

2020– 2021 Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association Rules

Version 9
(02/24/2021)



Unless a rule is specifically superseded by this document, the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA) follows the laws of the game as outlined in the Federal International Football Association rules. These are available at the following location. http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/generic/81/42/36/laws_of_the_game_2011_12_en.pdf. The league also follows ALL Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks (R & P) policy as stated in its *Guidelines and Reference Manual* with the addendums and clarifications documented below. AAYSA does not follow the National Federal High School Soccer rules or other league/association rules. These rules apply not only to all spring and fall “regular season” games but also to any AAYSA–sponsored tournament. A simple majority of commissioners in good standing will be enough to change or enact AAYSA rules.

Throughout this document, references are made to “coaches”; this includes both head coaches and assistant coaches (unless otherwise indicated.)

1) **TOBACCO, DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROHIBITION** (See page 24 of 61 in the *Guidelines and Reference Manual*)

- a) No tobacco products, drugs or alcohol of any kind are permitted in or on any Board of Education owned or leased buildings or grounds at any time.
- b) No drugs or alcohol of any kind are permitted in or on any R & P buildings or grounds at any time.
- c) No tobacco product of any kind is permitted in restrooms, spectator and concession areas, dog parks, aquatic facilities or playgrounds in any R & P recreational facility or park. Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited within 100 yards of an organized activity at a R & P recreational facility or park. An organized activity is defined as an event with a defined start and end time that is held in a designated or permitted area. Examples of organized activities include athletic events, concerts, etc.

2) **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Girls may play in the boys' program, but boys may not compete in the girls' program.
- b) The age group a player can participate in is based on his/her birth date. The following birth date ranges are in effect for the **2020–2021** season.

		Soccer Year				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Year of Birth	2017					U8
	2016				U8	U9
	2015			U8	U9	U10
	2014		U8	U9	U10	U11
	2013	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
	2012	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
	2011	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
	2010	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
	2009	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
	2008	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
	2007	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
	2006	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
	2005	U16	U17	U18	U19	
	2004	U17	U18	U19		
	2003	U18	U19			
2002	U19					

- c) Public, private, parochial, and/or home-schooled high school (HS) students who play (participate and/or are on the roster) on a fall HS soccer team are not eligible to play on an AAYSA team in the fall season. HS students who play on a fall HS team ARE permitted to participate in the spring AAYSA season. In addition, youths who are no longer in high school but still fit in the U18 age group ARE permitted to play on an AAYSA U18 team so long as they do not participate on a college team.
- d) Players may only be on the roster of one team playing within the AAYSA during a season. Players ARE permitted to be on the roster of an AAYSA team and a “travel” (EDP, CMSSL, CMSA, NCSL, etc.) team in the same season. (Please note section 4.c. for more information, including the appropriate division placement of teams with carded players.)

3) LEVELS OF PLAY

Divisions will be established, by skill level, to accommodate all teams participating.

- a) **DIVISION 1** is highly competitive, composed of experienced and skilled players. Teams are usually selected by tryout or skill comparisons by the sponsoring community organizations. Coaches are required to play each player on the team at least 25% of the total game time.
- b) **DIVISION 2** is not as competitive as Division 1, yet participants are skilled and experienced. Coaches are required to play each player on the team at least 50% of the total game time.
- c) **DIVISION 3+** are primarily designed for recreational players and should be less competitive in nature. Most teams are fielded by random assignment of players rather than by a grading process. In the event that an organization fields more than one team per age/sex group in these levels, it is recommended that the organization attempt to level the teams by skill and avoid placement of two teams in the same division. Coaches are required to play each player on the team at least 50% of the total game time.
- d) **DIVISION A** is the “select” division and is intended primarily for travel teams who are interested in participating in the AAYSA season. Teams that won Division 1 in the prior season are also encouraged to participate in this division, as are any other AAYSA teams interested in “testing the travel league waters” prior to moving to a select league. This division will be formed only if at least 4 travel teams in an age group sign up to participate. This division will play their games on coordinated days/times to minimize conflicts with their travel league

schedules. Coaches are required to play each player on the team at least 25% of the total game time.

- e) To address parent concerns about the costs of traveling to games at distant fields, AAYSA may also implement Regional Divisions in addition to “skills-based” divisions outlined above. The decision on whether this will be done in a given season will be made by the league board prior to the team division placement process and then approved by the organization commissioners. The only age groups that will be eligible for this organization will be those with enough teams registered to field at least two (2) skills-based divisions and three (3) regional divisions. The individual organizations grouped into these 3 divisions (North, Central, and South) will be determined via the same process as above.

