



**League
Policies and
Procedures**

2011

NYSW Thruway League

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Policies and Procedures

This league will be known as the *New York State West Thruway League* or NYSWTL. The Thruway League is affiliated with the New York State West Youth Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, the United States Soccer Federation, and FIFA. Only teams affiliated with Thruway League member clubs can play in the league.

Teams must be registered with New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) or an approved National State Association affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer).

Pursuant to USSF Policy 601-7, section 2 (a) Any team wishing to compete in a game, tournament, or league in a state other than the one in where it is domiciled must receive written permission to do so from both states involved:

- 1) The State Association where it is domiciled
- 2) The State Association where it wishes to play

Note: The conditions, fees and procedures to obtain such permission, and the duration of such permission, shall be determined by the State Association.

Teams from a State Association other than NYSW need to have the above stated permission on file with the league administrator no later than the first regularly scheduled league match in their respective age group. Failure to have this permission on file will result in forfeits and fines. All forfeits shall also be deemed a game cancellation and subject to the fee schedule accordingly.

The participation fee in the Thruway League is \$250.00 per team. The Thruway League will pay the assigning fee for all teams in the league. The league entry fee must be paid within 10 days of the close of entry (January 10, 2011). Failure to pay this fee will result in suspension from the league.

All games shall be officiated by referees who are registered with USSF.

The season will run from April 1 through the month of June. The schedule is designed with the following factors in mind:

- a) Players available to play games
- b) Travel time of teams
- c) Field availability
- d) Referee availability
- e) Conflicts with ODP events
- f) Conflicts with Region 1 Leagues
- g) State Cup, President's Cup, play down games
- h) Club or team requests
- i) All U12 and older teams will play 8 games



Age Groupings

The Thruway League is comprised of 8 age groupings. Each age group shall be separated into a boys and girls conference. There shall be two divisions within each age group, the yellow (1st) division shall be the most competitive, and the blue (2nd) division shall be considered less competitive than the yellow division. All teams are required to play in the age appropriate division.

Team Registration

The entry of teams into the Thruway League must be accepted by the Thruway League Board of Directors whose decision is final. Acceptance and placement of entry may be based upon findings of competitive skills, risk of injury to players, the best interest of youth soccer, field submissions, certified referee availability, acceptance of the NYSW Zero Tolerance Policy, and previous history. Teams new to the league, and teams from non-member clubs shall be placed into the blue (2nd) division unless otherwise determined by the competition committee.

Promotion and Relegation

This league is a true promotion and relegation league. The goal for each division to have a minimum of 6 teams. The 6th place team from the yellow (1st) division will be relegated to the next lower division the following season. The 1st place team from the blue (2nd) division will be automatically promoted to the next higher division the following season.

Other teams will be considered for promotion and relegation on a team-by-team basis. The coach listed on the team application form will be consulted prior to any action in this regard, however the ruling of the League Board of Directors shall be final.

Team Rosters

Team Rosters must be:

- a) Submitted for team registration with player passes
- b) Correctly filled out
- c) Certified by NYSWYSA or an official certified roster of another NSA
- d) Submitted to the League Administrator by the published date. If not received by this date, the team may face suspension by being placed in bad standing with the league.
 - a. NYSW team rosters will be considered submitted when they are entered into the Thruway League in RosterPro©.

The roster limit for U11 and U12 teams is 18 players. For all other age groups the limit is 22 players (however no more than 18 may check into any game).

Rosters will be frozen at midnight, April 1. All changes to rosters, regardless of when they occur, need to be supported by release and transfer paperwork approved by the proper state authority. It is solely the responsibility of the team to ensure that the League Administrator receives their certified roster. If a roster is being submitted as a revised roster, it must be clearly marked "Revised."



Playing Up (Players)

Players may play up only one age group. When a player wants to play up more than one age group, the coach/parent must submit a letter to the Thruway League Administrator requesting a waiver. The player will be evaluated by a panel of coaches who will submit their recommendation to the Thruway League Board of Directors.

Secondary Rostering

A NYSW player may appear as a secondary player on a roster as long as NYSW requirements for multiple rostering have been met. ENYYSA does not permit multiple rostering, therefore no secondary players will be permitted on an ENYYSA team roster. **A player shall be rostered to one team, and one team only participating in this league.**

Coach's on the Sideline

A maximum of three coaches/trainers will be allowed on the team side of the field. Any adult on the team side MUST have a risk management coach's pass. A player from an older team acting as a coach must have a risk management youth coaching pass and cannot be on the sideline in a coaching capacity unless there is an adult (over 21 years of age) with a coach's pass on the sideline as well.

Player's/Coach's Passes

All player's and coach's MUST have a laminated player's pass or coach's pass, signed and sealed by the league/district registrar or State Risk Management officer, with a recent photo, in order to participate in any Thruway League game and/or to be on a team sideline. If a team is from a state that does not have a Risk Management Program recognized by NYSWYSA, then the coaches and sideline personnel must have a risk management pass issued by NYSWYSA. There are no exceptions to this rule.

This rule is not to be interpreted and must be strictly enforced by all referees at all league games. Any team appearing without authorized player passes shall be deemed as forfeiting the game and will be fined the forfeit penalty plus applicable referee's fees per occurrence. Any individual player(s) without an authorized player pass will not be allowed to participate or remain on the team/player's sideline unless that player is out of uniform.

In addition the team must present the referee crew with an original certified roster listing all players and coaches who are members of the team. Referees are to check to be certain that the passes and certified roster match. At the conclusion of the match the certified roster will be returned to the coaching staff.

In the event that a team appears at a game site with passes but without the certified roster, a **neatly printed** roster with the player's names, pass numbers and jersey numbers will be given to the referee who, in turn will file a report with the league administrator attaching said roster to the report. A fine of \$10.00 will be imposed on the club for each such instance.

In the event the hand written roster is reviewed by the league administrator and found to include ineligible players, the game will be deemed a forfeit.



Team Performance

Teams will not be required to provide performance bonds. For each forfeit there will be a fine, payable by the club. The clubs will be billed and have to pay the fines in order to remain in good standing. If a second game is forfeited the team will be expelled from the league. Any team which either withdraws from the league or is expelled shall be subject to a \$250.00 fine and shall forfeit their team registration fee. In addition, they will be responsible for all fines incurred by the team up to the point of withdrawal/expulsion. The Thruway League encourages clubs to collect bonds from those teams the club feels are at risk for incurring forfeit charges. Remember, the final responsibility for all fees and fines lies with the CLUB. All forfeits shall also be deemed a game cancellation.

Guest Players

Guest players will be permitted by the league for all teams. The intent of using guest players is for player development.

- a) A maximum of 3 guest players will be allowed at any league game.
- b) Guest players are to be included in the maximum number of player permitted to be dressed for a match. Rosters cannot exceed the maximums.

Guest players MUST be registered members of the club they are guest playing for and may not be a player on any other league team playing in the same division. Guest players are only permitted to play up in age group or competition level, regardless of their age appropriate group. For example, a U12 yellow division (1st division) player could guest play with the U13 team from his club, but would not be permitted to guest play on a U12 blue division (2nd division) team. Any incorrect use of a guest player will be treated as an ineligible player.

The guest player's name, pass number, name of the team he/she is regularly rostered with, date of birth and jersey number must be **neatly printed** to the bottom of the match roster prior to the game in which they play.

Player Eligibility

All players must have a valid US Youth Soccer player pass and must appear on the team's certified roster. If it is discovered that an ineligible player was used, all games that the player may have participated in will be deemed forfeits.

Requests concerning player eligibility should be directed to the League Administrator.

Investigation of player eligibility shall not be construed as a protest. For the good of the game and the league, any questions concerning player eligibility must be resolved within 10 days.

