



NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

www.nlsa.ca

Rules and Regulations Manual
Mini Soccer Guidelines for U7, U9 and U11 Jamborees

March 29, 2021

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 its policies and By-Laws, 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 all online information pertaining to the tournament.
- 1.5.3 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.

1.6 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 and can be found online at www.nlsa.ca.
- 1.6.1.2 All complaints received from members of the NLSA under this Code must be sent to the NLSA Judicial Body discipline@nlsa.ca.

1.6.2 Volunteer Screening

- 1.6.2.1 The NLSA has a formal policy in regards to Volunteer Screening, and can be found online at www.nlsa.ca.

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 and Safe 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**

1.6.3 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 tournament 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 Mini Soccer Guidelines for U7, U9 and U11 Jamborees

Although these guidelines are designed for provincial competition, all clubs are encouraged to apply them in their house leagues and other competitions to ensure consistency.

2.1 Mini Soccer Rationale

All NLSA mini soccer guidelines and rules are based on the philosophy and recommendations of Canada Soccer's Long Term Player Development plan, entitled Wellness to World Cup. For more information on Wellness to World Cup, please go to: <http://www.canadasoccer.com/wellness-to-world-cup-s14682>

Common sense must prevail in terms of getting kids kicking a ball in an area that will allow them to interact within a game situation. They must be able to touch the ball allowing them situations that will guarantee them the opportunity to grow into the regulation game of full field and 11 v 11. That can only be done by educating them to make decisions, execute a skill, understand their role and enjoy learning this enjoyable game.

As you can appreciate triangles are the basic shape for all passing and support movements and so you can understand why it is important to encourage play within a relative environment that will allow children to execute passing and receiving the ball with successful results. Mini soccer will guarantee that our players will understand depth and width naturally which is conducive to the progression into the 11 v 11 game.

Mini soccer is encouraged because:

- 2.1.1 Small-sided games on a smaller field will allow more contacts on the ball.
- 2.1.2 The field is long enough for these young defenders to pass the ball forward past pressure (Long Passing).
- 2.1.3 Strikers have the opportunity to support deep with width capabilities and lateral support (Near and Far Support).
- 2.1.4 Goalkeepers have a reduced size of goal allowing most to reach the crossbar.
- 2.1.5 Allows for possession of the ball in a supporting environment for positions (triangles) (Short Passing and Receiving).

2.1.6 Laws/structure simplified – throw-ins, offsides, etc.

2.2 Mini Soccer Code for Coaches

2.2.1 Your responsibility is to ensure that players are having fun. Remember that children are not miniature professionals.

2.2.2 Never ridicule or scold a child for a mistake. Remember no child intentionally makes a mistake.

2.2.3 Applaud loudly a good effort by your team and the opponent.

2.2.4 Coaching at this level is a collective collaboration. If we all work together, all our players will improve.

2.2.5 Encourage all players to develop basic skills but remember to be reasonable in your demand on their energy and enthusiasm.

3 Rules for Mini-Soccer

3.2 Eligibility

3.2.5 Team

3.2.5.1 All teams must register with their recognized Regional Association or Club in order to affiliate with the NLSA.

3.2.5.2 Only teams affiliated with and in good standing with their Regional Association will be eligible to participate in any Jamboree under the jurisdiction of the NLSA.

3.2.5.3 All games are to be played with an emphasis on fun, fairplay, sportsmanship, development, education and respect for teammates, opponents, and referees and shall be non-results oriented.

3.2.6 Player

3.2.6.1 Only players registered with a Regional Association or club and entered in the NLSA database shall be eligible to participate in any Provincial Jamboree.

3.2.6.2 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. 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.

- a) U11 - all players under 11 years of age prior to the start of the current year
- b) U9 – all players under 9 years of age prior to the start of the current year
- c) U7 - all players under 9 years of age prior to the start of the current year

3.2.6.3 Clubs at the U7 – U11 levels may request permission to use overage players when a club's technical director has deemed it is in the player's best interest to play at a lower level than his/her age group. This could be deemed appropriate based on the player's date of birth, physical size, technical ability, etc. Permission must be granted by the Vice President Youth based on the Technical director's recommendation and reasoning.

3.2.6.4 The final deadline for registration shall be August 31st of the current year of competition.

3.2.6.5 A player may not play in more than one (1) Provincial Youth Competition in the current season without the approval of the NLSA Vice President Youth.