4) **PLACEMENT OF TEAMS**

- a) Placement is primarily based on the standings from the previous spring and/or fall season, which are carried forward from the previous season during the team registration process. In Division 1, the two highest placing teams are advised (though not required) to move up to Division A and the lowest placing teams are typically moved down to Division 2. The two highest Division 2 teams are typically moved up to Division 1. All other divisions will be handled in the same manner. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be justified in writing at the time of team registration. **Note:** The yearly addition or loss of teams in an age group can affect placement in such a way as to make it unreasonable and contradictory to the intent of the rule to place certain teams according to the above procedures. In addition, roster changes of the teams in an age group can also affect its division placement. A change in the coaching staff of a team (with no change to its roster) does NOT constitute a new team, but a 50% or more change in the roster of a team (player additions and deletions) does. The league board and commissioners will make reasonable team placements where the former league and team structure has changed.
- b) To assure as fair and even a schedule as possible, all divisions will be created with 6 teams in them except for the lowest division in each age group (which will have at least 6 but no more than 13 teams in it.) However, the league board and commissioners can make exceptions to this 6-team division rule as needed and appropriate based on the teams registered. In these cases, the commissioners must also agree that in doing so they may end up with unbalanced game schedules.

- c) Teams with players who also play on a travel team (ie – carded players) – If an AAYSA team is playing with player(s) that also play on select teams (for example, EDP, CMMSL, CMSA, or NCSL) in the same season, the following division placement rules are in effect:
 - i) For all 7v7 age groups (U9, U10 and GU18), 25% carded players would force the team into Division 1 or 2 depending upon the previous spring and/or fall season record. 50% or more carded players would force the team into Division A if there is a Division A. Registration fees would be refunded if no Division A can be formed, or the team may be placed into Division 1, unless there is another solution that the board/clubs find appropriate.
 - ii) For all 9v9 and 11v11 age groups (U11– U14 and BU18) 50% or more carded players would force the team into Division A depending upon the previous spring and/or fall record. Registration fees would be refunded if no Division A can be formed, or the team may be placed into Division 1, unless there is another solution that the board/clubs find appropriate. **Note:** The AAYSA Board has the authority to make other exceptions to the rules above (and interpret these rules) depending on the individual circumstances.
- d) The league will place U8 and U9 teams in divisions and run a three-weekend schedule. After the third weekend, teams will be realigned based on record and goal differential, at which point the league will run a new schedule for the remaining. If any games in the first three weekends are not played the league will use what record stands for new placements.
- e) The league reserves the right to move teams to different divisions to balance the level of competition across the age groups" into AAYSA league rules.
- f) During Team Swap discussion, the AAYSA Board will vote on all team swaps before they are finalized, taking into account all factors including (but not limited to): Team Win/Loss Record, Goals for and Goals against.

5) **PLAYER DOCUMENTATION**

- a) All players must be properly rostered before participating in any game. Team paperwork includes Player Contracts, Head Coach Pledge, and Team Roster. If any form is missing a team may be subject to forfeit each game played and/or coach suspended where documentation has not been completed. If game(s) are forfeited the club is responsible for all fees and fines due to the resulting forfeiture(s).

Before each game, coaches are to exchange copies of the supplied AAYSA Team Roster Card identifying each player on their team by first and last name as well

