

## Northern Soccer Rules (Revised April 29, 2010)

### Rules of Play

1. US Youth Soccer Association Modified Recommendations of Rules of Play will generally be followed.
2. Key Rules for U6 play
  - a. Length of game – 5 minute halftime. U6 – four 8-minute quarters
  - b. Ball size – three
  - c. Number of players – three kids per team on field without goalies
  - d. Ball out of play – If ball goes over touchline restart with kick-in which is direct and opposing players must be at least 4 yards away until ball is in play. On goal kicks opposing players must be at least 4 yards away until ball is in play.
  - e. Offside – there will be no offside calls
  - f. Fouls – all fouls result in a direct kick and opposing players must be at least 4 yards away until ball is in play. There are no penalty kicks.
3. Key Rules for U8 play
  - a. Length of game – 5 minute halftime. U8 – four 12-minute quarters
  - b. Ball size – three
  - c. Number of players – four kids per team on field without goalies
  - d. Ball out of play – If ball goes over touchline restart with throw-in. Allow player to repeat throw if they make mistake. On goal kicks opposing players must be at least 4 yards away until ball is in play.
  - e. Offside – there will be no offside calls
  - f. Fouls – all fouls result in a direct kick with opposing players at least 4 yards away until ball is in play. There are no penalty kicks.
4. Key rules of play for Mountain Schedule
  - a. Field size uniform U9-U13+ (60yds L x 40yds W)
  - b. Goal size uniform U9-U13+ (18ft W x 6ft H)
  - c. No limit to the number of goals scored per player
  - d. U9/U10
    - i. Offside – there will be no offside calls
    - ii. 6 players per team = 5 field + 1GK
    - iii. 25 minutes per half
    - iv. size 4 ball
    - v. recommended roster size = 10
  - e. U11/U12
    - i. Offside rules apply
    - ii. 7 players per team = 6 field + 1GK
    - iii. 30 minutes per half
    - iv. size 4 ball
    - v. recommended roster size = 11
  - f. U13+
    - i. Offside rules apply
    - ii. 7 players per team = 6 field + 1GK (differs from USYSA)

- iii. 35 minutes per half
- iv. size 5 ball
- v. recommended roster size = 11

## **Academies**

The club will have academies that organize soccer teams and U6 and U8 play on a geographical basis. At a minimum there will be academies in Santa Fe, Eldorado and Los Alamos.

1. Academies will be represented on the Northern board in approximation to the number of registered players each geographical region has with the Club.
2. Members of the Northern Board from each academy will select an academy chairperson. The chairperson will schedule and facilitate at least two academy meetings per soccer year.
3. Academies will organize and run U6 and U8 play in their own communities. USYSA rules will be followed as closely as possible.
4. Academies will also organize older Mountain League teams as numbers allow. If numbers don't allow, Mountain League teams will be formed combining players across academies.
5. Academies may organize teams to play in Duke City or Northwest Rio Grande at the discretion of the Director of Coaching.

## **Northern Board Selection**

Representation on the Board shall be by geographical area in proportion to the number of players from that area.

## **Registration**

1. All registrations will go to the League Registrar. Only NMYSA-registered players may participate in practices, scrimmages or games.
2. Age group coordinators, with the help of the registrars, will assign Academy and Mountain players to teams.
3. Copies of player registrations organized by team will be kept for the fiscal year by the League Registrar.
4. With the exception of Duke City teams, all players who meet the age and sex requirements of a team are eligible to play on any team as long as there is room on the team.
5. Guest players can only be used in tournament play. Guest players can not be used in league play. Coaches wishing to use guest players in USYSA-sanctioned, out-of-district tournaments shall follow the NMYSA Guest Player Policy prior to utilizing the player.
6. No team shall have more than 18 players registered at one time or double the number of players that can play at one time if this number is smaller.

7. Prior to the last State Cup game of the spring season, no team or Club official shall approach a player registered with another team for recruiting purposes, or utilize such player in a practice, game, or tryout without the expressed permission of the player's current coach. After June 10, no player signed for the following seasonal year shall be approached by any team official for recruiting purposes. All grievances regarding this rule shall be forwarded to the A&P Committee for investigation.

### **Team Requests**

For all teams, special registration requests such as specific practice times or playing with a friend or sibling or coach will be honored when possible. Parents should note these requests on their child's registration form or by email to the Northern registrar no later than two weeks before the first game. If parents have more than one request such as a playing for a specific coach and playing with a friend, the requests should be ranked. Primary requests will receive priority. Final decisions on all special requests are made at the sole discretion of the Northern Soccer Board.

