

Charlotte Area Youth Soccer League Rules As Amended August 18, 2005

A. GENERAL

1. FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply except as amended herein.
2. NCYSA Rules shall apply to all CAYSL activities.
3. Lack of knowledge of these CAYSL or NCYSA Rules will not relieve any Coach, Team Official, Parent or Player of a team participating in CAYSL, from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. **ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN CAYSL PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES.**
4. The USYSA Seasonal Year runs from September 1 through August 31 of the following calendar year and shall be comprised of up to two (2) CAYSL seasons of play, Fall and Spring.
5. The Fall CAYSL season of play commences with the first league game of the season and terminates with the completion of the last fall game or play-off game.
6. The Spring CAYSL season of play commences with the first league game of the season and terminates with the completion of the last spring game or play-off game.
7. The USYSA Registration Pass is for the seasonal year, September 1 through August 31 the following calendar year.

B. AFFILIATION

CAYSL is affiliated with the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA).

C. CLUB AND TEAM ENTRY AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

1. All Clubs must submit the official "CAYSL - Club Application Form" each year, which will include but not be limited to the following information: Club name, officers and geographic information. All participating Clubs must be members in good standing with NCYSA. In addition, the Club must provide written proof of field availability (fields must be of appropriate size and the necessary amount to support the number of teams entered). Failure to provide a field for play will result in extra fees for each participating team of the club.
 - a. Club Application forms and the Club bond must be received yearly at the CAYSL office by July 1st or such other date as designated by the CAYSL Board. The Club bond amount shall be determined by the CAYSL Board.
 - b. The team membership fee shall be determined by CAYSL and shall be due and payable by January 15th for the Spring season along with the Spring Team Application.
 - c. The team membership fee shall be determined by CAYSL and shall be due and payable by July 15th for the Fall season along with the Fall Team Application.
 - d. Any team withdrawing from the League during the Spring season on or before March 15th will forfeit the entire League fee.
 - e. Any team withdrawing from the League during the Spring season after March 15th will forfeit the entire League fee and the bond.
 - f. Any team withdrawing from the League during the Fall season on or before August 15th will forfeit the entire League fee.

E. AGE DIVISIONS

Under 19 Players born on or after August 1, 1986
Under 18 Players born on or after August 1, 1987
Under 17 Players born on or after August 1, 1988
Under 16 Players born on or after August 1, 1989
Under 15 Players born on or after August 1, 1990
Under 14 Players born on or after August 1, 1991
Under 13 Players born on or after August 1, 1992
Under 12 Players born on or after August 1, 1993
Under 11 Players born on or after August 1, 1994
Under 10 Players born on or after August 1, 1995
Under 09 Players born on or after August 1, 1996

F. DIVISION STRUCTURE

The CAYSL Board of Directors shall determine Division Structure prior to each season with the goal of providing balanced competition in each Division.

G. STANDINGS & AWARDS

1. A team's standings in its division will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the season. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - Three (3) points for a Win
 - One (1) point for a Tie
 - Zero (0) points for a Loss
2. In the case of a tie at the end of the regularly scheduled season, final standings will be determined on the basis of the following tie-breaker sequence:
 - Head to Head
 - Most Wins
 - Fewest goals allowed
 - Fewest Red Cards
3. If three (3) or more teams are tied then the team that earns the most game points in matches between the tied teams shall be the winner. If two (2) teams play each other more than once, the tie breaker will be normalized (point average per game).
4. If a team withdraws from CAYSL during the season of play, all scores and point records for or in connection with that team shall be nullified and all games played or scheduled to be played shall be recorded as a 0-3 loss for the opposing team.
5. If a team forfeits more than two (2) games during the CAYSL season of play, that team will be considered to have withdrawn from the league.

H. GAME INFORMATION

1. General

U-19	Forty-five (45) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-18	Forty-five (45) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-17	Forty-five (45) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-16	Forty (40) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-15	Forty (40) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-14	Thirty-five (35) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-13	Thirty-five (35) minute halves	Size 5 Ball
U-12	Thirty (30) minute halves	Size 4 Ball
U-11	Thirty (30) minute halves	Size 4 Ball
U-10	Twenty-five (25) minute halves	Size 4 Ball
U-09	Twenty-five (25) minute halves	Size 4 Ball

There will be a minimum of five (5) minute half-time interval in all games

2. Substitution

Except as noted, substitutions shall be unlimited with the prior consent of the referee at the following times:

- a. Prior to a throw-in when the ball is in possession of the team substituting;
- b. During a goal kick ;
- c. After a goal has been scored and prior to the succeeding kick-off;
- d. During the half-time interval;
- e. Injury. If an injured player is substituted, the opposing team may substitute one-for-one;
- f. For a cautioned (Yellow Card) player at the time the caution is issued.

3. Punting (applies to U10 Games Only)

Drop kicks and punting by the goalie are not allowed. If a goalie punts, the referee will instruct the players to return the ball to that goalie's team for a goal kick. There will be no punting or drop kicks by the goalie in any U10 CAYSL games.

4. Referee No-Show

- a. If the CAYSL President (or designee) and/or Club Rep is notified that a referee is not available for a match, every effort will be made by CAYSL and both Club Reps to find a referee. If within one half-hour of kickoff, a referee still has not been located and the teams cannot mutually agree on an emergency referee, the CAYSL President (or designee) may cancel and reschedule the game.
- b. If an assigned referee fails to appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, and the

opposing coaches mutually agree to an emergency referee, the game shall be played and the results of the game shall be official (please denote on the Game Report the use of an emergency referee). If the opposing coaches are unable to agree on an emergency referee, the home team will notify the Scheduler or the CAYSL President no later than 7:00 p.m. of the same day. **THE GAME WILL BE RESCHEDULED BY THE SCHEDULER OR SUCH PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE CAYSL PRESIDENT.**

5. Cancellations and Rescheduling

- a. The CAYSL President or Scheduler is authorized to cancel an entire day's schedule due to field conditions. Whenever possible, Club Representatives and referees will be notified of cancellations, at least, two (2) hours prior to kick-off. The Club Representatives are responsible for notifying their teams involved.
- b. A designated Club Representative may judge fields under their responsibility to be unplayable due to weather or other conditions. If Club Representatives designate fields unplayable, it shall be their responsibility to notify the CAYSL President (or designee) and Scheduler AT LEAST two (2) hours prior to kick-off. Club Representatives are responsible for notifying their coaches and teams as well. The home team coaches or managers must then notify their opponents using the Team Contact list. The Scheduler will make every attempt to place field closing information promptly on the CAYSL web site. A rain-out line may also be instituted. If no closings are listed and no calls have been received, the teams should assume that the game is still scheduled and must be at the field or be assessed a forfeit. Games may be called by the referee at the field.
- c. Games with State Cup conflicts, High School Soccer game or ODP game conflicts that reduce the Team's roster to fewer than 11 may be rescheduled. It is the High School/Cup/ODP participant's responsibility to notify immediately the CAYSL President (or designee) and his/her opponent of the conflict. Failure to do so will result in an automatic league forfeit. Failure may also result in a fine, equal to that of a complete game's fees, to the offending team.
- d. No game will be automatically rescheduled due to inclement weather. Both teams must follow the rules outlined in the **Rain Out Form** in order to successfully reschedule a match. Rained out games are not required to be rescheduled.