- as jersey number. A player who is not on the official roster may not play in a league game. A coach, who permits a non-rostered individual to participate in a game, will forfeit that game and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- b) As per R & P rules, commissioners can ask the sports supervisor to do a roster check anytime during the season.
 - c) All team paperwork (Player Contracts for each rostered player, Team Rosters, and Head Coach Pledges) will be electronically submitted to AAYSA (i.e. – via its Dropbox account) prior to the first game. If only a partial package is available, then that should be submitted, prior to the first game. All team paperwork must be scanned and saved as an individual PDF file and named as follows [Club Name]–[Gender/Age Group]: [Team Name][(Coach Name)].pdf (i.e. CSC BU14: Cougars (Jones).pdf). AAYSA will then verify that all paperwork has been included and submit it to the R & P. The following must be accomplished by the responsible parties or fees/penalties will be applied to the respective club or coach.
 - i) If the Team Roster or Head Coaches Pledge is not included prior to the first game, it will result in a \$25 fine payable to AAYSA from the respective Club.
 - ii) If the number of player contracts does not match the number of players on the roster, the Club will be notified and must correct the situation either with supplying the missing player contract or revising the roster within one week.
 - iii) The coach is responsible for suspending any player where the contract is not included. If a player is caught playing, in any way, without a valid contract the coach is subject to suspension and the club is liable for a \$50 fine.
 - d) Roster changes or additions will be allowed for the purpose of balancing team strengths, realigning team imbalances, and for other good and valid reasons. An updated team roster and signed contracts for the affected players must be submitted to the R & P no later than 5:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the fourth weekend of the season.
 - e) A roster may be challenged on the field, but the continuation of the game is not dependent on the removal of an ineligible player. If the coach of the team being challenged is unable to produce a roster or if the players on the field do not match those on the roster, the challenging coach should inform his/her organization commissioner. He/she will then inform the AAYSA league board and R & P Sports Supervisor who will then determine if any sanctions are warranted. (These sanctions could include forfeiture of already-played games and/or suspension of the coach.) Referees are not involved in player eligibility (including allowing unrostered players to participate) unless the player in question has been disqualified and the official is aware of such disqualification.

In such a case, the referee will ask the player, (or disqualified coach), to leave before continuing play.

- f) Roster maximums consist of the following number of players:
 - i) twelve (12) players for 7 vs. 7
 - ii) fifteen (15) players for 9 vs. 9
 - iii) eighteen (18) players for 11 vs. 1
 - iv) Any number players over these amounts will require a written waiver prior to the first game of the season. Over-sized roster waiver request should be submitted to the R & P Sports Supervisor through the President of AAYSA by that organization's Commissioner or President.

6) **REGISTRATION AND FEES:**

- a) Fees must be paid at the time of the team placement meeting or the team will be dropped.
- b) Teams that are dropped after the placement meeting or suspended by AAYSA or R & P during the course of the season are subject to a fine of \$300 per team in addition to the forfeiture of all team registration fees.
- c) Teams may be added after the placement meeting only in exceptional circumstances as approved by the league board.
- d) If the coaches name, email, and phone number are not complete in the AAYSA online registration system by midnight of the Thursday prior to the second weekend of games in any season, the club will incur a \$15 fine per team where the coach's information is not complete.
- e) Coaches that do not adhere to their suspensions as received by the R & P Sports Supervisor or AAYSA, shall incur a \$150 fine to be paid by their respective clubs to AAYSA.
- f) Out of County teams are required to pay an additional \$100 per team on top of the stated AAYSA registration fee. This fee is passed through, in its entirety, to the R & P. Currently this fee must be paid for the first 5 consecutive years a club is playing in AAYSA.

7) **STANDINGS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a) Each regular season game is worth three (3) points, awarded to the winning team or one (1) point per team in case of a tie. The number of points earned, except when an unequal number of games have been played will determine divisional standings and placements. In that case, percentage of points earned out of the total possible points, which could have been earned will determine

final placement. Total of points shall determine standings, not head-to-head or number of wins.

- b) In the event of a tie between two or more teams (as determined by points or percentage above) the teams will be declared co-champions.
- c) Within each Age Group and Division, the first-place team will receive 1 Team trophy. In the fall season, each player on the submitted roster will also receive an individual trophy.
- d) In case of ties (see above), trophies will be awarded to both teams. Trophies are not awarded in the spring season.

8) GAMES

- a) The HOME TEAM (the team identified as “Team2” and in the second column in the www.teamsportsinfo.com game schedules) is responsible for providing the game ball and is required to wear pinnies in cases where the opposing team uniform colors and their team colors match. Teams can wear tie-dyed jerseys. If the referee decides that the uniform colors, underlying garments or number heights worn by a team are illegal, but not a safety issue and the team cannot correct the infraction, the game shall be played. The referee will notify his organization of the infraction. That organization will notify AAYSA. The home team is also entitled to choose the side of the field their team and supporters sit on. When at all feasible both teams should sit on opposite sides of the field with the home team choosing the side of the field they desire, and the visiting team must move to the other side of the field. Also see AAYSA Rule 10.a.
- b) Both the home and away team coaches are responsible for reporting the game score and referee count to their commissioner for entry into the league database by midnight on the Tuesday following the game date (or approximately 96 hours of the scheduled game time.)
- c) If an error in the recorded game results and/or referee count is identified, it must be brought to the attention of the league board. The change will only be made after verifying the correction with both coaches and with the official(s) at the game. No corrections to game results will be made after the Friday following the last game of the season.
- d) The final outcome of a game cannot be challenged or protested based upon whether scores should have been allowed, penalties should or should not have been awarded, interpretations of the rules or for similar reasons. In the event that it is determined that illegal players have been used in a game, the outcome of the game could be changed by the league.

