

# Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association's “Rules of the Club”

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

The Rules of the Club are set forth in this document. The “committee” has approved all the Rules of the Club. The “committee” as defined in the Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Charter and By-Laws consists of the elected officials, age group coordinators and the coaches of each team. Each rule has been approved by a majority of the “committee” at one of the regular scheduled meetings.

Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association  
Rules of the Club

Table of Contents

Rule	Number	Page
<b>Philosophy</b>	000	
Club Philosophy	001	4
<b>General</b>	100	
Rules of the Club, Additions, Changes or Deletions	101	5
Reimbursement for Coaching Courses	102	5
Privacy of Member Information	103	5
Web Site Control Policy	104	5
<b>Roles</b>	200	
Role of the Group Age Coordinators	201	7
Role of the Coaches	202	7
Role of the Field Coordinators	203	7
Role of the Referee Coordinator	204	8
Role of the Coaches Education Coordinator	205	8
<b>Age Groups</b>	300	
Selection Process for coaches	301	9
Selection Process for Group Age Coordinators	302	9
Selection Process for Field Coordinators	303	9
Player Registration	304	10
Player Registration Fee Return Policy	305	10
Travel Team Placement Process	306	10
Player Team Selection Process	307	11
Skill Evaluations	308	13
Prior Season Player Evaluations	309	13
Moving a Player to a Higher Age Group	310	13
<b>Rules of the Game</b>	400	
Field of Play	401	15
Ball	402	18
Numbers of Players	403	18
Player's Equipment	404	18
Duration of Matches	405	19
Rescheduling Games	406	19
Postponing Individual Games	407	19
Cancellation of Multiple Games	408	20
Cancellation Once a Game Begins	409	20
<b>Referees</b>	500	
Referees – Selection and Payment	501	21
<b>Conduct</b>	600	
Fighting	601	22
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	602	22

# Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

## Rules of the Club

### **000 – Philosophy**

#### **001 - Club Philosophy**

As stated in our Club Charter and By-Laws, “The purpose of the MUYSA shall be to promote and develop the sport of soccer in the Town(s) of Mendon and Upton. The MUYSA will promote an atmosphere of good sportsmanship within which the players can compete, learn, and enjoy the game of soccer. In this spirit, all teams, coaches, players, and member parents shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall cooperate fully with the letter and the spirit of the rules, policies, and this Charter and By-Laws.”

# Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

## Rules of the Club

### **100 - General**

#### **101 – Rules of the Club, Additions, Changes or Deletions:**

Any “Committee” member or “Member-At-Large” can request changes or additions to the Rules of the Club at any regular scheduled meeting. The “committee” consists of the elected officials, age group coordinators and coaches from each team. All parents or guardians of playing members are “Members-At-Large.”

Any member of the “committee” or any Members-At-Large can be selected to draft proposed changes to Club rules. Once drafted, the proposed change(s) will be presented to the “committee” at a regular scheduled meeting for review and final vote. A simple majority vote is needed to pass any proposed amendment to the MUYSA Charter, By Laws or Rules.

#### **102 - Reimbursement for Coaching Courses:**

MUYSA will automatically reimburse any coaches who successfully completes “G”, “F” and “E” levels courses. Coaches seeking “D” Course certification or higher must receive advance approval from the Coaches Education Coordinator to qualify for reimbursement. The Coaches Education Coordinator must then submit a recommendation for reimbursement to the Club Officials, where a majority vote in the affirmative is required. Negative decisions may be appealed to the Club Officers at any regular scheduled Club meeting by any member.

#### **103 - Privacy of Member Information:**

The Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association will not disseminate any personal data gathered during the Club registration process to any person or organization other than as it pertains to soccer related business or membership requirements for league or tournament play.

#### **104 - Web Site Control Policy**

All information posted to and available through the official Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association web site will be governed by this policy.

The following categories of information require a majority vote at one of the regularly scheduled Club meetings.

