

BUFFALO & WESTERN NEW YORK JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2009 SEASON

EFFECTIVE 1/01/2009

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Policy 1 - Eligibility of Teams to Participate in League Competition:

- A. Pursuant to the purpose of B&WNYJSL as an entry level Travel Soccer League, the Board of B&WNYJSL reserves the right to refuse entry to any team that does not meet the requirements of the B&WNYJSL, NYSWYSA, USYSA and USSF.

Policy 2 - Registration Process for Club Teams:

- A. Member Clubs may enter teams in any age group offered, provided each team has sufficient players, a licensed coach and a playing field available for the home game portion of the schedule.
- B. Team registration must be completed in full on web site and the Treasurer must receive the bond check by the February monthly meeting. Any subsequent changes in club team status in these matters must be communicated to the Registrar immediately.
- C. Clubs admitted into League membership during the current playing season will be required to post a bond of **\$75** per team entered, while Clubs that are members from prior playing seasons will be required to post a bond of **\$50** per team entered.
- D. Bond monies will be returned at the end of each playing season, net of any unpaid fines or other costs that properly chargeable to the Club. It is mandatory that each member club have at least one representative at 7 of the 8 B&WNYJSL meetings. No proxies are allowed for meeting attendance. A representative can be any active member of the active club.
- E. **Clubs dropping teams in the U10 to U14 Divisions after March 15 will forfeit the bond for that team. Clubs dropping teams after April 15 will forfeit the bond and an additional \$50 penalty will be incurred. Clubs dropping a team in the U15 to U19 divisions after April 1 will lose their bond money. If the team is dropped after May 1, an additional \$50 fee will be incurred.**
- F. The dates for league meetings are announced on the website calendar. Clubs that fail to attend a minimum of 7 meetings in the February 2009 to January 2010 B&WNYJSL year will be required to post a meeting bond of \$250. This bond will be forfeited if the attendance requirement of 7 B&WNYJSL meetings during the following year is not attained.
- G. Teams may not be registered if the club is in BAD STANDING. Bad standing is defined as the club failure to pay required fees, failure to meet the meeting requirements or for failure to adhere to the policies of the league.
- H. Each participating Club will receive written notice of the placement of their teams. The placement of teams into playing divisions is solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Any club may appeal the placement of a team; however, any appeals must be made to the Board of Directors, in writing. The appeal must include the team's rosters for the current year and past year, the past year's record, and any other pertinent information. This must be submitted within 7 days of the notification of tentative placement.
- I. DORMANCY Member clubs having a period of dormancy (no teams playing in a season) must reapply for membership under Policy 4.

Policy 3 – Fees and Fines

- A. The club is responsible for the payment of all fees and fines generated by the club, teams, coaching staff, players and spectators. Failure to do so will put the club in bad standing.
- B. All payments to the league will be in the form of a check from the member club with the exception of Player Red Card fines which may be paid by the player when retrieving the player pass. All invoices will be made to the member club.
- C. Any red cards or coach passes held for ejection and not claimed will be the financial responsibility of the club.

Policy 4 – New Clubs

1. Procedures for New Clubs:

- A. New clubs must be approved by NYSWSA prior to application to the league.
- B. New clubs must apply to the league no later than September 1.
- C. Letter of application is to be mailed to the League president with an Email or hardcopy and a copy sent to the League secretary. The letter must contain the following information:
 - 1. Club presidents & other club representatives mailing addresses, telephone numbers and Email addresses. List the town or towns the club will be servicing.
 - 2. The gender & age groups of the teams.
 - 3. List of home field(s) with addresses & directions.
- D. The League will notify the applicant of the boards' decision on approval no later than the November Annual Meeting.

2. Approved clubs

- A. Newly approved clubs must post a performance bond before team information forms can be submitted.
- B. All new clubs will be on probation for a period of 3 years and must enter a minimum of 4 teams in each probationary year. One team must be entered in at least two of the nine (9) age divisions (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19) during the probation period.

Policy 5 - Registration Process for Players:

- A. Players will be rostered to Member Club teams via a process in compliance with the governing Youth Soccer Association with which the member club is associated.
- B. A player can be rostered to only one club team in B&WNYJSL at any given time.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Club to roster players in accordance with the polices of this league as well the governing Youth Soccer Association of the club. The league registrar will monitor rosters and clubs may face fines and penalties for improperly registered players.

