



NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR SOCCER
ASSOCIATION

www.nlsa.ca

Rules and Regulations Manual
Youth Mega Tournaments

March 29, 2020

1.0 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 Youth Committee is responsible for the management and control of all youth competitions.

1.2.2 The NLSA Senior Committee is responsible for the management and control of all senior competitions.

1.2.3 The NLSA Rules and Regulations Committee is responsible for maintaining these Rules.

1.2.4 These rules are subject to all NLSA Policies and Bylaws; in any conflict the NLSA Policies and Bylaws take precedence.

1.2.5 Within the constraints of 1.2.4, the NLSA, through its Rules and Regulations Committee, may make such temporary rules governing specific situations, not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of the NLSA.

1.2.6 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 appropriate person having authority over the situation 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 Representative for the competition; verbally within one hour after damage is discovered to be followed up in writing within 24 hours.

1.3.1.3 Damage by a team member(s) to any property, other than his/her (their) own shall be the financial responsibility of and dealt with, equally, by the member(s) of the team involved in the incident causing the damage; and their club.

1.3.1.4 All youth age players participating at any Youth or Senior 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 in Canada. The fee per International Transfer 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 purposes of these rules, a youth is any person under the age of 18, before January 1st of the current year of competition, participating in an NLSA youth or senior competition.

1.4 NLSA REPRESENTATIVE

1.4.1 The Regional Director is the NLSA Representative for any competition held in his/her Region with the exception of the Final Weekend of Challenge Cup and Jubilee Trophy where the Commissioner of the League is the NLSA Representative. If s/he is unavailable s/he is responsible to designate another person.

1.4.2 Wherever possible the NLSA Representative should have no duties in the tournament other than acting as the NLSA Representative.

1.4.3 The NLSA Representative will convene a meeting, if deemed necessary, of team representatives immediately prior to the competition.

1.4.4 The NLSA Representative will be responsible for the competition plaque or trophy and any medals or awards supplied by the NLSA. At the end of the competition s/he is responsible for returning unused medals to the NLSA office.

1.4.5 The NLSA Representative is responsible for all areas of discipline at the Provincial Tournament and will convene and chair a Competition

Discipline Committee, if necessary. Appropriate action will be taken if deemed necessary.

- 1.4.6** The NLSA Representative 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.
- 1.4.7** The NLSA Representative will keep track of scores and standings.
- 1.4.8** The NLSA Representative will present or arrange for the presentation of the competition plaque or trophy, and any medals or awards supplied by the NLSA.
- 1.4.9** The NLSA Representative will ensure that any NLSA Board Members who are present and all NLSA sponsors are recognized during all ceremonies and awards presentations.
- 1.4.10** The NLSA Representative will be the final authority on all procedural matters not covered in these Rules and Regulations.

1.5 NLSA OFFICE

- 1.5.1** The NLSA office must inform the host club and/or region of the teams participating in the competition.
- 1.5.2** The NLSA office will provide the host club and/or region with the name, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the contact person for each team entering the competition.
- 1.5.3** The NLSA office must provide the host club and/or region with all forms necessary for the competition (game sheets, evaluation forms, discipline report forms, etc).
- 1.5.4** The NLSA office will be responsible for providing medals and a championship plaque or trophy for each competition as required. All awards will be handled by the NLSA Representative for the competition.
- 1.5.5** The NLSA office will see that all credential sheets are reviewed and stamped to confirm that all players are eligible. Credential sheets will then be sent to the host convenor for distribution to the NLSA Representative.

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 will be forwarded to the NLSA Judicial Body 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 the Team Credential Form for teams 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 be Police Record Checked (PRC) cleared, including Vulnerable Sector Check. **For this purpose, a PRC clearance is valid for a maximum of 12 months.**
- 1.6.2.3 The Association requires that any team official listed on the Team Credential Form for teams 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 completed Respect In Sport. 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 and illegal drugs for all youth players playing in any NLSA sanctioned event. Such matters will be forwarded to the NLSA Judicial Bodies 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 playing in any NLSA sanctioned event,

1.6.3.3 A list of banned drugs refer can be found on the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (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 online at www.nlsa.ca.

-

1.8 AFFILIATION

1.8.1 All players, team staff and officials must be registered in the NLSA database at least 72 hours before Game #1 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 at least 24 hours prior to sitting on the team bench for the player's first game.

