

Northwest District CJSA

Team Handbook

A concise supplement to accepted policies

- Spring 2009 -



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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.net) and the Northwest District website (www.nwsoccer.net), and it is strongly recommended every travel coach be familiar with exact verbiage contained in these publications.

By virtue of inclusion herein; rules, regulations, policies etc. that are cited have either been adopted into by-law through a majority vote of the entire district board of directors, or in the case of procedure or policy, have been adopted through a majority vote of the executive committee as prescribed by §NW3200.

This book is organized into brief sections with bulleted points relating to the topic mentioned. Wherever possible, the applicable section of the district by-law is referenced in the format: §NWXXXX. A state by-law may be similarly referenced in this fashion: §CJSAXXXX. It is important to remember, this district legislates and administers its own policies directly related to competition within the district provided said policy enacted is not in direct contradiction to accepted state or national policy and does not violate state or federal law. In the absence of specifically addressing a given situation, state association policy shall assume jurisdiction immediately followed by The State of Connecticut General Statutes. This includes but is not limited to Classic and Recreational boys and girls inter (between) club, intra (within) district competition. District meetings are published and open to any member. You are encouraged to attend and become part of the process. You and your clubs have the right to enact, change, or modify district policy. GET INVOLVED!

This district has been around for over 30 years. It is here for the benefit of everyone no matter of gender, playing ability, who you may know or what you may have done in the past. Decisions handed down by the executives of this district are sometimes not easy but are always carefully considered with fairness and consistency in mind.

Throughout this book, these symbols will be displayed. Pay particular attention to what they mean and the consequences they could have.



ATTENTION! This symbol will indicate a piece of information that is beneficial in helping your season run smoothly.



WARNING! This symbol will indicate information that if not followed or adhered to, may result in disciplinary action against a coach and/or a club.



DANGER! This symbol will indicate a policy or by-law that, if not followed or adhered to, will result in disciplinary action against a coach and/or a club and/or monetary fines and elimination of offending team from league standings.

No one at the district level wants to see a team disqualified or stripped of a title. Success in this district can be partly attributed to consistency and fairness. Rules must be enacted and enforced to maintain order and avoid chaos. The worst scenario any organization can find itself in is one where favors are granted or rules bent for the loudest or most threatening of members. No executive of this district does what they do to be unfair to kids or to stop kids from playing soccer. It is always a remiss coach, disorganized administrator or misinformed club that results in less than favorable outcomes to a situation. Membership in our organization is a privilege, not a right, and this is something we take very seriously.

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
- Player Passes (explained later)
- Multiple copies of certified roster (explained later)
- Medical Release Forms (usually part of registration form)
- Have appropriate coaching license (§NW5002)
- Communication person for your team
- Extra balls, cones, pinnies, flags etc.
- Have a working knowledge of the game and its rules
- Have a working knowledge of district rules and policies
- Know the resources of your club and the district
- 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 Employee/Volunteer Disclosure Form upon initial appointment and every three years afterwards. The form is available from the Club and on the CJSA website (www.cjsa.net). Individuals will be permitted to begin participation pending completion of a satisfactory background check by CJSA. The disclosure statement must be updated any time the information supplied as to criminal history becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any respect.



Failure to complete the Employee/Volunteer Disclosure Form, or failure to update said form in a timely manner, shall *disqualify* the individual from participating in any CJSA activity and any activity of a CJSA member organization.

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 your club president immediately for an appropriate remedy by the league commissioner.

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 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 at least three brackets:

- A Bracket: This bracket is for the most competitive teams.
- B Bracket: This bracket is for moderately competitive teams.
- C Bracket: This bracket is for the least competitive teams.

