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Preface

This handbook provides key information about Harvard Soccer club and it’s programs. It may not cover all issues, so if other questions arise, please reach out to the board members for answers. Fundamentally, we exist so that the kids of Harvard can play soccer together and develop their skills and tactical knowledge, at both recreational and competitive levels. When taking part in travel soccer programs, we are also subject to the rules and guidelines put forward by the league that we play within (NVYSL), which you will see referenced in this text. Finally, the club cannot operate effectively without parents and members of the community who give their time as coaches, coordinators, and board members. Give of your time, and the rewards will be great.

1. Purpose of the Harvard Soccer Club

The Harvard Soccer Club provides opportunities to play soccer for all children living in Harvard, attending school in Harvard, or who have at least one parent residing in Harvard.

The Club emphasizes
Fun
Learning to play soccer
Social interaction with friends
Teamwork
Sportsmanship
Open participation by all
Healthy physical activity
Increased self-confidence

The Club is part of the Harvard Athletic Association, a Massachusetts non-profit organization with the charter to lead and sponsor sports activities for the people of Harvard. The Club is a member of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), the state-wide governing body for youth soccer. MYSA is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer (USYS). Finally, the club is a member of the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL), representing the group of local soccer clubs that our travel teams compete against.

Club officials and coaches are **volunteers** who are residents of the town of Harvard, or parents of children living in the town of Harvard. Any exceptions require explicit approval by a majority vote of the Club Board.

2. How the Club Meets its Goals

The Club organizes in-town play for children Under 6 (pre-K and Kindergarten) and Under 8 (grades 1 and 2). The Club organizes teams to take part in traveling divisional play in NVYSL for ages Under 10 (grade 3) through Under 19 (post-graduate).

The Club may sponsor in-town group clinics, pick-up soccer, training camps, and other special events, some together with the Friends of Harvard Soccer or with the Bromfield Varsity and JV soccer teams. As youth soccer evolves and grows, the Club regularly evaluates the possibilities of sponsoring other soccer activities.

The Club expects its coaches to think first and foremost of meeting the *age-appropriate needs* of the children on their teams. Enjoyment of the game, improved playing ability, positive social interaction, and team building are most important. Coaches are expected to show respect, compassion, and caring for the children on their teams and on other teams. Winning against other teams is generally *not* emphasized at the cost of player's development. When a team has a winning season, it is best and most often accomplished by a coach who develops players who are skillful at the game and who play the game on their own with confidence, pride, and imagination. The Club does not tolerate belittling or humiliating players by *anyone*.

The Club believes that its players are here to play the game, not to watch, and to play with and against players of similar abilities. The Harvard Soccer Club plans to have team rosters smaller than NVYSL limits whenever possible, applying the principle that players have more fun playing in matches than watching from the sidelines. The Club strongly encourages its coaches to play their players in all positions on the field, and to balance playing time as evenly as possible among all players on a team.

The Club organizes Under 6 and Under 8 teams with both stronger and less experienced players spread evenly among all teams. For travel teams, there are generally a mix of ranked and balanced teams placed in NVYSL divisions to play against teams with similarly skilled players. For the ranking process, see in the Travel Team Formation section below, or a more detailed description provided in the document: HSC Travel Team Formation Policies & Procedures (currently in development as of Dec 2024).

The Club encourages its coaches to develop their soccer expertise and coaching skills by attending coach licensing courses and clinics conducted by organizations such as United Soccer Coaches and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). The Club pays all fees for these courses and clinics. The Club regularly sponsors licensing courses held conveniently in town.

The Club cannot satisfy all goals for all children. When choices are necessary, Club officials must make them to benefit the greatest number of participants. The Club recognizes that highly motivated and advanced players have numerous opportunities to further their development outside of Club-sponsored soccer programs. These include select clubs in the New England Club Soccer League (NECSL) or East Coast National League (ECNL), the MYSA-sponsored Town Select League, MYSA-sponsored District teams, MYSA-sponsored Olympic Development Program (ODP), and soccer camps geared for advanced players. The Club encourages interested players to participate in soccer programs outside of the club, and to take advantage of dual-rostering by continuing to participate in Harvard Soccer Club programs.

