



Presidents' Symposium

January 19, 2019
Mahwah Sheraton
Mahwah, NJ



AGENDA

Opening Remarks	Dennis Burns, President NCSA
Flighting	Eric Beiter, NCSA Division Commissioner
Rules	Bob Heinrich, Vice President & Rules Chair
Game Change	Jeff Schneider, NCSA Division Commissioner/Arsenal
U8 Boys & Girls	Jeff Schneider, NCSA Division Commissioner
NCSA Cup	Eric Beiter, NCSA Cup Director
Referees	Craig McKim, Referee Compliance
Important Dates	Karen Huber, League Administrative Assistant
Open Discussion	Group
US Club Update	Mike Gould
Closing Remarks	Dennis Burns, NCSA President



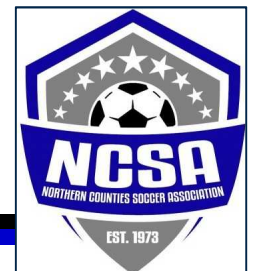
Soccer Bloopers to play before we begin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5h1sIAvQqU>



What is Northern Counties (NCSA)

- The oldest and largest youth league in NJ – founded in 1973
- Sanctioned by US Club Soccer, affiliated with USSF, and must abide by IFAB Regulations
- Volunteer run, not for profit 501C3 organization
- Home of 3 World Cup Players, countless college and university players
- 80 Clubs ranging in location from Staten Island, NY – Monroe/ Woodbury, NY & NJ in between
- 1,000 Teams ranging in age from U8 – U19 (Spring season only)
- Typical weekend has more than 450 games!



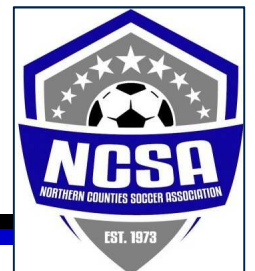
NCSA Board of Directors

President	Dennis Burns
Vice President	Bob Heinrich
Secretary/Webmaster	Ed Seavers
Treasurer	George Sanchez
Games Chairpersons	Carl Deitze, Ed Seavers & Terri Poggi
Rules Chairman	Bob Heinrich
Games Conduct Chairmen	John Duffell & John Soares
Referee Compliance Coordinator	Craig McKim
Referee Development Coordinator	Ron Rosensweig
Division Commissioner Boys 1 & 2 (U15-U19)	Rui Dos Santos
Division Commissioner Boys 3 (U13-U14)	Jon Sorkenn
Division Commissioner Boys 4 (U11-U12)	Michael Mahler
Division Commissioner Boys 5 (U9-U10)	Terri Poggi
Division Commissioner Girls 1 and 2 (U15-U19)	Jeff Schneider
Division Commissioner Girls 3 (U13-U14)	John Evans
Division Commissioner Girls 4 (U11-U12)	Eric Beiter
Division Commissioner Girls 5 (U9-U10)	Jeff Schneider
Division Commissioner Boys & Girls 6 (U8	Patti Polizzi-Walker





Flighting – Eric Beiter

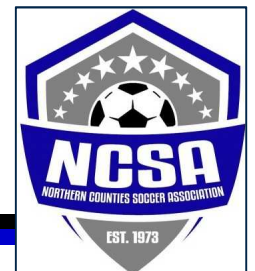


Current Flighting Process

Flight Composition

Factors that are considered when creating flights:

- Club's request
- Team's performance in previous season
- Appropriate sized flight

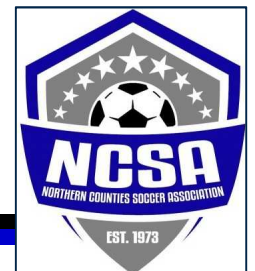


Current Flighting Process

Flight Size

6/8/10/11 team flights are best from a scheduling perspective

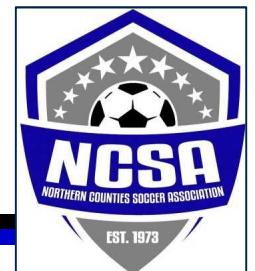
- 6 = Play each opponent 2x (H/A)
- 8 = Play each opponent 1x, then 3 more a second time
- 10 = Play each opponent 1x (9 game schedule)
- 11 = Play each opponent 1x (10 game schedule)



Current Flighting Process

B(blue) vs. W(white)

- An abundance of teams requesting the same flight requires multiple divisions to accommodate
 - One age group with 27 teams requesting B flight
 - One age group with 25 teams requesting C flight
- Example - 22 teams requesting B flight would likely result in:
 - 11 teams in BB
 - 11 teams in BW
- Usually divided randomly
- May be divided geographical
- Can't be divided competitively



Current Flighting Process

Cross-Flight Play

- When teams drop after flights are created this creates a bye week for some teams.
- To eliminate the bye and provide a full slate of seasonal games, we try to schedule a cross-flight game.
- This game will not count toward standings for either team.



Current Flighting Process

High School Flights

- There is difference between how and at what age boys and girls mature physically
 - HS Boys have a big difference between Freshman and Upperclassman, so we create U15, u16, u17, etc.
 - HS girls don't have as big a difference, and you often see freshman playing varsity, so we create a U19 flight for everyone.
- By placing all girls teams in U19, it allows Premier U15 teams, and strong U16 teams, to be scheduled against more moderate U18 teams for example
 - Think of it as being able to schedule No Highlands JV against a smaller Group 1 schools varsity (Midland Park).



Current Flighting Process

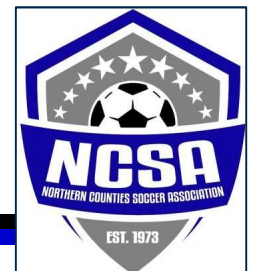
High School Flights (continued)

- Allows for more flexible scheduling matchups.
 - For example, if only 6 true U15 teams registered, but two requested A, two C and two E, the schedule would have no choice but to create uncompetitive matches.
- Also allows more flexibility in creating rosters.
 - An NCSA team can be put together with 15 freshman a senior captain to provide leadership. For tournaments, this would have to be registered as a U18 team (based on age of oldest player), but for NCSA scheduling would be matched more appropriately vs other freshmen weighted teams.
- In general terms, flighting works something like this:
 - A flight is strong club or varsity HS teams
 - B flight might be moderate club teams, varsity Group 1 schools, JV teams from bigger schools, Premier U15/16 club teams
 - C flight might be lower level U17/18 teams, moderate U15/16 teams, mid sized HS JV teams
 - D flight might be lower level U16 teams and freshmen HS teams





Rules – Bob Heinrich



Background

- NCSA is affiliated with US Soccer and US Club Soccer and as such we are governed by their directives and rules. As such there are things that we cannot change.
 - From the survey of clubs:
 - “NCSA should do away with the build out line for U9 & U10”
 - “NCSA should prohibit U8 players and teams from playing at U9”
 - “NCSA should have referees at all U8 games”
- These are directives from US Soccer that NCSA must follow.



NCSA Rules

- NCSA rules cover much more than just the games that are played each weekend;
 - NCSA rules cover how clubs are registered with NCSA and US Club Soccer;
 - NCSA rules cover the registration of teams, coaches and players in NCSA and in US Club Soccer;
 - NCSA rules cover the flighting and scheduling of games;
 - NCSA rules cover the assignment and coordination of referees and fields;
 - NCSA rules team uniforms, behavior of players, coaches and spectators
 - And yes NCSA rules cover game day competition



Clubs working with the Rules

- Most off-field rules issues are created by coaches, trainers, and sometimes club officials not knowing the NCSA Rules.
 - Coaches sign the Match Day Form every week acknowledging that they have read and understand the rules and will abide by them.
 - The NCSA Rules and all updates are posted on www.ncsanj.com for all to read and understand.
- NCSA has 80 Clubs and more than 1000 teams, likely 2,500+ coaches.
 - NCSA can only deal with Club Presidents and Club Representatives. It is important that coaches understand that they need to work through the Club President or Representative when working with the NCSA.



5.3.8 Changes to Original Schedule

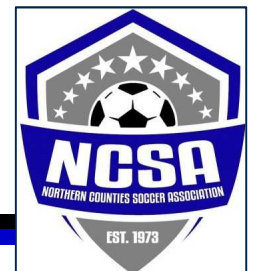
- There will be a \$50 dollar fee charged to the requesting team for changes to the originally scheduled game date and time, or a re-scheduled game date and time, submitted within 5 days to 7 days prior to the currently scheduled or rescheduled date, whichever is earlier; the fee is \$20 if submitted 8 or more days prior to the currently scheduled or rescheduled date, whichever is earlier, except as set forth above in sections 5.3.4, 5.3.5, and 5.3.6. A schedule change will only be granted if both coaches agree to the change, in writing, and a re-scheduled date with the time and field location accompanies the request. If a re-scheduled match creates a "hole" in the schedule for referee assignment purposes, then the team initiating the change will be responsible for the Referee fees for the original game that was scheduled. The home team will pay the referees at the field. If the visiting team caused the reschedule, then upon request of the home team club to the division commissioner, games chairs and NCSA Treasurer, NCSA will charge the referee fee to the visiting team's club and credit the home team's club; this adjustment does NOT apply to the fees for not showing up to pay the referees at the field, which is always the home team's responsibility..

Best Practice

Meet with coaches, team officials, and field governing bodies and determine potential conflicts before the schedule is released. Request tbs games for weekends where there are potential conflicts

Best Practice

If you need to move a game, do it with as much advance notice to minimize the fees associated.



5.3.9 Rescheduling Games / Games Change Requests

- Schedule changes, whether automatic or requested, will only be accepted by an online Games Change Request, as prescribed by the Games Chair(s). **Games Change Requests must be submitted online to the league a minimum of 5 days in advance for weekday game or by 11:00 AM on Monday for any weekend game.** Games Change Request shall be submitted online and only by a Club Representative and must contain all information including but not limited to which Club is requesting the change and which Club is responsible for all associated fees. If the rescheduling of a game is for any reason other than an automatic postponement, as detailed in 5.3.1, the game must be played within 2 weeks of the date originally scheduled.
- All reasonable efforts should be made to reschedule the game at the time of postponement if the reason is an automatic postponement under 5.3.1, which must be stated in the online request. If the postponement of a game is for any other reason, the rescheduled date and reason for postponement must be set forth in the comment box in the online Game Change Request. The Games Chair(s) will determine if the stated reason meets the criteria for automatic postponement if that is the reason claimed. If a change is requested under 5.3.8, then the Games Chair(s) will determine if the stated agreement of the opposing team is noted in the request and if all steps have been followed as detailed herein, then Games Chair(s) will approve request. If any change is rejected, the reason will be stated in the rejection comments. In all cases, the person submitting the online Games Change Request is certifying to the league that: (a) if a postponement is not automatic, the opponent coach has agreed to the request; (b) if a postponement is automatic, the opponent coach has already been notified; and (c) if a rescheduled date is set forth, such date, time and location has been agreed upon with the opponent coach before submission of the form. Any violation of this rule will result in a fine to the offending club of \$75, non-acceptance by the Games Chair(s) of future online Games Change Requests for all teams in that Club, and a forfeit given to the offending team. If the request is received after the above deadline, then a \$25 increase in fine per day will be levied. (E.g. Tuesday, \$100, Wednesday, \$125, Thursday, \$150, Friday, \$175 for Saturday game schedule).
- The two teams in a postponed game must attempt to agree upon a mutually acceptable game time. If the teams cannot agree, then the Division Commissioner will intervene and attempt to arbitrate an agreement. If the arbitration described above is not successful, the Division Commissioner must notify the Games Chair(s) who will schedule the game at a site and time of his/her choice. In flights where MBOS or position play occurs, makeup games that are not played at least 5 days before MBOS or position play begins will be declared as forfeits, at the discretion of the Games Chair(s), subject to review by the Board. Games not scheduled timely by the teams will be scheduled by the Games Chair(s) on as little as 48 hours notice. Failure to comply with any part of this rule other than the sliding scale timeliness fees set forth above will result in a \$100 fine to the offending team.

Best Practice

Submit game change requests by Monday at 11:00am with complete details.

Best Practice

When rescheduling try to not leave a “hole” in the schedule at the field. Take into consideration the assignment of referees.

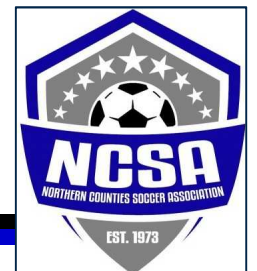


Rule Updates Winter 2019

- 4.5 Temporary PlayUps – a modification was made to the NCSA Rules that clearly states that it is the right of any coach to ask the referee to inspect the Match Day Form and player cards for all players listed as Playing Up in the Game.
- 4.5 Temporary PlayUps – we clarified the rule that no roster changes can be made after the 7th Sunday of regularly scheduled play unless the player has exceeded the allowable number of play ups (3) or unless there are special circumstances and the NCSA board approves.
- 5.9 Length of Game – a change has been made to Division 2 (U15/16) reducing the length of the game from two- 45 minutes halves to two – 40 minute halves.
- 6.9 Substitutions – a change has been made that will now allow substitutions on corner kicks providing the substitutes are “up and ready” at the half-line when play is stopped.
- 9.2 Referee Fees – Fees for Division 2 (U15/16) were reduced to \$80 CR, and \$45 for each AR.
- 9.4 – Payment and Appeal of Fines – a detailed procedure of how to appeal fines has been introduced into the NCSA rules. Appeals must be registered within 30 days of the fine appearing on www.ncsanj.com.

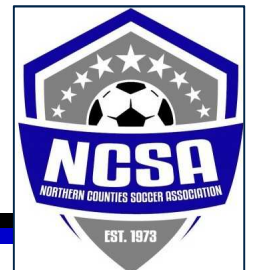


Questions on Rules





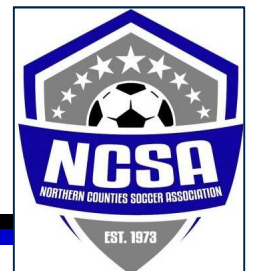
U8 – Jeff Schneider





U8 – 7v7 vs. 4v4

What makes most sense?



U8 Boys & Girls Division

Small field, 4v4 play	NO Referees – Coaches/Trainers direct & advise
U8A Large group (split their roster into at least two groups)	No offside & unlimited substitution on any stoppage
U8B/Small group (field a single team per game/competition.)	Home team picks side and visiting team has ball for 1 st /2 nd quarter
NCSA schedules games between large groups, small groups, mix of both to maximize play	Build out line marked by cones or any mark by host club
4 – 12 minute quarters	Coaches will exchange watermarked rosters
Size 3 soccer ball	Coaches will exchange Match Day Form
Min/Max Field=15/25 wide X 25/35 long	Passes do NOT need to be exchanged
Goal size no larger than 4x6 feet	Goal Kicks-build out line is enforced
Max of 4 players per team, no less than 3	Uniforms are nominally identical & each player has unique number
Kick-Ins taken from touch line	Uniform=shirt, shorts, socks, shin guards, suitable footwear



U8 – Informal Survey Feedback

Need referees. To many teams are pushing and shoving the girls around. No rules being followed by other teams

- There will be no referees as having referees is not in keeping with the tone of the small sided field play and does not offer the clubs/teams flexibility to keep the small sided field play an introduction and learning experience for the players.
- It is every teams' responsibility to read, learn and follow the ROC for the U8 Division. If clubs are not following the ROC and NCSA continues to receive complaints from opposing team a fine will be implemented.

Need fields with lines. No cones!

- NCSA strongly recommends that the home team line their grass/open field in place of cones when possible. For those teams hosting on a turf field we understand that lining the field is not possible and therefore cones can be used.

Need to have the same number of home and away games. We had 10 games and only 3 were home. U8 Small B teams played many more away games than home games.

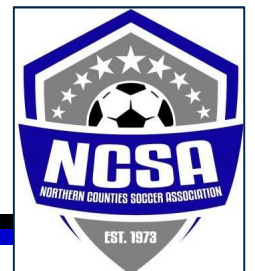
- NCSA is committed to try to have all teams play half their games home and half their games away. We ask those U8 A large team who have expressed concern of "splitting" their trainers between two games... please try to stagger the games to accommodate the schedule. U8 Division does have the flexibility to contact one another to request a time change if necessary as there is no referees.

If clubs are entering U8 teams all U8 teams should be required to play in the U8 Division and not allowed to play up in the U9 division in a lower flight.

- Although US Soccer strongly recommends and NCSA strongly encourages U8 small sided field play we cannot & do not tell a club how to flight their teams. It is up to individual club/trainer/coach/manager to use their discretion to flight their teams.



NCSA Cup – Eric Beiter



NCSA CUP - SUMMARY

- Single Elimination Tournament open to all teams in good standing
- Ages U9-U15
- Limit of 32 teams per age group
- Games scheduled on your own (similar to TBS)
- Cannot interfere with league game
- Applications accepted on first-come first-served basis
- \$100 registration fee + ref fees
- Championship ref fees covered by NCSA



NCSA CUP – GENERAL RULES

- Game length is same as regular NCSA game
- If non-championship game is tied – goes right to PK's
- Championship game will have two 5-minute OT's, then PK's
- Cannot dual roster – player may only participate with 1 team



NCSA CUP SCHEDULE

Apr 2019	31 Week No 13	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 Week No 14	8	9	10	11	12	13 Round 1
	14 Week No 15	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21 Week No 16	22	23	24	25	26	27
May 2019	28 Week No 17	29	30	1	2	3	4 Round 2
	5 Week No 18	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12 Week No 19	13	14	15 Round 3	16	17	18
	19 Week No 20	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26 Week No 21	27	28	29	30	31	1 Semi-Final
	2 Week No 22	3	4	5	6	7	8 Finals

ROUND 1: Play by 4/13/2019

ROUND 2: Play by 5/4/2019

ROUND 3: Play by 5/18/2019

Semi---Final: Play by 6/1/2019

Championship: 6/8/2019



NCSA CUP CHAMPIONS HISTORY

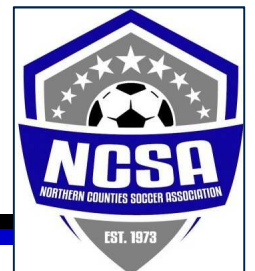
Division	2016	2017	2018
Bu9	Ironbound	Torpedoes	Ironbound
Bu10	Torpedoes	GlenRock	SoHack
Bu11	Warriors	Den of Lions Ramapo	Bayonne
Bu12	Verona	Valley	Tenaflly
Bu13	Maroons	Thistle	NoValley
Bu14	Fairview	Union City	JerseyCity
Bu15	-	Clarkstown	

Division	2016	2017	2018
Gu9	Hotspur	Maroons	Arsenal
Gu10	Mahwah	Torpedoes	GlenRock
Gu11	Maroons	Dragons	Thistle
Gu12	Spartan	Wayne B&G	Maroons
Gu13	Glen Rock	Torpedoes	NoRockland
Gu14	Clifton	Fair Lawn	Torpedoes
Gu15	-	Hackensack	RamapoValley





Referees – Craig McKim



RESPECT

Even when the decision may be wrong



IFAB - Reminders

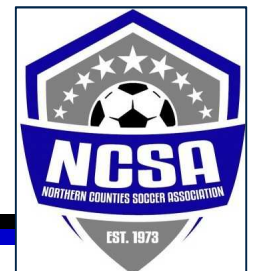
The IFAB and FIFA would like to remind everyone of two very important aspects of the game:

Captains

- The Laws of the Game state that the captain has 'a degree of responsibility for the behavior of their team' - captains are expected to use this responsibility to help calm/positively influence the behavior of their players, especially in controversial/confrontational situations involving opponents or match officials

Respect for Referees

- Players must respect all decisions made by the referee and other match officials, even when they may appear to be wrong.
- Respect for the Laws of the Game and the match officials who apply the Laws is paramount to the fairness and image of football



The philosophy and spirit of the Laws - IFAB

- Football is the greatest sport on earth. It is played in every country and at many different levels. **The Laws of the Game are the same for all football** throughout the world from the FIFA World Cup™ Final through to a game between young children in a remote village.
- That the same Laws apply in every match in every confederation, country, town and village throughout the world **is a considerable strength which must be preserved**. This is also an opportunity which must be harnessed for the good of football everywhere.
- Football must have **Laws which keep the game 'fair'** as a crucial foundation of the beauty of the 'beautiful game' is its fairness – this is a vital feature of the 'spirit' of the game. **The best matches are those where the referee is rarely needed as the players play with respect for each other, the match officials and the Laws.**
- **The integrity of the Laws, and the referees who apply them, must always be protected and respected. All those in authority, especially coaches and team captains, have a clear responsibility to the game to respect the match officials and their decisions.**

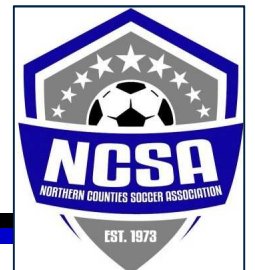


How does your team relate to the NCSA

Your team is
one of 1000
teams for Spring
2019

Your weekly
game is one
of over
450/weekend

Each of your
games is the
most
important to
the NCSA



Rule of Competition

Read the NCSA Rules of Competition

- Understand the rules and procedures before you get to the field

Review expectations with players, assistant coaches, trainers, and parents

- Players Play
- Coaches Coach
- Referees Ref
- Parents Cheer

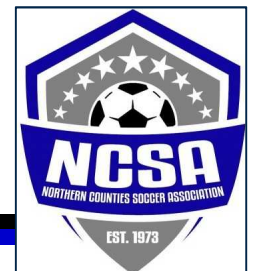
US Club Passes “No Pass – No Play”

- All coaches and players must have valid US Club Passes which are laminated and have a photo of the player or coach.
- Coaches and trainers must possess a pass for the Club that they are coaching
- Club Reps print and laminate the passes so check with your club rep on status



Game Day at the field

- ☛ Check the goals are anchored
- ☛ Make sure that the field is properly lined
- ☛ Make sure that the field has corner flags
- ☛ Properly inflated, correct size game balls
- ☛ Match Day Form
- ☛ 2 copies US Club NCSA watermarked rosters
- ☛ Laminated US Club passes for players, trainers, and coaches
- ☛ Medical Release forms for all players
- ☛ Referee fees (exact change for ½ the center referee fee & one AR)



Uniforms, Equipment, other

- All players must be in the same color uniform with the goal keeper in an alternative color that does not conflict with the opposition.
- Proper footwear, no metal cleats.
- Absolutely no jewelry. (Band-Aids over earrings not acceptable).
- No hard casts or braces with metal in them.
- Under Armor or additional clothing must be similar in color to the uniform and must be underneath the uniform.



Match Procedures

At least 15 minutes prior to kick off the referee will check in both teams (U9 and above). The referee will ask all coaches and trainers to sign the Match Day Form, collect both copies of the US Club NCSA watermarked rosters, inspect all players equipment, collect the laminated US Club cards for all players, trainers, and coaches.

Pay the referee the exact fees owed. The Match Day Form designates the fees by age group. Each team is responsible for ½ of the Referees fees and one of the AR fees.

Respect that the Referee is in control of the game and that your only means of appeal is to complete the Match Day Evaluation form after the game.



The Game

- Coaches and Referees are jointly responsible for ensuring the enjoyment of the players;
- If a spectator is unruly the referee will ask the coaches to intercede and speak to the offending parent;
- Have substitutions ready at the half line before play is stopped and instruct players to wait for the referee to signal them onto the field;
- When there is an injury on the field coaches and trainers must remain on the sideline until asked to enter the field by the referee.



Post Game

Display good sportsmanship and line up teams for handshake – don't forget the referees!

Confirm the final score with the referee.

Reclaim US Club Passes from the referee.

Make certain that you have all of the passes including coaches and anyone that arrived at the game after the start of the game – it may be in the referee's pocket!

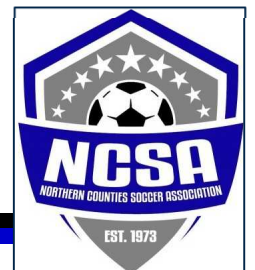
Clean up the area of your bench – do not leave empty water bottles, food remnants, etc.

If you won the game (or the Home team in the case of a tie) visit www.ncsanj.com to enter the score within 4 hours of the end of the game.

Complete the match evaluation and referee evaluation online at www.ncsanj.com

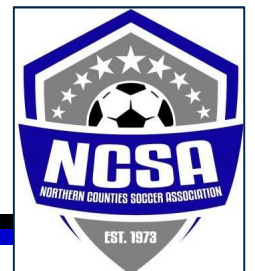
Update Match Day Form online if play-ups were used (must be done within 24 hours of the game).

Contact your Division Commissioner if you miss these deadlines.





Important Dates – Karen Huber



Important Dates

- **Tuesday, December 18** Spring 2019 registration opens
- **Tuesday, January 22** Deadline to Register Teams for Early Credit (\$25 off each new Spring team's registration fee)
- **Thursday, January 31** Registration Fees must be postmarked on or before this date to be eligible for early registration credit
- **Friday, February 1** Registration Closes
- **Monday, February 4** Registration Payment Must Be Postmarked
- **Thursday, February 14** Flights Done/Appeals Open
- **Sunday, February 17** Appeals Close
- **Thursday, February 21** TBS Requests Due
- **Tuesday, February 26** Field Availability Due
- **Monday, March 4** Watermarking Rosters Open
- **Sunday, March 24** Spring Season Begins
- **Sunday, April 21** Easter and Passover Holiday (No scheduled NCSA Games)
- **Monday, May 27** Memorial Day (No scheduled NCSA Games May 25-27)
- **Sunday, June 2** Last Day of Regularly Scheduled Games for Flights of 8/10 teams
- **Sunday, June 9** Last Day of Regularly Scheduled Games for flights of 6/11 teams
- **Tuesday June 25** Last date for games to be played for Spring 2019 Season



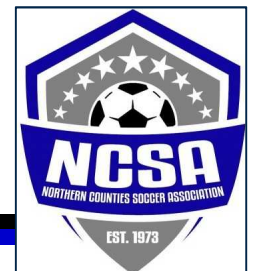


Round Table - All



Most comments from clubs....

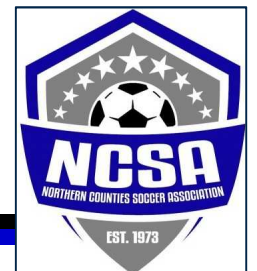
- Rules of Competition
- Changes in schedule/fines/weather issues
- Referees – sharing ratings, attitudes, lack of knowledge of rules by some refs
- Other items of concern or clarification





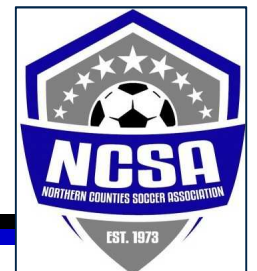
US Club Soccer Update

Mike Gould



Closing – What are we working on.....

- Cross League Play with Morris County Youth Soccer Assoc
- North Jersey Cup – NCSA & MCYSA
- Fall U15 – 7v7 Play
- Promotion for trip to Red Bull's game





Questions?

Have a great Spring season!!

