

2017 NORTH AMERICAN SAND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Admin & Eligibility - Rules of the Game

General

The Hampton Roads Soccer Council and its Board of Directors, the Tournament Committee, or any sponsors of the tournament shall not be responsible for expenses incurred by a team or club if the tournament is canceled in whole or in part.

All decisions of the referee are final and binding. The Tournament reserves the right to decide on all matters relative to the tournament and all decisions are final.

NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED.

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee may reschedule a game, change division structure, reduce game duration, or cancel a game.

Registration

- All teams shall be allowed a maximum of 10 players on their roster, except the U8, U9 & U10 Boys and Girls, and Pro/Am Divisions. These divisions are allowed a maximum of 12 players on their roster.
- All Coed Division teams shall include a minimum of 3 female players on their roster, 2 of which should be on the field during play (see Laws of the Game section 4.1 for more information).
- Players must be listed on the roster at registration to be eligible to play; no additions to the roster are permitted after the team has submitted the roster to NASSC.
- Females may play in Male Divisions, but Males cannot play in a Female Division.
- Youth division age groups are based on USYSA 2016-2017 seasonal year, as follows:

Born January 1 of the following years (or later):

U8 (2009)	U12 (2005)	U15 (2002)
U9 (2008)	U13 (2004)	U16 (2001)
U10 (2007)	U14 (2003)	U17/U19 (1998)
U11 (2006)		

- Youth Only: Players may play UP in age group, but no team can include a player playing DOWN in age. Teams in all divisions must enter the division for the oldest player on their team.
- Teams in Level 1 skill level of any Youth Division shall not include player(s) that have played as a carded player on a travel team within the seasonal year. If your team has ANY travel players, the lowest group you can play in would be Level 2. It removes the fun from the event for the other teams when this rule is disregarded.
- Other division criteria: **team members must be**

College	age 24 or <i>younger</i> as of Friday June 9, 2017
Open Divisions	age 16 or <i>older</i> on Friday June 9, 2017
Over 30 Divisions	age 30 or <i>older</i> on Friday June 9, 2017
Over 40 Divisions	age 40 or <i>older</i> on Friday June 9, 2017
Coed High School	at least 14 years old by Friday, June 9, 2017 and be in High School during 2016-2017 school year.

- A player may compete on more than one team, but the Tournament Committee cannot give special scheduling consideration to such circumstances.

Start of Play

Coaches shall ensure that all players are on scene a minimum of 20 minutes before a scheduled game. A team that cannot field 3 players at the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. The team forfeiting shall be declared the loser by a score of 4 goals to none (4 - 0).

If no referee is present within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time, the game will be rescheduled unless both teams agree to proceed. If the game proceeds, the score shall stand as played without protest.

Tournament Standings

Bracket standings to determine quarter-finalist, semi-finalists, and finalists will be based on the following:

WIN - 3 PTS TIE - 1 PT LOSS - 0 PTS

Total points ties will be resolved by the following tie-breakers, in order:

1. Head to Head of two teams tied (disregard if more than two teams tied).
2. Team with highest goal differential per game – total of the net score for each tournament game up to a maximum differential of 4 goals per game, with either positive or negative result (total goals scored minus total goals scored against in each game).
3. Least goals allowed.
4. Total goals scored (up to maximum of 8 per game).
5. If still tied, both teams will proceed to an available field at Tent Coordinator discretion and determine winner by penalty kicks (see format below).

WILDCARD Procedures for Divisions of 12 Teams:

The Wildcard team is determined by the best record of the three 2nd Place teams in each Group, based on the above Tournament Standings criteria in order. (Starting with Total Points, then Goal Differential, Least Goals Allowed, etc. Head-to-Head does not apply since they don't play each other).

The Matchups for the Division are "1st A vs 1st B", and "1st C vs Wildcard". Except if W/C is from Group C, then matchup is "1st A vs W/C" and "1st C vs 1st B".

Tournament Overtime

Ties in preliminary games will remain a tie.

