



# CLUB CHAMPIONS LEAGUE NEW ENGLAND

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

## **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.

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## CCL New England Rule Modifications for Fall 2020 Play

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. Should a local board of health have stricter guidelines than the modifications suggested above then the board of health will take precedent.
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.
  1. The use of a traditional defensive wall is currently suspended.
  2. At any time a ball is to be placed for a restart the ball should not be touched with a player or an official's hands. The ball should be placed where the restart will take place with one's foot. If hands are used the ball will need to be removed from play and sanitized.
4. Corner Kicks as defined by IFAB Law 17 are suspended and to be replaced by an Indirect Free Kick (IDFK). Similar to a corner kick the ball must be placed in the corner nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line. All IFAB Law 13 IDFK procedures, offences and sanctions, including those for small sided games (e.g. 8 yards), apply.
5. Throw-Ins as defined by IFAB Law 15 are suspended and to be replaced by an indirect free kick (IDFK) from the spot on the touchline where the ball went out of play. All IFAB Law 13 IDFK procedures, offences and sanctions, including those for small sided games (e.g. 8 yards) apply. The modifications for the procedure for a Kick-in is:
  - Player taking IDFK must be facing the field of play and must keep one foot on the ground during the Kick-in.
  - Must put part of the ball on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
6. Goalkeepers **ARE ALLOWED** to punt or drop kick at the 9v9 and 11v11 play but **NOT** at the 7v7 level. If this happens at the 7v7 level 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.
7. Contact -Intentional body contact with a member of the opposing team member's body is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, and will result in an Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision. Intentional body contact will include "shoulder to shoulder" contact, backing into a player, and pulling an opponent's shirt, shorts or mask.
  1. A player is allowed to make intermittent and/or unintentional contact with opposing team members if the player is attempting to make foot to ball contact (legal tackle) and the contact occurs as a result of the tackle.
  2. Slide Tackling - The use of slide tackling 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. "Going to the ground" to save a ball from going out of touch or to stop a long ground pass is not considered a "tackle" and is permissible as long as no other players are within 6 feet
8. 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.
9. Club Pass rule used for Fall 2019 NSL play will remain in place to allow flexibility for to add to rosters.
10. Player Behavior Modification: Coaches should work with players to break habits that will minimize the spread of the virus. Spitting, nose clearing on the field or spitting on gloves during practices and competitions is not permitted.
11. **Uniform Guidelines** - Teams should play in numbered, same color uniforms that are consistent with the club colors.

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# GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

## 1. IN GENERAL

League games shall be played in accordance with the most current FIFA laws of the Game and the modifications noted within these rules. It is the responsibility of all coaches and referees to be thoroughly familiar with and abide by the FIFA laws and these modifications.

### **Modified rules for 7v7 play;**

- a) When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play
- b) Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting and/or drop kicks from the hands are not allowed)
- c) After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal. The ball is considered in play when it breaks the plane of the penalty area for a goal kick or when the goalkeeper puts the ball on the ground from his/her hands.
- d) If a goalkeeper punts OR drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team to be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
- e) The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called
- f) Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line
- g) Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line
- h) If the build out line is not evident then it is recommended that the referee retreat to a point on the field equidistant between the penalty area and the halfway line and instruct the opposition team to be level with them when the goalkeeper has the ball. Furthermore, for offsides the halfway line should be used and if both team officials consent then the half way line could be used as the 'build out' line.

### **Deliberate Heading of the Ball**

- a) Deliberate heading is not allowed in 9-U through 11-U games
- b) If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

- c) If the deliberate header 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
- d) Heading is allowed in games for 12U and above without limitations however it is expected that coaches and parents will stress to their 11U and younger players that they are not allowed to deliberately head the ball regardless of the age group in which they play e.g. ab 11 year old playing with a 12U team. This requires education and support from the coach and parent to instruct the player accordingly.
- e) Referees should enforce these restrictions by age group according to the specified rules. Referees will not be assessing the age of individual players on the field; they will enforce the rules for the age group.

