



**North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc.**

**3803 Parkwood Blvd. #200**

**Frisco, TX 75034**

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[www.ntxsoccer.org](http://www.ntxsoccer.org)

### **2016/2017 Officers**

**President - Billy Babcock**  
**Vice President – A&D - Carlos Quinones**  
**Vice President - Development - Erin Pfarner**  
**Treasurer - Dick Metivier**  
**Men's Commissioner - Larry Hall**  
**Women's Commissioner - Paula McFarlin**  
**Chairman, Coaching Education - David Arciniega**  
**Chairman, ODP - Lori Rhodes**  
**Youth Commissioner - Janet Campbell**  
**Chairman, Referee Committee - Vacant**  
**Chairman, Cup & Games - Jim Mills**

### **Office Contacts**

**Executive Director - David Messersmith**  
**Office Manager - Lisa Skiles**  
**Director of Operations - Rob Martella**  
**Director of Coaching Education/  
Player Development - Gary Williamson**

**Proud Member of**



# North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc.

## 2016/2017 Bylaws and Rules

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
**OF THE**  
**NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one (21) years of age or over, and two (2) of whom are citizens of the State of Texas, acting as incorporators of a corporation under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

**1.1 ARTICLE ONE**

The name of the corporation is NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

**1.2 ARTICLE TWO**

The corporation is a nonprofit corporation.

**1.3 ARTICLE THREE**

The period of its duration is perpetual.

**1.4 ARTICLE FOUR**

The purposes for which the corporation (hereinafter called "Association") is organized are:

1. To engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which a corporation may be incorporated under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act and which are consistent with exemption from federal income tax under 501(c)(3);
2. To promote soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association, including outdoor soccer, indoor soccer and beach soccer for male and female players. To promote soccer this Association will govern, coordinate, and administer all rules and regulations of all soccer play sponsored by and under this Association, and will provide for continuing development of soccer players, coaches, referees and administrators. This Association will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances.
3. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, member or officer of the Association (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Association affecting one or more of its purposes), and no private individual, member or officer of the Association shall be entitled to a share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Association. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
4. The Association shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
5. The Association shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Sections 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
6. The Association shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

7. The Association shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
8. The Association shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
9. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the Association shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist to as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

## **1.5 ARTICLE FIVE**

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, humanitarian, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Rule or Regulation), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **1.6 ARTICLE SIX**

Membership requirements are to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Association shall provide open and equal opportunities to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, and employees who are not under suspension or other disciplinary action, to participate in amateur soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

## **1.7 ARTICLE SEVEN**

The address of the registered office is 3803 Parkwood Blvd. #200, Frisco TX 75034, and the registered agent shall be the President of North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. The registered office and the registered agent may be changed from time to time by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## **1.8 ARTICLE EIGHT**

The number of members constituting the Executive Committee of this Association is twelve (12) and the name and addresses of the members are as follows:

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- President
- Vice President - Appeals and Disciplinary
- Vice President - Development
- Treasurer
- Chairman, Cup and Games

- Men's Commissioner
- Women's Commissioner
- Youth Commissioner
- Indoor Commissioner
- Chairman, Coaches Education
- Chairman, Olympic Development Program
- Chairman, Referee's Committee

## **1.9 ARTICLE NINE**

The name and address of each incorporator is:

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## **CHAPTER 2**

### **BYLAWS**

#### **NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **2.1 ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION**

### **2.1.1 Membership in Association**

Any properly-constituted association that falls within the physical boundaries of this Association (hereinafter called "Member Association"), if all requirements of membership are met, and this Association by a majority vote of the members present and voting, finds that such membership would be in the best interest of soccer. All applications for membership must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, officers and/or directors, and a map of their territory. Applications for membership must also be accompanied, by an initiation fee of \$25 and the annual dues of \$25, both of which shall be returned if the application is denied. Membership is open to any amateur soccer organization either directly with this Association or through an existing Member Association.

1. A properly constituted association shall be defined as an organization consisting of ten (10) or more teams representing **USSF** soccer activities in an incorporated city or town or within a county. A properly constituted association may, at the discretion of the membership, request any aspect(s) of **USSF** soccer (YOUTH, ADULT, BOYS, GIRLS, MEN OR WOMEN) within a given area. Member associations may, at their discretion, become a joint Member Association and represent youth and adult players. A joint member association must provide at least one member on its board of directors to represent each aspect of **USSF** soccer that it represents. The Association may designate more than one Member Association within a county. Any area having a bona fide Chamber of Commerce shall be acceptable in place of an incorporated city or town. Only one properly constituted member association may represent the designated aspect(s) of **USSF** soccer in a given area. The only exception that a given area may be represented by more than one properly constituted member association representing the same aspect(s) of **USSF** soccer shall be that all other existing associations representing the same aspect(s) of **USSF** soccer in the given area have consented to the new association becoming a member of this Association.

At each General Meeting or semi-annual General Meeting of the Association, a joint Member Association shall receive a weighted vote based on the current registration on file with the State. The vote shall be 1 – 249 players, 0 votes; 250 – 500 players, 1 vote; 501 – 1000 players, 2 votes; 1001 – 1500 players, 3 votes; 1501 – 3000 players, 4 votes; more than 3000 players, 5 votes. The joint association will receive these votes for each NTSSA category calling for a vote (i.e. Youth Only vote, Adult Only vote). For an issue dealing with multiple NTSSA categories (i.e. All Vote), the joint association will receive a weighted vote, according to the previous voting strength scheduled, based on its total current combined total registration on file with the State.

2. Member Associations are obligated to consider the release of any territory originally granted by the Association or the request by a Member Association to represent an aspect of **USSF** soccer when such evidence is presented to the Member Association that the "Prospective Member Association" is capable of the administration of a soccer program. If the Member Association refuses to act on the request, grant the release or consent to the association representing a designated aspect of **USSF** soccer, the "Prospective Member Association" may petition the **NTSSA** Vice President - Development, who will present the information from all parties involved to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee. The **NTSSA** Executive Committee will review all of the information presented and decide if the "Prospective Member Association" will be presented to the general membership of **NTSSA** at the next scheduled General Meeting.

- a. If a prospective Member Association has completed all membership requirements and any necessary territory release has been granted by all parties involved, the Executive Committee may grant “Provisional” membership to the applicant. Provisional membership may be granted for a term of up to one year. After the Provisional membership period, the “Prospective Member Association” will be presented to the general membership of **NTSSA** at the next scheduled General Meeting. Provisional membership shall entitle the prospective Member Association all the rights and privileges accorded a Member Association in **NTSSA** and they shall be entitled to 1 vote at any membership meeting. It is understood that the term “Prospective Member Association” shall mean an organization seeking to become a new **NTSSA** Member Association or an existing **NTSSA** Member Association seeking to amend the aspect(s) of USSF soccer it administers within its territory.
3. At each General Meeting of the Association there shall be a weighted vote based on the current registration on file with the State. The vote shall be: 1-500 players, 1 vote; 501-1000 players, 2 votes; 1001-1500 players, 3 votes; 1501-3000 players, 4 votes; more than 3000 players, 5 votes.
4. At each semi-annual General Meeting of the Association there shall be a weighted vote based on the prior year’s registration on file with the State. The vote shall be: 1-500 players, 1 vote; 501-1000 players, 2 votes; 1001-1500 players, 3 votes; 1501-3000 players, 4 votes; more than 3000 players, 5 votes.

#### **2.1.2 Affiliation of Indoor Facilities**

An indoor facility, being a for-profit business, may submit a request to become an affiliate member of **NTSSA** by submitting an application for affiliation, accompanied by a copy of the applicant’s incorporation document, a list of current corporate officers and/or directors and the facilities playing rules. Applications for affiliation must also be accompanied, by an initiation fee of \$15.00 and the annual dues of \$25.00, both of which shall be returned if the application is denied. An indoor facility affiliated with **NTSSA** shall receive weighted votes based on the current registration on file with the State. The vote shall be: 1-500 players, 1 vote; 501-1000 players, 2 votes; 1001-1500 players, 3 votes; 1501-3000 players, 4 votes; more than 3000 players, 5 votes.

#### **2.1.3 Good Standing of Member Association**

To be in good standing in the Association, a Member Association must meet all of the following requirements:

1. All current dues, fees and assessments due this Association must be paid. Dues of Members are payable July 1 of each year and become delinquent on the date of the Annual Meeting in July.
2. Each Member Association shall, by September 1 of each year, send to the State Office of the Association one copy of their rules, regulations and bylaws, either in hard copy or electronically, for review and validation by the **NTSSA** Rules Committee. Member Associations must be in compliance with their own rules, regulations, and bylaws.
3. All Member Associations shall register all players, coaches, teams, and administrators registering through the respective Member Associations with **NTSSA**, which persons shall also be individual members of **USSF**.
4. All Member Associations must submit their current season’s **NTSSA** registration data and player registration fees to the Association by the following dates: for the Fall playing season, October 15; and for the Spring playing season, April 15. Failure to meet these deadlines for submitting **NTSSA** registration data and player registration fees, will result in the Association imposing a late registration fee of up to \$100.00 per week, unless prior arrangements have been made with the appropriate **NTSSA** Commissioner.

5. Member Associations will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete and insure due process to the accused. In all hearings conducted, the parties shall be accorded
  - a. Notice of all specific charges or alleged violations in writing and possible consequences if the charges are found to be true;
  - b. Reasonable time between receipt of the notice of charges and the hearing within which to prepare a defense;
  - c. The right to have the hearing conducted at a time and place so as to make it practicable for the person charged to attend;
  - d. A hearing before a disinterested and impartial body of fact finders;
  - e. The right to be assisted in the preparation of one's case at the hearing;
  - f. The right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument; Notice of all specific charges or alleged violations in writing
  - g. The right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided the identity of witnesses in advance of the hearing if requested;
  - h. The right to have a record made of the hearing if requested in advance, with all costs to be paid by the requester;
  - i. A written decision, with the reasons for the decision, based solely on the evidence of record issued in a timely fashion and including appeal rights and procedures.
  - j. Notice of any substantive and material action of the hearing panel in the course of the proceedings.
  - k. Equality concerning communications and no *ex parte* communication is permitted between a party and any person involved in making a decision or procedural determination except to provide explanations involving procedures to be followed.

Honor all orders of suspension of persons issued by this Association or one of its Member Associations.

6. Member Associations will, at all times, recognize the authority, rules, rulings, constitution and bylaws of the Association, which comply with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation, and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member.
7. Failure to comply with one or more of the Subsections 1 – 6, Section 2.1.3, will result in the Executive Committee determining the Member Association is not in good standing. Failure to be in good standing is further defined as meaning players and teams registered through the Member Association will not be allowed to participate in any tournament/event sponsored or sanctioned by NTSSA, nor will they be certified to play outside of the NTSSA in any games, tournaments or other competitions for which they might have been otherwise eligible. The Member Association may not vote on any matter at any meeting of the Association while it is not in good standing.
8. A Member Association failing to meet any requirements of good standing for a period of sixty (60) days shall have its territory declared open and shall not be entitled to vote or to any protection, services or competitions of this Association.
9. The Executive Committee, by two-thirds majority of those present, may tentatively approve the application of a "Member Association" at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. The "Member Association", if approved, by the Executive Committee is considered a member of this Association until the next meeting of the Association, at which time approval by a majority vote of the members present of this Association must be recorded.

### **2.1.4 Good Standing of Indoor Affiliate Members**

To be in good standing in the Association, an Indoor Affiliate Member must meet all of the following requirements:

1. All current dues, fees and assessments due this Association must be paid. Dues of Indoor Affiliates are payable July 1 of each year and become delinquent on the date of the Annual Meeting in July.
2. Copies of Indoor Affiliate Member's current officers and/or directors and playing rules must be filed with the State Office of this Association within thirty (30) days of enactment or change for approval by the Indoor Commissioner of this Association.
3. All Indoor Affiliate Members shall register all players, coaches, teams, and administrators not registered with other Member Associations or Indoor Affiliates with NTSSA.
4. All Indoor Affiliate Members must submit to NTSSA their current session's NTSSA registration forms, rosters and player/team registration fees to the Association no later than twenty-one (21) days after the start of each playing session. Failure to meet this deadline for submitting NTSSA registration forms and player/team registration fees will result in the Association imposing a late registration fee of \$100 per week.
5. Honor all orders of suspension of players, coaches or referees issued by this Association or one of its Member Associations or Indoor Affiliates.
6. Indoor Affiliate Members will, at all times, recognize the authority, rules, rulings, constitution and bylaws of the Association, which comply with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation, and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member.
7. Failure to comply with one or more of the Subsections 1-6, 2.2.4, will result in the Executive Committee determining that the Indoor Affiliate Member is not in good standing. Failure to be in good standing is further defined as meaning players and teams registered through the Indoor Affiliate Member will not be allowed to participate in any tournament/event sponsored or sanctioned by NTSSA, nor will they be certified to play outside of the NTSSA in any games, tournaments or other competitions for which they might have been otherwise eligible. The Indoor Affiliate Member may not vote on any matter at any meeting of the Association while it is not in good standing.
8. An Indoor Affiliate Member Association failing to meet any requirements of good standing for a period of sixty (60) days shall not be entitled to vote or to any protection, services or competitions of this Association.
9. The Executive Committee, by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present, may tentatively approve the application of an "Indoor Affiliate Member" at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. The "Indoor Affiliate Member", if approved by the Executive Committee, is considered a member of this Association until the next meeting of the Association, at which time approval by a majority vote of the members present of this Association must be recorded.

## **2.2 ARTICLE II - GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION**

### **2.2.1 Government of Association**

This Association shall be governed by its members which shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Association and the recognized delegate from each Member Association in good standing, each of whom shall be entitled to their association's vote(s). No proxies will be accepted for voting purposes. No delegate shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one association. Only the recognized delegates will have the right to speak at the meeting. Any Executive Officer or delegate may introduce anyone to speak provided he has the permission of the chair.

### **2.2.2 Appointment of Alternates**

Should an alternate request to be seated, they shall submit a letter from their Association President or Executive Board, stating their authority to represent their association as an alternate for that meeting. The alternate must be a member of the Member Association that they are to represent.

### **2.2.3 Affiliations**

This Association shall be a direct member of, and comply with the Authority of, the United States Soccer Federation and shall represent all its members and respective interests in and before the United States Soccer Federation. This Association shall maintain membership in the United States Adult Soccer Association and the United States Youth Soccer Association.

### **2.2.4 Superseding Authority of USSF Rules**

The North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. recognizes the superseding authority and precedence of the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements of the United States Soccer Federation for those matters that are covered by the United States Soccer Federation and **NTSSA** and its members will abide by those articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements.

**NTSSA** and its Member Associations will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the United States Soccer Federation governing documents.

**NTSSA** shall register all of its players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators with **USSF** at least once each year and will timely pay all dues and fees of the **USSF**.

**NTSSA** shall provide to the Secretary General of **USSF** an annual report on the activities of the Association and most current annual financial statements within ninety (90) days after the start of the **USSF**'s seasonal year.

**NTSSA** will (A) provide annually to **USSF** copies of **NTSSA**'s bylaws, rules and other governing documents (B) submit changes to those documents to **USSF** for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption and (C) make those documents available to **NTSSA** members.

**NTSSA** will allow **USSF** to review the documents and procedures of **NTSSA** and its Member Associations at the request of **USSF** to determine compliance with **USSF** bylaws.

### **2.2.5 Territory of the Association**

The territory under the jurisdiction of this Association is defined as being that part of Texas which includes all of the counties north of and including a line drawn on the southernmost border of the following counties: Augustine, Nacogdoches, Cherokee, Anderson, Freestone, Limestone, McClennan, Bosque, Hamilton, Comanche, Brown, Coleman, Runnels, Coke, Sterling, Glasscock, Midland, Ector, and Winkler. A map reflecting the counties under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be on file with the State Office and the United States Soccer Federation.

### **2.2.6 Jurisdiction**

This Association shall have jurisdiction over all Member Associations' administrators, referees, coaches, assistant coaches, managers registered players and teams affiliated with it. Each Member Association shall retain its own autonomy, but will adhere to its Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and will comply with the authority of the Association. If the Association is presented sufficient evidence that a Member Association is not adhering to its Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, the Association may form a committee to investigate the allegations and make recommendations to the Executive Committee to correct the infraction(s). If gross misuse of funds, misapplication of Bylaws, or misapplication of rules and regulations is discovered, the Member Association shall be declared not in good standing and given sixty (60) days to correct the situation, or the Association may take more immediate action if deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Each Member Association and each club and/or team affiliated with it have the right to employ and terminate its own personnel for the purpose of coaching and/or administration. Employment is subject to Member Association/club/team rules and is not a matter of **NTSSA** review or appeal.

## **2.3 ARTICLE III - MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION**

### **2.3.1 Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meetings**

An Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held each year during the period from June 1-August 31 and a Semi-Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held each year during the period from January 1-February 28 at such time and place as designated by the President.

The order of business for such meeting shall be:

- Roll Call and Vote Accreditation
- Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- Communications
- Unfinished Business
- Reports of Chairman of Standing Committees
- Reports of Officers
- Amendments to Bylaws
- New Business
- Election of Officers
- Good of the Game
- Adjournment

### **2.3.2 Notice of Meetings**

Written, printed, or electronic notice stating the place, day, time and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called, shall be delivered not less than twenty-one (21) days before the meetings, either personally, by mail, by electronic version, or at the direction of the President, to each Member Association and Affiliate of record entitled to vote at the meeting unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Member Association at the address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon prepaid. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent to the electronic mail address to the Member Association at the address as it appears on the records of the Association.

### **2.3.3 Meetings of Association**

In the event that a ruling is required which applies specifically to either the youth or the adult membership of the Association at any general meeting, then a separate vote shall be taken on that matter. The Executive Committee shall determine when a separate ruling of this nature is needed. In this situation, only the youth or adult member associations present and the Executive Committee shall have a vote on that matter. When a separate vote is necessary, joint member associations shall have the appropriate number of votes on youth or adult matters that corresponds to the number of youth or adult players registered through that Member Association in accordance with Rule 2.1.1.3.

### **2.3.4 Quorum**

Any twenty (20) voting members in good standing, at least fifteen (15) of whom must be Member Associations, shall constitute a quorum at a general or special meeting.

### **2.3.5 Majority Vote; Withdrawal of Quorum**

When a quorum is present at any meeting, the vote of the majority present at such meeting shall decide any question brought before such meeting, except those involving amendments to the Bylaws, for which a different vote is required (Ref. 2.10.5). In which case, such express provision shall govern and control the decision of such question. The members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

## **2.4 ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### **2.4.1 Executive Committee**

The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Executive Officers of this Association, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote in accordance with Rule 2.2 hereof. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Bylaws and Rules of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member, and the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. It also shall hear appeals of decisions made by the standing committees of the North Texas State Soccer Association.

The President may from time to time designate individuals other than those elected to the Executive Committee to serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. Ex-officio members shall have the right to attend all meetings and participate in all discussions of the Executive Committee but shall have no voting rights therein. The term of office for ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the President.

Monthly written reports from all Officers and Committees are to be sent to all Member Associations.

#### **1. Athlete Representative**

He shall be an *ex officio* (non-voting) member of the Executive Committee and shall serve as an advisor to the Executive Committee.

The Athlete Representative shall be nominated each year by the President and shall be ratified by the Executive Committee. The Athlete representative shall have participated in soccer at the collegiate varsity or ODP Regional Pool level. He shall have obtained the age of twenty-one (21).

### **2.4.2 Meetings**

The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the discretion of the President at a time and place appointed by him.

### **2.4.3 Removal**

Any member of the Executive Committee shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. Any three (3) Associations, simultaneously, through their delegates may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee that, in turn, will review the petition and forward copies of same to all Member Associations within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Member Associations after all Member Associations have been given fourteen (14) days written notice of such pending petition. The Executive Committee may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Committee whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Executive Committee members

so vote. If an officer receives this vote of No Confidence, he is automatically suspended from the board until the next membership meeting. The matter must be submitted in writing to the membership and the member associations must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote for the removal to be effective.

#### **2.4.4 Grievance Against NTSSA Executive Committee Members for Unethical Misconduct**

A member in good standing of a **NTSSA** member association may, if he believes he has just cause, bring a grievance against an Executive Committee Member of **NTSSA**. The following procedure must be followed before **NTSSA** will recognize or act on any grievance brought against any member of the **NTSSA** Executive Committee.

1. The individual bringing the grievance must submit in writing and bring necessary documentation to support the grievance to the President or Chief Operating Officer of his member association. The President or Chief Operating Officer will then verify in writing that the individual filing the grievance is a member in good standing.
2. The President or Chief Operating Officer of that association will review the grievance with the members of his board of directors, and if approved by a two-third (2/3) majority vote by the board, the grievance may then be submitted to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee for consideration.
3. The grievance must be fully documented and accompanied by a check in the amount of \$100 made payable to **NTSSA**. The fee is to be used to cover the cost of the investigation, typing, office work, etc., and is not refundable.

#### **2.4.5 Attendance at Meetings**

An Executive Committee member not attending three (3) consecutive meetings, including regular meetings, of this Association or Executive Committee meetings, will have this office declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the Executive Committee. His office shall then be filled in accordance with Rule 2.4.6 of this Article.

#### **2.4.6 Vacancies**

In the event any office of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy until the next Annual or Semi-Annual meeting, at which time a special election shall be held and an officer is elected to fill the vacancy.

#### **2.4.7 Compensation**

The Executive Committee shall serve without salary for their services. Any Executive Committee member may be reimbursed for expenses previously approved by the budget and/or the Executive Committee.

#### **2.4.8 Minutes**

The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The approved minutes, including monthly reports from Officers and Committees, shall be placed in the minute book of the Association and a copy shall be sent to each Member Association and Affiliate. Six (6) members of the Executive Committee are required to attend these meetings in order to transact any business of the Association.



#### **2.4.9 Grievance Involving Executive Committee Members**

A member of the Executive Committee can be a member or official of a team, club, or Member Association. In the event of any grievance involving such organization, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.

#### **2.4.10 Emergency Meetings**

Subject to the provisions of applicable statutes and these Bylaws, the President and any three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute an emergency Executive Committee on matters demanding immediate attention when it is impractical or impossible to call an Executive Committee meeting and shall report their actions to all Executive Committee members in writing.

#### **2.4.11 Veto of Executive Committee Action**

The Member Associations may veto any Executive Committee action by a majority vote of the Member Associations present and voting at the meeting following the action.

### **2.5 ARTICLE V - NOTICE**

#### **2.5.1 Manner of Giving Notice**

Whenever, under the provisions of the statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any member of the Association, and if no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall now be construed to mean personal notice, given in writing, either by mail or electronic mail, postage paid, addressed to such Association member at the address appearing on the records of the Association. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at the time when the same is deposited in the United States mail. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent to the electronic mail address of the Member Association at the email address as it appears on the records of the Association.

#### **2.5.2 Waiver of Notice**

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member of the Association under the provisions of the statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated in such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

### **2.6 ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS: Powers and Duties**

*(Reference to the male gender within the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book with respect to Officers, Employees, Agents, Coaches, Administrators or Players is for simplification and refers to both males and females.)*

#### **2.6.1 Executive Officers**

The Executive Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may succeed themselves in office. Any Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office, must first resign the Office he is holding 30 days prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting with one-half of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| • President                             | (Elected even years)     |
| • Vice President                        | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Vice President - Development          | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Treasurer                             | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Chairman, Cup and Games               | (Elected even years)     |
| • Men's Commissioner                    | (Elected even years)     |
| • Women's Commissioner                  | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Chairman, Coaching Education          | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Chairman, Olympic Development Program | (Elected odd years)      |
| • Youth Commissioner                    | (Elected even years)     |
| • Chairman, Referee's Committee         | (Elected even years)     |
| • Immediate Past President              | (Ratified in even years) |

All officers shall be elected by the general membership with the exception of:

#### **Youth Commissioner**

The Youth Commissioner shall be elected by the Youth Member Associations and the Executive Officers of **NTSSA**.

#### **Men's Commissioner and Women's Commissioner**

The Men's Commissioner and Women's Commissioner shall be elected by the Adult Member Associations and the Executive Officers of **NTSSA**.

#### **2.6.2 Written Reports**

With the exception of the President, all Executive Officers of this Association shall report the functions of their office, in writing, at each regular meeting of the Association.

#### **2.6.3 Parliamentary**

The Vice President - Appeals and Disciplinary shall act as Parliamentary using "**Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised**" as a guide.

#### **2.6.4 Regions, Sub-Regions, Districts**

This Association shall be divided into such regions, sub-regions and districts as agreed to by the Executive Committee and the Member Associations involved. Such districts shall be identical for the purposes of administering the affairs of the Appeals and Disciplinary, Development, Referees and Coaches' Committees.

#### **2.6.5 President**

The President of the Association shall preside at all Association meetings. He shall appoint all Service Committees. He will serve as an ex-officio member of any committee of the Association. He may vote only when the vote is by ballot, or in all other cases, to affect the results of the vote. He may appoint delegates to any meetings of the Member Associations. He shall submit an annual report in writing at the Annual Meeting and said report shall become a part of the minutes of such meeting. He shall be responsible for insuring that all members with check-signing authority be

bonded. He shall be the liaison between the Executive Committee and Staff. He shall be responsible for seeing that an adequate staff is maintained and that administrative policies and operations of the Association are carried out.

In the event of the death, permanent incapacity (unable to perform the major duties of his office for a continuous period exceeding three months), or resignation of the President, the Executive Committee shall appoint an individual to serve as President for the remaining unexpired term of office.

#### **2.6.6 Vice President**

The Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of the President if the President is absent or temporarily incapacitated. He shall be the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee.

#### **2.6.7 Vice President - Development**

The Vice President – Development shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of President if both the President and Vice President – Appeals and Disciplinary are absent or temporarily incapacitated.

The Vice President - Development shall, after approval of the Executive Committee, appoint such members as he deems necessary to carry out the functions of his office. He shall be responsible for seeing that an Association representative be available for assisting any group interested in affiliating with this Association. He shall have primary responsibility for the marketing, public relations and publicity of the Association.

#### **2.6.8 Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of President if the President, Vice President, and Vice President – Development are all absent or temporarily incapacitated.