Rescheduling Games – Changes to the Preliminary Schedule

The preliminary Thruway League schedule will be distributed to club presidents during the month of February. Each team coach/manager will have 2 weeks (free grace period) to review the preliminary schedule with their team and notify the League Administrator of any changes to this schedule. It is the



team coach/manager's responsibility to notify the coach/manager of the other team and establish a new game date.

Rescheduling Games – Changes to the Final Schedule

Please Note: All game reschedules consist of a late game cancellation fee and a late game rescheduling fee.

After the 2 week grace period, only **3 changes can be made as long as they are changed at least 14 days prior to that scheduled game to be changed. AGAIN, only 3 games may be changed.**

*No request to cancel a game will be honored by the league with less than 14 days notice unless the requesting team's club president requests the change to the league president and the league president agrees to allow the change. **If this permission is not obtained, the game shall be deemed a forfeit.***

EXCEPTION: Games which must be rescheduled due to Cup play are not subject to the 14 day or 3 game limitations but will be subject to late cancellation or late scheduling fines.

To reschedule a game the team coach or manager MUST:

- a) Contact the opposing team and mutually agree to cancel the original game and schedule a make-up game.
- b) Contact the League Administrator with that information. (Remember – all game changes will consist of a late game cancellation fee and a late game re-scheduling fee. Either or both of these acts may involve fines.)
- c) Contact the field coordinator for the game field.
- d) Arrange a make-up date acceptable to both teams and notify all persons listed above in a reasonable time cycle prior to the new date. Failure to notify the league in the proper time cycle will result in a fine.

For each game not made up, there will be a forfeit and a fine will be assessed to the team or teams refusing or unwilling to make up the game. The check for this fine is made payable to the Thruway League and sent to the league office.

If the fine is not paid, the team will be deemed 'not in good standing' which will prevent that team from playing in any Thruway League game until the fine is paid. Clubs are liable for all penalties incurred by their teams. If the club does not pay the fine, then the club is put in bad standing. This will prevent all teams from that club from playing in the Thruway League until the fine is paid.

Make-Up Games

Coaches are **expected** to work with each other and their League Administrator to arrange whatever convenient times may be available to make up their games.

All make-up games must be scheduled for a specified date within 2 weeks from the date of the decision to cancel.



The game does not have to be played within the 2 weeks, but a new date must be established and recorded with the League Administrator within 2 weeks of the original game date. A \$100.00 fine will be paid by the team or teams refusing or unwilling to make up or reschedule the game. The check for this fine is made payable to the Thruway League and to be sent to the league office.

Cancellations

Teams must play all games and be willing to travel. If a team refuses to travel to a game site, that team may be subject to sanctions in addition to the \$100.00 forfeit fine and/or late game cancellation fines which may include expulsion from the league. The team will also have to apply for future acceptance into the league.

Scoring System

The following will be used to determine a winner for each division within an age group:

Win = 3 points, Loss = 0 points, Tie = 1 point

League standings will be kept for the U12 – U18/19 age groups.

Both team coaches are responsible for filing a game report for each match played in the age groups U12 and above. This report must be filed online at the internet address which will be provided to each coach by the respective League Administrator. Failure to report a match shall result in a \$10.00 fine assessed to any team not reporting any match. The match report will consist of the game score and a feedback form for each assigned referee. Each week, every game which is completed by Sunday midnight must be reported by 9:00PM on Monday night immediately following that Sunday.

If teams are tied at the end of the season:

1st Tiebreaker: Head to Head

The team with the best record against the tied opponent in direct league competition will be declared the winner.

2nd Tiebreaker: Goal Differential

The team with the best goal differential for the season will be declared the winner. Goal differential is determined by subtracting the goals allowed from the goals scored for each game of the season. The maximum difference is 3 for each game, both positive and negative.

3rd Tiebreaker: Goals Against

The team with the fewest goals allowed over the entire league season will be declared the winner.

4th Tiebreaker: Co-Champions

If all of the above is equal, the teams shall be League Co-Champions.



If one team forfeits, the result shall be a 1-0 score for the team not forfeiting. If both teams are at fault, the score shall be a 0-1 result for both teams. Teams assessed forfeits are ineligible for League Championships.

