

# NKYA



## Laws of the Game Youth Outdoor Soccer

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## GUIDELINES

### AGE LIMITS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Under 4</b>  | (3 years old, not 4 before 10/01/current year)            |
| <b>Under 6</b>  | (4 & 5 years old, not 6 before 10/01/current year)        |
| <b>Under 8</b>  | (6 & 7 years old, not 8 before 10/01/current year)        |
| <b>Under 10</b> | (8 & 9 years old, not 10 before 10/01/current year)       |
| <b>Under 12</b> | (10 & 11 years old, not 12 before 10/01/current year)     |
| <b>Under 15</b> | (12, 13 & 14 years old, not 15 before 10/01/current year) |

NOTE: A current year in soccer starts with the Fall Season ends and when the next Fall Season starts. For example if the Fall Season starts in August 2009, then the current year would be August 2009 through July 2010.

### EXCEPTIONS:

A player may move up to the next division at the request of the parent(s). No player may move up two divisions. NKYA Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust age groups and/or participants based upon abilities and/or total number of participants.

### PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY WITHIN THE NKYA

- Participation of a player or manager in NKYA Soccer program will not be permitted if they or their family have any outstanding debt, or have not returned equipment from a previous program/season.
- Violation of any rules pertaining to participation and or suspension will result in a player or manager being declared ineligible.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- The NKYA Soccer program is played under FIFA laws (Federation International Football Association) as recommended by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association. All Laws noted here in, override the FIFA laws. For FIFA laws visit website:  
<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html>
- Each coach is responsible for the field they are playing on, help in picking up cups, garbage, etc., after each game. If field litter becomes a problem the manager and team will not be eligible for using the facilities. Repeated violations will result in game **Forfeiture**. These facilities benefit us all please help keep them clean & safe.
- **If games have been scheduled for your team during the week, there will be no practices for your team on any NKYA maintained field.**
- **In case of a first or second place tie, all teams will share division awards.**
- NKYA Soccer Administrators will approve changes to league rules prior to the start of each season.
- Rules can only be changed during the season if one of these apply:
  - Unanimous agreement between all coaches in the division and the NKYA Soccer Administration
  - Changes have been submitted and approved by a majority vote of the NKYA Board of Directors at a regular monthly meeting
  - The Soccer Administration determines that child safety requires a change to the rules.
- **RULES CANNOT BE CHANGED OR WAIVED BY ANYONE EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE.**

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## GUIDELINES

### PLAYER/PARENT WAIVER:

- Player/parent waivers are for the current soccer season which starts when the parent signs the registration form and ends when the player's team finishes its regular playing season and is determined not to participate in any post season tournaments representing the NKYA.

### ALL PLAYERS

- Must have access to a birth certificate. It is recommended that all players have a physical examination and have a Doctor's permission to participate in the NKYA soccer program.
- All players from the U12 division and up must sign the Player Code of Conduct before being allowed to play in the regular soccer season. Failure to do so may result in that player or players, being suspended for one game or until the Player Code of Conduct is signed. Failure to sign will result in suspension from the league and no refund or letter of credit will be given.
- **NO** player shall be permitted to wear jewelry on the playing field, (i.e. earrings, necklaces, bracelets). Referees have the right to have any other item removed from a player if in the **Referee's Judgment** it could be considered dangerous.

### REGULAR PLAYING SEASON

- A season schedule will be published prior to the start of the regular season. Any games that are played over the game minimum are considered a bonus.

### EQUIPMENT

- The standard soccer uniform consists of a numbered shirt, shorts, soccer socks, shin guards and rubber or plastic cleated soccer shoes. Football and baseball shoes must have the front toe cleat removed. Gym shoes or indoor soccer shoes are acceptable, but not recommended since games could be played on wet grass or while snowing or raining.
- **NKYA WILL SUPPLY SHIRTS ONLY.**
- Shin guards are **MANDATORY** and must be fully covered, **no exceptions.**
- Mouth guards may be used by anyone and are recommended for players wearing braces as well as players in the goalie position.
- **NO** knee pads allowed. An Ace bandage type knee brace is allowed with the exception that no clips.
- **NO** loose fitting clothing. Anything that someone could trip, or get caught on to cause injury.
- Sweat pants and sweatshirts are permitted under the soccer shirt and shorts when colder weather occurs.
- Players who wear prescription glasses should wear elastic bands or sports goggles. **NO SUNGLASSES**
- Players with long hair must use elastic hair bands when tying hair up. **NO** metal of any kind is to be worn on the hair bands. This would prevent injury when heading the ball or players bumping heads during play.