He shall serve as the financial officer of the Association and shall be responsible for coordinating budget preparation, complete financial reconciliation and reporting in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to each scheduled membership meeting, a balance sheet and income statement. The reporting will be itemized by category and listed in the following manner:

- Activity during the month
- Accumulative to date
- Approved budget
- Difference (plus or minus).
- He shall chair the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee.
- He shall review and initial all contracts that extend over a period of more than 60 days, or that are contracts for goods or services that are not budgeted and exceed a value of \$10,000.
- He shall require all check registers have two (2) authorized signatories approval before releasing checks for distribution.

#### **2.6.9 Chairman of Cup and Games**

The Chairman of Cup and Games shall be the Chairman of the Cup and Games Committee and shall report the activities of this Committee, in writing, at each regular monthly meeting of this Association.

#### **2.6.10 Men's Commissioner**

The Men's Commissioner shall be responsible for the registration and eligibility of all adult male players and teams within the jurisdiction of the Association and shall appoint such Assistant Commissioners as he deems necessary to carry out this function, after approval of the Executive Committee. He shall be Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee and advisor to the Cup and Games and to the Coaches Committees. He may take immediate disciplinary action against coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives and/or teams within his jurisdiction, and he must report all such actions taken to the Executive Committee. His disciplinary action may be appealed to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee.

#### **2.6.11 Women's Commissioner**

The Women's Commissioner shall be responsible for the registration and eligibility of all adult female players and teams within the jurisdiction of the Association and shall appoint such Assistant Commissioners as he deems necessary to carry out this function after approval of the Executive Committee. He shall be Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee and advisor to the Cup and Games and to the Coaches Committees. He may take immediate disciplinary action against coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives and/or teams within his jurisdiction, and he must report all such actions taken to the Executive Committee. His disciplinary action may be appealed to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee.

#### **2.6.12 Youth Commissioner**

The Youth Commissioner shall be responsible for the registration and eligibility of all youth players and teams within the jurisdiction of the Association and shall appoint such Assistant Commissioners as he deems necessary to carry out this function, after approval of the Executive Committee. He shall be Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee and advisor to the Cup and Games and to the Coaches Committees. He may take immediate disciplinary action against coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives and/or teams within his jurisdiction and he must report all such actions taken to the Executive Committee. His disciplinary action may be appealed to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee.

#### **2.6.13 Chairman, Coaching Education**

He shall be Chairman of the State Coaches Committee and shall report the activities of this Committee, in writing, at each regular monthly meeting of this Association.

#### **2.6.14 Chairman, Olympic Development Program**

He shall be Chairman of the Olympic Development Program and shall report the activities of this Committee, in writing, at each regular meeting of this Association.

#### **2.6.15 Chairman, Referee Committee**

He shall be a registered **USSF** Referee and shall report the activities of the State Referee Committee, in writing, at each regular monthly meeting of this Association.

#### **2.6.16 Immediate Past President**

He shall be an ex officio (non-voting) member of the Executive Committee and shall serve as an advisor to the President and serve a two year term on the Executive Committee on the expiration of the individual's term as President. An individual removed as President or Immediate Past President under Article IV, Section 2.4.3, is not a member of the Executive Committee and the position of Immediate Past President remains vacant on the Executive Committee.

## **2.6.17 Executive Director**

- A. The Executive Director will be a non-voting member of the NTSSA Executive Committee.
  - 1. Accountability – The Executive Director shall be employed by Executive Committee and report to the NTSSA President.
- B. Duties
  - 1. be responsible for the management of the operations of the organization under the direction of the NTSSA President.
  - 2. be responsible for the employment of such personnel as needed to carry out the operations of NTSSA provided such employment falls within the constraint established by the budget and personnel policies established by the NTSSA Executive Committee.
  - 3. perform such duties as may be stated in these bylaws and other NTSSA governing documents, and policies and procedures, and under the personnel policies established by the Executive Committee, and as may be directed by the Executive Committee or the NTSSA President.

## **2.6.18 Equal Opportunity**

NTSSA shall provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in both adult and youth soccer competitions. Individuals serving on the Executive Committee or committee of NTSSA shall be selected without regard to the individual's race, color, religion, national origin, or sex from an equal opportunity perspective. NTSSA may not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status more restrictive than those of the Federation.

## **2.7 ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **2.7.1 Standing Committees**

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, at the first Executive Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting. Vacancies on such committees shall be filled by appointment or election, as the case may be, within thirty (30) days of occurrence of such vacancy. In case of an emergency, the President shall have the power to fill vacancies on any Committee by appointment until such vacancy can be filled in accordance with normal procedures. Any Committee empowered to hold disciplinary hearings may investigate and enforce the Codes of Ethics/Conduct. Members of Standing Committees must be in good standing with all Local, State, and National Soccer Associations. Persons under suspension or probation are ineligible for Committee positions.

### **2.7.2 Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**

It shall be comprised of the Chairman and such members appointed by the Chairman and approved by the **NTSSA** Executive Committee. However, a limit of two members of the Standing Committee from one Member Association is permitted. Three members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments. The Chairman shall notify the headquarters of the North Texas State Soccer Association (hereinafter called "State Office") immediately, in writing, of the rulings of this Committee.

The North Texas State Soccer Association (hereinafter sometimes called "**NTSSA**") Referee Committee shall appoint a representative who will serve as an advisor to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

### **2.7.3 Cup and Games Committee**

It shall be comprised of the Chairman and ten (10) members appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Executive Committee. However, a limit of two (2) members of the Standing Committee from one Member Association is permitted. The Association's Men's, Women's, Youth and Indoor Commissioners shall serve on this Committee as advisors. The Chairman shall call all meetings of this Committee and in matters requiring a vote shall cast his vote after the other members. The advisors shall not have a vote.

This Committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all tournament play sponsored by and under this Association. When such tournament play is conducted for the United States Soccer Federation (hereinafter sometimes called "USSF"), such rules and regulations are not to be superseded by those of the Cup and Games Committee. However, in such an event, the particular Commissioner involved is expected to be an advisor as to the State portion of the tournament being conducted. The Committee is responsible for sanctioning all local tournaments. Any decision on placement or rules made by the Cup and Games Committee may be appealed by the concerned Member Association to the Committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the formal announcement, but at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the tournament. Their decision may be appealed to the Association's Executive Committee within twenty-four (24) hours.

The North Texas State Soccer Association Referee Committee shall appoint a representative who will serve as an advisor to the Cup and Games Committee.

### **2.7.4 Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee chairperson shall be the Treasurer and at least two (2) additional members, who are not current NTSSA Executive Committee members and are not members of the Finance Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Audit Committee shall screen and recommend independent auditors to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint the independent auditor. The independent auditors report shall be available to the Executive Committee and the membership.

### **2.7.5 Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee chairperson shall be the Treasurer and at least two (2) additional members, who are not current NTSSA Executive Committee members and are not members of the Audit Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing the fiscal procedures and the proposed annual budget with staff and the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

### **2.7.6 Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee**

It shall be composed of the Association's Vice President – Appeals & Discipline, Men's, Women's, Youth, and Indoor Commissioners as Co-Chairman. The President may appoint additional individuals to serve on the Committee. It shall be responsible for annually reviewing the Association's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations contained in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book and proposing changes, as required, to such Bylaws and Rules at an Executive Committee meeting preceding the Annual or Semi-Annual meeting of this Association. The Committee will also be responsible for approving the Constitution, Bylaws, and Playing Rules of Member Associations.

Any proposed changes to Bylaws and Rules will be voted on by the members at the Annual or Semi-Annual Meeting each year. The Committee shall maintain a list of rules and regulations enacted by the USSF and its National Associations of which NTSSA is a member, and the Federation International de Football Association and shall provide all Member Associations with a copy of such

rules and regulations and an interpretation of the applications of such rules and regulations in state competitions, regional competitions, national competitions, and international competitions. The Committee shall be available to meet with any Member Association and act in an advisory capacity in setting up such Member's Association rules of competition, on request. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to make certain the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of Member Associations do not conflict with the Bylaws and Rules of **NTSSA** and to point out to this Associations Executive Committee and to the local Member Associations where such conflicts exist in order that any problems may be solved in the most expeditious manner possible.

#### **2.7.7 Referee Committee**

It shall consist of the Chairman and one member representing each administrative district and one member representing adult women and adult men and one member representing indoor soccer. All members shall be appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Executive Committee.

The State Referee Administrator, State Youth Referee Administrator, and the State Directors of Referee Instruction, Referee Assessment, and Referee Development also shall be voting members of the Committee. Upon recommendation by the Chairman, the State Referee Administrator shall be appointed yearly by the Executive Committee and may succeed himself in office. Any eight (8) members of the Referee Committee, including the Chairman, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of this Committee. Three (3) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum in matters related to disciplinary actions.

The State Referee Committee shall adopt the regulations and programs for instruction, examination, grading, registration and administration of all **USSF** referees within the **NTSSA** in compliance with the programs and policies of **NTSSA** and the **USSF** National Referee Committee

##### **1. District Referee Committee**

- a. Each **NTSSA** Referee Administrative District will have its own District Referee Committee comprised of that District's State Referee Committee representative as Chairman, and the elected local referee's unit President (or playing association's director of officials or referees coordinator if there is no local referee association) from each local association in the District.
- b. Each District Referee Committee is to promptly disseminate all **USSF** National Referee Committee and **NTSSA** State Referee Committee policies, procedures and programs to their respective local referee units, individual referees and playing associations, and to act as advisors to the State Referee Committee forming a liaison between the playing associations, the local referees unit administration and the individual referee in the field with the **NTSSA**.

#### **2.7.8 State Coaches Committee**

The paramount purpose and duty of the Coaches Committee shall be to implement a coaching education program which caters to the needs of the volunteer coaches within the jurisdiction of **NTSSA**.

##### **1. Membership**

- a. The Coaches Committee consists of the Chairman and other members as he desires, appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Director of Coaching Development shall be an advisor to the Committee, but shall not have a vote.

##### **2. Duties**

The duties of the Committee shall be:

- a. To promote the desire for the highest quality coaching standards throughout the Association and assist all Member Associations in achieving the highest quality coaching standards.
- b. To establish and publish a state coaching program, which includes the mandated courses, curriculums, requirements, etc., of the coaching system of the **USSF**.
- c. To assist the Director of Coaching Development and staff coaches of the Association as they relate to the NTSSA specific coaching education program.
- d. The Chairman shall submit the State Coaches Committee budget proposals for the implementation of the State Coaches Committee coaching education program to the Executive Committee for approval.

### 3. **Coaches Subcommittee**

- a. The Chairman may establish, at his discretion, working subcommittees to assist in carrying out the duties of the Coaches Committee. The specific duties and terms of such subcommittees shall be established by the Chairman. The Chairman of such subcommittees shall be selected from the membership of the Coaches Committees, but the members of the subcommittee need not be members of the Coaches Committee.

## 2.7.9 **Olympic Development Program (O.D.P.) Committee**

The purpose of the O.D.P. Committee shall be to implement and administer the O.D.P. of the **USSF**, **USYSA** and **NTSSA, Inc.**, throughout the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association.

### 1. **Membership**

- a. The Olympic Development Program Committee consists of the Chairman and other members as he desires, appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Director of Player Development shall be an advisor to the Committee, but shall not have a vote.

### 2. **Duties, Objectives and Responsibilities**

- a. To identify and develop outstanding youth soccer players within the Association for advancement to the Regional Olympic Development Program, and National Olympic Teams.
- b. To administer programs set forth by the **USSF** relating to Olympic, CONCACAF, and National Youth teams.
- c. To administer the **NTSSA** O.D.P. in the territory of this Association.
- d. To maintain all records of individuals participating in the O.D.P. of this Association.
- e. To establish and publish a state O.D.P. brochure setting forth the procedures for participation in the respective programs.
- f. To establish, publish, and oversee the duties of the Director of Player Development and staff of coaches of the Association.
- g. To recommend a part-time and/or full-time Director of Player Development when funds permit. Such recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.
- h. To maintain and revise as necessary, the **NTSSA** job description of the Director of Player Development.



### **3. O.D.P. Chairman Subcommittees**

- a. The Chairman may establish, at his discretion, working subcommittees to assist in carrying out the duties of the O.D.P. Committees. The specific duties and terms of such subcommittees will be established by the O.D.P. Chairman.

#### **2.7.10 State Executive Subcommittee for Referee Misconduct**

The State Executive Committee has designated the NTSSA A&D Committee to hear allegations and assess punishment concerning misconduct of referees toward any participant or spectators in any NTSSA activity.

#### **2.7.11 Competitive Soccer Committee**

The purpose of the Competitive Soccer Committee shall be to coordinate competitive league operations and oversee issues indigenous to competitive soccer within NTSSA. The committee will meet once per year. At least five (5) members must be present to constitute a quorum to conduct business.

##### **1. Membership**

- a. The committee shall be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his/her designee as approved by the Executive Committee, two (2) representatives from each sanctioned Competitive League, plus seven (7) at large members, appointed by the Youth Commissioner.

##### **2. Duties, Objectives and Responsibilities of the Competitive Soccer Committee**

- a. Oversee the registration of competitive clubs as defined in Rule 10.1.5.
- b. To hear and decide on alleged rule violations and/or grievances filed against Registered Clubs on matters under the jurisdiction of North Texas Soccer rules and bylaws.
- c. To hear and decide on requests for competitive player transfers as provided for in Rule 3.10.6.
- d. To propose and review rules and regulations for the administration of competitive soccer teams, clubs, and leagues.
- e. To review all requests from Member Associations for sanctioning of new competitive league(s) and submit a recommendation to the Youth Commissioner for disposition in accordance with Rule 4.11
- f. To make recommendations to the NTSSA Executive Board concerning competitive soccer issues, proposed rules, policies, and procedures.
- g. For the purpose of these hearings, a chairman plus three (3) members shall constitute a quorum.

#### **2.7.12 Risk Management Committee**

It shall be comprised of the President as Chairman and members appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Executive Committee. However, a limit of one (1) member of the Standing Committee from a Member Association is permitted. The President may appoint an alternate Chairman to this Committee for the purpose of holding meetings. The Chairman shall call all meetings of this Committee and in matters requiring a vote shall cast his vote after the other members.

This Committee shall review the **NTSSA** Application and Consent For Criminal Background Check form (hereinafter known as the **NTSSA** Adult Application Form) for content and submit recommended changes to the Executive Committee. It shall review all completed **NTSSA** Adult Application forms submitted by Member Associations and Affiliates and submit them for processing by the Texas Department of Public Safety or other approved agency for criminal background checks. It shall review all negative responses from the checking agencies, and if deemed unacceptable, shall cause a written notice to be sent to the individual stating they are not eligible to participate and what appellate rights they have. If no appeal is received in the allotted time frame, a letter of notification shall be sent to all administrative organizations within **NTSSA** informing them of the suspension, but not the cause of suspension. All information reviewed and decisions made by the Committee shall be kept in strict confidence. All proceedings of this Committee shall be reported monthly to the Executive Committee without divulging individual names prior to suspension.

## **2.8 ARTICLE VIII - SERVICE COMMITTEES**

### **2.8.1 Nominating Committee**

It shall present a slate of officers twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall be appointed by the President. Each Member Association will provide at least one candidate for office if so requested by the Nominating Committee.

## **2.9 ARTICLE IX - RULES, REGULATIONS, PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL**

### **2.9.1 Procedure for Filing Appeals**

**NTSSA** will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. The procedure for filing appeals with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be as follows:

1. All appeals to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee must be submitted in writing and received within five (5) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$100 (cash or cashier's check).  
  
If the appeal is upheld by the Committee, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of this Association. In the case of appeals regarding individual suspensions, the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may waive or modify the appeal fee.
2. This Committee may, at its discretion, when requested in writing to do so, waive the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.
3. All appeals to this Committee must be made in writing to the Chairman of the Committee who will then notify the Secretary of the involved Member Association or Associate Member and all the members of this Committee. In cases of controversy as to timely receipt of appeals, the postmark date (postage meter not acceptable) will govern.
4. Upon receipt of appeal, properly submitted, the Chairman of this Committee shall set a time and place for the hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Committee, but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal at the hearing.
5. Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee of this Association. Procedures for filing appeals with the Executive Committee shall be exactly as for filing with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee except that all material shall be submitted to the State Office, which shall notify all concerned parties of the receipt of the appeals and the time and place for the hearing as set by the President.

6. Any appeal concerning the action of the particular commissioner shall be made directly to the State Executive Committee of the **NTSSA** and such complaint shall be acted upon within fifteen (15) days by said Executive Committee.
7. Decisions of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the United States Soccer Federation Appeals Committee.
8. All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.
9. In no event shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** invoke the aid of the Courts in the United States, without first exhausting all available remedies and appeals within the appropriate soccer organizations including a final appeal to the Appeals Committee of the **USSF**. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines, and shall be liable to **NTSSA** for all expenses incurred by the **NTSSA** and its officers and employees and its members in defending each court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney's fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by **NTSSA** officers, employees and members in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.

#### **2.9.2 Rules of Play**

Except as otherwise specified herein, Rules of Play of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which **NTSSA** is a member, will apply in all competitions under the jurisdiction of the **NTSSA** and its affiliated members. However, the Executive Committee shall have the right to approve special Rules-of-the-Competition agreed upon by two or more Member Associations conducting a "special" competition.

### **2.10 ARTICLE X - MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **2.10.1 Conduct of Association as Nonprofit Corporation**

This Association shall conduct its business in a manner conforming to the purposes as set forth in Article 1.4 of its Articles of Incorporation, being careful to comply with all rules and regulations as set forth under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so as to maintain its status as a nonprofit corporation.

#### **2.10.2 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from September 1 to August 31

#### **2.10.3 Books and Records**

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of all meetings at its registered office.

#### **2.10.4 Resignation**

Any director, committee member, officer or agent may resign by giving written notice to the President. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or immediately if no time is specified. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### **2.10.5 Amendments to Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any meeting of the Association at which a quorum is present by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present

membership; provided, however, that all members have been given twenty-one (21) days written notice or electronic notice, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.

#### **2.10.6 Who May Propose Bylaw Changes and Amendments**

Any proposal to amend the Bylaws or add new Bylaws may be made only by Executive Officers of Member Associations, **NTSSA** Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of **NTSSA**. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed changes must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time required in Rule 2.10.5.

#### **2.10.7 Lawsuits Against the Association**

Any person who files a lawsuit or invokes the aid of the courts on their own behalf or as the representative for another person against **NTSSA**, or its officers, employees, or members or representatives of any of its officers, employees, or members, shall be subject to the sanction of immediate suspension from membership and from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** and its affiliates. **NTSSA** may also elect to subject a person who threatens to file a lawsuit or who threatens to invoke the aid of the courts to the same sanctions of suspension. **NTSSA** adopts the policy that it is allowed to take full advantage of rights permitted to it by the laws of the State of Texas for “Not-for-Profit” organizations.

#### **2.10.8 Philosophical Statement**

**NTSSA** adopts a philosophy and policies which meet or exceed the minimum criteria established by **USSF** that prohibits physical or sexual abuse of or by players, coaches, referees, administrators and spectators, and will take steps necessary to remove from further soccer activities any person found guilty of such.

#### **2.10.9 Indemnification**

**NTSSA** shall indemnify each of its present or former directors, officers, employees, or official representatives or any person who is or was serving in any capacity at the request of **NTSSA** against all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person (including, but not limited to, judgments, costs, and counsel fees) in connection with the defense of any pending or threatened litigation to which that person is, or is threatened to be made, partly because that person is or was serving in such a capacity. This right of indemnification may also apply to expenses of litigation, which is compromised or settled, including amounts paid in settlement, if **NTSSA** approves such settlement. Such an individual shall be indemnified if the individual acted in good faith and in a manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of **NTSSA**. The termination of any litigation by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the individual did not act in good faith or in the manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of **NTSSA**.

Any amount payable as indemnification under this bylaw may be paid by **NTSSA** upon a determination by the Executive Committee, not including those members who have incurred expenses in connection with the litigation for which indemnification is sought, that the individual in question need the standard set forth in this bylaw. If no disinterested Executive Committee members are available, the required determination shall be made by a majority vote of the members of **NTSSA**.

The Executive Committee may authorize the purchase of insurance on behalf of any persons potentially identifiable under this bylaw.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**OF THE**  
**NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

General Rules and Regulations of the North Texas State Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “NTSSA”) and its affiliated Members Associations and Leagues:

The seasonal year of this Association shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following calendar year.

**3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS**

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association or its affiliated members. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have knowingly allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) may be assessed a penalty ranging from probation to a suspension for one (1) year or more, this penalty may be from all soccer activities. The team may be required to forfeit all games in which the unregistered player(s) participated.

**3.2 UNREGISTERED/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY**

Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play. Such players and teams must certify in writing to the appropriate NTSSA Youth or Amateur Commissioner the nature of any disciplinary actions or injuries sustained while playing unsanctioned play before resuming play in sanctioned activities.

**3.2.1**

Unsanctioned play shall include, but not be limited to playing with other members of a players NTSSA team in outdoor/indoor leagues, tournaments, and games not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate. This shall not be construed to prevent any individual player from participating with school or church teams, or neighborhood unsupervised games.

**3.2.2**

Application by the team/player to the appropriate commissioner to engage in a game or games may be approved under certain conditions that may be determined to be in the best interest and enhancement of the game.

**3.3 FRIENDLY GAMES**

Friendly games shall be defined as games which:

**3.3.1**

Are not associated with any other games either played or to be played, and they do not lead to any championship;

**3.3.2**

Do not lead to any trophy or award;

**3.3.3**

Do not require a fee to be paid by any player to sponsor;

**3.3.4**

Are organized in a spontaneous fashion, and

### 3.3.5

Do not include any guest players within **NTSSA** boundaries for **NTSSA** registered recreational teams. Competitive teams playing friendly games may invite up to five (5) guest players providing the proper paperwork (i.e., guest player release) is in order.

## 3.4 SUSPENSIONS

The **NTSSA** and its affiliated members shall honor any and all orders of suspension of players, coaches and referees issued by **NTSSA** or its affiliates, if the suspension indicates “suspended from all **NTSSA** activities” and due process has been followed. A team which knowingly uses individuals under suspension shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated. Member Associations which knowingly uses individuals (Players, Coaches or Referees) under suspension shall be subject to a formal hearing before **NTSSA** and may be subject to sanctions.

## 3.5 REFEREES

In compliance with **USSF** Rules, all referees serving **NTSSA** and its affiliated Member Associations shall be registered with the **USSF** and **NTSSA** in accordance with current rules and regulations of the **USSF** National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.

### 3.5.1

The use of unregistered referees is approved only in emergency situations; then, the captain or coaches of two competing teams may decide on someone agreeable to both of them to officiate. In these circumstances, the decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he were a registered referee.

1. A Member Association of **NTSSA** who attempts to circumvent the spirit of this rule by continually relying on Rule 3.5.1, or uses the excuse of referee unavailability as a reason not to insist upon the proper training and registration of all referees, will be put on thirty (30) days written notice by the State Executive Committee that he is not in good standing with **NTSSA**. If he does not take immediate, positive steps to completely comply with this rule, the Association will be held not to be in good standing.

### 3.5.2

All **USSF** referee training for certification will be under the direct supervision and direction of the State Referee Committee and State Director of Referee Instruction. No referee instructors other than those specifically trained and certified by **USSF** or the State Director of Referee Instruction are approved as instructors for basic referee clinics.

### 3.5.3

Member Associations that desire to free registered referees for higher level competition may require coaches or adults of their Under 6, Under 8, and Under 10 teams to each officiate one-half of their own games.

### 3.5.4

Indoor facilities may only use registered **NTSSA** indoor referees.

### 3.5.5

In accordance with current rules and regulations of the **USSF** National Referee Committee and the **NTSSA** State Referee Committee all referee assignors (or schedulers) must have satisfactorily completed the approved assignor clinic and be registered with **USSF** and **NTSSA**. The use of unregistered referee assignors is approved only in an emergency situation and is limited to the balance of the current season.

### **3.6 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

#### **3.6.1 Scope**

1. Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must in the manner prescribed by current **NTSSA** procedures, annually provide the necessary information required by **NTSSA** so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, Adult Volunteers agree and consent to having Criminal Background Checks performed as deemed necessary by **NTSSA**.
2. For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

#### **3.6.2 Procedures**

1. Member Associations and Affiliates shall direct volunteers identified in 3.6.1.2 to the **NTSSA** Risk Management portal where volunteers shall annually input or update their Volunteer Online Registration / Risk Management Disclosure Form. Member Associations/Affiliates will appoint/elect a Risk Management Coordinator to ensure that every volunteer apply for clearance from **NTSSA** prior to the first season/session in which the adult participates.
2. The Risk Management committee will require that a Criminal Background Check is performed annually on each registered adult volunteer.
3. A background check response from the Texas Department of Public Safety or other agency/vendor that is deemed unacceptable by the Risk Management Committee will cause a written notice to be sent to the individual stating that the individual is not eligible to participate and what appeal rights the person has.
4. Should any individual who has received a negative response wish to appeal the finding, an appeal may be filed with the **NTSSA** Risk Management Committee according to the **NTSSA** Procedure for Filing Appeals.
5. At such time as the Risk Management Committee has heard an appeal and rules an individual ineligible, or when the appeal time has elapsed, a letter of notification will be sent to all administrative organizations within **NTSSA** notifying them of the individual's suspension, but not the cause of the suspension.
6. All responses shall be kept in strict confidence.

### **3.7 YOUTH PLAY IN ADULT DIVISION**

#### **3.7.1**

A Youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of Adult games without losing his eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the State Youth Commissioner. The youth coach or other team official must, in writing or by form, request permission from the appropriate State Adult Commissioner. When the above clearances and permissions have been granted, the appropriate State Adult Commissioner has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures for which this will be implemented. The youth player shall be listed as a "provisional" adult player. A youth player must be age seventeen (17) to play as a provisional player.

Players fifteen (15) years old and older may receive written permission from the appropriate state commissioner to register on an adult team if the player and team play in an area where youth play

for the player's age group is not available. In no event shall a player under seventeen (17) years of age be allowed to be registered on a youth and adult team simultaneously.

### **3.7.2**

Any youth player playing for an adult team without the approvals of the State Adult and Youth Commissioners shall be declared ineligible for youth games. Any youth team using such an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which the player took part. It is not necessary to drop an ineligible player from the roster.

### **3.7.3**

A youth player may appeal his youth coach's or authorized team official's denial to play adult games with the State Youth Commissioner.

