



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SOCCER LEAGUE
OPERATING RULES**

March 5, 2024

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1. SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

The Laws of the Game, as promulgated by the USSF, shall be adhered to by all members of the League. In all situations not specifically provided for in the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the USSF, the Association or the League, the Executive Committee shall have the power and the responsibility to interpret them and decide how they shall be applied. It may, however, deem a decision important enough to convene a special meeting of the Council either to make a decision or to accept, reject, or modify the decision of the Executive Committee, or to instruct it how to proceed.

In all cases, the procedures and precedents codified and otherwise established by FIFA, the USSF, the Association and the League shall be adhered to as much as possible.

2. DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY



- A. The term member means, any entity belonging to the League, a club, a team, a player, or an officer of the club. The term member club refers to the club as a whole. The term individual member refers to a player, manager, or club officer, League officers are also members of the League.
- B. The term team means the individuals who actually participate in matches, plus a small number of individuals who function as managers during the games.
- C. The term club means, the team or teams which play for a club plus a set of formally or informally organized individuals who give support and continuity to the team or teams.
- D. The term associated organization refers to any youth club, service organization, and so on, which formally affiliates with the League but does not field a team participating in championship seasons or exhibition games.

3. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF TEAMS

- A. Teams shall carry a roster of not more than twenty-five players however, no more than 18 may be checked in for game.
- B. All players on a team may participate in a match. Re-substitution is permitted in all games of the championship season.
- C. All players participating in League matches must be duly registered with the Association and the League. If a team has duly registered its players, it should be able to produce an official roster printed from the website that will include each of its active players. The players will provide League approved identification that will be compared with the official roster during check in by officials of the game. If the team does not provide a copy of the official roster and at least 7 players do not have the appropriate identification at the end of the grace period (scheduled kick off time plus 15 minutes), as indicated by the referee a forfeit results (regardless of the reason, i.e., **NO Official Roster/NO ID - NO PLAY**). Teams that allow players not properly registered with the League to play will be placed on a one season probation. In the event of additional occurrences the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee for action.



- D. All member teams of the League are responsible for the actions of individual members and supporters, and are required to take all precautions to prevent threats to and acts of violence toward referees and assistant referees, officers, players and supporters of other teams, League officers and other soccer authorities and spectators not involved with either team prior to, during, and after a game. Teams may be required to provide marshals or hired guards (when exceptionally spirited contests are in prospect) and otherwise institute crowd control measures at the direction of the NVSL Executive Board and Council.
- E. Each team must adopt one or more uniform colors. Uniform jerseys must be of a matching color and shade with each jersey uniquely numbered. Shorts and socks should be of a matching color and shade. The home team shall have the responsibility of resolving any on the field color conflict by changing into a different color.
- F. Every team must clean up trash and debris left by it and its supporters at the end of every match. The Council shall specify the amount of the fine to be levied for failure to comply with this rule. The referee's report, the report of a League officer or other soccer authority, the complaint of the authority granting permission for the use of the field or responsible for its maintenance, or the complaint of the police for the jurisdiction that the field is situated in shall constitute evidence of failure to comply with the rule. Teams shall also submit to other disciplinary measures or to administrative measures for the failure to comply with the rule.
- G. Every team must expeditiously bring or mail completed contracts or passes to the League Registrar for validation when participating or planned involvement in sanctioned tournaments. Requests for passes must be made and submitted within 30 days of planned event.
- H. Every club must inform players of their rights and duties according to the Laws of the Game and the provisions of the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the USSF, the State Association, and the League in an effective manner.
- I. A team which does not appear for a scheduled game is responsible for the referees' fees and is subject to a fine, in an amount to be specified by the Council, and in addition, may be dropped from the schedule temporarily or permanently if the President has not, in his judgment, received sufficient assurance that no further non-appearances will occur.



- J. A team which does not appear for a scheduled game two or more times in a 12 month period will be subject to the provisions of paragraph (K) above, and in addition will be dropped from the schedule for the remainder of the ongoing championship season unless the Executive Committee votes to retain the team on the schedule.
- K. A team, which has been dropped from the schedule for any reason under the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the League, is not entitled to any part of the accumulated funds or the benefits derived from such funds of the League. The team may reenter the league as a new team.

4. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CLUBS

- A. Clubs may consist of two or more teams. The association of two or more teams as a club must be documented and clearly identify the teams that comprise the club.
- B. Teams that comprise a club may request to have game times and field assignments coordinated enabling the clubs member teams to play on the same field consecutively or play on adjacent fields at the same time.
- C. Teams that comprise a club and share players may request that games not be scheduled on the same day involving those teams that share players, (e.g., Open Division team and Masters Division). Requests will be accommodated as possible.
- D. Registration transactions involving intra-club team transfers may be resolved differently from the typical inter-team transfers. Differences will be approved by the Council and fully documented in the Organizational and Operational Policies of the League.

5. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PLAYERS

- A. All players participating in matches played by members of the League shall be under contract with their respective teams. The appropriate forms of the USSF and the Association shall be used. They shall be completed and validated by the Association Registrar or whomever he designates to assist him, validation to be accomplished by the deadline established by the Council, or, if left to his discretion, by the Registrar.



- B. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term 'administrative season' means a period from September 1 of a year through August 31 of the following year, encompassing a fall championship season and the following spring season. Unless different transfer rules are established for a championship season in writing prior to its start, the following rules shall govern transfers and related matters:
1. Players registered with another team in the League or in another local USSF affiliated league who transfer to a League team will be eligible to play in the first game following the registration with the new team, unless the releasing team objects. If the releasing team objects, the player shall be ineligible to play in the first game following the registration with the new team.
 2. Players not previously registered in any league during the current championship season shall be eligible to play with a League team without a one game waiting period.
 3. Players registered with a League team that has finished its championship season may not register with another League team for the remainder of the championship season.
 4. The Executive Committee may set deadlines for the registration of the players for any of the competitions administered by the League.
 5. A player is considered to be registered with a team for an administrative season. These rules apply to both internal and external affairs of the League.
 6. No player will be simultaneously registered with more than one Open Division team, Masters Division Over 30 team, Masters Division Over 40 team. A player may register with one Open Division Team, one Masters Over 30 team, and/or one Masters Over 40 team simultaneously.
- C. Any player who violates the rules of contracts as promulgated by the USSF and the Association, and any team officer who assists in or condones a violation shall be automatically suspended from all soccer activities for a period of four months, unless a period of inactivity is in prospect, in which case the period of suspension may be extended.
- D. Every player who, being offered appropriate forms to be executed, completes them



correctly and completely, is entitled to have them sent or handed to the Registrar or whoever is designated to assist him, for expeditious validation.

- E. Every player has the right to appeal to the Executive Committee if he is penalized for misconduct. He is entitled to effective notice of his right of appeal. He is entitled to a stated period of time after receipt of notification of a penalty, which in no case shall be less than forty-eight hours and unless otherwise stated shall be five days, to file an appeal.

6. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS

- A. Officers shall be kept informed by other members of all matters of importance to the functioning of the League and to the manner in which the officer in question carries out his duties.
- B. Officers shall report at Council meetings and at other times to other League officers on important activities. They are obligated to report verbally to at least one officer of a team when their activities affect that team importantly.
- C. Officers are permitted to draw up forms to facilitate the conduct of their duties, and members are obligated to complete them when applicable.
- D. Officers shall be admitted free of charge to any match between two member teams of the League or to any match in which a member team of the League is competing against a team of a different league. If the member team has not arranged for his admission free of charge, it shall bear the expense of his admission. If a representative team is involved, the League shall arrange for the admission of officers free of charge or bear the expense of their admission.
- E. Officers shall be provided with suitable insignia patches, cards and other objects denoting their office, at the expense of the League.
- F. Officers shall arrange to be freely available for the transaction of business and the exchange of information about League matters with the other officers of the League, club officers, team officers, officers of the Association, officers of other leagues, public officials, reporters for the news media and other people whose decisions and actions are important to the functioning of the League.



