



# NORTHERN CONFERENCE

## PLAYING RULES

[07/09/2020]

Ohio North reserves the authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts for matters not otherwise provided for in these playing rules.

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## 1.0 Rules of Play

**1.1 Laws of the Game:** All games shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by U.S. Soccer (PDIs), Ohio North and/or unless otherwise stated in the Northern Conference playing rules.

**1.2 Game Length, Ball Size, Play Format & Field Size:** Field dimensions and play format must meet the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by U.S. Soccer (PDIs).

Age Group	Length of Game	Min Field Size	Goal Size	Ball Size	Players	Game Day Roster	Min Players to Start	Drop Line
9U & 10U	25-minute halves	65x45	6x18	4	7v7	12	5	Yes
11U & 12U	30-minute halves	80x55	6x18	4	9v9	16	6	No
13U & 14U	35-minute halves	100x65	8x24	5	11v11	18	7	No
15U & 16U	40-minute halves	100x65	8x24	5	11v11	18	7	No
17U & Older	45-minute halves	100x65	8x24	5	11v11	18	7	No

### 1.3 Official Game

- 1.3.1 A game shall be considered official after one (1) full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one (1) half is completed and the game is abandoned, the entire game must be replayed, subject to Ohio North official review.
- 1.3.2 Any game that is abandoned because of inclement weather after the start of the second half will be considered a complete game.
- 1.3.3 Referees may abandon games for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsportsmanlike circumstances.
- 1.3.4 If play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams (by action of team officials, players, spectators) deemed to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of Ohio North whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

### 1.4 Substitutions

- 1.4.1 Substituted players are to enter and exit at the halfway line provided they have received a signal from the referee.
- 1.4.2 **10U-14U Blue Division** will allow for unlimited substitutions.
- 1.4.3 **15U-18U Blue Division** will have restricted substitutions.
  - 1.4.3.1 Players may not re-enter the game during a half once they have been replaced. Substitutes may enter the field during any stoppage in play, provided they have received a signal from the referee.
  - 1.4.3.2 For any play-off situation, the entire overtime is regarded as a new half and players cannot re-enter the game once they have been replaced.
- 1.4.4 **9U-19U White Division** will allow for unlimited substitutions.

**1.5 Offsides:** Per U.S. Soccer's PDI's, offsides will be in effect for all 10U through 13U age groups. **Note:** for 10U games, players cannot be penalized for an offsides between the halfway line and the build out line.

**1.6 Dropped Ball Procedures:** If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team position changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded.

**1.7 Goal Kicks:** The ball is in play once it is kicked and the ball does not have to leave the penalty area. The opponent must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

### 1.8 Build Out Line

- 1.8.1 Per U.S. Soccer's PDIs, build out lines will be used at the 9U-10U age group.
- 1.8.2 The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting.
- 1.8.3 When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line.
- 1.8.4 Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass or throw/roll the ball to a teammate.
- 1.8.5 No punting is allowed in 9U-10U games. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

### 1.9 Heading: Concussion Initiatives

- 1.9.1 Ohio North has adopted the recommendations from U.S. Soccer's PDIs concerning concussion initiatives.

- 1.9.2 As part of this initiative, no intentional heading of the ball (game or practice) will be allowed by players participating in any 9U-11U games regardless of actual age of the player.
- 1.9.3 When such a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- 1.9.4 If a 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.
- 1.9.5 If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

#### **1.10 Anchored Goals**

- 1.10.1 The team officials and referees should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Games shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured with at least one (1) anchor. If the goal cannot be anchored: the game will not be played. Ideally, there should be two (2) anchors on each goal.
- 1.10.2 In the FIFA Laws of the Game – Law 5 indicates that the referee has the final determination as to properly anchored goals. Any unanchored goals or safety issues will be reported to Ohio North by a team official in writing and/or by the referee in their game report within 12 hours of the scheduled game.

## **2.0 Home Team Responsibilities**

### **2.1 Field Management**

- 2.1.1 The home team is responsible for the condition of the field and the field markings.
- 2.1.2 The home team is responsible for ensuring that the goals are anchored, nets are secured and provides corner flags and a game ball.

### **2.2 Neutral Venue**

- 2.2.1 Where neutral venues are involved, neither team will be held responsible for the condition of the field.
- 2.2.2 The team listed first on the schedule (or home team) is responsible ensuring that the goals are anchored, nets are secured and provides corner flags and a game ball.