### RESTRICTED AREAS

- **NO** one is permitted to coach from the spectator sidelines.
- **NO** one is permitted to stand behind the soccer goals.
- **NO** one is permitted to stand within 20 feet of the end line.
- Coaches **MUST** not leave the confines of the substitution box when coaching during a game. They must stay on their half of the field and within the designated coaching area. **Does not pertain to U6 division and lower**

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## GUIDELINES

### GRACE PERIOD

- All games will start at the scheduled time. There will be **NO GRACE PERIOD** for games scheduled within the NKYA Soccer program.

### RAINOUTS, SUSPENDED, POSTPONED GAMES

- Any game stopped due to darkness, weather conditions, field conditions, or any other safety reasons will be played in their entirety unless: The game is more than half way complete in which it will be considered a legal game. In the event a game is not past the half way point, it will be re-scheduled by the Administrator as soon as possible only if your team will not reach your 8 game minimum. Every attempt will be made to make this date as convenient as possible for both teams. **HOWEVER**, if too many conflicts arise then the Administrator will set a date and time and the game will be scheduled. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If one or both teams fail to have enough players then the game will be considered a **FORFEIT**

### DISCIPLINE

- Coaches
  - Refer to "Coach Code of Conduct"
- Players
  - Follows FIFA soccer laws.
  - Refer to "Player Code of Conduct"
- Spectators
  - Spectators are subject to the same laws of conduct and good sportsmanship as coaches and players.
  - Refer to "Player/Coach Code of Conduct"
- The use of the **RED CARD** or **YELLOW CARD** by a referee applies to players and coaches. A **RED CARD** ejects a player or coach for the rest of the game plus a one game suspension. Two **YELLOW CARDS** equal one **RED CARD**. A **YELLOW CARD** sends a warning (caution) to the player or coach for breaking a law that involves unsportsmanlike conduct. Not all unsportsmanlike acts have to receive a warning first and may receive a **RED CARD** if the referee determines the offense severe
- If a player or coach is ejected from any second game for any offense, the player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season and no refunds will be given. Also, a hearing could be held before the Board of Directors to determine if additional action will or should be taken.
- **NOTE - Referees are in charge of the game.**

### SPORTSMANSHIP

- After each game all players and coaches will shake hands and say "Good Game "," Congratulations", etc. All players and coaches will refrain from derogatory remarks.
- Coaches - if a negative situation arises, you are expected to handle it at once.

### PROPER DRESS ATTIRE

- Coaches, players and spectators are expected to wear reasonable clothes during practices and games. Shirts must not have any profanity, display nudity or make reference to drugs or any thing that could be considered in poor taste. Shorts must be of normal length.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## GUIDELINES

### THE ADMINISTRATOR

- The Soccer Administrator has the authority to suspend any coach, player or spectators. Refer to the "Coach and Player Code of Conduct".
- All ejection's and forfeitures will be reported to the League Administrator by the Center referee. All ejection's and forfeitures will be reviewed by the administrator to determine if additional action should be taken by the organization.
- Once the first game of the season has been played, NO games will be rescheduled unless due to weather or facility availability.
- The League Administrator in cooperation with the head referee has the authority to take control of a game in the event of problems. Refer to the "Coach Code of Conduct".

### PARKING

- The parking area for soccer games belongs to Kenton County Parks & Recreation. Please drive slowly and park in designated areas. Please help keep this facilities clean and litter free.

