

NORTH COUNTRY WOMEN'S SUMMER SOCCER LEAGUE

2011 RULES

Changes from 2010 are highlighted in blue font.

- 1. League setup** – The league consists of **11** teams, and is **one** division. Each team will play a 10-game regular season and two beginning-of-season exhibition games that will not count in the standings. Games may be played at neutral sites with approval of the Commissioner. It is the **teams'** responsibility to set up neutral field games. **Teams may schedule "non-league" games with other league teams at their discretion and with notification to the Commissioner.**
- 2. Playing rules** – Standard NFHS (high school) rules, unless amended herein.
- 3. Game time** – Games begin at 6:30 PM. **SEVEN** (7) players must be on the field in order to play. Teams are allowed a 15-minute grace period to produce a 7-player team. If a team does not have the required 7 players by 6:45 PM, the game will be declared a **forfeit**. Team captains **MUST** communicate with each other the day before or the day of the game (directions, field location, etc.). **REGULARLY SCHEDULED GAMES MUST BE PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE.** In an extenuating circumstance, **BOTH** team captains must agree to a makeup date and get approval from the Commissioner.
- 4. Clock** – The officials will keep time on the field. Two, 40-minute, running time halves will be used. The referees may stop the clock for cards, injured players, or delay of game.
- 5. Ties** – **REGULAR SEASON:** One, 10-minute, sudden-victory period (first to score wins). **PLAYOFFS:** Two, 10-minute sudden victory periods followed by a shootout if necessary. In the case of a tie after two overtimes in the championship game, co-champions will be declared.
- 6. Substitutions** – Unlimited subs whenever the ball goes out of bounds.
- 7. Timeouts** – One timeout per half is permitted. Either team may call the timeout, but only one per half is allowed.
- 8. Jerseys** – If a conflict arises pertaining to color, the **AWAY** team must change shirts or wear pinnies. All jerseys are required to have numbers on the **back** that correspond to a given player on that team's roster for the duration of the season.
- 9. Rosters** – Teams may have a maximum of **30** players. Use of non-roster or suspended players will result in a forfeit. Rosters are due on **Saturday, June 11**. Final rosters are due by **Saturday, July 2**. If the rosters are not in at that time, the temporary roster on the Web site becomes final—no exceptions. Players may play on only one team. If a player plays for any team, that player may only play for that team for the remainder of the season. Playing for a second team results in a forfeit for the second team for each game played with that player. It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that players have not played for other teams in previous games. If a captain has a complaint about illegal or ineligible players, the protocol is to confront the **captain of the other team** at the game. If a complaint is to be made, it must be made to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the incident. Players must be 16 years of age or older to play. Captains are responsible for ensuring that all of their players have personal accident insurance (league insurance is general liability insurance, not accident insurance).
- 10. Fields** – Two nets and four flags are required. If no flags are available, cones may be used. The field must be in playable condition (i.e. mowed and lined). **Referees have the right to call a forfeit against the home team if the field is completely unplayable.**
- 11. Weather** – In the case of games which are pre-empted by weather: if the game has played through the entire first half (40 minutes), then the score stands and the game is considered official. If the game is halted prior to the end of the first half, then the entire game must be replayed (red and yellow cards will be recorded in this

case). Thunder and lightning necessitates that all contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion – thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning. If lightning and/or thunder is observed, the game will be suspended immediately. Players and spectators shall be directed to report to a shelter. The officials shall make every reasonable effort to resume and complete the contest, with full consideration of the weather and site conditions. The officials shall wait 30 minutes from the time the last boom is heard and/or the last strike is seen before starting or resuming play.

12. **Referees** – A two-referee system will be used during the regular season and the first and second rounds of the playoffs. A three-referee system will be used during the playoff semifinals and final. All referees' decisions are final. **If no referees appear to work the game, the team captains have three options: 1) play the game using the "honor" system; 2) declare the game a 0-0 tie; 3) reschedule the game for another day. The captains must agree to one of the options and notify the Commissioner immediately.**

13. **Yellow/Red cards** – Any player who receives two yellow cards in one game must sit the remainder of the game, but may participate in the following game. The carded player's team will not play a player down. Red cards follow standard NFHS rules, with the carded player sitting out the remainder of the game and the team's next game, and the player's team will play one player down the rest of the game. The accumulation of 5 yellow cards in the season will warrant a one game suspension. Any red card received will result in a one-game suspension; 2 red cards = 2 game suspension, 3 red cards = suspension from the league (for a period decided upon by the Commissioner, at least for the remainder of the season). Dissenting by word or action against the referee's call(s) may result in a yellow or red card, as well as possible suspension as deemed necessary by the Commissioner. There are no *team* red cards—if a team is deemed sufficiently out of control by the referee, the game may be terminated.

14. **Scores** – The home captains must text or email the score to the Commissioner immediately after a game is completed. Captains should also report scores to the Ogdensburg Journal or Potsdam Courier-Observer (315-393-1000, or sports@ogd.com). Up-to-date team standings will be kept on the league Web site, www.nacswimming.org/newssl.

15. **Shin guards** – Mandatory for all players.

16. **Equipment** – All players will be checked for jewelry, shin guards, and proper cleats before the game starts.

17. **League money** – Will be held in a checking account under the North Country Women's Summer Soccer League. Half of the league dues must be paid by **Saturday, June 11**. The remainder of league dues must be paid by **Saturday, July 9**.

18. **All-Star game** – Will be played at 6:30 pm on Tues. July 5 at SUNY Potsdam. Each team is allowed to select **up to 5 players** to send to the game. Team captains must declare their all-stars to the Commissioner by **Saturday, July 2**. Teams will be split by geographic area. Players from the eastern area of the league will be the AWAY TEAM, and will wear dark jerseys (black, brown or blue): Akwesasne, Colton-Parishville, Massena, Norwood-Norfolk, Potsdam 1, and Potsdam 2. Players from the western area of the league will be the HOME TEAM, and will wear white jerseys: Canton, Edwards-Knox, FC Freeze, Harrisville, and Heuvelton. Players are responsible for bringing their own t-shirts to wear at the game.

19. **Offensive language** – Will not be tolerated. Any vulgarity or fighting may result in suspension from the league as adjudicated by the Commissioner, without further appeal.

20. **Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs** – Public facilities, including high schools and colleges in New York state, are drug-free zones. No alcohol, tobacco, or any other drugs are permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

21. **Suspension** – Players may be suspended for accumulating yellow/red cards, or for serious offenses, as determined by the Commissioner. Suspension for the remainder of the season is the usual result of an accumulation of cards, although the Commissioner may assign a more serious penalty. In the cases where

players accumulate enough cards for suspension for the remainder of the season AND no additional penalty is assigned, players are usually eligible to return to the league the following year with a probationary status.

23. Reinstatement into the league – Players suspended due to an accumulation of cards are usually eligible to return to the league the following year on a probationary. Players that are suspended due to serious infractions (fighting, inappropriate language, exposure of body parts, etc.) will be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year. After one calendar year, players may appeal for reinstatement. Players wishing to be reinstated must send a formal letter requesting reinstatement to the Commissioner. The league captains (all teams) will review cases for reinstatement before the season begins. A vote of the team captains will determine whether or not the player will be reinstated. A two-thirds majority of votes in favor of reinstatement will allow the player to return to the league with a probationary status. In the case where a reinstatement request is rejected, the player may request reinstatement again one calendar year from the decision.

24. Probation – All suspended players returning to the league will be held to a high standard of sportsmanship. Accumulation of cards for probationary players is as follows: 3 accumulated yellow cards = 1 red card, 1 red card = 2 game suspension, 2 red cards = season suspension. Additionally, the Commissioner may review the player's probationary status at any time before, during, or after the season.

25. Points earned – 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie.

26. Playoffs – The top 6 teams that accumulate the most points in the regular season shall be eligible for playoffs. The top 2 teams will receive a bye in the first round. Playoff format: First round, 6 at 3, 5 at 4, 1 bye, 2 bye; Semifinals, 3/6 at 2, 4/5 at 1; Final, 2/3/6 vs. 1/4/5 at St. Lawrence University. All playoff games will start at 6:00 PM.

27. Determination of playoff seeds – Ties between two teams with the same number of points at the end of the regular season are decided in the following order: 1) total goals allowed; 2) total goals scored; 3) coin flip. Exhibition games do not count when determining #1 and 2 above.