### **Changing Academy or Mountain teams after being Rostered**

Requests to change teams after a child has been rostered must be made to the Northern Registrar by email by the Tuesday before the first game. A transfer to another team will only be considered if a child can not absolutely make the original team's practice time.

### **Types of Teams**

1. Academy and Mountain – teams are open to all players and will be organized by the Club/League Registrar and age group coordinators. All players will play at least one-half game unless they consistently miss practice or have discipline problems. Players on these teams may need additional paperwork to play in a tournament.
2. Duke City – teams are determined by open, publicly announced tryouts between spring and fall seasons of a given calendar year. Additions of players at any other time of the year must be approved by the Director of Coaching. These are the only teams that are not open to all players who meet age and sex criteria.
3. Tournament – additional registered players may be added to any team to play in a tournament.
4. Scrimmage – teams may add other registered players to their teams for the purpose of scrimmages with the permission of the added player's coach. Unregistered players may not play in scrimmages.
5. Single sex teams – the Club will field coed teams at ages U8 and below and make every effort to field single sex teams at U9/U10 and above as numbers and league rules allow.

## **Uniforms**

Uniforms will not have any advertising on them unless approved by the Club. Team sponsors will have their advertisement placed on the sleeve of the players of the sponsored team.

## **Young Tournament and Duke City Teams**

Definition: A young tournament team is a U10, U11 or U12 tournament team formed by tryout. A young Duke City team is a U11 or U12 competitive team. A regular team is a team that plays in the Downs schedule and also plays in a tournament

## **Principles**

1. The club should support the formation of tournament teams through tryouts at U10, U11, and U12 and will all allow regular teams to play in tournaments as well.
2. A proactive, clear, transparent club-directed mechanism for potentially creating Duke City teams at U11 and U12 should exist.
3. There should be separate decisions regarding creating a tournament team, who will coach a tournament team, creating a Duke City team, and who will coach a Duke City team. The DOC should make these decisions utilizing written criteria.
4. Children on young tournament and Duke City teams are developmentally different than kids on older Duke City teams. Consistent with US Youth Soccer coaching philosophy for young Duke City teams, all players on these teams will play at least one-half game unless they consistently miss practice or have discipline problems.

## **Mechanism**

1. A meeting will be held by the DOC in the fall with any interested U10, U11, and U12 coaches and parents regarding tournament teams, regular teams and potential Duke City teams. At that meeting, decisions will be made about whether or not there will be U10, U11, and/or U12 fall tournament teams and regular teams.
2. Once the decision is made to have a tournament team, the DOC will take brief applications to coach the team and decide who will coach each team.
3. The club will then hold tryouts for these teams.
4. Items 1, 2, and 3 will be repeated in the spring.
5. Based on the performance of the fall and spring tournament teams and regular teams at these age groups and other written criteria, the DOC will decide in which of these age groups, if any, to hold a Duke City team tryout after the spring season. If the player pool at the tryout is sufficient to create a Duke City team then a Duke City team will be created.
6. Once the decision has been made to form a Duke City team, the DOC will take applications to coach the team and decide who will coach the team.

7. The club has the option of budgeting money for young tournament teams and regular teams for fall tournaments and spring tournaments. All young tournament teams and regular teams can announce their intention to play in a tournament and will share in the budgeted money for tournament teams for that season. The amount provided to each team will not exceed the tournament registration cost.

#### Criteria for formation of a young Duke City team

1. Performance of cohort
2. Number of players interested in tryout
3. Impact of potential team on rest of cohort

#### **Game Conduct**

1. Players, parents, other spectators and coaches are expected to display good sportsmanship and proper conduct at all times when involved in Club and League activities.
2. Coaches are to refrain from interfering with the referee including making calls for the referee. Interfering with the referee can result in a warning, a yellow card or a red card.
3. Any player or coach who receives a red card from a referee will be reported to the Club President. The ejected player or coach will receive a minimum one game suspension for the first offense and a suspension for the rest of the season for the second offense during a season.
4. Parents or other spectators harassing, threatening or criticizing players, referees, linesmen, or coaches during or after club or league games will not be tolerated. Such unsportsmanlike conduct may be cause for a caution (yellow card) or ejection (red card) to be issued by the referee to the coach of that team. The referee will have the option of suspending or canceling the game. All yellow and red card violations involving parents and spectators will be reviewed by the A&P Committee. At the discretion of the A&P Committee, parents/spectators may be required to serve game suspensions in the manner that coaches serve them and their conduct may be reviewed and subject to discipline by the A&P Committee without a yellow or red card violation.
5. Protests of suspensions or other actions must be in writing.