The Thruway League will provide each member of a team finishing in first place of each division within a competitive age grouping a winner's shirt provided the team has played at least 85% of their games.

Protests

All protests must be submitted in writing to the League Administrator within 1 week of the game in protest and must be accompanied by a non-refundable check in the amount of \$100.00 made payable to the league.

A referee's judgment is normally not considered a valid reason for protest. Incorrect application of The Laws of the Game is considered valid reason for protest. *The game officials must be advised that the contest is being played under protest.*

All protests will be heard at an executive meeting called by the board of directors. A team losing a protest will lose any points earned in the game protested.

Appeals

Should a team wish to appeal the decision by the board, the line of authority for appeals is as follows:

- a. New York State West Youth Soccer Association
- b. United State Soccer Federation Appeals Committee

Fields

There must be an active field coordinator for each club. This person will be responsible for all fields used by their club. The Thruway League reserves the right to use this person as a liaison between the club and the league on issues pertaining to the fields used by the club.

The home team is responsible for proper preparation of their fields. This means the grass must be cut, fields properly lined, nets properly secured in all areas, corner flags installed, spectator lines clearly visible, no obstacles on the playing field and the field is in playable condition. At game time a referee may declare the field unplayable. If unplayable for the above reasons, not acts of God, the home team is responsible for payment of the referees for the cancelled game, reporting to the League Administrator and scheduling a make-up game. In addition to the fees for re-scheduling the game, a fine of \$50.00 for improper maintenance or marking of the field shall be levied against the home team.



Other

If an occasion should arise that is not fully covered by the Thruway League Policies and Procedures, then the Board of Directors shall have absolute power to decide that case.

Other Notes

- 1) Every member of the organization is responsible for the actions of its coaches, players, officials and spectators before, during, and at the conclusion of the game.
- 2) Each coach during the game is responsible for the verbal and physical actions of its team, coaches, and spectators. ***A coach may be asked to leave the field as a result of a violation of this rule and will be subject to all fines as if he/she had committed the misconduct. If a spectator is ejected, the team shall be fined \$50.00 for each occurrence.***
- 3) Any Thruway League player, coach or spectator involved in any unsporting like incident reported by the game officials in any competition, shall be suspended immediately from any involvement in Thruway League related activities for a period to be determined by the Thruway League.
- 4) Any player, coach or team official who assaults (civilly or criminally) a referee, shall automatically be suspended for the rest of the season. NYSWYSA must be notified of the occurrence through the League Administrator.
- 5) There will be a maximum of 3 non-players allowed for each team on the player's side of the field. This includes coaches, assistants, managers, photographers, spectators, trainers, and parents. EACH ADULT ON THE TEAM SIDE OF THE FIELD WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A CERTIFIED RISK MANAGEMENT PASS. THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE REFEREE.
- 6) Ejection of a coach or team official will be fined \$50.00 and required to sit out a minimum of one game.
- 7) If a referee does not arrive, the game can be played only if USSF certified replacement referees can be found. If teams choose to play without certified referees, the game will be unofficial and not count in the league standings. Both coaches should contact the League Administrator to arrange a make-up game.
- 8) When a player, coach, manager, or club official assaults a referee or an referee assistant, and the assault amounts to physical violence, the state association has the sole right and authority to adjudicate the matter. The President of the Thruway League having information about such assault will, on completion of an investigation and determination that an assault did occur will immediately notify the proper state association authorities and give them all the information the Thruway League has compiled.
- 9) If a player starts bleeding during the game, they must be removed from the game until the bleeding stops, and is properly covered.