### **3.7.4**

If a youth player is denied the right to play adult games by his youth coach or authorized team official and the Youth Commissioner, he may appeal to the State Executive Committee.

### **3.7.5**

Should a player eligible to compete in youth competition decide to forego his youth eligibility and register as an adult player, he must:

#### **1. Make Application to the Youth Commissioner**

- a. The Youth Commissioner will ensure that player is not under suspension or probation and then relay all information and original request to the appropriate Adult Commissioner.
- b. A Youth Player after receiving the proper clearance from the appropriate Adult Commissioner then may register as an Adult Player.

### **3.7.6**

Any adult team, coach, or administrator who knowingly uses a youth player not in accordance with the above rules shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year.

## **3.8 ADULT REGISTRATIONS**

### **3.8.1**

A player may register on as many teams as he chooses as long as these teams do not play each other in any competition.

### **3.8.2**

An adult team roster will have no more than 25 players.

**NOTE:** *Youth registration, transfers, etc., are covered under the Rules for Registration of Youth Players.*

## **3.9 PLAYING AGE**

Except where prohibited by **USSF** rules, youth players may participate in older divisions but may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the **NTSSA** State Executive Committee.

Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player participated. Also, the coach, assistant coach and/or manager of the offending team may be suspended for a period of not less than one year.



## 3.10 YOUTH CONTRACTS AND RELEASES

### 3.10.1

No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative may practice any soccer related activity with any NTSSA registered player who does not appear on his current NTSSA roster or is not considered to be a free agent by current NTSSA Rules and Regulations except for a coach, who at the request of another teams coach, substitutes for that coach at practice or games for the convenience of the requesting coach. A free agent is a player in the U-11 through U-19 age division who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team. A competitive player may practice with another team if he has received a written permission letter signed by his current coach that sets out the dates and the team with which the player will practice. The player is to give the letter to the coach of the team with which he is practicing, and he must keep a copy for himself.

**NOTE:** *The above does not include indoor soccer.*

### 3.10.2

Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, NTSSA registered players may attend soccer camps (clinics), or private lessons etc., hosted and/or coached by individuals, teams, clubs and/or organizations other than the player's current coach, team, club and/or organization as long as the soccer camps meet the following criteria:

The clinic or camp, must be available to all interested persons for each age group offered through an open invitation.

Each individual, team, club and/or organization hosting any soccer clinic or camp, etc., must require written registration of each participant that includes the following information:

- Player's name
- Name, address and phone number of individual(s), team(s), club(s) and/or organization(s) affiliated with and/or hosting the clinic
- Name(s) of coaches at clinic
- Name and date(s) of clinic
- Name of player's current team and home association
- A statement signed by the player's current coach/manager stating that he or she is aware that the player is attending the camp or clinic, etc.
- The following disclaimer:

*"Recruiting is strictly prohibited. Any person having knowledge of any player recruitment at or through this soccer clinic, camp, private lesson, etc., should report same, in writing, to the Youth Commissioner of NTSSA." (For an in-depth definition of recruiting see NTSSA rule 3.10.9)*

- Parent signature acknowledging that he/she has read and understands the disclaimer. Date of signature. (If player is 18 years or older, player should sign also.)

The host of the clinic or camp must keep all registration forms for one (1) year from the date of the camp or clinic, etc., so they will be able to produce on demand from a Member Association and/or NTSSA a copy of the registration form to verify compliance with this rule in the event charges of rule violations are alleged against the hosting individual, team, club and/or organization as stated above.

This rule does not apply to Member Associations that sponsor clinics/camps, etc., for their players where the registration publicity is conducted by the Member Association. Any publicity must indicate this camp/clinic, etc., is sponsored by the Association. The Member Association must monitor the program to assure no recruiting activities occur.

Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, players requesting private lessons from any person must obtain a written statement from their current coach stating their knowledge of the private lessons. The person giving the private lessons must retain the acknowledgment slip and be able to present same when requested by a Member Association or NTSSA.

### 3.10.3

#### Soccer Academies

1. A “Soccer Academy” is a group of Under 7 through Under 10 registered NTSSA recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Players must register with a member association and may or may not be on a recreational team, unless required to be on a recreational team by their member association. Academies are to be governed by NTSSA Youth Associations, and NTSSA Youth Associations may host as many Soccer Academies as they deem desirable. Academy teams are governed by the league in which they participate. (If more than one association is involved in an academy league an A&D committee should be in place.)
2. Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc., of Soccer Academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and information sent to NTSSA.
3. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player’s recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.
4. Member Associations may provide league play if they have enough teams, or may coordinate with other Member Associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play will be designated as Under 7 through Under 10. Scores and standings should not be kept.
5. Soccer Academy teams are not considered “registered teams,” and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a “Soccer Academy” bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament.
6. Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.
7. The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:
  - a. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
  - b. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
  - c. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.

8. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
9. For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with an NTSSA Member youth association recreational or recreational plus team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the NTSSA recreational team or recreational plus team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment.

#### **3.10.4**

Failure to comply with Rule 3.10.1 and/or Rule 3.10.2 may result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year.

#### **3.10.5**

If the complaint is intra-association, then the complaint will follow the Member Association's rules for filing complaints. Any appeal from a Member Association's decision would then follow the ordinary process of appeals from Member Associations.

#### **3.10.6**

Should the complaint be of an inter-association matter, then the complainant will file his complaint directly with the State Youth Commissioner, who shall render a decision. Either party may then file an appeal with the State Executive Committee of **NTSSA** according to the Bylaws of the North Texas State Soccer Association.

#### **3.10.7**

A competitive (select) player is obligated to his competitive team for the soccer-playing year for competitive players from the time he signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer playing year (August 1 of the prior soccer year through June 30 of the current soccer year). Release to transfer to another NTSSA competitive team will be allowed under the following circumstances:

Transfers that are approved by the player's current coach may be granted at any time on or prior to April 1.

Any request for transfer that is not approved by the player's current coach, as indicated on the release form or transfer request form, will be scheduled for a Competitive Soccer Committee hearing which shall be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee, with all parties being invited to attend. This shall be done between the dates of December 1 and January 31 for U-11 through U-14 and December 1 and March 15 for U-15 through U-19 only. (NOTE: The Competitive Committee may grant transfers prior to the start of the fall season in extremely limited circumstances, and only after receiving input from the coach or club official.) Any appeal of the decision of the Competitive Soccer Committee after the hearing must be made directly to the Executive Committee of NTSSA within five (5) days.

A player may leave a competitive team and go into his home Member Association recreational player pool at any time on or prior to April 1 of the current soccer year with the written permission of the Youth Commissioner. Players may not be released from their competitive team after April 1, as no recreational player pool is available. (Exceptions: player has moved outside NTSSA territory, current team has disbanded, or medical documentation the player has been injured and is unable to play the remainder of the soccer year.) Any recreational player currently rostered to a recreational team and wishing to be released to join a competitive team may do so only between December 1

and March 15 and may do so only with the written permission of the Member Association in which he is currently rostered. A competitive registration form must be completed prior to the players' transfer to a competitive team.

### **3.10.8 Player Releases**

**NOTE:** **Release:** *The withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.*

#### **Recreational Player Releases:**

Once a player has registered with a Member Association and been rostered to a recreational team, they are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player is granted a release.

1. A recreational player may be released by a member association to join a competitive team between December 1 and March 15, per rule 3.10.7.
2. A request for a recreational player to be released to another member association for recreational play shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for the request on the release. Releases to transfer to another member association will be allowed from December 1 up until they are registered and rostered to a team for the Spring season. Releases outside of those dates will be considered only as an exception.
3. The decision of the Youth Commissioner may be appealed to the North Texas Executive Committee.

#### **Competitive Player Releases**

Any player rostered to a competitive team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests a release or is released involuntarily. A player release shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for the request on the release. Approval of a player release from a competitive team by North Texas Soccer does not constitute a release of financial liability, if applicable to the team.

1. A player may be released from a team involuntarily if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons.
  - a. The player has violated rules of the U.S. Soccer Federation, **USYSA**, **NTSSA** or **NTSSA** Member Associations.
  - b. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by **NTSSA**.
  - c. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
2. A player who has not attended any team functions or been in contact with their team manager or coach with intentions to return to the team for a period of 30 consecutive days will be considered to have abandoned their team and may be released from the team with the approval of the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided.
3. In an extreme case where a player is exceedingly disruptive, whether physically and/or verbally abusive, and is believed to be detrimental to the remainder of the team, the coach may petition the NTSSA Youth Commissioner to release the player from the team. The Youth Commissioner, after consulting with the parent(s) of the player will make a decision whether or not the conditions fall within the guidelines to allow the release. The Youth Commissioner's decision may be appealed to the NTX Executive Board by either party. Unless in the opinion of the Youth Commissioner the actions of the player are so egregious as to otherwise warrant release from the team, the following circumstances must be present for the release to be considered:
  - a. The coach must have spoken with the player and parent(s) in an attempt to correct the player's behavior and given the player a chance to improve their behavior.

- b. The coach must have attempted to correct the player's behavior through reduction of playing time and/or sitting out of practices.
  - c. The coach must not be utilizing the player's behavior in an attempt to remove a lesser skilled player from their team. If other players are demonstrating the same behavior, the coach cannot single out a player for release from the team.
  - d. The coach cannot use problems with a player's parents or financial issues as a reason to remove a player from a roster. They may, however, reduce or eliminate playing time for these reasons.
4. Any coach who releases a player involuntarily for any reason other than listed in 1-3 above may be brought before the NTSSA Competitive Committee to explain his/her actions. An assertion by the coach or any person with authority or assumed authority on the team, either verbally or by action, that a reasonable person would interpret to mean that the player is no longer welcome on the team may be considered an involuntary release by the coach, even if no formal steps to complete release paperwork have been taken. If the Competitive Committee finds the involuntary release was not justified or could have been avoided in the best interest of the player, the coach is subject to severe sanctions including, but not limited to, suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the Competitive Committee. The coach is responsible for the action of persons in authority, or with assumed authority, on the team.

### **3.10.9**

1. Recruiting is defined as:
  - a. Allowing a player to participate in practice or games with a team on which the player is not rostered unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by these NTSSA rules, and all paperwork incidental to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
  - b. Allowing a player to participate in camps, skills, clinics, academies or other training activities unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by NTSSA rules, and all paperwork incident to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
  - c. Actively soliciting a player to break a commitment to his current team in order to join another team. This rule does not apply to Free Agents.
  - d. Making false, misleading, and/or unsubstantiated negative statements which could reasonably be expected to influence the decision of a player regarding his choice of teams.
  - e. Offering anything of monetary value to anyone to induce a player to commit to play for a particular team; provided, offering to pay, waive or reduce a player's expenses associated with participating with a particular team does not constitute recruiting so long as (i) the offer is, in good faith, based on financial need and (ii) any value received is in fact applied to the reasonable and necessary expenses associated with such player's participation.
  - f. Signing for the upcoming soccer year prior to July 1. Any commitment prior to July 1 is not binding on either the player or coach.
  - g. As long as the above rules are observed, nothing herein is intended to restrict the ability of a player at any time to express a general interest in a prospective team or for a prospective team to express at any time a general interest in a prospective player.
2. It shall be a violation of these rules for any person, team, club or other organization to engage in recruiting as defined above. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all of the above listed participants associated with their team. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the NTSSA Competitive Committee. Allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered. Complainant

will file his complaint with the Youth Commissioner, who shall render a decision. Either party may file an appeal of the Youth Commissioner's decision with the NTSSA State Executive Committee according to the Bylaws of the NTSSA.

### **3.10.10 Soccer-Playing Year for Competitive Players**

1. **NTSSA** has established the seasonal year as being from September 1 through August 31. However, these rules provide that a competitive player is a free agent beginning July 1. That player will continue to be a free agent until the player and /or his parents or guardian have signed a contract with a team. The period of August 1 of the prior soccer year through completion of State Cup competition for their age group, whether or not their team is participating in State Cup, or completion of league play for their team, whichever is last of the current soccer year is considered the soccer-playing year for competitive players. During the soccer-playing year, players are not allowed to try out, practice, or participate with any other team, unless they are a competitive player in the same club or registered as a guest player with another team, in which case the proper release must be signed by all parties. Practice with a team on which a player is registered as a guest player is permitted only if the practice dates are included on the guest player release. A competitive player practicing with a team in the same club is permitted throughout the seasonal year. Otherwise, a player may practice with another team if he has received a written permission letter signed by his current coach that sets out the dates and the team with which the player will practice. The player is to give the letter to the coach of the team with which he will be practicing, and he must keep a copy for himself. After completion of State Cup competition for their age group or completion of league play for their team, whichever is last (the end of the soccer-playing year for competitive players), players may practice with other teams without any required release or other permission, although formal tryouts may not be held until July 1. Players wishing to guest play in tournaments must always obtain a properly signed guest player release. (See Rule 4.7.1.) Contracts may be signed beginning July 1, although signing July 1 is not mandatory. After July 1 players who are not or have not been rostered to a team for the current soccer year may sign a contract for the current soccer year at any time. (This does not include indoor soccer.)
2. Failure to comply shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the NTSSA Competitive Committee. Allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered and punishment periods are at the discretion of the Youth Commissioner committee hearing such allegations.

***NOTE:*** If a player currently registered to a team and/or his parent should contact a coach, assistant coach, or team manager to try out for another team, the above stated procedure must be followed.

3. If a player is released from a team in accordance with NTSSA rules for releasing competitive players, he/she is a free agent, and is allowed to practice with any team of his/her choosing without a release. The player may not transfer to another competitive team without following the NTSSA guidelines governing transfers.

## **3.11 DISCIPLINE**

All Member Associations are directed to distribute this rule to every youth and adult player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators.

### **3.11.1 Authority**

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the North Texas State Soccer Association have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA**, their local playing association, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member. The **NTSSA** Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Playing Associations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, team

representatives and referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** found in violation of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA**, their local member association, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member, may be subject to publication in the monthly newsletter or **NTSSA** President's Newsletter of this association of their name, the type of violation, and the disciplinary action taken. Publication will be limited to individuals receiving disciplinary actions of three months or greater.

2. All Member Associations and /or Playing Leagues are directed to form their own Appeals and Disciplinary Committees and to hold hearings--**WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT**--on every player/coach/assistant coach/spectators and/or parents as required for serious misconduct. All Member Associations are required to furnish the State Office with a maintained up-to-date list of their A&D Chairman and Committee members and to include their addresses and phone numbers.
3. Should a recreational Playing League cover multiple Associations, the members of the Appeals and Discipline Committee for this league should be comprised of representatives from each available association represented. The **NTSSA** A&D Committee shall serve as the first level of appeal involving complaints from participants of differing Associations. If a Playing League is hosted by a primary Association, the Appeals and Discipline Committee may be comprised of members of that Association.

As guidance, if the issue at hand was as a result of play, the Playing League will handle the disciplinary matter. All other matters shall be directed to coach/individual/teams home Association.

### **3.11.2 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches**

1. All Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials are directed to operate and keep records on a "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for all players/coaches/assistant coaches. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his or her old and new teams. Player suspensions mentioned in this section, including automatic suspensions "from all **NTSSA**-sanctioned activities," include all games (including indoor), organized scrimmages, friendly games, and the like, but do not include team practices.
2. A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:
  - a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

***NOTE:*** A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and those two yellow cards are then added to such individual's previous total of league play yellow cards to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.

- b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all **NTSSA**-sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play red card. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.

***NOTE:*** In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's

*respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. If a Member Association's and/or Playing League's A & D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the **FIFA** Laws of the Game, such A & D Committee may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly. The Member Association or Playing League may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to **NTSSA**.*

- c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all **NTSSA** sanctioned activities.
- d. **Exception** When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standings and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or national body that has been charged with the operation of said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games of that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

3. A **"CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM"** for each tournament will be operated as follows:

- a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

**NOTE:** *A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and those two yellow cards are then added to such individual's previous total of yellow cards for that tournament to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.*

- b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all **NTSSA**-sanctioned activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

**NOTE:** *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. If Tournament Officials determine a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the **FIFA** Laws of the Game, such officials may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly. The Tournament Officials may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to **NTSSA**.*

- c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in tournament play shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with **NTSSA** A&D Committee (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven)
- d. **Exceptions**

*For misconduct cards issued during State Cup, Regionals, or National competitions (US Youth Soccer), the misconduct will be handled within that competition.*

The "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by all Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents Member Associations, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case



should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association.

The State A&D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the Member Association or Playing League involved and the State A & D Committee.

Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled game (including league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) that such individual's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

All game suspensions must be reported immediately to the State A&D Committee. The Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials making the report will forward a copy of any referee's Misconduct Report(s) which underlie the suspension. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct.

The State A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the State A&D Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

#### Extreme Violent Conduct

- a. Member Associations, Playing Leagues and/or Tournament Officials are directed to extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

### 3.11.3 Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations are directed to operate and keep records on a twelve (12) point **"CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM"** for all player/coaches/assistant coaches. Offenses resulting in the cautioning of a player/coach/assistant coach by the referee (yellow card) are allowed points according to their seriousness ranging from one (1) to four (4) points. Appeals of cautions (yellow cards) are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the caution. Points are cumulative during each soccer season. When a given player/coach/assistant coach accumulates twelve (12) points sanctions are applied as described in Rule 3.11.3 (3). A player transferring to another team will carry over his or her accumulated points to his or her new team. Reports of these disciplinary actions are to be sent to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee at North Texas State Soccer Association Office.
2. The points of the **"CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM"** will be allocated as follows:
  - a. **12 points** Sent off from game due to Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting at Opponent/Person, Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity or Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language

For ejection from a game due to misconduct after receiving a caution, except for twelve (12) point offenses as stated above, points will be based on two (2) cautions.

**NOTE:** *If the Member Association A&D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an “expulsion” offense in accordance with the **FIFA** Laws of the Game, the Member Association may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess points for the yellow card. The Member Association may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to **NTSSA**.*

The **CAUTION** points are to be allocated as follows:

a. **FOUR POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate tripping, tripping and other “tactical”, deliberate, physical fouls.
- 2) Foul tackle from behind.
- 3) Interference by other players when the referee is speaking to a player after an offense has been committed.
- 4) Continued dissent of a decision in an attempt to unsettle the referee.

b. **THREE POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate, tactical obstruction.
- 2) Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game.
- 3) Shirt pulling and other similar tactics.
- 4) Deliberate encroachment at free-kicks.

c. **TWO POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate handball designed to break up attack.
- 2) Time wasting, including that by the goalkeeper.
- 3) Moving arms up and down to obstruct an opponent.
- 4) Gesticulating in front of a player taking a free-kick or thrown-in.
- 5) Fails to respect required distance or unsporting behavior at a penalty kick.
- 6) Other unsporting behavior.

d. **ONE POINT**

- 1) Entering or leaving the field without the referee’s permission.
- 2) Player leaning on a teammate to gain an extra height.
- 3) Pulling oneself up by the goal post or crossbar to gain an advantage.

3. **ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS**

- a. Twelve (12) Accumulated Caution Points - One Game Suspension
- b. Six (6) More Points - Two Game Suspension
- c. Six (6) More Points - Suspension pending A&D - Committee Inquiry

**Note: If a player receives two Cautions in a single game, they will be treated as a Send-Off and will not be counted towards the Accumulated Caution Points total.**

4. **SEND-OFF**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| a. One Send-off                            | - One Game Suspension |
| b. Second Send-off                         | - Two Game Suspension |
| c. Third Send-off - Suspension pending A&D | - Committee Inquiry   |

5. **FINES**

- |   |
|---|
| a. Teams Exceeding The Accumulated Point Limit - \$50                             |
| b. Teams Exceeding The Accumulated Point Limit Second Time in Soccer Year - \$100 |

**NOTE:** All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction to the North Texas State Soccer Association.

**NOTE:** This is the **minimum** disciplinary punishment taken by all Member Associations on ejections. Nothing herein prevents a Member Association from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

6. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as the Member Association with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association shall promptly (within five (5) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association.
7. The State A&D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one.
8. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the **NTSSA**.
9. Game suspensions for caution points and/or expulsions:  
  
The suspension is to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach/manager/or team representative at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, playoff, championship, cup games, local or state tournament game) that the player's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by **NTSSA** shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify his suspension (to sit out) the next game.
10. All game suspensions must be reported to the State. When an ejection or game suspension under the caution point system is issued to a player, the Member Association or league to which the player is affiliated will forward a copy of the referee's Misconduct Report of the ejection or a copy of the league's Disciplinary Committee report on suspension due to the excessive Caution Points directly to the **NTSSA State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**, together with the action taken by the Member Association. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct. Each additional caution and/or ejection of said player during the remainder of the soccer year will also be forwarded to the Committee for review and possible further action.
11. The **NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee** will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

12. Extreme Violent Conduct:

The State Member Association's Appeals and Disciplinary Committees are directed to extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

**3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators**

1. Each team (youth and adult) in **NTSSA** is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee has the authority to insist that the coach or acting coach deal with the misconduct of the spectators and resolve the problem. Failure to do so may result in the coach's dismissal from the field and/or termination of the match. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he is unable to do so, Member Associations, Playing Leagues and/or Tournament Officials are directed to take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself. Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.
2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:
  - a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
  - b. Report spectator to the local Park & Recreation Department.
  - c. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.)
  - d. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
  - e. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
  - f. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal "peace bond".

**3.11.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

**1. Youth Association Teams**

- a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to **NTSSA** within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Member Association and/or Playing League Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. If desired, the Member Association and/or Playing League may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. Failure of the Member Association or Playing League to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.
- b. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) Tournament Officials shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to **NTSSA** within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth send-off. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the committee to explain the team's

continued misconduct. Failure of Tournament Officials to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's fourth will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during league play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

## **2. Adult Association Teams**

- a. When the players/coaches/team representatives/spectators of a given team have accumulated a combined point limit for that team, based on five (5) points per scheduled league game, per season, as described in the **"CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM"** in Rule 3.11.3, the Adult Member Association will notify the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the **NTSSA** Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct.
- b. The North Texas State Soccer Association will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

## **3. All Association Teams**

- a. The **NTSSA** holds the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.
- b. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the **NTSSA**.

### **3.11.6 Games Directly Sponsored by NTSSA**

Misconduct involving any participant (player, coach, parent/spectator) of State-sponsored games, as opposed to Member Association league play, will be reported directly to the Tournament Officials of the State Cup and Games Committee and will be forwarded to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee immediately after the occurrence for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee**

1. North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee, in any competition by the State or Member Associations. This jurisdiction includes:
  - a. All **USSF** registered referees (adult and youth).
  - b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
  - c. Any coach, parent or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.
2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, the appropriate State Commissioner (Adult Men's, Adult Women's, Youth or Indoor), the Olympic Development Program Chairman and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.

3. Should the majority of the members of the subcommittee listed above in Paragraph 3.11.7.2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault or referee abuse, a formal hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act upon or towards a game official as defined in Paragraph 3.11.7.1 above shall be deemed “referee assault” or “referee abuse” in the NTSSA under the terms, references, and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9.

If the subcommittee determines there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault, the committee, at its discretion, may suspend the individual involved until the hearing on the alleged assault.

Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.11.7-2 above, determine the action committed to be Misconduct Towards a Referee rather than Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, it shall impose an administrative punishment of a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the suspended party. Should a formal hearing be requested and held, it shall be an NTSSA Executive Committee hearing as described in Paragraph 3.11.7.4.

4. State Executive Committee Hearing

Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Executive Committee in the following manner:

- a. The alleged offending party should be present at such hearings, however, if he is not present, the State Executive Committee will act upon the matter with the information before it.
- b. The game official(s) are required to be present at the hearings. However, if they are not present, the State Executive Committee will act upon the matter with the information before it.
- c. It is intended that the officials’ reports be clear and that no explanations are required at the hearing. Only the State Executive Committee will question the official(s). If the offending party or any other party or any other person(s) need explanation, such queries will be addressed through the Chair.

5. Terms and References

- a. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.). Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
- b. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee’s personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece”, shall be deemed referee abuse.
- c. Misconduct towards a referee means persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or abuse as provided under Federation Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:
  - i. excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;
  - ii. statements that diminish the authority of the referee;
  - iii. statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.

- iv. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:
  1. confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;
  2. spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;
  3. throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;
  4. re-entering the field.

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:

- i. if a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
- ii. if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.

## 6. Penalties and Suspensions

### a. Referee Assault

The person committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

1. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least three (3) months from the time of the assault;
2. except as provided in clause one (1) or two (2), for any other assault, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
3. for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
4. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

### b. Referee Abuse

The person committing the referee abuse shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

### c. Misconduct Towards a Referee

The person committing the misconduct towards a referee shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

- d. Any suspension assessed against an individual under this section does not effect any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league for a violation that is not referee assault or abuse.

7. Any party found to have committed the act of referee assault, referee abuse, or misconduct towards a referee shall have the right to appeal, within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, to the **USSF Appeals Board**, following **USSF Bylaw 705**.

## 8. Assault On Officials By An Adult Player

Should a player (male or female) be found guilty of referee assault, the State Executive Committee may, at its discretion, impose upon the team of which the player is a member, the requirement of posting a \$1,000 cash bond to be held in the treasury of **NTSSA** without interest for a period of one (1) year after posting. This cash bond will be required to be posted before the team may engage in any further games within the boundaries of **NTSSA**. Should any other member of said team be found guilty of a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the team shall forfeit the bond, and another similar bond will be required before the team can continue in competition. If no member of the team commits a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the bond will be returned to the person or persons designated to receive such payment. No member of such team which has failed to post such bond will be permitted to register with another team until that member has posted a \$50 bond with **NTSSA**; nor shall any

new member be allowed to register on that team until such member has posted a \$50 bond, such bonds to be held under the same terms and conditions as the team bonds.

### **3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees**

When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another referee, the State A&D Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to his activities.

### **3.11.9 Appellate Procedures**

1. All those under the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** are reminded that they must exhaust all appellate procedures of the Member Association on all matters not covered by these Rules before the State Association can acquire jurisdiction to hear the appeal under its rules.
2. Member Associations are reminded that they may set the rules of hearings and may restrict the number of witnesses, and the time allotted to each, so long as fair hearings are held. It may also determine whether it wants to allow closed or open hearings.
3. Member Associations and their committees are urged to refuse to hear any appeal when any person is threatening a lawsuit. You should pass the appeal to the next higher forum which would hear it. This is a sport to which we are giving freely of our time, and none of us needs to take the trouble and expense to appear in court.
4. To allow the use of tape recorders, court reporters and the presence of attorneys at hearings is optional with the Member Associations

**NTSSA** will refuse to allow such recording devices, and the presence of attorneys at hearings is optional with the Member Associations.

5. Should any aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all avenues of appeal including through to the **USSF**, the State Association may, at its discretion, suspend such person or refuse to accept further registration in soccer activities within its jurisdiction.
6. An appeal of decisions pursuant to Rule 3.11 made by Member Associations, after Member Association's appeal procedures have been exhausted, will be made to the State A&D Committee in accordance with procedures established by this section.
7. An appeal of decisions made by the State A&D Committee will be made to the State Executive Committee in accordance with procedures established in this section.
8. An appeal of decisions presented to the **NTSSA** will be:
  - a. In writing.
  - b. Made to the General Manager of **NTSSA** within five (5) days of receipt of written notice of the lower level authority's decision(s).
  - c. Fees, as specified, will be in cash or certified check and will accompany the written notice of appeal.
9. Filing fees for appeals will, under no circumstances, be waived. Fees will be refunded to the appealing party only if the previous decision is overruled. Fees will be:
  - a. All Player Appeals- \$50 - (\$25 paid by the player and \$25 paid by the coach)
  - b. All Coach Appeals & Referee Appeals - \$100
  - c. All Team Appeals - \$100

### **3.11.10 Records**

The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend towards numerous misconduct



reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

### **3.11.11 Association to Comply**

When any Member Association or a member thereof, fails to send in reports as required by this Rule, **NTSSA** will take any action it considers proper, including fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by Member Association can result in such association being declared not in good standing.

## **3.12 REFEREE SYSTEM**

### **3.12.1**

The only approved referee system for all **NTSSA** competitions (both State and affiliated members) shall be the International Three-Referee system (a referee and two neutral assistant referee) employing **FIFA** Laws of the Game (as modified herein), officiating techniques and mechanics. **The order of preference when three registered referees are not available is as follows:**

1. A **USSF** referee and one **USSF** assistant referee and one “certified” junior assistant referee.
2. A **USSF** referee and one **USSF** assistant referee and one club assistant referee.
3. A **USSF** referee and two certified “junior” assistant referees.
4. A **USSF** referee and one certified “junior” assistant referee and one club linesman.
5. A **USSF** referee and two club linesmen
6. A **USSF** referee only.

### **3.12.2**

Under no circumstances will the dual referee system of officiating be utilized for any **NTSSA** sanctioned games (which include all Member Associations league games, cup matches, and tournaments). Member Associations of **NTSSA** who attempt to employ this system of officiating will be declared not in good standing upon thirty (30) days written notice by the State Executive Committee. If they do not take immediate, positive steps to comply with this rule, the Member Association will be held to be not in good standing.

### **3.12.3**

Coaches of **NTSSA** registered and affiliated teams shall not play a competitive league, cup or tournament match under the dual system of officiating, nor can their teams be forced to forfeit said game(s) for refusing to play under the dual system.

## **3.13 GAME PROTESTS**

### **3.13.1**

There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:

1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or
2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.

### **3.13.2**

No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that . . . “A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the

referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the local referee's group or the State Referee Committee.

### 3.13.3

Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the match shall not be entertained by any protest committee or board unless an objection has been lodged with the match referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the protest committee of the Member Association under whose direct jurisdiction the match was played. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protestor won the match) except by consent of said protest committee.

### 3.13.4

A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all of the games in which the player participated. A coach, assistant coach, and/or manager of the team playing such player shall be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The offending player may be suspended from soccer activities.

## 3.14 NTSSA RULES OF COMPETITION

*Please see Rule 3.14-3.17 at the end of this rulebook if the Member Association is not adopting 3.14 below until 09-01-2017.*

**FIFA** Laws of the Game as Modified (recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of **NTSSA** and its affiliated members shall be the **FIFA** Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

### 3.14.1 Law I - Field of Play

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Field Width</u>	<u>Field Length</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
<u>Adult</u>			
All Ages	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 120 yds.	8ft. x24 ft.
<u>Youth</u>			
Under 19	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 16	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 14	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 12	44 - 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.
Under 10	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds..	6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.
Under 8 and younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 – 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

### 3.14.2 Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
Over 40, Over 35, Over 30, Under 23, Adult, Under 19, Under 16 and Under 14	Size #5
Under 12 and Under 10	Size #4
Under 8 and Under 6	Size #3

### 3.14.3 Law III - Number of Players and Substitution

1. Under 13 and older shall play 11v11.
2. Under 12 shall play 9v9
3. Under 10 shall play 7v7
4. Under 8 and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.
5. Substitution Rule – Youth under 8 and older
  - a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
  - b. Either team, at a goal-kick;
  - c. Either team, after a goal is scored;
  - d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
  - e. At halftime/period
  - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.

\*\*\* NTSSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 7 and younger age groups only.

The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.
6. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player’s time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** FIFA rules for substitution will apply.
8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
  - Adult – maximum 25 players
  - Under 16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players
  - Under 14 – maximum 18 players
  - Under 12 – maximum 16 players
  - Under 10 – maximum 12 players
  - Under 8 and younger– recommend 6, maximum 8 players

### 3.14.4 Law IV - Player’s Equipment

Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the **FIFA** Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

**3.14.5 Law V - Referee \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA** -Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. Registered Referees
2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players

**3.14.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee**

Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for Under 9 and older. There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

**3.14.7 Law VII - Duration of Game**

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Length of Periods</u>	<u>Length of Overtime</u>
<b>Adult</b>		
Adult	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
<b>Youth</b>		
Under 19	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 16	Two 40 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 14	Two 35 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 12	Two 30 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 10	Two 25 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 8	Three 15 min.	None
Under 7 and younger	Four 8 min.	None

**3.14.8 Law VIII - Start of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.**

**3.14.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA**

**3.14.10 Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player if local playing rules so provide.**

**3.14.11 Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger there is no offside.**

**3.14.12 Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in **NTSSA**. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground." Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per **FIFA** laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.
2. It is not intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to

protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.

3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line.
5. \*U12 and younger recreational play shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

\*In competitive and international play, U11 and younger is highly recommended

6. For players in U12 and U13, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 3.14.13 | <b>Law XIII - Free Kick *** Conforms with FIFA except for all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.</b> |
| 3.14.14 | <b>Law XIV - Penalty Kick *** Conforms with FIFA except for no penalty kicks in Under 8 and younger.</b>   |
| 3.14.15 | <b>Law XV - Throw-In *** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and Under 7 are allowed a re-throw. Under 6 and younger may use kick-in.</b>  |
| 3.14.16 | <b>Law XVI - Goal Kick *** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.</b>   |
| 3.14.17 | <b>Law XVII - Corner Kick *** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.</b>  |

***NOTE:*** Adult and/or youth teams which travel out of the U.S.A., for competition, especially tournaments, should be prepared to play pure **FIFA Laws of the Game**, including two to five maximum substitutions, in a match (with no re-entry after substitution), legal charging of goalkeeper in possession, etc.)

### **3.15 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT**

If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the respective authority, the respective authority shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

### **3.16 CHANGES**

These Rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at either the Semi-Annual or Annual General Meeting provided twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes or additions, have been submitted to the membership. Any changes or additions to these rules that are approved by this membership shall immediately become a part of these rules, and all Member Associations shall receive a written or electronic copy of the new rule or amendment of the rule within forty-five (45) days.

Where a quorum is present at the above meetings, it will take a majority vote of the members present at the meeting to pass new rules or to change or amend present rules.

### **3.17 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

Any proposal to amend the rules or add new rules may be made only by Executive Officers of Member Associations, **NTSSA** Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of **NTSSA**. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed change must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this Association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time frame required in Rule 3.19.

## CHAPTER 4 RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS

### 4.1 DEFINITION OF YOUTH REGISTRANTS

#### 4.1.1

Youth registration of soccer players under these **NTSSA** rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by **USSF**, being all male and female registrants **under** the age of **nineteen (19)**.

#### 1. Registration

- a. **Recreational:** The player is registered to a recreational association from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the USYSA registration form and pays the appropriate fees to that association subject to Rule 4.2.1. Rostering means assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by **NTSSA** or its member associations.
- b. **Competitive:** The player is registered and rostered to that team from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the USYSA registration form and pays a portion of the fee to that team or participates as a rostered player in an NTSSA sanctioned game.

**NOTE:** Rule 4.2.3

- c. **Recreational Plus:** For proper age players U-11 and older. **NTSSA** allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of recreational plus soccer. For a dual registered player, the player's recreational team shall be considered the player's primary team and the recreational plus team shall be considered the players secondary team. Players may be assigned to Recreational Plus teams by any **NTSSA** recreational team formation method (Rule 4.8). Additionally, member associations may consider requests from Recreational Plus players to play together on a team. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. The member association accepts as participants in the league any and all eligible youths. Recreational Plus teams must play in a Recreational Plus or Open League. Recreational Plus teams may not enter Recreational Tournaments unless the tournament provides a Recreational Plus division.
- d. **Youth Coed:** For proper age players U-11 and older. **NTSSA** allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of coed soccer. For a dual-registered player, the player's same-sex team shall be considered the player's primary team and the coed team shall be considered the player's secondary team.
  - 1) Recreational Coed: Players may be assigned to teams by any **NTSSA** recreational team formation method (Rule 4.8). Additionally, member associations may consider requests from coed players to play together on a team.
  - 2) Competitive Coed: If a coed team has more than 50 percent of its players also registered as competitive outdoor players, the coed team shall be classified as a competitive coed team.

#### 4.1.2

Age grouping for **NTSSA** and Member Associations play shall be:

#### YOUTH

Under 19

Under 16

Under 14

Under 12

Under 10

Under 8

Under 6

\*\* Age three (3) is the minimum age to play soccer

The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Exception: If allowed by the Member Association playing rules, players who are three (3) years of age by July 31 will be eligible to play in the Fall season and players who turn (3) years of age by December 31 will be eligible to play in the Spring season.

The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

#### 4.1.3

Member Associations will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play for the first time in the Association.

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

## 4.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

### 4.2.1

Youth players may only be registered with one **NTSSA** sanctioned team at any given time during the soccer year. The soccer year will coincide with the soccer year of the United States Soccer Federation. Youth players may change teams during the year in the following manner: ***NOTE:*** *Read Rule 4.5.*

1. Member Associations who reserve the right to reassign players at the Association's desire may reassign said players and re-register the new teams by filing with the Registrar of the State the new team roster. All reassigned players are considered "transfers" for rostering purposes.
2. Youths who play on teams which will be involved in state and national competitions as well as inter-association play may only change teams during the soccer year in the following manner:
  - a. Obtain a written release from the team with which he was last registered during the soccer year. ***NOTE:*** *Player must use NTSSA "Player Release Form".*
  - b. New team must complete Add/Transfer/Delete form on a transfer player; pay a transfer fee set by **NTSSA** in order to register a transfer player on new team; and submit form and fee to their Home Association.
  - c. The player's home association or the association within which team plays, must file with the State Association the Add/Transfer/Delete form and proper release forms.
3. Youth players will become "free-agents" on July 1. No **NTSSA membership form**, club contract, or any agreement may be signed before July 1 for the coming seasonal year. Any player signing with a team before July 1 may be declared ineligible for the team. Contracts shall not be signed prior to July 1 and postdated. The coach, manager, and/or other persons affiliated with the team allowing early signing and/or post-dating of contracts are subject to serious sanctions, which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the NTSSA Competitive Committee. ***NOTE:*** *Exceptions to this rule may be made by the Youth Commissioner when an entire association has an earlier registration.*



**Definition of “Free-Agent”:** A free agent is a player in the U-11 through U-19 age division who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team. All players in the U-11 through U19 age divisions become free agents as of July 1. **NOTE:** *The “free-agent” rule applies only to those players trying out or being selected for competitive teams. The rule does not apply to movement of players in the recreational leagues.*

4. Member Associations may form recreational All-Star Teams in U-12 through U-19 divisions from players who continue to be registered within one Member Association on recreational teams for purposes of participating in tournaments designated for Select or Competitive teams. Recreational All-Star Teams shall be defined as teams composed of players selected from more than one recreational team that register with a single association.
5. A recreational All-Star team formed during the current soccer year may not form as a competitive team until the following soccer year.

#### **4.2.3**

Youth players registering (in the customary practice and form adopted by the Member Associations) with a team during the month of July or August for sanctioned competition which will continue into the subsequent soccer year will, at the time of registration, be deemed registered to the team for the subsequent year.

### **4.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

Players must register to play soccer with a Member Association. Upon request, no Member Association is permitted to deny a Player Release to an individual player. No fee may be associated with an approved Player Release unless such player is being released outside of North Texas Soccer. Only the receiving Member Association will register the player. A Member Association may not actively recruit players from outside of their defined territory.

### **4.4 ASSOCIATION’S RESPONSIBILITIES AS TO REGISTRATION WITH THE STATE ASSOCIATION**

Each Member Association shall be obligated to register its players with the State Association in accordance with Article II 2.2.2 of the North Texas State Soccer Association Bylaws.

### **4.5 YOUTH TRANSFERS**

**NTSSA** youth players may only be transferred once during the soccer year. Should any member association desire to transfer a recreational youth player more than once during a soccer year, it may file an appeal directly to the **NTSSA** Youth Commissioner. Only those circumstances that directly affect the successful completion of their program or the welfare of the player will be considered. Exceptions to the one transfer rule for competitive players may also be appealed directly to the **NTSSA** Youth Commissioner and will only be considered in situations out of the player’s control, such as a team folding to allow the player to continue playing at a competitive level if they chose. Decisions of the Youth Commissioner may be appealed directly to the **NTSSA** Executive Committee.

1. Players who have registered in the current soccer year and have participated in the Olympic Development Program (O.D.P) may not transfer or be added to the team that their O.D.P coach or assistant coach participate with for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year.

**NOTE:** *The free agent rule applies only to those players trying out or being selected for competitive teams. The rule does not apply to movement of players in the recreational leagues.*

#### **2. Competitive (Select) Players**

Competitive (select) youth players may not change teams prior to July 1 of the current soccer year except in limited circumstances as provided in Rule 3.10.7. Players will become free

agents on July 1. No **NTSSA** membership form, club contract, or any agreement may be signed before July 1. Competitive players do not need a release from their current coach to attend camps/clinics from June 1 through July 1. However, they will not be allowed to be added to any team until July 1.

## **4.6 GUEST PLAYERS**

### **4.6.1**

When traveling out of **NTSSA** for friendly or tournament games, **NTSSA** shall allow the use of the number of guest players that is allowed by the tournament or hosting organization, providing the tournament or hosting organization allows their use. The use of guest players shall be in accordance with the following procedures:

1. **NTSSA** Guest Player form must be filled out in triplicate and a copy sent to the **NTSSA** State Office, one copy to the coach releasing the player, and one copy to the coach requesting the loan of the player.
2. The recreational guest player may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's recreational roster for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.
3. A guest player's current team's membership pass signed by the Youth Commissioner will be used in activities necessitating the use of USYS travel I.D. cards.
4. Guest players may practice with the team on which they are guests only if the dates for the practices are included on the guest player release signed by the guest player's registered coach. Violators of this rule are subject to discipline under the rules governing use of ineligible players.
5. Academy players who are not rostered to a recreational team are not eligible to participate as a guest player on any other recreational team.

### **4.6.2**

Teams will be allowed up to five (5) guest players, providing the hosting organization allows guest players. These guest players and guest players on teams traveling out of **NTSSA** may participate in any or all of the tournaments that the team may enter.

**EXCEPTION:** At any time, a team which loses a player(s) to participate in a **USSF**, **USASA**, **USYSA** National Team Activity (including the U. S. National Team, Regional Teams or Olympic Development Program Teams) may replace that player(s) with guest player(s) for competition in sanctioned tournaments if the tournament and National Team activity occur at the same time.

### **4.6.3**

If a team uses guest players in a tournament sponsored by **NTSSA**, the Coach must file Guest Player Release forms with the **NTSSA** Cup and Games Chairman for his approval prior to the tournament. If a Recreational team is using Guest Players in any other tournament sanctioned by **NTSSA**, the coach must have the player's Home Association signature before turning into tournament director for his approval prior to the tournament. If a Competitive team is using Guest Players in any other tournament sanctioned by **NTSSA**, the Coach must have the appropriate signatures before turning into the tournament director for his approval prior to the tournament. Coach of the team who fails to submit the Guest Player Release forms shall receive a six (6) month suspension from all soccer activities.

#### **4.6.4**

On a team traveling outside of **NTSSA** and using guest players, the coach must file guest player release forms with the **NTSSA** Youth Commissioner for his approval. These forms should be filed with the **NTSSA** office fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament. Coach of the team that fails to submit guest player release forms shall receive a six (6) month suspension from all soccer activities.

#### **4.6.5**

Under no conditions can a player on a select/competitive team participate as a guest player for a recreational team unless that team is playing in an open or competitive tournament.

### **4.7 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES:**

#### **4.7.1**

In order to promote soccer participation, a player may invite a friend from the same Member Association who was not registered in any Member Association during the last two seasons to join his existing team with the permission of the Member Association.

#### **4.7.2**

If a Member Association permits teams to remain together from season to season then the player has the right to stay on the team, and the Member Association must insure that all those rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on that team. In the event there are not enough players in the player pool, Member Associations may allow coaches to actively seek players of the proper age group within the Member Association to be added to the player pool.

New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following two methods:

1. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group coordinating committee of more than one member on an unbiased basis as defined by the Member Association By-Laws/Constitution.
2. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a territorial basis as stated above.

Player's names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching.

If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the Member Association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the Member Association's Board of Directors.

A Member Association may have only one recreation team formation process per age group.

Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational.

Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered non-recreational for recreational league and tournament play.

Any recreational coach who knowingly and/or willingly drops a player from their roster, or advises that player not to play for their team, whether through direct contact or coercion shall be called before the Member Association discipline committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching.

#### **4.7.3**

A team not formed of players assigned as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above is considered a select/competitive team.

### **4.8 YOUTH COMPETITIVE CLUB DISTINCTION**

#### **1. Youth Competitive Club**

A competitive club is any group of two or more competitive teams that have a common administrative group and play under the same name. Competitive Clubs are recognized by **NTSSA** on a team-by-team basis.

#### **2. Registered Youth Competitive Club**

- a. A Competitive Club that has at least six (6) competitive teams playing in a competitive league(s) may register for recognition as a Registered Competitive Club. If a club falls below the required six (6) registered competitive teams, it will no longer be recognized as a Registered Competitive Club and it will not be allowed a representative on the North Texas Soccer Competitive Committee or the Competitive Club Advisory Council. .
- b. A club will be recognized as a Registered Competitive Club once properly completed registration forms, together with any required supporting documentation, have been submitted to **NTSSA**. The Club must keep its contact information up-to-date with North Texas Soccer in the case of a change of any administrative position in the club. The Competitive Soccer Committee as directed by the Youth Commissioner will review all submissions for compliance.
- c. A Competitive Club may register for recognition as a Registered Competitive Club at any time during the soccer year.
- d. A Registered Competitive Club may be held accountable to **NTSSA** for the acts or omissions of its members, coaches, trainers, managers, players, parents, officers, directors, officials, agents and/or other representative, provided that such acts or omissions constitute violations of rules, laws, codes and/or regulations which are within **NTSSA**'s enforcement jurisdiction. Provided, further, such accountability shall lie only if:
  - 1) The common administrative group had prior actual knowledge of such acts or omissions and consented to them or failed to take reasonable steps to prevent them; or
  - 2) Following written notice from **NTSSA** that such violations have occurred, the Registered Club fails to take reasonable, timely, and appropriate remedial measures.
- e. The accountability provided for in this section may include monetary sanctions not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per incident, or other sanctions, and/or revocation of such club's status as a Registered Competitive Club.

### **4.9 CLUB PASS PLAYERS**

#### **4.9.1**

Competitive teams will be permitted to have club pass players for league and/or tournament games if specifically allowed by the league or tournament rules. The use of club pass players shall be in accordance with the following:

1. The club pass player must be a competitive player registered with **NTSSA** to another team within the same club.

2. The club pass player may not play down from their own age group.
3. A release from the team to which the player is rostered is not required. It is up to the club to manage any issues within their teams/parents/coaches relating to club pass players.
4. Club pass players may practice with the team to which they are scheduled to player pass.
5. The team and club pass player must follow the rules of the competition, including but not limited to total numbers of club pass players allowed per game and/or the number of teams with which a player may compete in a day, week or event.

#### 4.9.2

Any coach/team utilizing a club pass player outside of these rules or the rules of the competition will be considered to have played and ineligible player and will be subject to sanctions/discipline under the rules governing use of an ineligible player.

### 4.10 TRYOUTS

**NTSSA** has no rule that condones or restricts tryouts except that tryouts are not allowed for U-6 through U-10 players. It does, therefore, support its Member Association's rules concerning the matter. If the player's home association does not allow or refuses the right to hold tryouts, **NTSSA** must uphold the Member Association's actions.

#### 1. Tryout Advertisement

Any Club/Team wishing to conduct tryouts in **NTSSA** may do so by advertising the tryouts containing only the information below:

- a. Team name, age group and club affiliation.
- b. Geographical area served by the team, if desired.
- c. Season of tryouts and dates and times.
- d. Location of tryout and directions, if necessary.
- e. Coach's complete name and telephone number and/or the contact person name and telephone number.
- f. Coach's **USSF**, **USYS**, **NSCAA** and/or **NTSSA** badge level, if desired.
- g. Notes regarding seasonal need for a release, if necessary.
- h. What to bring, such as water, ball, etc.

**NOTE:** *Advertisement is defined as but not limited to, any notification of tryouts on television, radio, periodicals, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, flyers, circulars or direct mailings. The distribution of any Team Fact Sheet, club information brochures, coach's resumes or the like at tryouts shall not constitute advertising.*

#### 2. Team/Club Fact Sheet

All competitive teams must complete and forward to the **NTSSA** office the Team/Club Fact Sheet for all anticipated teams by June 15 preceding the July 1 tryout date. Teams that were not anticipated must forward their Team/Club Fact Sheet to the **NTSSA** office prior to signing of players. Violations of this rule or misrepresentation of information on the fact sheet shall result in the offending coach, manager, and/or administrator being suspended for a minimum of one year. The Team/Club Fact Sheet may be distributed at any time after submission to North Texas Soccer. However, all players attending tryouts must receive a copy of the Team/Club Fact Sheet and must sign a receipt acknowledging same. (Parental signature is accepted for minors.) Clubs and teams are encouraged to publish their Team/Club Fact Sheets on their Club/Team web page.

#### **4.11 COMPETITIVE LEAGUE RESTRICTIONS FOR U-6, U-8, AND U-10**

##### **4.11.1**

No Member Association may conduct or sponsor any competitive league competition in U-6, U-8, and U-10 age groups.

Players who have not attained the proper age to be eligible for Under 12 play shall not be allowed to play up on competitive (select or tryout) teams or in tournaments designated as competitive (this includes recreational all-star teams).

Players who are not eligible for Under 12 play are not free agents and are not eligible to attend tryouts.

##### **4.11.2**

Those Member Associations who are found to be in violation of this rule, after a formal investigation conducted by the State Youth Commissioner, shall be immediately declared to be in bad standing as defined in **NTSSA** Bylaws Article II, Paragraph 2.2.3-6,7. Teams of such Member Associations shall be removed from all competition: Intrastate, Interstate, Regional, and National. Should teams from this association have travel permits approved, they also will be rescinded.

##### **4.11.3**

Appeal of any portion of this rule must be made in writing to the State Youth Commissioner. Should the appeal be of his decision, then it should be made to the State Executive Committee. Procedures for the filing of appeals and the appropriate cost shall be in accordance with **NTSSA** Bylaws 2.10.1-18.

***NOTE:*** *(Intent of this rule in no way shall preclude a Member Association from inter-playing with another Member Association to insure enough teams to have a proper competition in their recreation league. The intent of this rule is to stop tryouts and competitive leagues in age groups not leading to a regional or national championship as recognized by the United States Soccer Federation).*

#### **4.12 REGISTRATION OF COACHES (Applies to Recreational, Academy, and Competitive)**

**NTSSA recommends every coach/assistant coach/manager be issued, on a soccer year basis, an official NTSSA ID Card which has been validated using a government issued picture ID.**

1. Each coach/assistant coach/manager of a team shall be required to register with **NTSSA** each soccer year.
2. To register, every coach/assistant coach/manager shall complete 3.6.1 Adult Criminal Background check.
3. Any coach/trainer offering or participating in individual/team practices or training sessions, soccer camps, skills camps, and/or similar activities involving youth players, must be registered with **NTSSA**.
4. Head coach of record must be at least 18 years of age.

#### **4.13 SANCTION OF COMPETITIVE LEAGUES**

All competitive leagues within **NTSSA** must be approved by the Youth Commissioner prior to the commencement of competitions. The Competitive Soccer Committee will review all requests from Member Associations and submit a recommendation to the Youth Commissioner for his disposition. In order to be an approved Competitive League within **NTSSA**, the following conditions must be met:

1. A sufficient number of competitive teams exist within the geographical area to be served to warrant a competitive league.
2. The sponsoring Member Association exhibits adequate financial and administrative strength to conduct competitions for competitive teams.
3. The sponsoring Member Association has access to adequate fields and qualified referees to begin competitive play without compromising recreational and adult play.
4. The sponsoring Member Association presents competitive Bylaws and Rules acceptable for the administration of a competitive league.
5. The sponsoring Member Association is in good standing with **NTSSA**.

All competitive leagues currently holding competitions will have one year to meet the above guidelines. Any Member Association sponsoring a competitive league must give permission to the league before the league will be allowed to move to another Member Association within **NTSSA**. Failure of a Member Association to receive approval prior to the holding of competitive competitions will result in the Member Association being declared not in good standing.

#### **4.14 SUMMER TOURS/TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF USA**

Those **NTSSA** players desirous of engaging in summer tours for touring and travel purposes may travel with any accepted and known group with all the courtesies and protection of the **NTSSA** without proper releases from their duly registered teams. Such group tours shall be identified as such on all travel applications.

#### **4.15 CHANGES**

These rules of registration may be changed at any regular meeting or Annual General Meeting providing twenty-one (21) days written notice of the meeting, including a written copy of the proposed changes, has been submitted to the membership.

#### **4.16 SANCTION FOR VIOLATION RULES**

Failure to comply with the “Rules for Registration of Youth Players” shall result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative, and players being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year.

## CHAPTER 5

### INDOOR SOCCER

#### 5.1 PLAYING FACILITY

A playing facility must first submit an application to and receive approval from North Texas State Soccer Association.

#### 5.2 REGISTRATIONS

##### 5.2.1 Registered Players

Only registered indoor players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of the affiliated facility. A facility which allows the use of unregistered indoor players in sanctioned play shall be subject to forfeiture of its facility affiliation.

##### 5.2.2 Adult Registrations

1. Each indoor player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued indoor I.D. card.

##### 3. Indoor I. D. Cards

- a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
- b. The I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
- c. Affiliated facilities offering Indoor will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Indoor I.D. Card.
- d. A temporary I.D. Card may be issued by the facility to existing rostered players and shall only be valid for the date of issue. It may be issued to either a youth or adult player. A Temporary I.D. Card may not be used by a youth in an adult game, unless that player's name is already on the roster.

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

##### 4. Indoor Insurance

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at the time of registration. Player's indoor I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

##### 5. Youth Players in Adult Play

Players who have attained the age of 17 may request to play on an adult team. A provisional release must be obtained from the Indoor Commissioner.

A player may register on as many teams as he may choose as long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.



### 5.2.3 Youth Registrations

1. Each indoor player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued indoor I.D. card.

#### 3. Indoor I. D. Cards

- a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
- b. The I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
- c. Affiliated facilities offering Indoor will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Indoor I.D. card.
- d. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the immigration and naturalization service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

#### e. Coach I.D. Cards

All affiliated indoor facilities shall require all youth coaches to present a valid photo I.D., a valid coaches I.D. card or shall be required to complete a **NTSSA** Coach/Referee, volunteer/Staff Application prior to the issuance of a Coach I.D. Card.

- f. All affiliated indoor facilities are to submit completed **NTSSA** Applications to the **NTSSA** State Office within fifteen days of completion of the form.

#### 4. Indoor Insurance

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at time of registration. Player's indoor I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

5. A player may register on as many teams as he may choose so long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

#### 6. Age Grouping for Play

U-19

U-16

U-14

U- 12

U-10

U- 8

U-6      \*\*Age three (3) is the minimum age to play soccer

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Exception: If allowed by the Member Association playing rules, players who turn three (3) years of age by July 31 will be eligible to play in the Fall season and players who turn (3) years of age by December 31 will be eligible to play in the Spring season.

7. Since indoor soccer is a separate sport, players of two (2) or more outdoor teams may combine without affecting their eligibility for State Cup play.
8. Previously registered (outdoor) recreational youth players playing indoor for a specific team or coach may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after the team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.
9. Players need not have releases from member associations to engage in indoor league or tournament play.
10. Soccer camps (clinics), academies, private lessons, etc. hosted or held indoors that include **NTSSA** registered outdoor players must comply with Rule 3.10.2.

#### **5.2.4 Team Records**

Team rosters are to be on file at each facility prior to the first game of each session and must be submitted to **NTSSA** no later than four (4) weeks after the session starts. Changes to rosters after submission, must be on a **NTSSA** ADD/DELETE Form and sent to **NTSSA** within seven (7) days.

### **5.3 RULES**

#### **5.3.1 Laws of the Game**

All indoor play shall be played in accordance with the **NTSSA - Rules for Indoor Play**.

1. Two officials will be required for U-16, U-19 and adults.
2. Only one official shall be required for all play below U-16.
3. Indoor facilities may only use registered **NTSSA** Indoor Referees.

#### **5.3.2 Player I.D. Cards**

1. No player may be placed on a roster without a valid **NTSSA** approved Indoor I.D. card.
2. No player may play in any sanctioned **NTSSA** play without furnishing a valid state approved Indoor I.D. card to the referee. The I.D. cards and rosters will be verified by the referee/timekeeper each game.
3. The referee shall retain all cards of players who receive a red card. The player I.D. card shall be turned into the **NTSSA** State Office or its duly designated representative along with the referee misconduct report within seventy-two (72) hours.
4. Failure of any official to file a misconduct report on an ejection and to furnish appropriate player I.D. cards with the report shall result in that official not being allowed to officiate any **NTSSA** Indoor games for a period of one (1) week.

### **5.4 MISCONDUCT**

All affiliated facilities are charged with the responsibility of seeing that this rule is distributed to every youth and senior player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that each player will make known these contents to his or her parents and spectators.

#### **5.4.1 Ejections and Fines (minimums)**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. First Expulsion | One Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$25 fine. |
| Second Expulsion   | Two Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$50 fine. |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Expulsion for Violent Conduct                          | Two Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$50 fine.                             |
| 3. Expulsion for Fighting on one)                         | Three Week Suspension from all soccer (one activities and \$50 fine.                   |
| 4. Expulsion for Fighting (more than two people involved) | Suspended from all soccer activities pending NTSSA Disciplinary Hearing and \$75 fine. |
5. Any player receiving three (3) expulsions during the soccer year will be suspended for a period of not less than three (3) months from the date of the third ejection. A suspension imposed by **NTSSA** shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification.

*\*\*All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction, to the North Texas State Soccer Association. Any player, coach, assistant coach, or manager failing to remit the appropriate fees will not be allowed to register on any NTSSA team until all fees are paid.*

#### **5.4.2 Authority**

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the **NTSSA** have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA**, Affiliated Playing Facilities, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member. The **NTSSA** Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Playing Facilities, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and referees who choose to affiliate.
2. All affiliated facilities are directed to inform the **NTSSA** A&D Committee on every player/coach/ assistant coach cautioned or ejected and on referee's reports of serious misconduct by spectators and/or parents as required by subsequent sections of this rule.
3. Matters concerning misconduct and appeals shall rest with the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or its designated authority, at the first level.
4. Any misconduct by a coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment to be taken. The State A&D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee, unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.
5. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents, and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the **NTSSA** A&D Committee or its duly-appointed authority.
6. All game suspensions must be reported to the state. The **NTSSA** A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that already prescribed.
7. The **NTSSA** A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the official's reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.
8. **Extreme Violent Conduct**  
The State A&D Committee will extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct toward any person or property after being ejected while on the premises of the indoor facility.

#### **5.4.3 Misconduct of Spectators**

Each team (youth and adult) in **NTSSA** is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators. If he is unable to do

so, the State will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable unruly spectator, or, if unidentifiable, toward the team itself.

#### **5.4.4 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

1. The **NTSSA** will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game in disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.
2. The **NTSSA** does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.

#### **5.4.5 Misconduct Toward Referees**

**NTSSA Rule 3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee** and **Rule 3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees** shall apply to all Indoor activities.

#### **5.4.6 Appellate Procedures**

**NTSSA Rule 3.11.9 Appellate Procedures** shall apply to all Indoor activities.

#### **5.4.7 Records**

The A&D Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend toward numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

#### **5.4.8 Facility to Comply**

When any affiliated facility fails to send in reports as required by this rule, **NTSSA** will take any action it considers proper, including a fine, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by the facility can result in such facility being declared not in good standing.

#### **5.4.9 Game Protests**

1. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
  - a. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
  - b. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.
2. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that..."A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as result of the game is concerned". A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the State Referee Committee.

## CHAPTER 6

### FUTSAL

#### 6.1 ASSOCIATIONS AND PLAYING FACILITY

A Member Association or playing facility interested in offering Futsal must first submit an application to and receive approval from North Texas State Soccer Association.

#### 6.2 REGISTRATIONS

##### 6.2.1 Registered Players

1. Only registered Futsal players resident within a Member Association's boundaries shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of the Member Association.
2. Only registered Futsal players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of an affiliated facility. An affiliated facility may register players without regard for the location of the player's residency within the North Texas State Soccer Association boundaries.
3. A Member Association or facility which allows the use of unregistered Futsal players in sanctioned play shall be subject to forfeiture of its Futsal sanctioning.

##### 6.2.2 Adult Registrations

1. Each Futsal player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued Futsal I.D. card.
3. **Futsal I. D. Cards:**
  - a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach Futsal I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
  - b. The Futsal I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
  - c. Member Associations and affiliated facilities offering Futsal will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Futsal I.D. card.

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the immigration and naturalization service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

##### 4. **Futsal Insurance**

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at the time of registration. Players Futsal I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

##### 5. **Member Association - Recreational Play**

A **NTSSA** Member Association may only offer Futsal within the scope of a recreational program subject to all recreational outdoor soccer.

6. A youth player may only be registered on one **NTSSA** Member Association sanctioned Futsal team at any given time.

A youth player may register on as many Futsal affiliated facility teams as he may choose so long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

## 7. Age Grouping for Play

U-19

U-16

U-14

U-12

U-10

U- 8

U-6      \*\*Age three (3) is the minimum age to play futsal.

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Exception: If allowed by the Member Association playing rules, players who turn three (3) years of age by July 31 will be eligible to play in the Fall season and players who turn (3) years of age by December 31 will be eligible to play in the Spring season.

8. Since Futsal soccer is a separate **USSF** affiliate, players of two (2) or more outdoor teams may combine without affecting their eligibility for State Cup play.
9. Previously registered (outdoor) youth players, playing Futsal for a specific team or coach, may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after the team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.
  - a. Any Futsal team formed with the intent of recruiting for the formation of a competitive outdoor team will be found in violation of the **NTSSA** recruiting rules and will be disbanded. Anyone found guilty of a recruiting violation shall be suspended from all soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year. Every Futsal player and parent will be required to sign an acknowledgment of this rule.
  - b. Any coach, assistant coach, trainer or team representative, found giving skills lessons or camps to players under the name of Futsal with the intent of forming a competitive outdoor team, will be found guilty of recruiting violations and shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year. Any team formed by this method shall be disbanded.

## 6.3 RULES

### 6.3.1 Laws of the Game

All Futsal play shall be played in accordance with the "**Futsal Laws of the Game**", published by the United States Futsal Federation.

1. No player may be placed on a roster without a valid **NTSSA** approved Futsal I.D. card.
2. No player may play in any sanctioned **NTSSA** Futsal play without furnishing a valid state approved Futsal I.D. card to the referee. The I.D. cards and rosters will be verified by the referee each game.
3. The referee shall retain all cards of players who receive a red card. The player I.D. card shall be turned into the Member Association A&D (or in the case of a facility, into the **NTSSA** A&D) along with the referee misconduct report within seventy-two (72) hours of the misconduct.

4. Failure of any official to file a misconduct report on an ejection and to furnish appropriate player I.D. cards with the report shall result in that official not being allowed to officiate any NTSSA Futsal games for a period of one (1) week.

## 6.4 MISCONDUCT

All Member Associations and sanctioned facilities are charged with the responsibility of seeing that this rule is distributed to every youth and senior player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that each player will make known these contents to his or her parents and spectators.

### 6.4.1 Ejections

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Ejection  | One Week Suspension                            |
| 2. Ejection for Fighting (one on one)                    | Two Week Suspension                            |
| 3. Ejection for Fighting (more than two people involved) | Suspended – pending NTSSA Disciplinary Hearing |
4. Any player receiving three (3) ejections during the soccer year will be suspended for a period of three (3) months from the date of the third ejection. A suspension imposed by NTSSA shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification.

### 6.4.2 Fines

Ejection - \$10

**\*\*All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction, to the Member Association or North Texas State Soccer Association for affiliated facilities. Any player failing to remit the appropriate fees will not be allowed to register on any NTSSA Futsal or indoor team until all fees are paid.**

### 6.4.3 Authority

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer, whether it be outdoor soccer, indoor soccer or Futsal, within the jurisdiction of the NTSSA, have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, Member Associations, Affiliated Playing Facilities, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association, United States Adult Soccer Association and the United States Futsal Federation. The NTSSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Association, playing facilities, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and referees who choose to affiliate.
2. All Member Associations and affiliated facilities are directed to inform the NTSSA A&D Committee on every player/coach/assistant coach cautioned or ejected and on referee's reports of serious misconduct by spectators and/or parents.
3. Matters concerning misconduct and appeals shall rest with the State A&D Committee for the facilities, and with Member Associations for their Futsal play.
4. Any misconduct by a coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State A&D Committee for the facilities and to local Member Associations A&D Committee for their Futsal play. The appropriate Committee will determine the extent of the punishment to be taken. The Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee, unless it chooses to call one of its own volition
5. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents, and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the appropriate authority.
6. All game suspensions must be reported to the state. The NTSSA A&D Committee will determine the extent of additional punishment, if any, in addition to that already prescribed.

7. The **NTSSA A&D Committee** will issue its decision based entirely upon the official's reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.

8. **Extreme Violent Conduct**

The State A&D Committee will extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct toward any person or property after being ejected from a Futsal match.

#### **6.4.4 Misconduct of Spectators**

Each team (youth and adult) in **NTSSA** is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his or her spectators. If he or she is unable to do so, the State will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable unruly spectator, or, if unidentifiable, toward the team itself.

#### **6.4.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

1. The **NTSSA** will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in all or selected futsal activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game in disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.
2. The **NTSSA** does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.

#### **6.4.6 Misconduct Toward Referees**

**NTSSA Rule 3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referees** and **Rule 3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees** shall apply to all Futsal activities.

#### **6.4.7 Appellate Procedures**

**NTSSA Rule 3.11.9 Appellate Procedures** shall apply to all Futsal activities.

#### **6.4.8 Records**

The **NTSSA A&D Committee** will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or team shows a trend toward numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

#### **6.4.9 Member Association/Facility to Comply**

When any Member Association or a member thereof, or an affiliated facility fails to send in reports as required by this rule, **NTSSA** will take any action it considers proper, including a fine, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by a Member Association or affiliated facility can result in such association/facility being declared not in good standing.

#### **6.4.10 Game Protests**

1. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
  - a. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.



- b. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Futsal Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.
- 2. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Futsal Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that . . . "A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as result of the game is concerned". A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the State Referee committee.

## CHAPTER 7

### YOUTH TEAM TRAVEL PROCEDURES

#### 7.1 UNITED STATES, MEXICO OR CANADA

For travel within the United States, Mexico or Canada, any team going outside **NTSSA** boundaries, (including into South Texas) **must** have a Travel Application approved by the State Youth Commissioner.

Permission to travel cannot be granted if the host organization is unaffiliated or in bad standing with their State Association. Appropriate action will be taken against teams who travel to play teams out-of-state or in Mexico or Canada without permission!

You must obtain a Travel Application and US Youth Soccer I.D. cards signed by the Youth Commissioner of **NTSSA**. You may obtain a Travel Application from **NTSSA** web site or pick one up at the **NTSSA** office. Travel Application, I.D. Cards, Official Roster (from your Member Association) and tournament hosting agreement must be submitted online to the **NTSSA** office at least thirty (30) days prior to the tournament.

Tournament or trip information must accompany travel application. Roster will coincide with latest (fall or spring) official team registration roster on file with the State Office. This roster must reflect any additions or deletions submitted on official Add/Delete sheets, which also must be on file and approved by Member Association official's signature.

USYS Player Pass (I.D. card with player photo) must be carried when playing out-of-state. Teams must carry written medical releases from parents in case emergency care is required. Travel I.D. cards (USYS player passes) cost \$0.25 per player with current photo attached, \$4 per player if **NTSSA** makes photo. Make reservation for team photos and I. D.'s by calling the State Office.

Travel forms are not necessary for USYS National or Regional League or Championship games. They are mandatory for all other tournaments or friendly (exhibition) games outside the **NTSSA** boundaries.

All traveling teams shall be under the primary jurisdiction of the North Texas State Soccer Association and under the secondary jurisdiction of the Association in whose territory the games are to be played. Traveling teams shall remain subject to the Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA** as far as disciplinary matters are concerned.

#### 7.2 TRAVEL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Travel outside the United States, other than Canada or Mexico, requires submission of Request to Travel **90 days prior to departure date!** The State Youth Commissioner will forward all copies to the **USSF** National Youth Chairman, who will notify the National Association in the country or countries to which you are traveling that you are properly affiliated and have permission to travel. A copy of the approved application will be returned to the State Youth Commissioner and also to the traveling team. The permit should be carried with the team, at all times, while traveling.

#### 7.3 REGULATIONS FOR HOSTING VISITING TEAMS

In compliance with **FIFA** Regulations, only affiliated teams, clubs, leagues and State Youth Associations in good standing can be considered as sponsors for games or tournaments involving visiting foreign youth amateur teams, or teams from the other State Associations.

The sponsor must first submit an application to the State Youth Commissioner for approval. If approved, in the case of teams from outside the U.S., Mexico and Canada, **NTSSA** must forward the application to the **USSF** Youth Division International Games Committee at least 90 days prior to the arrival of the visiting team.

A copy of their permission granted by the National Association of the foreign team to visit and play games in the U.S. must be received before the final approval is granted.

Notification of approval (or denial) of the application will be sent by mail to the coach/manager/Tournament Director by **NTSSA**, and copies of the approved application sent to the visiting team and Youth Association.

The referees and assistant referees shall be assigned by the State Association. Only registered **USSF** officials may be used. If the visiting team is a foreign National Team, officials will be assigned by the **USSF** International Games Committee.

## CHAPTER 8

### NTSSA RULES FOR SPONSORED OR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

#### 8.1 TOURNAMENT RULES FOR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

##### 8.1.1

Any violation of **USSF, USYSA, USASA** or **NTSSA** rules by a team, coach, manager, player or team representative in any sanctioned or sponsored tournament or event will be reported to the appropriate State Commissioner. Any violation of **USSF, USYSA, USASA** or **NTSSA** rules on the part of a tournament, except where **NOTED** on its application for sanction and rules of competition, will be investigated by the State Cup & Games Committee and reported.

##### 8.1.2

**NTSSA** Rule 4.8.1 and Rule 4.8.2 state how youth recreational teams may be formed and any team that does not conform to **NTSSA** formation rules is considered Non-Recreational/competitive. Teams that are considered Non-recreational/Competitive may participate only in Non-Recreational/Competitive tournaments. In Non-recreational/Competitive tournaments, players who have not attained the proper age to be eligible for U-11 play shall not participate in tournaments designated Non-Recreational/Competitive.

##### 8.1.3

All playing age divisions must comply with **USYSA/NTSSA** age requirements.

##### 8.1.4

Only players who have been registered for outdoor play through **USYSA/USSF** affiliate organizations in the current soccer year may participate in an outdoor youth tournament. Only players who have been registered for outdoor play with **NTSSA** in the current soccer year may participate in the **NTSSA** State Cup Tournament.

##### 8.1.5

Only adult players who have been registered for outdoor play through **NTSSA/USSF** affiliate organizations in the current soccer year may participate in an outdoor adult tournament.

##### 8.1.6

All participants of a special event are required to be registered **NTSSA** players or purchase a temporary single event registration pass to participate in a special event. Temporary registration fees will be set by **NTSSA** and will require a Temporary Player Registration Form to be completed. Proof of age when completing this form shall be the same as required for all **NTSSA** registered players.

##### 8.1.7

Special Events shall utilize a Special Event Roster. The roster must be signed by an association registrar verifying registration of each player listed, or be approved by the event director by showing valid **NTSSA** affiliated roster or submitting a temporary event registration form and fee for that event.

##### 8.1.8

**USYSA/NTSSA** registered players may only play on **ONE** team per tournament or event.

##### 8.1.9

Every youth team participating in a tournament **MUST** present an official **USYSA/USSF** roster signed by their home association registrar before play starts. Every adult team must present a roster

with only **NTSSA/USSF** affiliate registered players listed. Adult players may be registered onsite by the hosting adult member association.

**8.1.10**

In youth recreational tournaments, each player is required to play a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of each game, including overtime. All players on the rostered team must be invited to each tournament in which the team participates.

**8.1.11**

All U-6 and U-8 divisions **MUST** receive equal participation awards only and no standings will be kept in tournaments or events. (Academy divisions are not included for this rule)

**8.1.12**

Tournaments that allow Guest Players in accordance with **NTSSA** **MUST** have Guest Player Release forms approved by **NTSSA**.

**8.1.13**

All recreational players on a team must be invited to the tournament prior to a team adding guest players.

**8.1.14**

Rosters of All-Star teams must be on file at the **NTSSA** prior to participating in a tournament. Teams must be formed in accordance with **NTSSA** Rule 4.2.4.4 in the **NTSSA** Administrative Rulebook.

**8.1.15**

Member Associations may only host tournaments within their current classifications (youth, adult, indoor) and age division as approved by **NTSSA** for membership and are otherwise restricted from hosting tournaments that fall outside these parameters except where this tournament has been sanctioned as a special event.

**8.1.16**

In sanctioned tournaments or events, only registered **USSF/NTSSA** referees will be used.

**8.1.17 Medical Releases**

**NTSSA** requires all youth teams entering sanctioned tournaments or events to have medical releases. Individual tournaments must designate if these medical releases are to be notarized. This designation must be included with the application to host, included with the tournament rules and must be stated in all correspondence to the teams. Absence of specific requirement for notarization, will default to just medical releases.

**8.1.18**

Any team that withdraws from a tournament less than two weeks from the start of a tournament or does not complete all required scheduled games, may not be allowed to enter any sanctioned tournaments until said team appears before the **NTSSA** Cup & Games Committee. The committee may issue sanctions to include suspension from tournament play.

**8.1.19**

If inclement weather cancels the tournament prior to the completion of a team's first scheduled game of the tournament, a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the team's entry fee may be retained by the tournament to cover start-up cost of the tournament.

## 8.2 CRITERIA FOR SANCTIONING A SPECIAL EVENT

### 8.2.1

Tournaments/Events are broken into five classifications: Restricted Youth, Unrestricted Youth, Restricted Adult, Unrestricted Adult and Special Event.

### 8.2.2

**A Restricted Youth Tournament** is a tournament open only to teams from **USYSA**.

### 8.2.3

**An Unrestricted Youth Tournament** is a tournament open to all **USSF** affiliates. This includes any tournament wishing to sanction with foreign team(s) from a **FIFA** recognized member. Additional Insurance will be required.

### 8.2.4

**A Restricted Adult Tournament** is a tournament open only to teams from **USASA**.

### 8.2.5

**An Unrestricted Adult Tournament** is a tournament open to all **USSF** affiliates. This includes any tournament wishing to sanction with foreign team(s) from a **FIFA** recognized member. Additional Insurance will be required.

### 8.2.6

**A Special Event** is an event/tournament/competition whose playing rules are not covered in any **FIFA/USSF/NTSSA** Laws of the Game, and includes, but is not limited to 3 vs. 3, 4 vs. 4, 5 vs. 5, style games. These events are intended for fun play and therefore are allowed to play with a special event roster. All players must either be registered **USYSA/NTSSA** players or purchase a special event pass for the event.

### 8.2.7

All tournaments/events in their first year or those who failed to fulfill the requirements during the previous year are considered probationary tournaments. Probationary tournaments may be denied sanctioning upon the recommendation of the Cups and Games Committee and approval by the **NTSSA** Board of Directors.

### 8.2.8

No event, Showcase, Friendly game or Tournament having the same generic age groups (U-10, U-12, U-14, etc.) will be sanctioned during the primary weekend of any state, regional or national tournament hosted by **NTSSA** including the **Tournament of Champions**, or the **North Texas State Cup** if the requested function is to be held within a distance of One Hundred (100) miles. Requests for exception may be submitted to the **NTSSA** Board of Directors. Established Events, Showcases, Friendly games, or Tournaments in existence for three consecutive years shall be allowed to continue with the existing format including the number of teams.

## 8.3 PROCEDURES FOR SANCTIONING A TOURNAMENT OR EVENT

### 8.3.1 Restricted Youth and Unrestricted Youth Tournaments

The following items must be submitted 120 days before the tournament will be considered for sanctioning:

1. Application to Host Tournaments or Games
2. **USYSA** Tournament Hosting Agreement
3. A complete set of tournament rules which includes but is not limited to all modifications to **FIFA** laws of the game and **NTSSA** Tournament Rules, registration requirements and

procedures, cancelation policy, weather policy, discipline procedures and emergency contact information. All modifications to the laws of the game and NTSSA tournament rules are subject to approval by the Chairman of Cups and Games.

4. Name of the registered referee assignor(s) to be used.
5. Letter from Host Association President giving approval for an association, club, team or organization to put on a tournament;
6. Letter from a Member Association President where fields will be used **MUST** be submitted. If there are multiple users on a given complex, then the approving President must coordinate the use with all other users. (If the Member Association within whose territory the fields are located does not have use of the fields for their league games, then the entity who has control of the fields must sign an approval letter in lieu of the Member Association President.)
7. Application fee set by NTSSA.
8. (Unrestricted Tournaments Only) A tournament must either purchase and provide evidence of a One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000) CSL comprehensive general liability policy including coverage for participant/spectator medical payments. In lieu of medical payments, a sports accident policy with a Ten Thousand Dollar (\$10,000) limit of liability per injury is acceptable. NTSSA and the hosting Member Association will be listed as an additional insured and a hold harmless and indemnification agreement in favor of NTSSA must be executed. Before NTSSA will sanction any tournament required to provide the above-described insurance, the insurance policy(ies) must be approved by NTSSA, **OR** chose to purchase coverage for those players not currently USYSA registered directly from NTSSA at a rate set and published at the time of sanctioning by NTSSA. The hosting organization agrees to be responsible for all properly executed paperwork for the proper accounting of the fees due prior to the tournament.
9. (Unrestricted Tournaments with Foreign Teams) A tournament that will host one or more foreign teams must submit with their application all required paperwork and fees set by and required by USSF.

### 8.3.1 Restricted Adult and Unrestricted Adult Tournaments

The following items must be submitted 120 days before the tournament will be considered for sanctioning:

1. Application to Host Tournaments or Games
2. Tournament Hosting Agreement
3. A complete set of tournament rules which includes but is not limited to all modifications to FIFA laws of the game and NTSSA Tournament Rules, registration requirements and procedures, cancelation policy, weather policy, discipline procedures and emergency contact information. All modifications to the laws of the game and NTSSA tournament rules are subject to approval by the Chairman of Cups and Games.
4. Name of the registered referee assignor(s) to be used.
5. Letter from Host Association President giving approval for an association, club, team or organization to put on a tournament;
6. Letter from a Member Association President where fields will be used **MUST** be submitted. If there are multiple users on a given complex, then the approving President must coordinate the use with all other users. (If the Member Association within whose territory the fields are located does not have use of the fields for their league games, then the entity who has control of the fields must sign an approval letter in lieu of the Member Association President.)
7. Application fee set by NTSSA.
8. (Unrestricted Tournaments Only) A tournament must either purchase and provide evidence of a One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000) CSL comprehensive general liability policy including coverage for participant/spectator medical payments. In lieu of medical payments, a sports accident policy with a Ten Thousand Dollar (\$10,000) limit of liability per injury is acceptable. NTSSA and the hosting Member Association will be listed as an additional insured and a hold harmless and indemnification agreement in favor of NTSSA must be executed. Before NTSSA will sanction any tournament required to provide the above-

described insurance, the insurance policy(ies) must be approved by NTSSA, **OR** chose to purchase coverage for those players not currently USYSA registered directly from NTSSA at a rate set and published at the time of sanctioning by NTSSA. The hosting organization agrees to be responsible for all properly executed paperwork for the proper accounting of the fees due at the conclusion of the event for these teams.

9. (Unrestricted Tournaments with Foreign Teams) A tournament that will host one or more foreign teams must submit with their application all required paperwork and fees set by and required by USSF.

### 8.3.3 Special Events

The following items must be submitted 120 days before the special event to be considered for sanctioning:

1. Application to Host Special Events
2. Hosting Agreement
3. A complete set of tournament rules which includes but is not limited to all modifications to FIFA laws of the game and NTSSA Tournament Rules, registration requirements and procedures, cancellation policy, weather policy, discipline procedures and emergency contact information. All modifications to the laws of the game and NTSSA tournament rules are subject to approval by the Chairman of Cups and Games.
4. Name of the registered referee assignor(s) to be used.
5. Letter from Host Association President giving approval for an association, club, team or organization to put on a event;
6. Letter from a Member Association President where fields will be used **MUST** be submitted. If there are multiple users on a given complex, then the approving President must coordinate the use with all other users. (If the Member Association within whose territory the fields are located does not have use of the fields for their league games, then the entity who has control of the fields must sign an approval letter in lieu of the Member Association President.)
7. Application fee set by NTSSA.
8. An initial refundable security deposit set by the North Texas Board of Directors for probationary events will be submitted to NTSSA by the Club or Promoter fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled event.

Upon satisfactory completion of the "Special Event" reconciliation form and the submission of all Temporary Single Event Registration Pass fees, the security deposit shall be refunded.

*FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SPECIAL EVENT RULES SHALL BE INTERPRETED AS UNSANCTIONED PLAY AND SHALL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF THE TOTAL SECURITY DEPOSIT! ADDITIONALLY, HOSTING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS MAY BE DECLARED NOT IN GOOD STANDING (Reference NTSSA By-Law 2.2.3.7).*

### 8.3.4

All application requirements must be in the **NTSSA** State Office a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the tournament/event date. A late fee set by NTSSA may be charged for each day past the deadline plus any other fees incurred by **NTSSA**.

### 8.3.5

Every **NTSSA** sanctioned tournament/event is required to submit a completed tournament evaluation report to the **NTSSA** state office within fourteen (14) days of the conclusion of the scheduled tournament/event. Included with the evaluation report shall be a copy of all rosters, temporary registration applications, fees and misconduct reports. Misconduct reports must be sent to the corresponding teams-playing association by the tournament/event. If the applicant of the tournament/event does not submit the reports within the required period, it may be assessed a late fee and placed as a probationary tournament for the next tournament/event. The tournament/event applicant will not be allowed to participate in further tournaments/events until all late reports and/or fees and penalties are received. The applicant (hosting organization) of the tournament/event is responsible for these reports, fees and penalties if any.

## **8.4 POLICY FOR RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

### **8.4.1**

Only one boys team and one girls team **PER** age group per association allowed.

### **8.4.2**

No Guest Players allowed.

### **8.4.3**

The number of teams representing a Member Association entering in the Tournament of Champions is due on the date specified by **NTSSA**.

### **8.4.4**

Rosters are frozen on the date specified by **NTSSA**.

### **8.4.5**

A team playing up during the Fall playing season will not be allowed to come back to their own age group and play at the younger level of the Tournament of Champions (Example: a U-10 team plays up in the U-12 age group during the fall playing season. That team will not be allowed to come back down and participate in the U-10 age group in the Tournament of Champions. They may, however, represent the U-12 level if their association so allows).

### **8.4.6**

If your Home Association has a league for a team to play in and that team obtains a release under **NTSSA** Rule 4.3.2.1 to play in another association or league, that team is not eligible for the Tournament of Champions.

### **8.4.7**

The Tournament of Champions shall be organized according to the Small-Sided Games for Under 10 and Under 12 age groups utilizing the NTSSA Rules of Competition.



## NTSSA YOUTH TOURNAMENT RULES

*Recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018*

*(Rules used for all tournaments unless exceptions approved by NTSSA Cups and Games Committee)*

1. Each team must have unique numbered jerseys. Alternate jerseys or numbered T-shirts must be available with a unique number for each player. Pennies may be used over the jersey to resolve color conflicts. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the roster. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected. Home Team is team listed first on schedule. Home Team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict.
2. Home Team will occupy either the North or West side of playing field, except at complexes which are setup for teams/players to be on the opposite side of the field from spectators.
3. A game may be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director/Committee if a team is not ready to play at the published time within ten (10) minutes of the game. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five (5) minutes of the referee's designation.
4. The only protests allowed are for ineligible player and misapplications of the laws of the game that the referee admits. All protests must have a material impact on the outcome of the game and be reported in writing, with a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) cashier's check, money order or cash.
5. Teams will play Mini-Games in preliminary & quarter-final games. Semi-final and Final games will be full length. Half-time will be five (5) minutes. (Under 6 – Under 8 do not play advancement games)

Division	Mini-Game Length	Full Game Length	Ball Size	Overtime
U-7 and younger	n/a	(4) 8 Minute Quarters	3	n/a
U-8	n/a	(3) 15 Minute Periods	3	n/a
U-10	20 Minute Halves	25 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-12	25 Minute Halves	30 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-14	30 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves	5	(2) 10 Minute
U-16	30 Minute Halves	40 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-17	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-19	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute

6. Brackets with three (3), four (4), or five (5) teams that play each other within the bracket, the team with the highest total points will advance from the bracket. Three (3) team brackets that play crossover games with other three (3) team brackets, the top two (2) teams with the highest total points of the two (2) brackets combined will advance. Preliminary games may end in a tie. If Quarter Final games end in a tie, **FIFA** "kicks" from the mark will be taken to determine the winner. If semi-final or final games end in a tie, two (2) overtime halves will be played, and if the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, **FIFA** "kicks" from the mark will be taken to determine the winner.

NTSSA scoring system for mini-games will be as follows:

- a. 6 points for a win
- b. 3 points for a tie
- c. 0 points for a loss
- d. 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3
- e. 1 point for a shutout (not allowing opponent to score)

- f. A forfeit game will be scored at a 3-0 win in calculating mini-games points for tiebreaker determination.

When determining “Wild Cards” if needed, the team(s) from all brackets with the next highest number of points will be selected after all bracket winners have been chosen. Age brackets that contain flights with different numbers of scheduled games, points will be determined on a 10-point system. All teams will divide points by total games scheduled in order to obtain equality with all brackets.

**NTSSA** tiebreaker system for mini-games will be as follows:

If two or more teams are tied in points after their mini-games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine the team advancing:

- a. Head to Head game results - winner will advance.
- b. Most number of “shutouts” - team with most “shutouts” will advance.
- c. Goal differential – team with highest goal differential against opponent will advance (maximum of five (5) goal differential). (Example: A 7-0 game = 5-0 in calculating advancement; a 11-5 game = 10-5 in calculating advancement).
- d. Fewest goals allowed - team with fewest goals allowed will advance.
- e. Fewest accumulation of caution points, 1 point for yellow and 2 points for red.
- f. Kicks from the mark

These tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement. In the event of a tie involving age brackets that contain flights with different numbers of scheduled games, then the same tie breakers are used with the exception that averaging to determine b, c, d, and e will be used.

7. Each team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field to start the game. There must be a minimum of seven (7) to continue the game. In under 6 three (3) players are required, Under 8 four (4) players are required and Under 10 five (5) players are required.
8. There will be free substitution, with the referee’s consent for youth games Under 10 and above at the following times:
  - A player receiving a yellow card (the player carded only)
  - Prior to a throw-in for the team in possession (the opposing team may substitute when the team in possession subs)
  - Prior to a goal kick
  - After a goal by either team
  - After an injury by either team when the referee stops the play
  - At half-time by either team
  - At the referee’s discretion

In Under 6 through Under 8, substitutions are at the end of the quarters.

9. Any send-offs should be reported to the Tournament Committee immediately following the game. Any player or coach sent-off (other than on account of receiving two cautions in the same game) shall automatically sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the send-off occurred in the last game of the tournament for that player or coach, in which case such player or coach would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played). If the send-off was for fighting, or if it is the player’s second tournament send-off, the player will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament. Any player receiving three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in the tournament must sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the third caution occurred in the last game of the tournament for that player or coach, in which case such player or coach would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played).

The NTSSA Cup & Games A&D Committee has the right to hold a hearing and increase the suspension at its discretion. Any player sent off must immediately report to the tournament headquarters with a manager or parent. Any coaches or spectators sent off must report immediately to the tournament headquarters.

10. All referee decisions are final.
11. The Chairman of Cup & Games, Tournament Director, or their designee, is empowered to make all decisions regarding the competition during the tournament.
12. The decision of the Chairman of Cup & Games or Tournament Director is final in all matters. No appeals will be allowed beyond that point.
13. In the event the referee or linesmen are missing from the field, report immediately to your Field Coordinator. In the event the linesmen are not available, each team is required to provide a "club linesman".
14. If a game has played one full half but is stopped short of full time, other than acts on the part of one of the teams, the game shall be considered complete. Full-length games, if tied will be determined by the tiebreaker procedure.
15. In the event of inclement weather, format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the tournament committee.
16. In all NTSSA State sponsored tournaments, all scores shall be turned in to the Field Coordinator by the Referee.
17. Net and Flags: All teams shall have a net and two corner flags available. Both teams will be responsible for putting up and taking down nets and flags. In the event a net or other equipment is missing from the field, the game will be played at the discretion of the referee. If Host Association is to furnish nets and flags, the first teams to play each morning will put up the nets and flags, and the last teams to play will take them down and leave them at one corner of the goal posts. Bring a supply of stakes for your game. Some associations do not furnish net stakes. Do not use tape to hold up nets. FAILURE TO TAKE DOWN NETS AFTER LAST SCHEDULED GAME WILL RESULT IN TEAM(S) BEING INELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN NTSSA STATE TOURNAMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, AND FORFEITURE OF THEIR PERFORMANCE BOND WHERE APPLICABLE.
18. All teams not accepted by the tournament will be refunded in full within ten (10) days of the notification of rejection, or notification to the teams accepted, whichever comes first. (Posting on web sites can be considered notification of teams accepted.)
19. Any team that withdraws from a tournament less than two weeks from the start of a tournament or does not complete all required scheduled games, may not be allowed to enter any sanctioned tournaments until said team appears before the NTSSA Cup & Games Committee. The committee may issue sanctions to include suspension from tournament play.
20. In case of rain - HARD RAIN, NOT A SPRINKLE - Follow the tournaments weather guidelines. If inclement weather cancels the tournament prior to the completion of a team's first scheduled game of the tournament, a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the team's entry fee may be retained by the tournament to cover start-up cost of the tournament.

For any assistance needed, see the Cup & Games Field Coordinator or call the tournament headquarters.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **TOP SOCCER (The Outreach Program for SOCCER)**

#### **9.1 PLAYERS**

##### **9.1.1 Registration**

Members will consist of individuals that are physically and/or mentally challenged. Eligibility will be determined by a TOP Soccer committee that will consist of Parents, Coaches from TOP Soccer teams, and representatives of the sponsoring association.

Must be a minimum of four (4) years of age.

Recommended Number of Players, one of whom may be the goalkeeper:

Junior Division - 6

Senior Division - 7

Adult Division - 8

##### **9.1.2 Helpers**

Players may have at their side a helper if needed. The helper is not to interfere with the play of the game in any way. They are there to support the player if needed.

Depending on the number of players that show up at game time, coaches may adjust the numbers of players to play the game less than the recommendation in order to not have the players get exhausted. As more players show up, coaches may ask the Referee to add players to the field as needed. It is suggested that coaches also consider sharing players between the teams to allow the game to be played if needed

##### **9.1.3 Player Equipment**

Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

Footwear: Tennis shoe or soft-cleated soccer shoes

Shin-guards: Mandatory

Wheelchairs: Players may play in their wheelchairs.

#### **9.2 TEAM ASSIGNMENT**

##### **9.2.1 Divisions**

1. Junior Division:

Those players with minimum ambulatory abilities and /or minimum playing abilities. Age of player is not the determining factor. Teams may be coed.

2. Senior Division:

Those players with greater ambulatory abilities and /or greater playing abilities. Age of player is not the determining factor. Teams may be coed.

3. Adult Division:

Those players over the age of twenty-one (21). Teams may be coed.

If, due to limited registration, an association cannot field a Division as stated above, they can combine players to form a team and play in the Division that best meets the needs of these players.

Younger age players (i.e. four (4) to six (6) year old players), should be assigned together when possible.

### 9.2.2 Player Assignment

All players will be assigned to a team by their ambulatory ability and playing abilities. These abilities will be periodically reviewed and team assignment adjustments made accordingly.

## 9.3 RECOMMENDED FIELD SIZE

The field of play shall be rectangular and the length in all cases shall exceed the width.

	<u>Field Size</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
Junior Division	40 yds. x 60 yds.	6 Ft High x 4 yds. Wide
Senior Division	50 yds. x 80 yds.	7 Ft High x 7 yds. Wide
Adult Division	50 yds. x 80 yds.	7 Ft High x 7 yds. Wide

The field sizes are recommended and may be adjusted to fulfill the needs of the players. Younger age teams should play on a field similar to a 4 v 4 field; field size 20-25 yards in width by 30-35 yards in length. Goal size four (4) feet high by six (6) feet in width.

### 9.3.1 Recommended Additional Field Markings

	<b>Junior Division</b>		<b>Senior/Adult Division</b>
Goal Area Size	6* yds. x 16 yds.	Goal Area Size	6* yds. x 19 yds.
Penalty Area Size	10* yds. x 24 yds.	Penalty Area Size	14* yds. x 35 yds.
Center Circle**	6 yd radius	Center Circle**	8 yd radius
Corner Arcs	2 Ft radius	Corner Arcs	1 yd radius

Younger age teams goal area should be 3\* yards by 12 feet. There should be no penalty area marked. The center circle should be a 10-foot radius and 2-foot radius corner arcs. This is similar to a 4 vs. 4 field.

*\* Indicates the distance the area shall extend into the field of play and also the distance from each goal-post for the lines at right angles to the goal line.*

*\*\* The center circle radius is also the distance the team on defense shall remain from the ball during the taking of a free-kick or corner-kick.*

1. All Divisions' fields should have:
  - a. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide;
  - b. A halfway line that shall be marked out across the center of the field;
  - c. A goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

## 9.4 THE GAME

### 9.4.1 Recommended Ball Size

1. Junior Division - size 3
2. Senior Division - size 4
3. Adult Division - size 5

### 9.4.2 Playing Time

Coaches are required to play every player a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of each game unless the player or parent of the player asks not to play for a period of time.

#### **9.4.3 Substitutions**

1. Open as needed - during play, if a player needs to be substituted because they do not want to play, notify the Referee of the substitution, call the player off the field and allow the new player to enter the field. Otherwise, follow the substitution rules as stated below with the Referee's permission.
2. Prior to a Throw-in/Kick-in from either team.
3. Prior to any Goal Kick.
4. After a goal by either team.
5. After an injury.
6. At the end of a quarter or half-time.

#### **9.4.4 Referee/Assistant Referee**

1. Registered Referee/Assistant Referee.
2. Coach or Assistant Coach (logical choice).
3. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
4. Assistant Referees are not necessary.

#### **9.4.5 Duration of the Game**

1. The game shall be divided into four equal twelve (12) minute quarters (fifteen (15) minutes for Adults).
2. There shall be a break between the first quarter and the second quarter and between the third quarter and the fourth quarter. Try to make the breaks as short as possible - two (2) to four (4) minutes.
3. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between the second and third quarters.
4. Coaches may adjust the total game playing time to less than the above noted times due to the number of players on the teams, the weather conditions or if the teams consist of very young players that do not have the endurance to play more than 10-minute quarters.

#### **9.4.6 Start of Play**

1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exception:
  - a. Opponent must be six (6) yards away from the center mark while the kick-off is in process, eight (8) yards away for the Adult Division.

#### **9.4.7 Ball In and Out of Play and Method of Scoring**

Conform to **FIFA**.

#### **9.4.8 Offside**

There is no offside.

#### **9.4.9 Throw-in/Kick-in**

A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to take the second throw-in. Keep in mind that some players cannot throw the ball into play over their head and those players should be allowed to do the throw-in the best way that they can. If the player cannot do a throw-in, they may kick the ball back into play to restart the game from the touchline.

## **9.5 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:
  - a. All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with the opponents six (6) yards away from the point from which the kick will be taken. Eight (8) yards away from the kick in the Adult Division.
  - b. The Referee must explain **ALL** infractions to the offending player.
  - c. Slide tackling is not allowed in any division.

## **9.6 FREE KICKS**

1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:
  - a. Shall be classified under one heading, **INDIRECT**.
  - b. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

### **9.6.1 Penalty Kicks**

No penalty kicks are to be taken.

### **9.6.2 Goal Kick**

Conform to **FIFA**.

### **9.6.3 Corner Kick:**

1. Conform to **FIFA**.
  - a. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball. Eight (8) yards away in the Adult Division.

## **U.S. YOUTH SOCCER RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
2. Do not keep any score or record of the game.
3. Coaches are on the field acting as the referee as needed.
4. Participation awards are given to all players.
5. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing field or complex.

## CHAPTER 10

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### 10.1 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

##### 10.1.1 ADVANCED TEAM

A team of players having better than average playing skills. Players may be selected by a tryout process. Teams are formed from players within a geographically defined area.

##### 10.1.2 ADULT

All programs, events, state associations for the over-eighteen (18) year old players under the auspices of **USSF**.

##### 10.1.3 AFFILIATION

Process by which a state association administers soccer for the national body **USASA/USYSA** under all the rules, regulations, programs, policies and guidelines as set by the national body. The state body is responsible for submission of all registration fees for all players registered under the state association from all affiliated leagues/clubs/teams under their jurisdiction regardless of age group.

##### 10.1.4 AGE DIVISION/GROUP

Method of registering players during a season under the **NTSSA** Rule 4.1.2. The divisions are set in two-year increments. Teams/divisions may be formed in single birth year age groups. The age division of the team is determined by the birth date of the oldest player on the team as of December 31 of the current soccer year.

*See SEASONAL YEAR, TRANSFER*

##### 10.1.5 COMPETITIVE CLUB

A competitive club is any group of two or more competitive teams that have a common administrative group and play under the same name. Youth Competitive Clubs are recognized by **NTSSA** according to the classifications as noted in Rule 4.9.

##### 10.1.6 COACHING PROGRAM

*See NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM*

##### 10.1.7 COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

A league formed with teams participating in a higher-level league game program, usually comprised of **ADVANCED TEAMS**. Statistical records are kept on the teams involved. Teams are usually from a designated geographical area in which there may be a **HOME LEAGUE** program. May be classified as a **TRAVEL LEAGUE** also.

##### 10.1.8 DEVELOPMENT TEAM (Primary Team)

A team comprised of novice, or entry-level players. Generally plays in the **HOME OR RECREATIONAL LEAGUE PROGRAMS**.

##### 10.1.9 DISTRICTS

A geographical area defined by a state association for the purpose of administration of the state program.

##### 10.1.10 FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)



The world governing organization for soccer, sub-divided into six continental associations: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania, e.g.: Australia and New Zealand. Highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competition and technical educational development programs.

#### **10.1.11 FREE AGENT**

A free agent **is** a player in the U11 through U19 age divisions who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team.

#### **10.1.12 GUEST PLAYER**

A registered player participating in a competition for a team in which the player is not rostered for purpose of league play.

#### **10.1.13 CLUB PASS PLAYER**

A registered competitive player participating in a competition with a different team from their same club than the team to which they are officially rostered. The club pass player would not be classified as a guest player for that particular competition.

#### **10.1.14 HOME LEAGUE/CLUB**

The organization through which a player is registered to a team. The league/club is affiliated to the state association and all players of all age groups are registered to the state association. Generally is classified as a **RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**.

#### **10.1.15 INTERMEDIATE TEAM**

Majority of players have been playing soccer more than one year. Players have average skills and may or may not remain together as a team from year to year. Generally, the team participates in the **HOME or RECREATIONAL LEAGUE** programs. **TEAM is not DEVELOPMENT TEAM or an ADVANCED TEAM.**

#### **10.1.16 LEAGUE**

A structured group formed for the specific purpose of providing play between teams under a common set of administrative and competition rules. May be comprised of teams from one or more clubs. May be defined by geographical boundaries.

*See **COMPETITIVE LEAGUE, HOME LEAGUE, PLAYING LEAGUE, RECREATION LEAGUE, TRAVEL LEAGUE.***

#### **10.1.17 LEAGUE SEASON**

The period of time designated for the set of scheduled competition of a league program. May or may not be the same as national **SEASONAL YEAR**.

#### **10.1.18 NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM**

A program of courses developed and administered by **USSF** for the purpose of providing registration, licensing and training of coaches at all levels of the soccer program. Provides guidelines for state associations for training and licensing of coaches at lower levels. Offers gradual advancement from novice to nationally licensed coaches.

#### **10.1.19 NATIONAL REFEREE PROGRAM**

A program of courses developed and administered by **USSF** for the purpose of providing registration, licensing, training and assessment of referees at all levels of the soccer program. Provides guidelines for state association for training and licensing of referees at lower levels. Offers gradual advancement from novice to nationally licensed referees.

#### **10.1.20 NATIONAL SELECT TEAM PROGRAM**

A program with the purpose of assembling the best team of U.S. citizens in a specific age division. This includes local, regional and national tryouts and offers the means of exposing, assessing, and developing players for consideration for the national teams.

#### **10.1.21 PLAYER MOVEMENT**

*See TRANSFER*

#### **10.1.22 PLAYING LEAGUE**

League in which a team plays. May or may not be the same as the **HOME LEAGUE/CLUB**.

#### **10.1.23 PRIMARY TEAM**

*See DEVELOPMENT TEAM*

#### **10.1.24 RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**

A league that emphasizes the mass participation/recreational aspects of soccer mostly on a neighborhood or community basis. Low-key competition program with a common set of rules. Statistics may or may not be kept.

#### **10.1.25 RECREATIONAL PLUS LEAGUE**

A league that emphasizes older age participation (U-11 and higher) recreational aspects of soccer. Team formation may be comprised of methods outside normal recreational policies, but align with regulations listed in Rule 4.11. Low-key competition program with a common set of rules. Statistics may or may not be kept. Teams formed as Recreational Plus may not participate in recreational tournaments.

#### **10.1.26 REFEREE PROGRAM**

*See NATIONAL REFEREE PROGRAM*

#### **10.1.27 REGIONS**

Geographical areas comprised of several state associations as defined by the **USSF/USYSA** constitution used for administrative purposes. May be subdivided into sub-regions as defined by the constitution.

#### **10.1.28 REGISTRATION**

Process used to have the current season registration of all players of all affiliated leagues/clubs/teams within a state association on file within the state association for accounting and administrative purposes.

#### **10.1.29 REGISTRATION FEE**

Fee, as determined by **USSF/USYSA/USASA/Futsal**, paid by the state associations to the national body for all players of all leagues/club/teams affiliated with the state associations.

#### **10.1.30 SEASONAL YEAR**

A continuous period of time defined for the accounting purpose of the membership and to identify age groups for Regional and National competitions. The seasonal year as defined by the constitution is from September 1 to August 31, of the following year.

#### **10.1.31 SELECT TEAM**

A team at the local or national level for which players selection is accomplished under national guidelines with the specific purpose of participating in the National Select Team Program.

#### **10.1.32 SENIOR**

*See ADULT*

#### **10.1.33 STATE ASSOCIATION**

Through affiliation with **USSF/NTSSA** is the recognized state administrative body. **NTSSA** shall administer the national programs within the state for the national body under their guidelines. Is responsible for the administration and development of soccer within the state and enforces national rules and policies where and when applicable.

#### **10.1.34 TEAM**

A team is a group of rostered players, their coach/coaches, their manager/managers, and their representative/representatives formed for the purpose of playing soccer.

*See ADVANCED TEAM, DEVELOPMENT TEAM, INTERMEDIATE TEAM, SELECT TEAM*

#### **10.1.35 TEAM REPRESENTATIVE**

Someone acting on behalf of a team in any capacity.

#### **10.1.36 TERRITORY**

A clearly defined geographical area. May be the basis for player placement as teams or for administration purposes.

#### **10.1.37 TRANSFER**

The action of adding a currently registered **NTSSA** player to a roster or a player who returns to the same roster.

#### **10.1.38 TRAVEL LEAGUE**

Usually a league composed of teams from different communities/leagues/clubs/districts whose playing of games requires travel out of the player/ team community.

#### **10.1.39 TRYOUTS**

A structured process used to evaluate performance and skills of players in order to form a team(s).

*See ADVANCED TEAM, COMPETITIVE LEAGUE, SELECT TEAM*

#### **10.1.40 UNITED STATES ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USASA)**

A National Association of the **USSF** for players over the age of eighteen (18), comprised of sanctioned affiliated state adult associations.

#### **10.1.41 UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF)**

The recognized governing body for soccer in the United States. Affiliated with the international governing body **FIFA**, the highest authority in affiliated soccer for the United States.

#### **10.1.42 UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYSA)**

A National Association of the **USSF** for players under the age of nineteen (19). Comprised of sanctioned affiliated state youth associations.

#### **10.1.43 YOUTH**

All programs, events, state associations for the under nineteen (19) year old players are administered under the auspices of **USYSA**.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**

#### **11.1 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES**

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer. (The term “Coach” shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

#### **ARTICLE I - RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS**

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players’ time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate **NTSSA** recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician’s instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
8. A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.

#### **ARTICLE II - RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Adherence to all **NTSSA** and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate **NTSSA** Commissioner, Member Association, or League Commissioner immediately.
4. A coach's dealings with **NTSSA** and Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to **NTSSA** and Member Associations (including playing leagues).

### **ARTICLE III - RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, **NTSSA** and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

### **ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS**

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

### **ARTICLE V - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING**

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
2. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
3. All **NTSSA** rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.
6. When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.
7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

## **ARTICLE VI - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association, and **NTSSA**.
4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, Member Associations or **NTSSA** to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

## **ARTICLE VII - GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.
5. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
7. Coaches must act in a professional manner at all times when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming an adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Lewd gestures or remarks
  - Overly critical remarks
  - Ranting and raving
  - Snide or demeaning remarks
  - Threatening behavior or remarks
  - Physical confrontations
  - Temper outbursts

### **11.1.1**

All Member Associations are directed to form their own ethics committee and to hold hearings--WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT--on alleged violations of the Code of Ethics when properly submitted.

## **11.2 NTSSA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
2. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
3. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
4. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
5. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
6. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
7. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, **NOT YOURS!**
8. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
9. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
10. Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.
11. Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.
12. A parent must never misrepresent to their team their child's eligibility to play on that team, and must be honest in dealings with NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).
13. A parent must never be verbally or physically violent or threatening with any coach, parent, player, or representative of their Member Association or NTSSA.

## **11.3 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USSF/NTSSA REGISTERED REFEREES AND ASSIGNORS**

1. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
2. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and have my training refreshed.
3. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
4. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.
5. If I am a State or National **USSF** referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or **USSF**-assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.



6. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during or after a match.
7. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches or spectators.
8. As a registered **USSF/NTSSA** referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
9. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.
10. I understand that I should wear only the approved **USSF** referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
11. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat or drink while actually officiating.
12. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a **USSF** referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the local **NTSSA**- affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the **NTSSA** and **USSF**, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered **USSF** referee.
13. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

#### **11.3.1 USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)**

1. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
3. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
4. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
5. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.
6. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
7. I will be in good physical condition.
8. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
9. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
10. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
11. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
12. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

### **11.3.2 USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR ASSIGNORS (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)**

1. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game, and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
2. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
3. As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.
4. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
5. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
6. I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees, and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive and for their benefit.
7. I will offer equal opportunity to all qualify referees, and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
8. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.
9. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

### **11.4 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND MEMBER ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATORS**

None of us arrives at any administrative level, volunteer or not, without spending some “grass roots” time somewhere. We are appointed or elected to our positions because enough people had confidence in us, appreciation for what we had done in the past and assurance that we could lead them in a positive, productive future. This responsibility of accepting such a challenge, especially in a volunteer capacity, must have some guidelines.

It is important to remember that as board members we are very high profile. It is equally important that we remember that we are primarily a service organization and that we treat fellow volunteers as partners with a common goal--the organization, development and promotion of soccer. We should maintain high standards and serve by example.

1. Have respect for the game, players, officials, parents, coaches, member association volunteers and fellow board members and deal with them in a patient, courteous and consistent manner.
2. Criticism channeled through the proper quarter should be educational, constructive, balanced and positive. Under no circumstances should it be demeaning or detrimental to the self-respect of the individuals involved.
3. Administrators should be informed and available. As facilitators they should know the right questions, have the ability to elicit the right answers and foster creativity with accountability within their committee or area.
4. Regarding committeemen and other volunteers: they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done; their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.
5. Above all: courtesy, self-control and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.

### **11.5 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

(The term “Member Association” shall include, but is not limited to Officers, Commissioners, Volunteers and/or Employees.)

#### **ARTICLE I - RESPONSIBILITIES TO TEAMS AND/OR PLAYERS**

1. The Member Association must never place money or operation over the safety and welfare of its teams and/or players. Services should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. The Member Association shall instruct teams and/or players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. The Member Association shall not seek unfair advantage for certain teams through scheduling or administrative operations.
4. The Member Association should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from teams and/or players regardless of the situation.
5. The Member Association must never encourage players to violate **NTSSA** recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
6. The Member Association should under no circumstances authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter.
7. The Member Association’s dealings with teams, players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to teams, players and parents.

#### **ARTICLE II - RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND OTHER MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Adherence to all **NTSSA** rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every Member Association to know and understand these rules as it applies to their area of play (youth, adult, recreational, competitive, etc.).
2. The Member Association must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between Member Associations should be referred to the **NTSSA** Vice-President - Development immediately.
4. Member Association’s dealings with **NTSSA** and other Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright.
5. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to **NTSSA** and other Member Associations (including playing leagues).
6. The Member Association will refrain from accepting, soliciting, copying or using information on operations, financial data, teams and/or players from other Member Associations for any purpose unless approved in writing by the other Member Association’s Board of Directors for a specific use. Information offered by someone of another Member Association or other organization for solicitation, recruitment or other purposes should be rejected and the person(s) reported to the **NTSSA** Vice-President – Development.

#### **ARTICLE III - RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS OFFICERS, COMMISSIONERS, VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EMPLOYEES (“ADMINISTRATORS”)**

1. Administrators must have the support of the Member Association. Criticism of Administrators undermines their purpose in the Association.
2. Member Association’s Administrators must always refrain from criticizing other Administrators in the presence of others.
3. The Member Association should strive to develop a line of communication with its Administrators, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area.
4. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between Administrators. The Member Association must not incite its Administrators or attempt to disrupt their specific duties.

5. Comments regarding an Administrator should be made in writing to the appropriate official within the Member Association.

#### **ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RECRUITING**

1. It is unethical for a Member Association to recruit teams to leave another Member Association.
2. When discussing the advantages of their Association, the Member Association has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other Member Associations; their Administrators, teams, facilities and/or organizational makeup.
3. It is unethical for any Member Association to make a statement to a prospective team and/or player which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
4. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

#### **ARTICLE V - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. The Member Association has a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, other Member Associations, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. The Member Association has a responsibility to assist their Administrators, teams and/or players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their Member Association and **NTSSA**.
3. It is unethical for a Member Association to solicit alumni or members to pressure organizations, other Member Associations or **NTSSA** to operate outside established rules. The Member Association must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
4. The media should be allowed access to the Member Association for comment. The Member Association does have the right to appoint and limit who will represent them to the media. Administrators should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

**CHAPTER 12**  
**RULES FOR INDOOR PLAY**  
**NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

The following is a summary of **NTSSA** indoor rules and guidelines. For a complete listing of all indoor rules, refer to **CHAPTER 5** of this rulebook.

**SANCTIONING**

Each facility must complete an application for sanctioning and include playing rules, signed Guidelines for Administration of Indoor Soccer and a copy of Certificate of Insurance for Personal Liability. Game schedules must be submitted to **NTSSA** no later than three (3) weeks after the start of an indoor session.

**PLAYERS**

Only currently registered indoor players shall be permitted to play. At no time may a player or coach be allowed to participate with an expired I.D. card.

Teams must complete an Indoor Roster no later than the third game of the playing season. Facilities must submit rosters to **NTSSA** within five (5) days of receipt and no later than the fourth week of the session.

A player may register on more than one team as long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

A player's age is as of July 31 of the current soccer year (September 1-August 31 of the following year).

**OFFICIALS**

Only **NTSSA** Certified Indoor Referees may be used. Two officials will be required for U-16, U-19 and adults, unless the facility has obtained special permission in writing from **NTSSA** to allow the use of one referee. Only one official is required below U-16. Facilities must use only **USSF** Registered Assignors to issue game assignments.

**PLAYING RULES**

Play will be in accordance with the official **NTSSA** Rules for Indoor Play. Rule changes will be in effect for the first session beginning after official notification to each facility.

**I.D. CARDS**

No player may be on a roster without a valid **NTSSA** Indoor I.D. card. Coaches must have a valid **NTSSA** Indoor I.D. card to be allowed in the player bench area. All players and coaches are required to have a picture permanently laminated to the I.D. card. No player may play without furnishing a valid **NTSSA** Indoor I.D. card to the referee prior to entering the field of play. The referee must verify player cards and game line-up for each game, and will sign to indicate acceptance.

At no time will an adult I.D. card be allowed for youth play, except as a coach card. An adult may purchase a "Youth I.D. Card" marked "coach" on the card to be used only when coaching a youth team. Youth at least seventeen (17) years old may receive provisional senior status upon approval from **NTSSA**. A sticker indicating approval will be affixed to the back of the youth player card.

Facilities are required to verify that all players are not currently under suspension.

It is the playing facility's responsibility and not the referees' to insure that all teams and players have fulfilled all **NTSSA** requirements. Playing facilities are strongly reminded that referees do not have the authority to permit players or teams to play without the proper **NTSSA** Indoor I.D. Card, *regardless of the reason*.

Referees who question the validity of a player's I.D. Card should immediately send the player to the Facility Manager. The Facility Manager should determine the validity of the I.D. Card. If the card is found to be valid, the player will report to the field and the Facility Manager or scorekeeper will advise the referee that the player can play. If the card is found to be invalid, the facility should send the I.D. Card to **NTSSA** along with the name and address of the person attempting to use the card. (A card is considered to be "invalid" if the person presenting it is not the person to whom it was issued, or has been altered from its original condition.)

Temporary player cards may be issued by a facility. The card is valid for one game only. Referees must retain all temporary cards and turn them in to **NTSSA**. The referee may not accept temporary cards that have been altered.

## **MISCONDUCT**

Referees are required to file a detailed report for all ejections or game abandonments. I.D. card(s) of involved individual(s) must accompany each report and be mailed to **NTSSA** within seventy-two (72) hours. Failure to properly file a report will be grounds for possible suspension of an official. If a player or coach refuses to turn over their I.D. card to the referee when requested, the official may file the report without submitting the card indicating in the report that the official was unable to obtain the card. It shall then become the responsibility of the individual to forward their I.D. card to **NTSSA**.

## **12.1 THE FIELD OF PLAY**

### **12.1.1**

Dimensions: Maximum length 200', width 85'.

### **12.1.2**

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than 4"; 9" center spot; center circle with 15' radius.

### **12.1.3**

Penalty Arch: 30' wide, 35' to the top of the arch (20' + 15' arch).

**NOTE:** *Previously marked penalty boxes with penalty arch may be adapted, using area inside the arch as being within the penalty arch.*

### **12.1.4**

Free Kick Mark: 9" mark at the top of the penalty arch.

### **12.1.5**

Red Lines: 50' from goal lines.

### **12.1.6**

Shootout Mark: At center of each red line.

### **12.1.7**

Penalty Kick Mark: A 9" circular mark shall be made within the Penalty Area twenty-four (24) feet from the midpoint of the goal line.

### **12.1.8**

Halfway Line: Equally divide the field in half.

### **12.1.9**

Touchline: Dashed line 3' inside the perimeter wall between corner marks.

### **12.1.10**

Corner Mark: 9" circle placed 12' from penalty arch; 3' corner flag at perimeter wall and un-drawn extension of goal line.

### **12.1.11**

Goals: Width 14', height 7'6"; posts and bar same width as goal line; nets with minimum depth of 5'.

**NOTE:** *Smaller goals may be used based on availability at each center.*

### **12.1.12**

Goal Lines: 4" width line between goal posts.

#### **12.1.13**

Referee Crease: 15' semi-circle at perimeter wall and halfway line; timekeeper stands outside field adjacent to crease.

#### **12.1.14**

Player Benches: Identical areas with one (1) or two (2) doors; opposite side from penalty boxes and time keeper is recommended. Use as available at each center.

#### **12.1.15**

Penalty Boxes: Adjacent to timekeeper; opposite from team benches, protected from spectator area is recommended. Use as available at each center.

#### **12.1.16**

Carpet: Affixed to playing surfaces; referee must stop play immediately if it becomes dangerous; restart at center mark by team in possession.

#### **12.1.17**

Broken Plexiglas: Referee must stop play immediately; restart at center mark by team in possession.

### **12.2 THE BALL**

#### **12.2.1**

Approved Ball Specifications: Size 5; spherical; leather or approved material; 27-28" circumference; 14 -15 ounces; 7-9 lbs/sq. inch pressure used for U-14 and older, a size 4 for U-12 and younger. Facility may use size 3 for U-6-U-8.

#### **12.2.2**

Ball Change: Changed only with referee's permission.

#### **12.2.3**

Property: Property of facility or team furnishing ball.

#### **12.2.4**

Defective Ball: During the game, restart with drop ball; during stoppage, restart with appropriate start.

### **12.3 PLAYERS**

#### **12.3.1 Players**

1. Only indoor players registered for the current indoor soccer year (September 1-August 31) are permitted to play. Refer to date printed on the I.D. card.
2. A player may register on more than one team as long as these teams do not play each other in any competition.

#### **12.3.2 Teams**

1. Maximum six (6) players, minimum four (4); one must be goalkeeper. Eighteen (18) player rosters for U-16 and older.
2. Maximum number of players may be increased by the facility for youth, women's and coed teams with the minimum number to be two (2) players less than the maximum.

### 12.3.3 I.D. Cards

1. All players, coaches and bench personnel are required to have an Indoor I.D. card issued for the current soccer year in order to be allowed in the player's bench area.
2. A picture of the player must be laminated, permanently affixing it to the card.
3. Youth Card issued to all youth players.
  - a. An adult coach may be issued a youth card marked "Coach", which can only be used when coaching a youth team.
  - b. An adult may coach a youth team using an adult Indoor I.D. card.
  - c. A youth player at least seventeen (17) years old may receive a Provisional Release sticker placed on their youth card. This release allows that player to register and play on an adult team without losing their youth status. At no time may a youth player play on an adult team without this release. **NO STICKER – NO PLAY.**  
  
I.D. cards for youth team may be given to referee as a group by the coach with a roster indicating which players are present.
4. All affiliated indoor facilities shall require all youth coaches obtain a valid indoor coaches I.D. card.
5. A temporary I.D. card may be issued by the facility to existing rostered players and shall only be valid for the date of issue. It may be issued to either a youth or adult player. A Temporary I.D. card may not be used by a youth in an adult game unless that player's name can be verified on the official team roster that was submitted to NTSSA for registration.

### 12.3.4 Official Roster

Given to referee at least five (5) minutes before game. Referee or timekeeper must check player I.D. cards to the roster. All players (except goalkeeper) must have number listed on roster that corresponds to number on their jersey. **NO EXCEPTIONS**--even if alternate jersey is worn.

## 12.4 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

### 12.4.1 Equipment

**Required** Shirt (all members of team must have same basic color), shorts, socks (which completely cover the shin guards), shin guards, indoor soccer footwear, numbers on shirts are mandatory: Minimum of 4" in size, permanently affixed to back of shirt, must be of contrasting color to that of the main body of the shirt. No exception is allowed for alternate shirts, numbers are required. Cover-ups are allowed as long as player wears numbered jersey underneath cover up. Compression shorts are permitted and do not have to be same color as uniform or shorts.

### 12.4.2 Footwear

Flat soled or shoes designed for artificial surface. Rubber cleats are permitted, but not recommended. Hard plastic cleats are not allowed.

### 12.4.3 Goalkeeper

Colors that distinguish from other players and the referee. Field players playing as goalkeeper must wear goalkeeper jersey. Numbers on goalkeeper jersey are not required since this shirt may be exchanged among players. Protective headgear made of close-cell, slow-recovery rubber that stays soft in its final form are allowed. Gloves are allowed.

### 12.4.4 Dangerous Equipment

A player shall not be permitted to wear anything considered dangerous by the referee. Jewelry that is considered dangerous to other players must be removed or taped. Hard casts must be covered with suitable padding. Knee braces with exposed metal hinges must be covered.



#### **12.4.5 Infringement**

Player sent off for equipment adjustment may not play until approved by the referee. Penalty for returning to game early: two (2) minute unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **12.5 REFEREES**

#### **12.5.1 Referees**

1. Two referees, with equal power and authority, will be used for all games U-16 and above.
2. A single referee may be use for U-14 and below and as authorized by **NTSSA**.
3. Authority begins as soon as they enter the field of play and ceases when they leave the field of play.
4. Referee uniform shall be different from that of the players and goalkeepers.

#### **12.5.2 Powers**

1. Responsible for: record of game, control over timekeeper, adding for lost time. Power continues when play is suspended or ball is out of play, including interval between periods. Referees' decisions are final concerning the result of the game. No protests allowed.

Referees shall:

- a. Approve the ball/s.
- b. Start play and restart play.
- c. Enforce the Rules: When a player commits two offenses, penalize the most serious offense.
- d. Allow advantage with power to delay time penalty as appropriate.
- e. Prevent illegal entry onto the field by any person not having first presented a proper I.D. card.
- f. Stop the game for an injury and remove injured player as required.
- g. Penalize or caution any player, coach, or non-playing team personnel.
- h. Eject any player, coach, or non-playing team personnel (send in a misconduct report to **NTSSA**).
- i. Stop the game for any infringement. Suspend or terminate the game if necessary (send in a detailed report to **NTSSA**).

***NOTE:*** I.D. cards must be submitted with all ejected players, coach, or non-playing personnel, therefore, everyone on bench must have a valid I.D. card.

### **12.6 TIMEKEEPER**

#### **12.6.1**

1. Operate official clock and scoreboard. Subject to the referee's decision.
2. Keep record of game.
3. Check the line-ups.
4. Insure correct posting of penalties.
5. Control penalty boxes.
6. Notify referee of misconduct in penalty box.
7. Signal the release of player from penalty box.

8. Notify referee if a player needs to present I.D. card prior to entering field of play.

## **12.7 DURATION OF THE GAME**

### **12.7.1 Duration**

1. Two 20-minute halves.
2. Running clock unless stopped by the referee.
3. Time extended to take a penalty shootout.
4. Referees may add or subtract time for malfunction or time keeper error.
5. Facility may designate other stoppages of clock such as in last two (2) minutes of a period.

### **12.7.2 Intervals Between Periods**

Two-minute half-time.

### **12.7.3 Time Outs**

Referees may call a time out for unusual situations such as injury, etc.

### **12.7.4 Overtime Period**

No overtime except in playoffs and then as designated by facility.

## **12.8 THE START OF PLAY**

### **12.8.1 Beginning the Game**

Visiting team kicks first; all players in own half; opposing team at least 15' from the ball. Ball must be stationary prior to kick and is in play when it is kicked and moves. Kick may be taken in any direction; kicker may not touch the ball until it is touched by another player. A goal can be scored from a kickoff.

### **12.8.2 After A Goal Has Been Scored**

Restarted by opposing team as in Section 12.8.1

### **12.8.3 After the End of First Period**

Teams change ends and alternate kick-offs.

### **12.8.4 Infraction**

1. Improper kickoff, such as ball not stationary or played prior to referee signal, kickoff retaken.
2. Second touch by kicker, free kick by opposing team at point of infraction.
3. If any offensive player runs into the attacking half prior to the kicker playing the ball, the kick-off shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **12.8.5 Drop Ball Restart**

Ball dropped by referee for any cause not in the rules. Dropped where ball was when play was stopped or atop of arch if stopped while in penalty arch. If team has clear possession when play is stopped, then that team will retain possession on the restart with a free kick.

### **12.8.6 Failure to Play Ball**

1. Team has five (5) seconds to put the ball in play as signaled by referee.
2. Penalty: free kick to opponent at point where ball was.

## **12.9 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

### **12.9.1 Ball In Play**

1. From start to finish including when:
  - a. Rebounds off post, bar, perimeter wall into the field and netting above perimeter wall below 8' line.
  - b. Rebounds off referee into the field.
  - c. A supposed infringement until decision is made by the referee.

### **12.9.2 Ball Out of Play**

1. Completely crossed the perimeter wall or ball contacts wall or net above the "high line" designated the top of the perimeter wall. Restart with free kick from point on touchline nearest spot where ball went out of play.
2. Makes contact with the building superstructure above the field. Restart from the center of the red line nearest to where the ball hit the superstructure by opposing team.
3. Makes contact with player, coach, or bench personnel leaning over the bench wall with hands or arms into field of play. Restart with free kick at that point, awarded to opposite team from the one who made contact with the ball.
4. Ball becomes stuck between sections of the perimeter wall. Restart with drop ball.

### **Restarts – Ball Over Perimeter Wall**

1. Kick-In: Kicked in from the touchline where it crossed perimeter wall. If ball exits through open bench door or inadvertently touches a substitute or bench personnel extending into field, restart taken by opponent. Deliberate interference shall be penalized according to Rule 12.16.4b. Ball may be kicked in any direction and is in play after it is kicked and moves. A goal may be scored directly
2. Goal Clearance: Ball over perimeter between corner flags last touched by an opponent.
  - a. A throw taken by the goalkeeper from any point within the penalty arch.
  - b. Ball not in play until it has left the penalty arch.
  - c. A goal may be scored directly if ball does not cross three lines in air.

#### **NOTES:**

*If the ball does not go beyond the penalty arch, the throw must be retaken.*

*Opposing players must be outside the penalty arch until the ball leaves the penalty arch.*

*Goalkeeper taking the goal clearance cannot play the ball after it has left the penalty arch until it has been touched by another player.*

*Referee must signal to goalkeeper for play to start, if he does not immediately put ball into play. Verbal signal is permissible, goalkeeper has five (5) seconds to put ball back into play.*

**Penalty:** Free kick top of penalty arch.

*Ball bounced by goalkeeper during a goal clearance does not result in a free kick at top of penalty arch due to the ball having not been put back into play.*

*Youth play exceptions: For U-12 and younger, the goalkeeper is permitted to dropkick the ball back into play in lieu of throwing ball.*

3. Corner Kick: Ball over perimeter wall between corner flags last touched by a defender.
  - a. Placed on the corner mark at the nearest corner flagpost.

- b. Opponents must be 15' from ball or at least to the edge of the near goalpost if corner spot is less than 15' from goal post.
- c. Referee's whistle is mandatory.
- d. Team taking corner kick failing to put ball into play within five (5) seconds will lose possession. Restart play with goal clearance.
- e. Ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

## **12.10 METHOD OF SCORING**

### **12.10.1 Legal Goal**

Whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the posts and under the crossbar. Team with the greater number of goals at the end of game is the winner.

### **12.10.2 Outside Interference**

No goal, game restarted with a drop ball (except shootout--then repeat shootout).

## **12.11 THREE LINE VIOLATION**

### **12.11.1 Definition**

Player cannot pass (or last touch) ball across three (3) lines in the air toward opponent's goal without it touching the wall, floor, player or official.

***NOTE:*** *Player may pass back to own goal – not an infringement.*

### **12.11.2 Punishment**

Free kick to the opponent at the center of first red line that the ball crossed.

## **12.12 SUBSTITUTION**

### **12.12.1 Substitutes**

All bench personnel and players listed on the line-up are subject to the referee's authority. Any player who enters the field of play without having first presented a valid NTSSA Indoor I.D. card to the referee shall be assessed a two-minute unsportsmanlike conduct time penalty. If the player cannot produce a valid card, then the player will not be allowed to participate, must leave the bench area and a substitute shall serve the two-minute penalty.

### **12.12.2 Unlimited Substitution**

Unlimited substitution may be made at any time during play, provided substituted player is within touchline at own bench area as new player enters the field. Neither player may participate in play while both are on the field. Violation: Two-minute team penalty from where the ball was.

### **12.12.3 Guaranteed Substitution**

1. Restart may be delayed for up to fifteen (15) seconds to allow substitutions at the following times:
  - a. Goal is scored.
  - b. When time penalty awarded.
  - c. Injury stoppage.
  - d. Stoppage signaled by referee.
  - e. To allow exit from penalty box.

- f. Ball over perimeter
- g. Ball into superstructure
- h. If play restarted with too many players, no penalty assessed.

***NOTE:*** In a “clock running”, referees should not allow teams to waste time and delay the restart to their advantage.

#### **12.12.4 Timed Substitutions**

Warning issued to team for taking more than fifteen (15) seconds to complete substitutions during a guaranteed substitution. Team time penalty assessed for further violation.

#### **12.12.5 Injured Goalkeeper**

If play is suspended more than one (1) time for injured goalkeeper, including treatment for blood on goalkeeper or uniform, that player must be removed and another player will become the goalkeeper.

#### **12.12.6 Injured Player**

When referee identifies an injured player or a player with visible blood, referee stops the play as appropriate, stops clock and delays restart for injured player. The player must be removed from the field, and the team is allowed to substitute. In the case of blood, the player must show the referee at a stoppage and prior to reentering the game that the open wound has been covered or any blood on the uniform has been treated. An injured player serving a time penalty that goes to his bench for treatment must stay there until the penalty expires. Failure to observe above, results in a penalty: two minute unsportsmanlike conduct.

#### **12.12.7 Time Penalties for Substitution Violations**

A Two-minute team time penalty (power play) shall be assessed for violation of the Substitution rule. It shall be the coach’s choice and will not accrue against the player who serves on behalf of the team.

Play restarted with a free kick where ball was when play was stopped.

### **12.13 GOALKEEPERS**

#### **12.13.1 Goalkeeping Restrictions**

**Hand to Hand:** Goalkeeper, having released possession by his hands, may not handle it again until it is touched by an opponent. Bouncing the ball is not considered release of possession.

**Passback:** If a team intentionally kicks the ball to their goalkeeper, the goalkeeper may not handle the ball.

Deflections are permitted.

Passbacks using the head, chest or knee are permitted. A two-minute unsportsmanlike conduct time penalty will be assessed against any player using trickery to get around the restrictions.

Five-second distribution possession with hand or foot in penalty arch more than five seconds.

Illegal procedure/handling: Goalkeeper bringing the ball into the penalty arch may not handle it.

Striking or pushing opponent with the ball: caution or ejection.

Penalty: Free kick at top of penalty arch; technical violation. Whistle restart is mandatory.

While playing as a field player, the goalkeeper commits a handling violation: foul – no time penalty.

Coming out of the penalty arch and deliberately handling the ball is a mandatory time penalty unless momentum carried goalkeeper out of the area, then it is a foul, but no time penalty.

Deliberately handling the ball outside the penalty area that denies the opposing team of a possible goal-scoring opportunity requires a time penalty and a shootout.

