one year |
| 3rd Offense | club is suspended for one year |

### How To Be a Good Sports Parent/Coach

Here are some tips for parents and coaches:

Encourage your child, regardless of his or her degree of success or level of skill.

Ensure a balance in your student athlete’s life, encouraging participation in multiple sports and activities while placing academics first.

Emphasize enjoyment, development of skills and team play as the cornerstones of your child’s early sports experiences while reserving serious competition for the varsity level.

Leave coaching to coaches and avoid placing too much pressure on your youngster about playing time and performance.

Be realistic about your child’s future in sports, recognizing that only a select few earn a college scholarship, compete in the Olympics or sign a professional contract.

Be there when your child looks to the sidelines for a positive role model.

Treat all referees with respect at all times.

It is expected that at the end of every match that both teams and coaches shake hands to exhibit good sportsmanship and show a game well played.