

# Narragansett Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) Handbook



2026

Rules and Policies for Coaches, Players, Referees, Parents/Guardians and Spectators

NYSA Mission

## **Narragansett Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) Mission Statement**

The mission of the Narragansett Youth Soccer Association is to foster the positive development of youth through the sport of soccer. NYSA is committed to cultivating a lifelong passion for the game, enhancing players' self-confidence, and improving their skills throughout their years with the organization.

## **About NYSA**

NYSA is a nonprofit organization based in the Town of Narragansett and is an active member of Soccer Rhode Island (Soccer RI), in partnership with US Youth Soccer and Superliga's competitive league. NYSA adheres to all Superliga rules and policies for competitive seasons unless otherwise specified in this handbook.

While NYSA primarily serves the youth of Narragansett, participation is not limited to town residents. Children, coaches, and referees from surrounding areas are welcome to take part in NYSA programs. The organization is sustained primarily by a dedicated group of parent volunteers and is funded through player registration fees, sponsorships, and donations.

## **Programs Offered**

NYSA provides a range of soccer programs for children aged 2 to 19:

- **Recreational Soccer:** Offered during the fall season (September–October), open to players of all skill levels.

- **Competitive Soccer:** Conducted during the spring season, including preseason (January–February) and the regular season (March–June). Participation in Superliga’s fall tournament (September–October) is optional and based on the coach’s discretion.
- **Gansett Tykes Program:** A developmental program offered in both fall and spring for younger children, ages 3 years old through Kindergarten.
- **Winter Indoor Soccer:** Coaches may choose to enter teams into indoor competitions during the winter months. These events are independent of NYSA but may receive board-approved support.
- **Tournaments:** Teams are typically entered into the SRI Cup or Festival (depending on age group) and one local tournament annually, included in the registration fee. Additional tournaments may be entered at the coach’s discretion, with costs covered by parents/players.

## NYSA Board

The NYSA Board is comprised of the following positions:

Executive Board - President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary

Board of Directors: Competitive Director, Registrar, Recreational League Director, Referee Coordinator, Marketing and Sponsorship Director, Facilities and Equipment Director, Technical Director and any positions deemed appropriate based on the needs of the organization.

## Player Development and Team Placement

NYSA is dedicated to the growth of every player through a focus on education and skill development. The association strives to place all registered players on teams that best match their age and ability level. Please note that registrations received after the posted deadline are not guaranteed placement on a NYSA team.

## Competitive Soccer

NYSA offers a Competitive Soccer program primarily during the spring season. This travel-based program participates in **SuperLiga**, a competitive league operated within Rhode Island and surrounding areas, including southeastern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Preseason training may begin as early as January, depending on available indoor facilities.

## Tryouts & Team Placement

Tryouts are held at the end of the fall recreational season. While attending tryouts is not mandatory to be offered a roster spot, it is strongly encouraged to ensure proper evaluation and placement. Offer letters are typically sent in November, with player commitments requested by December.

Player placement is based on age and skill level. All players will first be considered for teams aligned with their birth year. Players may be placed on older teams (“playing up”) if their skill level supports it, but they may never be placed on a younger team (“playing down”). Special requests for team placement are **not accepted** during the competitive season, except in

cases of documented hardship or extenuating circumstances. These requests must be submitted to the NYSA Board for consideration and are not guaranteed.

Coaches will have the ability to select their team roster. Said team roster is first subject to approval by the Competitive Director and then it must be approved by the BOD.

### **Team Formation**

Team formation depends on the number of players who try out for each age group. NYSA will make every effort to place interested players on a team, either as rostered or practice players, but cannot guarantee placement. Players are assigned to teams where they can contribute productively, based on their age and ability.

### **Team Structure & Playing Time**

Unlike the recreational program, **equal playing time is not guaranteed** in Competitive Soccer. Coaches will assign positions and playing time based on each player's skill level, effort, and commitment. While coaches may attempt to give all players time on the field, participation in games is not assured.

### **Tournaments & Travel**

Coaches may choose to register their teams for local or out-of-state tournaments. NYSA covers the team registration fee for one tournament per team per year. Any additional tournaments, as well as travel-related costs such as transportation, lodging, and meals, are the responsibility of the players' families.

### **Commitment & Schedule**

Competitive Soccer requires a higher level of commitment from both players and families. Teams typically practice once or twice per week, with games scheduled on weekends—generally four home games and four away games throughout the season.

### **Tryout Process & Evaluation**

Tryouts include multiple skill-based evaluation stations. Evaluations are conducted by both NYSA coaches and independent evaluators to ensure fairness and impartiality. All players are assessed anonymously, and the results are submitted confidentially to NYSA for team selection.

### **Coaching Requirements**

Coaches for Competitive Soccer may be volunteers or paid professionals. All coaching staff—including head coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers—must register through NYSA's online platform and meet certification requirements. This includes:

- A national background check through the GotSport system
- Completion of **Heads Up** concussion training
- Completion of **SafeSport** training (anti-bullying, harassment, and hazing)

Adults age 18 and older who do not complete these requirements are prohibited from participating in NYSA's Competitive Soccer program.

### **Guest Coaches**

Occasionally, NYSA coaches may invite guest coaches to lead or assist with a practice session.

Any guest coach participating in more than one session must register with NYSA and complete the national background check. Guest coaches may not be left alone with players unless they have completed all requirements to become a SuperLiga-certified coach, including SafeSport and Heads Up training, and are officially listed on the team roster.

## FIFA Laws

### Law 1: The Field of Play

NYSA collaborates with the Town of Narragansett Parks and Recreation Department to ensure age-appropriate field sizes for all divisions. The primary location for practices and games is **Domenic Christofaro Park**. When additional field space is needed, NYSA may also secure access to **Clarke Road, Narragansett Elementary School (NES)**, and/or the **Narragansett High School (NHS) turf field**. All field requests and reservations are coordinated through NYSA's Facilities Director.

Field locations at Domenic Christofaro Park are typically designated as follows:

- **U7–U8:** Upper field, back right corner
- **U9–U10:** Upper field, front right corner
- **U11–U12:** Lower field, beyond the basketball and baseball areas
- **U13 and above:** Upper field, left side

The NYSA Board will supply each field with the correct size goals and the required number of sandbags for anchoring. **Coaches are responsible for ensuring that goals are properly anchored with sandbags before the start of any practice or game.**

Per SuperLiga regulations, **games may not be played if goals are not securely anchored.** If a goal or anchor is missing or damaged, the **Competitive Director** must be contacted immediately. If they are unavailable, another **Board member** should be notified without delay.

### Law 2: The Ball

NYSA provides each team with one ball bag containing appropriately sized soccer balls for use during practices, along with one brand-new ball designated for game day use. The **game ball should be reserved for home games**, as it is the responsibility of the **home team coach** to supply the match ball.

All players are expected to bring their **own appropriately sized soccer ball** to every practice.

At the end of the season, **coaches must return all balls and the ball bag** to the equipment shed located at the upper field.

### **Law 3: The Players**

NYSA adheres to the roster size limits as outlined in the SuperLiga handbook. However, coaches may allow practice players to join their teams. These players pay a reduced registration fee and may participate in practices, but they are not eligible to compete in official SuperLiga matches unless they are formally added to the roster and approved by the league.

#### ***Playing Time Guidelines***

SuperLiga recommends that all players in the U7, U8, U9, and U10 divisions receive a minimum of 50% playing time per game to support early player development. While this is a strong guideline, coaches may exercise discretion based on a player's:

- Attendance
- Behavior and attitude
- Effort and skill level

Significant or repeated deviations from the 50% recommendation should be avoided and justified. Coaches are expected to consult with the Competitive Director if a player in one of these age groups is consistently receiving less than the recommended playing time.

#### ***Substitutions & Player Passes***

NYSA follows all SuperLiga rules regarding substitutions during matches. Each coach will be provided with player passes for all rostered athletes. Player passes may be presented in printed form (black-and-white or color) or digitally via an approved platform.

#### **Heading Policy**

In accordance with the U.S. Soccer Federation's "Recognize to Recover" health and safety program, NYSA implements the following guidelines regarding heading:

- Players aged 10 and under (U7, U8, U9, U10, U11) are prohibited from heading the ball in both practices and games.
- Players aged 11 and 12 (U12) may participate in limited heading practice:
  - No more than 30 minutes per week
  - Maximum of 15–20 headers per player per week

#### ***Modified Game Rule***

- In games for U11 and younger, if a player deliberately heads the ball, the referee will award an indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
  - If the offense occurs inside the goal box, the IFK will be taken from the goal box line parallel to the point of infringement.
  - If the heading is not deliberate, the referee will allow play to continue at their discretion.
  - Coaches must know the ages of all players on mixed-age teams to ensure compliance with heading restrictions.
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## Head Trauma Policy

### *During a SuperLiga Game*

If a player sustains head trauma during a league game:

1. The **referee stops the game** and assesses the player.
2. If the player is determined to have suffered head trauma, **they are removed and may not return** to play.
3. The referee documents the incident (player name, number, and a description) in the **physical game report**.
4. The referee submits the report via the **Assigned by SuperLiga** online system.
5. The league notifies the **association/club** of the injury.
6. The **coach and club acknowledge** receipt and notify the player's parent/guardian.
7. The player is **not permitted to resume activities** until a **medical clearance** from a healthcare provider is submitted.
8. The association sends the medical release to the **league**, which must acknowledge it before the player can return.

### *During a NYSA Practice*

If a player suffers head trauma during practice:

1. The **coach stops the activity** immediately.
2. The player is removed and assessed using **HeadsUp Concussion Training** protocol.

3. If concussion symptoms are present:
  - The **parent or emergency contact is notified immediately.**
  - If symptoms are severe and the parent, guardian, or emergency contact cannot be reached, 911 will be called for emergency assistance, and the parent or guardian will be notified as soon as possible.
4. The player **does not return to practice** and is escorted to the parent/guardian at pick-up, along with an explanation of the incident and symptoms.
5. The coach reports the incident to the **Competitive Director.**
6. The player may not participate in practices or games until:
  - A **medical release** from a licensed healthcare provider is submitted to the **Competitive Director.**
  - If any activity limitations or special equipment are required, documentation must be submitted.

## **Law 4: The Equipment**

NYSA adheres to all SuperLiga rules regarding uniforms and required gear, including the use of cleats and shin guards during games.

### *Uniform Requirements*

The official NYSA uniform includes:

- Red jersey – for home games
- Gray jersey – for away games
- Red shorts and red socks

## **Practice Guidelines**

- Shin guards may be removed during non-contact drills, such as passing or shooting.
- For any contact drills or scrimmages, shin guards are required.

It is strongly recommended that players follow game-day equipment rules during practices, particularly regarding the following:

- Headgear and hats/caps:
  - Hard-brimmed hats are not permitted.
  - Winter knit caps are acceptable during colder months for warmth.
- Hair accessories:
  - Avoid using hard or metal barrettes; only soft or flexible hair ties are recommended.
- Earrings and jewelry:
  - All earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and other jewelry must be removed prior to participation.
- Casts or braces:
  - Players wearing casts or braces must receive prior approval from the coach and may be required to submit medical clearance depending on the severity and nature of the equipment.

Coaches may enforce game-day equipment policies at their discretion, based on the nature of the practice. If a player refuses to comply with the coach's equipment guidelines, they may be restricted from participating in the session and asked to observe from the sideline.

### ***Dress Code and Appearance***

Players must dress in a way that promotes respect, unity, and team spirit. The following guidelines apply to all NYSA-related activities:

- **Prohibited attire includes** clothing or gear that features:
  - Profanity or offensive language
  - Political slogans or imagery
  - References to drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
  - Inappropriate or suggestive graphics or messages
- Players should wear appropriate athletic attire during practices and games, including required NYSA uniforms when applicable. Clothing should be clean, modest, and functional for athletic activity.

## ***Social Media and Public Behavior***

Players are reminded that their behavior outside of NYSA events, including on social media platforms, can also impact the reputation of the organization. Posts, comments, or images that promote harmful behavior, harassment, discrimination, or reflect poorly on NYSA may result in disciplinary action.

## ***Consequences for Violations***

Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in disciplinary measures, including but not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from practices or games
- Removal from a team or NYSA program (in severe or repeated cases)

NYSA reserves the right to review any conduct it deems inappropriate and take action it considers in the best interest of the organization and its members.

## **Dual Roster Policy**

NYSA adheres to all SuperLiga rules regarding dual rostering of players. Players who wish to be dual rostered—meaning they are rostered to two separate teams during a single season—must first obtain approval from the NYSA Competitive Director.

In alignment with SuperLiga regulations:

- **Players must participate in a minimum of four (4) games for each team** on which they are officially rostered.

In addition, NYSA has the following requirement:

- Dual-rostered players must play at least **six (6) games with their primary (original) team**, and a minimum of **four (4) games with the secondary team**.

This policy is in place to ensure consistent player commitment and balanced team participation. Requests for dual rostering will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be approved only if they do not compromise the integrity of either team's roster or season.

## Player Pass Policy

NYSA will follow all **SuperLiga rules** regarding the **Club Pass (Player Pass) Policy**. This policy allows a player to be temporarily “called up” to play for an older or higher-level team when needed.

### Coach Responsibilities:

- The coach of the older/higher-level team must first ensure that the player’s primary (younger) team **does not have a conflicting game** at the same time.
- If a scheduling conflict exists, the older team’s coach must communicate directly with the younger team’s coach to discuss player availability.
- The younger team’s coach has full discretion and **may decline to release** the player if they believe it would negatively impact their team.

### Player Selection & Communication:

- The older team’s coach is responsible for selecting the player to be called up.
- Once identified, the coach must:
  - Contact the player’s parents or guardians to confirm availability and interest.
  - Notify the younger team’s coach as a professional courtesy, even if no scheduling conflict exists.

### Respect for Team Commitments:

- If there is no conflict with the younger team’s schedule (from check-in to final whistle), the younger team’s coach should not object to or penalize the player for participating with the older team.
- All communication between coaches should be respectful and in the spirit of cooperation to support player development and team needs.

## Payment for Referees

NYSA will adhere to all Superliga rules and referee fee schedules.

At the start of the season, NYSA’s Treasurer will distribute referee payment funds to each head coach, as scheduling and availability allow. Funds will be provided in small denominations sufficient to cover a full referee crew for the entire season, based on the rate per age group.

### Coach Responsibilities:

- The head coach is responsible for safeguarding and managing the referee funds throughout the season.
- If the referee funds are lost or misplaced, it is the coach's responsibility to replace them.

#### **In the Event of Partial Referee Coverage:**

- If a full referee crew is not present for a scheduled game, the head coach has the discretion to either:
  - Pay the working referee(s) the full standard amount for a full crew, or
  - Adjust the payment proportionally based on the number of referees present according to the SuperLiga fee schedule.

#### **Unused Funds:**

- Any unused referee funds should either be:
  - Returned to NYSA, or
  - Used in a positive way to benefit the players, such as for team snacks, water, pizza, sunscreen, medals, or other team-building items.

### **Law 7 – Duration of the Game**

NYSA will follow all Superliga regulations regarding game duration for each age group. Any deviation from the standard game length must be determined by the certified match referee and should be based on weather, field conditions, or other safety considerations.

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### **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play**

NYSA will adhere to Superliga rules for all procedures concerning the start and restart of play, including kick-offs, drop balls, and restarts following infractions or stoppages, as outlined in the Superliga handbook.

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### **Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play**

All matches under NYSA jurisdiction will follow Superliga guidelines to determine when the ball is considered in play or out of play.

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## **Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match**

NYSA will follow Superliga and Rhode Island Youth Soccer League (RIYSL) rules for determining the result of a match.

### **Goal Differential Policy:**

- The RIYSL will not officially record any game result with more than a 4-goal differential.
- NYSA may maintain internal records of actual game scores for performance analysis and player development purposes.
- This goal differential policy does not apply to U7 or U8 age groups, where standings and final scores are not typically recorded.

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## **Law 11 – Offside**

NYSA will follow the Superliga and FIFA rules of offside, as detailed in the Superliga handbook, for all applicable age groups.

## **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

NYSA adheres strictly to the Superliga rules and the Laws of the Game as defined by FIFA and detailed in the Superliga handbook regarding fouls and misconduct.

### ***Player Ejections***

Any player ejected from a match due to fighting or unsportsmanlike behavior, as deemed by the match referee, will face the following disciplinary actions:

#### **First Offense:**

- Three-game suspension
- If the offense involves referee abuse, the incident will be reported to Soccer Rhode Island for review and potential additional suspension in accordance with USSF Policy 531-9.

- The NYSA Competitive Director, along with the player's coach, the player, and a parent/guardian, must schedule a meeting before the player becomes eligible to return. This meeting will review the Player Code of Conduct.
- NYSA reserves the right to extend the suspension until the meeting has taken place.

**Second Offense:**

- Suspension for the remainder of the season and/or tournament.
  - If the offense involves referee abuse, it will be reported to Soccer Rhode Island and subject to further disciplinary action per USSF Policy 531-9.
  - NYSA may decide to permanently dismiss the player from the association. In such cases, no refund of registration fees will be issued.
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***Coach Ejections***

Any coach ejected for fighting or unsportsmanlike behavior, as determined by the referee, will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

**First Offense:**

- Three-game suspension
- \$100 fine payable to NYSA from the coach, which will be forwarded to Superliga as required.
- If the offense includes referee abuse, the incident will be reported to Soccer Rhode Island and may result in further suspension under USSF Policy 531-9.

**Second Offense:**

- Suspension for the remainder of the season and/or tournament
- \$200 fine payable to NYSA from the coach for submission to Superliga.
- As with players, NYSA reserves the right to remove the coach permanently from the association. No reimbursement of any fees will be provided.

## **Spectator Conduct**

All spectators supporting NYSA teams are expected to uphold appropriate decorum when attending events and to model positive behavior for youth athletes.

To ensure a safe, respectful, and positive environment for youth athletes, all spectators are required to adhere to the following conduct standards at all NYSA practices, games and/or at any related events. The behaviors listed below are strictly prohibited and may result in immediate removal from the premises, suspension from future events, or further legal action as deemed necessary by the NYSA Executive Board.

### **1. Verbal Misconduct**

- Using obscene, offensive, or discriminatory language or gestures.
- Shouting insults, taunts, or derogatory comments at players, coaches, referees, or other spectators.
- Arguing with officials over decisions in a disruptive manner.

### **2. Physical Misconduct**

- Entering the field of play without explicit permission from the referee.
- Throwing objects toward the field, players, officials, or other spectators.
- Engaging in any physical confrontation, aggressive posturing, or unwanted contact.

### **3. Threatening or Intimidating Conduct**

- Making verbal or physical threats toward any participant, spectator, or official.
- Following, confronting, or harassing referees, coaches, or players during or after the event.

### **4. Interference with Play**

- Standing in restricted areas or too close to the sidelines.
- Coaching players from the sidelines in a manner that contradicts team staff instructions or disrupts the game.
- Using whistles, air horns, or other distracting devices during play.

### **5. Unsportsmanlike Behavior**

- Ridiculing youth athletes for mistakes or performance.
- Encouraging or applauding dangerous, reckless, or unsportsmanlike play.
- Celebrating opponent injuries or penalties.

## **6. Substance Use**

- Consuming alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances at or near the event venue.
- Attending events while visibly intoxicated or impaired.

### **Enforcement**

Violations of this policy may result in immediate ejection from the event, a temporary or permanent ban from attending future NYSA events, and/or referral to local law enforcement. Repeat or severe violations will be addressed by the Executive Board and may result in a permanent ban from NYSA events as well as law enforcement and legal action.

If a referee determines that a spectator has violated the SRI, SuperLiga and/or NYSA Code of Conduct—through threatening, unsafe, harmful, or otherwise inappropriate behavior or language—the referee may require that spectator to leave the playing field. On all Narragansett fields, the spectator must leave the premises immediately and entirely.

If a spectator refuses to comply, the home coach has the authority to contact the local police department to have the spectator removed.

Any spectator supporting an NYSA player who is ejected from two or more NYSA events—including, but not limited to, games, practices, skills training, clinics, and social events—may be prohibited by the Executive Board from attending any future NYSA events.

Failure to comply with such a prohibition may result in the Executive Board seeking assistance from local law enforcement and pursuing a no-contact order through the court system.

### **Note:**

These policies are in place to ensure a respectful, safe, and sportsmanlike environment for all participants. NYSA maintains **zero tolerance for physical altercations or abuse** of referees, players, coaches, or spectators. Repeated violations may result in permanent removal from the program.

## **Forfeits**

NYSA strictly adheres to all Superliga rules, including those pertaining to forfeits, as outlined in the Superliga Handbook.

Coaches are expected to make every reasonable effort to avoid forfeiting a game during the competitive season. If a coach anticipates that they may not have enough players to field a team, they must promptly notify the Competitive Director and reach out to the coach of the next youngest team to explore the possibility of using club pass players.

The NYSA Board reserves the right to review all team forfeits. If a team is found to have forfeited an excessive number of games during a season—as determined at the Board's discretion—the Board may take corrective action. This may include disbanding the team for the following season or increasing the team's registration fees to offset any additional costs incurred as a result of the forfeits.

Early communication and proactive planning are essential to maintaining team integrity and upholding league commitments.

## **Protests**

NYSA follows the rules regarding protests as outlined in the Superliga handbook.

## **Hearings-Discipline**

NYSA follows the rules and policies regarding hearings and discipline as outlined in the Superliga handbook:

- RIYSL may choose at any time to hold a hearing regarding a situation that may have occurred during any competition.
- All parties will be informed in writing within 10 days of the date of the hearing. Also, RIYSL may require all parties to submit any relative information before the hearing.

- RIYSL will select a panel of three individuals, who will preside over the hearing and then render a decision, if and when it is required to do so.
- A format for the proceedings will be explained at the beginning of the hearing by the chairperson of the three-member panel.
- The decision of this panel is final.
- RIYSL reserves the right to provide discipline for any violation of its policies where not specified.

### **Disciplinary Hearings – Non-Superliga Incidents**

NYSA maintains the right to address disciplinary matters arising from any soccer-related activity outside of official Superliga competition. This includes, but is not limited to: practices, scrimmages, recreational games, tournaments, and team events.

When a situation is reported, the **NYSA Executive Board** will convene to conduct a formal hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to evaluate the reported incident and determine whether a violation of NYSA, Superliga, or Rhode Island Youth Soccer League (RIYSL) policies has occurred. Any such hearing may be in person or virtually at the election of the BOD and/or NYSA Executive Board.

### **Hearing Process:**

- All involved parties will be notified in writing at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing.
- NYSA may request that parties submit relevant documentation or statements prior to the hearing.
- The Executive Board will review all submitted evidence and determine whether a violation has occurred.
- Based on its findings, the Board will decide on appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with NYSA policies and applicable handbooks.
- A formal written decision will be issued to all parties involved.

The decision rendered by the Executive Board is **final**. Once a final determination is made the party can request an Appeal through the Appeals Process as outlined in the NYSA Bylaws.

NYSA reserves the right to impose disciplinary action for violations of its policies even if a specific penalty is not explicitly defined.

## YELLOW AND RED CARDS

NYSA follows the SuperLiga policy regarding yellow and red cards as follows:

- A Yellow Card is a caution (warning) given to a player or a coach, by the referee, for unacceptable behavior. If a player or coach receives 2 Yellow Cards in a game, it will result in an automatic ejection from that game, and a one game suspension from the next RIYSL game.
- Any team having accumulated more than 10 total yellow cards at any point during any competition, may be asked to attend a disciplinary hearing depending on the content of the Yellow Cards issued. Any decisions made by a disciplinary hearing committee are final.
- A Red Card is an automatic ejection from the game for a player or coach, by the referee. See the Disciplinary Policy for game suspensions.
- Issuance of cautions and ejections shall be done in accordance with FIFA procedures. Anyone receiving a Red Card must leave the playing field and the immediate area. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game by the offending team. Penalties will be assessed by RIYSL for the issuance of Red Cards.
- A referee is required to show a yellow card or a red card to a coach, for any inappropriate behavior. If a coach is shown a yellow card a second time or is ejected from a game, he/she must leave the playing field and the immediate area. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game for that coach's team. Fines and/or Penalties will be assessed by RIYSL for any coach being ejected from a game.

### **1 Game Suspension**

DOGSO      Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.  
2CT          Receiving a second caution in the same match.

### 3 Game Suspension

SFP	Serious foul play.
VC	Violent conduct.
SFP	Spitting at an opponent or any other person.
AL/UB	Unsporting behavior, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.

### Yellow Card Accumulation Policy

NYSA reserves the right to request a meeting with the player, coach, and parent/guardian if a player accumulates **four (4) or more yellow cards** in a single season. The purpose of this meeting is to review the **Player Code of Conduct** and discuss ways to improve the player's behavior on the field.

If the player continues to receive yellow cards after this meeting, **NYSA may initiate a formal disciplinary hearing**. Following that hearing, the player may be subject to further disciplinary action, including the possibility of being **ineligible to return to NYSA teams in future seasons**.

### FINES

NYSA adheres to the policy of Superliga regarding fines

All fines imposed on each association/club will be deducted from its bond money.

- No Corner Flags (after a warning) \$25.00
- Improper or Incomplete field markings (after a warning) \$25.00
- Unavailable field per game scheduled \$25.00
- Forfeited Games 1st Offense \$50.00 + Referee Fees
  - 2nd Offense \$100.00 + Referee Fees
  - 3rd Offense \$150.00 + Referee Fees
  - Additional Offenses Each \$200.00 + Referees Fees
- Failure to pay Referee Fees \$25.00 + Referee Fees
- Failure to attend any mandatory meeting \$50.00
- Playing unregistered Players \$100.00 per player
- Withdrawing a team \$500.00 per team and forfeit of the team registration fee.

RIYSL reserves the right to assess a fine for any violation of its rules not stated in the above list.

### Coach Fine Policy

Any fines assessed to a coach—whether by Superliga, Soccer Rhode Island, or any other governing body—**are the sole responsibility of the coach** and must be paid **personally**. NYSA will **not cover or reimburse** any fines issued to a coach for misconduct, violations, or other infractions.

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS All FIFA rules apply

LAW 14 – PENALTY KICKS All FIFA rules apply

LAW 15 – THROW INS All FIFA rules apply

LAW 16 – GOAL KICKS All FIFA rules apply

LAW 17 – CORNER KICKS All FIFA rules apply

### Coaches' principles of conduct

Coaches' are required to adhere to the principles of conduct in the Superliga handbook as well as additional principles per NYSA, included below in italics.

RIYSL expects all coaches to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner. RIYSL wants to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all. The game should be fair, friendly, competitive and most of all an enjoyable match that involves the cooperation and support of all coaches, referees, players, parents and spectators. The following policy asks that all coaches adhere to.

### SAFETY

- First responsibility is for the health and safety of all players.
- Knowledge of the Laws of the Game and RIYSL rules & policies.
- Inspect all players' equipment and field for the safety of all.
- Supervise and control your players to avoid injuries.
- Implement proper training methods to avoid any player injuries.

### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- Develop the player's appreciation for the game.
- Keep winning and losing in proper perspective.
- Be sensitive to each player's development needs.
- Inform all players on all aspects of the game and its demands.
- Players need to have fun.
- Allow them to be creative, make decisions and give feedback.
- Training should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning

### ETHICS

- Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
- Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide "The Youth Soccer Experience".
- Be a positive role model.
- Set the standard for sportsmanship.
- The result of the game should not be the focal point of the game, and the result differential should not be allowed to exceed more than eight goals.
- Review with players and parents what is acceptable behavior.

- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players, parents, supporters and themselves. When situations of unacceptable behavior occur; the coach must immediately address the problem.
- Encourage all to cheer for all players on the field and not yell and criticize them.
- Refrain from addressing any referee during and after the game. If a coach has an issue with a game or a referee, they need to inform their association/club competitive director about it and not hold court on the field at any time.

## PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents, guardians and spectators are required to adhere to the principles of conduct in the Superliga handbook as well as additional principles per NYSA, included below in italics.

RIYSL prides itself on providing fun-filled and healthy competitive soccer environment for all players, coaches, referees and parents/spectators participating in any RIYSL event and/or league. To ensure that the philosophies of RIYSL are adhered to, it is the responsibility of everyone present to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and appropriate conduct. Abusive, confrontational and inappropriate language or behavior detrimental to any individual, before, during or after a game will not be tolerated. If a coach is issued a caution (yellow) or an ejection (red) due to spectator behavior related to referee abuse, it will be reported to Soccer Rhode Island for further review and the possibility for additional suspension, according to USSF policy 531-9 .

Parents/ Spectators must allow players to play, coaches to coach, referees to officiate and spectators should show support always. Failure to do so will undermine the integrity of the game and the authority of coaches/referees. This could potentially lead to a hostile environment and one that we cannot allow the players to witness. *Parents are vital to the development of young athletes. Whether sitting in the stands or helping as a volunteer, parents must set a positive example. Parents and adults involved in youth sports should be models of good sportsmanship and lead by example on and off the playing field. All compliance infractions will be reviewed by the Executive Board for appropriate actions.*

All parents, guardians and spectators are asked to agree to follow the following Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support to all players (not just my own or my team), coaches and referees at every game, training session or any other RIYSL events.
- I will always place the safety of any child first.
- I will remember that the game is for the players and not for adults.
- I will not coach my child from the sideline.
- I will refrain from any negative and derogatory comments.
- I will treat all players, coaches, referees and spectators with respect, good manners and common decency.

- I will insist that my child treat all players, coaches, referees and spectators with respect, good manners and common decency.
- I will not enter the field of play unless directed to do so by the referee.
- If I am made aware that my child is not conducting themselves in a sporting manner, I will counsel my child to do so or explain failure to do so will result in a disciplinary action.
- *Give constructive criticism during a private moment, never in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc.*
- *Refrain from using profanity.*
- *Abide by doctor's decision in all matters of players health and injuries, and physical ability to play.*
- *Accept the decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of the officials. Parents must stay off the field and remain under control to set a good example for players and other spectators.*
- *Do not criticize an opposing team, its players, fans, coaches or team, by words or gestures.*
- *Support the coaches, players and officials and help teach the value of commitment to the teams, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.*
- *Inappropriate behavior is cause for immediate ejection from the spectator section. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future games and league sponsored activities.*
- *Parents will not encourage their child, or any other person, to engage in unsportsmanship conduct with any coach, parent, player, participants, officials or any other attendee.*
- *All Volunteers must adhere to the Narragansett Youth Soccer Association Sports Code of Conduct, Mission and Philosophy.*
- *Bullying of any type will 100% not be tolerated.*
- *Parents and guardians will encourage players to make every effort to attend all practices and games. If a player cannot attend a practice and/or game, player or their parent/guardian will communicate in advance to the coach.*

Failure to abide by the above Code of Conduct may result in the following disciplinary action....

- A referee/Super Liga official will instruct the coach to ask the parent(s) to leave the field area. If the parent(s) do not leave within 5 minutes, the referee will terminate the game and the RIYSL will issue a forfeit to the team he/she supports.
- A coach can eject a parent from his team and from the field area. If the parent does not leave within 5 minutes, the coach can choose not to allow the parent's child to play any further in the game. The incident shall be reported to the coach's association/club and the Rhode Island Youth Super Liga LLC.
- A repetitive offender may be barred from further league/tournament games and events.

The Player Code of Conduct

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Youth soccer plays a vital role in encouraging physical, social and emotional growth of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage their youth soccer

players to embrace the values of good sportsmanship, discipline and character development. All compliance infractions will be reviewed by the Executive Board for appropriate actions.

- Have fun!
- Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest, fair and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials and fans.
- Learn the value of commitment to the team.
- Put personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
- Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents and coaches.
- Realize that athletic contests, including practice sessions are educational experiences and opportunities.
- Players will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Players will not engage in rude behavior.
- Players will treat everyone, including coaches, parents, players and officials with respect regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, or sex.
- Bullying of any type will 100% not be tolerated.
- Players will make every effort to attend all practices and games. If a player cannot attend a practice and/or game, the player or their parent/guardian will communicate in advance to the coach.

## **Bullying**

Bullying is any intentional, repeated behavior—whether physical, verbal, emotional, or digital—that is meant to intimidate, harm, humiliate, or control another person. It includes actions such as name-calling, threats, spreading rumors, exclusion, physical aggression, or misuse of power (such as social status or authority). Bullying can occur in person or through electronic means (cyberbullying), and it creates a hostile or unsafe environment for the targeted individual.

Bullying will not be tolerated within NYSA. If a player, parent, guardian, spectator or coach is accused of bullying, it will be reported to the Board for review. The Competitive Director will lead the inquiry to determine if the accusation meets the definition above. If there is sufficient evidence as defined above, the Competitive Director will bring the information to the Board who will initiate the NYSA policy on remediation as described below.

In addition to the SuperLiga policy above, NYSA reserves the right to initiate the following disciplinary policy and procedure:

If there is a compliance infraction of the above Code of Conduct (Coach, Player, Parent, Guardian or Spectator), the procedure for remediation will be as follows:

1. The player, parent, and/or coach will be contacted by a NYSA Board Member.
2. The Board Member will schedule a time to meet with the coach, player, and/or parent to discuss the infraction. The meeting will take place as soon as possible after the infraction is incurred. The meeting may be in person or via Zoom with cameras turned on.

3. The Board Member will evaluate and offer an opinion and present any evidence to the complete NYSA Board for a Vote – this could result in penalties, expulsion, or suspension from the program depending upon the infraction.
4. Upon a vote from the NYSA Board, the coach, player and parent will be notified of the Board's position and the appropriate action will be followed.

### **Confidentiality**

Board members are expected to uphold the highest standards of confidentiality at all times. Sensitive matters—including but not limited to players' and families' financial information, scholarships, medical conditions and care, disciplinary actions, evaluations, and other personal issues—must remain strictly within the Board. Coaches will be informed only on a need-to-know basis, as deemed appropriate by the Board.