For quarter-final, semi-final, and final games, ties will be resolved in the following manner:

1. One 3-minute "golden goal" overtime period. The winner shall be the first team to score a goal. If the score is tied at the end of the period, the teams shall take kicks from the penalty mark.
2. Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The first round consists of 5 players from each team. Any player on the team roster may participate. A minimum of 2 female players must kick in the first round of all Coed divisions. If tied after first round, kicks shall be taken one for one. Players cannot repeat until all eligible players have kicked. A team with a greater number of players than their opponent will 'reduce to equate' in order to use the same number of eligible kickers.

Forfeits

Any team found to have played with an ineligible player (not on roster, red carded player, etc), violating any registration criteria, or inability to field minimum number of players (Rule 3.4) shall have their games subject to forfeiture and not be eligible for any playoffs unless specifically authorized by the NASSC Director or Administrator under unique circumstances. The team forfeiting shall be declared the loser by a score of **4** goals to none (**4 - 0**).

NORTH AMERICAN SAND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES OF THE GAME

(Adapted from the International Beach Soccer Association, Beach Soccer Worldwide, Inc, Octagon Koch Tavares/IBSA, Pro Beach Soccer, S.L. and Beach Soccer Company. They were developed to encourage fair play and a spectacular game.)

1. Objectives of the Game

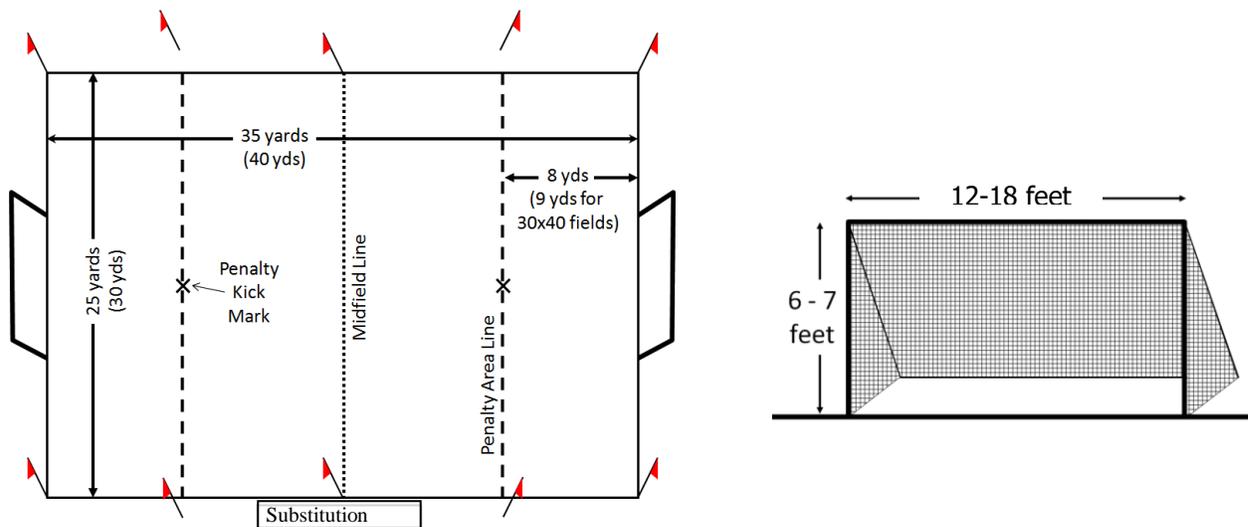
The game is provided for leisure, team play, friendship, and healthy competition. **Fair play is the essence of sand soccer.**

RULE 1. The Pitch (Competition Area, the Goals)

1.1 Dimensions of the fields: Two field sizes will be in use - 25 x 35 yard for most divisions and 30 x 40 yards for certain adult divisions. Perimeters will be marked with roping affixed to the sand. Substitutes, team delegates, and other spectators shall remain at least 6 feet from the touch lines.

1.2 Penalty Area: The Penalty Areas will be delineated by colored discs in the sand 8 yards (9 yards on 30 x 40 yard fields) from, and paralleling, the goal lines joining both touch lines at each end of the field. The position of a Penalty Kick mark shall be the center of this imaginary line.

1.3 Corner Area and Center of the Field: Corners will be marked with a standard corner flag. A 1-yard quadrant from the corner forms the Corner Area. A colored disc or flag will be placed on each touch line at midfield.