Cautions and Send Offs

- 1) All rules covering cautions and send offs are covered by the FIFA Laws of the Game. The Thruway League has also added to these laws with additional rules.
- 2) Coaches and all other non-players/non-substitutes on the team side of the field are reminded that any verbal warning received from a referee shall be considered a CAUTION just as if the referee had shown a yellow card. If any non-player is asked to leave the premises, he or she will not be shown the red card BUT the Thruway League will treat the situation as if the red card had been shown. This carries a \$50.00 fine and the person will be required to sit out the next scheduled league game. Depending on the severity or volume of offenses committed, the Board of Directors reserves the right to increase the amount of time to be served.
- 3) If a player during the game is sent off, they must sit out the remainder of the game (while their team plays short) plus their next league game. A send off in a Thruway League games costs the player \$35.00. The fine must be paid before the player can resume playing or attending games.
- 4) A send off will result in that person's member pass (player or coach) being sent to the League Office. The pass will be returned after that person has sat out their required suspension and paid their fines to the Thruway League. It is the responsibility of the club to that this fine is paid to the League.
- 5) Any person who is sent off more than once during the Thruway League season shall appear before a review committee appointed by the President and League Administrator. This review committee shall have the power to suspend the person from further participation. Failure to appear shall result in immediate suspension.
- 6) Strong or vulgar language is punishable for players and coaches with a send off.
- 7) Any ADULT team official sitting out a game, or who is sent off from a game, cannot be within sight of the remainder of the game or the game they are sitting out. In addition, the adult sitting out shall not have any communication, electronic or otherwise, with anyone present while the game is in progress. If the Thruway League is informed and after investigation finds that a coach or team official was in sight of or in any way involved with the game, severe disciplinary action will be taken.
- 8) Sitting out games by team officials is a serious matter under the NYSWYSA Zero Tolerance Policy. Failure to do so properly is serious breach of that policy.



Assault, Abuse and Harassment

A Guide for Players, Spectators and Coaches

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU?

In the case of assault:

- You WILL be arrested.
- You WILL need an attorney.
- You WILL be convicted.
- You WILL either do jail time, pay fines, or do community service.
- Your name WILL appear in the local news.

Your soccer life will also change:

- USSF MANDATES minimum suspensions to be enforced nationally for any assault or abuse. These can be up to 5 years or longer! These cases are normally handled by the state association. You will also face league fines and sanctions.

In the case of harassment:

- the league will take significant action suspending you from numerous matches and charging you fines. You may also endanger future involvement with the league.

IT IS JUST A GAME!

STOP! THINK! CALM DOWN!



Coach and Manager Responsibilities

Before the season:

- 1) Familiarize yourself with proper protocols and policies of the league. The Thruway League will not be responsible if you are unaware of the appropriate procedures and responsibilities you have assumed as a coach or manager.
- 2) Review your schedule within the two-week grace period which follows the release of the preliminary schedule. Make all changes needed based on school vacations, trips, concerts, other leagues, other sports, or any other foreseeable conflicts there might be. Immediately call to initiate all changes. **Don't wait till the last day** of the grace period to call because it takes a few days to work out any changes.
- 3) In concert with your club registrar, ensure that all players and coaches are properly registered, have original certified rosters as well as player and coaches passes for the games. Be certain that all team and player fees have been paid.

During the season:

- 1) Call the opposing coach two or three days ahead of your scheduled game to confirm the time and place.
- 2) If the coach is unavailable for the game arrange for an assistant coach to coach the team. **Note:** *Each coach on the team side of the field **must** have a coach's pass so make sure you have more than one adult designated to help with a team. No team will be allowed more than 3 adults on the player's side of the field. Please comply with the referee when they enforce this rule.*
- 3) As home team, along with your club's field coordinator, ensure that nets are secured, corner flags are in place, fields are lined properly, and the field is playable.
- 4) Make sure you remember to bring your player passes and medical release forms to all games.
- 5) Ensure that all players are properly dressed with shin guards and uniforms.
- 6) Have first aid supplies available, know the location of the closest telephone, and know the telephone number of the nearest emergency squad.
- 7) Be responsible for the conduct of the coaches, players, parents, and spectators. Have a team-parent-coaches meeting to discuss appropriate conduct and team responsibilities.
- 8) Show respect to all official of the game, irregardless of the quality of the game they are officiating.
- 9) Both coaches must file a game report to the League Administrator by 9:00PM each Monday. A \$10.00 fine will be assessed for failing to make a timely report.
- 10) Game rescheduling after the grace period: It is the responsibility of the coach who request the cancellation or the home team in case of weather related cancellations to initiate mid-season rescheduling. Please note: weather related rescheduling can only be initiated by the club field coordinator by closing the field or by the referee at the game site.



