

NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCCER LEAGUE



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PUBLISHED - August 19, 2016
Edition 8

Contents

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION	5
1.01 Name of the League	5
1.02 Mission	5
1.03 Management of the League	5
1.04 Affiliation	5
1.05 Contact Information and Communication	5
1.06 League office	5
1.07 League Website	5
1.08 League Operating Committee (L.O.C.)	5
1.09 Background Check – “Kids Safe”	6
1.10 Referees	6
1.11 Matters Not provided for	6
SECTION II: TEAM APPLICATION & ADMISSION	7
2.01 Team and Coach eligibility	7
2.02 Registering Players and teams with US Soccer	7
2.02.01 League Structure	7
2.03 Good Standing	7
2.04 Application deadlines	7
2.05 Application Process	7
2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams	8
2.07 Seeding Procedure	8
2.07.01 Seeding Committee	8
2.08 Acceptance of the New Hampshire Soccer League Rules	8
2.09 League fees	8
2.10 Returned Checks	9
SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER & FORMATS	9
3.01 Team roster	9
3.02 Roster Size & Game Day Roster	9
3.03 Player eligibility	10
3.04 Club Passes	10
3.05 Player & Coaches passes	10
3.06 Age Divisions	10

3.07 Playing on Multiple teams 11

3.08 Player Transfers..... 11

3.09 Formats 11

3.10 Promotion/Relegation 11

SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES 11

4.01 Reporting of scores 11

4.01.01 Referee Game Reports..... 12

4.02 Game day roster..... 12

4.03 Weather Alerts..... 12

4.04 Schedule requests 13

4.05 Game Change Policy..... 13

4.05.01 Re-schedule Policy 13

4.06 Forfeits 14

4.07 Cancelled Games..... 14

SECTION V: RULES OF PLAY 14

5.01 The Ball..... 14

5.02 Player Equipment..... 14

5.03 Duration of the Game 14

5.04 Substitution..... 15

5.05 Point system..... 15

5.06 Tie-breakers 15

5.07 Delay of kick off..... 16

5.08 Players and Spectators..... 16

5.09 Heading Restrictions at U11..... 16

SECTION VI: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT 16

6.01 Responsible Parties 16

6.02 Profanity..... 16

6.03 Compensation 16

6.04 Smoking & Alcohol 17

6.05 Referee Authority..... 17

6.06 Park Rules..... 17

6.07 Red Cards & Suspensions 17

SECTION VII: PROTESTS 18

7.01 Definition 18

7.02 Who can file a protest..... 18

7.03 Filing Procedure 18

7.03.01 Filing Procedure - Playoffs 19

Section VIII: League Discipline 19

8.01 Discipline Committee 19

8.02 Discipline Appeal Process..... 20

SECTION IX: Short-Sided Rules 20

9.01 Short Sided Rules of Play..... 20

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1.01 Name of the League

The league shall be named The “New Hampshire Soccer League” or “NHSL” if abbreviated.

1.02 Mission

To ensure the best possible competitive play between the equally matched teams to aid in the development of the New Hampshire soccer clubs, teams, and players.

1.03 Management of the League

The League shall be managed by the League Director with guidance from the League Operating Committee (L.O.C). All actions of the league are overseen by the Executive Board of New Hampshire Soccer Association.

1.04 Affiliation

The New Hampshire Soccer League is affiliated with the New Hampshire Soccer Association and US Youth Soccer, but any US Soccer affiliated club in good standing with NHSA and US Soccer may participate in the league.

1.05 Contact Information and Communication

All members of the New Hampshire Soccer League shall have contact information on file with the New Hampshire Soccer Association. Contact information must include team administration and coach information. The information must include valid e-mail addresses for each party.

1.06 League office

The league office is located at 1600 Candia Road, Suite 3, Manchester, NH 03109
Phone: 603.317.5509

1.07 League Website

The league website can be found at www.NHSoccerLeague.com

1.08 League Operating Committee (L.O.C.)

It is the belief that the New Hampshire Soccer League be a league focused on the needs of its member clubs. The New Hampshire Soccer League feels that clubs should have a voice when major decisions need to be made. The New Hampshire Soccer League will utilize a League Operating Committee (L.O.C.) to ensure that the voices of the member clubs are heard. All L.O.C. members must provide CURRENT contact information to be posted on the New Hampshire Soccer League Website.