- e) The organization that is directly responsible for the field must ensure that the field is marked with an approved athletic field marking material, that corner markers are placed, that nets are installed, that the goals are properly anchored, and that the field is properly mowed and ready for safe play.
- f) If the game officials deem the field unsafe for play, the game will be canceled; alternate arrangements may be made at the discretion of the two coaches and the league board. Unless the entire schedule is canceled, the game officials have full powers to play or cancel games. If a field has been closed due to weather, teams MAY NOT play the game without the designated officials. The league board at their discretion will only conduct game rescheduling; teams are prohibited from rescheduling games themselves.
- g) A head or assistant coach who is at least 18 years old must be present at each league game. The coaches from both teams (heads or assistants) should meet with the referee(s) prior to the start of the game to verify length and number of periods, ball size, as well as age group and local ground rules. The coaches will be reminded of their responsibility to control their players, all coaches, and spectators before, during, and after the game.
- h) All players will be inspected by game officials prior to the start of play for adherence to the following safety and uniform rules.
 - i) No jewelry (including watches, neck chains, bracelets, and earrings) may be worn. Hair scrunchies on wrist are not allowed.
 - ii) All team members, except the goalkeeper, must wear shirts, shorts, and socks, which are uniform and distinct from the opponents' uniforms (see AAYSA Rule 8.a if both teams have uniforms that are too similar in color).
 - iii) The goalkeeper must wear a shirt that is distinct from both the opponents' and his/her own team's uniforms. However, the shirt does not need a number.
 - iv) Both socks must be the same color, and single-color tie-dye is allowed.
 - v) A soft cap may be worn during cold weather.
 - vi) Players wearing braces or other oral appliances are highly urged to wear protective, commercially available mouthpieces specifically designed for such purposes to cover those appliances.
 - vii) Players wearing glasses are highly urged to have their glasses secured to the head in an appropriate manner using soft material.
 - viii) Only soft hair control devices are allowed.

- ix) Face paint and sprayed on hair color is allowed so long as it is not considered offensive or objectionable by the officials.
- x) Players may participate in games wearing a cast, but it must be sufficiently protected (with bubble-wrap or foam or other padding at least ½ inch thick) so as to not injure another player. Athletic participation in soccer is allowed according to FIFA laws as long as the referee deems a player's cast is safe and it is not being used in a dangerous manner or as a weapon.
- xi) Shoes must be worn by all players. No metal cleats are allowed and front cleats (for example, baseball shoes) or anything the referee considers dangerous will not be allowed.
- xii) All players are required to wear age and size appropriate shin guards that have not been modified from the original manufactured state and are worn in the manner the manufacturer intended. A referee has the duty to exclude a player from participation until he or she conforms to the safety standards. Any player, who missed the pre-game inspection or was not in compliance with the safety standards during the pre-game inspection, must report to the referee before entering the game. If a referee notices a safety standard infraction once the game starts, the violator will be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play unless there is a dangerous situation. No caution (Yellow Card) will be given to the player or to the coach. The removed player can be replaced. The removed player may return during a dead ball situation after reporting to the referee and demonstrating compliance. Also see AAYSA Rule 12.f
- i) A player must be removed from the field if he/she is bleeding. Any wound must be adequately bandaged in order to prevent further exposure of blood before the player may return to a game. Any clothing or equipment contaminated with blood must be replaced. Players who exhibit signs of concussion (e.g., confusion, headache or dizziness) are required to sit-out for the remainder of the game. The Coach must receive medical clearance in writing before allowing the player to return for another game.
- j) Forfeits
 - i) Off the field- If a team is unable to make their game (for any reason) and must forfeit the game, the coach is required to contact his/her organization's commissioner or AAYSA representative of the forfeiture. That person/commissioner then should contact the AAYSA president who will notify the R & P Sports Supervisor as well as the opposing team's commissioner/coach. The forfeiting coach is responsible for paying the referee fees for both teams and must pay the referee(s) at the originally scheduled