Policy 6 - Transfer Process for Players:

- A. In order to promote harmony and fair competition, and minimize the impact of "recruiting", it is the policy of NYSW and the B&WNYJSL that a team, during any playing season, may not add, to their team roster, more than three players during any playing season, who were already rostered to another team, whether with the same Club or another Club. A transfer form must be completed and submitted to the State Office as per the policy of New York State West or other governing Youth Soccer Associations for each player being transferred within a playing season.
- B. In case of the transfer of a player, their Club shall give the player their pass and said pass must accompany re-registration for their new Club (or new team within a club).

Policy 7 – Dual Carded Players:

- A. ***Definition: Is a player who is playing on a rostered team in any other league in addition to B&WNYJSL, regardless of the actual number of player cards that the player possesses. This does not mean teams that participate solely in select tournaments and/or "friendlies"***
- B. ***NO ELITES - this means any player who plays for the highest level team at each Age Group of ANY select club. Players on second tier teams which are development only are eligible for B&WNYJSL.***
- C. ***Each team will be allowed a strict maximum of five dual carded players.***
- D. ***All dual carded players must be declared to the league in writing by March 15 (via the Dual Carded Form on the web site) or they will be considered to be an illegal player. Please refer to Section 10D for fines and penalties in the use of illegal players.***
- E. ***Once a player has a dual card it is considered to be in effect for the entire season (until 8/31)***
- F. ***The board of B&WNYJSL is the sole judge of player eligibility, under these rules, to play in B&WNYJSL.***

Policy 8 - Rescheduling of Games:

- A. Requests for game postponement must be submitted at least eight days prior to the game's scheduled date. A form is available on the web site for this purpose. ***Prior to June 15***, a team may request the reschedule of up to any two scheduled games. The fee to reschedule a game is \$15 and will be deducted from team bond fee of team requesting the reschedule. Both teams involved must submit a completed form prior to approval of reschedule. All rescheduling is done only on approval by the B&WNYJSL Administrator.

Policy 9 - Playing Times for Age Groups:

- A. Each league age group will normally play regular league games on a standard weekday, as noted on the league web site.
- B. In order to avoid lengthening of the playing schedule due to holiday conflicts, the Board of Directors may authorize a limited number of additional game dates. All regular league games will start at 6:30pm, unless the Age Group Coordinator authorizes a change.
- C. Play will start no earlier than April 23rd of each playing season, and will end no later than August 20th. The League shall draw up a schedule of games to be played in each Division at least two weeks before the start of the season. In the event of a late start for severe weather conditions, the referee will consult both coaches with regard to playing shorter periods, but in no case shall the halves be less than thirty minutes, except at age groups where the playing time is normally less than thirty minutes.

Policy 10 - Game Activities:

- A. The rules of USYSA will govern all play except as modified by this League. Game lengths will be 70 minutes for U-10 through U-14, 80 minutes for U-15/16 and 90 minutes for U-17 and above. Any team unable to field at least 7 players, 6 players for U11 and 5 players for U10 within 20 minutes of the scheduled start of a match, or maintain at least 7 players (6 players for U10) on the field throughout the match will forfeit the match and will be subject to a minimum fine of \$50
- B. Field sizes as dictated by the number of players for U10 (6 field players and a goalkeeper), U12 Small Sided (8 field players and a goalkeeper) and U12-19 Regulation (10 field players and a goalkeeper) are listed in ADDENDUM A
- C. In determining a League championship, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie. The club team with the most points shall be declared the champion. Games won by forfeit or games won by official League decision, shall be awarded with the score of three (3) goals to zero (0) goals. Should two or more club teams have an equal number of points at the end of the season; the tie-breaker formula as listed in ADDENDUM B will be applied.
- D. If a player is found to have participated in any scheduled game(s) without a valid pass and is subsequently determined ineligible, the player shall be suspended indefinitely until the Discipline Committee determines the appropriate penalty. The club team playing such a player shall be declared the loser of the scheduled games(s) involved. The Discipline Committee may levy fines or other sanctions against the member club. Managers or coaches of club teams shall be in possession of all passes and hand them to the referee before the start of a game. The referee shall keep all passes in his possession during a game, and if any coach has occasion to question players participating in a game, he must do so in the presence of the opposing coach and the referee. The referee shall check players against passes before the game begins.

- E. The coaches of each club team shall hand two (2) copies of the official game report provided on web site. Player's first and last names must be given in full and be typed or clearly lettered along side his jersey number and player pass number. The referee will give one copy of said official game report to the opposing coach and the remaining copies shall be sent with the referee's report to the designated League official or to the Cup Commissioner. Any player listed on the roster shall be considered a competing player, whether or not they participate in the game. **All participating players & coaches must submit their passes to the referee.** If a player's pass is not available and that player is rostered to the team and is not under any league or other governing body suspension, the player will sign the back of the roster. The player will be eligible to play the game. If a coach does not have their pass, the coach may sign the back of the roster also. The roster will be forwarded to the league by the referee and the coach will need to provide proof of the player's eligibility with the pass or other approved for that a suspension from this league or any other league has been completed before the player played in this game. If the player or coach is not eligible, the discipline committee may rule the game forfeit and / or sanction both the club and the coach.
- F. Players may be substituted and re-substituted as frequently as desired with the consent of the referee. Unlimited substitutions for both teams can be made only at the following times:
1. After a goal is scored
 2. Any goal kick
 3. Your own throw in. Any Throw-in (10s & 12s only)
 4. Half time
 5. When play is stopped by referee for an injury
- G. In case of a uniform color conflict, unacceptable to the referee, it is the obligation of the home club team to change colors.
- H. When a player is sent off the field because of a red card, the referee must retain the player's pass and send it with their report to the designated League official or Cup Commissioner. The pass will be returned to the player only after their suspension has elapsed.
- I. Any club team playing a non-rostered player in a League game shall be declared the loser of that game and the opponents shall be awarded three points for the game victory. In the case of a cup competition, the offending club team shall be eliminated from the competition and, if possible, the club team losing the prior cup game with the offending Club shall be reinstated in the competition. The coach, player, and/or any other responsible Club official will be subjected to fine and suspension for a period to be determined by the Board of Directors based on the facts and circumstances particular to the incident.
- J. In the event that an official fails to appear for a match, any attending officials will have sole discretion to determine the system to be used for that match. Each club team shall provide one Club linesman unless the referee or a designated League official provides neutral linesmen. In the event that no officials appear for a scheduled match, the opposing coaches may agree to use any individual as a substitute official. Once the match begins, the substitute official must complete the match and the game must be completed as an official league game. The home coach must submit the NO-SHOW REFEREE FORM available on the web site within 24 hours.

- K. In the event that a game is not completed due to inclement weather, it will be considered an official match if the kick-off for the second half has occurred. If the kick-off has not occurred, the match must be replayed in its entirety. The B&WNYJSL Administrator, who shall make a determination, shall review any match, which is not completed for any other non-weather related reason. If a game is not completed, both coaches must complete the game report Within 48 hours, and then complete the reschedule form on the web site for that game number.
- L. **If lightning or thunder occurs during the match, all players and coaches will leave the field and find a safe place to wait. The referee will restart the match after 30 minutes of clear weather. If the lightning continues and there is inadequate time to finish the game, the referee may abandon the match.**
- M. Balls shall be provided by the home club team and are subject to approval of referee.
- N. No guest players are permitted to participate in any league games. Players who are properly rostered to teams, and for whom the coach possesses a player pass designating that team as the player's primary or secondary team will be allowed to play.
- O. It is a league mandate that every player in age groups U12 and below must receive at least one half game playing-time in each regular league game, unless otherwise prevented due to injury or absence. It is further highly recommended that this policy be voluntarily followed at all higher age groups.

Policy 11 - Reporting Results:

- A. The referee's report will determine the results of the match. There will be a game report on the web for coaches to evaluate the referee, comment on the game or notify the league of a no-show referee. Should a coach dispute the official score, a form on the web will provide notification to the league.