6. Game Rescheduling

- a. Each team will be allowed one change to their posted schedule per season. A change is defined as one weekend or one game.
- b. No game changes will be allowed in the first two weekends of the CAYSL regular schedule.
- c. The fee for each game change will be \$75 per game, to be paid by the requesting team to CAYSL, if the game change documentation is completed 12 or more days from the original game date. (Note: if a two game weekend is requested, the fee to the requesting team will be \$150 for two games).
- d. The fee for each game change will be \$150 per game if the game change documentation is completed 11 days or more than 7 days from the original game date.
- e. No game changes will be accepted less than 7 days from the original game date.
- f. Each team must follow the rules as outlined on the **Game Change Request Form** or the game change request will be denied.

I. TEAM OBLIGATIONS

1. Each coach shall be responsible for verifying the game location and time via the CAYSL web site. **Each team is responsible for checking the CAYSL web site for any weather-related cancellations.** The home team will wear the light uniform color and the opposing team will wear the dark uniform color.

2. If there is a color conflict in the uniform, the home team, **PRIOR TO THE GAME**, shall be responsible for resolving this conflict.
3. Player uniform shirts (except that of the goalkeeper) must clearly display a unique player number **which corresponds to the player number for that player as shown on the Official State Roster**
4. In accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, shin guards will be **MANDATORY** equipment for all players in all CAYSL games.
5. The home team is to provide the game ball, a **PROPERLY LINED AND CUT FIELD**, and nets. Corner flags should be in place where practicable.
 - a. For purpose of these rules, prepared shall include: lined, cut, nets, and anchored goals; and playable shall mean: available and safe for game play in the judgment of the referee.
 - b. Violations due to a lapse in responsibility may result in game forfeiture or loss of the opportunity to host future home games, as well as having fines levied on the member club.
 - c. If, on game day, a game is moved from the scheduled field to another field - with the agreement of both coaches and the referee - the home team for that game remains responsible for the preparation of the scheduled field or notification of the change to the coaches of the following games.
 - d. For extenuating circumstances not involving a lapse in responsibility on the part of the home team or club, the R&D Director, in consultation with CAYSL Board, may waive penalties.
6. Competing teams, with their ROSTERED coaches and ROSTERED team officials, with a maximum four (4) per team, shall take the same side of the pitch, each on either side of the midfield line. No unrostered individual may be on this side of the pitch. Any team in willful violation of this rule may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - a. Spectators for both teams shall take the opposite side of the pitch. The game officials will be responsible for enforcing these rules.
 - b. All coaches, sidelined players, team officials, and spectators must stay clear of the touch line between the corner and the 18-yard extension of the penalty box, and clear of the goal line.
 - c. All coaches and team officials will be restricted from the 18-yard line to their side of the midfield line.
 - d. **THE REFEREE OR LINESMEN MAY, AT ANY TIME, RESTRICT THE SIDELINE MOVEMENT OF COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS.**
7. When at all possible, a chalk line should be placed three (3) to five (5) yards behind the touch line to keep coaches, spectators and sidelined players back from the field and out of linesman's way. **ALL COACHES, SPECTATORS AND SIDELINED PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBEY THIS CHALK LINE.**

J. FORFEITS

The forfeiting team **MUST** notify the League President, the Scheduler, and their opponent three (3) days prior to the scheduled game time. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the R & D Committee and may also result in a fine equal to that of a complete game's fees.

1. If a team cannot field an NCYSA minimum of players within (15) minutes after the scheduled kick off time, that team will forfeit the game. The game will be entered in the standings as a 0 - 3 loss for the forfeiting team.

2. In the event that neither team is able to field an NCYSA minimum of players, then the record will show a 0 - 3 loss for both teams.
3. Any team found to be responsible for the referee abandoning a match will forfeit that game, the record will show a 0 - 3 loss for that team and that team shall have fines levied upon them.
4. Failure to produce the Official State Roster **or player cards** when asked by an appropriate official within the league's fifteen (15) minute grace period, shall result in a forfeit. The score shall be recorded as a 0 - 3 loss for the forfeiting team.
5. Failure to report to the CAYSL President (or designee) games in conflict with High School Soccer Games, ODP Games, State Cup Competition and/or weekday field closures will result in an automatic forfeit.
6. Failure to notify your opponent at least three days of game cancellation **AFTER NOTIFYING THE LEAGUE PRESIDENT (or designee)** will result in an automatic forfeiture. Failure shall also result in fines equal to that of a complete game's fees to the offending team.
7. Failure to have uniform shirts clearly displaying a unique player number (except the goalkeeper) that corresponds to the player number for that player listed on the Official State Roster or CAYSL Provisional Roster shall result in a forfeit if the R & D Committee finds that the uniform number discrepancy was intended to deceive, to avoid the consequences of disciplinary action, to permit an ineligible player to participate in the match, or to affect the match unfairly in some other way.
8. Failure of the home team to provide the game ball, a **PROPERLY LINED AND CUT FIELD**, nets, and anchored goals, within the League's fifteen (15) minute grace period, may result in a forfeit. The score shall be recorded as a 0-3 loss for the forfeiting team.
9. If, on game day, a game is moved from the scheduled field to another field - and is agreed upon by both coaches - the home team for that game is responsible for the set up of that field and notifying his/her opponent of the change. Failure to do so will result in an automatic forfeit.
10. Failure of a coach/team official to remain out of sight, out of sound after being sent off or receiving a Red Card may result in a forfeit.
11. If the coach/team official receives a Red Card and is required to leave and there is no other USYSA carded adult is available to supervise the game, the game will result in an automatic forfeit.
12. If a suspended coach is within sight and sound or a player participates in the game (s) for which they were suspended, their team shall forfeit the game in question.
13. For extenuating circumstances, the R&D Director, in consultation with the CAYSL President, may waive forfeiture.
14. **If a team forfeits more than two (2) league games during the CAYSL season of play, that team will be considered to have withdrawn from the league. All League matches will be entered in the standings as a 0-3 loss for the withdrawn team.**

K. SCORE REPORTING

1. Each team submits the score electronically within 3 days of the game.
2. Results for division standings will be posted by Thursday of each week.
3. If the reported score is disputed by the losing or tied team, the losing or tied team representative must submit information electronically to the Scheduler within one week of posting the original score. The Scheduler will then make every attempt to validate the correct score of the game.

L. GAME CONDUCT

1. **PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, HARASSMENT OF PLAYERS OR REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Such conduct will be reported by the referee via a game report to the Scheduler and the CAYSL President even in situations where cards were not issued. Any incident of a player or coach issued a Red Card for physical violence, assault, or abuse directed against a referee or linesmen will be subject to an automatic review by the CAYSL Board of Directors. The use of noise making or amplifying devices is PROHIBITED. Rostered team officials are prohibited from smoking on the sidelines during a scheduled CAYSL game.
2. 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:
 - a. Rule on what equipment or accessories are considered dangerous;
 - b. Issue Yellow or Red cards during that entire period;
 - c. Terminate a game for coach, players, or spectator misconduct. The determination of the outcome of a terminated game shall be the responsibility of the R&D Director, in consultation with CAYSL President;
 - d. Refuse to allow the game to be played if, in the referee's judgment, the field is unplayable due to length of grass, inadequate lines, or other impediments. Referees may depart the area certain of receiving their fee.

M. RECRUITMENT

Recruiting violations should be reported immediately to the NCYSA following their procedures outlined on the NCYSA web site.

N. PROTEST & APPEALS PROCEDURES

1. Players, Coaches and Team Officials

- a. **The referee's judgment in issuing a card is not grounds for protest and may not be appealed.** The only basis for protest shall be whether a card was issued in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game or as modified by the NCYSA Rules. Written statements may be gathered by the R&D Director, his Committee or the CAYSL Board from other parties to include spectators. The R&D Director and Committee will review the protest and statements and take appropriate action where warranted.
- b. Upon the receipt of an adverse decision, an appeal may be made to the next higher authority, which is the State Youth Soccer Association of the State in which the game was played with the appropriate appeal fee.