3.2.7 Coaching Staff

3.2.7.1 All coaches of teams participating in NLSA Jamborees must have completed the following course or equivalent.

- a) U11 Learning to Train
- b) U9 / U7 FUNdamentals

- 3.1.3.2. A team's staff may consist of a maximum of three members, one of whom must be the same gender as the team and must be on the bench for all games.
- 3.1.3.3. Club Technical Directors are permitted to sit on the bench during games.
- 3.1.3.4. All staff persons listed on a Team Credential form going to an NLSA Jamboree must be Police Record Check (PRC) cleared, including Vulnerable Sector Screening (both valid for 12 months) and completed Respect In Sport and Safe Sport (available online on the NLSA web site www.nlsa.ca)
- 3.1.3.5. Police Record Check (PRC) Clearance, Vulnerable Sector Screening and Respect in Sport and Safe Sport training 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.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Documentation

- 4.1.1 Teams in Jamborees must have their online Credential Form and full tournament registration fee into the NLSA office 3 weeks before the start of the Jamboree. **Provided the schedule allows for the addition of an extra team, late entries may be accepted no less than 10 days before the start of the jamboree and only when accompanied by the late registration fee of \$100.00. Acceptance is at the discretion of the NLSA Vice President Youth.**
- 4.1.2 No changes will be permitted to the online Team Credential Form within seventy-two hours of the scheduled start of the Provincial Jamboree without permission from the NLSA Vice President Youth.
- 4.1.3 If a club/region makes changes to a team's roster or coaching staff, the club/region is responsible to update the online credential form.
- 4.1.4 All teams entering Provincial Jamborees must be prepared to

commence play on Friday morning, if necessary.

4.1.5 Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring that any team representing his/her Region in a Provincial Jamboree is properly registered with the NLSA..

4.1. Travel and Hotels

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

4.2. Attendance at Meetings

4.2.1. Pre-jamboree meetings will be convened by the NLSA Representative via teleconference prior to the start of the Jamboree. All teams participating must have a representative present. 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.

4.3. Participation Award

4.3.1. The NLSA will provide individual participation awards to each player participating in a Mini Soccer Event. These awards may be medals or merchandise.

5. TECHNICAL

5.1. Administration

5.1.1. Only team staff and players listed on the game sheet and registered to the team in the NLSA database shall be permitted to sit on the players' bench and play in any game for the team.

5.2. Team Uniforms

5.2.1. When the colours of the competing teams are similar, home teams shall use alternate colours. At jamborees the host must have a set of jerseys or pinnies available in case there is a conflict in colors.

- 5.2.2. Goalkeepers shall wear colours that plainly distinguish them from all other players and game officials.
- 5.2.3. All jerseys must be clearly numbered as per FIFA Rules.
- 5.2.4. Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. **NO jewelry:** 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 jewelry is not acceptable.

Socks: if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as the part of the sock it is applied to or clear.

- 5.2.5. The wearing of shin guards is mandatory for all players in all jamborees governed by the NLSA.
- 5.2.6. Appropriate soccer socks, which completely cover the shin guards, must be worn.
- 5.2.7. No player registered as a youth will be permitted to play while wearing a cast of any kind – hard or soft.

5.3. Format

- 5.3.1. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of four (4) games.
- 5.3.2. The schedule will be done by the VP Youth and the format will depend on the number of teams registered for the Jamboree.
- 5.3.3. When drawing up the schedule the NLSA 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.

TABLE 1 – Mini Soccer Guidelines (condensed Version)

	Under 7	Under 9	Under 11
Retreat Line	Retreat Line will be set up at the half way line	Retreat Line will be set up at the half way line	Retreat Line will be 1/3 distance from either end of the field
Ball Size	3	3	4
Penalty Kick	None	None	None
Assistant Referee	None	None	None
Off-side	None	None	None
Game Format	4 x 4 including GK	5 x 5 Including GK	7 x 7 including GK
Squad Size	10	10	14
Game Duration	8 x 5 min	10 x 5 min	6 x 10 min
Field Size Min/Max width	27 to 31 yards	30 to 35 yards	40 to 45 yards
Field Size Min/Max length	34 to 40 yards	40 to 50 yards	60 to 70 yards
Goal Size (recommended)	8 ft x 5 ft	12ft x 6 ft	18x 6.5 ft
Field Markings	<p>If possible, the halfway line and center circle should be marked. The penalty/goal area is combined. This is a rectangle formed by lines extending from the goal line 5m along the line from each post goal line and extending 5 m into the field.</p> <p>NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)</p>	<p>If possible, the halfway line and center circle should be marked. The penalty/goal area is combined. This is a rectangle formed by lines extending from the goal line 8m along the line from each post goal line and extending 8m into the field.</p> <p>NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)</p>	<p>If possible, the halfway line and center circle should be marked. The penalty/goal area is combined. This is a rectangle formed by lines extending from the goal line 11m along the line from each post goal line and extending 11m into the field.</p> <p>NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)</p>
Corner Flags	Corner flags/cones	Corner flags/cones	Corner flags/cones

	are optional but must be safe. Cones can be used for other field markings but must not endanger the players in any way. Ideally field markings should be by lines not more than 15 cm wide. NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)	are optional but must be safe. Cones can be used for other field markings but must not endanger the players in any way. Ideally field markings should be by lines not more than 15 cm wide. NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)	are optional but must be safe. Cones can be used for other field markings but must not endanger the players in any way. Ideally field markings should be by lines not more than 15 cm wide. NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones (woz-makers)
Corner Arcs	None	None	None
Substitutions	Each half is divided into 4 5-minute shifts. The whistle goes at the end of each shift and the players change. There is no double shifting unless the team has less than 8 players. No player can play 3 shifts in succession unless there are less than 6 players.	Each half is divided into 5 5-minute shifts. The whistle goes at the end of each shift and the players change. There is no double shifting unless the team has less than 10 players. No player can play 3 shifts in succession unless there are less than 8 players.	Each half is divided into 3 10-minute shifts. The whistle goes at the end of each shift and the players change. There is no double shifting unless the team has less than 14 players. No player can play 3 shifts in succession unless there are less than 11 players.
Free kicks	All free kicks are indirect, opponents of the team taking the kick are at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play.	All free kicks are indirect, opponents of the team taking the kick are at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play	All free kicks are indirect, opponents of the team taking the kick are at least 8 metres from the ball until it is in play
Playing Time	Playing time shall be based on fair play and players should have equal playing	Playing time shall be based on fair play and players should have equal playing	Playing time shall be based on fair play and players should have equal playing time whenever

	time whenever possible with shift changes at 5 minute intervals	time whenever possible with shift changes at 5 minute intervals	possible with shift changes at 10 minute intervals
Goalenders Playing Time	Players who play in net are considered to have played a shift. Keepers must rotate the same as out players	Players who play in net are considered to have played a shift. Keepers must rotate the same as out players	Keepers are to play more than 50% of the game in net
Start and Restart of Play	<p>Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>Dropped balls are used to restart play if play is stopped for injury or other reason as per FIFA.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored in the opponent's goal directly from a kick-off, goal kick or corner kick.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>Dropped balls are used to restart play if play is stopped for injury or other reason as per FIFA.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored in the opponent's goal directly from a kick-off, goal kick or corner kick.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 8 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>Dropped balls are used to restart play if play is stopped for injury or other reason as per FIFA.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored in the opponent's goal directly from a kick-off, goal kick or corner kick.</p>
Corner Kicks	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored directly from a corner kick.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least 5 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored directly from a corner kick.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least 8 metres from the ball until it is in play.</p> <p>A goal cannot be scored directly from a corner kick.</p>

<p>Fouls and Misconducts</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick.</p> <p>Fouls in the penalty/goal area are indirect kicks taken from the edge of the penalty/ goal area. In U7 the referee should explain all infringements to the offending player.</p> <p>No cards are shown to players. Misconduct is dealt with through the coach.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick.</p> <p>Fouls in the penalty/goal area are indirect kicks taken from the edge of the penalty/ goal area.</p> <p>No cards are shown to players. Misconduct is dealt with through the coach.</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick.</p> <p>Fouls in the penalty/goal area are indirect kicks taken from the edge of the penalty/ goal area.</p> <p>No cards are shown to players. Misconduct is dealt with through the coach.</p>
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Laws of the Game - Under 7, Under 9 and Under 11

Law 1 The Field of Play

Length and width of the field See Table above

Law 2 The Ball

The ball must conform to FIFA standards and to FIFA inflation specifications. For appropriate size see Table 1 above .

Law 3 The Players - See Table 1

Note: When playing with a goalkeeper at the U-7 age group, all players should take turns in all field positions including goalkeeper

Law 4 The Players' Equipment

- a) Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. The goalkeeper should wear a colour that distinguishes him/her from both teams. Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn under the socks.
- b) Jewelry is not permitted, taped or not, apart from medic alert bracelets. Players who cannot remove jewelry cannot play.
- c) No player may play with a cast of any kind whether padded or not.
- d) A player who is asked to leave the field of play because of defective or dangerous equipment may not re-enter until the referee is satisfied that the equipment has been repaired.

Law 5 The Referee

Only referees who have successfully completed the NLSA small-sided (formerly youth) course or entry level course, and currently registered with the NLSA, can be used. The referee's role is to keep the players safe and ensure that the game is played under the "fair play" code.

The referee shall:

- a) enforce the Laws of the Game;
- b) refrain from penalizing in cases where the offending team may gain an advantage;

- c) report in writing to the appropriate authority, any misconduct by players, parents, spectators or other persons which takes place on the field of play or its vicinity at any time during the game;
- d) control who may enter or leave the field of play;
- e) stop the game immediately if a player appears to be injured;
- f) signal to start the game and to restart it after stoppage;
- g) decide if the field of play and all applicable equipment is suitable.

Law 6 The Other Match Officials - None required

Law 7 The Duration of the Match - See Table 1

Law 8 The Start and Restart of Play - See Table 1

Law 9 The Ball In and Out of Play - as per FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG)

Law 10 Determining the outcome of a match – as per the LOTG, with the exception that a goal cannot be scored from a dead ball kick of any sort.

Law 11 Offside – None
Coaches will be informed that positioning players in opponent's goal area to take advantage of long balls is unsporting and contrary to principles of player development. The referee will report the use of such tactics to the competition authorities or field marshals but will take no action on the field.

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct - See Table 1

Misconduct: No cards are used. The player is warned verbally in hearing of the coach for offences normally cautionable (reckless challenges, dissent, persistent infringement etc). It is particularly important to warn players if their fouls are likely to cause injury to other players.

For offences that require dismissal, the player is asked to leave the field and the coach is told the player cannot return to the field (foul and abusive language, serious foul play, violent conduct, second caution). The referee must report this to the competition authorities. Teams can replace the player thus dismissed.

Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity is considered a cautionable

offence only.

If misconduct is by the coach, or the coach refuses to support the referee in terms of cautions or dismissals, the game is halted and the referee informs the field marshal who will take appropriate action. The game should only be restarted after the field marshal is satisfied that the situation has been dealt with.

Law 13 **Free Kicks** - See Table 1

Law 14 **The Penalty Kick** – None; See Table 1

Law 15 **The Throw-In**

Conform to the LOTG apart from the U-7 age group where if the player fails to throw the ball in correctly, s/he shall be permitted a second attempt. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, a throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team. The referee should give the player direction as to why it was a foul throw.

Law 16 **The Goal Kick**

Conform to LOTG except that it shall be taken from anywhere within the penalty/goal area. The retreat line is in operation for all goal kicks. A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick.

Law 17 **The Corner Kick** - See Table 1

The Retreat Line

When a goal kick is called or when the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her arms, the opposing team members must drop back behind the retreat line. Once those players have retreated to the line, the goalkeeper may play the ball to a teammate without the pressure of an opposing player nearby. When the goalkeeper's teammate touches the ball, play will resume as normal and the opposing players can apply pressure once more.

Should a member of the opposing team enter inside the Retreat Line too soon (and interfere with play), OR touch the ball inside that area before the goal keeper's teammate, the referee must blow their whistle and the initial distribution must be retaken (ie. re-take the goal-kick, or if the ball was distributed from the goal-keeper's hands, restart with a goal kick).

Should the ball leave the field of play prior to the goalkeeper's teammate touching the ball, play will resume from a throw-in or corner kick as appropriate according to the Law.

The Retreat Line will be marked by off-field pylons, circle cones, flags or

other appropriate markers. The Retreat Line will be set up by the Field Marshall prior to the start of the game.

For U7 and U 9 games, the retreat line will be the ½ way line. For U11, markers will be set up at one-third of the length of the field to mark the line.

Coaches should not coach his or her players to delay touching the ball after the goalkeeper has passed it to them to waste time or to gain an unfair advantage. This rule has been introduced to aid the technical development of players and should not be used as a time wasting tactic. Coaches that allow this to take place will be spoken to by the field marshal and may be dealt with further by the NLSA.

After a save, goalkeepers may lay the ball on the ground in order to pass to their teammate. This does not make the ball in play and the opposing team must still wait until the teammate touches the ball.

Goalkeepers may choose not to “play out of the back” and instead to kick the ball directly over the Retreat Line. This is not against the rules and the game should not be stopped. Once the ball crosses the Retreat Line, it can be touched by any player on the field and can be deemed “live and in play.” Goalkeepers may also choose to play the ball quickly from a goal kick or after making a save. In this case it is permissible for the goalkeeper to play quickly without having to wait for all players to retreat as this supports the development of decision-making skills in young players.