



Pepperell Youth Soccer League

Fall 2020

Local Rules of Competition

In accordance with COVID-19 order no 43 issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on July 6, 2020, with amendments to supporting documentation issued on August 13, 2020 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Mass Youth Soccer has determined the need to require specific modifications in order for Soccer to be continued to be played as a Moderate Risk Sport under the expansion of Phase III, Levels 1, 2, and 3.

Mass Youth Soccer is implementing modifications for all soccer games (scrimmages, friendlies, league). Coaches should work with players to break habits that will minimize the spread of the virus. Spitting, nose clearing on the field or spitting on gloves during practices and competitions is not permitted.

Rules of Competition Modifications:

Local Rules of Competition (LROC) will be the same as current NVYSL League Recreation division rules with the following modifications:

Modifications for All Age Groups (Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6, Grades 7/8)

Playing Periods:

- Each game will be two 30 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime break.

No Coin Toss

- Before the game, there will not be a meeting of team captains and the referee for the coin toss. As a substitution for the coin toss, the away team shall be provided the choice to kick off or defer to the second half.

Contact

- Intentional body contact with a member of the opposing team member's body is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, and will result in an Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision.
- Intentional body contact will include "shoulder to shoulder" contact, backing into a player, and pulling an opponents shirt, shorts or mask.
 - A player is allowed to make intermittent and/or unintentional contact with opposing team members if the player is attempting to make foot to ball contact (legal tackle) and the contact occurs as a result of the tackle.
 - Slide Tackling - The use of slide tackling is suspended and is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision. "Going to the ground" to save a ball from going

out of touch or to stop a long ground pass is not considered a “tackle” and is permissible as long as no other players are within 6 feet.

Game Restarts

At any time a ball is to be placed for a restart the ball should not be touched with a player or an official's hands. The ball should be placed where the restart will take place with one's foot. If hands are used the ball will need to be removed from play and sanitized.

- **Throw-Ins replaced by Kick-ins** – Throw-ins as defined by IFAB Law 15 are suspended and replaced with an Indirect Free Kick (IDFK). When the ball crosses the touchline, the restart will be an Indirect Free Kick (IDFK) from the spot on the touchline where the ball went out of play.
 - The player taking the kick-in must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
- **Corner Kicks** as defined by IFAB Law 17 are suspended and replaced by an Indirect Free Kick (IDFK) with the ball placed within 1 yard of the corner area where the penalty area line meets the touchline (see Figure 1).
- **Dropped Ball** - The use of a Dropped Ball as a restart is suspended. To replace this procedure, an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded to the team whom the referee deemed to be in possession when the referee stops play.
- For Throw-ins, Corner Kicks, and Dropped Balls, the opposing team must adhere to rules for space given for free kicks in NVYSL (8 yards for Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6, 10 yards for Grade 7/8).
- **No Wall** - The use of a traditional defensive Wall consisting of multiple defensive players standing side-by-side is currently suspended.

Modifications for Grades 5/6

- **No Goalkeeper Distribution In the Air Beyond Midfield** - After a Goalkeeper takes possession and distributes the ball (e.g., by throw, punt, dropkick, etc.), the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to crossing midfield, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.
- **No Offsides** - Offsides as defined by IFAB Law 11 is suspended.

Modifications for Grades 7/8

- **No Goalkeeper Distribution In the Air Beyond Midfield** - After a Goalkeeper takes possession and distributes the ball (e.g., by throw, punt, dropkick, etc.), the ball must next touch a Player or the Field prior to crossing midfield, or there is a loss of the ball and play restarts with an indirect free kick at the Halfway Line.
- **No Offsides** - Offsides as defined by IFAB Law 11 is suspended.
- **No Heading** – If a Player deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the infraction. If the heading infraction is committed by a defending Player inside the Penalty Area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the point on the Penalty Line nearest the spot of the infraction. An apparent goal scored as a result of deliberate heading shall be disallowed.