3. The Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL)

The Club is a founding member of the NVYSL, an organization of soccer clubs from more than 20 nearby towns. The NVYSL organizes fall and spring league play, with teams placed in divisions according to the overall abilities of the players. There are multiple divisions of play, depending on the age group, ranging from Division 1 for the strongest players to Division 5 for players who are newer to soccer, or whose interest is primarily recreational.

They NVYSL prioritizes development for all age groups and divisions, emphasizing improving skills and tactics of the players.

Standings for the fall season are informal for all age groups. The NVYSL keeps track of fall results solely to make sure that it places teams competitively and evenly in the spring season. This is also true for the spring for all teams in Grade 34, and older teams who play in divisions 3-5 (the “recreational” divisions).

In some cases, standings for the spring season determine which team merits tournament play. This includes teams in Grade 56 and older who play in divisions 1 and 2 (the “competitive” divisions). For Division 1, the teams that finish in the top 4 of the standings go to a play-in tournament to select two teams to represent NVYSL in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC), which takes place yearly in late June. For Division 2, the teams that finish in the top 4 of the standings compete in the Nashoba Cup tournament the weekend following the end of the spring regular season.

Travel teams must abide by roster limits and rules set by NVYSL (<https://nvysl.org/content/policies-and-procedures>). This includes abiding by league deadlines for submitting numbers of teams, proposed divisions, and full rosters, requiring the club to set registration deadlines well in advance of league deadlines.

Unless all of its NVYSL rosters in a gender/age group are filled to the limit, the Harvard Soccer Club does not and cannot deny any player the right to play. Both the NVYSL and MYSA set liberal deadlines for adding players to teams during both spring and fall seasons.

As a rule, the large majority of players on any Harvard Soccer Club team meet residency or schooling requirements. However, chiefly in the High-School age groups, the Club often must form inter-town teams due to limited participation by Harvard players or due to league roster restrictions. The club president decides when and how to form an inter-town team, with supporting data supplied by the registrar.

The Club does not otherwise recruit players from other towns, but will meet the playing needs of a player consistent with the MYSA rule that guarantees every player an opportunity to play soccer. If a town has no soccer program or does not have teams in a given gender/age group, a player from that town's gender/age group is free to choose any town team in the state, including Harvard. The Club complies with all player residency requirements of the NVYSL and MYSA. (Refer to the NVYSL and MYSA websites for more information.)

4. Roles and Responsibilities of Persons Involved with the Club

Players

The Club exists to meet the needs of youth soccer players, but players also have some responsibilities.

The priority for the player is to learn to play and have fun playing soccer with their peers. They should come prepared to play soccer when scheduled to do so, wearing cleats, shin guards, and socks covering the shin guards completely. The player must wear appropriate and safe clothing for all practices and the team uniform for all games. For safety, a player is prohibited from wearing earrings, wrist watches, or other jewelry (except for medical bracelets), as well as hard casts or orthopedic appliances. Players should bring their own water to all practices and games.

Players are expected to give the coach their best attention possible when asked. The player should play hard and give their best efforts at all times, so that they can take pride in personal and team accomplishments, regardless of the outcome of the game.

Players should make a best effort to attend all games and the majority of practices, informing coaches when they will not be able to attend. This helps to ensure teams have sufficient players for games and are learning and growing together as players and a team. When playing across multiple teams with conflicting schedules, players should prioritize attending at least one of the weekly HSC practices, except in cases where players have been recruited to ensure sufficient numbers for games.

Players should be on time for practices, and arrive at the field at least one half hour before any scheduled match, unless requested otherwise by the coach. Players should show respect to their teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, and fans.

Players must abide by the HSC code of conduct, as well as rules set forth by MYSA and/or NVYSL for older age groups. This includes, but is not limited to, use of offensive language, initiating dangerous plays that could injure themselves or others, and disrespecting referees, coaches and opposing teams. Players who repeatedly fail to abide by these rules can be asked to leave their teams by their coaches, in consultation with the board.

Coaches

The coach should promote the mission of Harvard Soccer Club through organized practices designed to encourage team play, to improve individual soccer technique, and to develop each player's own soccer decision making ability. The coach should strive for roughly equal playtime and should expose all players to a variety of positions. The coach must refrain from negative comments about referees and referees' decisions. The coach provides constructive feedback to players, and serves as a positive role model for players and parents. Coaches must abide by the rules set forth by MYSA, NVYSL and HSC, including sportsmanship policies that limit excessive scoring.