2. Protest of Game Results

Referee judgment is not a basis for protest, rather only violations and misapplications of the FIFA Laws of the Game and as amended in these rules.
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- a. A team may protest the outcome of a game by submitting the protest in writing by mail, postmarked by the second business day after the game, or personally delivered to the R&D Director, by the second day after the game, along with a protest fee of \$100.00 (cash, money order or certified check) for each subject of protest and the reasons for such protest.
- b. If the protest is deemed valid by the R&D Director, he/she will notify the referee and the opposing coach as soon as possible and organize a hearing of the Committee and request written statements from interested parties including referees and spectators. Written statements shall be the only evidence required to be considered by the Committee when rendering a decision, but the Committee may accept verbal statements or other evidence at their option at the hearing. Action which may be taken are:

1. Refuse the protest.
 2. Cause a game to be replayed in its entirety.
 3. Award a game to an opponent by a score set by the Committee.
 4. Allow the score of a game, whether or not completed, to stand.
 5. For misconduct of both teams, enter a loss for both teams in the standings of the affected Division.
- c. A decision rendered by the Committee may be appealed, by either party, to the CAYSL Board of Directors. Each appeal shall carry a fee of \$100.00 (cash, money order or certified check) for each subject of appeal and must be postmarked or delivered personally into the hands of the CAYSL President (or designee) by the second day after the receipt of the findings of the Committee. Board members present shall vote on the validity of the protest, a majority vote supporting the protest shall over-turn the Committee's decision. All appeal fees shall be refunded only if the Board so votes.
 - d. Upon the receipt of an adverse decision from the CAYSL Board of Directors, appeal may be made to the next higher authority, which is the State Youth Soccer Organization (NCYSA) with the appropriate appeal fee.
 - e. Matches terminated by a referee for reasons other than weather, act of God, or force of nature, (e.g., plane landing on field of play) may be reviewed by the League.

O. RULES & DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

1. The Rules and Discipline (R&D) Committee shall consist of the R&D Director, who is a member of the CAYSL Board of Directors, and a standing committee of five (5) members selected by the CAYSL Board of Directors prior to each season of play. A minimum of three (3) members must act on any one case. The R&D Director shall vote only in case of a tie. **A member of the Committee cannot be from the same Club/Age Group as the individual(s) to which the hearing pertains nor, except for the R&D Director, shall any member of the CAYSL Board of Directors be a member of the R&D Committee.**
2. Disciplinary action may be taken by Committee against any player, team official, team or Club which failed to abide by the Laws of the Game, the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, NCYSA Rules or the League Rules. The R&D Director shall keep appropriate records of all such actions and those records, along with the Laws and Rule of the Corporation may be the basis for future disciplinary action.

ACTIONS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST A PLAYER, TEAM OFFICIAL, TEAM OR CLUB INCLUDE;

- a. A verbal warning may be made by the R&D Director. A written record of such warning shall be made and may be referenced in any future actions against that party. A copy will be sent to the appropriate Club Representative
- b. A written censure may be sent to the offending party by the R&D Director. A copy of the censure shall be sent to the offending party's coach or Club Representative, as appropriate.
- c. A player, team official, team, or club may be suspended for a number of games specifically identified to that party. A suspended player may not participate in any game for which he/she is suspended. Suspended team officials may not appear at the game site or its vicinity for which they are suspended. Failure to comply with a suspension will cause the game for which the suspension should have been served to be forfeited to the opposition by a score of 3 - 0.
- d. In extreme cases, upon the recommendation of the R&D Committee following a hearing and two thirds of the CAYSL Board of Directors, a player, team official, team, or club may be banned from CAYSL participation for a specified period of time. The banned player, team official, team, or club may not participate in any CAYSL games during that period. A banned player, team official, team, or

club which does not comply with this sanction may have all CAYSL privileges removed.