- date, time, and field, unless the forfeit notice is received soon enough to avoid the scheduling of a ref for the first or last game slot at a field.
- ii) On the field–If a coach arrives at the field with an insufficient number of players to play a game (see rule 8.k) causing the opposing team’s parents and players to travel to a game that will not be played, the forfeiting coach is responsible for paying the ref fees for both teams at the originally scheduled date, time, and field.
 - iii) The following penalties will be levied by AAYSA in the following instances:
 - (1) If the coach or team rep does not notify the team they are forfeiting, that coach’s organization must also pay a penalty of \$300 to AAYSA and AAYSA will pay the ref fees out of that penalty directly to the ref. If notified in advance of a forfeit by a league representative, the team not forfeiting does not need to show at the game.
 - (2) On the field– In addition to fees detailed in 8.J.ii, the sponsoring organization must also pay a penalty of \$100 to AAYSA unless determined by the Board of sufficient extenuating circumstances.
 - iv) Any team, which forfeits two games without notifying the league president and sports supervisor (via their organization’s commissioner) of any extenuating circumstances within 24 hours of the scheduled game date/time, will be dropped from the league for the remainder of the season. The team will be subject to the \$300 late–drop fine and the registration fee will not be refunded. The team will also be responsible for any and all referee or scheduling fees as appropriate. The results of all games played by the dropped team will be nullified, and standings of that division will reflect byes for games that were originally scheduled for the dropped team.
 - k) A game shall be forfeited whenever one team fields fewer than seven (7) players for 11 vs. 11, six (6) players for 9 vs. 9, or fewer than five (5) for 7 vs. 7. Teams are prohibited from fielding “guest players” (players not on the coach’s copy of the roster submitted to R & P) in order to have enough players to play the game. The forfeiting coach is also responsible for the ref fees for both teams and must pay the referee(s) at the originally scheduled date, time, and field. The game will be recorded as a 1–0 decision. In the event that a game is terminated by the officials as the results of actions of either team, the League may declare a forfeit loss to one or both teams, regardless of whether the first half has been completed.
 - l) Lightning/Thunder Policy – To ensure player and spectator safety, all activities must come to a stop and the playing field cleared at the first sound of thunder or sign of lightning. Play may resume after a 30 minute delay after the last

- sound of thunder or sign of lightning. During the stoppage of play, the game clock continues to run, and the playing time is not made up when play resumes.
- m) Since the fall season is only 8 weeks long but includes 10 games in the season, each team will play additional games on the 2nd or 3rd weekend and 6th or 7th weekend of the season (two “double-headers”). (Double-headers may be scheduled for the spring season depending upon the schedule.) In addition, for fall season age groups that have an odd number of teams in their division, additional games will be scheduled on additional Sundays of the season to give them at least 10 games. Divisions of five will only be given eight games for the season, however a prorated refund will be given back for CASRA (ref). In the event of a division of four exists, only nine games will be scheduled.
 - n) No electronic or mechanical noisemakers (including whistles, horns, cow bells, air horns, etc.) are permitted at any game.
 - o) Though AAYSA does not formally recognize any “slaughter” rules or policies, coaches should take reasonable steps to keep game scores in check in cases where teams are obviously mismatched. This is to preserve the role and standing of AAYSA as a recreational league and program in Anne Arundel County. These reasonable steps include (but are not limited to) flipping the team’s offense and defense, instituting a minimum number of passes before shooting, and shooting with the players “weak foot” only.
 - p) The Ref is responsible for starting the clock on time and coaches are responsible to assist in doing that by not dawdling or delaying the ref during the pregame check in which happen up to 5 to 7 minutes prior to the game.

9) **OFFICIALS**

- a) IF REFEREES DO NOT ARRIVE by game time, the coaches (heads or assistants) are encouraged to use volunteer officials, but they are not required to do so. This, in itself, is not ground for protesting a game. However, the coaches must notify their respective commissioners that the appropriate number of referees did not show up. If volunteer officials are used, the following rights and responsibilities should be followed:
 - i) The head coach should not volunteer unless he/she has a qualified assistant coach to run the team. The volunteer officials should follow the same code of conduct as would be expected from a “regular” referee. This includes refraining from coaching or cheering on their players while acting as the referee.
 - ii) Likewise, these volunteer officials have the same responsibility to officiate the game to the best of their ability, following the rules outlined herein. However,

since they would not have the equipment a normal referee would have, they are unable to issue yellow or red cards. Therefore, if the volunteer referees feel at any time during the game that the play is moving outside of their control, they have the right to end the game.

