

New Braunfels Youth Soccer Association



League Handbook

New Braunfels Youth Soccer Association (NBYSA)
League Handbook

Contents:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1 OPERATIONS..... | 5 |
| 1.1 Mission Statement | 5 |
| 1.2 Governing Soccer Entities..... | 5 |
| 1.3 Executive Board..... | 5 |
| 1.4 Coaches and Trainers..... | 5 |
| 1.5 Age Group Commissioners..... | 6 |
| 2 COMMUNICATION..... | 6 |
| 3 NBYSA RECREATIONAL LEAGUE..... | 6 |
| 3.1 Level of Play..... | 6 |
| 3.1.1 Division IV (Recreational, age levels U4-U10)..... | 7 |
| 3.1.2 Division III (Recreational, age levels U11-U19) | 7 |
| 3.1.3 Division II (Recreational, age levels U11-U19)..... | 7 |
| 3.1.4 Super II (Competitive, age levels U11-U19)..... | 8 |
| 3.1.5 Division I (Competitive, age levels U11-U19)..... | 8 |
| 3.2 Club Curriculum | 8 |
| 3.3 Age Groups..... | 8 |
| 3.4 Coaching | 8 |
| 3.5 Team Manager..... | 9 |
| 3.6 Season | 9 |
| 3.7 Game Frequency & Playing Time..... | 9 |
| 3.7.1 Team Standings..... | 10 |
| 3.8 Practices | 10 |
| 3.9 Cost | 10 |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|----|
| 3.10 Team Photos..... | 10 |
| 4 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION..... | 10 |
| 4.1 Trophies | 10 |
| 4.2 End of Season Party..... | 11 |
| 5 INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MEDICAL INJURIES..... | 11 |
| 6 FIELD CARE | 11 |
| 7 NBYSA POLICY..... | 12 |
| 7.1 Zero Tolerance..... | 12 |
| 7.2 Uniform Kit | 12 |
| 7.3 Team Formation..... | 13 |
| 7.3.1 Setting Number of Teams..... | 13 |
| 7.3.2 Fully Registered..... | 13 |
| 7.3.3 Team Formation..... | 13 |
| 7.3.3.1 U4-U10 NBYSA 'In House" | 14 |
| 7.3.3.2 Buddy Requests..... | 14 |
| 7.3.3.3 Division III..... | 14 |
| 7.3.3.4 Division II..... | 15 |
| 7.3.3.5 Super II, D1, SCL or Premier..... | 15 |
| 7.4 Payment and Fees..... | 15 |
| 7.4.1 Refunds..... | 15 |
| 7.5 Roles and Responsibilities..... | 16 |
| 7.5.1 Players..... | 16 |
| 7.5.2 Parents..... | 16 |
| 7.5.3 Coach..... | 18 |
| 7.5.4 Team Manager..... | 19 |
| 7.6 Coaching Education..... | 19 |
| 7.6.1 DOC Coaching Session | 19 |
| 7.6.2 Coaching Evaluations..... | 20 |
| 7.7 Player Evaluation..... | 20 |
| 7.8 Practice Session and Games..... | 20 |
| 7.8.1 Size of the Ball | 20 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| 7.8.2 Duration of Game..... | 21 |
| 7.8.3 Field Sizes (yards)..... | 21 |
| 7.8.4 Number of field Players..... | 21 |
| 7.8.5 Absence..... | 21 |
| 7.8.6 Rainout..... | 22 |
| 7.8.7 Other Rescheduling | 22 |
| 7.8.8 Practice Sessions | 22 |
| 7.8.8.1 Practice Length..... | 22 |
| 7.8.8.2 Practice Quantity..... | 22 |
| 7.8.8.3 Practice Rescheduling/Cancellations..... | 22 |
| 7.8.8.4 Session Plans..... | 23 |
| 7.9 Player Safety | 23 |
| 7.9.1 Concussion Awareness | 23 |
| 7.9.2 Hydration | 23 |
| 7.9.3 First Aid..... | 24 |
| 7.9.4 Medical Release Form | 24 |
| 7.10 Fundraising | 24 |
| 7.11 Inclement Weather..... | 24 |
| 7.11.1 Lightning Detector..... | 24 |
| 7.12 Complaints, Grievances, and Protests..... | 25 |
| 7.12.1 Referees..... | 25 |
| 7.12.2 Coaches..... | 26 |

1. OPERATIONS

New Braunfels Youth Soccer Association (NBYSA) is a 501©(3) non-profit volunteer organization that operates in the City of New Braunfels Texas and in Comal County. NBYSA offers youth ages 4 to 19 the opportunity to participate in our recreational soccer program.

1.1 Mission Statement

It is our mission to foster the physical, mental, and emotional growth and development of New Braunfels youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of ages and competition.

1.2 Governing Soccer Entities

- US Soccer Federation (USSF)
- US Youth Soccer (USYS)
- South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA)
- Capital Area Youth Soccer Association (CAYSA)
- Alamo Area Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA)
- Western District Designated Operations Association (WDDOA)
- New Braunfels Youth Soccer Association (NBYSA)

Commented [BM1]: NBYSA moved Interleague to CAYSA Fall of 2023

1.3 Executive Board

The NBYSA Executive Board is the governing board of the league and is responsible for the internal structure and policies. Our Bylaws and Constitution can be found on our website at www.nbyouthsoccer.com.

1.4 Coaches and Trainers

NBYSA coaches are volunteers in all levels of play. This includes all teams registered with NBYSA, including but not limited to Division IV, III, II, and Super II. No paid Coaches will be allowed to Coach a team inside of NBYSA. (May 2019)

a. Age Group Commissioners

NBYSA relies on our volunteer Age Group Commissioners (AGC's) to assist our players, parents, and coaches with questions and concerns. They are responsible for the following

- Assist with the registration process
- Assist with field prep and game day setup
- Field questions for active or potential players, parents, coaches, and managers
- Form teams and submit them to the Board/Registrar and to coaches
- Recruit and secure coaches for all teams in their age group
- Participate in the coaches meetings
- Act as a liaison between and among players, families, coaches, managers, and NBYSA officials throughout the season

2. COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure players and families receive the most current information in an expeditious manner, NBYSA primarily uses electronic methods and our social media pages. NBYSA treats player and family information in a confidential manner and does not provide email distribution lists external to the club.

3. NBYSA RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

NBYSA is a recreational program that aims to foster a fun learning environment for children of all skill levels interested in learning soccer fundamentals. NBYSA collaborates with KidSafe and Safe Sport approved volunteer parent coaches to focus on individual player skills development while ensuring players have a soccer experience that enables them to develop an appreciation of teamwork and good sportsmanship in a fun environment. While the "soccer experience" in this league focuses primarily on having fun rather than competition by participating in playful activities, NBYSA provides each coach with tools which will enable players to develop a basic foundation of soccer skills.

3.1 Level of Play

NBYSA includes the following Divisions:

3.1.1 Division IV (Recreational, age levels U4-U10)

Recreational level of play for U10 and younger players. This level is open to all players wishing to participate. Teams should be formed in a fair and balanced manner. No tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability will be allowed. A core system in which players from a previous season return to the same team can be used provided competition between the teams remains reasonably fair and even. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others: however, if one or more teams consistently win or are capable of winning a large majority of its games in a lop-sided manner, the team may not be allowed to return fully intact the following season.

3.1.2 Division III (Recreational, age levels U11-U19)

Recreational level of play for U11 through U19 players. Teams will be rostered to participate in an intra/inter-association league within AAYSA. This level is open to all players wishing to participate. No tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability will be allowed. A core system in which players from a previous season return to the same team can be used provided competition between the teams remains reasonably fair and even. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others: however, if one or more teams consistently win or are capable of winning a large majority of its games in a lop-sided manner, the team may not be allowed to return fully intact the following season.

3.1.3 Division II (Recreational, age levels U11-U19)

Teams will be rostered to participate in an intra/inter-association league within AAYSA in which the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to a team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted.

3.1.4 Super II (Competitive, age levels U11-U19)

Teams will be rostered to participate in an intra/inter-association league in WDDOA which the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to a team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted.

3.1.5 Division I (Competitive, age levels U11-U19)

Teams will be rostered to participate in an intra/inter-association league in WDDOA which the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to a team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted.

3.2 Club Curriculum

All coaches in Super II, Division II, Division III and Division IV must play players a minimum of 50% of each game they attend. No punishment for missing practices/training is allowed.

3.3 Age Groups

A players age group will be determined by the players birth year per the age group chart found on our website at www.nbyouthsoccer.com. Unless there is medical documentation approved by STYSA, we do not allow players to play down to a lower age group. We allow players to play up one age group by request, and in some cases we allow players to play up two age groups. These cases would be as follows-

1. If the player is a true U8, we will allow them to play in our U9/U10 bracket.
2. In any other age group, by request and at the recommendation of our Director of Coaching after a player evaluation has been completed.

3.4 Coaching

Coaching responsibilities for Recreational level teams are fulfilled by volunteer parents whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Obtain a KidSafe Badge and after successfully completing a background check
- Complete Safe Sport training and Heads Up Concussion Protocol

- Conduct fun-based training sessions.
- Coach during games.
- Host team meetings during the seasonal year.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for parents regarding the communication of a potential Grievance.
- Communicate with the team manager regarding practice & game schedules, tournaments, and other team-related activities.
- Communicate with appropriate AGC for all team related information.

Parents who coach more than one team should not schedule practice sessions to occur simultaneously.

Practice should occur in series, not in parallel.

3.5 Team Manager

The role of the Team Manager is typically fulfilled by volunteer parents whose responsibilities includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- Obtain a KidSafe Card after successfully completing a background check
- Communicate information to the team in a timely manner..
- Complete Safe Sport training and Heads Up Protocol

3.6 Season

Fall (August to November) and Spring (February to May) are individual seasons.

3.7 Game Frequency & Playing Time

8-10 matches per season. NBYSA has a 50% play rule requiring that each player be given the opportunity to play at least 50% of games at which they are present.

3.7.1 Team Standings

NBYSA will not maintain standings for U10 and below. It is unsportsmanlike to run-up scores by >5 goals. In these instances, coaches should focus on maintaining possession and developing other player skills to benefit their team.

3.8 Practices

U4 to U9 - Once weekly; may occur Monday through Friday based on coach availability.

U10 - Once or twice weekly with the team

U11 & up – Typically twice a week

3.9 Cost

Price is age-specific. See website registration page for details. Pricing includes uniforms.

3.10 Team Photos

Team photos are scheduled to occur early in the season and before the scheduled game of the day.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

4.1 Trophies

All U4-U10 teams will be given a trophy or medal for each player rostered to their team.

4.2 End of Season Party

Teams may convene for an end of season party at their discretion. This is a great opportunity for our Coaches to show support and appreciation to our players and parents.

5. INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MEDICAL INJURIES

Excess accident coverage is automatically provided to registered members of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) as a part of the registration fee paid to the State. This policy provides for coverage for registered players, coaches, trainers, and other officials, during sanctioned events including regularly scheduled practices and games. For players or members who have health insurance coverage this insurance acts as secondary coverage. For players or members that do not have other health insurance coverage, this coverage acts as primary insurance. Members are covered:

- While participating in STYSA sanctioned play, practice, or other scheduled soccer group activity under the supervision of an authorized official acting on behalf of STYSA.
- While traveling as an organized group directly and uninterrupted to and/or from such play or practice at the direction of an authorized STYSA official.

Use the following STYSA website link for details regarding insurance coverage:

www.stxsoccer.org/risk/insurance/index_e.html

6. FIELD CARE

Trainers, coaches, players, and parents are responsible for assuring all game and practice areas are clean from trash and/or debris prior to vacating the premises. All coaches, volunteers, and parents are expected to comply with parking rules.

7. NBYSA POLICY

7.1 Zero Tolerance

NBYSA prohibits enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding behaviors, comments, and actions that endanger or threaten the environment of good sportsmanship and safe play for all soccer participants.

These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use of foul language, criticism, abusive or derogatory comments toward referees, coaches, team managers, volunteers, commissioners, parents, board members, or any other individuals.
- Interference with referees, coaches, team managers, or opposing teams.

NBYSA actively enforces this policy. Individuals violating any aspect of the policy will be immediately dismissed from NBYSA facilities and may be permanently banned for the remainder of the season, and/or from the league. NBYSA will notify law enforcement officials regarding circumstances involving physical altercations and/or assault or battery of any players, referees, coaches, or parents regardless of the claimed purpose of age of the offender(s). NBYSA strives to create a safe and fun environment where youth may come together to play and learn physical and leadership skills. Please help support this environment by adhering to the policy while enjoying your child(ren) playing soccer.

7.2 Uniform Kit

U4-U10 Players will receive one jersey, one pair of shorts, and one pair of socks before the beginning of the season and after being assigned to a team. U11 and up players will be provided a home jersey with matching socks, an away jersey with matching socks, and one pair of shorts. Players should provide their own shin guards and soccer cleats to be worn during all games and practices. Any changes or modifications to NBYSA issued uniforms (jersey, shorts, or socks) or any team that wishes to obtain their own uniforms must submit a front and back mockup of the exact design they want to the NBYSA uniform committee for approval. NBYSA has set forth a few guidelines to help you in the design process.

- No player names (First, last, or nicknames) may be put on uniforms.
- The NBYSA logo is the only thing allowed on the front of any jersey.
- Team names or sponsors can be put on the back of jerseys either above or below the number. No team logos are allowed, only team names. For sponsorship information, contact our Director of Sponsorship.
- Numbers must be at least 8" in height and be a contrast color to the jersey material.

Commented [BM2]: NBYSA voted on and approved the following uniform amendment at our 3/8/2022 Board Meeting.

7.3 Team Formation

NBYSA players will register with NBYSA through our approved registration process. Players will not be placed on a team until they are fully registered.

7.3.1 Setting Number of Teams

Together with the commissioners and the Registrar, the President or Vice President will set the number of teams in each age group while considering the following:

- The minimally ideal roster size
- The number of fully registered players
- Target to roster an even number of teams

7.3.2 Fully Registered

In order to be considered fully registered, each of the following must be accomplished:

- Registration forms are complete, including paying registration fee
- Submit birth certificate during registration. Players who previously submitted a copy of their birth certificates do not need to re-submit another copy.

7.3.3 Team Formation

Only players that are fully registered will be added to a team and allowed to participate in practices and games.

- Considering the process described for creating teams, it is possible for a player who fully registers to take the final spot on a team, ahead of a player who began registering at an earlier date but did not complete the registration process.
- NBYSA teams are created using an age group specific randomization method. Player skill and capability are not factors considered in team assignment.

- Teams shall be considered to be the same team as the prior season if more than half of the players remain on the team from the roster.

7.3.3.1 U4-U10 NBYSA 'In House'

Team formation will be determined by the commissioners with input from the President, Vice President, and/or the DOC as follows:

- All fully registered players will be sorted by gender, then date of birth.
- During regular season play, NBYSA does not allow coed teams.
- Each coach is assigned their own child.
- Team numbers will be assigned sequentially and in repeating patterns to the list starting with the first entry on the list and proceeding to the last entry in this manner: 1,2,3,4,4,3,2,1 to ensure an even age distribution throughout the bracket. When reaching a coach or assistant coach's child on the list, they will be assigned their coach's team number and traded for the next age appropriate player on the list.
- Rosters will be reviewed for friend requests utilizing a similar system above. If a player needs to be moved to accommodate the request, a player with the closest date of birth will be swapped from the receiving team for the request.
- Coaches may not swap players. The commissioner in consultation with the President or Vice President may move players only as a response to an unresolvable situation to further balance teams when needed.
- Late registering players shall be assigned based on availability.

7.3.3.2 Buddy Requests

Buddy requests enable two children to play on the same team, if space is available. The Buddy Request process requires two children to specify the other during the registration process, i.e., Player A requests Player B and Player B requests Player A.

7.3.3.3 Division III

NBYSA will place any non-rostered player on a team with open roster spots and will form additional teams as needed. Coaches who need additional players to fill out their roster can request players from NBYSA, but specific individual player requests are not guaranteed. D3 teams cannot hold tryouts to determine team members. NBYSA reserves the right to use a core system to roster players. A core system is defined as one in which players rostered to a team in a previous season are returned to the same team provided that the competition between teams within the club or association in the age group in question is reasonably fair and even. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others: however, if one or more teams consistently wins or are capable of winning a large majority of its games in a lop-sided manner in the same age group within a club, association, or league, the team shall not be permitted to return fully intact the next season as a core team in recreational division play.

7.3.3.4 Division II

NBYSA will place requested players on teams and can help form brand new teams. Coaches who need players to fill out the team rosters can request players from NBYSA and NBYSA can roster unassigned players to the team. D2 teams can hold tryouts and can have only requested players on the roster.

7.3.3.5 Super II, D1, SCL or Premier

These teams must hold tryouts and must fill their own rosters. NBYSA will not recruit players, or help coaches find additional players for Super II and above teams. NBYSA will register each team with WDDOA. Super II teams or above will also be registered into STYSA Spring Cups based on their standings from the Fall season.

7.4 Payment and Fees

Refer to the Registration section of the website for current fees.

7.4.1 Refunds

All refunds should be directed to the Registrar and will be processed by our Treasurer.

7.5 Roles and Responsibilities

The following list includes rules and expectations for NBYSA parents, players, coaches, trainers, and team managers. NBYSA does not allow any paid Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer, or team manager. (May 2019)

7.5.1 Players

- Behavior and Attitude
 - Respect parents, coaches, referees, opponents, and fellow players.
 - Remain coachable; be open to constructive criticism.
 - Work with a ball at home every day.
 - Do not use profanity, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
 - Play the game fairly.
 - Demonstrate good behavior at all NBYSA activities. Players failing to do so may be suspended from future practice sessions and games.

- Practice Session and Games
 - Attend and arrive at practice sessions and games at designated times.
 - Attend all practice sessions and games. Inform the coach if you will be tardy or absent for a practice session or game.
 - Be prepared by wearing proper shin guards and soccer shoes.
 - Remove all jewelry. Considering the prohibition regarding earrings, parents should consider not having a child's ears pierced in advance of the season such that the child is unable to remove the earrings before sessions and games.
 - Players who are bleeding or have blood on themselves or uniforms must be treated, cleaned, and change uniforms, if necessary, before returning to play.

7.5.2 Parents

- Supervision
 - Supervise your child at all activities.
 - Do not interfere with coach and/or player practice sessions/games until team is dismissed.

- Alcohol and Tobacco
 - Do not consume alcohol or use tobacco at soccer facilities where practices and games occur, including parking lot.
 - Do not attend any soccer related activity or facilities if intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance.

- Positive Support
 - Be a parent, not a coach or referee.
 - Respect fellow parents, coaches, referees, opponents, and players.
 - Support your son/daughter in a positive manner.
 - Give consistent encouragement and support to children regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill or time on the field.
 - Stress the importance of respect for coaches through discussions with children and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.
 - Leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance.
 - Avoid placing pressure on children about playing time and performance.

- Pre-Practice Session and Games
 - Assist player in attending and arriving at practice sessions and game kickoffs at designated times.
 - Properly equip players with shin guards, soccer cleats, shorts or warm-ups, and water.
 - Remove all player's jewelry.
 - Inform coach if player will be tardy or absent for a practice session or game.

- Practice Sessions and Games
 - Please do not:
 - Coach during games or practices (to prevent player confusion).
 - Interfere, after you child has joined the team for practices or games, until the team is dismissed by the coach.
 - Go onto the field during practice sessions and/or games
 - Sit on top of or beyond the sideline. Instead, sit 5 feet from the sideline in the designated area, which is typically on the opposite side of the field from the team.
 - Do not stand behind either goal during games.
 - Grievances
 - See Grievance Policy section

All parents will be required to complete a Parent Sideline Conduct Form. This form indicates that the game is for the players and the players alone. Comments from the sideline should only be encouraging and positive. If necessary, NBYSA will convene a committee to review, evaluate, and determine if policy was violated. Based on the outcome of the committee meeting, individuals may be suspended from future club activities. NBYSA strives to create a safe and fun environment where youth may come together to play and learn physical and leadership skills. Please help support this environment by adhering to policy while enjoying your child(ren) play soccer.

7.5.3 Coach

- Complete background check
- Complete Safe Sport training and Heads Up Concussion Protocols
- Respect parents, coaches, referees, opponents, and players.
- Communicate with the team manager regarding practice and game schedules, tournaments, and other team related activities.
- Ensure players understand and adhere to Players Code of Conduct (see appendix)
- Communicate with age group commissioner and/or DOC regarding grievances received and/or policy violations.
- Host team meetings during the seasonal year.
- Dress like a coach. Ensure KidSafe card is available at all times.

- Arrive at practice sessions, games, and meetings before designated start time.
- Plan for fun based practice session specific plan.
- Encourage players while providing constructive feedback regarding areas for development.
- Adhere to 50% playing rule where applicable. (All U4-U10 teams and Division III teams)
- Ensure only players who are fully registered participate in practice sessions and games.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for parents regarding the communication of a potential grievance.
- Policy Compliance: Adhere to and ensure the team (parents, coaches, and players) complies with NBYSA and all governing associations' rules and regulations.
- NBYSA does not allow a Coach to be paid on any level of play inside of NBYSA. (May 2019)

7.5.4 Team Manager

- Manage administrative activities
- Act as the primary source of timely email communication with the team
- Ensure soccer related questions are directed to the coach.
- Game Snacks: Develop a game day snack schedule and assign snack duty equally among each family.
- Parent Contact List: develop and distribute
- Policy Compliance: Adhere to and ensure the team complies with expectations established by NBYSA.
- Team Managers are not allowed to coach or train players unless they meet the minimum NBYSA coaching requirements.
- NBYSA does not allow a Team Manager to be paid on any level of play inside of NBYSA. (May 2019)

7.6 Coaching Education

NBYSA offers several different Coaches courses throughout the season to help ensure that we provide the resources you need. Please visit our Coaching page on our website www.nbyouthsoccer.com for more information!

7.6.1 DOC Coaching Session

Each season the DOC will hold a coaching education session for all coaches. The purpose of these sessions will be to help coaches prepare session plans, run effective practice sessions, and demonstrate coaching techniques.

7.6.2 Coaching Evaluations

When NBYSA deems it necessary, a Coaching evaluation may be done by our DoC during a practice or game. Coaching evaluations can be done for a number of reasons, but primarily it will be to ensure that our members are being given all of the opportunities we can provide them to develop as a soccer player and as an individual.

7.7 Player Evaluation

If a player requests to move up two age groups, NBYSA reserves the right to evaluate the player.

This evaluation will be done by our Director of Coaching. We want to promote player development and we will not allow a player to move up if we determine that doing so could negatively affect the development of the individual player.

7.8 Practice Session and Games

Practice date(s) and time(s) are set by your Coach during our Coaches meeting. We allow each Coach to choose which day fits best into their schedule.

7.8.1 Size of the Ball

- U4 – Size 3
- U5/U6 - Size 3
- U8 - Size 3

- U10 to U12 - Size 4
- U13 and up - Size 5

7.8.2 Duration of Game

- U4 – four 8 minute quarters, 5 minute break between each quarter
- U5/U6 - four 8 minute quarters, 5 minute break between each quarter
- U7 - two 20 minute halves, 10 minute halftime
- U8 - two 20 minute halves, 10 minute halftime
- U9/U10 - two 25 minute halves, 10 minute halftime
- U11/U12 - two 30 minute halves, 10 minute halftime
- U13 / U14 - two 35 minute halves, 15 minute halftime
- U15/U16 - two 40 minute halves, 15 minute halftime
- U17/U19 - two 45 minute halves, 15 minute halftime

7.8.3 Field Sizes (yards)

- U4 – 20 x 30
- U5/U6 - 20 x 30
- U7/U8 - 25 x 35
- U9/U10 - 45 x 60
- U11/U12 - 55 x 80
- U13-U19 - 100 x 130

7.8.4 Number of field Players

- U4 – 3 v 3 (No goalkeeper)
- U5/U6 - 4 v 4 (No goalkeeper)
- U7/U8 - 4 v 4 (No goalkeeper)
- U9/U10 – 7 v 7 (6 field players + 1 goalkeeper)
- U11/U12 – 9 v 9 (8 field players + 1 goalkeeper)
- U13 & up – 11 v 11 (10 field players + 1 goalkeeper)

7.8.5 Absence

- Players are expected to attend team practice sessions and games.
- Coaches should be notified if a player will miss a practice session or game.

7.8.6 Rainout

Games for U4-U10 will be rescheduled on a designated make-up day and if possible, at the same time and on the same fields as originally scheduled. If the number of games cancelled exceeds the allotted number of make-up days, those games may be rescheduled through your Coach and appropriate AGC. U11 and up rainout games need to be rescheduled with the field assignor at Weston and submitted to AAYSA or WDDOA for approval. No guarantees are made that the game will be at the same field or same time as originally scheduled. AAYSA or WDDOA must approve all games to be reschedule as requested. All makeup games can be rescheduled during the week or on a weekend when time and space is available.

7.8.7 Other Rescheduling

Games being rescheduled for a coach's convenience must be made to their age group commissioner at least one week prior to the scheduled game date.

7.8.8 Practice Sessions

7.8.8.1 Practice Length

Practice sessions should be age appropriate and last no more than game length.

7.8.8.2 Practice Quantity

All age groups should have one practice per week minimum. Two practices per week for U9 and up teams are recommended.

7.8.8.3 Practice Rescheduling/Cancellation

Practice sessions should not be cancelled. Players deserve the maximum number of practices available during the season. Parents and players prepare to practice on specific days and times. Last minute practice changes should be avoided. If a coach will be unavailable to hold a practice, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Work with your commissioner to find a coach available to run the practice
- Contact another coach within the same age group to schedule a multi-team practice

7.8.8.4 Session Plans

To be a quality program, coaches must be prepared. Part of the preparation should include coaches to complete lesson plans so their practices will be organized and fluid.

7.9 Player Safety

The safety of our players always has been and always will be our top priority.

7.9.1 Concussion Awareness

All coaches will be required to watch a concussion awareness video (<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/HeadsUpConcussion.html>) and sign a document stating they did so. Coaches should educate their players on recognizing concussion symptoms. Any player suspected of having a concussion will not be allowed to play the remainder of the game or continue practice and will not be allowed to participate again until cleared by a doctor (documentation required). Coaches failing to follow these guidelines will face disciplinary action and possible suspension. You do not have the right to gamble with player safety.

7.9.2 Hydration

Coaches must ensure that players are continually hydrated during practices and games, especially in warmer conditions. Although players typically bring their own water to practices and games, coaches are ultimately responsible for ensuring water is available to players.

7.9.3 First Aid

NBYSA maintains First Aid kits in the clubhouse. Board members on marshal duty will also carry a First Aid kit with them while monitoring the fields. Any player with an open wound should not be allowed to play until bleeding has been stopped.

7.9.4 Medical Release Form

Coaches or team managers should maintain a NBYSA Medical Release form for each player on the team. This form will be distributed to all coaches during the coaches meeting. Information on this form will assist medical personal during a medical emergency.

7.10 Fundraising

Unless authorized to do so, NBYSA members are prohibited from soliciting businesses using the club name. Reproduction of the NBYSA logo or design is prohibited unless written authorization has been obtained from NBYSA. NBYSA may conduct fundraising during the regular season. These fundraising opportunities will be approved by the Executive Board and will run by committee.

7.11 Inclement Weather

While we strive to adhere to practice session and game schedules, inclement weather may cause cancellations. Field closures will be posted on the website and social media.

7.11.1 Lightning Detector

NBYSA, through The City of New Braunfels, utilizes the iStrike lightning detection system powered by Anything Weather. When lightning is detected within a 20 mile radius from the fields, Board members will receive a text and email notification. When there have been no lightning strikes inside of 20 miles for 30 minutes, we will then receive a clear to return to play notification and we will allow play to resume. During a lightning delay, all players/parents/coaches must return to their vehicle.

Coaches and/or parents that fail to clear players from the field after a warning horn will be subject to administrative discipline.

7.12 Complaints, Grievances, and Protests

Complaints are required to be provided, in written format, to the NBYSA President and/or Vice President who will evaluate the basis of the complaint in an effort to determine appropriate action. NBYSA shall comply with AAYSA and STYSA policies and procedures with regard to grievances and protests. NBYSA uses the STYSA Discipline and Protest Procedures and the AAYSA D&P Committee. These procedures may be found on the STYSA website at www.stxsoccer.org. It is highly recommended the originator of the protest discuss the matter with a member of the NBYSA Executive Board prior to filing the protest.

7.12.1 Referees

Referee specific issues or concerns regarding referees may be communicated to the Director of

Referees. Thereafter, issues or concerns may be communicated to the age group commissioner. NBYSA has an on site coordinator available at all times if you have any questions.

7.12.2 Coaches

7.12.2.1 24 Hour Rule

NBYSA enforces the 24 Hour Rule which requires 24 hours to elapse before parents are allowed to communicate with the coach to address issues or concerns. The rule was established to allow emotions to settle for one day before issues are communicated with the coach via phone, email, or during a meeting. Soccer specific issues should be communicated to the coach, not the Team Manager. Thereafter, issues may be escalated to the age group commissioner and/or Director of Coaching.