- Content category establishment – adds, deletes and changes
  - Note: a content category is defined as any information under the “content” portion of the MUYSA home page.
- Rules and Policies – adds, deletes and changes
- Soccer Links (links to other web sites) – adds, deletes and changes

The following categories can be jointly approved by a MUYSA Officer and the assigned MUYSA website manager.

- Contact Us – adds, deletes and changes

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

- Home page - adds, deletes and changes
- News and Events – adds, deletes and changes
- Club Calendar - adds, deletes and changes

The following categories can be jointly approved by the Coaches Education Coordinator and the assigned MUYSA web site manager.

- Coaches Corner – adds, deletes and changes

The following categories can be jointly approved by the Club Registrar and the assigned MUYSA web site manager.

- Registration – adds, deletes and changes

The following categories can be approved and executed by the assigned MUYSA website manager.

- Photo Album (team pictures) – adds, deletes and changes as requested by the team coaches
- Field Maps - adds, deletes and changes as requested by a MUYSA Officer, Field Coordinator, or MAYS League Representative
- Team Schedules - adds, deletes and changes as requested by a MUYSA Officer, Age Group Coordinator, or MAYS League Representative

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

### **200 - Roles**

#### **201 - Role of the Age Group Coordinator:**

The elected age group coordinator serves as spokesperson for his or her age group at monthly club meetings. The coordinator is responsible for organizing the coaches and teams, as well as all required paperwork (i.e. pass cards, CORI forms, etc.) within the assigned group. He or she will also serve as the initial point of contact for any issues or concerns raised by any players, coaches or parents within the age group.

The coordinator shall have one vote (as will each coach in the age group) for any issues, such as team selections, disputes, or other matters, raised within the age group.

The Age Group Coordinator for the upcoming fall season is also responsible for coordinating spring Skill Evaluations in the spring as required by the age group for fall placement.

If any matter within the age group cannot be resolved within said group, the coordinator shall be responsible for bringing the matter before the Club Officers at the next regular scheduled meeting. The Age Group Coordinator may ask the Board (Club Officers) to meet separately in advance of the next regularly scheduled Club meeting if the situation is time sensitive.

#### **202 - Role of the Coach:**

A coach shall provide exemplary leadership and instruction by example and behavior both on and off the playing field.

A coach shall provide and promote an atmosphere in which players learn soccer skills, team play, sportsmanship and self-discipline under competitive situations.

A coach will organize and run regularly scheduled practices.

A coach will be responsible for participating in the team selection process, roster development, player pass cards, notification of all practices and games, and any special activities.

The coach will inform parents and guardians of Club rules with respect to general conduct at games.

A coach will make reasonable attempts to take advantage of MUYSA and non-Club sponsored coaches training opportunities in an effort to provide players with a consistent development curriculum across an age group.

A coach will be expected to support the respective field coordinators with initial field set-up, end-of-season breakdown, and weekly field lining as required.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

A coach is expected to conduct player evaluations at the end of the season and return them to the Age Group Coordinator.

A coach will submit to a CORI background check before working with children.

#### **203 - Role of the Field Coordinator:**

A Field Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that on games days the field is lined, corner flags are available, two age-appropriate size nets are on site with netting in game acceptable condition, and the field is in a safe and playable manner. He/She will also be responsible for proper anchorage of the goals to ensure a high level of safety.

The Field Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the initial field set-up prior to the start of each season and is expected to enlist the support of relevant coaches, assistant coaches, and willing parent volunteers.

A Field Coordinator is responsible for determining whether a field is playable a minimum of two hours prior to the start of any game. If the Field Coordinator determines the field is not playable, he or she will follow Rule 408 regarding notification of the cancellation of the game(s).

A Field Coordinator is responsible for developing a schedule for club team practices.

A Field Coordinator is responsible for determining if practices are to be cancelled due to field condition.

A Field Coordinator is responsible for communicating any seasonal field-related equipment needs to the Equipment Coordinator (such as new goals, nets, line paint, corner flags, etc) so the fields are “game ready” to start the season. He/she is also responsible for field break-down at the end of each season.

#### **204 - Role of the Referee Coordinator:**

The Referee Coordinator will be responsible for assigning referees for all in-town games as well as notifying referees when games are cancelled. The Referee Coordinator will also be responsible for organizing new referee candidate training.

#### **205 - Role of the Coaches Education Coordinator:**

The Coaches Education Coordinator will be responsible for determining training needs for the club. In addition, the coordinator will review available training methods, courses and their respective content and make recommendations to the Club at regularly scheduled club meetings.

The Coaches Education Coordinator is expected to serve as a liaison with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association by attending MA Youth Soccer-sponsored clinics and seminars and sharing new information with the Club. Working with MA Youth Soccer, the Coaches Education Coordinator will schedule and administer G, F and E license training as well as coordinate

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

special training programs as approved by the Club.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

### **300 – Age Groups**

#### **301 - Selection Process for Coaches:**

Any interested person can request to become an MUYSA coach. Age Group Coordinators will review open positions and determine assignments for coaches and assistants based on qualifications (including level of coaches training, prior playing experience, and ability to positively work with children) and needs.

Any coaching applicant that is not awarded a position or is unsatisfied with an assignment can request a meeting with the MUYSA Officers at the next scheduled Club meeting. The Coaching applicant may ask the Board (Club Officers) to meet separately in advance of the next regularly scheduled Club meeting if the situation is time sensitive. In this instance, Age Group Coordinators must provide the applicant with the date, time and place of the next club meeting as well as notify the MUYSA President of the situation. The MUYSA President will then have the issue added to the next meeting's agenda.

#### **302 – Selection Process for Age Group Coordinators:**

Any person can request of the Club to become an Age Group Coordinator.

Age Group Coordinators will be appointed for terms that begin with the fall session and conclude with the following spring session. Candidates must commit to a full fall/spring term to be considered for nomination and election.

If an opening exists, all candidates will be required to attend the next scheduled club meeting where a formal request will be presented to the club. A majority vote of all attending coaches, coordinators, Members-At-Large and MUYSA Officers is required to appoint an Age Group Coordinator. The vote will be considered final.

If an Age Group Coordinator exists for the Group requested by the applicant, the applicant can request that the MUYSA Officers and Age Group Coordinators vote on the candidates at the next scheduled meeting. A vote for acceptance for each candidate will be taken. The candidate with the most votes will be awarded the position. All attending coaches, coordinators, Members-At-Large and MUYSA Officers will participate in the vote. This vote will be final.

#### **303 – Selection Process for Field Coordinators:**

Any person can request to become an MUYSA Field Coordinator.

Terms begin with the fall session and conclude with the following spring session. Candidates must commit to a full year to be considered for nomination and election.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

If an opening exists, the candidate will be required to attend the next scheduled club meeting and a formal request will be presented to the club. A majority vote of all attending coaches, coordinators, Members-At-Large and MUYSA Officers is required. The vote will be final.

#### **304 – Player Registration:**

The Club will make every reasonable attempt to inform the public at large of player signups for the Spring and Fall seasons.

It is the policy of the Club to enforce the published deadline for player signup. Late player registrations will be accepted and players will be assigned to teams on a best effort basis.

*Practice Players:* Players who register late, but cannot be assigned to a team due to roster limits or passed deadlines, may pay a prorated fee and be a practice player. “Offers” to be a practice player are subject to the agreement of the Age Group Coordinator and the Club Registrar. The practice player is insured by MA Youth Soccer and may practice with a team, but does not appear on a team roster and cannot participate in league games unless otherwise added if a vacancy arises.

#### **305 - Player Registration Fee Return Policy:**

A player’s registration fee can be refunded “in full” up to the start of the first game of the season. After the first game is played, no refund will be issued. All requests for a full refund must be directed to the club Registrar. A full refund will be issued if a player is no longer able to participate due to one of more of the following situations: change of address; parental/guardian ability to drive the player; medical reason; or the player no longer wishes to participate. Refunds must be requested by the parent/guardian of the withdrawing player. MUYSA will not pro-actively refund the players registration fee.

#### **306 – Travel Team Division Placement:**

U10 and above travel teams are required to be placed in divisions based on team skill and league requirements. When a situation exists that allows MUYSA to select division placements, the Age Group Coordinator, all head coaches and one assistant coach from each team will vote to determine the team placements. However, if one or more teams do not have an assistant coach, assistant coaches will be excluded from the vote.

If any coach or the Age Group Coordinator is not in agreement with a division placement decision and the Age Group Coordinator has attempted unsuccessfully to resolve the matter, the Age Group Coordinator must notify the MUYSA President of the issue and request a special Officers meeting to determine placements.

Provided three or more Officers are present, the Officers will review the matter and conduct a vote to determine the placement of the team or teams in question. A simple majority is needed to approve any decision. Once approved, the decision is final.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

#### **307 – Player Team Selection Process:**

##### **IN-TOWN PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESSES:**

**U6:** Due to the clinic-based nature of the U06 program, groups of kids (teams) are formed based on social and geographical bases with an effort made to balance out available coaching resources to ensure effective coaching coverage.

**U07:** The U07 format is “in-town” and small-sided in nature (3v3 with no keepers). The Age Group Coordinator and coaches will attempt to balance the teams based on ability, gender and geography. The teams are rebalanced in the spring based on fall evaluations. Every attempt is made to balance out coaching resources to ensure effective coaching coverage.

**U8:** Player selection process will be random. The only exception will be children of coaches and assistant coaches, who will be assigned to the coach/assistant coach’s team. Coaches and assistant coaches will then rank all remaining players on an ABC scale. All “A” players names will then be distributed equally among teams. The process is then repeated for the “B” and “C” group.

Age Group Coordinator and coaches agree to maintain team balance, and will agree to make any required adjustments to achieve balance among teams.

##### **TRAVEL TEAM PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESSES:**

**U10:** While U10 marks the beginning of the “travel” program, it is also recreational in nature as there are no playoffs in either fall or spring regardless of the division of play. Team player selection will be completed using Prior Season Coaches Evaluations. The Age Group Coordinator may elect to hold a “Jamboree” to further evaluate skills, but that is optional. Coaches and assistant coaches are assigned to teams based on their son or daughter’s rankings and placement. Players may be moved up or down a division from fall to spring to optimize their development experience.

**U12:** Team player selection will be completed using Skill Evaluation sessions and Prior Season Evaluations. The Skill Evaluations results are to be used in conjunction with written Prior Season Coaches Evaluations. The Age Group Coordinator and coaches may decide by majority vote the relative weight of the Skill Evaluation ratings and the Prior Season Coaches Evaluations in the player placement process. Coaches and assistant coaches are assigned to teams based on their son or daughter’s rankings and placement. Players may be moved up or down a division from fall to spring to optimize their development experience. The Age Group Coordinator and coaches can decide by majority vote how teams are formed from fall to spring.

**U14 through U18:** Team player selection will be completed using Prior Season Coaches Evaluations balanced with the needs of the respective teams and the needs of the age group as a whole. Players may be moved up or down a division from one season to the next to optimize

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

their development experience. Coaches and assistant coaches are assigned to teams based on their son or daughter's rankings. The Age Group Coordinator and coaches can decide by majority vote how teams are formed from fall to spring.

#### **General Player Placement Process for U10-U18:**

All the coaches and the Age Group Coordinator will vote to determine the selection process for the age group. Age Group Coordinators and each coach will have one vote. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority is needed to pass or reject a motion.

Players will be assigned to the top ranking division team and so forth until all players have been assigned to a team. The number of players assigned to a team will be based on the total number of players available, their relative skill level, and the maximum roster size allowed by league rule. Coaches may elect, with the permission of the Age Group Coordinator, to maintain a roster with less than the maximum number of players allowed by league rule. However, if a player (or players) sign up late, these rosters may be adjusted up to the league maximums, provided the player meets the criteria of the division of play, which is based on their age group's placement process (skill evaluations and/or prior season player evaluations.) The Age Group Coordinator has final say. Coaches/parents can appeal to MUYSA Board if desired. In general, roster sizes are subject to the total number of players in the age group as well as the relative skill levels of the players in the age group.

If the Age Group Coordinator or any coach wants to leave a roster position open on a team for incoming players, a vote can be requested. The Age Group Coordinator and the coaches each have a vote. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority is needed to accept or reject a motion. Any open position must be filled by an in-coming player or the player with the highest ranking six (6) weeks prior to the start of the next season.

If multiple teams are to be placed in the same division, the Age Group Coordinator and all coaches can elect to balance the teams. A vote must be taken with the Age Group Coordinator and all the age group coaches voting. One assistant coach from each team and each head coach may vote. If a team does not have at least one assistant coach present, only the head coaches and the Age Group Coordinator may vote. Each will have one vote and a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority is needed to pass or reject the motion. The Age Group Coordinator only has one vote even if they are a coach.

If balancing of the multiple teams is passed, all the players are then allocated as evenly as possible. There will be no draft.

If any coach or the Age Group Coordinator does not agree with a decision, and the Age Group Coordinator cannot resolve the matter, a challenge can be requested. In this instance, the Age Group Coordinator must notify the MUYSA President of the issue and request a special Officers meeting to determine the final ruling.

Provided three or more Officers are present, the Officers will review the matter and then conduct a vote to determine the placement of players. A simple majority is needed to approve the decision. Once approved, the decision is final.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

#### **308 – Skill Evaluations:**

Skill Evaluations will be held on two separate sessions with due player notification completed of all affected age group players (currently signed up players in the then current season) with as much notice as possible prior to the first skill evaluation date. The point of skill evaluations is to provide an objective view of the age group and “level set” any previous years placements. Age Group Coordinators and Coaches will work together to properly assign players who do not attend skill evaluations.

Skill Evaluations will be run by town coaches or invited experts not directly associated with the age group. Club Officers and the Coaches Education Coordinator will review and approve all selected evaluators. At a minimum, three coaches/experts will rate all the players based on the following criteria: ball skills (shooting, speed, dribbling, passing), marking, aggressiveness, receiving, support and overall game effectiveness/impact. The format shall be primarily small sided games (4v4 and/or 8v8) to maximize player touches and simulate real game situations. The rating system will be a five point system, with five (5) points being the highest level for each skill. Final player ranking will be based on the average score from all the coaches for each player in a category. The rankings will then be used for the following full season (fall through spring) to be used as a data point in assigning players to teams. In the event new players join the league, team assignment will be determined based on prior team affiliation, feedback from prior coaches and/or a separate tryout.

#### **309 – Prior Season Player Evaluations:**

At the conclusion of each season, each coach and assistant coach will submit a completed Player Evaluation worksheet to the Age Group Coordinator. The rankings, at a minimum, will be based on the following skills: shooting, speed, dribbling, passing, marking, aggressiveness, receiving, support and overall game effectiveness/impact. All skills will be rated 1 through 5, with 1 being the “best” by the two coaches and then averaged for each player.

The Age Group Coordinator will maintain the worksheets and final player rankings for possible use for player selection to a team for the next season.

A player’s score and ranking are available upon request by a parent or legal guardian.

#### **310 – Moving a Player to a Higher Age Group:**

Players are allowed to request to play up. In general the philosophy of MUYSA is to have players play within their “natural” age groups as determined by their birthday, with the exception being a player who has an August birthday and desires to play with their classmates. The requesting player must note the desired age group on the registration form. The registrar will then notify the Age Group Coordinator of the request. Players requesting to play in a higher age group may not displace a player who is of “normal” age for the higher age group. Provided there is space, the Age Group Coordinator will contact the Age Group Coordinator from which the

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

player is requesting to move up and the two Coordinators will approve or reject the request. The player's ability, maturity, and physical size may be considered in the decision. The decision will be communicated by the player's current Age Group Coordinator to the requesting parent or guardian along with the rationale used to determine the decision.

If the request is denied, the requesting player's parent or guardian can request the issue be raised at the next scheduled monthly meeting. At that time, the requesting parent or guardian can discuss the merits of the request before the club officers. At the conclusion of the discussion, the attending club officers will vote on the request. A simple majority is needed to pass or reject the request. The decision of the club officers will be final.

# Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

## Rules of the Club

### **400 – Rules of the Game**

#### **401 – Field of Play:**

**U7: Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Width: minimum 15 yards maximum 25 yards

*Field Markings:* Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play may be 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 four (4) yards may be marked around it.

*The Goal Area:* None.

*The Penalty Area:* None.

*Flagposts:* None.

*The Corner Arc:* Conform to FIFA.

As the need arises, coaches are informed of the need for in town referees. The coaches will then communicate that need to their players with a contact name and number.

*Goals:* The goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They generally consist of “pug” goals which are roughly six (6) feet wide and three (3) feet tall.

*Safety:* Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**U8: Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

*Field Markings:* Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches 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 four (4) yards is marked around it.

*The Goal Area:* A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

*The Penalty Area:* None.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

*Flagposts:* None.

*The Corner Arc:* Conform to FIFA.

*Goals:* The goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

*Safety:* Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**U10: Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 45 yards    maximum 60 yards  
Width: minimum 35 yards    maximum 45 yards

*Field Markings:* Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches 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 eight (8) yards is marked around it.

*The Goal Area:* Conform to FIFA. Goal Size can be one smaller size. The goals sizes are flexible to allow for clubs to minimize costs.

*The Penalty Area:* A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards 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 eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

*Flagposts:* Conform to FIFA.

*The Corner Arc:* Conform to FIFA.

*Goals:* Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is twelve (12) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

*Safety:* Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

**U12: Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 70 yards    maximum 80 yards  
Width: minimum 45 yards    maximum 55 yards

*Field Markings:* Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches 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 eight (8) yards is marked around it.

*The Goal Area:* Conform to FIFA. Goal Size can be one bigger size. The goal sizes are flexible to allow for clubs to minimize costs.

*The Penalty Area:* A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards 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 ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

*Flagposts:* Conform to FIFA.

*The Corner Arc:* Conform to FIFA.

*Goals:* Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

**U14 through U18:** games will be played on a field 50 to 80 yards wide and 90 to 130 yards long. Fields should come as close to these dimensions as possible in order to insure that no team gains an advantage due to an oversized or undersized field.

The field should be distinctly marked with lines of not more than five (5) inches wide. The field 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 ten (10) yards is marked around it. A quarter circle with a radius of one (1) yard from each flag will mark the corner arc.

A goal area is defined at each end of the field by two lines drawn at right angles to the goal line, six (6) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for six (6) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

A penalty area is defined at each end of the field by two lines drawn at right angles to the goal line, starting eighteen yards outside each goal post and extending eighteen (18) yards into the field of play.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. Goals should be eight (8) feet tall and eight (8) yards wide. All goals must be secured to the ground so as to maintain stability and minimize the risk of falling over.

#### **402 – Ball:**

A size three (3) ball will be used for all U6 games and practices

A size four (4) ball will be used for all U8, U10 and U12 games and practices.

A size five (5) ball will be used for all U14 and up age groups for games and practices.

#### **403 - Number of Players:**

**U7 and U8** – There is no set number for a team or for run of play. The number of players on a team will be established each season by MUYSA based on several factors. Some key factors are: available players, available coaches and available fields. Formats for U07 and U08 are 3v3 (no keepers) and 4v4 or 5v5 (includes a goalkeeper) respectively. Team sizes are set to match the format and ensure at least 50% playing time for all players on the team.

**U10** – Travel team size will be established each season based on number of registered players teams to be submitted as well as by the governing league policy. The current format for U10 travel is 6v6 (including goal keepers). In general spring division 1 and 2 rosters are set at a maximum of twelve (12) players per team with division 3 rosters not having a maximum. In an objective to maximize playing time, rosters are usually kept to a size to ensure 50% playing time if all players show up.

**U12** - Travel team size will be established each season based on number of registered players teams to be submitted as well as by the governing league policy. The current format for U12 travel is 8v8 (including goal keepers). In general spring division 1 and 2 rosters are set at a maximum of fifteen (15) players per team with division 3 rosters not having a maximum. In an objective to maximize playing time, rosters are usually kept to a size to ensure 50% playing time if all players show up.

**U14 and above** – each season travel team rosters are established by the governing league. In general, spring division 1 and 2 rosters are set at a maximum of eighteen (18) players per team, with division 3 rosters set at a maximum of twenty (20) players per team. Fall travel teams for division 3 may allow more than 20 players per team.

#### **404 – Player’s Equipment:**

A player is required to have a jersey or shirt, shorts, soccer socks, soccer shin guards and appropriate footwear.

Shin guards are to be made of suitable material in order to provide a reasonable degree of protection and must be covered entirely by socks during the match.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

The footwear shall be soft cleats or sneakers. Baseball soft cleats and all metal spiked cleats are not permitted. Baseball cleats have a center toe spike that is dangerous to the players. In travel leagues, players who wear baseball cleats will not be allowed to play.

A goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish the player from field players and the referee. A pinney may be used or a special goalkeeper jersey may be used.

A player may not wear: jewelry or equipment the referee determines is dangerous to another player, consistent with the then current league rules.

*In-Town Play ONLY (U07/U08):* A player, with a doctor's permission, may wear a cast as long as it is wrapped in two (2) inches of bubble wrap (or other soft material) and no hard parts of the cast are visible.

For *Travel Soccer*, any rules on casts are based on the rules of the governing league. The referee has the final decision.

#### **405 - Duration of Matches:**

MUYSA controls the duration of In-Town matches, as listed below. In general, travel times will be the same, but can change based on the then governing league.

U7 matches will be four (4) ten (10) minute quarters.

U8 matches will be four (4) twelve (12) minute quarters.

U10 matches will be two (2) twenty (25) minutes halves.

U12 matches will be two (2) thirty (30) minutes halves.

U14 matches will be two (2) thirty five (35) minutes halves.

U16 matches will be two (2) forty (40) minutes halves

U18 matches will be two (2) forty five (45) minute halves.

#### **406 – Rescheduling Games:**

All in town game rescheduling will be handled through the Age Group Coordinator.

All travel team game rescheduling is the responsibility of the home team coach. The home team coach must contact the appropriate MUYSA Field Coordinator to determine field availability as well as the opposing coach and agree to a new time, date and place. Once a new date and time have been agreed to, the coach must contact the governing league Rep (i.e MAYS) from MUYSA to formally schedule the game and get a referee assigned

Note this process may change from time to time depending on the governing league.

#### **407 – Postponing Individual Games:**

Postponing games must be kept to a minimum. For travel age games, the postponement policy of the governing league takes precedence. In the event a coach must postpone a game for In-Town

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

### Rules of the Club

play, the coach must contact the opposing coach and the respective Age Group Coordinator to alert the assigned referee and the Field Coordinator of the postponement.

#### **408 – Cancellation of Multiple Games:**

The Field Coordinator will determine the playability of the field a minimum of 2 hours before any scheduled game.

*For travel-age games/fields:* If the field is deemed unplayable, the Field Coordinator will be responsible for calling the MUYSA representative to the governing league (i.e. MAYS Rep) so the league cancels the games and provides adequate notice to the referees for the cancelled games. The Field Coordinator shall also call the Age Group Coordinator(s) who shall contact the head coaches of the affected MUYSA teams so they can call their opposing coaches with the required notice (2 hours). If a field is closed in the morning, it will be closed the whole day.

*For In-town games/fields:* If the field is deemed unplayable, the Field Coordinator will be responsible for calling all the Age Group Coordinators and the Referee Assigner immediately to notify them of the cancellation. If a field is closed in the morning, it will be closed the whole day.

If the Age Group Coordinator cannot be reached, the Field Coordinator must contact all the HOME coaches. The HOME coaches must contact the visiting team within 15 minutes of the cancellation call.

#### **409 – Cancellation Once a Game Begins:**

Referees have the final decision to cancel a game due to inclement weather once the game has begun. In the case of lightning storms, if a strike of lightning is seen, the field must be evacuated for a period of not less than 20 minutes (or until the storm is well past). If a full half of a game has been played prior to a stoppage in play due to inclement weather, the game shall be considered complete.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

### **500 – Referees**

#### **501 - Referees – Selection and Payment:**

The Club encourages the development of young referees in an effort for them to learn another side of the game of soccer. The Club provides an opportunity for children between the ages of 9 and 12 to referee the In-Town U07 and U08 games upon completion of Club-provided training courses, which are provided at least once a year. The MUYSA Referee Coordinator for the In-Town games will organize the training sessions and inform all the candidates of the course dates, time and location.

In an effort to build and maintain a manageable pool of youth referees who will get enough games to build experience and confidence, the Club reserves the right to limit the pool of referees on a seasonal basis. As the need arises, the coaches of the relevant age groups are informed of the need for in town referees. The coaches will then communicate that need to their players with a contact name and number.

Youth referees must be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are refereeing. Games will be assigned based on experience and age differential.

The Referee Coordinator will inform the referees of the current payment process for those youth referees who work In-Town games at the start of each season.

Those interested in refereeing travel-age (currently U10 and up) games must be twelve (12) years old prior to the season they begin to referee. They must also complete a sanctioned Grade 9 Referee Course and pass the exam given at the end of the course. The Club will provide assistance to any youth referees who complete the Grade 9 or Grade 8 course (for those 16 and older) who are interested in securing referee assignments within the governing travel league. Payment processes for refereeing travel age games are under governance of the governing travel league and its respective Referee Assignor.

# Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association

## Rules of the Club

### **600 - Conduct**

#### **601 - Fighting:**

Fighting for any reason is not permissible or tolerated.

In cases of fighting, a player shall be suspended for three (3) or more games and the coach may be suspended pending a review by both the Referee Coordinator and the Age Group Coordinator. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.

In the event of players leaving the bench area to enter the field to participate in a fight, the coach and assistant coach must appear before the Age Group Coordinator for a hearing to determine whether or not the team should be suspended for the remainder of the season.

If a player leaves the bench area to participate in a fight on the field and is ejected by the referee, he/she shall be suspended for three (3) or more games pending a review by the Referee Coordinator and the Age Group Coordinator.

If a coach leaves the bench area to take part in a fight, he/she may be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing by the: MUYSA President, Referee Coordinator and Age Group Coordinator. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game

#### **602 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct:**

Coaches are expected to demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship at all times: (i.e. practices and games). Teaching good sportsmanship to the youth on our teams is a main pillar of our Club philosophy. Poor sportsmanship demonstrated by any coach (assistant or head) to the referee, opposing coaches, players, or parents will not be tolerated.

All reported incidents of poor sportsmanship demonstrated by coaches shall be investigated as required.

The coaching staff of a MUYSA team shall read and abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct.

Failure to abide by the rules set forth in the Coaches Code of Conduct may result in censure of the offending coach (including assistant coaches) subject to the rules of the governing league. In addition, MUYSA reserves the right to remove the coach from the team and restrict future coaching opportunities for the individual(s) involved.

In the absence of a league policy governing penalties for poor sportsmanship, MUYSA coaches shall receive the following censures:

- First Offense in the course of a seasonal year: A one-game suspension from their coaching duties.
- Second Offense: Permanent suspension (removal) of the coach from their duties.

## Mendon Upton Youth Soccer Association Rules of the Club

Permanent suspension can be invoked at anytime by the MUYSA Board (simple majority vote) depending on the severity of the action.