When personal time and schedule allows, coaches are encouraged to further their coaching educations. The Club policy is to give preference to volunteer coaches based on the level of MYSA or USSF Coach License Certificate held among coaching candidates in a gender/age group.

The experienced coach uses his/her positive influence with players to create player and parental awareness of life-style choices that influence their play and their lives overall. Nutrition, studies in school, proper rest, conditioning outside of practice, substance abuse awareness, proper care and treatment of physical ailments are all important elements in our lives.

As a general Club policy, coaches do not serve as head coach a group of players for more than two consecutive years, given that another suitable coach is

available for that age-sex group. Players attain more knowledge of the game when exposed to varying coaching styles and methods.

EQUIPMENT: Coaches should bring to all practices and games soccer balls, their bag containing gear and first-aid equipment (provided by the club) and a list of parent contact information for all players on their team in case of injury or illness. If additional equipment is required, coaches alert their coordinator, who will liaise with the Equipment Manager.

PRACTICES: The coach makes their best effort to organize training sessions that are fun, instructive, and informative, using structured games during training sessions for teaching players. The coach starts and finishes practices on time, arriving 15 minutes before the players to set up the first training activity. Coaches are encouraged to use a play-practice-play model. Practice activities should minimize lines or standing around, and strive to have all players moving and touching the ball throughout practice time.

GAMES: During games, the coach gives very few specific instructions (such as "Shoot!" or "Get back!") to players on the field, reserving comments for those infrequent times when the player seems to be losing attention, or appears very uncertain of him/herself. Travel coaches are responsible for promptly submitting scores to the league website. Home travel coaches must provide a referee game card, two properly-inflated game balls, and ensure proper placement of goals (with sandbags) and corner flags.

Substitution and Playtime Guidelines:

- Players should spend roughly equal time in all field positions, except possibly in 78 and above.
- In all recreational divisions and for all teams during recreational seasons, all rostered players should receive approximately equal playing time in games. [Exceptions include coach discretion around practice attendance and behavior when clearly communicated to the players and families involved.]
- In spring-season competitive divisions: All players on the roster should receive meaningful playing time in regular season games, consisting of a minimum of 50% of the games, averaged across the season. Coaches are expected to communicate with players and families how they plan to manage playtime in games, provided they meet the guidelines above, at the beginning of the season.
- During tournament play, playtime is not guaranteed, although coaches are encouraged to give some playtime to all attending players. Coaches are expected to clearly communicate their approach for managing playtime with their players and families prior to the tournament

Travel Game Reschedules: The coach is responsible for making sure that his/her team plays its matches according to the published schedule. When an NVYSL

match is not played due to unplayable fields, bad weather, or other causes allowed by the league, the coach is responsible for communicating with the opposing coach, the HSC travel coordinator and the NVYSL age group coordinator and rescheduling the match according to NVYSL guidelines. The coach plays a scheduled match with the players available, not using the absence of one or two stronger players as reason for rescheduling a match.

Managing Excessive Scoring:

Managing scoring early is critical to avoiding matches with excessive score differentials. Blowout scores are not in keeping with sportsmanship principles at any age level and are detrimental to the development of players on both teams. Strategies vary by age group, but include many options that develop skills while reducing scoring. Ideas include: swapping players away from their stronger positions, requiring players with goals to only assist others, removing a player from the field, requiring players to shoot with their weaker foot, changing to a more defensive formation, and requiring X passes before a shot. In travel play, the maximum score differential is 6, and we encourage *all* coaches to employ these tactics if they are ahead by 2 or 3 scores, or as soon as they recognize a significant difference in skill.

FIELDS:

The coach schedules practice fields and times with the club Field Manager, including any reschedules or changes. The coach is expected to adhere to Parks and Rec decisions around field closures, and otherwise apply mature judgment about holding practices on wet, muddy, or otherwise dangerous fields, or where field quality may be impacted. The coach defers to the referee to make a decision whether or not to play or continue a match due to field or weather conditions.

EXTRACURRICULARS: The Club allows coaches to use the Harvard Soccer Club name and materials for play in sanctioned Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) or U.S. Youth Soccer (USYS) events: tournaments, winter indoor leagues, and others. Coaches bear the responsibility for organizing teams, paying fees, collecting funds from parents, and making sure that all MYSA/USYS and tournament requirements are met. Participation in MYSA/USYS sanctioned events guarantees that both player and coach have medical and liability insurance coverage.