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			C Bracket		
	U9/10	U11	U12+	U9/10	U11	U12+	U9/10	U11	U12+
Game format	8v8	8v8	11v11	8v8	8v8	11v11	8v8	8v8	11v11
Maximum roster size	14	18	25	14	18	25	14	18	25
Minimum # of single rostered players	8	8	11	8	8	11	8	8	11
Maximum # of double/multi rostered players	No limit	5	5	No limit	5	5	No limit	5	5
Standings kept, Championships awarded	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Minimum playing time	50%	None		50%			50%		
Game day	Sundays			Saturdays			Saturdays		
Maximum goal differential	None			6			6		

The following bullets apply to the preceding table:

- "Min number of single rostered players" means that these players can only be on one roster. They can NOT be registered to a Premier Club or double roster on any other NWD Competitive team.
- Double rostered players are within a club. Multi rostered players are between clubs (Premier and Classic). "Maximum number of double/multi rostered players" means that the combination of double and multi rostered players shall not exceed the max number. There is no limit on the mix - just the total.
- See page 12 for additional roster limits.
- For U11 and up, standings will be kept and posted on the district website (www.nwsoccer.net) and champions will be declared. The district will provide league championship trophies each fall and spring season. Fall season champions will be invited to the Northwest District Banquet held each January. The U9/10 leagues are not results oriented. As a result, no champions will be declared and only games played/remaining will be tracked and posted along with the U11 and up standings on district website.
- 50% playing time means that each player is to play 50% of each game except in the event of illness, injury, or discipline.
- Exceeding the maximum 6 goal differential in the B and C Leagues will result in a ***forfeit, fines, and loss of standings.***



Promotion & Relegation

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

- The winner of a league earns the right to be promoted to the next higher bracket. The team/club can notify the Commissioner by indicating the proper league in the Seasonal Team Commitments.
- The winner of a league will automatically be promoted to the next higher bracket if:
 - ♦ The team wins the same league two seasons in a row, 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 has the right to be relegated to the next lower bracket. The team/club can notify the Commissioner by indicating the proper league in the Seasonal Team Commitments.
- The last finish team in a league will automatically be relegated to the next lower bracket if:
 - ♦ The team finishes last in the same league two seasons in a row, or
 - ♦ The Commissioner and District Chairman deem that the team was not competitive in most league games.

Seasonal Team Commitments

When Clubs send in 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 must make a written request to the Commissioner and District Chairman. It must be determined by the Commissioner, in conjunction with the District Chairman, that it is in the best interest of all teams affected. ***Clubs will billed an additional fee of \$50 per team playing up.***

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.



- Modification (adds or drops) to team commitments after deadline but before scheduling will result in a ***fine of \$100 per team.***
- Modifications (adds or drops) to team commitments during or after scheduling will result in a ***fine of \$350 per team.***

RECREATIONAL PLUS LEAGUES

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

Premier players are not allowed to play in Recreational Plus 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
- Mediate disputes between clubs related to other league issues
- Assist in scheduling make-up games (as necessary)
- Declare forfeits
- Assess league related fines and penalties
- **DECISIONS OF COMMISSOINERS ARE FINAL! (§NW2300)**

Although the decision of the commissioner is final, the District Chairman 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. League commissioners will oversee approximately 500-600 games in a season. When communicating issues, please remember this and allow ample time for a resolution. Remember, it is not the commissioner's job to chase coaches for game data.

SEASONS & PROGRAMS

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

- Fall Season – Classic and Recreational Plus, boys and girls
Commences 1st weekend in September thru mid-November
- Spring Season – Classic and Recreational Plus, boys and girls
Commences 1st weekend in April thru mid-June

THE ROSTER & PLAYER PASS

The Northwest District strictly adheres to the NO PASS, NO ROSTER, NO PLAY rule. §NW5200, §10000 §CJSA3117.

It is important to realize once endorsed by a district official, the player pass becomes the ultimate property of The Northwest District. They do not belong to a club, coach, player or parent and must be immediately surrendered upon the request of a game official or district executive.

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

PRESENT YOUR CURRENT VALID PLAYER AND COACH PASSES ALONG WITH YOUR CURRENT TEAM ROSTER TO THE GAME OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THE GAME FOR VERIFICATION.



NO GAME OFFICIAL, TEAM COACH, CLUB REPRESENTATIVE OR THE LIKE, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND THE NO-PASS, NO-PLAY RULE! GAMES PLAYED WITHOUT PROPER VERIFICATION OF REGISTRATION (i.e. PASSES & 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!

ROSTER LIMITS

The primary roster limits can be found in the table on page 6.

