**Purpose:**

1) To provide children of all skills and experience levels an opportunity to play in recreational

youth sports leagues.

2) To provide a guideline for coaches so they can provide adequate playtime for all children.

3) To provide an understanding of the play time guidelines for parents so they can realistically

set their expectations and govern themselves accordingly.

4) To provide parents and coaches with a clear path to follow for the resolution of grievances,

real or perceived, that may arise with a child’s play time.

**Definitions:**

Play time

Participation time

Participation and Playing time are two different things. ***Participation*** in practices is guaranteed to all players, but equal ***playing time*** in games for any player is not always guaranteed. Guidelines on play time for certain sports is generally governed by the leagues that NLYAA participates with.

**Responsibilities:**

**Coaches Responsibilities**

1) *Education:* To teach each child the proper skills to compete and enjoy the sport and provide a strong fundamental skill base for the future.

2) *Participation*: To include all children in the learning opportunities provided in practices and competitions by abiding to the minimal playtime guidelines set by each team’s respective leagues.

3) *Safety:* To promote and ensure player safety on the practice field and on the field of play. Coaches will encourage proper technique and provide adequate training to ensure player safety before child may play in a competitive environment.

4) *Sportsmanship*: To lead, by example, by demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship. Coaches will encourage hard work and dedication, thereby upholding the integrity of the sport.

**Player Responsibilities**

1) *Be Coachable:* To pay attention, listen, be respectful and follow instructions. Understand that there are incentives for working hard and following directions and consequences for not listening to the coaches.

2) *Be Present*: To show up to each game and practice on time and ready to do their job consistently for the benefit of their team.

3) *Be a Team Player:* To work hard by giving their all and going the extra mile in order to learn and improve skills for the benefit of themselves and their team.

4) *Be a Leader:* Players represent NLYAA and are expected to maintain a positive attitude, refraining from negative talk, profanity, bullying or name-calling, etc.

**Parent Responsibilities**

1) To ensure your child arrives on time and is in attendance of practices and games. Playing time may be restricted if a child knowingly misses practices or games for reasons considered inexcusable. [Excused absences may consist of illnesses, doctor appointments, injuries, personal matters, or essentially the same reasons that a child would be excused from school.] Even in the case of excused absences, the player may miss play time if the missed practices inhibit the child from playing safely or the child missed significant training essential to game play.

2) To understand that participation and playing time are two different things. ***Participation*** in practices is guaranteed to all players, but equal ***playing time*** in games for any player is not always guaranteed.

3) To understand that coaches will make every effort to provide as much play time to players as possible, taking into account individual game situations and adhering to the minimum playtime limits set by the leagues which the sport participates.

4) To respectfully communicate with the team mom and/ or coach if you feel that there is an issue with your child’s play time. Discuss the reasons why your child’s play time is not meeting your expectations and discuss ways in which your child may be able to improve play time.