



SOUTH JERSEY SOCCER LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

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Changes? What changes?

No doubt there are a lot of coaches and club officials that are (still) confused regarding all of the new changes occurring in the soccer universe. We have the US Soccer Player Development Initiative (PDI) changes, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) changes to the FIFA Laws of the Game, and the various modifications made to those changes by New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS) and the South Jersey Soccer League (SJSJL). Sometimes the changes are complimentary, but in a lot of cases, the changes seem to conflict with one another.

The most important thing to remember is that for league play in SJSJL, only the SJSJL modifications will govern. Citing to or arguing about other rules or interpretations will be given no weight in determining league matters. All coaches are encouraged to educate themselves regarding the implementation of the new PDI changes and the

Fall 2016 Q&A

PDI Philosophy:

Q. How often should we be practicing during the week? A. US Soccer recommends that the training to game ratio be 1–2 training sessions per game played for 7v7 and 2–3 ratio for 9v9.

Q. How many games should my team be playing during a calendar year? A. US Soccer recommends that 7v7 teams play no more than 20 games per calendar year and no more than one game per day. 9v9 teams should be limited to 30 games

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upcoming FIFA rule changes, as well as the SJSJL Rules and Regulations. These topics have all been covered multiple times and presented by email, newsletter and through several General Membership meetings with your club reps.

In this newsletter, we will revisit some of the expected upcoming issues in a Question & Answer format. Questions on the content of this newsletter, unless otherwise specified should be directed to Bob Cooper at vp@sjsl.org.



per year and no more than one game per day.

Carding:

Q.: How do I know what age level my team should be playing at? A.: Subtract the birth year of your oldest player from 2017 (ie. 2017–2004=13, team will be playing U13).

Q.: Will my player passes expire at the end of the year? A.: No. They expire on August 31, 2017.

Q&A cont'd.

Build-out Line:

Q. Where should the build out line be located? A. The build out line should be half way between the penalty area and midfield. Some fields may have the build out line set at 14 yards because of earlier US Soccer guidelines.

Q. Are both teams required to move beyond the build out line? A. No. Only the opposing team.

Q. When does the 6 seconds for GKs to put the ball in play start? A. When all of the opponents have moved beyond the build out line.

Q. Is there a time limit for an opponent to move beyond the build out line? A. NO. But a caution may be issued for "Delay of restart". This should be a last resort decision.

Q. When is the ball put "in play" by the GK? A. When the ball leaves the keeper's hands.

Q. Can the GK drop kick or punt the ball? A. NO. The GK may put the ball in play by throwing or rolling the ball to a teammate or putting the ball on the ground and then kicking it. If a GK punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opponent at the spot of the infraction. Placement of the ball inside the goal area conforms to the FIFA laws of the game.

Q. May GKs release the ball before all of the opponents move beyond the build out line? A. YES. However, play on, there is no penalty if an opponent touches the ball inside the area in that case.



Q. May the GK throw the ball beyond the build out line? A. Yes.

Q. Is the build out line used for goal kicks?. A. Yes, the opponents must be beyond the build out line for goal kicks but cannot touch the ball until it clears the penalty area as usual. Encroachment by the opponents (8yd) should be called if touched early, unless the GK plays the ball early. The ball can be kicked beyond the build out line.

Q. What if an opponent crosses the build out line before ball is put in play? A. Re-take kick.

Q. May a keeper release the ball to the ground and then kick the ball? A. Yes, after a save only. If the keeper releases the ball after a save, he/she may not pick it up again as usual.

Rosters:

Q. How many players can I carry on my team? A. U8-U10 teams can carry 14/14/20 (Game Day Roster/Active Roster/Maximum Seasonal Year Roster). U11-U12 teams can carry 16/18/24, and U13 and above teams can carry 18/22/28.

Q. What is the rule on playing up? A. No U7 player (born in 2010) may play up on a U8 team. All players, U8-U14, may play up 2 years, if permitted by their club. Playing up for U15 players and above is subject to club approval. Otherwise there is no limitation.

Q. Is there a majority rule? A. No. Only for U8 which must be 100% born in 2009.





More Q&A:

Game Day:

Q. How long will my games be? A. U12 and below play 30 min. halves, and U13–U16 will play 35 min. halves.

Q. How long will half time be? A. Half time for all games is 5 min.

Q. Will offside be called at my age level? A. Yes. Offside may be called in any game, U8 and above.

Q. How will offside be determined for 7v7 games? A. The attacking build-out line will determine offside and not midfield.

Q. Will U8 players be penalized for bad throw ins? A. Yes. All FIFA rules apply unless specifically modified by the league.

Q. How close can opposing players be on a free kick? A. U12 and below – 8 yds. U13 and above – 10 yds.

Q. What if a player fails to give the proper space for a free kick? A. The player may be yellow carded.

Q. How close can opposing players be on a throw in? A. No closer than 2 yards away.

Q. When do the new FIFA rule changes (ie. the ball does not have to move forward), adopted effective June 1, 2016, take effect in SJSL? A. NJYS has stated that the new rules do not apply until the Spring 2017 season.

Q. Can a player play in a game if I forgot his player pass but I have a copy of my roster? A. No. No pass, no play, no exception.

Q. Who reports the game score? A. The HOME team

must report the score no later than noon of the following day.

Q. Do I have to complete a referee evaluation? A. Yes, BOTH teams must complete a referee evaluation no later than noon of the following day.

Q. Is punting allowed for U11–U12 games? A. Yes. However, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the CENTER SPOT on the halfway line if the GK punts or drop-kicks the ball from his/her penalty area and it lands in the air in the opponents' penalty area. If the ball goes directly into the goal or bounces into the goal in violation of this rule, no goal is awarded and the ball is returned for an indirect kick as above.

Concussions:

Q. If a player leaves the game because of a suspected concussion, may he return to the game if he feels alright? A. No. A player with a suspected head injury may not return to the game unless cleared by a Health Care Professional. If the player attempts to return, the referee will end the game.

Field Sizes:

Q. How large will the fields be this year? A. U8–U10 teams will be playing on fields that are 47–70 yards by 30–45 yards. U11–U12 teams will be playing on fields that are 70–80 yards by 45–55 yards. U13 and above teams will be playing on fields that are 100–130 yards by 50–100 yards.

Goal Sizes:

Q. How large can the goal sizes be? A. U8–U12 teams may use either 7'x21' or 6.5'x18.5' goals. U13 and above teams will use 8'x24' goals.

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Still More Q&A:Heading:

Q. May players on a U11 team head the ball? A. No. Players on U11 and below teams cannot intentionally head balls in games or during practices. There are no longer restrictions on U12 teams heading the ball, even if there are players who are 10 years old playing up on a U12 team.

Q. What happens if a U11 player heads the ball? A. Intentional heading of the ball during a U11 and below game is considered a “dangerous play” and it will result in an indirect kick being awarded to the opponent from the point of the infraction.

Q. Are U12 players permitted to head the ball? A. U12–U14 players are permitted to head balls during games, but are limited in practices to heading drills for 30 minutes per week and no more than 15–20 headers per player, per week. The players should be using a lighter/softer ball for heading practices and coaches should not be serving the balls from their feet.

Standings:

Q. Will there be playoff games to determine flight champions? A. To determine standings, for U11 and above, in the event of a tie at the end of conference play, the conference or flight champion will be determined by tiebreakers in the following order: (1) head to head; (2) goal differential between the tied teams; (3) goals allowed during all conference play. Teams still tied after all three tie breakers are considered will be crowned as co-champions.

Mercy Rule:

Q. Can I win a game by 7 or more goals? A. No. A goal differential greater than 6 is a mercy rule violation and the offending team will be sanctioned.

Q. Can I still win my flight even if I violated the mercy rule once? A. No. Teams that violate the mercy rule during a season are not eligible to win their flight.