A district Classic roster is also limited to two (2) out-of-town players if there is a team in the players' age and competition level in their own town of residence, otherwise, this number is unlimited. State, tournament, and indoor rosters may have different requirements. Be familiar with these rules if it becomes applicable. Towns with regional school districts are also exempt from this foreign designation. Remember, any "out of district" player is considered an "out of town" player.

In certain instances, a player may be rostered to two teams within the same club, at the same time. Effective spring 2004, a player may be registered to two clubs at the same time in premier/classic situations. This involves the institution of "primary" and "secondary" roster and pass classification. Players still become "free agents" as of Sept. 1st and are allowed to register to a club of their choice.



It is necessary for coaches to be properly registered and present with a current valid player pass as well. While multiple coaches, assistants, managers etc. can be listed on a team roster, there are only **three (3) adults with passes allowed on the team side of the field.** §NW5100. Violation of this rule WILL result in offending team forfeiting match.

Registration procedures and policies can become quite complicated and sometimes cumbersome. In most cases, the hard part has been done by the time a coach receives the roster and passes. Consult your club president and/or club registrar should you have specific questions regarding district and state registration. §NW5000, §NW6700

PLAYERS' CHECKLIST



- Must have minimum equipment including shin-guards and appropriate soccer shoes – molded rubber or plastic cleats only
- Must have current USYS player pass endorsed by NW District
- Must be listed on team roster endorsed by NW District
- Must be age-appropriate (or younger) for team on which he/she is playing

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 – 30min. halves, size 4 ball

U-11 & U-12: 2 – 30min. halves, size 4 ball

U-13 & U-14: 2 – 40min. halves, size 5 ball

U-15 to U-19: 2 – 45min. halves, size 5 ball

SEASONAL SCHEDULE



Each fall and spring, teams will be provided with a seasonal schedule illustrating game dates and opponents. §NW5010 *It is MANDATORY for each team to complete the assigned schedule.* §NW5020 Generally, a ten (10) week time frame is allotted for completion of a minimum, eight (8) games. Whenever possible, a grace period of one (1) to two (2) weeks is given for make-up games. Bye-weeks along with “holes” for holiday

tournaments are inserted into the schedule whenever possible. Silent Sidelines is scheduled the third weekend and May and October.

Each league will consist of between five (5) and eleven (11) 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.

The schedules for The Northwest District are randomly generated by a third-party company. These schedules are sealed and delivered to the District Chairman the afternoon of the seasonal coaches' meeting.



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!

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. §SR801-A
- Confirm game time and location with visiting coach no later than ***1 week prior to scheduled match***
 - Saturday matches shall take place no earlier than 12 noon unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches (§NW4300)
 - Sunday matches shall take place no earlier than 1 pm unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches (§NW4300)

- Responsible for shirt change in the event of like colors
- Ensure accurate completion of game report and submit/deliver such information by appropriate means to the Commissioner

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.

RESCHEDULING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather or the closing of fields by town officials, the game should be rescheduled. Remember it is the game official first, then the home team, who decides 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***. The game duration may be reduced (***two equal halves***) if both teams mutually agree.

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.

RESCHEDULING DUE TO CONFLICTS (LACK OF PLAYERS)

In the event a team notifies their opponent at least 1 week in advance that they can not get the ***minimum required 7 players*** 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 not 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.
- Unavoidable conflicts due to non-soccer group activities that leave a team with less than the minimum required 7 players (i.e., religious group activities, scouting or other similar club activities, etc.) can be rescheduled to a date mutually agreed upon by both coaches, but within two weeks of original assignment.



FAILURE TO NOTIFY AN OPPONENT OF A CONFLICT AT LEAST 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF A GAME WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT, A LOSS OF STANDINGS, AND AN ASSESSMENT OF A CLUB FINE.



IF A GAME CAN NOT BE RESCHEDULED AND PLAYED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED DATE, THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE HOME TEAM TO ASSIGN A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE GAME TO TAKE PLACE!

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 if arriving at the scheduled location with less than seven (7) properly registered players after no fewer than thirty (30) minutes has elapsed.