1.4 Goals: Goals vary in size by division from 6' x 12' to 7' x 18' based on appropriate age groups. Goals are aluminum construction and anchored to the sand at the baselines. The entire goal's framework (including the double crossbar goals) is considered active play provided that the ball has not gone out of play.

1.5 Substitution Zone: The Substitution Zone is the area on the touch line where the players enter and leave the pitch. It measures a total of 5 yards, with 2.5 yards on either side of the point where the halfway line joins the touch line. The teams' benches are placed behind and along the touch lines in such a way that the substitution zone is kept clear.

RULE 2. The Ball

2.1 Ball: All divisions and age groups shall play with a size 5 ball; inflation pressure is 7 lbs. The referee shall stop the game and the clock, and replace any ball showing signs of deformity. After replacement, a Dropped Ball at the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line restarts the game and clock. A goal **CANNOT** be scored directly from this restart.

RULE 3. Number of Players

3.1 Number of Players: The game is played by 2 teams consisting of a maximum of 5 players on each team (exception: Youth U8, U9, and U10 divisions will play with 6 players per side). One of the players on the field for each team shall be the goalkeeper. Both teams must have a minimum of 3 players on the field to start the game. All players on the roster may compete in each game unless sitting out due to red card from previous game.

All Coed Division teams shall have a minimum of three (3) female players included on each team roster, two (2) of whom shall be on the field at all times during the match. If only one female is available due to injury, the team must play down a player. If there are no females available, the team must play down two (2) players. All Coed Division teams shall have a maximum of 3 male players on the field at any time.

3.2 Substitutions: Substitutions are “on-the-fly”. There are no limits on substitutions. The substitute shall only enter the field after the player being substituted for has left the field via the Substitution Zone located on the team side of the field

3.3 Substitute Infringement: If a substitute enters the field before the player has left, they shall receive a caution (yellow card). A substitution infringement results in the opposing team being awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line if the ball is in play at the time of the infringement. Any player from the opposing team on the field may take this kick. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.

3.4 Minimum Number of Players: The minimum number of players on the field is 3. The team that has less than 3 eligible players shall be declared the loser of that game by forfeit (see **Forfeits** section), regardless of the score at the time that the game was stopped. In this case, the score of the game, for goal average effect, shall be 4 - 0 for the winning team.

3.5 Goalkeeper Change: A goalkeeper may change with a field player after a shirt change. Such changes shall only be made during breaks between periods or during a stoppage in play, and after the referee has been notified. If an infringement occurs, the referee shall allow play to continue until the next stoppage in play and then caution both players.

3.6 Players and Substitutes Shown a Red Card: The player and or substitute must leave the vicinity of the field (sight and sound) and shall also be denied participation in that team’s subsequent game, including the final round of competition (quarters, semis or finals). If a player is sent off the penalized team shall continue to play without a replacement for 2 minutes. The referee will report the reason why the player was sent off to the Tournament Committee for possible additional sanctions. Any team found to have played with an ineligible player shall have the game(s) that the ineligible player participated in subject to forfeiture (See Rule 12.3).

RULE 4. Player Equipment

4.1 Footwear: Authorized footwear includes bare feet, cotton socks taped to ankles, elastic ankle and/or footwraps, and commercially manufactured sand socks. Socks manufactured by Vincere will be the single sock retailed at NASSC Registration, available on the beach or by advance order from SSG at discounted prices. See www.sandsoccer.com. Other commercial beach socks with soft soles are authorized. The referees shall require removal of any footwear which is deemed unsafe for competition. (The critical safety issue is the stiffness of the soles which may harm opponent legs and feet.)

4.2 Uniforms: Uniforms consist of shirts and shorts. Playing vests shall be supplied to one team if required with the exception of the Men’s Pro/Am Division. Goalkeepers shall wear a uniform of contrasting color with other players and the referee. Use of plastic goggles for eye protection is allowed. Pro/Am uniforms shall consist of shirts and shorts of the same design and color, with clearly visible identification numbers on the shirts.

RULE 5. Referees

5.1 Referees: The game shall be officiated by a referee; whose decisions are final. The referee will serve as timekeeper and scorekeeper, including controlling the 2-minute player-down penalty for a red-carded player. The Tournament Committee shall determine, before the game, or during play, if conditions are suitable for safe play. Certain adult divisions may employ 2 referees on the field.

