



RULES



NEBRASKA LEAGUE RULES

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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

1.01 Name of League

The name of the League shall be the "Nebraska League" (NL).

1.02 Mission

Ensuring the best possible competitive play among soccer teams in Nebraska and bordering states, to promote opportunities for increased development of youth soccer players and teams, and to provide for an improved administrative structure.

1.03 Owner of League

The NL is owned and operated by the Nebraska State Soccer Association, Inc. (Nebraska State Soccer). Participation in the NL is governed by the rules adopted by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer), US Youth Soccer and Nebraska State Soccer, except where modified below.

1.04 Management of League

The NL shall be managed and supervised, by the League Director with direction from the Operational Advisory Committees and the Technical Advisory Committee.

1.05 Rules, Policies and Procedures

The League Director will have authority, subject to the provisions of the Nebraska League Charter, to promulgate all league rules, policies and procedures reasonable and necessary for the administration and growth of the NL.

1.06 Matters Not Provided For

The League Director shall have final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by the policies or rules.

1.07 Age Group Management

Each age group will be managed and supervised by the League Director, which will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Approving venues;
2. Creating match schedules;
3. Serving as the liaison with the Nebraska Referee Committee and League Referee Assignors to ensure that match officials are assigned;
4. Collecting and reviewing State Association approved NL team rosters from teams/club;
5. Recording and posting of scores and standings; and
6. Ensuring communication of age group news and information is shared with teams.

1.08 NL Club Leaders

Each Club shall appoint a NL Club Leader who shall provide his/her club administration, coaches and board with all information relevant to the NL. The duties and responsibilities of the NL Club Leader under the jurisdiction of the League Director shall include but are not be limited to:

1. Serving as a liaison between the NL and active and prospective teams from the leader's club;
2. If hosting matches on club fields, they will provide coordination for NL matches; and
3. Any other duties as assigned by the League Director.

1.09 Site Coordinators

All Site Coordinators shall be approved by the League Director.

1. In cases where a participating NL clubs are hosting multiple matches at a club site, the host club must provide a Site Coordinator for the NL event as needed.
2. For NL events hosted at a non NL club complex, the League Director, working with the complex, will determine need of a Site Coordinator for the event. If needed, the League Director will determine the Site Coordinator.

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1.10 Site Coordinators Duties and Responsibilities

The Site Coordinator's duties and responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the League Director shall include but not be limited to:

1. Serve as main contact for the League Director;
2. Ensure that the match fields are ready for play;
3. Enter any venue/field closures on the league website; and
4. Completing any other duties as assigned by the League Director.

1.11 Playing Seasons

The NL shall operate two separate time frames to complete playing seasons. The Spring session will be played between March 20 and first week in June and the Fall session will be played between August 20 and first week of November. The League Director shall determine the start and end dates of each season. Season may be added as needed to promote soccer state-wide.

1.12 Precedence of Matches

US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup) competition will have priority over NL matches.

1.13 Team Rights and Privileges

Any team in the NL shall have the same rights and privileges those accorded to any team playing in a league within Nebraska State Soccer. At the Under-13 and Under-14 Age Groups, team participation in the NL during the Spring and Fall seasons will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup). At the Under-15 through Under-18 Age Groups, team participation in the NL during the Fall season will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (e.g. Nebraska State Cup). At the Under-12 age group, the NL results will be used for Midwest Regional Leagues (MRL) qualifying for the Under-14 age group the following fall. At the Under-13 through Under-18 age groups the NL results will be used with the results from Nebraska State Cup to decide MRL qualifying.

1.14 Contact Information and Communication

All member teams of the NL shall enter contact information during the application process, this will include, but not limited to:

1. The Head Coach's name, address, cell phone numbers and valid email address; and
2. The Team Manager's name, address, cell phone numbers and valid email address.

Text, email and website forms will be the primary means of communication within the NL. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on the NL website.