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 (§NW5030):

- ***Surrender*** club's \$100 performance bond
- Be ***fined*** not more than \$25
- Be ***disqualified*** from current season divisional standings
- Be required to ***pay*** game officials
- Possibly have offending coach ***suspended*** for subsequent match

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.
- On all district travel matches, the home team is required to provide a currently certified center and two (2) currently certified assistant referees (linesmen). §NW4400
- 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.
- This district does not have disciplinary jurisdiction over game officials. They are treated as sub-contractors and fall under the jurisdiction of FIFA and The CT Senior Leagues.
- It is not the duty of the game official to enforce club or district policy. It is unfair to ask them to do so.

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

DISTRICT LEAGUE	Referee Fees	Qualified Linesperson
U19, 18, 17	\$30	\$20
U16, 15	\$30	\$20
U14, 13	\$20	\$15
U12, 11	\$18	\$12
U10, 9	\$15	\$10

Mandatory Minimum Referee Fees for Premier League & Cup Games

PREMIER	Referee Fees	Qualified Linesperson (Assistant Referee)
U19, 18, 17	\$45	\$25
U16, 15	\$40	\$20
U14, 13, 12, 11	\$35	\$20

CUP	Referee Fees	Qualified Linesperson (Assistant Referee)
U19-15	\$50	\$25
U14-11	\$40	\$20

Good sportsmanship is a major aspect of the values this district strives to instill in all its young members. Referees are sometimes young and learning the game as are the players. Since instituting a zero-tolerance policy for any sort of referee abuse, this district has significantly reduced the attrition rate of newly-certified game officials. As coached, you are expected to act accordingly.



Coaches are also responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Obviously, this district does not have disciplinary jurisdiction over spectators but it does have jurisdiction over coaches and the clubs they represent. Severe fines, suspensions and other sanctions are levied in all cases of reported referee abuse. (See USSF Policy 531-9.3[4])

CARDS & EJECTIONS

Red and Yellow cards become a concern each season. These are issued by a game official, are final and CANNOT BE UNDONE. Coaches and spectators can be ejected but not “carded”. Keep these following points in mind with respect to cards or ejections:

Yellow Cards:

- Usually given for minor infractions or fouls
- Tracked by appropriate district commissioner
- Usually require no further intervention or action

Red Cards:

- Usually given for more serious infractions
- Tracked by appropriate district commissioner
- Report filed with District Chairman by game official
- Pass retained by game official and sent to District Chairman
- 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” as outlined in §CJSA7124
- Suspensions are automatic. Case may be referred to district disciplinary committee by the District Chairman or the DRA for further sanctions.

Ejections of Registered Adults:

- Tracked by District Chairman
- Report filed with District Chairman by game official
- Pass retained by game official and sent to District Chairman
- Case reviewed and referred to district disciplinary committee by the District Chairman or the DRA for further sanctions

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, and §CJSA4111 currently accepted “FIFA Laws of The Game” shall govern all play in The Northwest District. NOTE: The NW District **WILL** be recognizing the new “Unlimited substitution at any stoppage of play” rule.

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 a fee. §NW2800, §NW13000

ITEMS THAT **ARE** PROTESTABLE:

- Qualifications of game officials (current certification)
- Age of game officials (required differential)
- Number of game officials (U-13 & up)
- Field dimensions and goal size
- Illegal registration issues
- Unequal halves (playing time). The referee’s recording of playing time is not protestable.
- 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 \$25 (returned if upheld), postmarked no later than 72 hours after match being protested.

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 \$25 fee 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 are not protestable.

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 will be distributed. Spring winners are recognized with trophies. §NW4500

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 tie-breaker 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 result reports are reported to the appropriate division commissioner by electronic means or printed game card report. It is the ultimate responsibility of the home coach to ensure accurate reporting although either coach may supply game data. A standing list will be maintained on the district website. Timely information is dependent upon timely reporting. Home clubs are assessed not more than \$25 per game report not received by posted seasonal deadline in addition to loss of \$100 performance bond.

**Be sure to Visit the District website for
continuously current standings and a list of
missing game information!**

www.nwsoccer.net

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 §CJSA3100
- Team has not forfeited any games
- Team declared “in good standing” by appropriate division commissioner and/or district chairman §CJSA2220

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

Champions will be relegated in accordance with the Relegation and Promotion Policies on page 8.

