

Niagara Soccer League Rules and Regulations 2026 Grassroots

Privacy Policy (Niagara Soccer Association)

It is understood that I can contact the Niagara Soccer Association or my own Club to review the information on file and if necessary, can correct any or all information. It is understood that all information on file is not provided or given to any other organization. The information is for soccer requirements and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Operational Policies Preamble

Ontario Soccer (OS) is the governing body for soccer in Ontario and is responsible for the sanctioning and oversight of leagues in Ontario.

Code of Conduct

Administrators, Executive Committee Members, League Officials, Match Officials, Match Assignors, and registered Team Officials must always conduct themselves on and off the field (when dealing with soccer-related activities) in such a manner as to set an example when followed and enable every player to be a credit to the game. Executives and League Officials shall investigate all reports and any non-compliance that they directly observe and advise Team Officials and Club Administrators of any non-compliance with the League's Rules & Regulations as soon as possible.

1. Management

- 1.1. The affairs of the League(s) will be overseen by Niagara Soccer Association staff and board of directors.
- 1.2. The NSL League Administrator are not authorized to change or modify league policies or wave or adjust administrative fines or disciplinary fines.
- 1.3. The Niagara Soccer Board of Directors has the sole right to modify, change, add, or delete League Operational Policies. Changes to Operational Policies made by the League will be communicated to the participating Clubs at least 14 days before adoption of the changes.
- 1.4. All regular schedules will be maintained on the NSL website (niagarasl.com). The website administrators will be responsible for the preparation of these schedules. The League Scheduler will review all schedules before they are finalized. Maps to all fields, a copy of the Rules and Regulations and all other required information for all teams will also be available on the website. At the Annual Coaches Meeting, coaches will be made aware of major changes in the Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. A waiver form, provided by the League, will be given to all teams, stating that the team officials have read and understand these Rules and Regulations, and that they agree to abide by them. The waiver is to be signed by the Team Staff and returned to the League Administrator, prior to May 15th of the current year.
- 1.6. Coaches should contact their Home Club with any and all concerns they may have with regard to information posted on the website. If the concern is valid, the Club will contact the appropriate NSL official about the concern.
- 1.7. Only registered team officials may contact the NSL administrator regarding game issues.
- 1.8. CLUBS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR TEAM OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS, ON AND OFF OF THE FIELD OF PLAY, DURING ALL GAMES.

2. League Fee

- 2.1. The annual League fee will be proposed by the NSL League Administrator and adopted by the Niagara Soccer Board of Directors

- 2.2. The 2026 team entry fee will be as follows: U8 \$350.00, U9-U13 \$375.00
- 2.3. The NSL reserves the right to add additional league fees for unforeseen incurred expenses.
- 2.4. A bond of \$250.00 is required from all Clubs prior to the start of the season.

3. Team Registration

- 3.1. All team registrations for U8 to U13 must be fully completed and received by March 1st of the current year, along with the team registration fee.
- 3.2. Registration fees are to be mailed to NSA 94 Dunkirk Rd Unit 6, St. Catharines, ONT L2P 3H4
- 3.3. If payment of all outstanding fees, bonds and fines is not made, the application may be rejected.
- 3.4. Acceptance of applications received after the April 15th deadline of the current year will be at the discretion of the Executive and will be subject to a \$100.00 late fee.
- 3.5. Any team withdrawing after March 31st of the current year will forfeit their team registration fee. Clubs must send official written notification to the League.
- 3.6. Any team withdrawing after the coaches meeting will forfeit their team registration fee and be assessed an additional penalty of \$250.00
- 3.7. Each team must register players as per the Rules and Regulations of Ontario Soccer (OS).
- 3.8. Players will be allowed to register with only one NSL team.
- 3.9. Each team must play at its own age level unless otherwise approved by the League and it must comply with Ontario Soccer (OS) Published Rules.
- 3.10. The player registration deadline for the League will be set for July 31st of the playing year. No registration or transfer of players will be permitted after the July 31st deadline.