**Additional Modified Rules for 9-U Games**

- a) Referees are instructed to allow one re-take of a throw-in with players informed what he/she did incorrectly
- b) There should be no more than 3 team officials on player’s sideline
- c) Both coaches and referee must meet before game to review all modified rules

**Field & Equipment Dimensions**

<b>9-U and 10-U</b>	Fields	Length: 55-65 yards	Width: 35-45 yards
	Goals	Height: 6.5 ft	Width: 12 ft

**Note:** 9-U and 10-U fields are required to have a ‘build out line’ which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and halfway line. This ‘build out line’ should be marked on the field with a line or can be marked on each touch line by using an identifiable marker such as a cone or flag. For those fields that are the minimum width and length we recommend using a smaller penalty area by using range of 20 to 24 yards wide and 10 to 12 yards from the goal line into the field of play. If a smaller penalty area is used, then the penalty mark should be 8 to 10 yards from goal with the penalty arc still 8 yards from the penalty mark.

11-U and 12-U	Fields	Lengths: 70-80 yards	Width: 45-55 yards
	Goals Fields	Height: 6.5 ft	Width: 18.5 ft
13-U and older	Goals	Lengths: 100-120 yards	Width: 50-75 yards
		Height: 8 ft	Width: 24 ft

**2. TEAM SIZES AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO START A GAME**

9-U and 10-U (7v7 Play)	5 rostered players	1 team official
11-U and 12-U (9v9 Play)	6 rostered players	1 team official
13-U and older (11v11 Play)	7 rostered players	1 team official

**3. GAME LENGTH**

All League games shall be of regulation length as follows:

9-U & 10-U	two 25-minute halves
11-U & 12-U	two 30-minute halves
13-U & 14-U	two 35-minute halves
15-U & 16-U	two 40-minute halves
17-U & 18-U	two 45-minute halves

**4. SUBSTITUTION**

Player substitution is permitted **at any** stoppage of play. Substitution protocol should follow FIFA guidelines with the exception that there will not be a limit on player substitution.

**5. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

**a. Numbers**

All uniforms must be numbered. Duplicate numbers on any team are not permitted. It is the home team's (the team listed first on the schedule) responsibility to change uniforms if a color conflict arises. Pinnies which permit the underlying number to be discerned are acceptable for this purpose.

**b. Deportment**

Shirts must be tucked in and socks must cover shin guards. Boxer shorts, bike shorts, jams and the like, unless of the same color as the shorts over them, must not hang below the uniform shorts

**c. Shin Guards**

The use of shin guards is mandatory. A game official will exclude from play any players not so equipped.

**d. Game Ball**

A suitable game ball will be provided by the home team for each game. Age groups 9-U – 12-U will use a size 4 ball; all other age groups will use size 5. Suitability of the ball is at the sole determination of a game official.

## **6. CCL NEW ENGLAND CONCUSSION GUIDELINES**

CCL New England will follow the Concussion Guidelines as Best Practices introduced by the USSF through the comprehensive player health and safety program known as 'Recognize to Recover' (R2R). CCL New England accepts that the R2R program will continue to expand and evolve and will carefully review and consider the R2R information, presented to-date, and in the future. CCL New England will apply the following concussion guidelines recommended by USSF;

- a) CCL New England requires that any player who (1) sustains a significant blow to the head or body, (2) complains about or is exhibiting symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion or (3) is otherwise suspected of having sustained a concussion, must be evaluated and cleared by a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) before the player will be allowed to return to practice or play (RTP).
  - I. No team official or parent shall permit a player who has been removed from a game for a concussion assessment to RTP until cleared to do so by an HCP or ATC.
  - II. If there is an onsite HCP or ATC they will be required to perform a SCAT3 or Child SCAT3, as applicable and modified BESS to evaluate players on the field/sideline.
  - III. Unless the on-site HCP determines that the player has not suffered a concussion, the player will not be permitted to return to play until the player has successfully completed the graduated Return To Play ("RTP) protocol
  - IV. If a team official seeks to allow a player who been removed from a game for a concussion assessment to RTP, the referee shall allow the player to return to the field but shall:
    - a. Immediately stop play,
    - b. Direct the player to leave the field of play and
    - c. Direct the team official to remove the player and select a substitute.
  - V. If a team official seeks to allow a player to RTP who has been removed from a game for a concussion assessment, the referee shall issue a warning to the team official. If a team official persists in seeking to allow such player to re-enter the game after having been issued a warning, the referee shall be entitled to take such other disciplinary measures as are permitted.
- b) Unless an HCP or ATC determines that the player has not suffered a concussion and clears the player to RTP, the player will not be permitted to RTP until the player has successfully completed the graduated RTP protocol and has been cleared to RTP by a physician.

## **7. TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a. Team Officials include coaches, assistant coaches, managers, technical directors or similarly designated individuals appointed by a club to represent a team. ALL team officials are required to complete any and all state laws that apply to their position and standing; for

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example appropriate and required background checks such as the CORI certification process in MA.

**b. Coaching License Requirements**

All **CCL New England** assigned staff coaches for the club must have the minimum of a US Soccer Grass Roots License or United Soccer Coaches Diploma i.e. the 7v7, 9v9 or 11v11 qualification respective of the team age they will be coaching. CCL may also consider respective and proven experience within the game on a case by case basis to be approved by the CCL Technical Advisor, with the understanding that the coach will pursue the appropriate licensure. In addition to these minimum license requirements all assigned staff involved with the club and specifically involvement with children must complete the respective Background Checks required by the governing body and the CDC online concussion training at <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/index.html>

**c. Directors of Coaching**

Each club must identify a Director of Coaching as a point of contact for the CCL New England Technical Advisor and responsible for the technical oversight of all teams and coaches within the club. Please provide a copy of any current coaching licenses held by the DOC with this application. We strongly recommend that the DOC have a minimum of a USSF D License or United Soccer Coaches National Diploma or International Equivalent or United Soccer Coaches DOC Diploma.

SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE: Sanctions may include, but not be limited to, warning, probation, suspension, fine, expulsion. It is the individual Club's responsibility to ensure compliance. Information will be required during the registration process providing the proof of licensure.

**d. Presence & Qualification**

Teams must have a responsible team official present at each game, whose responsibilities shall include maintaining control and discipline over the team. A team which appears without a coach may use a responsible adult substitute with positive identification, including a driver's license if such a person is without a pass card. In no case shall the team official or other responsible substitute be eligible by age to play in the age group which he or she is coaching or managing. If the game is conducted with an adult substitute not having a pass card, the referee shall note the person's name, address and contact information and report this information to the League office. An adult substitute must have completed the adult registration process (CORI) of the governing body for their home state.

In addition, it is the responsibility of all coaches & managers to check the website concerning any game changes which might affect their team.

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## **8. CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITY**

Team officials are responsible for their own conduct, and for the conduct of their players and fans at all games. Abusive or obscene language, violent play, violent conduct or other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. Failure of a team official to control his or her players and fans may result in action against him or her by the referee and/or the League.

Team officials must remain within their team's technical area during the course of play. This area starts 10 yards from the half-way line and is 25 yards in length. They must refrain from loud, persistent or intrusive coaching of field players. Except as noted above for a responsible substitute, only credentialed team officials (i.e., individuals with valid current League pass cards) may be on the sideline with the teams during the game. It is league policy that a maximum of four (4) teams officials, all with current pass cards (or with valid identification for a responsible substitute), may be present with each team. Parents and other spectators must remain on the opposite sideline. Failure to observe these rules will be considered behavior detrimental to the game and may be punished accordingly.

Before, during and after game, team officials will support the game officials and assist in maintain order. In any case of non-compliance, the situation will be reported by the referee to the Ethics/Disciplinary Officer.