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 there is any doubt about the status or affiliation of a team or a tournament, please contact the district chairman.

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.

Foreign Country including Canada & Mexico:

- Requires permission directly from state association. Contact District Chairman for further information.

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, players and coaches. §NW12000, §CJSA7000.

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. Currently, the district disciplinary board hears between three and five cases per season. 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.

U-16 & 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
- Unless mutually agreed upon, games are played 8v8
- Normal standings are kept

U-09 & U-10 MODIFICATIONS

In Northwest District Play, certain modifications to the U-09 and U-10 leagues are observed:

- 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.
- Game time is limited to the times previously stated.
- Play is limited to 8v8 (7+keeper). NO MODIFICATION!
- Pitch is 70-80yds x 40-50yds.
- Goals are 7'x12'
- Center Circle and penalty arc is 8yd radius.
- Goal area is 5yds from each goal post and 5yds into pitch
- Penalty area is 14yds from each goal post and 14yds into pitch
- Free kicks must be taken with opponent 8yds from ball
- All players will play a minimum of 50% of the game, regardless of which bracket they are in.

It is acceptable to use U11 field/goals for district Classic U9/10 matches.

U-11 MODIFICATIONS

In Northwest District Play, certain modifications to the U-11 leagues are observed:

- Roster sizes are limited to the numbers previously stated.
- Game time is limited to the times previously stated.
- Play is limited to 8v8 (7+keeper). **NO MODIFICATION!**
- Pitch is 75-85yds x 50-60yds.
- Goals are 6'x18'.
- Center Circle and penalty arc is 8yd radius.
- Goal area is 18yds wide by 6yds into the pitch.
- Penalty area is 34yds wide by 14yds into the pitch.
- Free kicks must be taken with opponent 8yds from ball.

It is acceptable to use U9/10 field/goals for district Classic U11 matches.



The above U11 field/goal requirements are mandatory for U11 Cup (8v8) matches.

Northwest District Table of Minimum Standards & 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.

Offense	Minimum Sanction	Monetary Consequence to offending club
Referee abuse by coach (as defined by current CJSJA definition)	3 game suspension	Loss of Bond
Referee abuse by player (as defined by current CJSJA definition)	3 game suspension	-
Referee assault by player or coach (as defined by current CJSJA definition)	Remanded to State Assoc.	-
Team actions requiring any game official to summon police	Varied	\$500 fine
Subsequent actions requiring any game official to summon police	Varied	\$1,000 fine
Playing of NWD Match without presenting roster and/or player/coach passes	1 game suspension of coach	Loss of Bond
Indecent gesticulation by coach on playing field	1 game suspension	Loss of Bond
Indecent gesticulation by player on playing field	1 game suspension	-
Alcohol possession by coach on playing field	1 year suspension	Loss of Bond
Alcohol possession by player on playing field	1 year suspension	
Rescheduling of premier match officials less than five (5) days before scheduled match. (Reasons other than weather)	-	\$50 fine
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	Loss of Bond
Ejection (Red Card) of player	Min. 1 game suspension	-
Ejection of Coach which results in official report being filed	Min. 3 game suspension	Loss of Bond
Refusal to leave field after ejection of coach or player	Additional 1 game suspension	-
Exceeding three (3) adult maximum on team side of field	Forfeit of Match	Loss of Bond
Willful disregard of post-match handshake by player or coach	1 game suspension	-
Violation of accepted administrative policy	-	Loss of Bond
Modification to team commitments after deadline, before scheduling	-	\$100 / team
Modification to team commitments during or after scheduling	-	\$350 / team
Disregard for published or expressed district deadline	-	\$25/day
Defrauding or attempting to defraud the district through falsifying or attempting to falsify district documentation, including but not limited to player passes, rosters, travel forms or the like	Remand Club to District Discipline Committee	Loss of Bond

NOTE: This compendium is a sampling only of common offenses and in no way is meant to represent a complete and total list of sanctionable offenses. "Coach" refers to any registered adult listed on team roster who presents him/herself as member of a given team's coaching staff or management.



WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