- a. If a game is being cancelled after the grace period end for some reason other than weather related, the coach requesting the cancellation must obtain agreement from the opposing coach on cancellation and the time and place of the rescheduled game. The coach should contact the club field coordinator before contacting the opposing coach to find possible playing times for rescheduling the game. He/she should have four or five options to present to the opposing coach.

PLEASE NOTE: NO GAME MAY BE CANCELLED LESS THAN 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED GAME ONCE THE 2 WEEK GRACE PERIOD IS OVER WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE THRUWAY LEAGUE. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS CUP PLAY.

A request for cancellation less than 14 days prior to any match will result in a forfeit unless the specific approval of the league president is granted. Such a change will only be granted in the case of a major emergency which would force your team to show at a game site with less than 7 players. **This request must be made by your club's president.** Do not initiate contact with the president of the Thruway League on your own accord.

- b. The coach requesting cancellation must notify the League Administrator at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the cancelled game. Three changes per team per season is the limit for rescheduling after the grace period. This limit does not apply to games being rescheduled due to Cup play or weather related cancellations.
- c. The coach must ensure the field is available and ready for play by checking with the club field coordinator.
- d. The coach requesting cancellation or the home coach if the cancellation is weather related, must notify the League Administrator at least seven (7) in advance of your make-up game or be prepared to pay a fine as outlined in the schedule of fees and fines.
- e. All cancelled games must be rescheduled within two weeks of the original play date or the game may be deemed a forfeit.
- f. All game reschedules consist of a game cancellation and a game scheduling. Either or both these actions may result in a fine being charged.
- g. Report to the League Administrator any game that is played with fewer than 3 officials.
- h. Periodically check the Thruway League website to be certain that your team's record is correct in the standings. If an inaccuracy is found, report it immediately to the League Administrator.



2011 Thruway League Schedule of Fees and Fines

2011 Team Registration Fee - \$250.00

Referee Game Fees (Per match, 3 officials, 8 game schedule)

Age Group	2011 Referee/Asst. Referee	Responsibility per match for each team
U17/18	\$78/\$39	\$78
U15/16	\$68/\$34	\$68
U13/14	\$54/\$27	\$54
U11/12	\$44/\$22	\$44

Late Game Cancellation Fee – paid by the team responsible for cancellation

Age Group	1-24 Hours	25-48 Hours	49-72 Hours	73-96 Hours	97-120 Hours
U17/18/19	\$156.00	\$124.80	\$93.60	\$62.40	\$31.20
U15/16	\$136.00	\$108.80	\$81.60	\$54.40	\$27.20
U13/14	\$108.00	\$86.40	\$64.80	\$43.20	\$21.60
U11/12	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$47.40	\$31.60	\$15.80

Late Game Scheduling Fee

Age Group	1-24 Hours	25-48 Hours	49-72 Hours	73-96 Hours
U17/18/19	\$62.40	\$46.80	\$31.20	\$15.60
U15/16	\$54.40	\$40.80	\$27.20	\$13.60
U13/14	\$43.20	\$32.40	\$21.60	\$10.80
U11/12	\$31.60	\$23.70	\$15.80	\$7.90

*PLEASE NOTE – All game reschedules consist of a game cancellation fee and a game scheduling fee.



Fines

Forfeit **\$100.00**

Charged to team unable to prove to the assigned referee that they are fielding a legal team or who do not show up at the scheduled game site within 15 minutes of game time. *All forfeits are also considered late game cancellations.*

Failure to Make a Timely Game Report **\$10.00**

Charged to any team not making a game report by 9:00PM, Monday following the game date.

Send Off (Player) **\$35.00**

Charged to any team that has a player shown a red card. This fine is per person *and* per occurrence.