### WEATHER HOTLINE

- Coaches and players may access the **HOTLINE** at **525-8980** to see if a game has been canceled due to weather or field conditions. The League Administrator will inspect the fields and leave a message on the Hotline at least one hour prior to game time only if there are cancellations. Heavy usage of this service will give a busy signal so keep trying.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## GAME RULES HIGHLIGHTS

### GAME RULES

- Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Each coach should try to give each player equal playing time. However, sickness, injury, or discipline should be the only reasons why a player plays less than half or not at all. The coach is to notify the Center Referee of that game when any of the above reasons occur.
- In the interest of good sportsmanship, coaches and teams are instructed to not humiliate or demoralize an opposing team by running up the score. It is asked that coaches re-position players on the field rather than keep scoring at will against a lesser skilled team.
- Sliding is permitted, but no **SLIDE TACKLES**. It is the referee judgment call.
- Only one Head Coach and two assistant coaches are allowed in their coaching area. This area extends from mid-field to the top of the penalty box. At no time should any coach cross the mid-field line into the other coach's area.
- Each game begins with the referee's inspection of equipment and uniform at mid-field. After inspection, players and coaches should return to their bench area and get ready to take the field for the start of the game.
- No game can be played under protest. The decisions by the referees are final. Any questions may be asked in a calm manner after the game to the league Administrator.
- You can not score a goal on a **Free Indirect Kick**, until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- At halftime, both teams must switch goals.
- Division U4 & U6 will have one (1) coach on the field from each team during the game to direct and instructor their players.

### TIE GAMES

- At the end of regulation if the score is tied, the game is over and each team is credited with a tie in the standings.

### Goalkeeper

- A goalie may slide any where in the penalty area for the ball to protect themselves whiling going for the ball. Remember every situation is open to interpretation by the Referee and they have the choice to call a foul if they feel a foul was committed by the goalie.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## Referee Signals

### Law I-The Field:

- NKYA will use the fields at Richardson Park

|               | <b>U4</b>    | <b>U6</b>   | <b>U8 &amp; U10</b>   | <b>U12 &amp; U15</b>  |
|---------------|--------------|---|---|---|
| Length        | 60 Feet      | 120 feet  | 180 feet  | 230 feet  |
| Width         | 50 Feet      | 50 feet   | 120 feet  | 140 feet  |
| Center Circle | None         | 4 yard radius   | 6 yard radius   | 8 yard radius   |
| Goal Area     | None         | 6 yards from each goal post, 6 yards into the field of play | 6 yards from each goal post, 6 yards into the field of play | 6 yards from each goal post, 6 yards into the field of play |
| Penalty Area  | None         | 10 yards from goal post, 10 yards into the field of play    | 10 yards from goal post, 10 yards into the field of play    | 14 yards from goal post, 14 yards into the field of play    |
| Penalty Mark  | None         | None  | 8 yards from Goal Line                                      | 8 yards from Goal Line                                      |
| Penalty Arc   | None         | None  | 6 yards radius from Penalty Mark out side Penalty Area      | 8 yards radius from Penalty Mark out side Penalty Area      |
| Corner Arc    | None         | 2 foot radius   | 1 yard radius   | 1 yard radius   |
| Goal          | Pop Up Goals | 4 feet x 9.5 feet   | 6 feet x 12 feet  | 7 feet x 21 feet  |

### Law II-The Ball:

- Division U4, U6 & U8: Size three (3)
- Division U10 & U12: Size four (4)
- Division U15: Size five (5)

### Law III-Number of Players:

|                   | <b>U4</b> | <b>U6</b> | <b>U8</b> | <b>U10</b> | <b>U12</b> | <b>U15</b> |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Number Of Players | 3 v 3     | 6 v 6     | 9 v 9     | 9 v 9      | 8 v 8      | 8 v 8      |
| Goal Keeper       | No        | Yes       | Yes       | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
| Min To Start Game | 2         | 4         | 5         | 5          | 5          | 5          |
| Max on Team       | 6         | 12        | 18        | 18         | 16         | 16         |
| Ideal On A Team   | 5         | 10        | 13        | 13         | 11         | 11         |