- iii) If game officials arrive after play has commenced, the game will be turned over to them at a stoppage of play. Elapsed time will NOT be repeated or replayed. The game will be continued or resumed from the point at which play was stopped.
 - iv) In the case of a referee no show the coaches will report the no show to the commissioner immediately and commissioner will report to President AAYSA to attempt to get coverage to the field.
- b) All season games will be played as scheduled, unless postponed for such reasons as adverse weather, darkness, or unplayable fields. Conflicts with a specific single-date religious holiday or with school or scout-sponsored events that result in enough players missing to not allow the team to field a legal team are possible grounds for postponements or rescheduling of games. The Commissioner of the affected team must notify the sports supervisor and league board of their situation as soon as it is known, but no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled game date. The AAYSA Executive Director will evaluate requests for rescheduled games for reasons other than religious, school, or scouting events on a case-by-case basis. All requests must be in the required format below:
- c) Required format (submit separately for each team:
 - i) Club Name/Commissioner Name
 - ii) Gender/Age Group/Division/Team Name
 - iii) Original Game Date/Time/Location
 - iv) Reason/Conflict with School Name/Scout Troop #/Church Name and contact email/phone
 - v) Opposing team name/club name
 - vi) Proposed reschedule date(s)/time/location that is open for both teams; no need to contact team, just look at schedule for "open" dates for both teams (Friday/Saturday/Sunday; no triple-header weekends). If no proposed dates provided, request will be denied.
 - d) Rescheduling Fee: For rescheduling requests that happen within the season, organizations will be charged \$32 for 7v7 games, \$42 for 9v9 games, and \$70 for GU18 and 11v11 games. Funds will be used to pay the ref fees that occur due to gaps created in schedule. This will lessen the impact to already scheduled games that would have been moved due to the request to avoid the gaps. Only

School, Scouting, or Religious reasons are allowed for rescheduling requests. These fees will be updated and clearly displayed on the AAYSA Website.

- e) Pre-scheduling, school, church event, religious, scout requests can be made without fees charged. All coaches making multi-team requests stay on same day but we try to spread the time between games. These changes can be made without rescheduling fees.
- f) The AAYSA league board or R & P may postpone or cancel the entire schedule for a game day based on inclement weather up to two hours before the first game that day. In the fall season, the first league-wide game cancellation of the season is automatically rescheduled on the same field for the weekend after the end of the regularly scheduled season (the make-up weekend). These make-up games are considered mandatory and are treated like any other game, so organizations must be aware of this contingency and be prepared to account for it.
- g) If an alternate field must be used, it is up to the organization that maintains the field to notify both teams of the change, and to adequately prepare the field for play in accordance with the league and R & P rules.
- h) If the entire schedule is NOT postponed by R & P, the referees have authority, based on their judgment, to cancel any games based on the playability of the field. Teams are not to play games on canceled fields in the absence of the officially scheduled referees. Whether individually cancelled games will or will not be made up will be determined by the AAYSA Executive Director based on field and referee availability and other factors.

10) **RULES OF PLAY**

- a) **FIELD OF PLAY:** Reasonable variations in field dimensions are permitted; recommended field dimensions are shown in the table on the following page and in Attachment A. Unless it is impractical to do so, each team and their supporters shall be located on **OPPOSITE** sides of the field; the referees are responsible for enforcing this policy. (See AAYSA Rule 8.a) The home team has the choice of side. Team members and coaches are restricted to the coach's box. Parents and spectators are not allowed in this box. No spectators may be positioned behind either end line, or from the end line to the top of the penalty box. All spectators and players must stay **THREE YARDS** from the touchline and may not interfere with any replay or re-start. The coaches are expected to help in the enforcement of this margin. The organization supplying the field will be required to designate by paint the coach's box, which extends **10 YARDS** each side of the half and **THREE YARDS** from the touchline.

- b) **THE BALL:** The HOME TEAM must provide one suitable game ball of the appropriate size. These sizes are shown in the table on the following page.
- c) **GAME OFFICIALS:** The number of referees scheduled for each age group is shown in the table below. For U11 thru U14 and U18B, if only one referee shows for a game, the game will be played, and volunteer line judges may be used. The referee will assign other duties, as he/she deems necessary. The referee will declare the game a forfeit if a team does not appear for a scheduled game within 15 minutes after the official start time. Time will be subtracted from game time.
- d) **DELAYS:** If a game official determines that a coach, parent or spectator unreasonably prolongs a discussion with the referees or refuses to leave the field when requested by the official, the game may then be suspended/terminated. A referee may terminate the game in the event of a grave disorder. However, the game will not be ruled a forfeit until the referee’s written report is reviewed by the sports supervisor.
- e) **DURATION OF THE GAME:** The referee will keep the official game clock. Duration of games and lengths of periods are shown in the table below and the game clock will be a “running-clock” and NOT stopped for any situation; the intent is to keep games on their hourly (7v7 & 9v9) or hour-and-a-quarter (11v11) schedules. Games are considered complete if half the game has been completed and then stopped due to weather or other limitations. The clock will be stopped for on-field medical treatment, or when otherwise ordered by a referee. No coach may call time out to “coach” the team or for any other situation.