4. Team Regulations

- 4.1. There is an open roster system for U8-U13, however a completed game day roster with all player names, OS numbers, jersey numbers, and birthdates must be available at the beginning of the game.
- 4.2. Grassroots (U8-U13) players and Team Officials must be present with their photo on an Ontario Soccer generated official team roster which has been approved by the District.
- 4.3. Each team may dress as the maximum number of players set forth by the Rules and Regulations of Ontario Soccer (OS).

5. Player Eligibility

- 5.1. In U8 – U13, under aged players are allowed to be rostered and the appropriate paperwork must be completed and be on hand at the club if the NSL needs to request the forms. Once these players are approved for the higher age group team, they must remain on that team only for the remainder of the season.
- 5.2. The Executive reserves the right to investigate any question of player eligibility and deal with it in accordance with the League Rules and Regulations.
- 5.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players will not be acknowledged if the team photo roster has not been checked.
- 5.4. U8 & U9 teams may dress a maximum of 12 registered players for a game. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 5 players (5v5), one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- 5.5. U10 & U11 teams may dress a maximum of 14 registered players for a game. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 7 players (7v7), one of whom shall be the goalkeeper
- 5.6. U12 & U13 teams may dress a maximum of 18 registered players for a game. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 9 players (9v9), one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- 5.7. U8 & U9 teams must field at least 3 players, or the game will not be played.
- 5.8. U10 & U11 teams must field at least 5 players, or the game will not be played.
- 5.9. U12 & U13 teams must field at least 6 eligible players, or the game will not be played.

- 5.10. A “call up” is any player who is registered to the age division below.
- 5.11. There is absolutely no call ups permitted in the Niagara SL grassroots divisions. (U8 to U13)

6. Team Officials

- 6.1. All team officials must be registered with the District Association through their Club.
- 6.2. All team officials must have the appropriate coaching certifications as required according to the National Coaching Certificate Program/OS certification. To be reviewed annually and will follow the guidelines of the OS Requirements.

POSITION	CERTIFICATIONS REQUIRED
Head Coach	Coaching Certificate (U8 & U9 Fundamentals, U10-U13 Learn to Train), Making Ethical Decisions, Respect In Sport, Making Headway, Rule of Two, Emergency Action Plan
Assistant Coach	Coaching Certificate (U8 & U9 Fundamentals, U10-U12 Learn to Train), Making Ethical Decisions, Respect In Sport, Making Headway, Rule of Two, Emergency Action Plan
Manager	Respect in Sport, Making Headway
Assistant Manager	Respect in Sport, Making Headway

- 6.3. All certifications must be completed prior to the start of the season.
- 6.4. If anyone on the staff has Respect In Sport (RIS) from another organization such as hockey, they only need to put in their number from that course on the RIS for soccer. This is good for 5 years.
- 6.5. All team officials must be on their official team photo roster, and it must always be available. If the roster is not available, the official(s) name will not be entered on the game sheet, and the official(s) will not be allowed to sit on the player bench.
- 6.6. A head coach may only be registered to one team per age group.
- 6.7. A minimum of one certified coach must be present on the bench for a game to be played.
- 6.8. A minimum of 1, and a maximum of 4 team officials, which are rostered to the team, are permitted to sit on the bench, all of whom must be entered onto the game sheet. Only team officials included in the team application will be allowed to sit on the bench.
- 6.9. Team officials may be added to, or changed from, the team application by notifying the League in writing. Each team must notify the League in writing within seven (7) days of any change in team officials, or team official’s information. (Email address, phone numbers etc.)
- 6.10. Team officials will coach within the technical area which is one meter from either side of the bench and 1 meter from the touchline. Team officials are not permitted to walk up and down the sideline or obstruct the view of the assistant referee.
- 6.11. Team officials are not allowed on the playing field unless summoned by the game official.
- 6.12. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and spectators on and off the field before, during and after a scheduled game by the League.

7. Match Officials

- 7.1. All match officials must be OS certified.
- 7.2. All match officials must be aware of the rules for Grassroots Soccer and the rules of the League.
- 7.3. All U8-U11 games will require one match official. When possible, all U12 and U13 games will have a referee and two assistant referees assigned to them but games will still be played with one to three match officials. A game may begin at the Referee’s discretion with no Assistant Referees.