SECTION II. TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

2.01 Team Eligibility

Any team affiliated with Nebraska State Soccer may apply for entry to the NL. Teams affiliated with another US Youth Soccer State Association.

2.03 Good Standing

All teams must be properly registered teams that meet the requirements for participation and are in good standing with their respective State Association or National Governing body under US Soccer.

2.04 Club Approval

All teams applying for membership in the NL must be approved by their respective Club.

2.05 Structure

The NL will offer competition for boys and girls in nine (9) age groups, including the Under-11, Under-12, Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups. On a yearly basis the League

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Director will determine the number of divisions offered in each gender age group for each seasonal year.

2.06 Additional League Competitions

The League Director may determine on a seasonal basis to offer other competitions in league format for specific clubs and/or teams (e.g. Competitive/Recreational Leagues). Such league competitions shall be administered by the NL with specific competition rules and procedures approved by the League Director.

2.07 Application Deadlines

All applications for participation in the NL must be received by the deadline established by the League Director for each playing season.

2.08 Application Process

Team Applications to participate in the NL must be completed online at the NL website.

2.09 Acceptance of Teams

The League Director will evaluate all applications from Club approved teams and determine final acceptance, and divisional placement into the NL.

2.10 Acceptance of NL Rules

Any teams applying to play in the NL, agrees to accept, abide by and comply with all rules, policies, and decisions by the NL and/or League Director and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to the NL for participation.

2.11 Final Authority

The League Director after consultation with the Club shall have the final authority and right to suspend any team for violations. These violations include, but are not limited to: failure to play NL matches as scheduled; failure to comply with NL rules; and/or failure to pay assessed NL fees or fines on time.

2.12 Fees and Other Expenses

Each team playing in the NL will pay the fees established by the League Director. The NL is not responsible for expenses incurred by teams through travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and other related team operating costs.

2.13 Return of NL Fees

The NL shall return any fees paid to the NL for any team that is not admitted into the NL. Once the team divisions are posted on the NL website, the team fee for the season becomes non-refundable.

SECTION III. TEAM ROSTERS

3.01 Team Rosters

Teams must be rostered to the age group of the oldest player on the team. At the Premier I Division teams must have 51% of the players from that age group. At the Premier II Division, clubs may request a waiver from the League Director. At the First Division or lower the 51% roster rule will not apply. Teams will not be allowed to play up unless invited by the League Director with direction from the Technical Advisory Committee.

Teams must enter an initial NL roster on the NL website by the Application Cutoff Date that includes primary, secondary and club pass players. This roster will be checked versus the State Roster and the registration database. The roster will be the initial roster that will be used as the continuity roster for the US Youth National Championship Series.

The roster can be changed at any time, but a match roster must be printed off prior to each match showing the active players for that match. The roster must be presented with the passes to the referee during team check-in for the match. Once printed the roster is frozen. Only the players on the roster will be eligible to play in the match.

3.02 Maximum NL Player Roster Size

1. At Under-9 and Under-10 age groups the maximum number of players on a NL Roster shall be 12;

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2. At Under-11 and Under-12 age groups the maximum number of players on a NL Roster shall be 16;
3. At the Under-12 age group 11v11 division the maximum number of players on a NL Roster shall be 18; and
4. At the Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 or Under-19 age groups the maximum number of players on a NL Roster shall be 22.

3.03 Member Passes

Valid Nebraska State Soccer or US Youth Soccer State Association member passes will be used for NL play. All passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo and be laminated.

3.04 Player's NL Participation on a Daily Basis

At no time may a player play in more than two games a day (e.g. they can play in one game for two different teams in a day).

3.05 Player's Rostering Limitation within an Age Group

At Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 age groups players can be on a NL Player Roster for more than one team within the same age group (sharing of players). These age groups are for player development and if teams are just moving players to win games it will be brought in front of the Technical Committee for review. At Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups players playing in the Premier I or Premier II Divisions may not be on a NL Player Roster for more than one team within the same age group. Players playing in the Premier I or Premier II Divisions may play-up on team in an older age group in either Premier or First Division, but must obey Rule 3.04 above.

3.06 Club Pass/Secondary Players

1. A Club Pass Player is a player that is registered to the club and may be added to the NL Player Roster, provided the player is registered to the same club as the team. At Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 age groups players can be a Club Pass Player on more than one team within the same age group. At Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups players playing in the Premier I or Premier II Divisions will not be allowed to be a Club Pass Player on any other teams in the same age group. Premier I or Premier II players may Club Pass play to an older team in either the Premier I, Premier II or First Division, but must obey Rule 3.04 above.
2. A Secondary Player is a player that is registered to a second team within the State Association and may be added to the NL Player Roster. At Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 age groups players can play on more than one team within the same age group. At Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups players playing in the Premier I or Premier II Divisions will not be allowed to be a Secondary Player on any other teams in the same age group. Premier I or Premier II players may be a Secondary Player to an older team in either the Premier I, Premier II or First Division, but must obey Rule 3.04 above.

In the spring season, "trapped" Under-15 player may be a Club Pass Player on an Under-14 teams. A "trapped" player means they are they are a Under-15 player be not attending high school.

SECTION IV. FORMATION OF DIVISIONS AND SUB-DIVISIONS

4.01 Divisions of Competitions and Sub-Divisions

The divisions of competition may be named: Premier I, Premier II, First Division, Second Division and Third Division. Within each division, based on the number of teams participating in a particular gender age group, the League Director with direction from the Technical Advisory Committee may further split the teams into sub-divisions. The NL may conduct qualification competitions to determine placement of teams into tiers for future seasons of play.

4.02 Team Selection and Division Placement including Promotion and Relegation

The League Director will submit a list of teams and divisions to the Technical Advisory Committee to review prior to each seasonal year. The League Director and Technical Advisory Committee will meet and finalize the divisions of each boys and girls age group. The process of determining the placement of teams into division will utilize the accepted concept of Promotion and Relegation of teams between divisions based on the finish of teams in the previous year's NL standings, head to head competition and Nebraska State Cup results. If needed, there

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could be matches to determine qualifying for divisions.

At Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 through Under 14 age groups, teams will be placed in divisions for the Fall session and may be relegated or promoted for the Spring session. The mission of the league is to get teams of similar ability into the proper division. At the Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups teams will only play the Fall session.

SECTION V. REMOVAL OF TEAM AND NEW TEAMS

5.01 Removal of Team from a Division

Teams that had previously earned placement in any division team may need to show continuity of roster to retain their slot. If the roster has a significant change the team may be relegated.

5.02 New Teams in the NL

New teams will be placed based on the information provided or known, but in most cases will not be placed at the Premier Division.

SECTION VI. MATCHES - OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

6.01 Scoring Method

The standings of teams within divisions/sub-divisions are based upon the number of points earned. Teams earn points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win
- One (1) point for a tie
- No (0) points for a loss
- Minus two (-2) points for a forfeit

6.02 Forfeits

In the event of a forfeit, the team that forfeits the match will have two (2) points deducted, and the match score will be recorded as 0-4. The opponent will be awarded three (3) points and a 4-0 win. In the event that a team forfeits more than one game, the League Director shall review the impact that such forfeits have on the standings and may consider dropping all results by all teams versus the team that has committed forfeits from the standings. This shall only be done if forfeits have a direct impact on promotion and relegation or the team has been suspended from the league.

6.03 Forfeited Matches

A team that forfeits a match shall be subject to the following: The team (1) shall be subject to a fine, (2) could be suspended from the league, and (3) may be relegated one division despite its finish in the standings.

6.04 Uneven Number of Matches

In the event that the teams in a division/sub-division do not play the same number of matches due to unforeseen circumstances, not including matches that teams refuse to play (i.e. forfeits), the Final Standings may be determined by using the percentage of points earned versus the maximum points the team could have earned. The League Director will also determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

6.05 Reporting of Scores

Head Coaches shall report match scores within twenty-four (24) hours on the Head Coach Match Report on the NL website. Both Head Coaches are required to report the scores. If there is discrepancy the match will show as "contested", the League Director will use the Referee Match Report to determine the match result.

1. In Regional Competitive/Rec leagues, coaches may be asked to report scores to Director instead of entering scores.

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6.06 Tiebreakers

If two teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If more than two teams are tied, Winner of head to head will not be used until a criterion creates a situation where a team or teams are eliminated. If the elimination of more than one team creates a winner the process is done. If two teams are still involved, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied resorts to the tiebreakers starting with Winner of Head to Head:

- a. Winner of head to head competition.
- b. Most Total Wins (all matches).
- c. Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals against) in all matches with a maximum of plus/minus four goals per match.
- d. Fewest goals against.
- e. Coin Toss

6.07 Uniforms

Teams playing in the NL are only permitted to wear the following on their match uniforms:

- a. Nebraska League logo;
- b. Their individual club and/or team logo and team sponsor logo;
- c. Manufacturer of uniform logo; or
- d. Name and number of player.

No other patches or logos (e.g. another governing body) are permitted unless written permission is granted by the League Director.

6.08 Number of Matches

The scheduled number of matches shall be determined by the League Director based on the number of teams in a division, MRL schedules and any play-off process. League Director will attempt to schedule teams for seven (7) or more matches, unless the conflicts reduce the number of matches. Deposits will be based off seven (7) matches, but will be adjusted once schedules are finalized.

6.09 Scheduling of NL Matches

All NL matches will be scheduled by the League Director or designee.

6.10 Travel/Hosting

For the purpose of NL competition, Notification to Travel/Permission to Travel Forms will not be required.

6.11 Match Schedule and Rest Periods

All matches will be played as scheduled, unless weather conditions dictate otherwise. It is the intent of the league to play only one match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two matches a day will be scheduled.

6.12 Inclement Weather

Each complex is responsible for notifying the league of Field Closure due to inclement weather as soon as possible, but no later than two (2) hours before the matches. Remember that weather can pop up at any time and the final decision to play will be made by the Referee at the match site. NL will follow the Nebraska State Soccer weather plan for suspending matches. The policy is posted in the Coaches Tool Box and Referee Tool Box pages on the NL website.

SECTION VII. RULES OF PLAY

7.01 Laws of the Game

Matches will be played under the applicable rules of Nebraska State Soccer, US Soccer and US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the FIFA Laws of the Game as they govern play subject to the modifications noted herein. The FIFA Laws of the Game are posted in the Coaches Tool Box and Referee Tool Box pages on the NL website.

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7.02 Substitutions

In the Premier I Division at the Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups the NL will operate under the FIFA-Seven (7) “per half” substitution system. Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the match during that half of play. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee. In all other divisions and age groups, unlimited substitutions will be permitted. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee.

7.03 Match Length and Ball Size

Age Group	Length of Half	Ball Size
Under-9 and Under-10	25 min.	4
Under-11 and Under-12	30 min.	4
Under-13 and Under-14	35 min.	5
Under-15 and Under-16	40 min.	5
Under-17 and Under-19	45 min.	5

7.04 Field Size

Fields for all age groups must meet the FIFA requirements. The NL recommended field size for:

- a. Under-9 and Under-10
 1. Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards.
 2. Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 40 yards.
- b. Under-11 and Under-12
 1. Length: minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards.
 2. Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards.
- c. Under-13 and Under-14
 1. Length: minimum 100 yards maximum 110 yards.
 2. Width: minimum 62 yards maximum 68 yards.
- d. Under-15 – Under-19
 1. Length: minimum 105 yards maximum 120 yards.
 2. Width: minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards.

7.05 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to NL review by the League Director. If a match is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the match is abandoned. If a match is abandoned for any other reason including but not limited to gross misconduct, the League Director will decide the disposition of the match score following review of all information available including but not limited to Referee Match Reports, Head Coach Match Reports, etc.

7.06 Forfeits - Lack of Appearance

A fifteen (15) minute delay in the start of a match due to a team’s lack of appearance is permitted for scheduled matches before the match is abandoned. The Referee will report the Lack of Appearance to the League Director within twelve (12) hours. The League Director will determine the outcome of the match, but Lack of Appearance is normally a forfeit.

7.07 Anchored Goals

The coaches and match referee should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured with at least one anchor, if the goal cannot be anchored, the game will not be played. Ideally, there should be two anchors on each goal. In the FIFA Laws of Play – Law 5 indicates that the referee has the final determination as to properly anchored goals. NL will ask parent’s to also check to make sure goals are anchored, if not, they should not allow their child to play. Any unanchored goals or integrity issues will be reported to League Director by the Head Coaches in their match report and to the Referee Assignor by the Referee in their match report within twelve (12) hours. The Referee Assignor will notify the League Director.

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7.08 NL Player Rosters and Player/Bench Personnel Passes

Prior to printing the NL Player Roster, the Head Coach or Team Manager must login on the website, go to "Player Roster" and set the players participating in the next match to "Active". Once the players are set to "Active" and the Roster printed, the date is printed on the Roster and the Roster is considered "Frozen". The Roster can be changed at any time before the match, but the last Roster printed will be the "Frozen" match Player Roster. The Roster will be available to print off up to Four (4) days prior to the match. We recommend that you bring two extra copies of the Roster to each match. Each team must bring their laminated Nebraska State Soccer member passes and their Roster to every match. Rosters and passes are to be given to the Match Referee prior to the start of a match. No more than twelve (12) players at the Under-9/10 age group, no more than sixteen (16) players at the Under-11/12 age group and no more than eighteen (18) players at the Under-13 through Under-19 age group from a team may appear as "Active" on the Roster and play in any match.

7.09 Playing of Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: forfeiture of the match, a fine, suspension of the team's coach from NL competition, or expulsion of the team from the NL.

7.10 Member Passes Presented to Referee

In the Premier I Division at the Under-15 through Under-19 age groups player passes shall be presented to the referee upon entering the field of play. Passes will be returned to the players at the end of the half. Players will present passes upon entering the match during the second half. At all other divisions and age groups due to the unlimited substitution rule for these age groups, all passes are to be presented to the Referee prior to the match. Referees are to collect the passes for any non-participating player that is sitting on a team's bench for the match prior to the match to insure that such players do not participate in the match. Such passes are to be returned to the team following the match.

7.11 Availability of Team Rosters

Upon request, copies of official NL Player Roster must be provided to the opposing team coach/manager either by hard copy or email.

7.12 Uniform Color Conflict

As part of the application process, each team was asked to declare their home and away uniform colors. When logged in you can see the uniform colors of your opponent. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed as "Home Team" must change their uniform color, subject to the Match Referee's decision. The "Away Team" shall wear your away color. In the Premier I Division, players in the bench area will wear pennies that do not conflict with the uniform color of either team.

7.13 Coaching from Sidelines

Limited coaching from inside the team's respective Technical Area is permitted. Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area. Bench Personnel may not leave their team's Technical Area or enter the field of play without permission from the Referee. If the Technical Area is not marked on the field, the technical area will extend 1 yard on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1 yard from the touch line. The Referee should define the Technical Area prior to the start of the match within the guidelines of this section.

7.14 Team Bench Supervision

At all age groups and divisions, a coach, manager or team official must supervise a NL team at all times at the Team Bench Area. Coaches, managers and team officials are required to provide the Referee with a bench personnel pass certifying that the coach, manager or team official is currently rostered with the team/club. If by expulsion or emergency, a team does not have a coach, manager or team official to supervise the NL team during a NL match, then the match shall be abandoned and reported to the League Director. The League Director shall declare the match a forfeit.

