

The following rule 3.14 was passed at the 2016 Semi-AGM, with some housekeeping modifications made in June 2016. These are already incorporated in the NTSSA Bylaws and Rules. Listed below in red are some additional housekeeping changes made by USSF in August 2016, that may be used but are not yet incorporated in the NTSSA Bylaws and Rules:

*(Please note rule 3.14 and Tournament Rules changes are recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)*

**3.14 NTSSA RULES OF COMPETITION**

FIFA Laws of the Game as Modified (recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of NTSSA and its affiliated members shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

**3.14.1 Law I - Field of Play**

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Field Width</u>	<u>Field Length</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
<b><u>Adult</u></b>			
All Ages	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 120 yds.	8ft. x24 ft.
<b><u>Youth</u></b>			
Under 19	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 16	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 14	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 12	44 - 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	<del>Max 76.5 ft. x 2148.5 ft</del> <i>Recommend 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.</i>
Under 10	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds.	<del>Max. 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.</del> <i>Recommend 6.5 ft. x 12 ft.</i>
Under 8 and younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 – 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

**3.14.2 Law II - The Ball**

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Age Groups Ball Size

Under 13 and older	Size #5
Under 12 and Under 10	Size #4
Under 8 and younger	Size #3

### 3.14.3 Law III - Number of Players and Substitution

1. Under 13 and older shall play 11v11.
2. Under 12 shall play 9v9
3. Under 10 shall play 7v7
4. Under 8 and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.
5. Substitution Rule – ~~Youth under 8 and older~~
  - a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
  - b. Either team, at a goal-kick;
  - c. Either team, after a goal is scored;
  - d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
  - e. At halftime or quarter /period for Under 8 and younger;
  - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given in Under 9 and older, that player may be substituted for.

\*\*\* NTSSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 87 and younger age groups only.

The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.
6. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player’s time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** FIFA rules for substitution will apply.
8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
  - Adult – maximum 25 players
  - Under 16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players
  - Under 14 – maximum 18 players
  - Under 12 – maximum 16 players
  - Under 10 – maximum 12 players
  - Under 8 and younger– recommend 6, maximum 8 players

### 3.14.4 Law IV - Player’s Equipment

Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

**3.14.5 Law V - Referee \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA** - Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. Registered Referees
2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players.

**3.14.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee**

Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for Under 9 and older  
There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

**3.14.7 Law VII - Duration of Game**

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Length of Periods</u>	<u>Length of Overtime</u>
<b>Adult</b>		
Adult	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
<b>Youth</b>		
Under 19	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 16	Two 40 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 14	Two 35 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 12	Two 30 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 10	Two 25 min.	Two 10 min.
Under <u>8 and younger</u>	<u>Max. Four 10 min.</u> <del>Three 15 min.</del>	<del>None</del>
	<u>Recommend Four 8 min.</u>	
<del>Under 7 and younger</del>	<del>Four 8 min.</del>	<del>None</del>

**3.14.8 Law VIII - Start of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet ~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.**

**3.14.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA**

**3.14.10 Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player if local playing rules so provide.**

**3.14.11 Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except that for Under 8 and younger there is no offside, and for Under 10 there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.**

**3.14.12 Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in **NTSSA**. Possession is defined as: -“One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground.” Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per **FIFA** laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.
2. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from

being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.

3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

**3.14.13 Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except that for all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.**

**3.14.14 Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except that there are for no penalty kicks in Under 8 and —younger.**

**3.14.15 Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger**~~Under 7~~ are allowed a re-throw. Under 8 and younger~~6~~ and younger may use kick-in.

**3.14.16 Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.**

**3.14.17 Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.**

## NTSSA YOUTH TOURNAMENT RULES

*Recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018*

***(Rules used for all tournaments unless exceptions approved by NTSSA Cups and Games Committee)***

1. Each team must have unique numbered jerseys. Alternate jerseys or numbered T-shirts must be available with a unique number for each player. Pennies may be used over the jersey resolve color conflicts. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the roster. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected. Home Team is team listed first on schedule. Home Team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict.
2. Home Team will occupy either the North or West side of playing field, except at complexes which are setup for teams/players to be on the opposite side of the field from spectators.
3. A game may be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director/Committee if a team is not ready to play at the published time within ten (10) minutes of the game. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five (5) minutes of the referee's designation.
4. The only protests allowed are for ineligible player and misapplications of the laws of the game that the referee admits. All protests must have a material impact on the outcome of the game and be reported in writing, with a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) cashier's check, money order or cash.
5. Teams will play Mini-Games in preliminary & quarter-final games. Semi-final and Final games will be full length. Half-time will be five (5) minutes. (Under 6 – Under 8 do not play advancement games)

Division	Mini-Game Length	Full Game Length	Ball Size	Overtime
U- <del>8</del> 7 and younger	n/a	(4) 8 Minute Quarters	3	n/a
<del>U-8</del>	<del>n/a</del>	<del>(3) 15 Minute Periods</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>n/a</del>
U-10	20 Minute Halves	25 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-12	25 Minute Halves	30 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-14	30 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves	5	(2) 10 Minute
U-16	30 Minute Halves	40 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-17	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-19	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute