



Modifications for CCL New England Fall 2020 Play

In an attempt to provide safe programming and to meet Return to Play guidelines across the region CCL New England is implementing the following modifications to the fall 2020 season.

Please note;

1. **CCL New England will follow all State Return to Play COVID Guidelines which take precedent over any league formatting.**
2. **CCL New England reserves the right to make additional changes or adaptations based on Return to Play Guidelines.**
3. **MA Youth Soccer INFO <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/return-to-soccer-activities/>**

Dates of Play for 9U through 15U

1. Week 1 Play – September 13th
2. Week 2 Play – September 20th
3. Week 3 Play – September 27th
4. Week 4 Play – October 4th
5. Week 5 Play – October 18th
6. Week 6 Play – October 25th
7. Week 7 Play – November 1st
8. Make-up date – November 8th

9U, 10U and 11U Age Groups

1. For the fall season 9U, 10U and 11U age groups will play in a 7v7 format
2. We are basing this decision on feedback from clubs regarding number of registered players for the fall.
3. By limiting this change to just the 11U players we feel there will be minimal disruption as these players did not participate in the spring season at 7v7.
4. For 11U Groups
 1. Should a club have enough players at the 11U format to play 9v9 and only if the other club agrees then the scheduled game can be changed to an 9v9 format. Any 9v9 games should be played to the 9v9 field dimensions.
 2. Because of the change to 7v7 if a club has a large enough roster to support two 7v7 teams then the second team can be entered into the league at no additional cost other than payment of officials.

12U, 13U, 14U and 15U Age Groups

1. This will be a 9v9 format for these age groups and will impact 13U through 15U who would have been playing 11v11.
2. Several clubs have expressed a difficult in fielding full rosters for 11v11 play so we feel that 9v9 play offers the best chance of providing a full season of games.
3. By limiting number of players, we also have a better opportunity to manage numbers on the field.
4. For fall 2020 play we are expecting a shortage of officials and a 9v9 game may be easier to referee with one official.
5. We also recognize that team rosters might be impacted by a positive COVID test that could mean players unavailable to participate.
6. Should a club have enough players to play 11v11 and only if the other club agrees then the scheduled game can be changed to an 11v11 format. Any 11v11 games should be played to the 11v11 field dimensions.
7. Because of the change to 9v9 if a club has a large enough roster to support two 9v9 teams then the second team can be entered into the league at no additional cost other than payment of officials.



16U and 19U Age Groups

1. CCL New England is offering league play for players high school players should the fall high school season be removed.
2. This will be a 6-week season starting on September 20th and then follow the CCL New England schedule.
3. There will be two age groups offered for 16U and 19U players across both genders.
4. League play will be 11v11 format.
5. At this time no further rule modifications will be applied but will be considered once we have confirmed interest and should the fall high school season be cancelled or postponed.

Rule Modifications

The following modifications have been implemented in an attempt to satisfy Return to Play Guidelines that 'may' be imposed by local board of health. We feel that the following may allow us to present that soccer remains a moderate risk sport versus high risk. CCL New England will continue to monitor the Return to Play guidelines and will make appropriate modifications if needed and communicate to the membership as and when required.

1. All rule modifications will be made in partnership with US Youth Soccer and communicated to State Associations and Referee Assignors.
2. Heading - All intentional heading of a soccer ball is suspended for all ages. Any intentional heading will be treated as a violation of IFAB Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, Indirect Free Kick restart
3. For all restarts, all players must comply with the 6-foot distancing from both teammates and opponents. Opponents must remain at 10 yds (8 yards for small sided) from the ball prior to the kick. The use of a traditional defensive Wall is currently suspended.
4. Corner Kicks as defined by IFAB Law 17 are suspended and to be replaced by a Corner Kick-in. The modifications for the procedure for a Corner Kick-in are:
 - The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
 - Opponents must remain at least 10 yds (8 yards for small sided) from the corner arc until the ball is in play
 - IFAB Law 17 Offences and Sanctions for Corner Kicks apply to Corner Kick-ins.
5. Throw-Ins as defined by IFAB Law 15 are suspended and to be replaced by a Kick-in. The modifications for the procedure for a Kick-in is:
 - The player taking the Kick-in must be facing the field of play and need not keep both feet on the ground during the Kick-in.
 - Must put part of the ball on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
 - The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
 - All opponents must stand at least 10 yards (8 yards for small sided) from the point on the touchline where the Kick-in is to be taken.
 - IFAB Law 15 Offences and Sanctions for Throw-ins apply to Kick-ins.
6. Slide Tackling whenever within 6 feet of another player is suspended and is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision.
7. To avoid instances of balls being in the air and to avoid challenges for headers if a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
8. Shoulder to Shoulder contact is suspended and or any other intentional physical contact is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision.



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9. The use of a Dropped Ball as a restart is suspended. To replace this procedure, an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded to the team whom the referee deemed to be in possession when the referee stops play.
10. The Club Pass rule used for Fall 2019 NSL play will remain in place to allow flexibility for coaches to add to rosters.
11. Should a local board of health have stricter guidelines than the modifications suggested above then the board of health will take precedent.

Uniform Guidelines

1. Teams should play in numbered, same color uniforms that are consistent with the club colors.