

Niskayuna Soccer Club Tournament Rules

FIFA's 17 laws of the game shall apply, except as modified or amended below:

1. **Field of Play** - Field of play – modified fields and goals are used for U8, U10 & U12 divisions.

U8 divisions will play small-sided 4 vs 4 games with no goalkeeper. We will play the “dual field method” where each team is split into two squads and two simultaneous games are played between the two opposing clubs’ teams.

Spectators shall stand back at least 3 feet from the playing field at all times while games are in progress. Spectators are not allowed on the same side of the field as the players/coaches or on the end of the lines behind the goals

2. **Ball** - #3 for u8, #4 for u10 and u12, #5 for u14 and up.

3. **Number of players on the field and guest players** - Number of players on the field – For U8 division see additional info below in rule #17. For the U10 division will play with 7 players (including goalkeeper) on the field and 14 on the roster (see additional info below in rule #18). U12 division will play with 9 players (including goalkeeper) with a maximum of 18 on the roster (see additional info below in rule #19). All other levels will play 11 players (including goalkeeper) on the field and 22 on the roster. Substitutions are unlimited but can be made only with referee’s permission at the following times: before goal kicks or throw-ins by either team, after a goal is scored, and to replace an injured player. The injured player must leave the field of play. A player with exposed bleeding must leave the field and be replaced until the bleeding is stopped.

Three guest players are allowed. **Guest players may only play at the same level or higher level than their primary team.**

4. **Players' equipment** - All teams shall bring numbered alternate jerseys. Coaches should attempt to resolve jersey color conflicts before the game. Home team (listed on the left hand schedule) has choice of jersey color in the event of unresolved conflict. Shirts must be tucked in. Socks up over shin guards. Goalkeeper’s jersey must be a contrasting color. Exposed bloodied clothing must immediately be covered or replaced.

5. **Referees' decisions are final.** No formal protests allowed, but designated Tournament Officials are available for clarification. The tournament committee shall have the final say over anything not specifically covered in these written rules.

6. **Duration of the game** - Game duration will be as follows:

U8 ~ 20 minute games, U10 ~ 25 minute games. These age groups will switch sides approximately half-way through the game during brief stoppage as directed by the referee. There is no break at halftime and the teams must remain on the fields. Teams can agree with the referee at the beginning of the games not to change sides.

U12 ~ 28 minute games, U14+ ~ 38 minute games. These age groups will have a 2 minute half time where they will switch sides. The clock will remain running during half time switches.

7. Weather delay- The Tournament Committee has the right to modify all tournament rules in order to safely and fairly end the tournament which includes but is not limited to canceling matches.

Should a match be terminated due to weather conditions *after*:

10 minutes (u8) 13 minutes (U10)
14 minutes (u12) 19 minutes (u14+)

of play, the match will be considered official and the score at the time will stand.

If a match is temporarily terminated prior to the above mentioned minutes of play, due to weather, field conditions or anything beyond the tournament's control, each team must check in with the Tournament Director for further instructions.

In the event of such conditions, every attempt will be made to complete the match. However, it may be necessary to:

- 1) Terminate the current matches; where they will be considered official and the score at the time will stand;
- 2) Shorten the length of any unplayed matches.

****The Tournament Director's interpretation of the rules shall be final****

Referees and field marshals will not consider beginning or continuing matches when a lightning storm exists. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE EVENT OF CANCELLATION.

8. Start of play - home team (listed on the left hand side of schedule) decides which goal to attack – other team kicks off. Ball is in play the moment it moves.

9. Tournament Scoring for U10 and up

Win ~ 3 points Tie ~ 1 point
Shut Out ~ 1 point Loss ~ 0 points
1 point per goal ~ max of 3 points per game

Referee will give a signed score sheet to the winning coach at the game's conclusion. The winning team is responsible for turning in the referee-signed score sheet to the Field Marshall's tent immediately after each game. Forfeits may be declared after a 5 minute wait and will be recorded as a 2-0 score.

Tie breaker sequence is as follows (before playoffs):

Head to Head competition (ignore if more than 2 teams tied in points)

1. Most wins
2. Goal differential
3. Most shutouts

During the playoffs, penalty kicks will be taken - 3 players per team (players must be on the field at the end of the game).

Sudden death after first three rounds.

10. Offsides - not in effect for u8's

11. Fouls and Misconduct - Two yellow cards in one game, or three yellow cards during the tournament, equal to a red card for that player. For red cards, the offending player sits out the remainder of that game (the team plays short) and the next game, at a minimum. Fighting and excessively loud or persistent dissension will be grounds for ejection from the tournament (no refunds). Yellow cards and red cards will be recorded on score sheets by the referee, tracked by score reporter, and reported in accordance with CDYSL / ENYYSA directives. The conduct of team players, coaches and fans is the responsibility of the team's coach. The tournament officials expect that all participants will conduct themselves properly on and off the field, before, during and after games.

The referee will give 1 warning to the coach for inappropriate behavior by the coach or fans before giving a yellow card to the coach. If a second yellow card is given for the same behavior, the game will be ended and scored as a forfeit for the offending team. A second forfeit will result in team disqualification and forfeiture of tournament fees.

12. Penalty Kicks - No penalty kicks for U8 Divisions (take direct kicks instead). Goalkeepers may move along the goal line prior to taking of penalty kick.

13. Throw-ins - May not be directly handled by the throw-in team's goalkeeper

14. Goalkeepers - Goalkeeper must put the ball into play quickly to avoid foul (indirect kick) for delay of game. Indirect foul will be called if goalkeeper directly handles (using hands) a throw in from a teammate.

15. Corner kicks - Prior to taking of the kick, ball may be placed anywhere inside the corner arc lines.

16. Under 8 Game Rules - U8 games will follow the dual sided game format and will use the rules established by CDYSL for this style of game.

17. Under 10 Game Rules - U10 games will follow the 7v7 sided game format (max roster size of 14) and will use the rules established by CDYSL for this style of game including the use of a Build-Out Line and no heading or punting/dropkicking.

- a. *Build-Out Line*: a build-out line will be placed halfway between the penalty box and half field line. When keeper is in possession of the ball, the opposition must quickly retreat to the build out line. Keeper can pass, throw or roll the ball (no punting or dropkicking) to a teammate. As soon as the ball leaves the keeper's hands, it is considered in play and the opposition may cross the build out line. It is up to the keeper to wait until the opposition is behind the line. If the keeper releases the ball before opposition is behind the line, the opposition may move toward the ball as soon as it is in play.

18. Under 12 Game Rules - U12 games will follow the 9v9 sided game (max roster size of 18) rules as recommended by USYS.

19. Alcohol & Tobacco – The tournament prohibits the use, consumption or presence of any alcohol or tobacco products (including vapes) on tournament grounds or parking lots. There will be NO WARNINGS. If you are found to be using tobacco products or in possession of alcohol, you will be escorted off premises.