Policy 12 - Disciplining Players, Coaches, Club Teams and Clubs:

- A. It is the policy of the B&WNYJSL to take actions, which may be appropriate to promote fair play, proper competitive spirit and sportsmanship. The Board of Directors is explicitly authorized to make determinations regarding all disciplinary matters relating to B&WNYJSL rostered players, managers, coaches, and club officials, in regards to violations of B&WNYJSL rules, or those of governing organizations. This policy applies to League games, League sponsored tournaments and tournaments sponsored by member clubs. Tournament Directors of member clubs are required to inform the League of any violations of this policy by affiliated clubs/teams. The Discipline Committee will investigate all allegations of misconduct and make the final determinations regarding such activities.

B. The following guidelines shall be used:

1. A player who receives a yellow card **MAY** be immediately substituted upon receiving the yellow card except when such action results in a reduction of the number of players on the field to less than the minimum allowed.
2. A player who accumulates 4 yellow cards in the playing season is suspended for one game immediately following the issuance of the fourth card. A player who accumulates eight yellow cards is suspended for two games immediately following the issuance of the eighth card. In addition, the Disciplinary Committee for any additional action will review players who accumulate eight or more cards during the season, as it deems necessary. When two yellow cards are given in the same game and thus become a red card for that game, those yellow cards will not be counted toward this policy. ***There is a \$25 fine for accumulation of 4 yellow cards and \$50 fine for accumulation of 8 yellow cards.***
3. ***A player issued a Red Card or 2 yellow cards on the field for misconduct or for any other serious reason, shall be automatically and immediately suspended for the following minimum durations:***

First Offense: Minimum one game suspension

Minimum \$25 Fine

Second Offense: Minimum four game suspension

Minimum \$50 fine

Third Offense: One year

However, for players in the U10/11/12 Divisions receiving a non-serious red card, the suspension period will be for the duration of the game in which the red card is received unless the Discipline Committee rules otherwise and the fine may be waived at the discretion of the Discipline Committee.

4. Should a player physically assault a referee, NYSWYSA will immediately be notified and will handle all punishment .
5. Any club team leaving the field of play in any scheduled game, under the authority of this League and without the consent of the referee, shall be penalized as follows:
 - a. If a league game, the offending club team shall lose the game and three points shall be awarded to the opponent, with the final score being recorded as 3-0. In addition, a minimum fine of \$100 will be imposed against the offending club team.
 - b. If a cup or tournament game, offending club team shall be removed from the competition.
 - c. If an exhibition game, offending club team shall be punished as the Board of Directors may deem fit.

6. Every Club is responsible for the action of its players, officials and spectators, and is required to take all necessary precautions to prevent spectators from threatening or assaulting officials or players, before, during or at the conclusion of a game. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a minimum fine of \$50 and potential suspensions of players, coaches, or spectators.
7. ***Any coach asked to leave a field by an official, will do so immediately, and will be assessed a minimum fine of \$50 and receive a MINIMUM one (1) game suspension.***
8. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of spectators, and will be expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, both in their personal behavior as well as in the control they exhibit over their players and spectators. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in a fine or other disciplinary action.
9. Both teams should have benches on the same side of the field to ease substitutions. Parents and spectators may sit on the same side as the players.
10. Any team forfeiting a game will be subjected to a minimum fine of \$75.00 per forfeit. This fee to double if the team asking for a rescheduled game does forfeit or any team game forfeited within the last two weeks of season.
11. The home club team shall be responsible for visible, correct and complete markings of the playing field. Whenever possible, the field shall be protected against overflowing by the public. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a minimum fine of \$10.
12. Any fine may be appealed with a written letter to the president of the league, explaining why the fine should be waived.

Policy 13 – Protests:

- A. The referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance of play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted him / her by the "Laws of The Game" as published by USSF, shall not be challenged.
- B. The following are the only acceptable subjects that may be considered for protest:
 1. Violation of League Bylaws.
 2. Violations of the league rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
 3. Violations of the Laws of the game as published by USSF, or the misapplication of laws of the game.

- C. The league Secretary must be notified of the protest within forty-eight (48) hours of the match (by E mail, letter or telephone). All game protests must be lodged in writing within ten (10) calendar days of the incident being protested and must be accompanied by a check for the protest fee of twenty five dollars.
1. This must be mailed to the league secretary with a copy to the League President.
 2. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded in full.
 3. All protests will be held at an executive meeting called by the board.
 4. A team losing a protest will also lose the protest fee.
 5. Should a team wish to appeal the decision by the board, the line of authority is as follows:
 - a. New York State West Youth Soccer Association
 - b. Regional Appeals Committee, USYSA
 - c. National Appeals Committee, USYSA
 - d. Executive Committee, USYSA
 - e. USSF Board of Directors

Policy 14 - Age Groups Offered:

- A. It is the policy of B&WNYJSL to promote competition, which further enhances the development of Junior Soccer. Pursuant to that policy, B&WNYJSL will offer the age groups - Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 19
- B. The age cutoff dates established by USYSA will prevail for determining player eligibility for each playing season.
- C. Players rostered must be between ages 8 – 19. That means born within the dates August 1, 1989, to July 31, 2001.***

Policy 15 – Roster Sizes

- A. ***The following maximum rosters are allowed:***
- U10 14 players***
- U11, U12, U13, and U14 18 players***
- U15, U16, U17, and U19 – 22 players (see part B for game rosters)***
- B. ***Game rosters for U15 through U19 age groups that allowed 22 players total will follow NYSW regulations as follows: Only 18 players are allowed to be on the ACTIVE ROSTER sheet for any game. The coach must cross out which players will not be part of the active roster for that game. The league has no jurisdiction over which 18 players are rostered for any game. Rosters that are improperly filled out may result in punitive action against the team with an improper roster.***

Policy 16 - Licensing Of Coaches:

- A. It shall be the policy of B&WNYJSL to require one coach of each team has a USSF Coaching License or equivalent such as NCSAA License.
- B. It is further encouraged that all coaches make every effort to improve their coaching skills yearly and to obtain certification.
- C. Any coach that does not have a coaching license may apply to the B&WNYJSL for a temporary exemption to this policy. This must be done prior to accepting the position of head coach and will have written notification to the league Registrar of such intent.
- D. It shall be the responsibility of each member club to insure that all head coaches are licensed.
- E. The head coach must actively participate as coach of the team.

ADDENDUM A

FIELD SIZE AND INFORMATION - U10 AND U11

U10

Field Size: Length: Maximum 75 yards / Minimum 65 yards
Width: Maximum 50 yards / minimum 40 yards
Goals: Modified U10 goals – 7 ft. x 21 ft. or 6 ft. x 18 ft. **PREFERRED**
Goal area: 6 yards from the end line
Penalty Area: 14 – 16 yards from the end line
Penalty Spot: 10 yards from the end line
Players: 7 vs. 7 including goalkeeper
Roster: Maximum 14 players
CENTER CIRCLE – RADIUS 8 YARDS

U 11 - 12

Field Size: Length: Maximum 85 yards / Minimum 75 yards
Width: Maximum 60 yards / Minimum 50 yards
Goals Standard full sized Goals – 8 ft. x 24 ft. or 7 ft. x 21 ft. **PREFERRED**
Goal Area 6 yards from the end line
Penalty Area 16 yards from the end line
Penalty Spot 12 yards from the end line
Players 9 vs. 9 including goalkeeper
Roster Maximum 18 players
CENTER CIRCLE RADIUS – 10 YARDS

U13 – REGULATION – U19

As per USSF Guidelines

ADDENDUM B

TIE BREAKERS FOR END OF SEASON

Regular season tie breakers for first place

- 1) Points gained in head to head competition
- 2) Goal differential (head to head) – limit differential of 4 maximum each game
- 3) Fewest total goals allowed (head to head)
- 4) Most total goals scored (head to head)
- 5) Goal differential (all league games – limit 4 maximum each game)
- 6) Fewest total goals (all league games)
- 7) Most total goals (all league games)

Note: If more than two teams are tied for most league points at the end of the season – apply the tie breakers in order

At each step:

1. If one team is alone as the leader that team wins first place.
2. If all teams involved still have the same results move to next step
3. If one or more teams have less (points, differential or goals) than the leaders at that step all those teams will be dropped from the contest and the tie breakers process will be restarted at step 1 with the remaining teams.
4. This process is to be repeated until there is one winning team!