

Northern Indiana Soccer League

Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws

Effective March 4, 2008

A. PURPOSE AND GENERAL STRUCTURE

Northern Indiana Soccer League (NISL) will provide a competitive experience for players whose skills qualify them to participate. NISL will continue the development of skilled players and will provide a framework for competitive soccer in Northern Indiana.

1. NISL is governed by a Board/Executive Committee consisting of a President, a Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Board will strive for high quality, competitive and fair soccer for youth in Northern Indiana. Within the context of the broad principal, the Board may interpret the rules and regulations with discretion where appropriate. NISL will sponsor fall and spring seasons.
2. NISL is affiliated with the Indiana Youth Soccer (IYS), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). NISL, through its affiliation with IYS, will provide insurance as part of player registration (see section C).
3. NISL Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws are posted and available at the NISL website www.nislsoccer.com for your use.
4. The Executive Committee will organize the teams into appropriate age groups, following USSF age groupings whenever possible. The Executive Committee may divide the teams into two (2) divisions when eight (8) or more teams are in one age group/division. The Executive Committee will assign each team to a division based upon the team's USSF age classification, its previous record, the team's player roster, and/or the club's performance history.

B. COACHES, REFEREES, AND MANAGERS

1. Member clubs are responsible for selecting coaches for their teams.
2. Coaches are responsible for their team's conduct at training and at games. The Executive Committee may suspend coaches who do not adhere to the NISL Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws after investigation by the Executive Committee. Suspended coaches may not serve in any official capacity with any NISL League team or in any other capacity with NISL until the term of the suspension is completed. Coaches are also expected to help the referees discipline unruly fans. Parents and others are not allowed to coach or make derogatory remarks to players or referees. Coaches can be suspended for the behavior of their team's fans.
3. Effective the fall of 2007, all players, coaches, managers, and parents will be required to sign the NISL code of conduct and submit a copy to the league registrar prior to your first match.
4. Every team must have a manager who is responsible for communications, payment of fees, and other administrative responsibilities.
5. Each coach/team manager is to report the game score using the online entry system at our website no later than the first business day following the game.
6. All center referees must be certified by the USSF. Assistant referees (linesmen) may be USSF certified referees or club assistant referees if two (2) USSF certified referees are not available. No game shall be played without a USSF certified center referee.

C. PLAYERS, REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL

1. Age is defined by the player's age on August 1: i.e. a player who will still be under 14 years of age on July 31 may play on a U-14 team during the fall and that following spring season.
2. ID cards will be checked by the referee before every NISL game. Players and Coaches without a card will not be allowed to play, and will need to move to the fans side of the field. ID cards must be completely filled out, signed by an IYS state registrar, have the player's or coach's picture affixed to it and be laminated per IYSA's rules for registration.
3. If an ineligible player plays or if a coach knowingly permits an ineligible player to participate in a NISL sanctioned game, the player, the coach and the entire team may be suspended for a period to be determined

by the Executive Committee. Players are ineligible if they were sent off (red-carded) in the previous game, if they are not registered, or if they were illegally registered (age or area violation).

4. The only team roster acceptable to NISL will be the IYS Team Roster for the current year with the stamp and signature of the IYS State Registrar.
5. Players, who are selected due to their ability and skills, may play on a team in an older age group as long as they are in compliance with IYS rules and regulations governing such issues.
6. Players may not play on teams in younger age groups, except under the following circumstance. U-15 players will be permitted to play on U-14 teams in the fall season, if their birthday falls on such a date that they are in the 8th grade and not eligible to participate in high school soccer. Maximum 3 U15 players per U14 team. The player and team must be in compliance with IYS rules and regulations governing this issue. In the spring season, the U-15 player must play in the U-15 age group. Likewise, in the spring, U19 trapped players still in high school, in compliance with IYS rules, may play on a U18 team. Maximum 3 players per U18 team.
7. The U-9 division is intended to be "Rec-Plus" and in compliance with IYS rules. "Rec-Plus" teams in this division cannot hold try-outs. No U-8 player will be carded on a "travel" team. Beginning the fall of 2007, the U09 division will become academy play only. Players/teams will be organized for specified play dates only. There will be no tournament or awards for U09.

D. TEAM ROSTER LIMITS

Team rosters will consist of a maximum of eighteen (18) and no fewer than thirteen (13) players. U-9 and U-10 rosters will be limited to no more than 12 players with a minimum of six (6) players. U11 and U12 teams will be limited to a roster of 14 players with a minimum of eight (8). If the permanent roster size of a team falls below the stated minimum, the team will be required to bring the roster up to the stated minimum number of players for the age classification.

E. RULES AND GAME PROCEDURES

1. All NISL games will be played according to the FIFA "Laws of the Game", as modified by the USSF for youth players. USSF referees and assistant referees will be assigned, using the diagonal system of control.
 - a. Substitution Rule modified as follows:
 - Substitution shall be with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 - Prior to a throw-in in your teams favor
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team
 - After any goal
 - At half time
 - At half-time of any overtime period, if applicable
 - If a team has a substitute player ready on their own possession as described above and the opponent also has a player ready for substitution, both teams may sub.
 - b. U09/U10 Goalie ball distribution rule modified as follows: Punting, Drop Kicking, Throwing, and Rolling are allowed, however, the ball not not land past the halfway line (midfield) without touching the ground or another player first. In the case of an infraction, an indirect free kick (IFK) will be awarded to the opponent. The indirect free kick will be taken at the midfield line at the point of the infraction.
2. At a time to be determined by the referee, but approximately fifteen (15) minutes prior to the beginning of the game, the coach/manager of each team will present the referee:
 - a. The IYS team roster and birth certificates must be available for review.
 - b. Laminated ID cards for the players and coaches
 - c. A game ball (home team)
 - d. All players -- for equipment and ID inspection by the referee.
3. Referees will keep the player cards during the game and return the cards of all but red-carded players to the coach or team manager at the end of the game. Any retained cards will be forwarded to the NISL President.

4. USSF certified referees and assistant referees will be paid by the League for NISL scheduled games, through their local referee association if one exists. If a local referee association does not exist, the league will work through the Clubs referee assignor.
5. All teams must have a first aid kit at all games.
6. All teams must arrive a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
7. Official game lengths and ball sizes are as follows
 - a. U-9/10 Two - Twenty-Five (25) minute halves and a #4 Ball
 - b. U-11/12 Two - Thirty (30) minute halves and a #4 Ball
 - c. U-13/14 Two - Thirty-Five (35) minute halves and a #5 Ball
 - d. U-15/16/17 Two - Forty (40) minute halves and a #5 Ball
8. Only rostered players and coaches are allowed on the sidelines with the participants. All others are to remain on the spectator side of the field unless otherwise directed by the referee.

F. DISCIPLINE (CAUTIONS AND SEND-OFFS)

NISL expects its players and coaches to conduct themselves within the NISL Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws and the principals of fair play and good sportsmanship. The following are the NISL disciplinary rules:

1. Players, coaches, or managers being sent off (red-carded) in a USSF game will be suspended for their team's next scheduled game. If the red card was for two (2) cautions, they will be suspended for the next game. Violent conduct before or after a game (no red card will be shown) will also result in a two (2) game suspension; the game of the violent conduct and the next scheduled game.
2. Players/Coaches/Team Personal threatening, by word or sign, another player, coach, spectator, referee, team or league official shall be suspended for the one full year. Repeat offenders will be banned from the league and must appear before the NISL Executive Committee.
3. Players/Coaches/Team Personal pushing or striking a referee, coach, or manager shall make an appearance before the NISL Executive Committee and will be banned from the league for a period of time determined by the Executive Committee.
4. Fans, and any others who may be reasonably construed to be associated with a team, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of NISL. Coaches and team officials are responsible for those who, in the opinion of the disciplinary authority, are team supporters.
5. Players, coaches, managers or other team officials who alter a roster, falsify a birth date or affix a wrong photo to an ID card shall receive a seven (7) year suspension.
6. Anyone sent off twice during a season, must appear before the NISL Executive Committee before he/she can participate with any NISL team in any capacity. The hearing must be requested by the offender.
7. Any team receiving two (2) red cards in one (1) game, or three (3) red cards in a season, or five (5) cards (red or yellow) in one (1) game or ten (10) cards (red or yellow) in a season, must appear before the NISL Executive Committee. Until the hearing, the team shall play under probation.
8. Any coach allowing a suspended player to play, shall be suspended for two (2) games. The team using the suspended player shall forfeit the game. The teams coach will also be suspended indefinitely.

G. GAME PROTESTS

Protests must be submitted in writing, along with a \$100 bond, within twenty-four (24) hours to a member of the Executive Committee. Only factual errors may be protested. Judgment calls by a referee will not be considered. If the Executive Committee resolves the matter in favor of the protesting team, the bond will be refunded to the team. If the Executive Committee resolves the matter against the protesting team, the protesting team forfeits the bond.

H. UNIFORMS

1. All Players must be in full uniform: shirt, shorts, matching socks, shin guards, and shoes. The home team wears light or white, the visiting team wears dark. In the event that the referee determines the uniforms are too similar, the offending team will change jerseys.
2. Goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish them from them all other players and referees as determined by the referee.

3. Numbers must be worn on the back of each player's jersey and must be unique to each player. Numbers on the goalkeeper's jersey are optional.
4. Home teams must provide a game ball that is properly inflated and the appropriate size for the age group (Section E) as determined by the referee.

I. SCHEDULES, CANCELLATIONS, AND FORFEITS

1. Whenever feasible, the Executive Committee will schedule six (6) games and a tournament in each season. For acceptable reasons and with permission of the Executive Committee, a game may be rescheduled. Both teams must agree on a date, location, and time. The teams are also responsible for scheduling the field and officials and for payment for each. A game cannot be cancelled unless it has been rescheduled, in which case the team requiring the original reschedule forfeits the game. NISL is not responsible for reimbursement of field and referee fees for games rescheduled by teams.
2. NISL requires that when lightning is observed by the referee during the game, the game must be suspended until the danger has passed or the game is terminated. If a referee terminates a game because of weather and one half or more of the game has been completed, the game will be considered complete and the score at the time of suspension will be recorded as the final result. If the game is terminated before the end of the first half, it will be rescheduled and replayed. The home team must notify a member of the Executive Committee and every effort will be made to reschedule the game. The home team will be responsible to reschedule the game and work with their referee assignor for referees and the field scheduler.
3. If a team forfeits a scheduled game it must post a \$100.00 performance bond prior to resuming competition. If the team refuses to play again during that season, it will forfeit that bond. The bond will otherwise be refunded at the end of the season.
4. Games must not be played without a USSF certified referee. If a game scheduled by the Executive Committee does not have a certified referee present to officiate, the Executive Committee will reschedule the game at no additional cost to the teams. The home team must notify a member of the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee will reschedule the game.

J. PRACTICE AND SCRIMMAGE FREQUENCIES

Each club will establish their own guidelines for frequency of training and scrimmage schedules.

K. STANDINGS AND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

1. A point system will be used to determine the standing of teams in each age division as follows:
 - a. Win = 3 points
 - b. Tie = 1 point
 - c. Loss = 0 points
 - d. In case of a forfeit, the forfeiting team loses one (1) point. The "winning" team is awarded three (3) points unless the game is rescheduled and played.
2. At the conclusion of each NISL season, the team with the highest average points per game scheduled shall be declared the League Champion of its division. If two or more teams are tied on the basis of average points per game the tiebreaker will be as follows:
 - a. The results of head to head play.
 - b. Total goal differential (with a maximum of three (3) goals per game considered).
 - c. Fewest goals allowed.
3. Appropriate interim NISL League standings will be used to determine the seeding for the season ending tournament. The above tiebreakers will also be used for determining team placement for the league tournament.
4. During tournament play, if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, two (2) complete five (5) minute overtime periods will be played. If the game remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, the contest will be decided by a penalty kick shootout in accordance with FIFA regulations.

L. EFFECTIVE DATE

These Rules, Regulations and By-Laws are effective as of March 4, 2008 and will remain in effect until amended or otherwise changed by the Board of Directors of the Northern Indiana Soccer League.

These Bylaws are submitted today for your approval at today's meeting March 4, 2008, by signing below you acknowledge you have read and accept The Northern Indiana Soccer League Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws as stated above:

_____ Signature	_____ Printed	_____ Executive Board NISL
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