5.2 Advantage: Unlike 11-a-side soccer, whenever a foul occurs, the referee shall blow the whistle and stop the game unless there is a clear goal-scoring opportunity (the ball going into the goal or an attacker has the ball with no defenders between him and the goal).

RULE 6. Assistant Referees (ProAm only):

6.1 Assistant Referees: Two assistant referees may be appointed, who must perform their duties.

RULE 7. Duration of Play

7.1 Duration of Play: All games shall employ three (3) 11-minute periods, (exception: Pro/Am Division shall employ three (3) 12-minute periods), separated by a 2-minute intermission to exchange ends. A referee's whistle ends each period. After the second period, the referee shall conduct a coin toss with same options as for the Start of the Game. The referee shall add extra time at the end of a period to allow a Penalty or Direct Free Kick to be taken. The referee may add extra time at the end of a period for serious injury or if a team is wasting time.

RULE 8. The Start and Restart of Play

8.1 Start of the Game: The referee shall conduct a coin toss, with the winner given the choice of kickoff/field side options. The Kickoff shall be taken at the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line on the referee's whistle. Opposing players must remain at least 5 yards away from the ball until the ball is in play. The ball is in play by two different means.

8.1.a When it is kicked and moves forward. A goal CANNOT be scored directly.

8.1.b If played backwards in the air, then kicked or headed forward before it touches the sand. A goal CAN be scored.

After a goal, the game restarts with a Kickoff.

8.2 Dropped Ball: If, while the ball is still in play, the referees are required to stop play temporarily for any reason not mentioned in these rules, play is restarted with a dropped ball at the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A dropped ball restarts the game and clock.

RULE 9. Ball In/Out of Play (Goal/Touch Lines or Referee Whistle)

9.1 Out of Play: The ball is considered out of play when the ball wholly crosses the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air.

9.2 In Play: The ball is considered in play all other times including when it rebounds off a goalpost, the crossbar or a corner flag and remains on the pitch or it rebounds off the referees when they are on the pitch

RULE 10. Method of Scoring

10.1 Scoring a Goal: A goal shall be scored when the ball entirely crosses over the goal line in the air or on the ground between the goal posts and under the crossbar provided no infringement of the RULEs of the Game has been committed by the team scoring the goal.

RULE 11. Offside: There is NO offside.

RULE 12. Fouls and Misconduct

12.1 Direct Free Kick: A Direct Free Kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits ANY of the following offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- Tackles or attempts to tackle an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind them; Sliding is allowed when blocking the ball. You cannot slide tackle a player.
- Jumps at an opponent;
- Charges an opponent;
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- Pushes an opponent.

A Direct Free Kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits ANY of the following offences:

- Holds an opponent;
- Spits at an opponent;
- Handles the ball, i.e. deliberately carries, propels or throws it with a hand or arm (except for the goalkeeper in their own penalty area);
- Holds the ball deliberately with their legs so as to waste time;
- Plays in a dangerous manner;
- Deliberately obstructs an opponent;
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands;
- Tackles an opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession;
- Holds or prevents an opponent from executing a scissors kick or overhead kick. Scissor kicks are permitted, provided that no opponent is struck in the process. If a player interferes with an opponent attempting to carry out a scissors kick that has been set up by the kicker, they shall be punished with a Direct Free Kick from where the infringement occurred. If a player preventing the scissors kick is struck in the process, the infringement is deemed to have been committed by the defender.
- **4 Second Rule:** A team cannot have possession inside their own penalty area for more than 4 seconds on any situation except for if the opposing team has possession. A 4 Second Rule infringement results in the opposing team being awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.
 - EXAMPLE: A player or goalkeeper wins the ball from their opponent in their own penalty area. The opponent does not challenge for the ball, but moves up field. The player or goalkeeper must distribute the ball out of the penalty area within **4 seconds** or the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.
- Pass-Back Rule: The goalkeeper shall not touch the ball with their hands or arms when the ball is returned to them twice consecutively by a teammate without touching an opponent. This includes heading the ball to the goalkeeper or playing the ball from an inbounds pass to the goalkeeper without the ball having touched an opponent. This infringement results in the opposing team being awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line.
- The following infringements result in the opposing team being awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line:
 - Goalkeeper re-handles the ball after having released it from their hands.
 - Goalkeeper, with the ball in play, releases the ball from their hands and kicks it into the air before it touches the sand. (NO PUNTING)
 - Goalkeeper after playing the ball outside their penalty area, returns to their penalty area and plays/touches the ball with ANY part of their body before has been touched by another player.

