

2026 Under 15 - Under 17 Championship League Rules and Regulations

1. GENERAL RULES OF COMPETITION

1.1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1. The rules in Section 1 apply to all Provincial Competitions managed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association (NLSA). Specific rules governing individual competitions managed by the NLSA are outlined in separate manuals and can be found online at www.nlsa.ca.

1.2. GENERAL

- 1.2.1. The NLSA Competitions Committee is responsible for the management and control of all competitions.
- 1.2.2. The NLSA Competitions Committee is responsible for maintaining these rules.
- 1.2.3. These rules are subject to all NLSA Policies and Bylaws; in any conflict the NLSA Policies and Bylaws take precedence.
- 1.2.4. The NLSA Competitions Committee may make such temporary rules governing specific situations, not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of the NLSA.
- 1.2.5. Failure to comply with any of the requirements within these rules shall render any organization or individual subject to discipline.

1.3. ADMINISTRATION OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.3.1. Team Expectations
 - 1.3.1.1. Situations involving infractions requiring disciplinary sanctions occurring while participating in any NLSA competition will be dealt with by the NLSA Competitions Committee and the individual involved. Disciplinary sanctions shall be in accordance with the NLSA Disciplinary Code.
 - 1.3.1.2. All incidents of property damage must be communicated to the NLSA League Administrator for the competition, verbally within one hour after damage is discovered, and followed up in writing within 24 hours.
 - 1.3.1.3. Damage by a team to any property, other than his/her (their) own shall be the financial responsibility of and dealt with by the club.
 - 1.3.1.4. All youth age players participating at any Youth or F Competition must be appropriately supervised by the team staff in accordance with the guidelines set down by the NLSA. Clubs may add to this policy as needed. **The NLSA Supervision Policy can be found online in the Risk Management Policy at www.nlsa.ca.**
 - 1.3.1.5. Any player aged 10 or over whose last registration was outside the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer must request that the NLSA, through Canada Soccer, obtain the necessary International Transfer Certificate (ITC). Without this certificate, the player is ineligible to play soccer in Canada. The fee per ITC is set by Canada Soccer and

must be paid accordingly. Exchange students are eligible for International Transfers but may take longer.

- 1.3.1.6. For the purpose of these rules, a youth is any person under the age of 18 before January 1 of the current year of competition, participating in an NLSA youth or senior competition.

1.4. NLSA LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR

- 1.4.1. The Chair of the Competitions Committee will appoint an NLSA League Administrator for all leagues.
- 1.4.2. The NLSA League Administrator will convene a meeting, if deemed necessary, of team representatives immediately prior to the competition.
- 1.4.3. The NLSA League Administrator will be responsible for the competition plaque or trophy and any medals or awards supplied by the NLSA. At the end of the competition they are responsible for returning unused medals to the NLSA office.
- 1.4.4. The NLSA League Administrator shall investigate any general complaint prior to laying any charges of misconduct with the exception of anything arising from a referee's report on a game sheet.
- 1.4.5. The NLSA League Administrator will support the Chair of the Competitions Committee with keeping track of scores and standings.
- 1.4.6. The NLSA League Administrator will present or arrange for the presentation of the competition plaque or trophy, and any medals supplied by the NLSA.
- 1.4.7. The NLSA League Administrator will ensure that any NLSA Board Members who are present and all NLSA sponsors are recognized during all ceremonies and awards presentations.
- 1.4.8. The NLSA League Administrator will be the final authority on all procedural matters not covered in these Rules.

1.5. NLSA OFFICE

- 1.5.1. The NLSA office will be responsible for providing medals and a championship plaque or trophy for each competition as required.

1.6. NLSA POLICIES

1.6.1. Code of Conduct and Ethics

- 1.6.1.1. The NLSA has a Code of Conduct and Ethics which must be adhered to by all members of the Association.
- 1.6.1.2. All complaints received from members of the NLSA under this Code should be sent to the NLSA Judicial Body ethics@nlsa.ca for resolution.
- 1.6.1.3. The NLSA Code of Conduct and Ethics can be found online at www.nlsa.ca.

