**NVYSL Age Group Summary – U7**

This summary is not intended to replace the NVYSL Rules document. It is simply a condensed version of the rules designed to highlight the major rule differences at the U7 age group.

**Coach Responsibilities**

* The coach is responsible for providing a safe, fun environment for the players and spectators.
* The coach of each team is responsible for the actions of the team players, parents and spectators.
* Team players to be seated on **same** sideline as parents and on opposite sideline from opponents, if possible.
* Win or Lose, you are expected to set the example for good sportsmanship. The NVYSL is a recreational league. Sportsmanship is more important than team standings in this league. We don’t officially keep score at U7.

**Referees**

At the U7 age group, you will have young and inexperienced referees as the referees are beginners. They will make mistakes. It is not your job to educate them. They have been instructed to NEVER change a call based on complaints from coaches or parents. If a referee makes a call you don’t agree with, unless you have safety concerns (ex. slide tackling), accept the fact that a mistake was made and move on. Enter any concerns or constructive feedback into your game report. The league will investigate and address any performance issues with the officials. If you insist on confronting the referee and publicly arguing with the calls, it will be YOUR behavior that the league will seek to correct and/or remove. Referees are required to write game reports for every game.

**U7 Rule Highlights**

* 40 minute games broken down into four 10 minute quarters. Referee fee is $18 per team.
* Format is 6v6 with a size THREE ball. Maximum roster is 12 players, minimum players to play game is 4. Less than 4 players equals a forfeit. Teams MUST play with equal number of players on the field with the exception of the 5-7-9 rule (see below).
* Roster exchange and referee fee payment to be made before game. Rosters to have all players uniform numbers added. Hand written uniform and duplicate numbers are allowable. Hand written PLAYERS names are NOT.
* NO jewelry is allowed to be worn. Ear rings, necklaces and rings MUST be removed.
* Game substitutions shall be made only at the end of the quarters or if injury has occurred.
* All players are to play at least ½ of each game. Only exceptions are for player injury.
* Goal Kicks are taken from anywhere inside the six box, normally put on the line. Ball does NOT have to exit the 18 yard box.
* Build Out Line is implemented.
* o The mid-field line shall be the Build Out Line (BOL).
* o Upon goal kicks or goalkeeper possession, defending players must retreat behind the BOL until the ball is in play.
* o The ball is in play when an attacking player touches the ball after the goal kick is taken or the goalkeeper distributes the ball.
* o If defending team touches ball before BOL, whistle to be blown and indirect kick awarded at that spot.
* Corner Kicks are taken from where the side line and end line meet.
* No penalty kicks. If there is a foul inside the penalty box worthy of a free kick, a corner kick is awarded.
* No Direct Kicks. All FREE kicks are in-direct.
* No Off-sides.
* Goalkeeper has possession when any part of his/her hand or arm is touching the ball. Dropping the ball is NOT possession.
* Six second goalkeeper rule is waived.
* Rule against allowing a goalkeeper to handle a deliberate foot pass or throw in from a teammate is waived.
* Re-throw-ins are permitted and encouraged as a teaching moment.
* Slide tackling is strictly forbidden at ALL age groups.
* HEADING the ball is a foul. An in-direct free kick will be awarded at the spot of the heading of the ball. Inside of the 18 box, the kick will be placed on the 18 box in the direction the ball was directed from. Heading the ball foul is ONLY for intentionally heading the ball. Player having the ball hit them in the head is NOT a foul!
* **5-7-9 rule:** This rule is at the TRAILING teams discretion: A five goal lead, trailing team MUST add one player OR leading team MAY remove one player, seven goal lead, trailing team MUST add second player OR leading team MAY remove second player, decision to add/remove players is TRAILING teams coach ONLY. Nine goal lead, leading coach will receive a warning from the league, second offense, ONE game suspension, third offense, TWO game suspension, etc…. BLOWOUTS are highly discouraged!!!
* In case of forfeited game, NO referee fees are to be paid at the field as the forfeiting team will pay BOTH teams referee fees out of their NVYSL bond. The referee WILL be paid by the NVYSL Board.
* In case of bad weather and if both teams arrive at the field and the game is then cancelled due to the weather or field conditions, the referee fees ARE to be paid.
* NOTE: U7 is beginner soccer. We do NOT keep scores for play-offs at this age group. U9 and older has play-offs. Referees keep score for game reporting.
* ALL league info can be found at [www.NVYSL.com](http://www.NVYSL.com). Updated for Fall 2023