### **12.13.2 Goalkeeper Privileges**

Opponent may not intentionally obstruct the goalkeeper's attempt to put the ball in play.

Opponent cannot make body contact in the penalty arch with goalkeeper not in possession of the ball unless the referee deems such contact as inadvertent during normal course of play. Contacts deemed as not inadvertent shall be punished by a free kick, but no time penalty.

Referee should penalize serious fouls committed by an opponent against the goalkeeper with a time penalty.

An opponent who intentionally endangers the goalkeeper beyond what is considered normal shall be cautioned for ungentlemanly conduct.

An opponent who intentionally charges the goalkeeper in a violent manner or who intentionally kicks the goalkeeper in full possession of the ball shall be ejected for serious foul play.

## **12.14 FREE KICKS**

### **12.14.1 Free Kick Regulations**

Opposing players must be at least 15' from the ball. The ball must be stationary. Ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. Player has five (5) seconds to play the ball after referee's signal. Player cannot play the ball again before it has been touched by another player. Penalty: Restart is awarded to opponent.

All free kicks are direct. A goal may be scored directly against either team. A team can score upon itself.

Location: From the point of infraction or within 3' unless it gives a team an unfair advantage (kick retaken).

**In Defensive Penalty Arch:** Play will be restarted with a Goalkeeper distribution, with opposing players outside penalty arch. Ball is not in play until it leaves the penalty arch.

**In Attacking Penalty Arch:** Taken from the top of the arch unless a penalty/shootout has been awarded. Whistle restart is mandatory.

Penalty Shootout: See Rule 12.17.

Penalty Kick: See Rule 12.18

Infraction Off Field: Taken from where the ball was when play was stopped.

Substitution Violation: Taken from where the ball was when play was stopped.

Superstructure Violation: From the center of the red line nearest to where the ball hit the superstructure.

### **12.14.2 Violation/Kicker**

Second consecutive touch by the kicker (not during a shootout or penalty kick); free kick to opponent at point of infraction. For five-second delay; restart awarded to opponent.

### **12.14.3 Encroachment**

1. If a defending player less than 15' from the ball, intentionally interferes with the taking of a free kick, he shall be considered guilty of encroachment. For the first violation, the referee shall issue a team warning for encroachment to the offending team. For any subsequent violation, after being warned for encroachment, this shall be considered misconduct – technical infraction resulting in a five (5) minute penalty assessed against the offending player. A free kick will be awarded to the offended team at the point of the encroachment.

## **12.15 FOULS/TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS**

### **12.15.1 Fouls**

Player commits any of the following offenses in a careless, reckless manner or with disproportionate force will be penalized by a free kick from the point of infraction.

These add to a team's total foul count:

Kicking or attempts to kick an opponent.

Tripping or attempts to trip an opponent.

Jumping at opponent.

Charges an opponent.

Striking or attempting to strike an opponent (mandatory time penalty).

Elbowing or attempt to elbow an opponent results in mandatory time penalty (elbow to face is an ejection for violent conduct).

Pushing an opponent.

Or commits any of the following:

Contact with an opponent before contact is made with the ball.

Handling the ball.

Boarding (mandatory time penalty).

Dangerous play.

Fair charge, but ball not in playing distance.

Obstructing when not playing the ball.

Spitting at any person (ejection for violent conduct).

### **12.15.2 Six Team Fouls**

A team's sixth non-time penalty foul (as described in Rule 2.11.5.1(a-n) in a half will result in a penalty shootout (see Rule 2.11.7) being awarded. No time penalty is served. Fouls that result in a time penalty being awarded do not count in a team's six foul count.

### **12.15.3 Technical Violations**

Player commits an offense that is not a foul but is a violation of a rule, which necessitates the awarding of a free kick at the point of the infraction. Did not count against team's total foul count:

Second hand touch by goalkeeper (12.13.1a).

Goalkeeper takes hand possession from a passback (12.13.1b)

Five-second violations by goalkeeper (12.13.1c).

Illegal handling by goalkeeper (12.13.1d)

Three-line violations (12.11)

Kick-off violations (12.8.4)

Free Kick restart violations (12.14.1)

All two-touch violations.

## **12.16 TIME PENALTIES**

### **12.16.1 Time Penalties**

After the start of the game, time penalties may be awarded for offenses committed when play is in progress or during any stoppage (including between periods).

Time penalties will be classified as follows:

1. 2 Minute Power Play Penalties: Blue Card
  - Team Time Penalty: Illegal substitution
  - Team Time Penalty: 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Misconduct
  - Penal fouls listed in Sec. 12.15.1
  - Unsporting Behavior
2. 5 Minute Misconduct (Non-Power Play): Yellow Card
  - Dissent
  - Technical Offenses
3. Ejectionable Offenses: Red Card
  - Penal fouls: 2 Minute Time Penalty
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Time Penalty: 2 Minute Time Penalty
  - Game Misconduct: No Power Play

### **12.16.2 Team Time Penalties**

Blue Card

1. Two-minute time penalty for the following:

During play substitutions may be made at any time on an unlimited basis, provided the player substituted for is within the touchline at bench area, or off the field of play within his own bench area, before the substitution is made. Notwithstanding the above, neither the player entering nor the departing player may participate in play and or gain an advantage during the period of time when they are simultaneously on the field and the ball is in play. Such violation shall result in a 2 minute Team Power Play penalty. It shall be the coaches choice as to which player serves the two minute Power play penalty and that penalty does not accrue against the player for purposes of multiple accumulated time penalties for ejection.

### **12.16.3 Penal Time Penalties**

Blue Card

1. Two-minute penalty for severe, tactical or blatant offenses listed in Rule 12.15.1 committed while ball is in play.
2. If the offense occurs in the defending penalty arch and warrants a penal time penalty, then a Penalty Kick (see 12.18) is awarded.
3. If the offense occurs in the defending player's defensive half of the field and is: (1) foul from behind against an attacking player having control of the ball with one or no defensive players between himself and the goal or (2) any foul where he is the last player on the defending team between the attacking player and the goal, then and warrants a penal time penalty, then a Shootout (see 12.17) is awarded.

### **12.16.4 Unsporting Behavior: Blue Card**

Referee Discretion, a two minute time penalty may be assessed any player who exhibits an Unsporting behavior.



Encroachment: Referee requests 15' and the player refuses or a player within 15' intentionally interferes with the restart. A two minute power play time penalty is awarded and a team warning issued to the team that any further actions will result in a misconduct penalty.

Player entering the field of play prior to presenting I.D. card to the referee.

#### **12.16.5 Ejectionable Time Penalties**

A player or non-player shall be ejected and a two (2) minute power play penalty awarded for incidents of:

1. Violent conduct or serious foul play
2. Foul or abusive language or action
3. Head butting
4. Third man into an altercation
5. First man off the bench joining an altercation
6. Leaving the penalty box and joining an altercation
7. Spitting on or at an opponent or game official
8. Third time penalty in the same match. Blue card shown first, followed by red card.

If play is stopped to eject the player, a free kick is awarded to opposing team at point where offense occurred.

A teammate will serve the time penalty or until a power play goal is scored against that player's team. The ejected player must leave the field.

***EXCEPTION:** Youth player under supervision of an adult coach may remain in the bench area if parent or guardian is not present.*

#### **12.16.6 Misconduct**

A five (5) minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed against players who show disapproval, by word or action, of the decision by the referee or other game officials or acts in a severe unsporting behavior. These penalties shall be administered by:

1. Misconduct by players: yellow card is shown and a 5 minute time penalty is awarded no power play. No time is posted. Player may not leave penalty box until the next guaranteed substitution or when the ball has gone over the perimeter wall after the entire 5 minutes have elapsed. If a time penalty is awarded and that player is then guilty of dissent, that player will be assessed a 5 minute misconduct penalty, a teammate will serve the original 2 minute time penalty and be released after a power play goal is scored or time is served. Player serving misconduct will serve the entire 5 minute penalty.
2. Misconduct by non-players: yellow card is shown, no time penalty is awarded. No time is posted as this shall be considered administrative in nature and is recorded for purposes of multiple penalty and ejection for that individual.
3. Team misconduct: team misconduct shall be defined as physical or verbal abuse of the referees where the offender is not identifiable. For any team violation, referees shall assess a misconduct penalty to the coach of the offending team. This rule does not prohibit referees from penalizing individual players or non-playing personnel. For player / head coaches, the team misconduct penalty shall count towards the accumulation of penalties for such player / coach.
4. Team Violations: team misconducts and the following offenses will accumulate toward multiple misconducts (3) which will result in a power play being awarded.

Additional Team Violations:

- a. Game delay, delay because a team is not present or ready to start the game at the commencement, after a timeout, at the conclusion of halftime as well as any other recommencement during the course of the game. Engaging in tactics that delay the restart of the game immediately following the referee's whistle to stop play.
- b. Illegal substitution – delay of game after a warning.
- c. Illegal substitution for playing with no goalkeeper

#### Misconduct – Technical Infractions

A 5 minute non-power play penalty may be assessed for the following offenses:

##### Player violations:

- 1. Leaves penalty box prior to expiration of time penalty
- 2. Guilty of gesticulation on a free kick
- 3. Violates penalty kick procedures after a team warning
- 4. Interferes in shootout procedures
- 5. Commits delay of game violation
- 6. Encroachment, after a team warning has been issued.
- 7. Circumventing the pass back rule
- 8. Referee crease violation
- 9. Equipment adjustment: player re-enters play without making the requested equipment adjustment.
- 10. Intentionally kicking the ball away after a stoppage to delay the restart or in protest of the referee's call.

#### **12.16.7 Game Misconduct (Red Card)**

A Game Misconduct Penalty shall be assessed any player or non-player who is guilty of:

Insulting, offensive or abusive language directed to an official or someone other than an opponent.

Physical contact with an official in dissent of a call.

- a. Assault: Physical force (includes spitting on) directed at an official.
- b. Abuse: A threat of physical force (includes spitting at) directed at an official.
- c. Simple contact with an official is not considered assault or abuse.

Unseemly behavior (such as spitting) directed at officials or spectators.

Leaving penalty box to engage in dissent or confrontation. Substitute will serve remainder of any power play time penalty.

Violent conduct toward a teammate, referee or other non-player opponent.

##### ADMINISTRATION:

Red Card is shown to a person; they are removed from the field of play. No power play is awarded. I.D. card is retained and a report filed. If play is stopped to eject the player, a free kick is awarded to opponent.

After-game Misconduct: Referee shall not display red card but will notify the person the misconduct will be reported to **NTSSA**. Player I.D. card should be retained if possible, but report may be filed without it.

### **12.16.8 Delayed Time Penalty**

#### **Blue Card Advantage**

A referee wishing to apply the advantage and delay issuing a time penalty shall raise a blue card and maintain the signal until:

Opponent gains possession (clear control for more than one (1) second): Referee signals foul, penalized player and restarts from the point of the original foul with a free kick

Goal: Offense is recorded. No time penalty served. If it is scored on a power play, a player is also released from penalty box.

Any Other Stoppage: Penalize player, restart according to how play was stopped; kick-in, goal clearance, etc.

## **12.17 PENALTY SHOOTOUT**

### **12.17.1 Definition**

Awarded for any of the following fouls committed by a defending player in his defensive half of the field:

1. Foul “from behind”, by an attacker with one defender (probably the goalkeeper) between attacker and goal and has a reasonable goal scoring opportunity.
2. Any foul where he is the last player on the team between the attacking player with the ball and the goal.
3. A penalty shootout may be awarded following a delayed blue, if the offense would have originally warranted.
4. Cumulative sixth foul in a half or fourth in overtime; a penalty shootout is awarded. No time penalty served.
5. A Penalty Kick, if appropriate, shall take precedence.

### **12.17.2 Application**

1. The penalized player shall be in the penalty box. All other players except the shooter and goalkeeper shall be behind the halfway line; defending players in the center circle, attacking players outside the center circle.
2. Ball placed at the center of the red line nearest the attacking goal.
3. Attempt may be taken by a player of the attacking team.
4. The referee’s whistle signals the start of play at which time all players may enter the attacking half. The player making the attempt must play the ball forward and may try to score regardless of the number of times the ball is played off the walls, goalkeeper, by the shooter or a teammate. (Two touch rule does not apply.)
5. The game clock starts on the referee’s whistle.
6. Goalkeeper must have at least one foot on or behind the goal line and not move until after the referee signals.
7. All game rules apply during the shootout.

### **12.17.3 Interference**

1. Any foul by goalkeeper during a shootout will result in the taking of a penalty kick if a goal was not scored; card is mandatory.
2. Any foul by the shooter will end the shootout.

3. Outside interference, retake shootout.

#### **12.17.4 Penalty Shootout Time Extension**

Any foul resulting in a shootout with less than five (5) seconds left in any period will result in the game clock being reset to five (5) seconds and shootout conducted as per Rule 12.17.2.

Game clock starts on the referee's whistle.

All game rules apply during the shootout.

Time expires, game ends. Shooter has five (5) seconds to put ball across goal line. Buzzer sounds before ball crosses the line, NO GOAL.

#### **12.17.5 Overtime Shootout Application**

1. If a winner has not been decided in the overtime, then the game will be decided by shootouts.
2. The referee will choose the goal.
3. Visiting team takes the first shootout attempt.
4. Teams will alternate taking five (5) shootout attempts.
5. If, before both teams have taken their five (5) kicks, a team scores more goals than the other could, the shootout will cease.
6. All other players must be on the player benches.
7. Ball placed at center of red line nearest attacking goal.
8. From the referee's whistle, the shooter has five (5) seconds to score regardless of the number of times the ball is played off the walls, goalkeeper or the shooter.
9. Any foul committed by the goalkeeper regardless of field position, will be penalized by an additional Power Play penalty and the taking of a penalty kick by any member of the offended team. The goalkeeper will serve the appropriate time penalty. Any infraction by the kicker shall end the attempt. Any time penalties will accrue as in normal play.
10. Goalkeeper shall have at least one foot on or behind the goal line and not move until the referee whistles.
11. Facility scorekeeper will be the official timekeeper during the shootout attempt.
12. If no winner is decided after five (5) kicks, teams shall continue alternate kicks until a winner is decided.
13. All players on the lineup are eligible to take part.
14. A player of the same team takes another kick after five (5) players of his team have made an attempt and may repeat again after an additional five (5) players.
15. For use in CO-ED games, there is no requirement as to the number of males or female shooters, however, a goal scored by a female shooter will count 2 points whereas goals scored by males shooters will count 1 point.

### **12.18 – PENALTY KICKS**

#### **12.18.1 Definition:**

A penalty kick is a free kick from the Penalty Mark taken by a properly identified opponent against the goalkeeper without interference by other players. A penalty kick is awarded against a team, which while the ball is in play commits within its own penalty area (or area within the goal) one of the fouls listed in Rule 12.15.1 which warrants a time penalty. A penalty kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball at the time an offense is committed.

**Player Positions During a Penalty Kick:**

The Referee will not whistle for the taking of a penalty kick until the players are positioned in accordance with the following:

All players, with exception of the properly identified player taking the kick and the opposing goalkeeper shall be on the field of play but behind the yellow line.

The defending goalkeeper remains on his own goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts until the ball is kicked. Encroachment from this position to interfere with the kicker shall result in a warning. Subsequent violations shall result in a Misconduct Penalty.

**Ball in Play:**

The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward. The ball shall be deemed in play after it has been played (touched).

**Infringements / Sanctions:**

If the Referee gives the signal for the penalty kick to be taken and before the ball is in play, one of the following situations occurs:

- a. Violation by Kicker: The player taking the penalty kick infringes the Rules; the Referee allows the kick to proceed and if the ball enters the goal, the kick will be retaken. If the ball does not enter the goal, play will proceed.
  - b. Violation by Goalkeeper: The goalkeeper infringes the Rules, the Referee allows the kick to proceed and if the ball enters the goal, the goal is awarded. If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick will be retaken.
  - c. Violation by Defending Team: A teammate of the goalkeeper crosses the yellow line, the Referee allows the kick to proceed and if the ball enters the goal, the goal is awarded. If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken.
  - d. Violation by Teammate of the Kicker: A teammate of the kicker crosses the yellow line, the Referee allows the kick to proceed and if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken. If the ball does not enter the goal, play will proceed and the kick will not be retaken.
  - e. Violation by Both Defending Team and Attacking Team: A player of both defending team and attacking team infringe the Rules: the kick is retaken.
- For any infringement of this Rule 12.18.4, the offender shall receive a warning. Subsequent violations shall result in a five (5) minute Misconduct Penalty (non-power play) assessed against that individual.

**Violations After the Penalty Kick is Taken:**

- a. The kicker touches the ball a second time: a free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.
- b. An outside agent stops the ball, as it moves forward, the kick shall be retaken.
- c. The ball rebounds into play from the goalkeeper, crossbar, goalpost, perimeter wall, or corner flag post and is stopped in its course by an outside agent, the Referee shall stop play and restart by dropping the ball.

**Penalty Kick in Extended Play:**

Play shall be extended at the end of any period to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken. The extension shall last until the Referee has decided whether or not a goal is scored:

- a. Direct from the penalty kick
- b. Having rebounded from either goal post or crossbar directly into the goal

- c. Having touched or been played by the goalkeeper
- d. Or any combination of (b) and (c).

The period shall terminate immediately after the Referee determines whether a goal has been scored. No players other than the kicker and the opposing goalkeeper shall be allowed on the field.

## RULE EXCEPTIONS FOR CO-ED PLAY

Games are played using the **NTSSA** adult rules with the following exceptions:

### RULE 12.3 – PLAYERS AND TEAMS

**TEAMS:** A team consists of seven (7) players (including the goalkeeper). There must be a minimum of five (5) players (including the goalkeeper) for play to start or continue.

**MAXIMUM MALE PLAYERS:** A team may play up to three (3) male field players at one time even if playing with fewer than three (3) female players. The goalkeeper may be either male or female. A team may have more female than male players at any time.

### RULE 12.11 – METHOD OF SCORING

**FEMALE SCORER:** Goals scored directly by female players will count two (2) points (including a shootout goal). All other goals will count as one (1) point.

#### NOTES:

*A shot taken by a female player that makes contact, whether intentional or incidental, with a male teammate or an opponent other than the goalkeeper prior to going into the goal will count one (1) point.*

*A shot taken by a male player that makes contact, whether intentional or incidental, with a female teammate, and then goes into the goal will count two (2) points.*

*A female taking a shootout that scores a goal direct will count two (2) points.*

*An own goal will count one (1) point. A deflection into the goal is not considered an own goal.*

*Contact of ball by goalkeeper does not change point value of goal by a female's goal.*

**ELIGIBLE MALE SCORER:** A male player is eligible to score if he:

Shoots from outside the offensive zone (red line). A male is ineligible to score if the ball is on or above the red line.

While in the offensive zone, he receives the ball directly from a female teammate, who may be anywhere on the field of play.

**NOTE:** *A male player may be outside the red line when the female player plays the ball as long as his first touch on the ball is in the offensive zone. He does not have to be in the offensive zone when she plays the ball to him.*

When a ball played by the female teammate is deflected by the opposing goalkeeper.

The male player loses his eligibility to score from inside the offensive zone if the ball touches a defensive player (other than the goalkeeper), touches a male teammate, touches or crosses the red line or goes out of play.

A male player may not score from inside the offensive zone if he takes the ball away from an opponent.

Is taking a shootout. He remains eligible when the ball rebounds off the wall or goalkeeper. If goalkeeper takes possession of the ball and restarts play, the male is no longer eligible.

If an eligible male shoots at goal and the ball makes contact with a defender prior to going in the goal--the goal counts one (1) point.

If a ball played by an ineligible male scorer deflects off an opponent into the goal, the goal will not count. Restart play with a goal clearance.

A goal scored direct by an ineligible male scorer will not count. Play shall be restarted with a goal clearance.

### RULE 12.14 – FOULS/TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS

**SLIDE TACKLES:** Slide tackles against an opponent shall be considered dangerous play and are not permitted. A two (2) minute time penalty is mandatory for slide tackle.

**EXCEPTION:** *Goalkeeper in his own penalty arch is allowed to slide tackle if not done in a dangerous manner.*

### RULE 12.16 – TIME PENALTIES

**TIME PENALTIES:** Goalkeepers must serve their own time penalties.

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **SUGGESTED PLAYING RULES FOR YOUTH COED PLAY (For proper age players U-11 and older)**

#### **NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

It is intended that the playing rules for Youth Coed Soccer be flexible to fit the needs and goals of the Member Association.

#### **13.1 TEAM FORMATION**

Youth coed may be played as full-sided or small-sided.

#### **13.2 NUMBER OF MALE PLAYERS**

A team shall consist of male and female players. A keeper may be either male or female. A minimum of one male player is required to be on the field at all times and no more than fifty percent (50%) of the eligible number of players on the field at any one time, excluding the goalkeeper, may be male.

#### **13.3 METHOD OF SCORING**

1. **Female Scorer:** Goals scored directly by a female player will count two (2) points (including a shootout goal).
2. **Male Scorer:** Goals scored directly by a male player will count one (1) point (including a shootout goal).

#### **13.4 FOULS/TECHNICAL VIOLATION**

Slide tackles: Slide tackles against an opponent shall be considered dangerous play and are not permitted.

#### **13.5 TOURNAMENT PLAY**

A youth coed team is not permitted to play in outdoor tournaments unless the tournament provides a coed division.



The following rule 3.14 was passed at the 2016 Semi-AGM, with some housekeeping modifications made in June 2016. These are already incorporated in the NTSSA Bylaws and Rules. Listed below in red are some additional housekeeping changes made by USSF in August 2016, that may be used but are not yet incorporated in the NTSSA Bylaws and Rules:

*(Please note rule 3.14 and Tournament Rules changes are recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)*

### 3.14 NTSSA RULES OF COMPETITION

FIFA Laws of the Game as Modified (recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of NTSSA and its affiliated members shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

#### 3.14.1 Law I - Field of Play

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Field Width</u>	<u>Field Length</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
<b><u>Adult</u></b>			
All Ages	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 120 yds.	8ft. x 24 ft.
<b><u>Youth</u></b>			
Under 19	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 16	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 14	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 12	44 - 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	<del>Max 76.5 ft. x 2148.5 ft</del> <u>Recommend 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.</u>
Under 10	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds.	<del>Max. 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.</del> <u>Recommend 6.5 ft. x 12 ft.</u>
Under 8 and younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 – 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

#### 3.14.2 Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
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Under 13 and older	Size #5
Under 12 and Under 10	Size #4
Under 8 and younger	Size #3

### 3.14.3 Law III - Number of Players and Substitution

1. Under 13 and older shall play 11v11.
2. Under 12 shall play 9v9
3. Under 10 shall play 7v7
4. Under 8 and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.
5. Substitution Rule – ~~Youth under 8 and older~~
  - a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
  - b. Either team, at a goal-kick;
  - c. Either team, after a goal is scored;
  - d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
  - e. At halftime or quarter /period for Under 8 and younger;
  - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given in Under 9 and older, that player may be substituted for.

\*\*\* NTSSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 87 and younger age groups only.

The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.
6. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player’s time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** FIFA rules for substitution will apply.
8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
  - Adult – maximum 25 players
  - Under 16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players
  - Under 14 – maximum 18 players
  - Under 12 – maximum 16 players
  - Under 10 – maximum 12 players
  - Under 8 and younger– recommend 6, maximum 8 players

### 3.14.4 Law IV - Player’s Equipment

Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

**3.14.5 Law V - Referee \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA** - Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. Registered Referees
2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players.

**3.14.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee**

Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for Under 9 and older  
There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

**3.14.7 Law VII - Duration of Game**

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Length of Periods</u>	<u>Length of Overtime</u>
<b>Adult</b>		
Adult	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
<b>Youth</b>		
Under 19	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 16	Two 40 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 14	Two 35 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 12	Two 30 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 10	Two 25 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 8 and younger	Max. Four 10 min. <del>Three 15 min.</del> <u>Recommend Four 8 min.</u>	None
Under 7 and younger	<del>Four 8 min.</del>	None

**3.14.8 Law VIII - Start of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet ~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.**

**3.14.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA**

**3.14.10 Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player if local playing rules so provide.**

**3.14.11 Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except that for Under 8 and younger there is no offside, and for Under 10 there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.**

**3.14.12 Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: -“One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground.” Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per FIFA laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.
2. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from

being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.

3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

**3.14.13 Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\*** Conforms with FIFA except that~~for~~ all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.

**3.14.14 Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\*** Conforms with FIFA except that there are~~for~~ no penalty kicks in Under 8 and —younger.

**3.14.15 Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\*** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger~~Under 7~~ are allowed a re-throw. Under 8 and younger~~6~~ and younger may use kick-in.

**3.14.16 Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\*** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.

**3.14.17 Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\*** Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet~~three (3) yards~~ from the ball.

## NTSSA YOUTH TOURNAMENT RULES

*Recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018*

***(Rules used for all tournaments unless exceptions approved by NTSSA Cups and Games Committee)***

1. Each team must have unique numbered jerseys. Alternate jerseys or numbered T-shirts must be available with a unique number for each player. Pennies may be used over the jersey resolve color conflicts. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the roster. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected. Home Team is team listed first on schedule. Home Team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict.
2. Home Team will occupy either the North or West side of playing field, except at complexes which are setup for teams/players to be on the opposite side of the field from spectators.
3. A game may be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director/Committee if a team is not ready to play at the published time within ten (10) minutes of the game. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five (5) minutes of the referee's designation.
4. The only protests allowed are for ineligible player and misapplications of the laws of the game that the referee admits. All protests must have a material impact on the outcome of the game and be reported in writing, with a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) cashier's check, money order or cash.
5. Teams will play Mini-Games in preliminary & quarter-final games. Semi-final and Final games will be full length. Half-time will be five (5) minutes. (Under 6 – Under 8 do not play advancement games)

Division	Mini-Game Length	Full Game Length	Ball Size	Overtime
U- <del>8</del> 7 and younger	n/a	(4) 8 Minute Quarters	3	n/a
<del>U-8</del>	<del>n/a</del>	<del>(3) 15 Minute Periods</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>n/a</del>
U-10	20 Minute Halves	25 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-12	25 Minute Halves	30 Minute Halves	4	(2) 10 Minute
U-14	30 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves	5	(2) 10 Minute
U-16	30 Minute Halves	40 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-17	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute
U-19	35 Minute Halves	45 Minute Halves	5	(2) 15 Minute