12.2 Yellow Cards: A player is cautioned (shown a yellow card) if they commit any of the following offences:

- Is guilty of unsporting behavior;
- Shows dissent by word or action;
- Persistently infringes the RULES of the Game;
- Delays the restart of play;
- Fails to respect the required distance during a kick-off, corner kick, ball inbound, or direct free kick;
- Enters or re-enters the field without the referees' permission or infringes the substitution procedure;
- Deliberately leaves the field without the referees' permission.

A substitute is cautioned if they commit any of the following offenses:

- Is guilty of unsporting behavior;
- Shows dissent by word or action;
- Delays the restart of play.
- Entering the field NOT in accordance with the substitution procedure.

12.3 Red Cards: A player, substitute, coach, or team delegate is sent off (shown a red card) if they commit any of the following offences:

- Is guilty of serious foul play;
- Is guilty of violent conduct;
- Deliberately throws sand at anyone in a violent manner;
- Spits at an opponent or anyone else;
- Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (except for the goalkeeper in their own penalty area);
- Denies an opponent moving towards the player's goal an obvious goal scoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a Direct Free Kick or a Penalty Kick;
- Uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures;
- Receives a second caution (yellow card) in the same game;

The player must leave the vicinity of the field (sight and sound) and shall also be denied participation in that team's subsequent game, including the final round of competition (quarters, semis or finals). The penalized team shall continue to play without a replacement for **2** minutes. The referee will report the reason why the player was sent off to the Tournament Committee for possible additional sanctions. Any team found to have played with an ineligible player shall have the game(s) that the ineligible player participated in subject to forfeiture. (See Rule 3.6)

12.4 Unsportsmanlike Behavior off the Field: If a player, substitute, coach, or team delegate commits serious aggression, or offends any spectator or participant of the game (i.e., the referee, players, or members of the Tournament Committee) the referee shall display a red card and send them out of the competition area. The individual's name and reason for suspension will be reported to the Tournament Committee for possible additional sanctions. When play is stopped for unsportsmanlike behavior off the field, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.

12.5 Misconduct Without A Foul: The opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.

RULE 13. Free Kick

13.1 Direct Free Kick: The opposing team shall be awarded a Direct Free Kick from where a foul occurred unless it was committed by the defending team in their own penalty area in which case a Penalty Kick shall be awarded. The player who has been fouled shall take the kick unless the player is seriously injured in which case their substitute shall take the kick. If no substitute is available, then one of the remaining players will take the kick. The ball is in play when it is kicked or touched. The kicker may not touch the ball again until the ball has touched another player. For kicks in a team's own penalty area – the ball is in play when it leaves the penalty area. NOTE: the defensive team may NOT form a wall.

13.2 Positioning of Players During Free Kicks: All players except the kicker must remain at least 5 yards away from the ball until it is in play.

If an infringement is committed in the kicking team's DEFENSIVE half of the field (*Diagram A*), a "CLEAR ZONE" shall be established from the point of the infringement to each of opponent's corner flags. This requirement also applies to direct free kicks taken from the center of the midfield line. Players of both teams, except for the defending goalkeeper, will remain outside of the Clear Zone until the ball is in play and can not play the ball until one of the following occurs after the kick, which releases all restrictions, and any player may touch or play the ball:

- The defending goalkeeper touches the ball (Only player to touch ball while it is in the air within the Clear Zone);
- The ball leaves the Clear Zone;
- The ball touches the sand.
- The ball touches the crossbar or goal posts

If an infringement is committed in the kicking team's OFFENSIVE half of the field, (*Diagram B*), players of both teams, except for the defending goalkeeper, must be positioned behind or even with the ball placed at the point where the infringement was committed.

