

January 26, 2017

MYSA Club Presidents, Coaching Directors, and Executive Directors,

This is to inform you of changes to MYSA small-sided rules and field dimensions, attached to be implemented beginning with the Fall 2017 MYSA season. The upcoming Summer season will be the last played with current formats and field markings. Most of these rule changes were mandated by U.S. Soccer (PDI standards) and others were recommended by the MYSA Development and Competitive Committees and approved by the MYSA Board of Directors to accompany and improve the mandated changes. The rules that are additions to the federation mandate will be presented at the November AGM for ratification by the membership, after playing under them during the fall season.

Visit the [MYSA Small Sided/PDI](#) page for related resources.

Highlighted Rules Changes (See attached for details as they will appear in the 2017-18 Rules Manual):

- **Extend the new U9/10 Build Out & No Punting rules through U11** to align the No Heading rule with the PDI's – to serve both player safety and individual skill development.
- **Amend the penalty and goal area dimensions on U9-U12 fields** to better facilitate building from the back and to eliminate unnecessary lines, while adding Build Out lines at U9/10.

WHY add to the PDI mandate?

The rationale for extending Build Out line/No Punting rules through U11:

- Heading has been banned at U11, so punting should also be banned for both safety and player development purposes. Not being allowed to play over the opponent is too restrictive unless the opponent drops off to allow a short pass on goal kicks or GK possessions.
- U11 players (and coaches) should continue to build from the back for another year after the U9/10 mandate, when players should be showing more technical competence and tactical awareness to do it well.
- At U12, punting and heading become part of the game together and the build out rules are removed, a sensible progression before the game grows to 11v11.

The rationale for amending the penalty and goal area dimensions for U9/10 and U11/12 fields:

- Shrinking the penalty area facilitates a better chance to build out of the back by having more playing space to the touchlines and to the build out line.
- Enlarging the goal area gets the ball back in play quicker on goal kicks and encourages the ball to be played by the GK from the center of the goal area with multi-directional options.
- The GK maintains an appropriate proportion of the field to handle the ball.