

From Roger Levesque at the end of August:

Hi Association Leaders,

Hope all is well heading into the holiday weekend – one step closer to the kickoff to the fall soccer season and the best time of the year!

Will keep this brief but reaching out to share that several WYS-sanctioned leagues (NPSL, Pierce County Home League, RCL, SSUL) have decided to update heading rule modifications for 2025 fall play. The modification update brings their U12 heading rule back in line with USSF policy by allowing heading at the U12 age level. Their adopted U12 heading rules are,

- Heading allowed at U12 (aligns with USSF policy)
- No punting
- Yes build-out line
- Offside line at midfield

The main considerations for this change were 1) allows for learning / technique development at 9v9 (smaller field) before moving to 11v11 at U13), 2) gives players / teams an opportunity to practice / prepare to compete against out-of-state competition (everywhere else follows USSF Policy), and 3) continues to encourage play out-of-the back with no punting and a build-out-line still in place.

Attached please find a graphic that highlights the modifications at all 7v7 and 9v9 ages adopted by these groups. WYS also plans to adopt these rule modifications for all Cup play through the 25-26 cycle.

While there is no requirement to align with these modifications, we do ask that regardless of which modifications you have in place, that you communicate with your referee assignors / referees the rules that are specific to your league play. Feel free to use the attached graphic as a template to edit / share if helpful. Thanks for your help with this.

Please let us know if we can provide additional information or answer any questions.

Thanks and have a great holiday weekend,

Roger