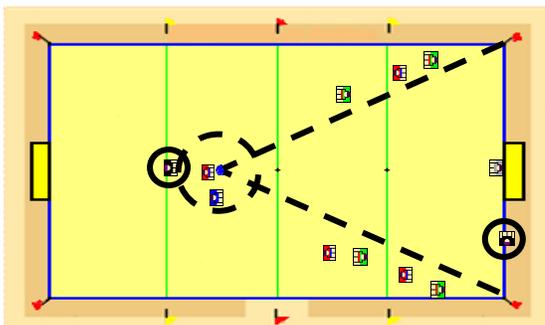


Diagram A Defensive Half

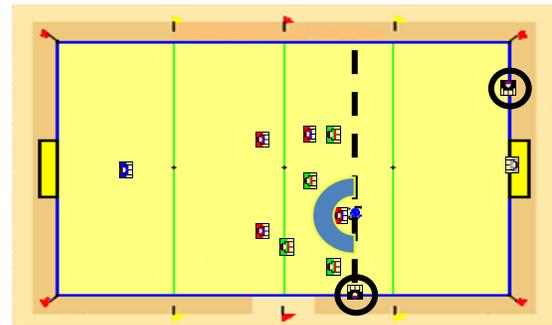


Diagram B Offensive Half

When taking a Direct Free Kick, Corner Kick, or In-Bounds Kick, a player may make a small mound to elevate the ball's position using a foot or ball. Once the ball is set and the referee whistles to start the kick, the kicker has 4 seconds to take the kick.

13.3 Free Kick Start: If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CAN be scored directly from this restart.

13.4 Infringement During Free Kicks:

- If an infringement is committed by the attacking team, in their half of the field the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. If in the opposing team's half of the field, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the location of the touch. A goal can be scored directly from this restart.
- If an infringement is committed by the defending team and a goal is scored, the goal stands and the restart is a Kickoff.
- If an infringement is committed by the defending team and a goal is not scored, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from where the offence occurred, unless it occurred within the offending team's penalty area, in which case a Penalty Kick will be awarded. A goal can be scored directly from this restart.
- If an infringement is committed by both teams, the Direct Free Kick shall be retaken.

13.5 Injury, Outside Interference, Defective Goal or Defective Ball Restart: If the game is stopped for any of pre-mentioned reasons while the ball was in play, the restart will be a Dropped Ball at the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal CANNOT be scored directly from this restart. If the game is stopped for any of pre-mentioned reasons while the ball was out of play, the restart will be the applicable restart for how the ball went out of play, i.e. corner kick, goal clearance, etc.

13.6 Dropped Balls: At no time, can a goal be scored directly from a dropped ball restart. If this occurs the goal is disallowed and the restart will be a Goalkeeper Restart as described in Rule 16, below.

RULE 14. Penalty Kicks

14.1 Penalty Kick: A Penalty Kick is awarded if any of the offences in Rule 12.1 is committed by a player inside their own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play. In accordance with Rule 13.1, the player who was fouled shall take the Penalty Kick and the ball is placed on the penalty area line directly opposite the center of the goal.

14.2 Restart: The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward. The player shall take the Penalty Kick in a continuous movement.

14.3 Goalkeeper Position: The goalkeeper shall remain on their goal line, no movement along the line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked.

14.4 Infringements During Penalty Kicks:

- a) **The Kicker or Teammate of the Kicker Infringes:** The referee allows the kick to be taken. If the ball enters the goal, the Penalty Kick will be retaken. If the ball does not enter the goal, the referee will stop play and award the opposing team a Direct Free Kick from where the infringement occurred.
- b) **The Goalkeeper or Teammate of the Goalkeeper Infringes:** The referee allows the kick to be taken. If the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded. If the ball does not enter the goal, the Penalty Kick will be retaken.
- c) **Players of both Teams Infringe:** The Penalty Kick will be retaken.
- d) **A Player Other Than the Designated Kicker Takes the Penalty Kick:** The opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the **imaginary penalty kick spot**.

RULE 15. The Ball Inbound (Throw/Kick In)

15.1 A standard Throw-In or Kick-In restart will be awarded from the point where the ball left the field. All opposing players shall remain at least **5** yards from the point where the restart is taken. The ball is in play when it enters the field. A goal **CAN NOT** be scored directly from a Throw-In or Kick-In. The player shall have 4 seconds to inbound the ball. Any infringements of these requirements shall result in a Throw-In or Kick-In restart for the opposing team. Once the player commits to either a throw-in or kick-in, he/she may not switch and perform the other e.g. once player picks up the ball to throw-in, must throw-in.