The L.O.C. will consist of the league director, lead referee assignor, and a minimum of five (5) members from different member clubs, who will be available to listen to member club concerns, ideas, and criticisms. Members are volunteers from the clubs within the league.

L.O.C. Members will meet at a minimum of two (2) times per season or four (4) times annually. Meetings will take place during the week leading up to week 5 of the season and within two (2) weeks from each of the season's end (Spring/Fall).

Meeting dates will be published on the NHSL Calendar as well as the NHSA Calendar. Meetings will be held at the NHSA State Office and be open for any and all club members to attend.

Meetings will be run in a professional and orderly manner with any business brought before the L.O.C. submitted prior to the meeting in which is to be heard.

Meeting Minutes must be taken by the league director, or his/her designee, and published to the NHSL website within 72 hours of meeting completion.

1.09 Background Check – “Kids Safe”

All coaches, team officials and board members must have an update to date Kids Safe registration on file with New Hampshire Soccer Association and the New Hampshire Soccer League prior to the start of each season. All Kids Safe checks expire every 2 years and will need to be renewed every 2 years.

If you are a USSF referee working games in New Hampshire, and have completed a background check, you may email the NHSA Administrator to have your background check verified.

To renew your Kids Safe background check, you may log in to www.gotsoccer.com, click on User Login, then click on your coaches or team official login. At the top of the page, click on background checks and complete the required information. There is a fee applied for all background checks that are due at the time of the request. Coaches who have not completed the background check will not be added to a roster until completed and will not be permitted on the sidelines during a game.

1.10 Referees

All referees used in the New Hampshire Soccer League shall hold a current United States Soccer Federation certification and be in good standing with NHSA. It is the referee's responsibility to maintain a current certification in order to remain officiating within the New Hampshire Soccer League.

Anyone interested in refereeing in the New Hampshire Soccer League shall contact the League Assignor at: referee@nhsoccerleague.com.

1.11 Matters Not provided for

The NHSA Executive Board shall have the final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by these rules and policies.

SECTION II: TEAM APPLICATION & ADMISSION

2.01 Team and Coach eligibility

All teams affiliated with US Youth Soccer are eligible to apply for registration into the New Hampshire Soccer League. All player and team registration shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer and NHTSA regulations unless otherwise specified.

NHSL reserves the right to refuse admittance or acceptance into any NHSL event, including the New Hampshire Soccer League, tournament and/or any other event upon notice of bad standing and/or suspension from all US Soccer sanctioning bodies: FIFA, US Soccer, USYSA, US Club Soccer, AYSO, USASA and NHTSA soccer

All premier and recreational coaches must have a minimum of a USSF 'F' license to coach teams in the New Hampshire Soccer League. All coaches must pass a background check prior to being eligible to coach in the New Hampshire Soccer League.

2.02 Registering Players and teams with US Soccer

Each club or team is responsible for registering their teams with US Soccer and for obtaining the US Soccer Registration Forms from their designated Registrar or from the New Hampshire Soccer League or NHTSA websites.

2.02.01 League Structure

The New Hampshire Soccer League will offer competition for Boys and Girls teams from U8s through U19s. Divisions may be combined at the discretion of the League Director in order to provide a suitable level of competition for teams. Teams in the Under-15 divisions and below are eligible to play in both Spring & Fall season. Teams in the Under-16 division and above will play only in the spring season.

2.03 Good Standing

Each participating team must be in "good standing" with the league, the state association and with US Soccer.

2.04 Application deadlines

All applications to participate in the New Hampshire Soccer League must be received along with full payment on or before the registration deadlines established by the New Hampshire Soccer League.

2.05 Application Process

Teams must register with the league registrar by the deadline established each season (date published on league website). If you are practicing, you should be registered for insurance purposes with NHTSA. The New Hampshire Soccer League will follow the NHTSA player registration requirements.

Once the season starts and, you may register additional, players up to the maximum based upon your age/division until the roster freeze date which is set prior to the season by the NHSL / L.O.C.

2.06 Acceptance & Placement of teams

Decisions concerning a team's admittance into the New Hampshire Soccer League will be as objective as possible. The decision will be based on facts such as previous league records, state cup records and tournament records. If all else is equal, then a subjective point of view will be considered.

2.07 Seeding Procedure

The New Hampshire Soccer League Seeding Committee will pre-seed all teams and provide up to 72 hours for coaches' challenges to the seeding presented. Once the final seeding is posted, there will be no changes made by team/club request.

League Director (and/or Assistant Director) may reseed teams on a case-by-case basis. This is solely at their discretion.

2.07.01 Seeding Committee

The New Hampshire Soccer League Seeding Committee will consist of the League Director, League Assistant Director, two (2) members of the L.O.C., and NHSA VP of Youth Competitive

2.08 Acceptance of the New Hampshire Soccer League Rules

All teams applying to participate in the New Hampshire Soccer League agree to accept and abide to the New Hampshire Soccer League rules and policies and any decisions made by the league administrators. Lack of knowledge of these New Hampshire Soccer League rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in the league or seeking entry into the league, from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, parents and players by participating in the New Hampshire Soccer League agree that they are bound by these rules.

2.09 League fees

All league fees will be due by the announced due date for all divisions. If fees are not paid by the announced due date, the offending team/club may not be eligible to play in the league and may forfeit all games until all fees are paid in full, unless arrangements have been made and approved by the New Hampshire Soccer League. Teams who incur forfeits will also be assessed the Forfeit Fine (See section 4.06).

If league fees are outstanding, team will be ineligible to compete in league playoffs. It is the team's responsibility to ensure all fees are paid in full and by the appropriate due date.

Once accepted the application fee is non-refundable.

Any team dropping out of the league after the league drop date will be responsible for all league fees and/or fines.

2.10 Returned Checks

The New Hampshire Soccer League shall charge a \$100 service fee for all returned checks

SECTION III: TEAM ROSTER & FORMATS

3.01 Team roster

All teams playing in the New Hampshire Soccer League MUST use the official US Youth Soccer Roster provided to them by the NHSA State Registrar.

This roster shall have official state logo, verified age, verified season, registered coaches (only coaches listed will be allowed in the technical area), and the State Registrar Stamp. A PDF Version of this complete roster must be on file with the league prior to the first game.

Failure to provide the roster prior to the first game will result in an automatic forfeit of matches until the roster has been completed, unless the delay was caused or has been excused by the League in writing. Any time a roster is changed during the season a new State Roster must be submitted to the league office. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.

3.02 Roster Size & Game Day Roster

The roster size is determined by the team's home state. Each team must submit a "game-day roster" to the referee prior to each game. The League will adhere to the following maximum "game-day" roster limits:

- 7v7 – 16 players
- 9v9 – 18 players
- 11v11 – 18 players

The purpose of this rule is to allow teams to have the ability to have the same amount of players on game days.

Teams may not add players to their official State roster to make-up our maximum "game day" roster limits, but they will now have the option of adding "club pass" players.

In divisions (usually U17-U19s) where State Associations allow more than 18 players to be rostered on a team, only 18 players may be dressed for a New Hampshire Soccer League game.

3.03 Player eligibility

Eligibility of players shall be in accordance with US Soccer and NHSA regulations, unless otherwise specified and approved in writing by the League & VP of Youth Competitive (or NHSA President).

3.04 Club Passes

Players properly registered with NHSA, on a roster to other team, with the same club name will be allowed to be added to the individual game roster.

We ask clubs to avoid “gamesmanship”, defined as adding a better quality player, typically from a higher division team, for the sole purpose of winning a game.

We ask that “club pass” be used to increase playing opportunities and to allow a player to “play up” to experience better competition.

The number of Club Pass players should not equal more than 30% of the total number of players checked in on the game day roster with a maximum of 5. Furthermore, the max number of players on the field of play may not include more than 30% Club Pass Players at any one time.