Coach, Assistant, Manager or Spectator Ejection **\$50.00**

Charged to any team that has an affiliated coach, assistant, manager or spectator asked to leave a game site. This fine is per person *and* per occurrence.

Physical Assault **\$250.00**

Charged to any team that has an affiliated coach, assistant, manager, or spectator with assault. USSF mandates minimum suspensions to be enforced nationally for assault. These can be up to 5 years or longer! Please take all appropriate actions to prevent this from happening.

Failure to produce an original certified roster **\$10.00**

Charged to any team which shows up at a game with player passes only but no original certified roster.

Improper Maintenance or Marking of Field **\$50.00**

Charged to any home team if a referee reports that a field is not appropriately marked or equipped, this fine may be charged even if the game is played. The referee also has the option of refusing to allow the game to be played which will result in a forfeit for the home team.

Early Withdrawal/Expulsion **100 % Team Registration Fee + \$250.00**

Charged to any team which withdraws or is expelled from the league after the final schedule has been released.



NYS WEST Youth Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy

To help prevent physical assault and verbal abuse in the leagues and clubs within the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA, or Association); the Association has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting and other behavior (including, but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players and spectators resides with the member clubs.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the member clubs to provide instructions to their coaches on how they are expected to carry this out. This policy applies before, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

Parents & Spectators

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee or assistant referees at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
- b. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- c. Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

- a. Parents and spectators may respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the referee terminates the conversation.
- b. Parents and spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting.

Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.

Penalties (Parents & Spectators)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the coach of offending party's team.
- b. The referee may stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent /



spectator to leave the field.

- c. The referee may abandon the game if the parent/spectator does not leave the field.

Players

The conduct of the players is governed by the Laws of the Game as stated by FIFA and USSF. The Laws themselves describe penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional penalties for players who engage in misconduct may be established by the club and/or league but may in no case be less severe than penalties established by FIFA, USSF, or NYSWYSA.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, bench personnel and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in a New York State West Youth Soccer Association sanctioned event are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, coaches, assistant coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent, referees and spectators at all times. The New York State West Youth Soccer Association will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the match official. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the club that the coach or assistant coach represents, the league that the match is being played under, or as allowed by New York State West Youth Soccer Association policies after a review of the match report.

- Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill intentioned remarks.
- Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.
- Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:
 - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
 - b. Point out emergency or safety issues.
 - c. Make substitutions.
 - d. Ask the referee, "What is the proper restart (i.e. direction and Indirect Free Kick or Direct Free Kick)?
 - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
- Coaches are allowed to ask a referee after a game or during the halftime interval, in a



polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul, but not judgment calls made in the game.

- a. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the referee may abandon the exchange at any time.
- b. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

NOTE: It is recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the match official once the match has concluded.

Penalties (Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel.
- b. The referee may eject the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.

NOTE: Referees are instructed not to display any cards to bench personnel. They are strictly reserved for players and substitutes.

- c. The referee should abandon the game, if the coach, assistant coach or bench personnel do not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after having been instructed to do so. Additional penalties associated with the ejection of a coach, assistant coach or bench personnel may be assessed by the local club or league which sanctioned the match in accordance with their documented policy. These penalties may be no less stringent than sanctions as may be imposed by NYSWYSA following their review, if conducted, of the incident.

All cases of alleged abuse or assault of a referee shall be reported to the NYSWYSA State Office and State Referee Administrator within 48 hours of the match that engendered said behavior. NYSWYSA will then conduct a verification of the complaint and subsequent actions as required by applicable sections of USSF Policy in effect at the time of the incident. Although NYSWYSA is continually bound by USSF Policy and its various revisions, definition of referee abuse and referee assault found in USSF Policy 531-9 as of the creation date of this Zero Tolerance Policy is offered by way of information as follows:

Referee Abuse

- (a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
- (b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's physical property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Referee Assault

- (a) (i) Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
- (ii) For purposes of this Policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable.



Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

(b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc