

2019 SPRING NORTH GEORGIA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

1. 2018-2019 Season

- No Jamboree
- Regular season games will begin Saturday, March 16th.
- A post-season tournament will be offered around Saturday, May 18th.
- Teams may play up to two (2) games on a Saturday during the tournament.

2. Age brackets for the 2018-2019 Season:

- U6 – 4 & 5 year olds (Birth Year: 2013 – 2014)
- U8 – 6 & 7 year olds (Birth Year: 2011 – 2012)
- U10 – 8 & 9 year olds (Birth Year: 2009 – 2010)
- U12 – 10 & 11 year olds (Birth Year: 2007 – 2008)
- U14 – 12 & 13 year olds (Birth Year: 2005 – 2006)
- For purposes of year round soccer, the season runs August 1st – July 31st.
- **A player may not play down an age group for any reason.**
- A player may play up one age group with permission of their association's commissioner.
- A copy of each player's birth certificate should be available during games. At the request of the league, the birth certificate must be provided or the player will be ruled ineligible.

3. Rosters.

- Each team must submit a roster including player's name, birth date and jersey number as well as coach's contact information to their association's commissioner. **Rosters must be entered into tourney machine by 2/22/19.**
- Team rosters are considered public and anyone may request to view them.
- No player may be added to the roster after the regular season begins.
- No player may play for two teams within the program. Exception: Teams that fall below the required number to start a game may allow a player from a LOWER division to play that game.
 - i. Example: U10 RYSA Garrison needs one player to meet the required number to start a game. Coach Garrison can ONLY select a player in the U8 division to fill that spot.
 - ii. *Penalty: Coaches not abiding by this rule will receive a game suspension for his/her first offense. A second offense could lead to a season suspension.*

4. Schedule.

- Regular season games will be played on Saturdays and occasionally on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday evenings.
- Makeup or rescheduled games may be held on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon as long as both head coaches agree. All makeup games must be communicated to the North Georgia Youth Soccer League.
- Any team that forfeits a game with less than 24 hours notice will be responsible for the referee fees. These fees should be paid to the site of the game that was

forfeited. The league reserves the right to cancel future games if this fee is not paid or if habitual forfeits occur.

- Cancellation of games due to inclement weather will be made by the game-site commissioner as necessary. If a cancellation is necessary, the game-site commissioner will notify the league commissioner, commissioner of each association, coaches and referees until all necessary parties have been contacted.

5. Officials.

- The referees are responsible for enforcing the laws of the game, to make sure the players are properly equipped for the game, keep the official time of the game, and fill out an official report for the game.
- Referees should be professional and respectful in all dealings with coaches, players, spectators, and administrators.
- The official game report will be provided by the game site and will include the game date and time, team names, final score, and cautions/ejections given during the game.
- The jurisdiction of the referee begins 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff and ends when he/she leaves the general vicinity of the park.
- All judgment calls of the referee are final and binding and may not be protested.
- **Referees fees will be paid as follows:**
 - U6, U8 or U10 - one referee \$20 per game
 - U12 - 2 referees \$20 each or 3 referees \$20 center ref & \$10 each assistant ref
 - U14 - 2 referees \$25 each or 3 referees \$24 center ref & \$13 each assistant ref
- Referees will be paid per game report submitted.
- Referees will be paid for forfeited games provided they were at the game-site ready to officiate at the scheduled kick-off time.
- If all games at a particular site are cancelled due to weather after the referee is on site, the referee will be paid one game fee.
- Referees who are notified of a cancellation prior to arriving at the game-site will not be paid a game fee.
- The referee shall give a 10-minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off before determining the game to be a forfeit; however, the game clock always starts on time.

6. League Standings.

- League standings will be determined by a win, tie, and loss points system. The following scale will be used to determine the standings.

Win = 3 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

In the event of a tie in points the following will be used as a tie breaker.

1. Points Earned
2. Wins
3. Head to head record
4. Goals Allowed

5. Goals Scored

6. Goal Differential (Goals Scored – Goals Allowed)

7. Player equipment.

- Players must be properly equipped to participate in the game.
- This includes age appropriate shin-guards.
- Socks that completely cover the shin-guards.
- Players may not wear jewelry of any kind except medical alert necklaces and bracelets which must be taped down.

8. Gameplay.

- All games will be played according to FIFA laws of the game with the following exceptions:
- Games will be played on fields with smaller dimensions.
- U-6 games will be 4 vs. 4 (**no goalie**), less than 2 is a forfeit.
- U-8 games will be 4 vs. 4 (**no goalie**), less than 2 is a forfeit.
- U-10 games will be 7 vs. 7 less than 5 is a forfeit.
- U12 games will be 9 vs. 9, less than 7 is a forfeit.
- U14 games will be 11 vs. 11, less than 9 is a forfeit.
- U-6 & U-8 games will consist of two, 20- minute halves. Half-time will be 5 minutes.
- U-10 – U12 games will consist of two, 25- minute halves. Half-time will be 5 minutes.
- U14 games will consist of two, 35- minute halves. Half-time will be 10 minutes.
- All players must play in each half.
- Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play by the team in possession of the ball and by the opponent of the team in possession provided the team in possession also subs.
- Substitutions may also be made on either team's goal kick or kick-off.
- Substitutions must enter the field from the half-line and must be at the half-line prior to the ball becoming dead.
- Slide tackling will only be allowed in the U-14 age bracket.
- Ball sizes. U6 & U8 – size 3 U10 & U12 – size 4 U14 – size 5
- **Mercy Rule:** The game will be declared over if at the ten (10) minute mark of the second half or any point in the game thereafter a team has an 8 goal or more lead.
- **Short-handed Rule:** Short-handed teams (that still have enough players to play) should notify the opposing coach before the game begins. At that time, the opposing team shall drop down and play the short-handed team with the same number of players present.
- **U-6 and U-8 Kickoffs:** Teams are not allowed to score a goal on the kickoff. The ball must touch another player after the kickoff before a goal can be scored.
- **“Cherry Picking” Rule:** In divisions where no goalie is allowed (U6 & U8), players are not allowed to “camp out” in front of the goal. The referee may use his or her judgment to stop play and instruct players to attack and play the ball rather than wait for the ball to enter the goal area. **No player shall receive a pass (offense) or defend the goal (defense) inside the goal box until the ball crosses inside the goal box. All activity should occur outside the goal box when the ball is not inside the goal box.**
- **U6, U8 and U10:** When a goal kick is administered, all defensive players must retreat behind the halfway line until play is restarted.
- **U6 – U8:** The Goal Box is required to be 8'(L) x 12'(W) at all locations.

9. Conduct.

- All players, coaches, spectators, and officials are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

- Coaches and players must stay at least two yards behind the touch-line during play.
- Coaches may only coach their team from the sidelines between the half-line and the penalty area.
- U6 teams may have one coach on the field of play outside of the penalty area.
- Players are expected to abide by the laws of the game at all times.
- The laws of the game are to be enforced by the referee.
- Players who persistently or excessively break the laws of the game, or show dissent to the referee's decision are subject to caution or ejection.
- Coaches who display dissent towards the referee's decision are subject to expulsion.
- Questions or comments made between coaches or players and the referee should be done in a calm respectful manner.
- Anyone who has been ejected by a referee must leave the game-site immediately. Failure to do so will result in a summons of law enforcement officials and forfeiture of the game.
- Players who are sent off (shown the red card), or coaches who are dismissed will be suspended from the next game.
- Coaches who are dismissed more than once in the same season are subject to being suspended for the remainder of that season.

10.Spectators.

- Spectators shall stay two yards behind the touch-line on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players.
- No spectators are allowed in the area directly behind the goals.
- Spectators shall not criticize or show dissent toward the referee's decision.
- Spectators who show dissent toward the referee's decision are subject to expulsion.
- Spectators should encourage members of their team and not criticize or degrade members of the opponent.
- No spectator should enter the field of play at any time except in the case of an injury to a child under their care.

11.Heading Restrictions.

- The North Georgia Youth Soccer League will implement the following recommendations regarding heading:
- Players in all Under-12 programs and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. Heading is permitted in all U12 programs and older.
- Referees will be instructed by the North Georgia Youth Soccer League of the following rule addition in these age groups:
- If 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 IFK should be taken on the

goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

- For Recreational games, if the deliberate header occurs within the penalty area, the IFK should be taken at the nearest point on the penalty area line and the restart is with referee whistle.

12.Post-Season Tournament.

- The post-season tournament will begin *Saturday, May 18th* and teams may play two playoff games on the first Saturday of the tournament.
- If games are tied at the end of regulation, a full five (5) minute overtime period will be added on to break the tie. If the game is still tied at the end of the overtime period, the penalty kick system will be used to break the tie.

13.Concussion Training

- At least one (1) coach per team is required to complete the online concussion training course at website resource:
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html> prior to the jamboree. Download and save or take a picture of your certificate.

14.Remember.

- The North Georgia Youth Soccer League is for the recreation and enjoyment of the players, coaches, and fans.
- The intention is to teach the kids the game of soccer and give them the opportunity to compete in a safe, secure, friendly atmosphere.
- All coaches, officials, administrators, game officials, and spectators should set the example for the kids.