1.8.3 All must be registered, and all membership fees must be paid to the NLSA by July 13th of the current year.

2.0 RULES FOR YOUTH MEGA TOURNAMENTS

2.1 ELGIBILITY

2.1.1. Teams

- 2.1.1.1.** All teams must register with their recognized Regional Association in order to affiliate with the NLSA.
- 2.1.1.2.** Only teams affiliated with and in good standing with their Regional Association will be eligible to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the NLSA.
- 2.1.1.3.** Teams should arrive on schedule for all games and be prepared to play. The NLSA may take disciplinary action against any team failing to meet its responsibility.
- 2.1.1.4.** Teams are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner both on and off the field. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the NLSA.
- 2.1.1.5.** If a club team represents a region in a Provincial League or at an "A" level Provincial Tournament, that club team is not eligible to participate in any Mega tournament unless an exemption has been granted. (See exemptions)

2.2. Players

- 2.2.1.** Only players registered with a Regional Association shall be eligible to compete in any Provincial Club Competition.
- 2.2.2.** Players must be registered with the NLSA at least 24 hours before their first game of the season.
- 2.2.3.** Players must be registered with the NLSA office seven (7) days before taking part in any Provincial Club Competition.
- 2.2.4.** Players participating in any Provincial Competition where there is an age limit must be under that age before January 1st of the year of the competition to be eligible to play in that age category that playing season unless and exemption has been granted. (See Exemptions) Players who reach the limiting age on or after the first day of January in the competing year shall continue to be eligible to play in that age category for the remainder of the playing season. Thus, players born in the years:
 - 2003 and 2004 will be eligible to play in the U-17 age category
 - 2005 and 2006 will be eligible to play in the U-15 age category
 - 2007 and 2008 will be eligible to play in the U-13 age category

- 2.2.5. Date of birth, verified by the club, must accompany the registrations of all youth players.
- 2.2.6. A player may not register or play for more than one team in the same competition.
- 2.2.7. The final deadline for registration shall be August 31st of the current year of competition.
- 2.2.8. A player may not play in more than one (1) Provincial Youth Competition in the current season except where an exemption may apply. (See Exemptions)

2.3. Coaching Staff

- 2.3.1. All coaches of teams participating in Youth Mega Competitions must be Soccer For Life Trained.
- 2.3.2. All staff persons listed on a team roster going to an NLSA Mega Tournament must be Police Record Check (PRC) cleared, including Vulnerable Sector Screening (both valid for 12 months) and have completed Respect In Sport (available online on the NLSA web site www.nlsa.ca).
- 2.3.3. Police Record Check (PRC) clearance, Vulnerable Sector Screening and Respect in Sport training for all club teams is the responsibility of the club; however, club or regional representatives must verify the names of the team staff who meet the criteria by completing the online Credential Form for entrance into the tournament.
- 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 team. Each team entering a Mega tournament must have a minimum of two (2) coaching staff to enter.
- 2.3.5. For the requirement that a team official be the same gender as the team, this cannot be a player with dual roles on the team.

2.4. Exemptions

- 2.4.1. Provincial team players who are not playing the Premier Youth League (PYL) may participate in the Mega tournament.

2.4.2. Clubs must apply to the Vice President Youth who will forward the request to the technical staff for evaluation and approval to use any other PYL player (including Provincial team players) in a Mega tournament. In evaluating this request the technical staff will consider the following:

- a) The number of PYL players requested.
- b) The residence of the PYL players requested.
- c) The total number of age eligible players registered with the club.
- d) The number of players in the region available to the club who are not PYL players.

2.4.3 Clubs must apply to the Vice President Youth who will forward the request to the technical staff for evaluation and approval to use up to 3 overage players in a Mega tournament. In evaluating this request the technical staff will consider the following:

- a) The residence of the overage players.
- b) The total number of age eligible players registered with the club.
- c) The number of players in the region available to the club who are the correct age.
- d) The history of the player playing with the club in the current season.

2.4.3. No player playing or called up to the Challenge Cup or Jubilee Trophy League will be eligible to play in any Youth Mega Tournament.

2.4.4. A player may play in more than one Provincial tournament if the player has been approved by the Youth Committee through the NLSA Vice President Youth as an emergency “call-up” as defined by the specified guidelines. **Preference will be given to players from that region who have not or will not participate in a provincial tournament in the current year of competition. Call-ups must meet the eligibility requirements specified in these rules**

2.4.5. Guest players (**players from a different region**) are permitted to play with a team in a Mega Tournament under specific circumstances. Teams without sufficient numbers are permitted to add guest players to give them enough to compete in a tournament that they would otherwise not be able to enter, or have to withdraw from, because of low numbers. **The specific guidelines for this concept can be found in the NLSA Policies and Guidelines Manual.**

This is not meant to replace “call-ups” who are players from the same region as the team they are joining.