7. RELATIONS WITH REFEREES

- A. All matches in which at least one member of the League participates shall be officiated by a referee and two assistant referees designated by the Referee Commissioner or assistant, with the following exceptions:
1. If the match is a national cup match or an interstate or inter-association exhibition match, the rules of the competition or the terms of the agreement to play the match may dictate that the Referee Commissioner of another jurisdiction assign the officials.
 2. The Referee Commissioner may decide efficient use of referees requires provision of two referees for a match.
 3. The Council may vote, prior to the start of the season, to use one referee and two volunteer assistant referees, one assistant referee supplied by each team participating in a match.
 4. The Referee Commissioner may decide that the most efficient use of referees requires provision of only one referee, in which case the referee may use two volunteer assistant referees mutually agreed upon by the contending teams.
 5. The Referee Commissioner may permit the use of volunteer, unpaid officials if the match is a scrimmage or if conditions strongly indicate the use of volunteer officials and if there appears to be little likelihood of a highly competitive match which might have an outcome potentially harmful to the good name of soccer and of the League if played without qualified officials.
- B. It shall be the obligation of all teams to accept the circumstances of the lead paragraph of this section and those of (1) through (3). Adherence to the situations envisaged in (4) and (5) is voluntary. If teams scheduled to play a match are informed by the Schedule Director that officials are duly assigned but the officials fail to appear within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start of the match, a qualified person from the crowd, mutually agreed upon by both teams may serve as the referee. If the appointed officials arrive after the start of the match but before the second half, they shall start to officiate at the start of the second half (or earlier, if the volunteer officials so desire) if agreed to by the team captains and shall be paid in accordance with the regulations of the referee committee.



- C. The League shall furnish the Referee Commissioner with a copy of the Bylaws, Operating Rules, and Organizational and Operational Policies of the League, and members of the Executive Committee shall otherwise discuss freely all matters which may facilitate the Referee Commissioner in carrying out the necessary duties.
- D. The Executive Committee and/or the President shall represent the League in arriving at an agreement with the Referee Committee on a fee schedule, a travel allowance and rules to govern payment of officials assigned to games scheduled but not played or not played to completion.
- E. Team officers shall diligently explain to members of the team and supporters the importance of accepting the authority of the referee and the assistant referees in a sportsmanlike manner and of protecting officials from bodily harm and verbal harassment. The Executive Committee shall have the power to interview individual members of a team and known supporters and otherwise investigate so as to discover how effective the explanations of team officers were, and to recommend penalties or administrative actions for negligent or badly intentioned team officers, other individual members and supporters.
- F. All members of the League shall exercise precautions to guarantee the safety of officials at all times. It shall be the responsibility of a team to resort to such measures as screening a referee with players and other team members if an attack has taken place, cooperating with the police and court officers subsequent to an attack even if the apprehension and conviction of fellow team members is in prospect, terminating a game early even it means that a game is lost or tied which might even have been tied or won, releasing a player who regularly attracts one or more ill-behaved or potentially violent spectators, hiring guards for protection and playing home games at other fields so as to eliminate or reduce the number of unruly spectators. It is the duty of a team which has a record of good sportsmanship towards referees to accept inconvenience in scheduling games against a team which has a bad record in this respect, provided that the inconvenience to the team with the bad record is substantially greater.
- G. Teams shall rate referees on a form provided by the League, or by letter.



- H. Referees shall decide the fitness of a ground for play at game time. The League recommends that they not refuse to allow play because of the condition of the field markings, goals, nets, or corner flags, if both team captains express the desire to play.

8. CONDUCT AT GAMES

- A. The standard conduct of a team in the period of time immediately prior to, during and immediately after a match should have the following aspects:
1. It should arrive at the field of play with eleven or more players who are properly registered, in possession of properly validated rosters/ID's, attired as stipulated in Article 3 (E) of these rules, physically fit and otherwise ready to play. It should also have emergency medical supplies and refreshments for players at half time and whenever else needed. It should have a manager and enough other officers and supporters to enable the team to play effectively.
 2. It should erect goals as appropriate. Some individual members or supporters should arrive at the field of play early enough to complete the job prior to the start of the match.
 3. The home team should present a ball to the referee for consideration as the game ball.
 4. It should present to the referee its official roster sheet (with jersey numbers and player ID numbers) prior to the start of the match. Players will provide League approved ID's that match their info on the official roster.
 5. It should then play the match in a sportsmanlike manner, all members of the team accepting the calls of the referee, assisted by the assistant referees, with the manager and other team officers exercising whatever crowd control measures are necessary.
 6. It should retrieve its passes from the referee and depart the field of play at the conclusion of the game in a sportsmanlike manner, with the club performing the duties of cleanup of the trash, removal and locking and storing goals as appropriate.



- B. Deviations from this standard conduct, if deemed harmful to the good name of the sport and of the League, shall be cause for the NVSL Executive Board or Council to take disciplinary action.
- C. The following specific penalties shall be applied towards individual players for whom disciplinary action is necessary:
1. Players sent off for persistent dissent, persistent ungentlemanly conduct, abusive language, persistent infringement, or two yellow cards in one game shall be suspended a minimum of one game.
 2. Players receiving 3 cards in a season will receive a one game suspension that will be served in conjunction with other suspensions for the cards. Each additional card after the first 3 cards will receive a single game suspension thereafter. A player can pay a fine determined by the Executive Board in place of a single game suspension received for the first 3 cards of accumulation. This fine can only be paid once in a season and only for the initial accumulation suspension of 3 cards.
 3. Players sent off for violently fouling an opponent shall be suspended a minimum of two games if, in the opinion of the referee, the foul appeared to be committed with the intent to injure the opponent. A second offense within the same season shall result in a doubled penalty.
 4. Players sent off for violent behavior (including striking, spitting, and choking) shall be suspended a minimum of three games.
 5. During an altercation, players not participating in the game must remain in their bench area. Violators will be subject to a minimum one game suspension and fined up to \$100. Any player who joins in a fight while one is in progress between two or more players shall be suspended a minimum of six months, unless it is clear that the player was attempting to separate the participants in order to prevent further violence. Landing or attempting to land blows on another player is not an acceptable method of separating the participants; employment of such a tactic will result in the suspension being levied.



6. Players sent off for striking a referee shall be suspended a minimum of one year from the date of the ejection, and must petition the Executive Committee for permission to rejoin the League at the end of the period of suspension.
 7. If in the opinion of the Executive Committee a player's behavior seriously jeopardizes the good name of the sport or of the League, the player shall be suspended for a period determined by the Executive Committee.
- D. Specific situations and penalties towards teams for whom disciplinary action is necessary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
1. Any team involved in a “melee” (defined as more than two players from that team “involved in a violent incident”) shall forfeit both the game at which the incident occurs and its next game. If there is no subsequent game scheduled, two standing points will be administratively subtracted from the team's record.
 2. If a team is involved in a second melee within two years of the first, that team shall be suspended from the League on a permanent basis. Such a suspension will be lifted upon a unanimous vote of all teams in the League in favor of the suspended team's petition for re-admittance.
 3. If any person, including spectators, not authorized to be on the field of play who, in the referee's opinion, can be clearly identified as supporters of one team, interfere seriously with the play of the game, either by interfering with the sideline or out of bounds plays, by throwing any matter on the field or at a player, by running onto the field, by attempting to provoke or join a violent incident, their team shall forfeit both that game and the next two scheduled contests. If two subsequent games are not scheduled four standing points will be administratively subtracted from the teams record.
 4. If a second incident as described in paragraph (3) above occurs within two years, the sanction described in paragraph (2) above will be imposed.
- E. If in the opinion of the Executive Committee a member of the League consistently violates the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the League, the Executive Committee reserves the right to take any appropriate disciplinary action, including dismissal of the member from the League.



9. COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION GAMES

- A. A principal goal of the League shall be the establishment and maintenance of at least two divisions in which the promotion and relegation system prevails and composed of clubs with continuity and strong internal leadership.
- B. The following shall be the Leagues system of promotion and relegation:
 - 1. Promotion and relegation shall only occur based on previous seasons record.
 - 2. The number of teams promoted and relegated will be determined at the Pre-Season Council Meeting and will be documented in the Organizational and Operational Policies for that season. The team(s) with the best record(s) will be promoted to the higher division whereas the team(s) with the worst record(s) will be relegated to the lower division.
 - 3. Assuming that teams in question are in good standing with the league:
 - 3.1 A team shall notify the NVSL executive committee (in care of the NVSL President) in writing when it wants to move down or fold.
 - 3.2 The NVSL Executive Committee shall notify all teams in the next lower division of an open slot and apply the following procedure:
 - 3.2.1 The open slot shall be offered to the highest placed team (not being promoted) in the lower division. If this team does not wish to be promoted, then 3.2.2 shall apply.
 - 3.2.2 The open slot shall be offered to the highest placed team of the teams being relegated from the division with the open slot. If this team does not wish to stay, then 3.2.3 shall apply.
 - 3.2.3 The open slot shall be offered to the second highest placed team (not being promoted) in the lower division. If this team does not wish to be promoted, then 3.2.4 shall apply.



3.2.4 The open slot shall be offered to the second highest placed team of the teams being relegated from the division with the open slot. If this team does not wish to stay, then 3.2.5 shall apply.

3.2.5 The open slot shall be offered to the third highest placed team in the lower division, then the third highest placed team of the teams being relegated, and so on.

3.3 No slot shall be conveyed to any team outside the NVSL unless no team in the League wants it.

C. Prior to the start of a championship season, the NVSL Executive Board shall propose to the Council a plan for the season. The principal elements shall be:

1. Whether a geographic or ability grouping is used to decide on the placements of teams in the divisions;
2. What shall be the cutoff date and other regulations governing player transfer;
3. What shall be emblematic of achieving first and second place.
4. Fee changes
5. Addendums to the governing documents

Upon agreement by a majority of clubs participating in the championship season and acceptance by the Council, the rules for the season come into effect and will be documented in the Organizational and Operational Policies of the League.

D. It is permissible but not mandatory to write the rules for a championship season so that a team which is not eligible to win the championship plays teams that are eligible, the results to count in the League standings. In that case, it is permissible, but not mandatory that the team in question play only those teams which are possible first and second place teams.

E. The Executive Committee shall establish the length of the waiting period before a forfeit is declared.



- F. The decision as to whether a ground is fit for play shall be made by the President or his designated representative until one hour before game time. Thereafter the decision shall be made by the referee. The decision shall not be made by the officers of the teams involved unless the President designates them to do so under the provision of the first sentence of the paragraph. If the members of a team feel certain that no game can take place but the ground turns out to be fit to play, the onus will be on that team. If teams are instructed not to play because of field conditions but play anyway, they are subject to the game being called no contest and to disciplinary action.
- G. Teams and associated organizations may play exhibition games with traveling teams and other non-league teams. The Executive Committee shall be informed of a teams intent as early as possible. All pertinent details shall be disclosed. The Secretary will obtain the approval of the Association when necessary. The Council has the right to override the decision of the NVSL Executive Board as to whether or not an exhibition game may be played by a member team.
- H. Ties in the final standings in each division shall be broken as follows:
1. Records of tied teams in head-to-head competition, and if this does not break the tie, then the number of wins, then goal difference (number of goals for minus the number of goals against), then goal average (total goals scored divided by total goals allowed).
 2. If a comparison of head-to-head records only partially breaks a tie among more than two teams, then refer again to head-to-head records among the teams that remain tied before resorting to number of wins, then goal difference, then goal average.
 3. Notwithstanding the above, ties for the championship of the highest division in the League are instead broken by a playoff game, except that if more than two teams are so tied, the NVSL Executive Board may devise a round-robin playoff of games of less than regulation length to break such a tie.
- I. The League adopts the following rules for player substitution during League games.



A player may be substituted

1. Prior to a throw-in of either team.
2. After a goal by either team.
3. For an injured player (for injured player only).
4. At half time.
5. Prior to a goal kick either team.

Substitutions will be allowed at the discretion of the referee and shall not prevent a goal scoring opportunity.

10. MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE AND EFFICIENCY

- A. The League shall establish a schedule of fines (to be updated and documented each season in the Organizational and Operational Policies) and otherwise institute a set of procedures which they expect to be effective in establishing and maintaining fair competition, sportsmanlike behavior by members, economy and efficiency in operation and a good reputation for the League and for the sport.
- B. The official language of the League is English. The conduct of business in Spanish or other languages shall be permitted only if a translation is feasible. The translation of the Bylaws, Operating Rules, and Organizational and Operational Policies of the League and other documents is encouraged.
- C. Committees shall be established to codify rules, regulations, precedents and procedures coherently for the guidance of all members.
- D. In the event of disorder prior to, during or subsequent to a game, the events shall be subject to investigation and recommendations for disciplinary action by the NVSL Executive Board (or other instrumentality performing the same function). It shall have the right and the duty to receive and weigh statements from all sources so as to establish the course of events.
- E. A goal of the League shall be to establish a system whereby an accurate account of a game can be established. Observers may be sent to a game. An observer becomes an officer of the League for the duration of his/her presence on the field of play, and his/her statements afterwards become part of the official record.



The Northern Virginia Soccer League

Schedule of fines for Spring 2024.

Table of Fines		
Infraction	Fine	Additional Details
Appeals/Protest	\$ 50.00	This must be sent to NVSL within 48 of the incident and is refundable if the appeal/protest is upheld
Forfeit – No Show	\$ 100.00	Referee Fee + \$75
Late roster & or incorrect format submission	\$ 25.00	
Clearing of Bench during altercation	\$ 100.00	Violators face a minimum 1 game suspension and up to \$100 fine by the league
Accumulation of card fine	\$ 50.00	This fine can only be paid once per season. See section 8 (Section C Paragraph 2)
No Permanent Shirt Numbers on Uniforms	\$ 25.00	Each Instance
Team/Spectator Failure to Dispose of Trash/Litter on field	\$ 75.00	Each Instance + additional amount by the league
Violent Conduct Red Card	\$ 25.00	Each Instance
Team Spectators Engage in Disorderly Conduct	\$ 150.00	Each Instance
Team Fielding an Illegible Player	\$ 150.00	Ineligible Player is subject to an automatic 3 match ban / expulsion from the league
Team Fielding an Illegible Player under the name of one of its other registered players	\$ 300.00	Ineligible Player is subject to an automatic 5 match ban / expulsion from the league



Team Caused Scheduled Kick-off of game to be delayed	\$ 50.00	
Second Instance	\$ 150.00	
Third Instance	Expulsion from NVSL	
Game abandoned due to actions of players, team officials or spectators/supporters of a team	\$ 250.00	Team is subject to expulsion from NVSL
Player, Team Official who attempts or does impede, harass, or otherwise intimidate a referee or opposing team official	\$ 100.00	



Code of Conduct

Player:

All players shall...

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by example and encourage it from fellow players
- Play by the rules of the game and the league.
- View playing soccer as an opportunity.
- Remain respectful toward other players, coaches, referees and spectators.
- Not argue or complain about referees' calls or decisions.
- Maintain an even temperament and resist retaliation.
- Not drink alcohol or smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarettes, smoking devices etc.) at fields.
- Collect all trash into receptacles.
- Not use or direct profane language, racial slurs, intimidation tactics or language towards any player, coach, spectator, referee or anyone involved in NVSL

Spectators:

All spectators shall...

- Encourage good sportsmanship and self-discipline through example.
- Be respectful toward coaches, referees, players, and other spectators.
- Refrain from making negative and abusive comments about other coaches, players, spectators, and referees.
- Control young minors and remain seated in the spectators area/stands/behind team bench
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse.
- Not drink alcohol or smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarettes, smoking devices etc.) at fields
- Collect all trash into receptacles.

Team Managers, Captains, and Coaches:

All Team Managers, Captains, and Coaches shall...

- Provide a positive role model for players, by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of a coach.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and maintain a proper perspective on the purpose of NVSL soccer, namely, participation is for the enjoyment and benefit of the players.
- Learn the rules of soccer, and Coaches should attempt a basic certification.
- Above all else, maintain the safety and wellbeing of their players.
- Explain to (and remind) spectators what is expected of them.
- Provide a positive, enjoyable atmosphere for the players.
- Refrain from open arguments with referees and other coaches.
- Provide necessary guidance and equipment at games and practices.
- Refrain from making negative and abusive comments about other coaches, players, spectators, and referees.
- Be prepared to deal with injuries in a timely manner by reviewing first aid principles.
- Collect all trash into receptacles.

All participants of NVSL shall abide by the Code of Conduct at all times. Inappropriate behavior that is determined to violate this Code of Conduct shall result in Disciplinary Action by the NVSL Board of Directors, up to and including, without limitation, expulsion from the game/field, and expulsion from the NVSL.



Additionally, players, parents/guardians, and coaches may also be subject to sanctions from the Metro DC Virginia Soccer Association (MDCVSA), the US Adult Soccer Association (USASA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).



Men's Open Division Appendix

Game Time

Men's Open games will have two 45 minute halves. The only exception to this will be if 2 games are being played on the same night at the same field using a permit that is only 3 hours long (in this scenario the halves will be shortened in order to get both games in).

Yellow Card Cautions* & Red Cards

Standard FIFA rules apply and there is no 'sin bin' for yellow card cautions.

A player that accumulates 4 yellow cards shall sit out 1 game*. Card accumulations are wiped out before playoffs and not carried over from the regular season – this applies to yellow cards only. Otherwise all NVSL rules shall apply.

Slide Tackling

Slide tackling is permitted in the Men's Open Division.

Underaged Players

All players must be at least 18 years old to compete in the men's open division. Any team caught fielding an underaged player will be sanctioned by the league by either a fine and/or suspension, or point deduction.

Player Write-ins**

Registered teams may use up to **5 guest** players per match that are not on their 25 man roster, only during regular season play. Guest players may not be used during the postseason.

All guest write-in players will follow all NVSL by-laws and will present a state issued drivers



license, U.S. Government ID card (e.g. HSPD-12 badge), or passport during pre-game check-in. Teams needing additional guest players.

Jerseys and Player Appearance*

Each substitute or a player on the bench/not in the game should wear a pinnie or team training jacket etc. – an item without a hoodie. Additionally, a player being subbed off the field should be given pinnie to wear when coming off the field. This makes substitutions easier to identify for the referee.

Game Balls**

Both the **home and away team(s)** must each supply (1) one game ball for each game.

Roster Size

In accordance to NVSL Operating Rules 3.A “Rights and Duties of Teams” all teams can have up to 25 players per roster, and no more than 18 can be checked in per game.

Locked Roster*

All team rosters going into the 8th (and or final) regular season game shall be locked and will be the team roster going into the playoffs. No rosters can be modified.

Playoff Format**

The top 4 teams based on record will advance to the playoffs. The first 8 games will determine the seeding, and the remaining games will be allocated for semi-finals, and finals.

Otherwise All Other NVSL Rules apply to the Men’s Open Division

These items will apply to the 2024 spring men’s open season as they were voted in favor by open teams that are in good standing with NVSL at the annual 2024 spring Managers meeting, * and virtual vote**.



Men's Over 30 Division Appendix

Game Time

All Men's Over 30 games will have two 45 minute halves. The only exception to this will be if 2 games are being played on the same night at the same field using a permit that is only 3 hours long (in this scenario the halves will be shortened in order to get both games in), or the 15 minute halftimes can be shortened to ensure that 45 minute halves are played.

Yellow Card Cautions & Red Cards

Standard FIFA rules apply and there is no 'sin bin' for yellow card cautions.

A player that accumulates 3 yellow cards, must sit out 1 game. Card accumulations are wiped out before playoffs and not carried over from the regular season – this applies to yellow cards only. Otherwise all NVSL rules shall apply.

Slide Tackling

Slide tackling is permitted in the Men's Over 30 Division.

Underaged Players

3 underaged players are **allowed per game for each team** in Men's Over 30 Division. Each underaged player **must be 28 years old (or 27 turning 28) during the calendar year.** Those players must be clearly indicated on the roster with an asterisk next to the name indicating the player is underage.

