

EYSA Coaches and Parents –

This year we've seen a lot of rule changes for soccer. We've already managed the age change during the creation of 2016-17 teams. Here are the major changes that will happen during games this fall season. And then some reminders of our local EYSA rules. (Note: The NPSL and the RCL may vary slightly in their handling these changes. So check with them for their implementations.)

Concussions

There is a growing concern about concussions. In response, USSF (United States Soccer Federation) has mandated two major rule changes beginning Sept 1, 2016.

1) Suspected Concussions

If a referee suspects a head injury, they will stop the game and allow sideline help to attend to the player. If the player is removed from play a substitution may be made. If the referee believes there may be a concussion, the player may not return to the game until approved by a qualified medical person. Arguments with the referee about not allowing the player to return to the game by the coach or parents will result in the referee ending the match.

2) No Heading for Players on U11 or Lower Age Teams

USSF has mandated there be no heading of the ball by players on U11 or younger teams. This means no heading during the game, during warmup and during practice. As a coach, if you violate this ruling you are risking legal action. During a game, if a player intentionally heads the ball, a violation will be called and an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded at the spot of the violation. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

Other USSF Rule Changes

These rule changes will also go into effect beginning, Sept 1, 2016.

Kickoff May Be Taken In Any Direction

Beginning this year, kickoffs no longer need to initially go forward. They may be kicked in any direction.

Offside Violations Will Be Marked at the Location of the Violation

Beginning this year, the Indirect Free Kick for an Offside Violation will be taken from the spot of the violation. In the past, the Indirect Free Kick was taken from the place the player was first in an offside position.

Example: Let's say a player is on top of the penalty area when that player becomes in an Offside position. The player proceeds to the top of the goal area before becoming involved in the play. In the old Offside rules, the ball would be placed at the top of the penalty area for the Indirect Free Kick. With the new Offside rules, the ball will be placed at the top of the goal area. The place the Offside person became involved in the play.

No Goalies at U08

Beginning this year, there are no goalies at U08. This means no one on the team can pick the ball up with their hands in the Penalty Area. If they do, it is an Indirect Free Kick for the other team. Players can play near the goal to try and block shots with their body. They can't use their hands.

No Punting for U09 and U10 Goalies

Since the fields are so small, punting of the ball by the goalie is not allowed. (Remember there is no goalie at U08.). If the goalie does punt the ball, play should be stopped and the ball given to the goalie. The goalie should then throw the ball in to restart play. NOTE: Some leagues will be implementing this new no punting rule for U11's as well. EYSA will not begin no punting for U11 until next season.

Local EYSA Rules for Recreational Play

NO POACHING RULE (U08 - U10 rec)

Read and understand this rule for U08-U10 - No Poaching Rule

"<http://www.eyesareferees.org/documents/EYSA%20No%20Poaching%20Rule.pdf>". We are trying to teach kids to play soccer. The No Poaching Rule allows the younger player's time to receive the goal kick, turn, and evaluate what to do next. Without the rule, defensive players line up at the top of the penalty area and try to kick the goal kick back into the goal. NOTE: Some leagues will be implementing this no poaching rule for U11's as well. EYSA will not begin no poaching for U11 until next season.

MERCY RULE (U08 - U12 rec)

Read and understand the Mercy Rule

"<http://www.eyesareferees.org/documents/EYSA%20Mercy%20Rule.pdf>". It applies to all EYSA U08-U12 recreational games played on an EYSA field. It is the coach's responsibility to enforce this rule. The referee is instructed to remind the coaches about the rule. They will not enforce the rule. We are trying to teach kids to play soccer. If a game is lopsided it's hard to teach soccer. A close game provides better competition and more fun for the players. At these young ages, soccer is not about winning. It's about learning to play and having fun.