



## NVSC IN-HOUSE POLICIES – FALL 2007

### ***STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT***

#### **GENERAL:**

The goal of the Northern Virginia Soccer Club (NVSC) is to provide an atmosphere where our kids can have fun, learn sportsmanship, and develop their soccer skills. NVSC is a nonprofit, volunteer soccer league with an instructional in-house program and a travel (select) program.

In 2002, US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) developed new policies concerning the game for players under the age of twelve (12). Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, USYSA, via the state association (Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA)) has detailed age group specific playing numbers for players under the age of 12. NVSC has adopted the USYSA modified rules for youth soccer, currently referred to as “small sided games”. As a result, the NVSC Rules of Competition have been modified to reflect adoption of these rules.

#### **MATCH COMPETITION:**

- Coaches ***must avoid running up the score***. In the event of an excessive point differential in his/her team’s favor, the coach shall be responsible for reporting to his/her League Commissioner actions taken during the match to limit the differential.
- Violations of this rule may be viewed as not keeping within the spirit of the game and considered unsporting behavior. Penalties to a coach for disregard or repeated violations to this rule include, but are not limited to, suspension from the next match or dismissal as a coach.

#### **KID-SAFE:**

All Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team Managers are required to fill out a KID-SAFE Form. Using the information provided on this form, a background check will be conducted in accordance with VYSA procedures.

#### **PRACTICES:**

NVSC has field permits for designated parks/schools in Prince William County. The Club is working toward an all-assigned practice system, with phasing in this Fall. Please keep your permits available during practice in case you are questioned about field usage. Practice space is limited, please be considerate of others needing space, especially as we work toward assigning space. Practices should fall within the following time guidelines for each division: U4/U5 (60 minutes of practice per week), U6 and U7 (2 hours of practice per week), U9/U10 and U11/U12 (2 1/2 hours per week), U13/U14, U15/U16, and U19 (3 hours per week). In weeks where make-up games are played, these practice times are to be cut in half, to accommodate the added game for that week.

#### **GAME DAYS/GAMES:**

Both teams are to help with field set-up and take down. The first two teams scheduled to play on each field are responsible for setting up the goals (if portable goals are used), nets, and flags. At the end of the day (after the last game of the day), both teams are responsible to take down the field, which includes: putting away the goals – all goals shall be removed from the fields at Hellwig – portable goals that breakdown should be put in their respective bag, as well as the nets. All equipment should be put away neatly, in their respective bags or containers, in the appropriate shed. Please arrive in time such that the field can get set up and the game started on time.

***Hellwig only - At the end of each Saturday or Sunday game day, the portable goals shall be put away into the appropriate bags and shed; all other goals shall be removed from the field.***

***Front of Hellwig – Fields #4 and #5, goals are put off to the side of the field, near the water tower.***

***Field #2, goals are to be moved behind the concession stand.***

***It is important to anchor all goals. “J” stakes are available in the equipment sheds – front and back. A minimum of two stakes per side, per goal shall be used. No games shall be played in which a goal is not securely anchored to the ground.***

#### **RAIN DATES/POSTPONEMENTS:**

The decision to open or close fields is made by the Prince William County Park Authority (PWCPA). The back of the Field Permits provides the phone number to call – note that each field (or group of fields) have their own extension. Field closing pertains to game days and practice days. The decision to close the fields on game days occurs between 6 and 7 AM. It is up to each coach to check the Park Authority phone line to see if the fields are open or closed. NVSC schedules a rain date at the end of the season to accommodate full day rainouts. For rainouts early in the season NVSC may select to reschedule games during the week or on Sundays.

During weekdays, the PWCPA will provide information on the fields after 3 P.M. If the fields are closed, you cannot practice on the fields. The Park Authority number is available for game and practice days; the NVSC phone line contains field closure information ONLY on game days.

#### **RESCHEDULING GAMES**

No games will be rescheduled except for rainouts. Games cannot be rescheduled for convenience of the coaches or players. If a coach cannot attend a game, it is incumbent on the coach to request his/her assistant coach or parent to coach the game.

#### **SUBSTITUTIONS/PLAYING TIME:**

As specified in the Laws, the NVSC policy allows that players shall play equal time. The primary consideration for playing less is a direct request from the player or parent. Our goal is to maximize playing time for all players. Before a player is not allowed to play or playing time is limited for disciplinary reasons, the coach shall inform the League Commissioner and the player’s parents or guardian. In this area, don’t penalize a child for showing up late to practice, sometimes in this area it’s just too hard fighting traffic to show up on time. A time that is convenient to you may not be convenient to another parent. Being late for games is a different matter – but be FAIR.

#### **ALL-STAR TEAMS:**

NVSC coaches must submit an application in order to be considered for an All-Star Coach. A cutoff date is established at the beginning of each season, and all applications must be received by that time. The number of teams per age group will be determined by interest by the players in that age group. Guidelines for multiple teams: One team per age group unless the first team is full (based on the showing at the tryouts); then a second team will be accepted. Try-outs will be advertised on the fields and via email. A minimum of two try-outs will be held for each team at the convenience of the coach. A player may only play on one All-Star Team in their age group. The cost varies for each season depending upon the number of teams entering. NVSC tries to subsidize as much of the cost as possible. Costs for each of these teams are; tournament fees, All-Star uniforms, and tournament patches. A house team may participate in any of the all-star tournaments, but will be required to pay their own way. NVSC does not financially subsidize participation by individual teams – only All-Star teams. All All-Star teams are required to purchase the NVSC All-Star uniform and patches for trading.

#### **HOUSE PROGRAM-ALTERNATIVES:**

***Suburban Friendship League (SFL)*** – The SFL is an organization offering play in the following age divisions: U12, U14, U16, and U19, girls and coed (boys). The SFL consists of clubs throughout the Northern Virginia area, and the SFL acts as a scheduling entity, whereby clubs submit their teams to the SFL for scheduling between clubs. No travel players are eligible.

***TOPSoccer Program*** – looking for a coordinator

***Player Development League*** – in preparation for Travel

**COACH AND PLAYER TRAINING:**

NVSC provides its coaches with training through 1) the VYSA Joint Coaching Program, hosting coaches clinics for E, F, and D licenses, and 2) hosting half-day clinics (non-license) for continuing coaching education, which are taught by licensed coaches, either on the NVSC staff of volunteers or local high school or college coaches. These player and coach clinics are open to any registered NVSC player or coach. House coaches may apply for financial support for an E, F, or D license and requests will be reviewed by the NVSC Board on a case-by-case basis.

**USE OF UNREGISTERED PLAYERS:**

Under no circumstances shall a NVSC coach use a player who is not registered with the League, nor use a player that has not signed the League waiver on the registration form. Roster checks may be performed periodically during the season.