



# Fall 2020 Rule Changes

COVID-19 has caused a number to changes to our Rules of Competition which we will highlight here. We encourage everyone to download and read the current Rules of Competition from the website [www.ncsanj.com](http://www.ncsanj.com). Also, plan to revisit the ROC online as there will likely be changes throughout the season.

## 4.5 TEMPORARY "PLAYING UP"

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	<p><u>A player registered to an NCSA team may temporarily play on a different NCSA team, subject to the following conditions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>• The player is age eligible (same age or younger) to play for the team for which he/she temporarily plays, and;</u></li><li><u>• A maximum of 2 players per game may play from all higher flight or older age same gender teams, again providing the player is age eligible, and;</u></li><li><u>• The team for which he/she temporarily plays is a member of the same club and gender as defined in the NCSA Bylaws. A girl may play up on a boys' team regardless of flight level, a boy cannot play up on a girls' team, and;</u></li><li><u>• The team from which the player temporarily transfers is not suspended and is registered with the NCSA for that season, and;</u></li><li><u>• The player's temporary transfer status (name, pass #, team playing up from and uniform number) is clearly shown on the Match Day Form and the referee's attention is drawn to the fact, and;</u></li><li><u>• Teams are allowed to have as many players playing up at any given game subject to an overall player limitation of 18 players for U13 to U19 game, 16 players for U11/U12 game and 14 players for U9/U10 game, and;</u></li><li><u>• NO roster moves will be allowed after the 7th Sunday of regularly scheduled play in each season unless there are extraordinary circumstances which must be approved by NCSA Board Committee.</u></li></ul> <p><u>ALL PRIOR LIMITATIONS BASED UPON THE AGE OR FLIGHT OF THE TEAM THE PLAYER IS</u></p>



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	<p><u>REGISTERED TO ARE SUSPENDED FOR FALL 2020 SEASON ONLY DUE TO COVID-19.</u></p> <p><u>NCSA WILL EVALUATE THE BENEFIT OF RELAXING THESE PLAY UP RESTRICTIONS FOR FUTURE SEASONS BASED UPON COMPLIANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS RULE AND NON-COMPLIANCE DESIGNED MERELY FOR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.</u></p>
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## 5.7.2a Playoff flights

This season marks a new format for upper flights in each age group. These flight have eight (8) teams who will player each other once. Weeks 8-10 will see these flights play in a playoff series to determine flight winners. All teams play in the first two rounds in either the winner’s bracket or the consolation bracket.

Important Considerations	All tbs games must be played by week 7
	In the three playoff weeks games must be agreed to and scheduled by Tuesday at 5:00pm
	The higher seeded team shall have the first right to host. Teams can agree to play at the lower seeded team’s field.
	All tbs games must be played by week 7 in order to count towards seeding for playoffs
	Playoff games must be scheduled by the teams each week by 11:00am on Mondays
	The higher seeded team is the host unless both teams agree to play at a field of the lower seed. The game must still be scheduled by Monday at 11:00am
	In case of a tie there will be no overtime except for in the final game. See complete tiebreaking procedures in the ROC posted online

## 6.3 LOCATION OF BENCHES, TEAM PERSONNEL, AND SPECTATORS

With consideration of COVID-19 and social distancing, the NCSA is modifying the locations of teams and spectators for the Fall 2020 season. Pursuant to the diagram below teams and spectators will be on the same side of the field but opposite each other. **Coaches and players must be located between 5 yards from the half line and adjacent to the penalty area.**

Team A Players and coaches
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## Field Setup – New Social Distancing Requirements

- Home and Away Coaches - Combined Responsibility**
- Players and spectators from the same team are on the same side but opposite halves
- Players and spectators should be 6 feet apart (adhere to social distancing rules)
- Spectators are not on the same half as the Assistant Referee

*Referees are not there to police your team/spectators for social distancing. Use common sense on fields that may have difficulties adhering to above*

## 6.5 PASS INSPECTION

In consideration of COVID-19 the NCSA is modifying Pass Inspection. Both teams shall demonstrate to the referee that they have all passes for players and coaches in their possession. For Fall 2020, referees will not hold the passes during the game.

## 6.8 COIN TOSS

Due to COVID-19 and for the Fall 2020 season only the NCSA has suspended the pre-game coin toss. For the Fall 2020 season the home team will have the choice of kicking off or choosing an end of the field to defend.

## Other Considerations

The NCSA is working to have contactless check-in procedures. We have modified the process for watermarking rosters so that as Karen receives rosters from clubs she will upload those into our systems. The upload process will automatically place the NCSA watermark and a verified date on the roster. Clubs/coaches will be able to log into [www.ncsanj.com](http://www.ncsanj.com) and access their watermarked and verified roster, and their opponent's roster online. Referees assigned to any game will also be able to access the rosters for both team's rosters online. Referees will then either view the rosters or print the rosters themselves for check-in so that there is no exchange of paper rosters at the field.

In similar fashion, the Match Day Form will still be created online by a coach logging in and accessing the MDF for a specific game. Instead of printing and signing the MDF as in past, coaches will electronically



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sign the MDF online and will no longer need to bring a hard copy of the MDF to the field. Referees will be able to access the MDF for each team along with the rosters. The MDF has been modified to be “mobile friendly” so that coaches can add play-ups from their phones at the field. In these cases the referee will only need to log out and back into the website and the MDF will be updated for their view.

Out of an abundance of caution the NCSA will not be asking referees to collect and hold player and staff passes during the game. Coaches are required to have all passes and display them to the referee but retain them during the game.