1.6.2. Volunteer Screening

- 1.6.2.1. The NLSA has a formal policy in regards to Volunteer Screening.
- 1.6.2.2. The NLSA requires that any team official listed on any team staff participating in any Provincial Youth Competition or in any Senior Competition when youth are members of the team or in any Competition leading to a National to have an Enhanced Police



Information Check (E-PIC) or a PRC with Vulnerable Sector. **For this purpose, an E-PIC or PRC clearance is valid for a maximum of 12 months.** Member clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coaching staff members have either an Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) or a Police Record Check (PRC) with Vulnerable Sector Screening.

- 1.6.2.3. The Association requires that any team official listed on any team staff in any Provincial Youth Competition or in any Senior Competition when youth are members of the team to have completed Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders. For the purpose of these rules Respect in Sport is valid for a period of 5 years. **The link for Respect in Sport is available on the NLSA website at www.nlsa.ca.**
- 1.6.2.4. The NLSA Volunteer Screening Policy can be found online at www.nlsa.ca.

1.6.3. **Alcohol, Banned and Illegal Drugs**

- 1.6.3.1. The NLSA has zero tolerance in regards to the acquiring, possessing, purchasing or consumption of alcohol and banned, illegal and recreational drugs for all players under the age of 19 playing in any NLSA sanctioned event. Such matters will be forwarded to the NLSA Judicial Body and may result in sanctions.
- 1.6.3.2. The NLSA has zero tolerance in regards to the acquiring, possessing, purchasing or consumption of banned and illegal drugs for all senior players and team staff participating in any NLSA sanctioned event.
- 1.6.3.3. A list of banned drugs can be found on the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports (CCES) website.

1.7. **DISCIPLINE**

1.7.1. **General**

- 1.7.1.1. Discipline at all NLSA sanctioned events will be dealt with under the NLSA Disciplinary Code which is available at www.nlsa.ca.
- 1.7.1.2. The NLSA has strict rules regarding the abuse of officials. Any reported instances that are in violation of NLSA's Code of Conduct will be dealt with under the NLSA Disciplinary Policy and where applicable, subject to fines as per the 2026 Fines and Fees document, all of which are available on the NLSA website <https://www.nlsa.ca>

1.8. **AFFILIATION**

- 1.8.1. All players, team staff and officials on any Championship League roster must be registered to a team in the NLSA database at least five business days before the first game of the league entered.
- 1.8.2. Players and team staff added to any team after the team's initial registration must be registered in the NLSA database by the respective club at least 24 hours prior to the player's first



game.

- 1.8.3. Any player listed on a Championship League roster must be fully registered with the member club. No temporary transfers are permitted in the Championship League.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Teams

- 2.1.1. All teams must register with their recognized Club in order to affiliate with the NLSA.
- 2.1.2. Only teams affiliated with and in good standing with their clubs will be eligible to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the NLSA.
- 2.1.3. Championships League Competitions will be held for each of the following categories:
 - 2.1.3.1. U17 – Male and Female – All players under 17 years of age before January 1 of the current year.
 - 2.1.3.2. U15 – Male and Female – All players under 15 years of age before January 1 of the current year.
- 2.1.4. To be eligible to participate in an NLSA Championship League a team must have a minimum of fifteen (15) registered players who are eligible.
- 2.1.5. Below are the recommended minimum and maximum of players on each team in the Championship League

League	Maximum Number Registered	Maximum Number on any Game Sheet
Under 17	20	20
Under 15	20	20

- 2.1.6. For clubs with teams in both the Premier and Championship Leagues in the same age division with a minimum of 30 players, the Chair of the Competitions Committee will have the authority to permit teams to select players from the Championship League team to the Premier League team, to meet the requirement of a minimum of 17 players in the Premier League.

2.2. PLAYERS

- 2.2.1. Only players registered with a Club shall be eligible to compete in any Championships League.
- 2.2.2. In order to participate in any Championship League, each player must have met all requirements for registration with the NLSA to be a registered member of the club they are representing.
- 2.2.3. A player or team staff may not register for more than one team in the same Championships League in the same year.



- 2.2.4. Once a player's name has appeared on a game sheet for a Championships League team, in any regular season game, they are cup-tied to that team. They shall not be allowed to play for any other team in that league in the current year.
- 2.2.5. Players from U15 and lower are not permitted to be called up to play in the Senior Premier League.
- 2.2.6. Call-ups in all Championships Leagues must be identified with the notation AP on the game sheet. Failure to comply will result in an incomplete game sheet and will be subject to fines.
- 2.2.7. Youth players from the Championships League may be called up to a higher age group in the Championships League or to a team in the Premier League for a maximum of **7 games**. The first call up renders the player cup-tied to that team.
- 2.2.8. You can only have an AP on the game sheet if a team has less than 15 players available on the roster. In the case where 15 outfield players are available but no keeper is available, a request may be made to the League Administrator to call up a keeper. No special permission will be given.
- 2.2.9. It is the coaches'/manager's responsibility to keep track of how many games an AP player plays. Sanctions may apply if a player is called up for more than **7 games**.
- 2.2.10. A youth player may not play in more than one Provincial Youth Competitions in the current season except as outlined in exemptions. (See Exemptions).
- 2.2.11. Youth players playing at the Senior level must play a minimum of 50% of their youth league games to be eligible to play in the Youth Final Weekend.
- 2.2.12. The final deadline for player registration and inter-provincial transfers is July 31st of the current year of competition.
- 2.2.13. No transfers are permitted between teams in any Championships League.
- 2.2.14. No person may participate as an official and a player in the same league. Once a person plays in a league, they are tied as a player. Once a person officiates in a league, they are tied as an official. Whichever comes first will dictate their role for the remainder of the season.
- 2.2.15. Clubs at the U13 Level may request permission to use underage or overage players when a club's technical director has deemed it is in the player's best interest to play at a higher or lower level than his/her age group. This could be appropriate based on the player's date of birth, physical size, technical ability, etc. Application must be made to the NLSA Technical Department.

2.3. COACHING STAFF

- 2.3.1. The minimum coaching requirements for any NLSA Championship League are the minimum coaching requirements set by the NLSA Technical Staff and Competitions Committee.
- 2.3.2. All staff persons listed on a team roster in any Championship League must be E-Pic or CPIC with Vulnerable Sector cleared (valid for 12 months) and have completed:
 1. Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders.
 2. NCCP Make Ethical Decisions module and/or Online Education
 3. NCCP Making Headway Module



- 4. NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module
- 5. NCCP Rule of Two Module

2.3.3. The Head Coach and Assistant Coach(es) must have completed

Division	Coaching Course
Under 17	Soccer for Life
Under 15	Soccer for Life

2.3.4. A team’s staff should consist of a **minimum** of a coach, an assistant coach and a manager, one of whom must be the same gender as the Championship League team – this may not be a player.

2.3.5. Teams must have a minimum of 2 staff in the technical area at all times and may have a maximum of 5. The club's technical director is responsible for ensuring a qualified coach is available and listed on the game sheet whenever the head coach or assistant coach is unavailable.

2.4. EXEMPTIONS

2.4.1. A youth player playing soccer with a given club may play senior soccer with a different club only when the higher level of competition is not available in their own club and the approval of the Competitions Committee has been given.

2.4.2. Provincial team youth players who are not playing in the Championships League may participate in the Mega tournament with their home club.

2.4.3. Clubs must apply to the Chair of the Competitions Committee who will forward the request to the NLSA technical staff for evaluation and approval to use any other Championships League player (including Provincial team players) in a Mega tournament . In evaluating this request the Technical Staff will consider the following:

- i) The Number of Championship League players requested.
- ii) The residence of the Championships players requested.
- iii) The total number of age eligible players registered with the club.
- iv) The number of players who are not Championships League players in the region available to the club.

2.4.4. No player playing in or called up to a Senior Premier League team will be eligible to play in any Youth Mega Tournament.

2.4.5. A player may play in more than one Provincial tournament if the player has been approved by the Competitions Committee through the Chair as an emergency call-up as defined in the specific guidelines. **Preference will be given to players from that club who have not or will not participate in a provincial tournament in the current year of competitions. Call-ups must meet the eligibility requirements specified in these rules and cannot increase the roster beyond the number of players as on July 31st.**

2.4.6. Any player in a club without a Championships League team for his/her age group may register in another region for Championships League and may apply to the Chair of the Competitions Committee for an exemption to return to his/her club to play for a Senior Premier League team. The decision of the NLSA is final and not appealable.