Player Write-ins

All write-in players will follow all NVSL by-laws and will present a state issued drivers license, U.S. Government ID card (e.g. HSPD-12 badge), or passport during pre-game check-in.

There is no limit on the number of players each team can check in per game, and there is



no limit on the number of guest players per team for each match*.

Game Ball & Ball Retrieval*

The **home team must supply two (2) game balls** and **away team must each supply one (1) game ball** for each game. If the ball goes out of bounds on the home team side or the visitors side, a player from that bench must go and retrieve the ball (i.e. if the ball goes out of bounds on the home team side, a player from that bench must go and retrieve the ball).

Player Transfer & Modification of Submitted Roster*

Player transferring from one team to another is **not** permitted after the 3rd week of the regular season (April 3, 2024)*.

Additionally, both team managers must approve of the player(s) transferring (from team 'A' to team 'B') and must notify the league in writing of the players involved in the transfer. Both teams need to provide an updated copy of their team roster after the transfer to the league. This is to ensure that all teams are following protocol and NVSL league policies.

Playoff Format

Under a 12-team league format, the top 4 teams based on record will advance to the playoffs. The first 9 games will determine the seeding, and the remaining games will be allocated for semi-finals, and finals.



Men's Over 40 Division Appendix

Game Time

All Men's Over 40 games will have two 45 minute halves. The only exception to this will be if 2 games are being played on the same night at the same field using a permit that is only 3 hours long (in this scenario the halves will be shortened in order to get both games in).

Yellow Card Cautions

Player(s) that receive a yellow card during the game must sit out for 5 minutes. The referee will send off the offending player for 5 minutes and the player that received the caution can be replaced by a substitute. The player can return to the match after 5 minutes at the direction of the referee.

Slide Tackling

Slide tackling is **not permitted** in the Men's Over 40 Division.

Underaged Players

3 underaged players are **allowed per game for each team** in Men's Over 40 Division. Each underaged player **must be 38 years old (or 37 turning 38) during the calendar year.**

Player Write-ins

All write-in players will follow all NVSL by-laws and will present a state issued drivers license, U.S. Government ID card (e.g. HSPD-12 badge), or passport during pre-game check-in.

Otherwise All Other NVSL Rules apply to the Men's Over-40 Division



Performance Bond (Men's Open Division)

We do not want your money! We want your participation and sportsmanship!

The NVSL league directors are implementing a performance bond to incent consistent participation and sportsmanship in the men's open division. The performance bond for the men's open division is \$300 per incoming team. All men's open teams **must be bonded for the duration of the season** while the league is in play.

Currently, there are few remedies in place to discourage teams from defaulting on appearing for their scheduled games. Although teams missing or suddenly forfeiting games is not a widespread problem, however the defaulting of games has been an issue for a few teams in the men's open division. Missed games erode the value of what the league offers to our teams and players for their fees. Game defaults inadvertently and unfairly impact standings (regular season and post-season), the NVSL league budget incurs additional officiating and facility expenses, and so on.

The performance bond is fully refundable minus any deductions for fines levied by the league. The performance bond can be returned by request to the team manager by the end of season or can be rolled over into the next season if the club desires. If the performance bond is exhausted, the bond will need to be replenished in full in 7 days. Teams that fail to do so will risk being disqualified from league play or will not be allowed to register for the following season.

The league reserves the right to adjust the performance bond based on the conduct of the team from the prior season. The formula used to increase the bond will be total fines accumulated rounded to the nearest \$50 (i.e., if a team has \$50 worth of fines, the league could increase the team's bond by \$100 the following season).

Lastly, a performance bond will promote consistent sportsmanship across the men's open division. Teams that violate league rules risk losing part or all of their performance bond as fines can be deducted for the following by not limited to:

- a team withdraws from the league after the schedule has been posted
- sudden forfeit (game cost of \$255 is the fine and will be deducted from the bond)
- a team is disqualified/removed from the league will lose their bond
- poor conduct by anyone affiliated with a club, and its supporters who do not meet the expected sportsmanship standards of NVSL, the appropriate fines will be deducted as prescribed by the league rules or by the league.