AAYSA	AGE	PERIODS	PERIOD LENGTH	FIELD SIZE	BALL SIZE	# REFS
7 v 7	U09	Two Halves	25 minutes	60x40 Yards	4	1
	U10			80x50 Yards		
9 v 9	U11		30 minutes	110x60 Yards	5	2
	U12					
U13–U14						
11 v 11	Boys HS		30 minutes	80x50 Yards		
7 v 7	Girls HS					

- f) **GIRLS U18:** The goalkeeper may not punt the ball past midfield. In the event the goalie punts the ball past the midfield line, the opposing team receives an

- indirect free kick at the point the ball passed the midfield line. A ball drop-kicked by the goalkeeper is not considered to be a punt even if it crosses the midfield line in the air.
- g) SLIDE TACKLES: To ensure safe play, slide tackles are prohibited for all 7v7 and 9v9 age groups, but are allowed for all 11v11 age groups and GU18. Slide tackles performed by 7v7 or 9v9 age groups will be treated as a foul and may result in a direct kick or (if judged to be egregious enough) a yellow or red card.
 - h) For the U8 and U9 any goal kicks, or other kicks such as a direct kick for the defensive team that would be inside the penalty box line will be taken from the penalty box line as opposed to the goal box or place of infraction.
 - i) SUBSTITUTIONS: Will be allowed as follows
 - i) No limit on the number of substitutions or substitute.
 - ii) A player who has been substituted for may return to the game.
 - iii) Substitutions can be made only at the following times:
 - (1) Prior to a throw-in in your favor;
 - (2) Prior to a throw-in for your opponent, **only if your opponent is making a substitution at that time;**
 - (3) Prior to a goal kick by either team; (d) After a goal; or
 - (4) At half time.
 - iv) Substitutions **MUST** be made:
 - (1) After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play, unless it is the goalkeeper.
 - (2) Following a yellow card. The opposing team may also substitute.
 - v) Substitutions must be declared by the coach ("May I have the next substitution, please?") to the referee closest to their side of the field, and only when players entering are ready and standing at the field center line. Players may enter the field upon acknowledgment and request of the referee at the next available situation noted in items 3a, b or C, or 4 above.
 - j) **Heading Rules:** AAYSA is enforcing the heading policy from US Soccer. The modifications of the rules about bringing the indirect kick and drop ball out to the top of the penalty area is a AAYSA and R & P rules interpretation change.
 - i) Regarding the US SOCCER ON HEADING: See the statement below regarding heading please use this rule as it applies to AAYSA games.
 - ii) *For Ages U12 and above there is no restrictions*
 - iii) *For Ages U 11 and Under* – If a player purposely heads a ball, an indirect kick at the spot of the infraction will be awarded to the opposing team. If it was headed purposely in the penalty area, the ball will be placed at the top of the 18 yard box (penalty area)

- iv) If a player accidentally heads a ball, a drop ball will occur at the spot of the infraction. If a player accidentally heads a ball in the penalty area, the drop ball will occur at the top of the 18-yard box (penalty area).