#### **Financial**

1. Each spring a budget committee will develop and present a club budget to the Board.
2. Costs will be determined for 3 groups of players – 1) U8 and below, 2) U9 and above, and 3) Duke City.
3. Costs and charges per player will typically be lowest for the U8 and below group and highest for Duke City players.
4. When budgeting, uniform costs will be kept separate. Academies may choose their approach to uniforms for Academy and Mountain players.

5. Academies will propose an academy budget for approval by the Club Board. The Club Treasurer will oversee academy budgets and academy checking accounts, if they should exist.
6. Additional team expenses must be approved by a majority of parents on the team.

### **Financial Aid**

1. A parent or guardian of a child may request financial aid equal to approximately 25% of the registration cost by requesting financial aid. Larger amounts may be requested and will be available for those who meet criteria based on family income and number of family members.
2. In unusual cases, some older kids may be able to reduce their registration costs further by refereeing games in the Mountain Schedule.
3. A financial aid chart will be available at registration and in the soccer office.

### **NSC Duke City Team Rules**

- 1) Tryouts – in order to assure fair access to spots on Northern’s Duke City teams, teams are primarily formed through tryouts. Typically U14 and younger teams that play in both fall and spring tryout the first weekend after Memorial Day, and spring only teams tryout in the fall after high school soccer is completed. Northern may decide to hold tryouts for a spring only team the weekend after Memorial Day as well.
  - The Northern DOC will determine which age groups U11 and older that will have tryouts. The tryouts will be publically announced.
  - The Northern Registrar will register players for tryouts. Players will tryout for their age group. If they desire and with permission of the DOC, they may tryout for the next older age group team.
  - Ideally 3 coaches will rate players at a tryout and then agree on a ranking list for the top 20 spots. For U13 and above the first 15 spots will be filled using this ranked list by inviting players to play in the order of their ranking. The coach may fill up to 3 spots after the majority of the team is formed by tryout. For U11 and U12, 12 positions would be filled by the ranking process – the coach can fill two spots after the majority of the team has been filled by tryouts.
  - Additional publically announced tryouts may be needed if Northern can not fill the majority (10 for U13+ and 8 for U11 and U12) of positions on the team at the first tryout.
  - The Northern DOC will provide the Northern Registrar with the approved list of players who have made the team within a week of the tryout. Additional players that make the team will be added to the approved team list only by the Northern DOC and provided to the Northern Registrar.
  - The Northern Registrar will assure that players have been notified and have received their registration forms.

- There will be a mechanism that will allow players who can't make the initial tryout to make the team. Players who can't make the initial tryout must register for the initial tryout anyway.
  - All players will be notified of whether or not they made the team on a day other than the tryout day and within a week of tryouts.
- 2) Playing up – playing up one age group will only be allowed with signature approval of the Director of Coaching. The one exception would be a U16 or above player when there is no same age team or a team one year older formed.
  - 3) “House” teams – house teams and players are discouraged and will only be allowed with the approval of the Director of Coaching

### **Duke City Fee Payment**

To reserve a spot on the team selected players must pay half the fee by June 20 of the year that the tryout occurred. The remainder of the payment must be resolved (paid, payment plan or scholarship) at least 2 weeks before the first game. If the payment is not resolved by two weeks before the first game the player will not practice, scrimmage or play in a tournament until resolved. If payment is not resolved by the first regular season game then the player will be removed from the roster.

### **Refunds**

1. Refunds will be made if the player has not played in a regular season game. The size of the refund depends on when the request for the refund was made.
2. Refunds for Academy and Mountain players will be one-half the registration payment if requested before the first regular season game.
3. Refunds for Duke City players will be made as follows:
  - a. There is no refund of \$100 of the half of the registration fee to hold a place on the team that is required by June 20.
  - b. The entire fee minus \$100 may be refunded if the request comes before the first tournament game or regular season game (whichever is first) is played.
  - c. There is no refund after that first tournament or regular season game is played. In addition, if the Duke City team plays fall and spring and a refund is requested between fall and spring then there is no refund for electing not to play in the spring season.