

Structure and Operation

- 1) All teams **MUST** register with Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA). That may be done through one of eight Leagues – Cadillac Soccer Association, Cheboygan Soccer Association, Crawford AuSable Soccer Association (CASA), Gaylord Soccer League (GSL), Indian River Soccer Association, Petoskey Youth Soccer Association (PYSA), Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association (RNYSYA), Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA), Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS), or any other MSYSA League that wishes to sponsor a team within NMSA. AYSO registered teams must also register with an MSYSA league to participate!! No stand alone AYSO teams allowed due to insurance liability issues
- 2) Teams must play games within their League rules & oversight. Teams also play games against teams from other Leagues under the rules and oversight of the NMSA.
- 3) **Age groups range from U10 to U19.** Teams must submit a completed Participation Form along with the \$10 fee in order to be scheduled for play.
- 4) When possible, teams play three-team round robin series (two games each) at a single venue. Preferably these round robin series are played at the same time each week (e.g Sunday afternoon-boys, Saturday afternoon-girls). Due to conflicts with 8th grade or High School sports programs some play may be moved with approval of all teams involved and field availability. Small divisions may choose to use the home/away format and play just one regulation game per day.
- 5) A pre-season scheduling meeting for each age group is held by NMSA, and team/club representatives commit to a minimum of four (4) weekends for 3-team competition. Match schedules shall be developed with an emphasis to minimize and balance travel requirements of all participating teams over the course of a season. A schedule is prepared and distributed by NMSA, showing teams, game times & locations. **All teams MUST agree to the schedule set forth by NMSA or will not be scheduled play!**
- 6) The use of neutral sites is encouraged as one tool to accomplish this. If an age division plays games at a neutral site continually, there will be usage fees involved for that field. To be determined by Field Scheduler and NMSA.
- 7) NMSA activities are directed by a Steering Committee.
- 8) The Host Team coach schedules refs.
- 9) **ALL REFEREES ARE TO BE CURRENT "USSF" CERTIFIED.**
 - a. A 3 person USSF Certified Referee System (1 center, 2 Asst. Refs.) will be used for all 11 vs 11 competitions. All three are paid according to the fee schedule, if they hold current certification. **DUAL REFEREE SYSTEM IS NOT ALLOWED!!** Two (2) refs on the field. It's Illegal!! Referees, leagues, and teams that allow the use of this NON-SANCTIONED type of refereeing may face suspension, fines, or both from MSYSA and the Michigan Referees Association.
 - b. A pre-game discussion between the Ref. Crew and Head Coaches will take place. Present passcards And team roster for inspection. Points to be covered will include: expected appropriate behavior from all participants, players, coaching staff, spectators., length of game, and size of ball, etc. Also how many certified refs? Club linespeople? Do I need to get a parent? Then pay all certified referees.
- 10) A 30 minute minimum "rest/recovery" period will be scheduled between back to back games a team may be scheduled for. Player health is of primary importance. If both coaches agree along with the Referee that a shorter period is sufficient, this would be allowed and would be appropriate during cold weather or if both teams have full rosters, as an example.

11) In the event a league or team desires to provide for crossover play or pick up matches, it is understood that NMSA Games take priority and will be scheduled first. FIFA/USYSA/MSYSA Rules should apply to all competitions.

12) Risk management cards issued by MSYSA are required of any adult volunteer that may be left alone with a child. This would include: Coach, Asst. Coach, Manager, Trainer, or Parent Volunteer. In addition, they shall be in the possession of any adult in the player's technical area during competitions. The referee may request to see any persons Risk Management Card [or that person may be removed](#).

Steering Committee Positions

Chairman - oversees operation of the Alliance, receives feedback on needed improvements, policy changes, etc. and works through the steering committee to implement changes.

Technical Assistants – With the Chairman, works to develop the needed improvements and new programs within the Alliance, as identified by the Committee, to further the growth of NMSA and its players. At least two (2) assistants appointed by the committee.

Delegates - Each MSYSA League has 2 delegates,(1 from the league + 1 from a league team) Cadillac Soccer Association, Cheboygan Soccer Association, Crawford AuSable Soccer Association (CASA), Gaylord Soccer League (GSL), Indian River Soccer Association, Petoskey Youth Soccer Association (PYSA), Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association (RNYSA), Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA), Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS), 18 League delegates. Plus 1 from each outside community. (i.e. Elk Rapids, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, Boyne City, Glen Lake, etc) 23 or more delegates total. Please get to know your local community NMSA Representative. They may be of great assistance to you and your team....

NMSA Playing Rules

1) All players must have passcards, which are checked by the referee prior to the game. This is non-negotiable. No passcard-No play. Also signed roster by league registrar and TEAM LINE UP / OFFICIAL REFEREE REPORT.....both to be sent in by winning coach

2) Red card report will be mandatory paper work to be sent in by the ref after round robins. Each coach shall have in their possession a envelope addressed to your appropriate League office, and inside that envelope should be a self addressed envelope to you (the coach) for return of your passcard from your League

Team Line Up and Official Referee Report... should be completed by Referee and both teams reports be sent in by winning coach to..... **NMSA P.O. Box 860, Gaylord , MI 49734**

3) Roster Limits. NMSA recommends following MSYSA guidelines with regard to maximum roster size, (11v11 - 18 player except U16 up at 22, 8v8 - 14 player, 6v6 - 11 players) But the Alliance, which is stressing player development, also recognizes that in certain situations it is not in that 19th or 20th players best interest to exclude them from the opportunity to participate in practices and games. With the approval of the coach and the registering league, taxi rostered players are acceptable for NMSA games. This modification is not meant to provide an unfair numbers advantage to any team, but to provide for playing opportunities. Everyone should understand that by having a larger roster is not an advantage. This coach has additional players to rotate in and must try to balance out even more playing time. Equating to even less playing time per team player. Remember, NMSA stresses player development and equal playing time.

4) Players may only play with the team they are registered or assigned to. Coach provides Game Report to official. **U15 and up play 40 minute halves.... U11 to U14, play 30 minute halves.... U10 play 25 minute halves** With a 5 minute half time break.

- 5) **There will be nominally equal playing time for all players. By M.S.Y.S.A. State Rules..**
- 6) All USYSA and MSYSA rules apply that have not been herein modified by the NMSA.
- 7) **GAME / REFEREE REPORT goes to NMSA P.O. BoxRED CARD goes to League address**

Discipline and Appeals

- 1) Zero Tolerance: NMSA's mission is to provide an enjoyable, age-appropriate, developmental environment for playing the game of soccer. The underlying principle is: 'Let the players play the game.' It is recognized that incidents may occur that will upset or cause disagreement between the party's involved. It is not acceptable as a spectator, coach or player to exhibit behavior verbally, non-verbally or physically that is inappropriate and not in keeping with the spirit of the game. The Referee has the authority, per FIFA, to issue cautions or send-offs to players and remove coaches or spectators. (stop the game) Should spectators become abusive, it is expected that the Referee Crew and coaches will work together, unilaterally to solve the problem before play continues. If a solution cannot be obtained, then the referee has the authority to suspend/cancel further play and report the incident to the participating leagues and NMSA. No winner declared.
- 2) **RED CARDS...** handled per MSYSA requirements; Head Referee submits game report info, along with player passcard to teams' registering League by way of addressed envelope from coach. Coach must apprise head ref if tournament games are involved in the suspension.
- 3) Problem player/coach/parent: All situations best handled as close to the problem as possible. First coach to parent, coach to player, ref to player, ref to coach. etc. Remember that each coach is responsible for the actions and personal conduct of their parents and spectators. If the situation cannot be handled, then refer to NMSA, to the league of registry, and with notification to MSYSA Secretary. (may use game report)
- 4) Each Coach will have pre-stamped, self-addressed envelope stuffed inside an envelope addressed to **their teams' registering League** at each game, in the event a red card is issued. This will facilitate the return of the passcard to the coach.
- 5) Each coach will have a **"Team Line Up and Official Referee Report"** filled out for each game played to be completed by the referee after each match and then winning coach sends both teams reports to.....
NMSA P.O.Box 860, Gaylord, MI 49734

Fees and Payments

- 1) Each scheduling team will be required to pay a \$10.00 administration fee each season.
- 2) Each team will be required to contribute toward paying the USSF Certified Referees. If volunteer linesman are used, do not pay. Payment shall take place prior to the start of the game. After coaches have verified system of play. 1, 2, or 3 certified Refs.
 Each team pays half the USSF Certified Referee fee for each game.
U10.....Certified Center \$20.00, can use non pay club assistants, or **Certified AR \$10.00**
U11-U12..... Certified Center \$ 20.00/game, Cert. AR \$ 10.00 each/game.
U13 & U14..... Certified Center \$ 30.00/game, Cert. AR \$ 15.00 each/game
U15 & up Certified Center \$ 40.00/game, Cert. AR \$ 20.00 each/game

**Notice is hereby given that all Northern Michigan Soccer Alliance matches are classified as "Friendlies" and as such, all playing rules were unanimously approved and sanctioned by each participating MSYSA League's voting Delegates and Community Representatives and the Alliance....
 These playing rules only apply to NMSA scheduled matches.**

Steering Committee Meeting

The steering committee will meet, as needed, during the year to prepare for each season. The Chairperson, for the purpose of rule revision, disciplinary action, or any other appropriate purpose can call for a special meeting, tele conference or email vote.

NMSA History

Spring 95 - 43 teams and 148 games played	Fall 95 - 27 teams and 71 games played
Spring 96 - 89 teams and 382 games played	Fall 96 - 41 teams and 158 games played
Spring 97 - 83 teams and 400 games played	Fall 97 - 49 teams and 200 games played
Spring 98 - 85 teams and 400 games played	Fall 98 - 34 teams and 100 games played
Spring 99 - 83 teams and 336 games played	Fall 99 - 45 teams and 229 games played
Spring 00 - 77 teams and 372 games played	Fall 00 - 37 teams and 208 games played
Spring 01 - 57 teams and 316 games played	Fall 01 - 41 teams and 239 games played
Spring 02 - 77 teams and 387 games played	Fall 02 - 46 teams and 270 games played
Spring 03 - 72 teams and 390 games played	Fall 03 - 40 teams and 224 games played
Spring 04 - 67 teams and 394 games played	Fall 04 - 34 teams and 184 games played
Spring 05 - 67 teams and 417 games played	Fall 05 - 40 teams and 208 games played
Spring 06 - 30 girls teams - 179 games played 32 boys teams - 205 games played	Fall 06 - 21 girls teams - 119 games played 11 boys teams - 67 games played
Spring 07 - 20 girls teams - 104 games played 27 boys teams - 155 games played	Fall 07 - 19 girls teams - 100 games played 10 boys teams - 52 games played
Spring 08 - 25 girls teams - 137 games played 30 boys teams - 172 games played	Fall 08 - 17 girls teams - 102 games played 18 boys teams - 110 games played

NMSA Contact

For information, clarification or any other inquiries you may contact any one of your Community Representatives, or the Alliance Chairman....

George Murphy 989-619-9068 (cell) or email at www.sportstuff@verizon.net

Also..... www.northernmichigansoccer.com the official website for NMSA / Northern Michigan Soccer Alliance

cc.....www.gaylordsoccer.com

www.petoskeysoccer.com

www.tbays.org