### **Competitive Director Oversight**

NYSA adheres to all rules, regulations, and policies related to the role of the Competitive Director for each competitive season. All NYSA coaches operate under the guidance and supervision of the Competitive Director throughout the season.

Coaches are expected to communicate with and through the Competitive Director on matters including, but not limited to: field usage, league correspondence, team rosters, player passes, equipment needs, and referee assignments or payments—unless they are explicitly directed or delegated otherwise by the Competitive Director.

### **Home Team/Coach Responsibilities**

NYSA follows all rules, regulations, and policies related to home team responsibilities.

The Competitive Director coordinates with the town's Parks and Recreation Department to ensure that all fields are appropriately sized and properly lined in accordance with soccer regulations.

Prior to each game, the NYSA home coach must inspect the field for safety. This includes checking for hazardous objects, ensuring that goalposts are securely anchored, nets are properly attached, and corner flags are in place. The home coach is also responsible for providing two properly inflated game balls.

Upon the referee(s)' arrival, the home coach should greet them and ensure any field or equipment updates are communicated and addressed. Additional supplies such as zip ties, balls, and sandbags will be stored in the shed at the upper field for immediate use if needed.

Lastly, the home coach must provide the head referee with a completed game card, including the game number, date, time, and team names, prior to kickoff.

## Game Change Procedure.

NYSA follows all rules, regulations, policies and procedures related to SuperLiga game changes.

The Competitive Director must be made aware of all game changes - either home or away games.

During the preseason game change period, coaches will follow the SuperLiga process as prescribed, however the coach will verify home field availability with the Competitive Director to put a "hold" on the field space for the requested date and time (and ensuring there is not already a hold from another team) before finalizing the change in the system.

During the season, it is discouraged to make game change requests unless it is unavoidable as when unplayable conditions occur due to weather, or on a rare occasion when social activities result in a game conflict.

**Unplayable field conditions:** Only a member of the board or a representative from the Parks and Rec department will deem a field unplayable in advance of game time, or a referee once they report to the field and complete their pre-game inspection. The field will be inspected for standing water on the field of play. Photos should be taken as supporting evidence when possible. The Board will come to a consensus about unplayable conditions. Once it has been determined, the Competitive Director will inform SuperLiga. SuperLiga will make the official notification to the coaches, directors and referees. This determination must be made 2.5 hours prior to the start of the game. The competitive director may notify the home coach, but the official notification must come from SuperLiga.

**Social activities:** It is strongly encouraged that coaches request from players and families a list of significant events that could impact the number of players available for a game. Events include, but are not limited to: religious ceremonies, school concerts and ceremonies, field trips, middle or high school games and competitions, etc. If it is not possible to player pass players from another team, the coach will send a request to the Competitive Director explaining why a game needs to be changed. The Competitive Director will first seek the approval from SuperLiga before any proposals are made with the opponent's coach. Once approved, the coach will follow the game change process with the competitive director for field availability and in the system.

## Financial Policy

Payment for registration fees are expected at the time of registration. NYSA offers multiple payment options for families. Examples include:

- Register now, pay now
- Register now, pay half now, half later
- Register now, pay all later

If a family cannot follow the above payment schedule, the parent or guardian should reach out to the player's coach or Competitive Director seeking assistance. Scholarships in various amounts (50%, 100%) may be given to families who qualify. When possible, supporting documentation should be provided to the competitive director to executive board to determine scholarship application. Refusal to submit supporting documentation will not be used against the family when determining availability of funds. Examples of supporting documentation include, but are not limited to: Medicaid qualification letter, foster placement letter, formal hardship request, household pay stubs, etc.

## **NYSA Registration Fee Refund Policy**

NYSA understands that circumstances may arise that prevent a player from participating after registration. However, registration fees cover league expenses that are incurred before the season begins, including uniforms (during recreation season), insurance, field permits, referee scheduling, and league dues. The following policy ensures fairness to families while maintaining the financial stability of the league.

### **Refund Requests**

- All refund requests must be submitted **in writing** to the NYSA Registrar.
- Refunds will be issued to the original payer and processed within **30 days** of approval.
- All refunds are subject to a **\$25 administrative fee** to cover processing costs.

### **Refund Schedule**

- **Before Team Placement:** 100% refund minus the administrative fee.
- **After Team Placement but Before First Scheduled Practice:** 50% refund minus the administrative fee.
- **After First Scheduled Practice:** No refunds will be issued, except under the exceptions listed below.

### **Exceptions**

A full or partial refund may be considered after the first scheduled practice only in the following situations:

- **Medical Injury/Illness:** A written note from a licensed healthcare provider is required.
- **Relocation:** Proof of address change outside the NYSA service area is required.  
All exceptions will be reviewed and decided upon by the NYSA Executive Board, and their decision will be final.

### **Non-Refundable Situations**

- Player withdrawal due to scheduling conflicts, change in interest, or disciplinary removal from the program.
- Season interruptions or cancellations caused by weather, facility closures, or other circumstances beyond NYSA's control.