- 7.4. Match officials for U8-U13 games will be provided by the Home Club. All referees appointed by the Home Club must be Small Sided Game accredited for 5v5 and 7v7 games and Entry Level accredited for 9v9 games.
- 7.5. When possible, youth match officials should be at least 2 years older than the division they are officiating.
- 7.6. When possible, match officials for U8, U9, U10 and U11 games should be in their second year of officiating. Match officials for U12 and U13 games should be in their third year of officiating. Where this is not possible, match officials will be chosen at the discretion of the Club Head Referee.
- 7.7. All Clubs will make every reasonable attempt to ensure that no match official is directly related to any game participant.
- 7.8. All match officials must sign all game sheets and enter all the scores into the E2E system. All Caution, Dismissal and Special Incident Reports must be recorded into the E2E System within 48 hours of the game.
- 7.9. Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability per the Laws of the Game and the 'spirit of the game' and will be based on the opinion of the referee who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.
- 7.10. The Referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from the time they arrive at the facility until the time they leave the facility.
- 7.11. All game sheets for U10 to U13 divisions will be fully completed by match officials, including scores and scorers in all games. They will be submitted via E2E to the League where they can be recorded and compiled. This information will not be available to the public and will be used for league information only.

8. Take 5

- 8.1. In U8-U11 games, match officials will be adopting the use of Take 5 to address spectator behaviour that goes beyond being acceptable, immediately in the moment.
- 8.2. This approach involves a total of 3 stages:
 - a) Warning
 - The first time that spectator's behaviour crosses the acceptable threshold, the referee will pause the game
 - The referee will address the behaviour with the coaches, who will then address their team's spectators. No additional time is added for the warning stoppage
 - Play is restarted according to the Laws of the Game
 - The referee will submit a Take 5 Reporting Form
 - b) Timeout
 - The second time spectators' behaviour crosses the acceptable threshold; the game is paused for 5 minutes. No additional time is added for this stoppage. No activity is allowed on the field during this time.
 - Once the 5 minutes have elapsed, play is restarted according to the Laws of the Game
 - The referee will submit a Take 5 Reporting Form
 - c) Abandon
 - The third time spectators' behaviour crosses the acceptable threshold, the game is abandoned
 - The referee will submit the necessary reports (Take 5 Reporting Form and Special Incident Report)

9. Match Official Payment Policy

- 9.1. Match official fees schedule as per Appendix "B"

- 9.2. When a game is cancelled after the match officials have arrived, the match officials will be paid half of the published game fee by the home team. If the home team does not show up, then the match official must contact the NSA for payment. The League does require the match official to complete the game sheets and include a reason why the game was cancelled.
- 9.3. The Match Officials will be paid the half game fee for games that are not started while at the field due to the following:
 - The field, at the match official's discretion is unplayable.
 - The field is closed by the municipality, owner or league.
 - The match officials were not contacted at least 2 hours prior to the game start time and appear at the field
 - One or both teams do not show up after the grace period has elapsed.
 - One or both teams have less than the minimum number of players required to kick off the game.
- 9.4. If the match officials are notified 2 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time, the game officials will not be paid for the game.
- 9.5. If the game officials are notified less than 2 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time, the game officials will be paid half of the published fee.
- 9.6. If a game is called after having started the game, the game officials are to be paid in full.

10. Laws of the Game

- 10.1. All games will follow the current version of the "Adapted Match Formats Laws of the Game"

11. Game Sheets

- 11.1. Electronic game sheets must be provided for all age groups and be given to the match official prior to the start of any game. Failure to do so will result in all players being ruled ineligible
- 11.2. Teams will supply the match official with three (3) copies of a completed E2E system-generated game sheet a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. A hand-written game sheet may be used in certain cases when the E2E system-generated version is not available at game time. However, the E2E system-generated version must have been completed online prior to the game start and be available to the referee to allow game notes to be recorded. The match official will not commence the game without receiving all completed game sheets.
- 11.3. All officials' names and their OS registration numbers are to be recorded on the game sheet. No one shall be allowed on the player's bench without being in possession of a team photo roster and listed on the game sheet.
- 11.4. All team officials listed on the game sheet must sign the game sheet and will be deemed to have sat on the bench. Failure of team officials to sign the game sheet will result in an incomplete game sheet and will be subject to the applicable fine.
- 11.5. Team officials are only allowed to list themselves on the game sheet in the role (coach, manager) that they are registered for in Power Up. Teams will incur a \$100.00 fine for any ineligible coaches on the game sheet or bench during a game.
- 11.6. ALL PLAYERS must be listed on the game sheet to be eligible to play.
- 11.7. All players, team officials and call-ups must have valid OS registration numbers on the roster listed beside their name. If not listed on the roster, they are not allowed on the team bench.
- 11.8. Player information must include the following:
 - Player name
 - Player jersey number (every player must have an individual, distinct number).
 - OS registration number
 - Players Date of Birth

