

Rules

1.0 Competition Name & Divisions

1.1 The name of the competition shall be the New Brunswick Soccer League (NBSL), hereinafter, referred to as the NBSL.

1.2 The NBSL shall be divided into the following divisions:

U11-U18 Girls

U11-U18 Boys

1.3 The NBSL shall be open to all teams duly registered in accordance with Soccer New Brunswick Rules & Regulations.

1.4 In the event that there is not a division for a specific Team Age Classification, the team shall be permitted to enter the next higher Team Age Classification.

1.5 The NBSL will be played in each of the above divisions providing that there is a minimum of four (4) entries in the division.

2.0 Management of the NBSL

2.1 The NBSL League Management Committee (LMC) shall be responsible for developing and implementing the rules, policies, and procedures governing the competition.

2.2 .A league coordinator, appointed by the LMC, shall be responsible for the day to day operations of the NBSL. The league coordinator shall be accountable for the LMC for these operational functions.

2.3 The Chair of the LMC shall be elected at the NBSL annual meeting for a term of two years. In addition, the LMC will consist of a representative from each of the five (5) regions established by Soccer New Brunswick for a term of two years. The regional representative are appointed by *the* regional association.

2.3.1 The LMC shall be accountable to Soccer New Brunswick members – specifically those members with teams participating in the league.

2.4 The NBSL will be operated in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, CSA, and Soccer New Brunswick Rules & Regulations unless otherwise stipulated in this document.

2.5 At all general meeting of the NBSL, each club will be entitled to one vote for every team entered in the NBSL during the previous season.

2.5.1 Teams expelled or who withdraw from the NBSL prior to the conclusion of the prior season shall forfeit their vote at the subsequent annual meeting of the NBSL.

2.5.2 No proxy votes shall be permitted. Club representation must be present to exercise their voting rights.

3.0 Entering the NBSL

3.1 Each team must complete the NBSL Entry Form.

3.2 A letter of intent to enter the NBSL must be submitted by March 15th of the current year. The entry form must be received by the NBSL no later than April 15th of the year of the competition and must be accompanied by the entry fee of \$400.00 for the U11 to U18 divisions (payable to the NBSL).

3.3 A \$500.00 performance bond will be levied on each team participating in the NBSL. The bond is payable to the NBSL by April 15th of the year of the competition and will be cashed one (1) week prior to first scheduled league game. Any fees, fines, bonds, and penalties assessed against the team will be automatically deducted from the performance bond, to be returned, without interest, at the end of the season.

3.4 All teams are required to maintain a performance bond balance of \$500.00 throughout the season. All scheduled games will be forfeited by a score of 5-0 until such time as the additional bond has been posted with the NBSL.

3.5 Clubs withdrawing from the NBSL later than two weeks prior to their age-group's first regular season play-date of the year of competition will forfeit their entry fee and performance bond.

3.6 .1All NBSL team coaches must be certified as Pre-B License coach. Proof of the coach's certification must be submitted to the NBSL with the NBSL Entry Form and must be validated by Soccer New Brunswick.

3.6.2 Coaches could apply for one exemption only.

3.7 For every game, an individual shall be designated as the team coach. The coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her team. Club and team officials are fully responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, and spectators at and in the vicinity of games.

3.8 Each team shall affix the badge(s) of league sponsors on their jerseys or other apparel as required. Exemptions may be requested in cases where NBSL sponsors conflict with a club or team sponsor.

3.9 Each Club participating in the NBSL must follow the club qualification program standards.

4.0 Player Registration

4.1 Each player must be registered with his/her own club prior to taking part in any NBSL competition.

4.2 Tentative team roster must be submitted electronically to the NBSL no later than the Monday before the start of the regular season of the year of the competition. Final team roster must be submitted to the NBSL electronically using the template available on the NBSL website no later than June 15th of the year of competition. *U11 and U12 divisions shall have no more than 16 players. U14 and U16 divisions shall have no more than 23 players on their roster. A U18 team may have up to 25 players on their roster.*

4.3 Failure to submit the roster by the Monday before the start of the regular season will result in the cancellation and forfeiture of all games scheduled until such time as the team roster is submitted to the NBSL office.

4.4 (A) A player may play for a team to which he/she is not registered provided he/she plays for a higher level Club Team than, and within the same Club as, the Club Team to which he/she is registered. A player can play for a maximum of six (6) games for a higher level team (s) in the club for which he/she is registered. (Note: a higher level team is defined in Soccer New Brunswick Rule 6.2). ID Cards must be available for inspection.