### **2.3 Home Field Unplayable**

- 2.3.1 In the event a referee or field owner declares a home field unplayable due to dangerous surface conditions, excluding weather-related cancellations, improper markings, or missing corner flags, the game will be rescheduled.
- 2.3.2 The home team will pay the referee fees for the cancelled game.
- 2.3.3 The rescheduled game will take place at the home field of the original visiting team, unless mutually agreed to by both parties. Both teams will share the referee fees for the rescheduled game.

## **3.0 Game Day Rosters**

### **3.1 Northern Conference Game Day Rosters**

#### **3.1.1 Players**

- 3.1.1.1 In lieu of player passes, only printed Game Day Rosters must be used for Northern Conference games.
- 3.1.1.2 Refer to the Game Day Roster instructions for more details.

#### **3.1.2 Team Officials**

- 3.1.2.1 All team officials must carry a current US Youth Soccer/Ohio North laminated member pass to be on the sideline.
- 3.1.2.2 Refer to the Northern Conference Operating Procedures for Ohio North's Participant Safety Policy.
- 3.1.2.3 Refer to the Northern Conference Operating Procedures for minimum coaching requirements.

### **3.2 Club Pass Players**

- 3.2.1 Players may only be rostered to one team in the Northern Conference.
- 3.2.2 Any player registered in a club registered to a Northern Conference team is eligible to club pass for another team in the same club provided the player is age appropriate within the rules and restrictions of each league.
- 3.2.3 No guest players are permitted to participate in any Northern Conference game.

**3.3 Playing an Ineligible Player:** A club that plays ineligible players shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, forfeiture of the game, fees, suspension of the team's official(s) from the Northern Conference, or expulsion of the club from the Northern Conference.

## **4.0 Player Requirements**

**4.1 Shin Guards:** All players are required to wear age-appropriate shin guards, worn within two (2) inches of the ankle. Shin guards must be worn at all times while on the field of play. Shin guards must be completely covered by the socks at all times.

### **4.2 Uniforms**

- 4.2.1 Each player shall have a unique number firmly affixed and clearly visible on the back of their jersey. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional. No tape shall be used.
- 4.2.2 FIFA Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Jersey or Shorts – If undergarments are worn, the color should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shorts.
- 4.2.3 Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and the game officials.
- 4.2.4 Where there is a dispute over colors, the home team shall wear light uniforms and the visiting team shall wear dark uniforms.
- 4.2.5 Any name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization, must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team, or team official can participate in a Northern Conference game.

## **5.0 Scores & Standings**

### **5.1 Scoring Method**

- 5.1.1 The standings of teams within age groups are based upon the number of points earned. Teams earn points as follows:
  - 5.1.1.1 Three (3) points for a win
  - 5.1.1.2 One (1) point for a tie
  - 5.1.1.3 No (0) points for a loss
  - 5.1.1.4 Minus Three (-3) points for a forfeit

### **5.2 Tie-Breakers**

- 5.2.1 The following tie-breaking criteria will be used to determine the final standing for each division:
  - 5.2.1.1 Total Points
  - 5.2.1.2 Head to head results
  - 5.2.1.3 Goal differential
  - 5.2.1.4 Goals scored
  - 5.2.1.5 Goals allowed

**5.3 Forfeits:** In the event of a forfeit, the score will be awarded as 4-0 to the opponent.

## **6.0 Team Officials & Spectator Responsibility**

- 6.1** Spectators will occupy the side of the field opposite the team benches.
- 6.2** Team officials are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship.
- 6.3** Each team official is responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players and spectators.
- 6.4** Upon request by the referee or assistant referee, team officials are responsible to assist in the control of parents and spectators.

## **7.0 Referees**

**7.1 Payment of Referees:** Teams are responsible for referee game fees. Refer to the "Northern Conference Referee Fee Schedule" for a fee breakdown.

### **7.2 Referee Respect, Abuse & Assault Policy**

- 7.2.1 Northern Conference has adopted a "Zero Tolerance" policy that will be enforced by clubs during all Northern Conference play. This policy is to ensure that all players, team officials and referees are to be treated with respect, before, during and after a game.
- 7.2.2 Failure to be respectful will result in removal from the complex for the remainder of the game.