RULE 16. The Goal Clearance Goalkeeper Restart of Game (Goal Clearance and Saves with Ball in Play)

16.1 Restart: A Goal Clearance is awarded when the ball wholly crosses the goal line whether on the ground or in the air, last touched by a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Rule 10.1. The goalkeeper shall restart play from anywhere in the penalty area by distributing the ball by their hands only and has 4 seconds to do so, from the moment they have control of the ball. The ball is in play when it is thrown directly out of the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team. A goal **CAN NOT** be scored directly from a Goal Clearance restart. If the ball is directly thrown into the opposing goal, a Goal Clearance will be awarded to the opposing team. If the goalkeeper exceeds their 4 seconds, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal **CAN** be scored directly from this restart.

16.2 Goalkeeper Scoring from a Save when the Ball is in Play: When the goalkeeper makes a save or otherwise receives the ball from an in-play situation, they can distribute the ball by use of the feet or by rolling the ball underhand, side armed, or overhand. A goalkeeper cannot score directly from throwing the ball with their hands into the goal of the opposing team. The opposing team is awarded a Goal Clearance restart. The goalkeeper can score directly if they put the ball on the ground and control it with their feet during the normal course of play (but not during a Goal Clearance restart, as stated in Rule 16.1). The goalkeeper has 4 seconds to distribute the ball from the moment they stand and have control of the ball with their hands. If the goalkeeper exceeds 4 seconds, the opposing team will be awarded a Direct Free Kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line. A goal can be scored directly from this restart.

RULE 17. Corner Kick

17.1 Corner Kick: A Corner Kick is awarded when the ball wholly crosses the goal line whether on the ground or in the air, last touched by a player of the defensive team; and a goal is not scored in accordance with Rule 10.1. The Corner Kick shall be taken from within 1 yard of the corner nearest to where the ball left the field. All opposing players shall remain at least 5 yards from the corner arc. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves in any direction. A goal CAN be scored directly from a Corner Kick. The player taking the Corner Kick has 4 seconds to do so after positioning the ball for the Corner Kick. If the player exceeds 4 seconds, the opposing goalkeeper shall restart play with a Goal Clearance.

18. Scissors Kick

18.1 Scissors Kick: Scissor kicks are permitted, provided that no opponent is struck in the process. If a player interferes with an opponent attempting to carry out a scissors kick that has been set up by the kicker, they shall be punished with a Direct Free Kick from where the infringement occurred. If a player preventing the scissors kick is struck in the process, the infringement is deemed to have been committed by the defender.

19. Heading

19.1 Heading: Heading is allowed at ALL AGES. There are NO RESTRICTIONS.

NORTH AMERICAN SAND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS PRO/AM DIVISION ADDENDUM

(Adapted from the International Beach Soccer Association, Beach Soccer Worldwide, Inc, Octagon Koch Tavares/IBSA, Pro Beach Soccer,S.L. and Beach Soccer Company. They were developed to encourage fair play and a spectacular game.)

20. Pro/Am Division Addendum

20.1 Red Cards: When awarded during or incident to the U.S. OPEN Final shall carry over into the following year's competition. Specifically, the requirement to sit out the next game shall be enforced on the player(s) in the subsequent year's NASSC initial game, regardless of team name/membership. NASSC reserves the right to ban player(s) from further NASSC participation based on the nature of misconduct.

******NEW FOR 2017******

Changes to the 2017 North American Sand Soccer Rules Summary

Section	Change or amendment
Registration	Changed youth age divisions to be based on birth year per USYSA
Registration	Teams must enter the division of the oldest player on their team – no playing down an age group.
Registration	Clarified age requirements of all Coed, College, and adult divisions
Start of Play / Forfeits	Changed declared score to 4-0 in case of forfeit.
8.1	Changed positioning and goal scoring requirements for kick offs.
12.1	Sliding to block the ball is legal. You cannot slide tackle a player.
12.1	Infringement during Scissors (bicycle) kicks
12.1	Goalkeeper handling of the ball, NO PUNTING.
15.1	Throw-In or Kick-In requirement