3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1. DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1.1. Teams in the Championship League must complete the registration by March 1, 2025.
- 3.1.2. Championship League teams are required to submit a start-up roster of 15 players, including jersey numbers, registered in the NLSA database by April 30, 2025. Any players added after this date must be registered by the club at least 24 hours prior to participating in a game.
- 3.1.3. The club is responsible for making changes to a team's online roster.
- 3.1.4. All teams entering the Championship Leagues must provide names, cell phone numbers and email addresses of all team staff in the registration platform by April 30, 2025. Clubs are required to ensure all fields are filled in.

3.2. TRAVEL AND HOTELS

- 3.2.1. All teams must make their own arrangements for travel and accommodations.

3.3. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

- 3.3.1. All clubs must have a minimum of one representative per team at any meeting (in person or virtual) called by the Competitions Committee for the league in which they are participating. Failure to do so will result in a fine. In the case of special circumstances, exemptions may apply, provided approval has been given prior to the meeting. Team coaches and club Technical Directors will be notified of the time and location of the meeting.

3.4. AWARDS

- 3.4.1. The NLSA will ensure that a championship plaque or trophy is provided for each competition level.
- 3.4.2. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be provided at each age group in Championships Youth Leagues.
- 3.4.3. At the end of the regular season, awards for the top goalie, defender, midfielder, forward, MVP, and Golden Boot will be presented for the Premier Youth Leagues.

4. TECHNICAL

4.1. ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1.1. Only team staff and players listed on the game sheets and registered to the team in the NLSA database shall be permitted to sit in the Technical area.
- 4.1.2. Any team that submits an incomplete game sheet will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. See fines.
- 4.1.3. Any team that makes changes after the match to the game sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.
- 4.1.4. Maximum number of players registered per team

League	Maximum Number Registered	Maximum Number on any Game Sheet
--------	---------------------------	----------------------------------



Under 17: 11 v 11	20	20
Under 15: 11 v 11	20	20

4.2. DURATION OF PLAY

4.2.1. Duration of Play for Regular Season and Playoff Games:

League	Regular Time	Extra Time	Ball Size
U17	2 x 45 min. halves	None	5
U15	2 x 40 min. halves	None	5

Youth playoff games (e.g., 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3) that are tied at the end of regulation will proceed directly to kicks from the mark.

- 4.2.2. On Final Weekend, gold and bronze medal games, when the score is tied at the end of regulation time, extra time shall be played as noted in 4.2.2. If the score is still tied at the end of extra time, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

League	Regular Time	Extra Time	Ball Size
U17	2 x 45 min. halves	2 x 15 min. halves	5
U15	2 x 40 min. halves	2 x 10 min. halves	5

4.3. TEAM UNIFORMS

- 4.3.1. All players on the same team, except the goalkeeper, must have the same colour and style of numbered shirt, shorts and socks. Any player not properly dressed shall not be allowed to play in the game.
- 4.3.2. All teams must have 1 set of numbered playing uniforms. In the case of a uniform conflict, the visiting team will be required to change. The visiting team can use numbered pinnies or numbered t-shirts which must have the same number as their designated uniform.
- 4.3.3. All teams are required to have 2 sets of different colour socks.
- 4.3.4. **Goalkeepers must wear colors (jersey and socks) that plainly distinguish them and are completely different from all other players and game officials. (As an example - players white jerseys and a keeper with light grey jersey is not acceptable).** Each team goalkeeper must have 3 sets of separate and different colour socks. Both the goalkeeper and the substitute goalkeeper must wear the same colour jersey and socks.
- 4.3.5. All players, including called up players (AP), must wear a uniquely numbered uniform. **No two players can wear the same jersey number in any given game.**
- 4.3.6. Goalkeepers who are outfield players must dress the same as their team's players. but still wear the same number as on the team roster.



- 4.3.7. All teams must bring an additional light/dark jersey that has no number or a number not assigned to another player in case blood cannot be removed from a jersey.
- 4.3.8. All teams in Championships Leagues must play in their assigned colors.
- 4.3.9. Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. **NO jewelry:** that includes rings, bracelets (except medic alert bracelets that must be either made of Velcro or similar material or covered with a sweatband), earrings, necklaces, other visible body piercing, etc. The practice of taping jewelry is not acceptable.
- 4.3.10. Undershirts and undershorts may be worn as long as all players wearing them wear the same colour.
- 4.3.11. Where tape or similar material is applied externally to a sock the same colour as the part of the sock to which it is applied.
- 4.3.12. The wearing of shin guards is mandatory for all players in all competitions governed by NLSA.
- 4.3.13. Appropriate soccer socks, which completely cover the shin guards, must be worn.
- 4.3.14. All shirts must have sleeves.
- 4.3.15. Players are allowed to wear non-dangerous protective equipment, such as gloves, headgear, facemasks, and knee or arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material. Additionally, goalkeepers may wear baseball hats, and players may use sports spectacles designed for athletic use.
- 4.3.16. No player will be permitted to play while wearing a hard, plastic or fiberglass cast. Soft casts (gel or sponge) will be permitted provided the cast is properly and adequately padded and referee approval is obtained.
- 4.3.17. In all league games, all splints, braces, etc. must be checked by the head official in attendance. Canada Soccer Guidelines will be used in determining the acceptance or rejection of the equipment. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that all equipment is properly inspected.

4.4. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 4.4.1. All games and tournaments shall have substitutions as listed in the chart below. This shall include regular and extra time periods; however, unlimited substitutions will be permitted at half time and at the end of regulation time prior to extra time. Players who are substituted out are permitted to re-enter. No substitutions between the end of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark are permitted.

League	Regulation and Extra time Substitutions	At half time	Before Extra Time
U17	7	Unlimited	Unlimited
U15	7	Unlimited	Unlimited

- 4.4.2. No substitutions will be allowed for a player who has been ordered from the field for misconduct.



4.5. DISCIPLINE

- 4.5.1. All Discipline will be governed by the NLSA Disciplinary Code available online at www.nlsa.ca

4.6. FORMAT

- 4.6.1. The format for all Championships Leagues will be a round robin. The number of teams entered in the league will determine the number of games played.
- 4.6.2. Seedings for teams in the Final Weekend of the Championships Leagues shall be based on the standings at the end of regular season play.
- 4.6.3. Final Weekend Formats for all Championships Leagues are as follows:

Number of Teams	Format
2	Best of 4 out of 7 games to be completed by July 31 st of the year of competition.
3	Game 1 – 2 nd vs 3 rd
	Game 2 – 1 st vs Winner of Game 1 {Gold Medal}
4 or more	Game 1 – 1 st vs 4 th
	Game 2 – 2 nd vs 3 rd
	Game 3 – Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2 (Bronze Medal)
	Game 4 – Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2 (Gold Medal)

4.7. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

- 4.7.1. In regular league play all games shall be played to regulation time only.
- 4.7.2. Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a tie.
- 4.7.3. The following criteria shall be used to determine final standings:
- 4.7.3.1. Most points in all group matches.
- 4.7.4. If two (2) teams are tied in points in all group matches:
- 4.7.4.1. Greater number of points in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition);
- 4.7.4.2. Greater goal difference in all group matches;
- 4.7.4.3. Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
- 4.7.4.4. Kicks from the penalty mark as per the Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the League Administrator (if this is not possible a coin toss will take place).
- 4.7.4.5. Where kicks from the penalty mark are used for tie breaking, players under suspension are not eligible to participate; however, this does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.
- 4.7.5. If three (3) or more teams are tied in points in all group matches the following are the only criteria to break the tie:
- 4.7.5.1. Greater goal difference in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition);
- 4.7.5.2. Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned;
- 4.7.5.3. Greater goal difference in all group matches;
- 4.7.5.4. Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;



- 4.7.5.5. Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place determined by the Competitions Committee;
- 4.7.5.6. In each situation above, the decision of the Competitions Committee is final and binding