4.4 (B) A player may not play for another club team within the same division if the club has two teams in that division ie. U11 and U12.

4.5 The club is responsible for ensuring that the player registration information submitted to the NBSL is accurate.

4.6 Transfer of Players

4.6.1 The transfer of players shall be done in accordance with the Rules and Regulations established by Soccer New Brunswick provided the receiving team has not exceeded the limited number of players permitted.

4.6.2 The deadline for the transfer of players shall be July 31st of the year of the competition. Transfers submitted after this date shall not be entertained. Date to coincide with Soccer NB deadline.

4.7 Player Identification Cards

4.7.1 All players participating in the NBSL must have a duly authorized player registration card indicating the player's:

- Full name;
- Date of birth;
- Team name;
- Signature;
- Picture.

(Note: It may be necessary to submit players' Medicare numbers if the team applies to play in a competition outside the province of New Brunswick.)

4.7.2 All Player Registration Cards must be submitted to the NBSL for validation and lamination by May 1st to coincide with final rosters and will be returned to teams by May 14th. Player Registration Cards will be date stamped with the date upon which they were validated and will carry the NBSL stamp.

4.7.3 A player Registration Card may be re-validated for a second season providing the player is registered in the same age classification as the previous year.

4.7.4 Player Registration Cards must be replaced after a maximum of two (2) years.

4.7.5 At the discretion of the LMC, teams failing to submit their ID Cards for validation by May 1st of the year of the competition shall be subject to a fine of \$10 per ID Card per game.

4.7.6 Player Registration Cards must be available at all NBSL games.

4.7.7.1 Upon request of the referee, opposing coach, or NBSL Representative, the Player Registration Card must be presented.

4.7.7.2 Such requests must be made at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time.

4.7.7.3 For players arriving after the scheduled kickoff but prior to halftime, the Player Registration Card will be presented, upon request, at halftime.

4.7.7.4 Players may not be added to the roster after half time. If a coach expects a player to be late (ie. due to car troubles) they may be added to the roster and confirmed once they arrive.

4.7.8 Failure to present the Player Registration Card upon request will result in the team being assessed a fine of \$10.00 per Player Registration Card that is unavailable.

4.7.9 Teams who play an ineligible player, as determined by the NBSL LMC, will forfeit the game (by a score of 5-0) and all associated points. A fine of \$250 will be levied against the team.

5.0 Scheduling

5.1 Upon submission of the annual team entry form, teams may request up to two (2) << NO PLAY DATES >> upon which they will not be scheduled for NBSL games. A << NO PLAY DATE >> is defined as a weekend (Saturday & Sunday). As an example, teams wishing to participate in Les Jeux d'Acadie must indicate this date as one of their team's no play dates.

5.2 Notwithstanding Rule 5.1, Under 18 division teams shall be permitted the right to request a third (3rd) << NO PLAY DATE >> that coincides with high school graduation providing that said request is submitted in accordance with Rule 5.1.

5.3 A draft schedule of all NBSL games will be issued by April 25th of the year of competition.

5.4 Teams are required to identify the venue and time of their home games and submit this information along with any requests for changes to the schedule to the NBSL at the time of the scheduling meeting which will be held no later than May 1st of the year of competition. Failure to provide the venues and times by the deadline may result in the away team becoming the home team for all affected games.

5.5 Proposed venues and kick-off times are subject to the approval of the LMC.

5.6.1 It is recommended that all games scheduled to be played on a weeknight (Monday through Friday) and that involved travel of one team in excess of 50 kilometers (one way) shall have a kickoff time no earlier than 18:30.

5.6.2 It is recommended that all games scheduled to be played on a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) and that involved travel of one team in excess of 200 kilometers (one way) shall have a kickoff time between 12:00pm and 4:00pm.

5.7 The final NBSL schedules will be distributed a minimum of five (5) days prior to the start of the season.

5.8 Upon distribution of the schedules by the NBSL, it is the responsibility of the coaches and/or team officials to thoroughly review its content. No changes to the schedule shall be entertained after its posting except as outlined herein.

5.9 Notwithstanding the rules outlined under Section 5.0 (Scheduling), the LMC may permit deviations only in consultation with the affected teams and, generally only in extreme cases. However, changes to the schedule shall only be entertained if submitted no less than 24 hours (one business day) of the scheduled kickoff of the game in question.

5.10 Rescheduling of games

5.10.1 ABANDONED/UNPLAYED GAMES

Games will be rescheduled automatically by the NBSL, in conjunction with the respective teams, in the following instances:

- The assigned referee does not appear for the match;
- The permitting authority closes the facility;
- The referee judges the field to be unfit for play;
- There are weather factors, such as an electrical storm, which in the opinion of the referee, warrant not playing the game or its abandonment.

Notice of the rescheduled game time and location shall be sent to the team contact provided by the team. It is the team contact's responsibility to notify the appropriate team official(s).

The scheduled date set by the NBSL shall stand. Changes will only be considered if there is a conflict with a higher level competition game.

5.11 If a game is abandoned by the referee for reasons of weather, including visibility, or field conditions before the competition of 3/4 of the normal playing time for that division, it shall be rescheduled. Games abandoned in the final 1/4 of the normal playing time will be considered complete. Referees and coaches are subject to any supplementary rules set by field owners (such as school boards, cities, etc.).

5.12 Teams failing to appear for a scheduled NBSL game or who are unable to field a minimum number of allowable players (7) within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kickoff time shall:

- Forfeit the game by a score of 5-0;
- Pay the applicable game official fees;
- Be fined a penalty of \$250.00.

5.13 Teams who are unable to field a team for a scheduled NBSL game but who advise the NBSL of their inability to field a team within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled kickoff time shall:

- Forfeit the game by a score of 5-0;

- Pay the applicable game officials fees.

Failure to advise the NBSL within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled kickoff time will result in the application of Rule 5.12.

In the event that the NBSL office is closed 24 hours prior to the scheduled game, it is the responsibility of the forfeiting team to advise, not only the NBSL, but also the opposing team and the respective Referee Zone Coordinator of the cancelled game.

5.14 The LMC may order a defaulted game rescheduled where:

- The defaulting team benefits from having defaulted;
- A team other than the defaulting team is adversely affected by the default. Any team that refuses or is unable to replay the game may have its record deleted from the league records.

5.15 A team that forfeits more than one game in a season shall be expelled from the league and all games, past and future, shall be expunged.

5.16 If the referee is required to abandon a game at any time due to the actions of players, officials, or supporters of one team the game shall be automatically awarded to the opposing team by the score at the time or 5-0, whichever is more advantageous to that team.

5.17 If 3/4 or more of the normal playing time of a game has been completed and a serious injury occurs which makes completion of the game impossible the game shall be considered complete.

5.18 If a game is abandoned by a referee for any other reason before the completely of two equal halves, the LMC shall rule on the status of the game.

5.19 All league games must be played no later than the Sunday prior to the scheduled start of the Provincial Club Championships. Finals standings will be posted no later than the end of day Tuesday prior to the scheduled start of the Provincial Club Championships.

6.0 Home Team Responsibilities

6.1 Identify the venue and start time for each home game. Failure to provide the venues and times by the deadline may result in the away team becoming the home team for all affected games.

6.2 In the event that the municipality closes the venue, notify the Referee Zone Coordinator, referees (if possible), the opposition and the NBSL of the closure.

6.3 Submit a copy of the game sheets (front and back) to the NBSL office by the close of business the next business day following the game. Teams failing to submit the game sheet to the NBSL within the stipulated time frames will be penalized \$25.00.

Games sheets can be submitted electronically (scanning and emailing the game sheet to competitions@soccernb.org).

6.4 Provide:

- 2 FIFA approved match balls;
- A quality groomed and lined field;

– Nets and corner flags at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff.

6.5 Payment of game official fees to the game officials prior to the scheduled kickoff. *The team identified as the home team on mini-tournament schedules shall be responsible for the payment of the game officials prior to the scheduled kickoff.*

6.6 The visiting team must wear its regular colours and if the colours of the two teams are similar (as judged by the referee), the home team must wear alternate colours.

7.0 Game Officials

7.1 The Soccer New Brunswick Referee Zone Coordinator will assign three (3) registered referees to each game with the exception of U12.

7.2 The home team is responsible for the payment of all three (3) game officials prior to the scheduled kickoff.

7.3 The NBSL is responsible for the assignment and payment of all three (3) game officials for all NBSL playoff games.

7.4 Game officials assigned to NBSL games are required to be at the field of play at least twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff.

7.5 The game official shall be responsible for ensuring the competition rules as outlined in Rule 8.0.

7.6 Schedule of Game Official Fees:

Age Category	Referee	Assistant
Senior	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00
Under 17	\$ 37.00	\$ 20.00
Under 15	\$ 37.00	\$ 20.00
Under 13/ 14	\$ 27.00	\$ 19.00
Under 11/12	\$ 20.00	

8.0 Competition Rules

8.1 Non-compulsory Equipment

8.1.1 Players shall not be permitted to wear any items of jewellery on the field, even if they are covered with tape.

8.1.2 The game official shall rule on the acceptability of any piece of non-compulsory equipment. Coaches or team officials should discuss any potential problems with the game official prior to the start of the game.