Playing Format	Max Number on Game Day Roster	Max Number of Club Passes
7 v 7	16	4
9 v 9	18	5
11 v 11	18	5

3.05 Player & Coaches passes

Each player and coach must have a valid (laminated and signed by an official of their home state **WITH PHOTO**) US Youth Soccer player pass in order to participate in the League. The player & coaches’ passes must be brought to every game along with the game day roster.

The match officials will check the teams in prior to kick off. A team has until the end of the “grace period” to produce the player/coaches passes. Teams not able to produce the passes at that time will forfeit the match. (See 5.07 Delay of kick off)

3.06 Age Divisions

Age limitations shall be in accordance with US Soccer regulations except as modified by the New Hampshire Soccer League. Proof-of-birth shall be provided upon request.

3.07 Playing on Multiple teams

Players may not play on more than one team (as a registered player) in the same sub-division. See rule 3.04 for more details on playing on multiple teams with club passes.

Example: Club XYZ has two teams in Under-14 Division 1, Player may only “Club Pass” between the two teams. He/She may not be registered on more than on Club XYZ team.

3.08 Player Transfers

Players registered to a team are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and is granted a transfer/release. All additions and deletions of registered players to the official State roster at any time during the year will be deemed as transfers. A team may add an unregistered player to their roster at any time (until the roster freeze date). A transferred player will not be eligible to play on a team in their original division or a division lower for that season.

3.09 Formats

U8 teams will play 4v4 (NO OFFSIDE) – Coaches expected to manage game environment

U9-U10 teams will play 7v7 (**with Offside**) utilizing 1 referee.

U11-12 teams will play 9v9 (with Offside) utilizing a 3-person referee crew.

U13 and above teams will play 11v11 (with Offside) utilizing a 3-person referee crew.

3.10 Promotion/Relegation

All promotions and relegations are done at the discretion of the seeding committee. There will be promotion/relegation in the age groups where there are multiple divisions. Teams may request to stay within their said division however the decision of the seeding committee is final once schedule is published.

Example: The lowest ranked team in Division 1 will get relegated to Division 2 and the highest ranked Division 2 team will be promoted into Division 1.

SECTION IV: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

4.01 Reporting of scores

It is the HOME team's responsibility to call the scores in each week.

All scores must be entered by Monday's at 10:00am. Scores that are not entered, may be subject to additional fees. SCORES MUST BE ENTERED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS U11-U19

There are two options to report scores - Online or by calling the score in. You will need your GAME NUMBER prior to reporting scores

On line:

[Click Here To Report Score](#)

Call in:

1. After the game has finished – please call 904-758-0875
2. Press 1 to enter NHSL scores when prompted
3. Enter your Event I.D.: (**LISTED ON [NHSL](#)**) then press #
4. Then enter your EVENT PIN number (**LISTED ON [NHSL](#)**) then press #
5. Enter the game number and press #
6. You will be prompted to enter either:
 - a. Number 1 to update score
 - b. Number 2 to update yellow cards
 - c. Number 3 to update red cards
7. Press number 1
8. You will be prompted to enter the HOME SCORE then press #
9. You will be prompted to enter the AWAY SCORE then press #
10. To save you press number 1 or to cancel press number 2
11. You can enter another NHSL score for another game by pressing number 2.

4.01.01 Referee Game Reports

The referees assigned to each match shall submit their game reports via the assignment system (NHReferees.Gameofficials.net) within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

Match reports should be complete with proper score, any misconduct, any coach/team personnel dismissals, and any other unusual incidences.

4.02 Game day roster

Both teams must complete a game day roster and provide it (and USYSA passes) to the referee prior to each game. Game day roster **MUST** include the coach(es), team manager, players, substitutes, and non-dress players (when applicable). Please refer to rule 3.04 for more information on game day rosters.

4.03 Weather Alerts

Every reasonable effort will be made to play all games. However, in cases of inclement weather updates will be available on the New Hampshire Soccer League website.

4.04 Schedule requests

All scheduling requests must accompany the team registration by utilizing 3 black-out dates on GotSoccer. We will attempt to schedule around all requests provided via Black-Out Dates. Requests made after final schedule is posted will fall under our re-scheduling policies.