- 11.9. All players listed on the game sheet will be deemed to have played. (Players may be removed from the game sheet by stroking through the players' name and OS registration number, prior to the start of the game). Players arriving after the start of the game are to be added to the game sheet. The player cannot enter the field of play until the match official has been notified of their arrival.
- 11.10. At the end of the game the match official will complete the game sheets. The match official will provide the Home team with one copy of each game sheet, the Away team with one copy of each game sheet and will keep the remaining game sheets for online reporting. After the online reporting is completed, the match official will be required to upload the game sheets through Ref Centre as well as keep a hard copy of the game sheets to the end of the season.

12. Home Club & Team Responsibilities

- 12.1. Home clubs will be responsible for the provision of the following. Failure to do so will result in the home team being fined. The game official will note all inadequate field equipment on the game sheet.
 - a) Grassroots soccer field size (as per OS guidelines)
 - b) Field markings (as per FIFA Rules)
 - c) Appropriately sized goals and nets (as per OS guidelines)
 - d) Corner flags – minimum of 5 feet in height
 - e) Two (2) size 4 game balls (U8-U12), two (2) size 5 game balls (U13)
- 12.2. For U8 and U9 games, both the Home and Away team are each responsible for paying the game official a half game fee. For U10-U13 games, the Home team is solely responsible for the payment of game officials. Payment must be made in cash and in suitable denominations at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and given to the match official(s). Referees will not commence the game until payment is received. Games that are not started due to failure to pay the appropriate fees will be considered abandoned. Forfeiture and fine disciplinary actions will follow.
- 12.3. Report all match official no-shows to the League within 24 hours.
- 12.4. Both teams must submit a game report within 24 hours stating whether the game was completed or incomplete.

13. Uniforms

- 13.1. All players shall wear regulation soccer equipment as outlined by FIFA and OS Rules including shin guards.
- 13.2. All teams must play all their games in their registered team colours.
- 13.3. All Players including goalies must be identified by a number on the back of their shirt and such number will be recorded against the players' name on the game sheet. All numbers must be legible. Players wearing the same numbered jersey shall be considered ineligible, and subject to the appropriate fines and penalties.
- 13.4. The HOME team shall change to their alternate colours if, in the opinion of the match official, the colours are similar.
- 13.5. If the HOME team is unable to provide an alternate strip, then the visiting team will be consulted to determine if they can provide an alternate strip. The HOME team will be subject to the appropriate fine. If neither team can provide an alternate strip and the referee determines the game cannot be played, the game will be rescheduled with the home team providing a field and game date within 14 days of the originally scheduled game date, subject to any final week contingencies. The administrator and scheduler will be advised of the proposed rescheduled date. Failure of the Home Team to provide a date and field will be subject to fine.
- 13.6. Goalkeepers' uniforms must be distinguishable from that of the game officials and all out-field

- players including the opposing goalkeeper.
- 13.7. Players shall not wear anything that endangers themselves or other players at the referee's discretion.
 - 13.8. Jewelry is not permitted and cannot be taped. Medic Alert bracelets are the exception if they are fastened securely so as not to bring danger to any other player. The match official should be aware of any player that is wearing one of these. Any hair apparel must be of soft fabric: no hard plastic or metal items are to be worn.
 - 13.9. Sports hijabs/headscarves are permitted. The color must be black or match the main colour of the team uniform.
 - 13.10. Undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts and players of the same team must wear the same colour.
 - 13.11. Players asked to leave the field for equipment reasons may not re-enter until the Referee is satisfied that the equipment is permissible.
 - 13.12. A player can return during play after changing/correcting equipment, once equipment has been checked (by referee or assistant referee) and referee signals.
 - 13.13. Match officials have the final say on the safety of equipment.

14. League Schedules

- 14.1. Clubs must provide an adequate field for each team registered to play at the time of registration. The field must be available for a minimum eight (8) home games commencing with the Tuesday following Victoria Day in May and ending the final weekend of August.
- 14.2. The League will endeavor to schedule a minimum one game per week and comply with the Grassroots Standards for Grassroots age groups. Multiple games per week may occur for other reasons.
- 14.3. Games nights will be as follows:

DAY	GIRLS	BOYS
Monday	U9, U11, U13	U9
Tuesday	U10, U12	U11
Wednesday	Women	U10, U13
Thursday		U12
Friday	U8	U8

- 14.4. Game nights are revisited yearly.
- 14.5. All teams must play on their designated playing night.
- 14.6. All scheduling conflicts must be dealt with by the Club prior to the publication of the schedule for each playing season.
- 14.7. Games may be rescheduled for Friday and Saturday as required.
- 14.8. The League will determine the final number of teams in each division.
- 14.9. At the discretion of the Executive, and in the interest of competitive play, any division U10 to U13 may be divided into 2 or more distinct tiers.
- 14.10. A minimum of 4 teams per tier will be allowed.
- 14.11. The League reserves the right to adjust tier groupings.
- 14.12. The League reserves the right to alter game schedules to balance out divisions to adjust competitive levels.

15. Game Start Time

- 15.1. The match official will endeavor to start each game at the scheduled time designated by the League. An allowance of not more than fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled time shall be

made if either team has less than the minimum number of players required to play the game in attendance for Grassroots Soccer. At the Match Official's discretion, halves may be shortened in order to fit the match into the allotted time.

- 15.2. For U8 – U13, **NO** game will start after 8:00 pm. **No** game may start before 6:00 pm on any normal weekday. No games shall be played under the cover of darkness at the referee's discretion.

16. Duration of Play

- 16.1. The length of games will be:
- i. U8 & U9 Two (2) twenty (20) minute halves
 - ii. U10 & U11: Two (2) twenty-five (25) minute halves
 - iii. U12: Two (2) thirty-five (35) minute halves
 - iv. U13: Two (2) forty (40) minute halves
- 16.2. All divisions will have a five (5) minute halftime break.
- 16.3. If for any reason a game is terminated/abandoned before full-time the following shall apply:
- a) The game will be considered complete if 10 minutes of the second half have been played in Grassroots Soccer games.

17. Substitutions

- 17.1. Unlimited player substitutions shall be permitted, with the consent of the referee, during a stoppage of play for the following:
- a) Scoring of a goal
 - b) Goal kick
 - c) Player injury
 - d) Halftime
 - e) U8 & U9 can change on the Fly (no Stoppage required) and on all stoppages of play
 - f) U10 & U11 on all stoppages of play
 - g) U12 & U13 on own throw-ins (piggy backing is permitted)

18. Slide Tackling

- 18.1. Slide tackling is NOT permitted in Niagara SL for age groups U8 to U13.
- a) For clarity, a slide tackle is when a player slides along the ground with one (or both) legs outstretched in an attempt to win the ball.
 - b) Goalkeepers are permitted to slide to make a save, they must do so without violating the rules against dangerous play.

19. Game Postponement

- 19.1. All games shall be played as scheduled by the NSL unless:
- a) At the discretion of the game official, postponement is necessary due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions.
 - b) At the discretion of the League's Executive, a game may be subject to postponement.
 - c) A game is postponed at the discretion of the Municipality responsible for the field.
- 19.2. Only the League will send notice by email to both Clubs, Coaches and Match Officials confirming the game postponement or a Field/Time Change.
- 19.3. In the case of weather-related field cancellations:

The home team Club will notify the League, the opposing Club and opposing Team contact by email of any field cancellations no later than two (2) hours prior to the game start time. Unless confirmation by the opposing Club has been received, the Home team's club must have a representative at the field to inform the visiting team. Team/Club contacts are supplied and are also available on the League website.