8.2 Both teams shall position their team benches on the same side of the field with spectators positioned on the opposite side of the field.

8.2.1 Under 13 will play with modified goal kick and corner kick. Goal kick anywhere inside 18 yard box. Corner kick from edge of 18 yard box.

8.3 Duration of Games & Ball Size

8.3.1 All games shall consist of two (2) equal halves of a duration determined by the NBSL. There will be no overtime play in regular season NBSL games.

Age Classification	Duration of Match	Ball Size
Under 11/12	2 x 30 minutes	Size 4
Under 13/14	2 x 35 minutes	Size 5
Under 15/17	2 x 40 minutes	Size 5
Under 18	2 x 45 minutes	Size 5
Senior	2 x 45 minutes	Size 5

8.4 Substitutions

8.4.1 Unlimited substitutions are permitted (including playoff games), however, only two (2) players may be substituted at any time during a stoppage of play at the referee's discretion.

8.4.2 No substitutions shall be allowed for a player who has been ordered from the field of play for misconduct.

8.5 Points and Standings

8.5.1 The winning team of each game will be awarded three (3) points.

8.5.2 In the case of a tie at the end of play, each team will receive one (1) point.

8.5.3 In the case of a default, the non-defaulting team will win by a score of 5-0 and be awarded three (3) points.

8.5.4 At the end of league play, total points will determine the standings.

8.5.5 The final standings will determine the teams' placement for playoffs (Premier Provincial Club Championships).

8.6 Tie-Breaking Procedures

8.6.1 FIFA Rule (6) Competition Rules:

8.6.1.1 If two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points on completion of the round robin, the following criteria shall be used to determine the final standings:

(a) Previous Match Results

The winner of the match between two (2) teams tied in points shall be awarded the higher position (not applicable if three (3) or more teams are tied).

(b) Goals Difference

Goal difference shall be calculated by subtracting the goals conceded from goals scored. A maximum difference of five (5) goals shall be awarded in each game. The team having the greater goal difference will be awarded the higher position.

(c) Goal Average

Goals divided by goals against. A maximum difference of five (5) goals per match will be used for purposes of this rule (e.g. a 7-1 results will be counted as 6-1). The team having the greatest goal average will be awarded the higher points.

(d) Least Goals Against

The team having the fewer number of goals against will be awarded the higher position.

(e) Penalty Kicks

If two (2) teams are still tied under criteria (a) – (d) then the higher standings shall be decided by kicks from the penalty spot as follows:

1. i. Two teams tied: As per FIFA Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the NBSL Representative. ii. Three teams tied: Each team is designated A, B, or C. Three mini games shall be played (A v B, B v C, C v A) consisting of five (5) penalty kicks at a time and place to be decided by the NBSL Representative. iii. Four teams tied: Each team is designated A, B, C, or D. Six mini games shall be played (A v B, C v D, A v C, B v D, D v A, and C v B) to decide the final rankings as in the three (3) team case.

10.0 Code of Conduct

10.1 Players, team officials, and other persons involved in the NBSL are required to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to the competition and the sport as a whole.

10.2 Every coach will receive a Code of Conduct and Abuse and Harassment guide which will be available in both official languages.

11.0 Protests

11.1 All protests should be indicated to the head official before the beginning of the game. If incidents that happen during the game are going to be protested, the head official should be advised immediately. All protests should be indicated on the game sheet. (2012)

11.2 Protests shall be sent to the NBSL, in writing, no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the game in question, weekend and holidays excepted.

11.3 A fee of \$100.00 shall accompany all protests within the time-frames stipulated in Rule 11.2.

11.4 Protests based on a referee's discretionary decisions shall not be considered.

11.5 In the event the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded.

12.0 Discipline

12.1 The NBSL Discipline Committee will deal with all NBSL related disciplinary matters involving NBSL players and/or team officials in accordance with Soccer New Brunswick Rules and Regulations.

12.2 A red card (ejection) will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension.

12.3 Two (2) yellow cards (cautions) in the same game will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension.

12.4 The accumulation of three (3) yellow cards (cautions) in the same season will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension.

12.5 The accumulation of cards (yellow or red) does not carry over to playoffs.

12.6 Serving Suspensions

12.6.1 A suspended NBSL player must serve his/her suspension during the next scheduled NBSL game(s).

12.6.2 The suspended person's name shall appear on the game sheet with 'suspended' written beside it.

12.6.3 A suspended player may participate in exhibition games or tournaments while serving a suspension from the NBSL, however, a suspended player may not sit out in an exhibition game or a tournament game in order to serve his/her suspension.

12.6.4 Notwithstanding Rule 12.5, suspensions rendered during the regular NBSL season that are not served to completion during the regular NBSL season shall carry over to the Provincial Championships.

12.7 The NBSL shall keep a database of all cautions and dismissals and will convey the information regarding suspensions to the coaches and referees.

12.8 The following mandatory minimum suspensions shall be rendered for misconduct occurring in NBSL games (offences not outlined herein shall be subject to Soccer New Brunswick and/or Canadian Soccer Association Rules & Regulations):

a) Players

Three cautions (within the same NBSL season)	1 game suspension
Dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same game (neither offence was directed at the game official(s))	1 game suspension
Ø First seasonal offence	3 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	3 game suspension
Dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same game (either offence was directed at the game official(s))	2 game suspension
Ø First seasonal offence	2 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	4 game suspension
Ø Third seasonal offence	4 game suspension

	8 game suspension
Dismissed for offensive, insulting or abusive language (not directed at the game official(s))	
Ø First seasonal offence	1 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	3 game suspension
Dismissed for offensive, insulting or abusive language (directed at the game official(s))	
Ø First seasonal offence	2 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	6 game suspension
Ø Third seasonal offence	3 month suspension
Dismissed for denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball	
Ø First seasonal offence	1 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	2 game suspension
Dismissed for denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick	
Ø First seasonal offence	2 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	4 game suspension
Dismissed for serious foul play (all other types of serious foul play)	
Ø First seasonal offence	2 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	4 game suspension

Dismissed for spitting at an opponent or any other person	
Ø First seasonal offence	4 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	8 game suspension
Dismissed for violent conduct	
Ø First seasonal offence	3 game suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	6 game suspension
1. b) Team Officials	
Persisting in misconduct “after receiving a warning ‘for misconduct’ from the game official” (neither offence was directed at game official)	
Ø First seasonal offence	7 day suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	21 day suspension
Persisting in misconduct “after receiving a warning ‘for misconduct’ from the game official” (at least one offence was directed at game official)	
Ø First seasonal offence	14 day suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	35 day suspension
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language (not directed at the game official)	
Ø First seasonal offence	14 day suspension
Ø Second seasonal offence	35 day suspension
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language (directed at the game official)	
Ø First seasonal offence	21 day suspension

Ø Second seasonal offence

42 day
suspension

13.0 Penalties

13.1 All fees, fines, bonds, and penalties assessed against an NBSL team will be automatically deducted from the \$500.00 performance bond. Teams are required to keep a performance bond balance of \$500.00 throughout the year.

13.2 Penalties:

Withdrawing from the NBSL later than two weeks prior to first regular season play-date	· Forfeit entry fee (\$400.00); Forfeit of performance bond (\$500.00);
Failing to submit team no later than the Monday before the start of the regular season	fine \$150
Failing to submit team's final roster to Soccer NB by June 15 th	All games scheduled will be cancelled and forfeited until such time as the final roster has been submitted.
Failure to present Player Registration Card(s) upon request	Fine of \$10 per card that is unavailable
Use of an ineligible player (as determined by the NBSL LMC) in an NBSL game	Forfeit the game in question by a score of 5-0 and all associated points. Fine \$250
Failing to identify venue & time of home games by the scheduling meeting.	Away team may become the home team for all affected games. · Forfeit game in question by a score of 5-0;
Failing to appear for a scheduled NBSL game	· Pay all applicable game official fees;

· Fine of \$250.

· Forfeit game in question by a score of 5-0;

Failing to appear for a scheduled NBSL game with 24 hours notice

· Pay all applicable game official fees.

fine \$250

Failing to meet all Home Team responsibilities As deemed appropriate by the NBSL LMC

Failing to affix sponsor badge on apparel

Fine of \$10 per player per game.

Failing to provide FIFA match quality game balls

Fine of 50\$ per game.

Failing to show for last game of regular season as it does not affect standings

Forfeit game in question by score of 5-0
Fine of \$250 + pay all applicable official fees

13.3 At the discretion of the NBSL LMC, other fees, fines, bonds, and penalties may be assessed against a team or its players, coaches, managers, and administrators.