4.05 Game Change Policy

- It is the understanding of all teams that once the final schedule has been released, all league games (regular season/tournament/playoffs) including EDP–non weather related changes fall under the game change policy.
- Once the schedule is posted, changes will only be considered under extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstance are events affecting the entire team. They could include
 - Field closing due to sudden unavailability (State, city/town mandated events)
 - Conflict with USYS Regional or National Tournament
 - School Event (at the discretion of the league director)
 - Religious occasions
- Requests must be submitted using the form at the top of the New Hampshire Soccer League Website Home Page. Forms include:
 - Game Change Less Than 14 Days (\$75 fee)
 - Game Change Request More Than 14 Days (\$20 fee)
- All requests are subject to approval by the NHSL Director.
 - Any denied requests will be refunded to the team.
- In the event a team does not play a game as scheduled, for other than weather or field reasons, cancellation by the Field Coordinator or an authorized change to the schedule has been made, any team that fails to appear for or play a game shall forfeit. The opposing team (11v11 or 9v9) will be credited with a 4—0 win for standings purposes. Any game that is not played, the team that did not show will pay an additional fee equal to the referee fees for that game.
- No games will be rescheduled without approval of the NHSL Director

In the event the team and/or costs are not paid forthwith, NHSL shall be authorized to place the offending Club in bad standing and will not be allowed to participate in any playoffs or tournament for the NHSL or in the following season until the fines are paid in full.

4.05.01 Re-schedule Policy

- We have a flexible re-scheduling policy and will work with teams to the utmost of our abilities.
- A valid reason must be provided for a re-schedule. Re-scheduling games causes issues/concerns for both teams, managers, referees, assignors and families. Abusing this system will create an adjustment to our flexible re-scheduling policy.
- Missing key player(s) would NOT be considered a valid reason!
- Requests may only be submitted by the team manager and coach

4.06 Forfeits

Forfeits shall be recorded with a score of 4-0. In the case of a double forfeit, both teams will record a 0-4 loss to their records.

The minimum number of players that must be on the field to avoid forfeit are:

- 11 v 11 Minimum of 7 players
- 9 v 9 Minimum of 5 players
- 7 v 7 Minimum of 4 players.

Teams who forfeit for any reason will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine. The team will also be responsible for the total amount of referee dues for the match. If a double forfeit, both teams will be assessed a \$300.00 forfeiture fine and split the referee fees due.

4.07 Cancelled Games

Only the “home team” Field Coordinator may cancel games for unplayable conditions or unexpected field emergencies, always excepting the determination by Referees on the field of play that field conditions are unsafe and the scheduled game therefore cancelled. See Re-Schedule Policy (Section 4.05.01)

SECTION V: RULES OF PLAY

5.01 The Ball

The home team (listed first in the schedule) shall provide the match balls. A minimum of 2 match balls must be presented to the referee prior to the start of each match.

- U8 will use a size 3 ball.
- U9 through U12 divisions will use a size 4 ball.
- U13 and older divisions will use a size 5 ball.

5.02 Player Equipment

The jersey of all players, except for the goalkeeper must contain a visible number, unique from the other members of the same team. No jewelry may be worn. Hard casts must be covered and be deemed safe for opposing players by the match officials. Match officials have the final say on safety determination.

Shin guards are **mandatory** for all players.

In case of a color conflict, the home team (listed first in the schedule) shall change colors.

5.03 Duration of the Game

- Under-8 – 3 x 15 minute periods
- Under-9 and Under-10 – 2 x 25 minute halves
- Under-11 and Under-12 – 2 x 30 minutes halve
- Under-13 and Under-14 – 2 x 35 minute halves
- Under-15 and Under-16 – 2 x 40 minute halves
- Under-17, 18 and 19 – 2 x 45 minute halves

All games are considered final if at least half the game is completed. If the game is stopped prior to half time due to weather conditions, the complete game will be replayed

5.04 Substitution

Except as noted, substitutions shall be “unlimited” and any time after any dead ball situation (corner kicks, free-kicks, throw-ins etc).

The substitutes must be at the centerline ready to enter before the referee will allow the substitution to take place.

The referee has the authority not to allow the substitution if he/she believes that the procedure will stop the flow of the game or is being used as tactical time wasting play.

It is suggested (but not mandatory) that all substitutes in the U13 and above age groups wear a different color shirt or pinnie when not on the field of play.

5.05 Point system

Each team will be awarded

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

5.06 Tie-breakers

If at the conclusion of the league season a tie breaker is needed the following criteria will be utilized:

- A. Head to head (not used if more than two teams are involved in the tie)
- B. Goal difference (i.e. goals scored minus goals allowed - maximum of 4 per game)
- C. Fewest goals allowed
- D. Most goals scored (maximum of 4 per game)
- E. Most Wins
- F. Most shut-outs
- G. Sudden death Penalty Kicks

5.07 Delay of kick off

If a game is delayed due to the tardiness of a team, players, coach or manager, or missing player/coaches passes; a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes of “grace” time shall be awarded. After fifteen (15) minutes if the team is still not able to start the game, it shall be declared a forfeit.

The grace period might be extended if the team that is late has a valid reason and the league director grants the extension (needs to be done verbally and via email to both coaches and the referees). The referee will note the extension in his/her game report.

See rule 4.06 for minimum number of players necessary to start a game.

5.08 Players and Spectators

Players and coaches will set up on the opposite side of the field from all spectators. This will be mandatory at all New Hampshire Soccer League locations.

5.09 Heading Restrictions at U11

Per US soccer recommendations there will be no deliberate heading at U11 and below. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

SECTION VI: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT

6.01 Responsible Parties

All coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct.

Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team shall be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of The League. Any coach or team official can be held responsible for any individual associated to their team at any match.

6.02 Profanity

The New Hampshire Soccer League has a Zero Tolerance Policy for Foul & Abusive Language. Profanity and unsporting conduct by any individual will not be tolerated either on or off the field.

6.03 Compensation

No player shall receive any compensation for services rendered to a team or receive any promises of compensation.

6.04 Smoking & Alcohol

There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking in the soccer parks.

6.05 Referee Authority

The referee(s) are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart. The referee(s) is empowered to:

- i. Rule on what equipment is considered playable and enforce the Laws of the Game
- ii. Issue Yellow or Red cards to players and dismiss coaches during that entire period

The referee may terminate a game for coach, players, or spectator misconduct. Teams causing the termination may forfeit the game.

Referees will NOT show red cards to coaches during any league (jamborees, regular season, or playoff) games.

6.06 Park Rules

All Park rules where games are played shall be respected and obeyed

6.07 Red Cards & Suspensions

Players or coaches are subject to match suspensions according to the following:

- A. Any coach, team official, and/or player whom is sent-off/dismissed shall have their pass mailed by the referee to the NHSA office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

Passes shall be addressed to:

*New Hampshire Soccer Association
ATTN: Disciplinary Committee - NHSL
1600 Candia Road, Suite 3,
Manchester, NH 03109*

- B. Any player, coach, team personnel, etc. whom is serving a suspension shall be listed in the “NHSL Suspension Log” on the NHSL Website. Anyone listed on the NHSL Suspension Log shall not participate in any match until the return date listed.
- C. Any player or coach that is ejected from any league match due to striking, punching, hitting, kicking, spitting, or any action that reflects harmful intent shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) sanctioned games.
- D. Any player, coach or fan verbally abusing a referee during any league match as documented on the Referee’s Report of the match shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) league matches.
- E. Any player receiving a red card or coach being ejected, in any league match other than the circumstances listed above shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of one (1) league match.

- F. The New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to add additional or reduce the number of matches in a suspension without a hearing. This could include but not be limited to any derogatory comments of a racial nature.
- G. Players or coaches that are ejected from a game, for whatever reason, shall serve their suspension at the next sanctioned event(s) for that particular team.
- H. Failure of a coach/player/team official to remain out of sight and out of sound after being ejected may result in a forfeit.
- I. Any coach that is ejected from a game is liable to sanctioning at the league and state level. Their Club will be assessed a \$250 fine by New Hampshire Soccer League, this must be paid before the coach has their card returned and is eligible to coach that team again. This is in addition to any game suspensions.
- J. Any coach receiving 3 dismissals in one calendar year (regardless of what team they may be coaching) will not be eligible to coach within the New Hampshire Soccer League for the next season.
- K. Any player, coach, or manager, who participates in a match while under suspension, shall cause his or her team to forfeit that match and will be subject to additional penalty.
- L. During a coach's suspension he/she must not be within sight nor sound of the game that they are suspended for.
- M. A referee may request the coaching staff of either team to deal with any parent whom, in the referee's opinion, is bringing the game into disrepute. Should that parent continue to behave in a way that, in the referee's opinion, continues to bring the game into disrepute, it could lead to the referee terminating the game and resulting in a forfeit win for the opponent. In the case where it is not readily determined who's parent it is, both teams will forfeit and be fined a forfeit fee.

SECTION VII: PROTESTS

7.01 Definition

A protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules policies or procedure. Protests will only be accepted in regard to illegal players, and misapplication of the laws of the game. There will be no protests in regard to referee decisions.

7.02 Who can file a protest

Only a coach or team-administrator can file protests. Only those teams involved are allowed to file a protest. Third parties, i.e. coaches/administrators from other teams, cannot file a protest on a specific game.

7.03 Filing Procedure

1. Must inform referee that you will be protesting the match prior to leaving the field
2. A protest must be filed in writing with the league director and must include:

- a. Details of the complaint
 - b. A listing of the players/situations that are deemed to be illegal.
 - c. A statement of the desired resolution
3. All protests must be filed within 48 hours of the incident
 - a. Exception being for playoff matches – see 8.03.01
 4. Protest must include a cash/ bank check made payable to “New Hampshire Soccer League” with the memo: “Protest Fee” in the amount of \$250.
 - a. If protest is granted, the money will be refunded to your team.

NOTE: No protests will be heard on referee judgment calls.

7.03.01 Filing Procedure - Playoffs

1. Must inform the referee you will be protesting the match prior to leaving the field
2. A protest must be filed in writing with the league director and must include:
 - a. Details of the complaint
 - b. A listing of the players/situations that are deemed to be illegal.
 - c. A statement of the desired resolution
3. All protests must be filed within 1 hour from the conclusion of the match in which is being protested
4. Protest must include a cash/ bank check made payable to “New Hampshire Soccer League” with the memo: “Protest Fee” in the amount of \$250.
 - a. If protest is granted, the money will be refunded to your team.

NOTE: No protests will be heard on referee judgment calls.

Section VIII: League Discipline

8.01 Discipline Committee

- A. All matters of concern to the New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee must originate from the referee’s game report or from a formal protest submitted in writing by the offended party.
- B. Any player, team official or spectator alleged to have been guilty of any violation of the laws of the game, the bylaws, rules and regulations of the association or any misconduct detrimental to the game, shall be subject to appropriate penalty as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- C. The New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the association League Director, League Assistant Director, League Assignor, two (2) L.O.C. members and the NHSA VP of Youth Competitive.
- D. The league director shall notify the player/coach/club of any penalty or suspension determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- E. The decision of the New Hampshire Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall be promptly sent via U.S. Mail. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.

8.02 Discipline Appeal Process

- F. Any, club, team, or individual not wholly satisfied with any decisions made by New Hampshire Soccer League has the right to appeal to the New Hampshire Soccer Association Executive Board. This appeal must be in writing and must be received by the NHSA State President within ten (10) days of the decision handed down by the League. The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$75.00 made out to “New Hampshire Soccer League” with the memo: “Appeal Fee”.

SECTION IX: Short-Sided Rules

9.01 Short Sided Rules of Play

The New Hampshire Soccer League shall use the most current US Soccer Standards & [US Soccer Player Development Initiatives \(PDI\)](#) in order to provide its players with the player development model in which focuses the individual player’s development.

[CLICK HERE FOR US SOCCER’S PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES](#)

All US Soccer Standards & US Soccer PDI’s shall be made available on the NHSL Website & NHSA Website.

The New Hampshire Soccer League reserves the right to make amendments to any US Soccer Standard and/or Player Development Initiative that will be in the best interest of the league. All amendments to any policy shall be signed by the League Director, NHSA Vice President of Youth Competitive and/or NHSA President.