3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1. Documentation

- 3.1.1. Teams must have their full registration for all tournaments at the NLSA office at least **three (3)** weeks prior to the start of the competition. Full registration includes: Player Registration, Paid Levies, Team Credential Sheet, Team Information Sheet, Tournament Fee and Coaches' Registration Forms. **Late entries will only be accepted no less than 17 days before the start of the tournament and only when accompanied with the late registration fee of \$100.00 and if the schedule allows the addition of an extra team.**
- 3.1.2. No changes will be permitted to the Team Credential Form within seventy-two hours of the scheduled start of the Provincial Tournament without permission from the NLSA Vice President Youth.
- 3.1.3. If a club/region makes changes to a team's credential form, the club/region is responsible to update the online credential form.
- 3.1.4. All teams entering Provincial Mega Tournaments must be prepared to commence play on Thursday evening.
- 3.1.5. Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring that any team representing his/her Region in Provincial Competition (or a qualifying game to determine a regional representative) is properly registered with the NLSA.
- 3.1.6. All teams entering a Mega tournament must provide the NLSA office with appropriate contact names, cell numbers, and email addresses of all team staff. The Regional Director from each region should have the names and contact information for all team staff on their PYL teams.

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 youth teams must have a representative at the pre-tournament meeting convened by the NLSA Representative. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$200.00. In the case of special circumstances exemptions may apply, provided approval has been given. The location and time of the meeting will be published on the NLSA website.

3.3.2. For the 2020 season the pre-tournament meeting will be arranged with input from the Provincial Representative for the Youth Mega tournament. This may be via teleconference the week before the start of the tournament or, with the approval of the NLSA, a meet-and-greet when teams arrive. The format of the meeting will depend on the NLSA Representative and the number of teams in the tournament.

3.4. Medals and Plaques

3.4.1. The NLSA will provide individual medals (gold and silver) for the first and second place teams in Youth Mega tournaments, and a championship plaque or trophy for each tournament.

3.4.2. Medals for MVP, MSP and Hard Hat Award for each U-13 team, MVP and Hard Hat for each U15 team and MVP for each U17 team will be presented at the end of the tournament. These medals must be purchased from the NLSA office. The MVP and MSP awards will be presented at all youth tournaments.

4. TECHNICAL

4.1. Administration

4.1.1. Only team staff and players listed on the credential form shall be permitted to sit on the players' bench during competition.

4.1.2. Only players listed on the Credential Form will be deemed eligible to play in any given game.

4.1.3. Any team that submits an incomplete game sheet (not listing eligible players who are on the Team Credential Form) will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. See fines.

4.1.4. A maximum of twenty (20) registered players (all of whom may be written on the game sheet) will be permitted on a team in all youth 11 x 11 tournaments.

4.2. Duration of Play

Age Group	Regular Time	Ball Size
U17	2 x 45 min. halves	5
U-15	2 x 40 min. halves	5
U-13	2 x 30 min halves	4

4.2.1. In all medal games, when the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the winner shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

4.3. Team Uniforms

- 4.3.1. When the colours of the competing teams are similar, home teams (**the team listed first on the schedule**) shall use alternate colours. At youth mega tournaments the host must have a set of jerseys or pinnies available in case there is a conflict in colors.
- 4.3.2. Goalkeepers must wear colours (jerseys and socks) that plainly distinguish them from all other players and game officials.
- 4.3.3. All jerseys must be clearly numbered as per FIFA Rules. The number on the player's jersey must correspond to the number listed with the player's name on the game sheet.
- 4.3.4. Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. **NO jewellery:** that includes rings, bracelets (except medical alert bracelets that must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material or covered with a sweatband), earrings, necklaces, other visible body piercing, etc. The practice of taping jewellery is not acceptable.
- 4.3.5. Undershirts must be the same colour of the main colour of the shirt sleeve or a pattern/colour that exactly replicates the shirt sleeve; undershorts/tights must be the same colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the same team must wear the same colour. Players not complying will not be allowed to enter the field until the match officials are satisfied that the equipment conforms to the Laws of the Game.
- 4.3.6. Where tape or similar material is applied externally to a sock it shall be the same clear or the same colour as the part of the sock to which it is applied.

- 4.3.7. The wearing of shin guards is mandatory for all players in all competitions governed by the NLSA.
- 4.3.8. Appropriate soccer socks, which completely cover the shin guards, must be worn.
- 4.3.9. All shirts must have sleeves.
- 4.3.10. At the referee's discretion, baseball caps are permitted if the sun is directly in the keeper's eyes.
- 4.3.11. No player registered Youth will be permitted to play while wearing a cast of any kind – hard or soft.
- 4.3.12. At all provincial tournaments, all splints, braces, etc. must be checked by the Referee-in-Chief. 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 presented for inspection.

4.4. **Substitutions**

- 4.4.1. Youth teams at Mega tournaments may make unlimited substitutions at the Referee's discretion as per the Laws of the Game.
- 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. Refer to the NLSA Discipline Policy

4.6. **Format**

- 4.6.1. Teams must indicate on their Credential Form the level of competition they wish to enter. At youth age categories it is Mega "A", Mega "B", Mega "C", etc. **Championships will be declared at each level.**
- 4.6.2. Teams shall be seeded based on the previous year's results within the level of competition noted above.
- 4.6.3. The NLSA Vice President Youth will draw up the schedule in consultation with the host convener.

4.6.4. When drawing up the schedule the NLSA office will ensure that each team has at least the equivalent of one game rest period between the end of one game and the start of another.

4.7. Tie Breaking Procedure

4.7.1. In tournaments or parts of a tournament organized on a knock-out basis, competing teams shall play a game until a winner is declared. In the event that a game has not been decided by goals at the end of regulation time the game shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA regulations.

4.7.2. In a regular round-robin tournament all games shall be played to regulation time only, except as specified in 4.7.3.

4.7.3. In any three (3) team round robin, whether part or whole of the competition, the third game shall be played to a decision if the team **not** participating has zero points, has been suspended or has withdrawn. If the game is tied at the end of regulation time the game will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA regulations.

4.7.4. Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a tie.

4.7.5. The following criteria shall be used to determine final standings:

- a) Most points in all group matches
- b) If two (2) teams are tied in points in all group matches:
 - i) Greater number of points in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition).
 - ii) Results for all group matches.
 - iii) Greater goal difference in all group matches.
 - iv) Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
- c) Kicks from the penalty mark as per FIFA Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the NLSA Rep.

Suspended players cannot participate in the tie-breaking procedure (penalty kicks) and the tie-breaking procedure does not count as time served for a suspension.

4.7.6. The following must be used to completion if three (3) or more teams are tied in points in all group matches:

- a) Greater goal difference in matches between the teams concerned.

- b) Greater number of goals scored in matches between the teams concerned.
- c) Greater goal difference in all group matches.
- d) Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
- e) Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the NLSA Rep.

4.7.7. In each situation above, the decision of the NLSA Representative in attendance will be final and binding.

5.0 U13 Game Requirements Add

TABLE 1	
U13	
Goal Area	4 meters from the goal posts and goal lines
Corner Flags	FIFA – but not mandatory
Corner Arc	FIFA – but not mandatory
Ball size	4
Penalty Kick	Conform to FIFA with the exception that the penalty mark is marked at 9 meters from the goal line. All players except the player taking the kick must be nine meters from the ball.
Assistant Referee	None
Game Format (including GK)	9 x 9
Squad Size	15 recommended
Game Duration	2 x 30 min
Field size Min/Max width	46 to 50 yards
Field size Min /Max length	75 to 85 yards
Goal Size (recommended)	21 ft x 7 ft
Throw In	FIFA

Field Markings	Distinctive lines not more than fifteen (15) centimetres wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of nine (9) meters is marked around it. NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-markers)
Retreat Line	None

Substitutions	Substitutions are unlimited at the Referee's discretion according to the Laws of the Game.
Free kicks	Conform to FIFA, A goal can be scored directly from a free kick as per FIFA
Playing time	Fair Play – Minimum playing time for each player 30 min.
Start and restart of Play	Conform to FIFA, Dropped balls are used to restart play if play is stopped for injury or other reason as per FIFA. A goal can be scored in the opponent's goal directly from a kick-off, goal kick or corner kick as per FIFA.
Corner Kicks	Conform to FIFA. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.
Penalty area	A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines painted a different color (yellow) than the regular field markings are drawn at right angles to the goal line, eleven (11) meters from the inside of the goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of eleven (11) meters and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made nine (9) meters from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.
Fouls and misconducts	Conform to FIFA for direct and indirect free kicks Penalty kicks are direct free kick offences by the defending team in the penalty area.
Offside	None Please note at the U13 Mega only 1 referee will be used. There will be no assistant referees. Zero tolerance will be in effect for coaches abusing officials about offside decisions.