7.15 Team Head Coach – Licensing Requirement

Beginning June 1, 2016:

1. At the Premier I Division, the head coach on a team's NL roster must hold at the minimum a US Soccer "E" License or a NSCAA Level 6 Diploma as the minimum coaching qualification.

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2. At the Premier II Division and lower, the head coach on a team's NL roster must hold at the minimum a US Soccer "F" Coaching License as the minimum coaching qualification. The NL will give any head coach a code that will allow the head coach to take the course without paying a fee. The fee will be charged during the reconciliation of fees at the end of the season.

SECTION VIII. MATCH CONTROL

8.01 Three-Person System

Matches should be officiated by the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System for Under-11 through Under-19 and single-person FIFA/USSF Referee. In the event an assigned official fails to appear by match time, one of the referees should make contact with the Referee Assignor for that community. If the Referee does not appear within 10 minutes of the match time the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines. The result of the match will be considered official as long as there is one Certified Referee on the match.

8.02 Game Officials

Match officials will be assigned under the authority of the NL working with Nebraska State Soccer SRA or SYRA. The SRA and SYRA will recruit and approve the Referee Assignor in each community or region.

8.03 Payment of Referees

Referees and Assistant Referees assigned under the provisions of these NL Rules shall be paid twice a month by the Nebraska State Soccer office. Referee Assignors will provide paysheets to the League Director showing individual Referees, their pay for matches called during the requested date range. The League Director will determine the dates for submittals and payments.

The league will use the Nebraska State Soccer Pay Scale advertised on the Nebraska State Soccer website. No Assignor will submit a request for payment unless the Referee has submitted a match report to the Assignor.

If fields are closed and/or matches are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled match only.

8.04 Abandonment of Matches

Referees may abandon matches for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsportsmanlike circumstances. Each coach is responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players. Upon request by the Referee or Assistant Referee, coaches are responsible to assist in the control of parents, fans, and spectators. The Referee will report the abandonment of any match to the League Director within twelve (12) hours. The League Director shall ascertain the facts and determine appropriate disciplinary action that may include:

1. Reprimand;
2. Forfeiture of match as appropriate;
3. Suspension from future NL matches or
4. A more severe penalty.

If play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the League Director whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

8.05 Filing of Referee Match Report

The Referee must file such Report with their Referee Assignor within twenty-four (24) hours of the match. In the event of a send-off, expulsion of bench personnel or incident, the Report must be filed within twelve (12) hours of the match. Filing shall be defined as providing pertinent match information on the Report and filling out the appropriate form on the Nebraska League website under Referee Tool Box.

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SECTION IX. SEND-OFFS, EXPULSION, INCIDENTS AND DISCIPLINE

9.01 Send-Offs and Expulsions

Players can be sent-off (red card) and coaches or team officials can be expelled from the field of play and its immediate surrounds. NL feels strongly that all participants must conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Unsporting behavior will not be tolerated. NL will track and internally post all send-offs and expulsions. Teams will be awarded negative points for poor behavior that point total will be tracked and posted at the end of each season. Teams with proper behavior will be given good sportsmanship status. NL will follow Nebraska State Soccer's penalties at a minimum, but may have stricter discipline. Below are the type of penalties and the number of matches and fine for the suspension:

1. Players

a. During a Seasonal Year – Regardless of the Team

1. Serious Foul Play	First Offense – 1	Next Offense – 3
2. Violent Conduct	First Offense – 2	Next Offense – 5
3. Spitting	First Offense – 4	Next Offense – 10
4. Deny of goal scoring opportunity		
	First Offense – 1	Next Offense – 2
5. Deny of goal scoring opportunity – Handling		
	First Offense – 1	Next Offense – 2
6. Offensive/Abusive Language		
	First Offense – 1	Next Offense – 3
7. Second Caution	First Offense – 1	Next Offense – 2

2. Bench Personnel or team officials

See Fees and Fine Schedule on the NL website. This may change season to season.

9.02 Disciplinary Actions

All disciplinary measures imposed by the NL will be served under NL play.

9.03 Violation of Rules

Any violation of the rules herein or Nebraska State Soccer rules will be subject to disciplinary action by the NL based on the NL or Nebraska State Soccer rules or governing documents.

9.04 Disciplinary/Fine Schedule

Prior to the start of the Fall and Spring Seasons, the League Director will distribute a Fine and Fees Schedule.

SECTION X. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

10.01 Definition of a Protest

A *Protest* is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules, policies, or procedures related to a specific match. Referee judgement (e.g. calls) decisions cannot be protested. Only those teams directly involved in a match (i.e. the two competing teams) are permitted to protest a match result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, club administrators, cannot file protests on a specific match.

10.02 Definition of an Appeal

An *Appeal* is a request to transfer the decision of the League Director to Technical Advisory Committee. Appeals may arise as the result of an adverse decision from an administrative action or disciplinary action by the League Director. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

10.03 Filing Procedures

A Protest or Appeal must be filed in writing and must include:

1. The nature and specifics of the complaint;
2. A listing of the rules, policies, or procedures that have been violated;
3. A statement of the desired resolution;
4. Copies of all documents relevant to the Protest or Appeal; and

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5. The filing fee for a protest or appeal is \$300.00 (certified check or money order – made payable to Nebraska League.)

All Protests and Appeals must be filed with the League Director. The original document of the Protest or Appeal, along with all supporting documents, must be sent by Registered or Certified U. S. Mail – Return Receipt Requested.

10.04 Return of Filing Fee

In the event that a Protest or Appeal is upheld, then the filing fee shall be returned to the entity filing the Protest or Appeal; otherwise the filing fee is non-refundable.

10.05 Notification of Parties

The League Director shall notify all parties involved, no later than three (3) business days from receipt of an Appeal or Protest, that an Appeal or Protest has been filed.

10.06 Protests of Matches Played

Notice of intent to Protest activity that occurred during a match must be registered with the League Director within twenty-four (24) hours of completion of the match. All Protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee to the League Director. The Protest must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from match completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 10.03. The Referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with the respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters are final. The League Director is authorized to settle disputes which arise in the course of a NL match. The League Director will hear the Protest, investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved related to such match and may impose appropriate sanctions for any violation found. A decision on a Protest must be made within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of a Protest. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted).

10.07 Appeal of Decision of the League Director

The Technical Advisory Committee is authorized to hear Appeals of League Director decisions. The Technical Advisory Committee will investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved related to such matter and may impose appropriate sanctions for any violation found. A decision on an Appeal must be made within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of an Appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a Operational Advisory Committee decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the Nebraska State Soccer Board of Directors (Board of Directors).

10.08 Appeal of NL Assessed Fines

An Appeal of NL assessed fines, must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from notification of an assessed penalty in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 10.03. Such Appeal will be heard by the League Director. The League Director will investigate and adjudicate the Appeal. A decision on an Appeal must be made within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of an Appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a League Director decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the Technical Advisory Committee.

10.09 Appeal of Administrative Matter

The League Director is authorized to hear Appeals that are administrative in nature. The League Director will investigate and adjudicate the Appeal. A decision on an Appeal must be made within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of an Appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a League Director decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the Technical Advisory Committee.

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10.10 Board of Directors Decision

The Board of Directors hearing an Appeal of a Technical Advisory Committee's decision shall make the final decision on this matter. The Board of Directors will render a decision no later than twenty-one (21) business days from receipt of the Appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted).

10.11 US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1

USYSA Bylaw 704, section 1 states that: "No member of USYSA, official, league, club team, player, coach, administrative, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, as provided within USYSA." Additionally, for violation of USYSA Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and/or fines, and shall be liable to the NL, Nebraska State Soccer and USYSA for all expenses incurred by the NL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following: (a) court costs; (b) attorney's fees; (c) reasonable compensation for time spent by the NL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; (d) travel expenses; and (e) expenses for holding special meetings by the NL, Nebraska State Soccer or USYSA necessitated by court action.