Parents, Relatives, and Friends

Parents, relatives, and friends are the best fans that soccer players have. They support the objectives of the club, support their own children, and support and respect all players, coaches and referees. Fans cheer the players on *both* teams. They always encourage all players on their own teams, even after less than positive results. They encourage and show good sportsmanship by avoiding negative comments about referees, all coaches and players, particularly their

own children. Appropriate comments such as "Nice play!", "Good pass!", "Great hustle!", "Nice ball!", "Way to go!", "Great save!", generally are positive, supportive and after the fact. During matches, fans do not give any specific instructions to players, such as "Pass!", "Dribble!" or "Get back!" If any instruction at all is to be given to players on the field, it is the coach's role to do so. ***Soccer is the ultimate players' game.*** HSC recommends that all parents and relatives take part in The Sideline Project (<https://thesidelineproject.com/>) and take the pledge to improve youth sports for all our players.

Parents need to make sure that their youth soccer players arrive on or before the scheduled times for both games and practices. For travel games, plan to arrive 30 minutes or more before the scheduled playing time, unless requested otherwise by the team coach.

Parents need to register their children on time for every playing season to guarantee their player a spot on a team. . The Harvard Soccer Club board sets registration fees and deadlines semi-annually. Late registration imposes extra work on volunteer club members, and may result in teams with too many players to give every player enough playing time on the field. When team rosters are filled, or if the Harvard Soccer Club does not have a team in your son's/daughter's age group, club officials can request to place a child on a team in a neighboring town. If parents and player do not consent or if this is not possible, the Club will refund the full player registration fee.

Please read the section entitled "Players" above to understand what is expected of your children, and to reinforce their positive behavior on the field and at training sessions.

Gender/Age Group Coordinators for In-Town

The coordinator is responsible for managing a gender/age group. This includes determining number and types of teams for a season, recruiting coaches, ensuring coaches are properly certified, and placing players on teams according to the club's team formation guidelines which are discussed and approved by the board. The coordinators work with the Equipment Manager(s) to provide equipment to coaches, including ensuring all equipment is returned to the Equipment Manager(s) at the end of each season.

Under-6 and Under8 Age Group Coordinators

The Club does not keep standings or record the results of Under 6 and Under 8 play. When creating teams, the coordinator should work with coaches to balance the teams as evenly as possible using informal rankings provided by the U6 coaches for returning players.

■ Gender/Age Group Coordinators for Travel Soccer

The gender/age group coordinator estimates how many teams to place in each division, recruits coaches for his/her group, and help to execute the team formation processes. The coordinator does not have to be a coach.

The coordinator, in consultation with the board, determines how many teams the club will place in each division, based on results of previous seasons, tryout evaluation, consensus of candidate coaches, experience of the coordinator, and advice of senior Club officials.

The coordinator, in consultation with the board, makes a decision about the number of ranked versus balanced teams, and places players on these teams based on the ranking data from the spring coaches meeting. The coordinator is expected to follow a general guideline of selecting players first, then the coaches. When the Club has two or more teams in the same division of a gender/age group, the coordinator attempts to create teams that are somewhat competitively balanced, again using the ranking data.

The coordinator, Club Registrar, and coaches share the responsibility for preparing all rosters and passcards for his/her gender/age group as required by both NVYSL and MYSA. For the spring NVYSL season, if team adjustments are necessary, they are based on Fall ranking data, where it is available.

The Harvard Soccer Club Board

The Harvard Soccer Club Board consists of President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Under 6 Coordinator, Under 8 Coordinator, Director of Coach and Player Development, Field Manager, Fundraising Manager, and Equipment Manager. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Registrar are elected, and all others are appointed by the elected members. In the event that one person holds two or more board positions, that person is still entitled to only one vote.

It is encouraged that all members of the board work to recruit participants for club positions such as coaches and age group coordinators, as well as unfilled board positions.

Please refer to the Harvard Soccer Club Constitution for a description of board positions.

Referees

All towns are required to provide lists of registered referees to the league(s) in which they participate, and to furnish referees for league matches upon request by the NVYSL Referee Assignor. Any and all adults and mature youth soccer players may serve the Harvard Soccer Club and its affiliated leagues by taking an introductory referee course and refereeing matches. Mature youth soccer players are generally 12 years of age or older. The Club must have at least one registered referee available for every two teams entered in the NVYSL. Referees are paid positions.

5. Player Eligibility, Placement, and Selection

Eligibility

A player is eligible to play on a Harvard Soccer Club team if the club registrar has received a completed registration form and fees for the player. For liability and medical reasons, a player who is not registered with the for the current season will not be permitted to take part in practices or play in matches.

Gender/Age Group Placement

According to Club policy, a player may play either with his/her natural age group or "in-grade" at his/her choice, only where the latter is a possibility due to the age and school grade of player.

Any other reason for playing outside of one's gender/age group requires agreement between the age group coordinators and the board that it is appropriate for the player to do so. If coordinators or parents disagree about age group placement, a special board meeting to hear the facts and arrive at a consensus about the best action to take. No player will be permitted to "play up" more than one age group.

The practice of Under 12 players "playing up" in the Under 14 group is ***strongly*** discouraged. There are extreme differences in size and strength between a post-puberty Under 14 and a pre-puberty Under 12. These differences can cause serious injuries.

A player of any gender may play on a boys' team. However, a player assigned a male gender at birth may not play on a girls' team, except as outlined below.

Harvard Soccer Club supports transgender and gender expansive youth playing soccer on a team that best aligns with their identity. If your player is registering for a gender-based team different from what is shown on their birth certificate, please email the HSC registrar and include documentation as described in the last paragraph of the Mass Youth Soccer Policy below.

[Mass Youth Soccer Policy](#) (revised and adopted by the MaYSA Board of Directors March 2016)

Each Mass Youth Soccer member Organization and League shall offer a soccer program, without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.

For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.

Travel Team Formation

Divisional play in NVYSL and in most traveling youth soccer leagues is clear is based on the premise that players in a gender/age group have widely varying degrees of interest, athletic ability, and skill. Players develop physically and mentally at different rates and at different times. Players competing with and against players of comparable ability can participate more, enjoy the game more,

better develop their skills, and mature and grow as soccer players at their own rates.

The coordinator and coaches evaluate players based on a combination of evaluations provided by their coaches during a recent season, and a “Jamboree” tryout scored by independent evaluators that takes place at the end of each spring season for all players who intend to play in 34 or 56 the following year. At the end of the spring season, this data is compiled by the coordinator before being reviewed during a meeting of coaches and coordinators, creating a ranked list of all players moving into each travel age group the following year. This list is used by the age group coordinator the following season to construct travel teams.

Player Qualities Evaluated

Gender/age group coordinators and coaches evaluate players based the elements of the game listed in the table below. Older players will generally be more proficient, younger players less so, in soccer technique and tactics. Coaches may ***not*** encourage players, Grade 6 and below, to learn or use various heading techniques.

Element of the Game	Criterion
Dribbling	Keeps ball close to feet; uses both feet; uses both inside and outside of foot; keeps head up when dribbling; changes speed and direction; uses some evasive moves, e.g. cuts, pullback, behind back, backheel.
Trapping	Controls the ball with first touch, places ball in advantageous position with first touch, and keeps it close to the body; uses both feet; traps ball with inside of foot, outside of foot, laces, sole of foot, shins, thighs, chest, head; can juggle the ball.
Passing	Makes accurate, quick passes on the ground with either foot; chips the ball with some accuracy; looks for teammates to receive passes; executes one-touch and two-touch passes; makes corner kicks in the air into penalty area.
Shooting	Shoots accurately with either foot; shoots with laces and inside of foot; redirects ball into goal with one-touch shooting. Advanced players use volleys, half-volleys, side-volleys, and swerving shots.
Heading (grade 7 and older)	Heads the ball down into the goal; makes defensive headers to change direction of ball; makes offensive headers and head flicks to advance the ball toward opponent's goal.
Defensive play	Knows how and when to contain opponent, when to give ground, and when to tackle the ball; makes appropriate use of goal-side and ball-side defensive play; attacks the ball in an open field.
Attacking play	Knows how to make attacking runs or overlapping movements; delivers creative balls and facilitates scoring chances for themselves and/or teammates.
Physical ability	Running speed; agility, reactions & quickness; stamina; strength
Decision making	Reacts quickly and confidently in taking action.

Goalkeeping

Goalkeeping places unique demands on players who choose to play the position. It is the most dangerous position on the field, and often the most difficult. All technical training for goalkeepers places great emphasis on safety through proper technique. It is also essential that a goalkeeper develop the same level of technical ability as a field player.

Though goalkeeping skills and experience are always a plus, the Club does not condone placing a player on a higher division team solely on the basis of goalkeeping ability in Grade 6 and below. The Club strongly encourages coaches to expose all players to the goalkeeping position during training sessions, and not to force a person to play in goal against his/her will during games. The Club strongly encourages coaches to play a player in goal for no more than one half of any given match, with the exception of ages 78 and above and championship matches (league, MTOC, and tournament).

6. Disciplinary Action

Players, coaches, club officials will abide by all written disciplinary actions taken by the NVYSL or any other soccer governing body having jurisdiction over teams that represent the Club. They will also abide by the on-the-field rulings (red and yellow cards) made by referees, fully meeting all of the rules of the league or tournament in which their teams are playing.

The Club President must convene a Board Meeting to respond to any written disciplinary action or report of misconduct taken against a club member by a soccer governing body. The Club President may convene a Board Meeting to act upon a written and signed complaint about a club member, and invite any persons as he/she sees fit. The Club President **must** invite the member about whom the complaint was made. The Board may decide to impose further sanctions on that person. If the Club Board decides to take a disciplinary action against a person, the Club President will notify said person in writing as to the action and the reason for the action.

All disciplinary actions, except on-the-field rulings, may be appealed in writing by the person against whom the action is taken.

7. Income and Expense

This is the financial basis of the Harvard Soccer Club, a semi-autonomous part of the Harvard Athletic Association, a Massachusetts non-profit organization.

Where the money comes from
Player registration fees
Charitable tax-deductible contributions

Where the money goes
NVYSL league fees
Professional coaching fees

U6 and U8 Uniforms
Referee payments
Equipment (goals, nets, balls, cones, ball bags, practice shirts)
Liability and accident insurance (MYSA & HAA)
Rental of indoor and outdoor facilities
Coaching education
Other pre-approved expenses

8. Harvard Soccer Club Annual Planning Calendar

Plan your soccer seasons with the annual planning calendar. Dates vary from season to season. 1996-1997 dates are shown below as an example.

'96-'97 DATE	WHEN	EVENT
9/7	After Labor Day	Start NVYSL Fall Season
10/12-13	Columbus Day	No NVYSL Fall matches
11/2	Nine weeks after start of fall season	End NVYSL Fall Season
4/5	Just before or just after April 1	Start regular NVYSL Spring Season
5/15	Before end of Spring	Hold Jamboree Tryout
5/24-26	Memorial Day	No NVYSL Spring matches
6/8	11 weeks after start of spring season	End regular NVYSL Spring Season
Before end June	Spring Coaches Meeting	Review spring season and rank all rising 34 and 56 players for the following year
	One week after season ends	Nashoba Cup Tournament
Late June	Two weeks after season ends	Mass. Tournament of Champions

Note: NVYSL sets exact starting and ending dates for each season.

9. Changes to This Handbook

Substantive changes to the content of this handbook require a majority vote by the Harvard Soccer Club board convened at either a special or a regularly scheduled meeting. This handbook complies with the Constitution of the Harvard Soccer Club (revised 2023). Any changes made to the Club Constitution will supercede the applicable contents of this handbook. Changes made to laws and rules by a soccer governing body will supercede the applicable contents of this handbook.

10. Glossary of Abbreviations

FIFA	Federation Internationale de Football Association, the international governing body for football, as soccer is called in nearly all countries of the world. The FIFA Laws are a slim volume that contains the rules for the game.
HAA	Harvard Athletic Association, the Massachusetts non-profit parent organization of the Club
MYSA	Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, a statewide soccer organization.
NVYSL	Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League, a league of town teams, which require residency or school affiliation with the town for membership on a team.
ODP	Olympic Development Program, sponsored by MYSA for advanced players.
USSF	United States Soccer Federation, the national governing body of soccer for all ages
USYS	U.S. Youth Soccer, a national organization.