11) **SILENT SOCCER WEEKEND:**

- a) The reason for Silent Soccer is to let the kids enjoy the game of soccer and make decisions on their own. During the ‘silent’ game, coaches should only provide positive and encouraging feedback and allow players the time to work through issues on the field. Parents should support their players and teams in non-verbal ways and not by intruding in the game. Silent Soccer Weekend be held every sixth week of every season for all AAYSA teams. We should strive to uphold the spirit of the rule rather which means that coaches do their best to follow the guidelines below:
- b) Guidelines for Silent Soccer U8–U18
 - i) **Spectators** — We *request* that you make no verbal comments about the game or direct any comments to the players or referees (or coaches) on the field. Clapping IS allowed! Be creative in how you choose to cheer your child’s team – make signs to hold up or bring a rally towel in the team’s color and wave it wildly. There are lots of ways to cheer other than verbally. But please no noise makers and especially no whistles. Often field permits for these school fields surrounded by neighborhoods will not support artificial noise makers. Especially no compressed air horns.
 - ii) **Coaches** — It is *recommended* that you do not provide any direction – verbal or non-verbal – to players who are on the field. You may speak quietly to any players on the bench and have a conversational discussion about the game with the players before and after the game, and during halftime. If absolutely required, rarely and quietly provide tactical instruction while the game is in play. Just like you are allowed to do during a normal game. Then let the player convey the message to his team.
 - iii) **Players** — You are *encouraged* to speak to each other on the field as normal. You are free to support each other and provide direction to each other. Substitute players on the bench must be quiet as well and not cheer or provide tactical instruction to their teammates.
 - iv) **Referees** — For this special day, referees are being *asked* to remind the spectators and coaches about these guidelines. Continue to verbalize often during the game as you normally would and do not to be concerned about the fact they can now hear you off the field as well. You are there to help the players have a safe, fair and fun time.

- v) Let's always encourage and support our players while they are learning and playing the game, but for this one weekend, "Mums the Word".

12) FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

- a) Coaches may be cautioned or disqualified for failure to maintain reasonable and proper control over the behavior and actions of his/her team and their spectators (including parents, relatives, friends, etc.) when the referee deems that he is not working with the referee to help with the good order of the game.
- b) Individual spectators may also be ordered by the referee to leave the area in the event of disruptive behavior. If they do not leave the area the game can be halted.
- c) Parents and spectators must be aware that the coach is responsible for their actions on the sideline, BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER THE GAME. It should be understood that it is entirely inappropriate from team staff, parents, or spectators to make loud, abusive, derogatory, or threatening comments to the referees, members of the opposing team, their team staff, or their spectators.
- d) COACH YELLOW/RED CARDS – No "soft yellow" cards will be given to any coach. If a coach receives a yellow card, the next card will be a HARD Red card. The coach is removed from that game and suspended for the next two (2) games. If the infraction occurs at the end of one season, the coach would serve the suspension at the start of the next season. Likewise, if the person coaches 2 or more teams, the suspension is served at the coach's next 2 games. The coach will not participate in any game. The coach must completely leave the park/school, and may not be on the sidelines, the parking lot, or have any communications with the team during the game. If caught at the field by either the officials or the opposing team coaches, the sports supervisor or league board may impose additional disciplinary action as appropriate. Receipt of a DIRECT Red card is an automatic TWO game suspension from the next two games his/her team plays, and further penalties may be imposed. Receipt of a second red card to a coach within a single season will be grounds for a one- year suspension.
- e) PLAYER RED CARDS – If a player received a red card, he/she is suspended for the remainder of the game and for the next game. He/she may not be on the sidelines during the suspended game or have any communication with the team.
- f) PLAYER YELLOW CARDS – If a player receives a Yellow Card, the player must leave the field until the next legal substitution opportunity. The coach may elect to play short- handed or send in a substitute. Players who have violated the AAYSA safety rules must leave the game until the infraction is corrected, but neither the

coach nor the player will receive a Yellow Card. See AAYSA Rule 8h, after the list of safety rules.

- g) Automatic red card: In the event a match is terminated by the referee due to the behavior of a coach, parent or team, the referee will issue a red card in the game report for the offending team(s).

See appendix on following page.

Appendix A – Field Dimensions and Specifications

The following are the main field dimensions and other specifications for the 3 field sizes utilized by the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA) for our Spring and Fall seasons. While some flexibility in these field dimensions is allowed (following the laws of the game as outlined in FIFA *Soccer Rules Book*) organizations should make every attempt to follow these as closely as is possible.

Dimension of Fields	7v7 (U8 – U10)	9v9 (U11, U12, GU18;	11v11 (U13, U14, BU18)
Length	180'	240'	360'
Width	120'	150'	210'
Goal Area / Box	36' W x 12' D	54' W x 18' D	60' W x 18' D
Penalty Area / Box	72' W x 36' D	96' W x 45' D	132' W x 54' D
Penalty Spot	30' from goal	30' from goal	36' from goal
Penalty Arc	30' from Spot	30' from Spot	30' from Spot
Center Circle (radius)	24'	30'	
Corner Arc (radius)	3'		
Coaching Area	60' (30' on either side of midfield line)		
Goal Size	6' H x 18' W	6' H x 18' W (GU18: 8' H x 24' W)	8' H x 24' W