

NORTHERN VALLEY

YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

NVYSL Age Group Summary – U12

This summary is not intended to replace the NVYSL Rules document. It is simply a condensed version of the rules designed to highlight the major rule differences at the U12 age group.

Coach Responsibilities

- The coach is responsible for providing a safe, fun environment for the players and spectators.
- The coach of each team is responsible for the actions of the team players, parents and spectators.
- **Team players are to be seated on same sideline as parents, on opposite sideline from opponents, if possible.**
- Win or Lose, you are expected to set the example for good sportsmanship. The NVYSL is a recreational league. Sportsmanship is more important than team standings in this league. That is why we don't keep score.

Referees

At this age group, you will have young and more experienced referees than at U10. They will make mistakes. It is not your job to educate them. They have been instructed to NEVER change a call based on complaints from coaches or parents. If a referee makes a call you don't agree with, unless you have safety concerns (ex. slide tackling), accept the fact that a mistake was made and move on. Enter any concerns or constructive feedback into your game report. The league will investigate and address any performance issues with the officials. If you insist on confronting the referee and publically arguing with the calls, it will be your behavior that the league will seek to correct and/or remove.

U12 Rule Highlights

- 50 minute games broken down into two 25 minute halves. Referee fee is \$15 per team.
- Format is 9v9 with a size FOUR ball. Maximum roster–18 players, minimum players to play game –5, Less than 5 players equals forfeit. **Teams MUST play with equal number of players on the field with the exception of the 5-7-9 rule (see below).**
- Game substitutions shall be made at the following times: own team throw-in, any goal kick, after goals are scored or if an injury occurs. Never on corner kicks or direct or indirect free kicks.
- All players are to play at least ½ of each game. Only exceptions are for player injury.
- Goal Kicks are taken from anywhere in the six yard box. Most goalies will put it on the line.
- Corner Kicks are taken from where the sideline and the goal line meet.
- Penalty kicks are awarded.
- Direct and in-direct Kicks are awarded.
- Off-sides shall be called.
- Goalkeeper has possession when any part of his/her hand or arm is touching the ball.
- Six second goalkeeper rule is in effect.
- Rule against allowing a goalkeeper to handle a deliberate foot pass or throw in from a teammate is in effect.
- Slide tackling is strictly forbidden at ALL age groups.
- **5-7-9 rule:** A five goal lead, leading team MUST remove one player OR losing team MAY add one player, seven goal lead, leading team MUST remove second player OR losing team MAY add second player, decision to add/remove players is LOSING teams coach ONLY. Nine goal lead, leading coach will receive a warning from the league, second offense, ONE game suspension, third offense, TWO game suspension, etc.... BLOWOUTS are highly discouraged!!!
- **In case of forfeited game, NO referee fees are to be paid at the field as the forfeiting team will pay BOTH teams referee fees out of their NVYSL bond.**
- **In case of bad weather and if both teams arrive at the field and the game is then cancelled due to the weather, the referee fees ARE to be paid.**
- ALL league info can be found at www.NVYSL.com.