- **Playing time:** Each player MUST play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Each coach should try to give each player equal playing time. Remember focus on fun, not winning.
- Most teams are coed, which NKYA prefers, but there are times when a team may be all boys or all girls.
- **ONLY** those players assigned to a team and appear on the team roster are permitted to play. If a team is found to be in violation of this rule prior to a game, that player will not be permitted to play. If a team is found to be in violation of this rule during or after a game, the offending team will be credited with a forfeit and a loss in the standings.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## Laws Of The Game Modifications

- **Minimum Number of Players Requirement:** If you can't meet this requirement, then you automatically forfeit the game. This team can add players in the following manner, so they can play a game, but the team will still forfeit.
  - Players from the opposing team
  - Players from other teams in the same division
  - Players from other teams in a lower division.
- **Substitutions:**
  - U4 & U6: Please try to limit substitution for injury players only.
  - U8: Only for an injury player.
  - U10, U12 & 15: Substitution may be made on an unlimited basis. The player should wait in the substitution box at the 50 yard line, until the referee signal for the substitution. Substitution can occur
    - At half time
    - Goal Kicks
    - After a goal is scored, but prior to the kickoff
    - Your own possession on throw-ins
    - Team not in possession on thrown-in may sub when the team in possession is also substituting.

### Law IV- Player Equipment:

- Footwear: Tennis shoes, outdoor soccer cleats or indoor soccer shoes.
- Shin-guards: MANDATORY and must be fully covered, no exceptions.

### Law V-The Referee:

- USSF Certified Referee.
- **Referee's decisions shall be final**
- All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

### Law VI-Linesman:

- U4 & U6: None
- U8, U10, U12 & U15: Use club linesman

### Law VII-Duration of the Game:

- **U4: The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, five (5) minute quarters.** There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time break of three (3) minutes. There will be a fifteen (15) minute warm-up/practice before each game. This practice time will start at the time on your game schedule.
- **U6: The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, six (6) minute quarters.** There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time break of three (3) minutes. There will be a five (5) minute warm-up/practice before each game. This practice time will start at the time on your game schedule.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## Laws Of The Game Modifications

- **U8: The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.** There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time break of three (3) minutes
- **U10, U12 & U15: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes.** There shall be a half-time break of three (3) minutes. There is no practice or warm up time.

### Law VIII-The Start of Play:

- A Kick-Off is considered an Indirect Kick.

### Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:

- Conform to FIFA

### Law X-Method of Scoring:

- U4 & U6: We will not keep score in this division.
- U8, U10, U12 & U15: Conform to FIFA

### Law XI-Off-Side

- U4, U6 & U8: There shall be NO offsides
- U10, U12 & U15: Conform to FIFA

### Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:

- No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players except by the referee.
- U4, U6, U8 & U10: The Referee should explain infractions to the offending player.
- U12 & U15: The Referee should explain infractions to the offending player when asked by the player.

### Law XIII-Free Kicks:

- U4 & U6: All fouls shall result in a **Free Indirect Kick** with the opponents three (3) yards away.
- U8: All fouls shall result in a **Free Indirect Kick** with the opponents six (6) yards away.
- U10, U12 & U15: The referee will signal a **Free Indirect or Direct Kick**. The opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed
- You can not score a goal on a **Free Indirect Kick**, until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

### Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:

- **U4, U6 & U8: No** Penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.
- **U10, U12 & U15:** Penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## Laws Of The Game Modifications

### **Law XV-Throw-In:**

- U4, U6 & U8: A second throw must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee should explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.
- U10, U12 & U15: Conform to FIFA

### **Law XVI-Goal Kick:**

- U4: **No** goal kicks. A throw-in will be taken at the nearest corner arc.
- U6, U8, U10, U12 & U15: Conform to FIFA.

### **Law XVII-Corner Kick:**

- U4: **No** Corner Kicks. A throw-in will be taken at the nearest corner arc.
- U6: Opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.
- U8: Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.
- U10, U12 & U15: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

# NORTHERN KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

## Referee Signals