20. Game Rescheduling

- 20.1. Only the League may reschedule a game. Any special request must come from the Club. The League will not entertain requests from teams.
- 20.2. NO GAME WILL BE RESCHEDULED UNLESS APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE NSL EXECUTIVE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE CONDITIONS STATED BELOW.
 - a) a game being played is abandoned due to poor weather conditions, the game will be replayed if less than 10 minutes of the second half have been played in Grassroots Soccer games. The referee shall be the sole judge of the elapsed time.
 - b) In the event of extreme weather conditions, games may be cancelled by the League providing as much notice to the Clubs as possible.
 - c) A park official has declared the field unplayable and will not allow a game to start or continue.
 - d) If a field becomes unavailable for a regularly scheduled game because of the pyramid of play, the Home Club will advise the League convenor in writing and the game may be rescheduled at the discretion of the League Executive.
 - e) If requested because a large portion of the team will be away because of school related activities (field trip, graduation) that teams have no control over, we will permit it as long as the club asking for the request reaches out to the other club and comes up with an agreed upon alternate date and time for the game to be played.
- 20.3. ANY GAME PLAYED ON A NIGHT OTHER THAN THE SCHEDULED NIGHT, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE LEAGUE, WILL BE FORFEITED BY BOTH TEAMS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATE FINES AND PENALTIES.
- 20.4. Games cancelled during the final week of the season will be rescheduled at the discretion of the League Executive.
- 20.5. The home team club scheduler will be required to submit two alternate dates to the League within 72 hours by email to reschedule the postponed game. Weekends will be excluded from the 72-hour period for rescheduling purposes.
- 20.6. Particulars of all rescheduled games must be forwarded to the NSL.
- 20.7. The League will notify the coaches and clubs of the date and time of any rescheduled game.
- 20.8. The League will give a minimum 48 hours' notice for any rescheduled game.
- 20.9. Weekends may be used for rescheduling games providing both Clubs agree to the date and time and it meets the Leagues rescheduling guidelines.
- 20.10. The original Home team shall remain responsible for all costs including match official fees and field costs.

21. League Standings

- 21.1. No scores or standings will be used for U13 and lower Grassroots Soccer games.
- 21.2. A "Festival Finals Weekend" will be held at the end of the current season for all teams U8 – U12 during the final weekend of August. There will be a tournament for U13 teams.
- 21.3. The match official game fees for the Festival Finals Weekend will be paid for by the NSL.

22. Discipline

- 22.1. No yellow and/or red cards shall be issued to players for U8-11 Grassroots Soccer.
- 22.2. Yellow and/or red cards shall be issued to players for the U12-13 Grassroots
- 22.3. Yellow and/or red cards shall be issued to team officials at all age divisions.
- 22.4. Teams accumulating cards will be fined as per Appendix "A"
- 22.5. Discipline will be held under OS Policy Section 12 and 13 with the first level of discipline being held under Sport Discipline and appeals going to Ontario Soccer.
- 22.6. All discipline reports, along with the game sheets, must be submitted by the match official, within 24 hours of game completion.
- 22.7. Discipline Reviews (DBR) and Discipline Hearings (DBR) will be held every Monday and Thursday.
- 22.8. For matters that fall under DBR, a written request for Hearing must be received 72 hours after the completion of said game, along with the hearing fee as per Appendix "A" (non-refundable as per OS Policy).
- 22.9. Playing an ineligible or suspended player(s) in a sanctioned game may result in a Discipline Hearing. A loss for the team for all games in which the player(s) participated may result.
- 22.10. If a game is abandoned at any point due to the actions of players, officials or spectators/supporters of a team, the offending team/Club will be subject to discipline.
- 22.11. Fines and sanctions will be assessed as per Ontario Soccer (OS) Rules and per Appendix "A".
- 22.12. Failure to submit payment of fines within 30 days will result in a late fee as per Appendix "A".
- 22.13. Team officials and players subject to possible discipline, may continue to participate in League play, including Cup games, until their scheduled hearing date, with the exception of alleged match official assault.
- 22.14. Discipline in the case of alleged match official assault will result in the immediate suspension of the accused until they appear before the disciplinary committee.
- 22.15. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure any team official and player attends their scheduled discipline hearing. Non-attendance at a discipline hearing will result in the immediate and indefinite suspension of any accused parties until they appear before the Hamilton DA discipline committee.
- 22.16. Any team official who pulls his/her team off the field (game abandonment) is subject to a discipline hearing.
- 22.17. Appeals against any decision by the League may be made to the District Association (NSA). Any such appeal must be made in accordance with the District Association by-laws.

23. Forfeits/Fines/Penalties

- 23.1. If any team fails to appear or appears and refuses to play at a scheduled League game, they may be fined as per Appendix "A".
- 23.2. Fines and sanctions will be assessed as per Ontario Soccer (OS) Rules and per Appendix "A".
- 23.3. Failure to submit payment of fines within 15 days will result in a late fee as per Appendix "A".
- 23.4. Clubs will be solely responsible for any and all fines incurred by their teams.
- 23.5. Clubs will be advised of the following rule infractions as soon as they are made known to the league:
 - a) Playing an ineligible player
 - b) Smoking while on the player bench

- c) Team official sitting on player bench while suspended
- d) Use of alcohol while on the player bench

24. Protests

- 24.1. All protests will be reviewed by the NSL Committee.
- 24.2. Any Protests resulting from the referees' interpretation of the FIFA laws of the game will not be acknowledged.
- 24.3. Protests will not be accepted unless they are received from an officer of the Club.
- 24.4. Protests are to be forwarded to the League and accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee, within 48 hours of the occurrence. Protests must be recorded on the game sheet.
- 24.5. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned.

25. Matters Not Included

- 25.1. All matters not herein provided for affecting the conduct and operation of this League, or of an emergency nature, shall be dealt with by the Executive in accordance with the NSA and/or OS Constitutions, Policies and Procedures.

Appendix "A" Schedule of Fines, Fees, Bonds and Penalties

LEAGUE FEES

- 1. Per Team: U8 \$350.00, U9 – U13 \$375.00
- 2. Bond per Club \$250.00

DISCIPLINE FEES

- Discipline Hearing Administrative Fee \$75.00
- Discipline Review Administrative Fee \$50.00
- Request for Hearing Fee \$100.00
- Request for Postponement Fee \$100.00
- Failure of an organization to attend Discipline Hearing \$200.00

FINES

- Team Withdrawal Fee after March 31 (Loss of registration fee)
 - U8 \$350.00
 - U9 – U13 \$375.00
- Team Withdrawal after Coaches' Meeting (in addition to loss of registration fee) \$250.00
- Game abandonment or Forfeiture \$250.00
- Missing field and/or game equipment \$25.00
- Failure of the Home team to provide an alternate jersey automatically fined \$50.00
- Failure to return a signed Code of Conduct waiver \$50.00
- Failure to update the website with game results within the League mandated 48-hour time frame \$25.00
- Smoking while on the team bench \$200.00

- Team official removed from a game \$50.00
- Team official sitting on player bench while suspended \$100.00
 - Game will be forfeit
 - Team official will be subject to discipline
- Unregistered person sitting on bench in coach or manager capacity \$100.00
- Use of alcohol while on team bench \$200.00
- No Club representative at coach's meeting \$150.00

ACCUMULATION OF CARDS

- Team accumulating 4 dismissals (red cards) \$50.00
- Team accumulating 8 cautions (yellow cards) \$50.00
- Team accumulating a combination of 10 red or yellow cards \$100.00

PENALTIES

- Minimum Late Fee for Fines (15 days) \$25.00

*** All team fines will be deducted from the \$250.00 Club bond. Clubs will be advised regularly by email of any fines assessed to them. If the accumulation of fines reduces the Club bond to less than \$100.00, the Club will be required to replenish the bond to the original \$250.00 before any teams are allowed to participate further. A 2-week grace period, after notification from the League, will be allowed to replenish the bond. ***

Appendix B: Referee (Match Official Fees)

Age Division	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee
U8 & U9	\$30.00	N/A
U10 & U11	\$35.00	N/A
U12	\$45.00	\$25.00
U13	\$55.00	\$40.00