

# Wylie Youth Soccer Association Rules and Regulations

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## **Introduction and Statement of Policy**

The purpose of Wylie Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) is to maintain a recreational program that provides a fun and competitive league for the youth of the Wylie area. Players, coaches, parents, and administrators are expected to emphasize the recreational aspects of the game of soccer during their participation in the Association.

Play in all Member Leagues of the WYSA shall be governed by the official Laws and decisions authorized by North Texas Soccer Association, The United States Soccer Federation, and FIFA. In addition, the following rules and regulations herein were adopted by the WYSA to better define certain laws and regulations.

When WYSA teams are playing with other associations some of the rules may be abridged or altered by written agreement of the WYSA Board of Directors. In general, if WYSA teams are playing in other associations they will follow those associations Rules and Regulations. Likewise, if teams from other cities are playing in the WYSA they will follow these Rules and Regulations.

All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that always supports the purpose of the WYSA. In case of conflict or disagreement, all participants are advised to pursue any such problems through the established and proper channels as outlined in this document. Any single significant or continued activity, which causes disruption to the overall purpose, shall be dealt with by WYSA to the extent necessary to remove or eliminate such disruption.

AUTHORITY – WYSA is a member, in good standing, of the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA); which in turn, is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF); the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the official governing bodies of the USA and the world, recognized by the entire world, and has been given jurisdiction over organized soccer within the prescribed physical boundaries.

All teams (coaches, players and parents), by act of their forming of teams, submitting rosters and payment of fees, agree to accept the authority of and to abide by the by-laws, Rules and Regulations, and all decisions of the Board of Directors (herein after referred to as the “Board”).

The Board is empowered to set all playing league and operating rules and regulations with the structure of the by-laws.

### **1.0 Pet Policy**

**During any WYSA official event pets are not allowed at the fields. This is for the protection of the players, parents and pets. Any parent with a pet at the fields will be asked to leave or remove the pet.**

## 2.0 Playing Seasons

Each soccer year will normally consist of two (2) seasons of play. The WYSA Board shall set the season dates based on guidelines established by the Parks and Recreation Department and NTSSA.

### 2.1 Fall Season

The Fall Season shall not begin before the third weekend in August, nor extend beyond the fourth weekend in November.

### 2.2 Spring Season

The Spring Season shall not begin before the second weekend in February, nor extend beyond the fourth weekend of May.

## 3.0 Meetings

### 3.1 Coaches Meeting

The association will conduct coach's meetings as required to cover items such as revisions to the Rules and Regulations, changes to forms, administrative procedures or responsibilities, deadlines, game day procedures, interleague information or any other questions of problems that may arise.

### 3.2 Team Meetings

WYSA requires that each coach conduct a meeting with at least one of the parents or guardians of each player. WYSA recommends that these meetings occur prior to the first practice, but no later than the scheduled first game. These meetings will cover at least the following:

- A. WYSA By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations
- B. Team expectations with emphasis on practice schedules, team support, notification procedures, required equipment and schedules.
- C. NTSSAWYSA conduct regulations, with specific emphasis on the NTSSA Code of Ethics for players and parents. THIS IS A REQUIREMENT!
- D. A brief overview of the Laws of the Game. This will add to the enjoyment of the game itself.
- E. Answer questions and/or deal with any problems brought out by parents that require action to be taken. Some of these items may need to be forwarded to the WYSA Board for consideration.

## 4.0 Age Requirements

### 4.1 Age Bracket by League

Each division is developed by age and birth year. The current Age Pure Chart can be found at the NTSSA website under youth forms. (<http://www.ntxsoccer.org>)

### 4.2 Special Situations

#### A. Playing in an Older Age Group

Players are normally expected to participate in their regular age bracket. Parents of players younger than the minimum age for the given league may request that their child play up. For their child to play up in the next higher age bracket they must make a special request during registration. The request must be sent to the WYSA Administrator indicating why they wish to play up and if applicable the team their sibling plays for if they wish to be paired with that sibling. NO REQUEST IS GUARANTEED but all will be sent to the Team Formation Committee for approval.

**B. Playing in a Lower Age Group**

A player with significant mental or physical deficiencies may petition the NTSSA Executive Committee to play in a lower age bracket than his/her actual age indicates. However, such player(s) must be of physical size so as not to gain an undue advantage over the other players in the younger age bracket. A copy of each petition must be forwarded to the WYSA Board.

**5.0 Coaches**

WYSA will invite individuals to coach who will promote and uphold the purpose and goals of this Association as set forth in the By-Laws and these Rules and Regulations.

**5.1 Coaches Contracts, Badges and Licenses**

A. Coaches are required to agree to the coach's code of conduct and ethics when they register in [gotssoccer](#), submit and pass a background check and complete the mandatory SafeSport training. Coaches are required to wear their coaches' badge in a visible manner while participating as a coach during all games regardless of the park/location their game is being played.

B. WYSA recommends that coaches obtain Grassroots coaching certifications.

<b>U4-U8</b>	<b>Grassroots 4v4</b>
<b>U9-U10</b>	<b>Grassroots 7v7</b>
<b>U11-U12</b>	<b>Grassroots 9v9</b>
<b>U13 and up</b>	<b>Grassroots 11v11</b>

C. The purpose of the coaching clinics (license) is to introduce modern soccer coaching methods, raise the level of play within WYSA, and provide for the development of the players to their full potential.

**5.2 Team Representation**

A [registered](#) and [rostered](#) coach, assistant coach, or team manager must be present with and is responsible for the team and spectators during every game. If not, the team must forfeit the game. Coaches should refrain from instructing from the sidelines to promote player thinking and communication during the game. Coaches shall not degrade a player on the field or at any other time and shall prohibit his/her spectators from doing the same.

**5.3 Paid Coaches**

Paid coaches are not permitted for the purpose of coaching a WYSA team. However, an expert in one or more aspects of the game may be requested to assist during practices only.

**5.4 Coach Responsibility**

Coaches are responsible for verifying the eligibility of their players by confirming the official roster.

A. Only registered players [will](#) be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this association and affiliated members. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) shall be brought before the Appeal and Discipline Committee. Penalties are at the discretion of the A&D Committee and may include suspension of the coach; forfeiture of games in which the violation occurs.

B. 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 A&D Committee and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching. ([NTSSA rule 4.7.2](#)).

C. Coaches will be held responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's spectators, parents, and players. This includes any foul and abusive language and any comments directed toward the referees, opposing players, and coaches. Offenders may be warned or ejected from the field by the referee.

D. If any coach or team receives three (3) written complaints against the coach, or any member of the team, or spectators, or one (1) written complaint from a league official, the coach must go before the Appeals and Discipline Committee for judgment of fitness to continue participation in the league and appropriate punishment (if any). These complaints must be made on separate occasions (games, practices, etc.) during the season, and may include written complaints from referees, other coaches, and spectators.

1. All complaints must be submitted to WYSA and be signed.

E. Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers are required to stay inside the coach's technical area. The coach's technical area if not depicted is from midfield to the edge of the center circle 3 yards off the touch line. If the technical area is painted it will be indicated by dashed lines on the player/coach's side.

## 5.5 Field Marshal Roles and Responsibilities

### A. General Responsibility

Monitor behavior of spectators, players and coaches and report any issues to the WYSA Board Member on Duty.

1. Each home team will be required to provide a field marshal.
2. Each game field U9 and older will be have a bucket located between the coaches technical area. The field marshal vest and radio will be returned to the bucket at the end of each game.
3. The parent designated as the field marshal will wear the colored vest and report any issues via radio to the WYSA Board Member on duty. The designated field marshal will be located on the parent sideline.
4. For U4-U8, the designated field marshal will find a WYSA board member or ask the field marshal at the nearest U9 and up field to radio for help.

## 5.6 Officer of the Day Responsibilities

- A. Serve as a resource outlet for the field marshal
- B. Encourage positive behavior among players, parents and coaches
- C. Monitor weather and inform referees if lightning detector sounds or if the area is under any type of weather warnings
- D. Wear their WYSA Board shirts for good visibility
- E. Game Responsibilities
  1. Prior to Games
    - a. Unlock storage area
    - b. Pull out corner flags
    - c. Put out pet signs
    - d. Pulls out golf cart
  2. During Games
    - a. Monitor radio for field marshal issues
    - b. Best effort to keep games on time
    - c. Be available in case of injury or emergency
  3. After Games
    - a. Put corner flags back in storage

- b. Lock storage area
- c. Put signs away
- d. Put golf cart away

## 6.0 Team Practice

No player shall be allowed to practice with any coach unless a current signed registration form, with fees paid, is submitted to the Registrar. No player shall be allowed to play until the registration form is submitted to the Registrar and the player is approved by the League Director as being within the required rules regarding placement of players on a team.

### 6.1 Practice Limitations

A. The coach may only have three (3) scheduled team events during a week. This includes games and practices. Practices will not exceed the times given in the table below:

Age Group	Maximum Length of Practice
U4-U6	75 minutes
U7-U8	90 minutes
U9-U10	105 minutes
U11-U12	120 minutes
U13 and above	135 minutes

- B. Practices are not allowed on the fields that have been prepared for WISD dedicated games, practice fields, or areas where games or practices have been cancelled due to weather.
- 1. Violation of this rule may result in the coach being suspended for a minimum of one (1) game
- C. Practice on the game fields at Founders Park will be decided by the Board prior to the season starting.
- 1. If the Board states no practice on game fields, a violation of this rule could result in the coach being suspended for a minimum of one (1) game

## 7.0 Team Formation

### 7.1 Team Structure

A team, (coaches and players), formed by WYSA and playing in WYSA the previous season, may remain as a unit provided, they meet the league eligibility and age requirements.

- A. The minimum number of players remaining on a team and forming the nucleus for that team, in order to remain as a unit, is half of the previous roster. This may not be a guarantee based on the number of team needed for that age group.
- B. At the time of registration, recreational players have the option to request removal from a team and reassignment through the Player's Pool.
- C. A recreational player sitting out up to two (2) consecutive seasons (i.e., not playing soccer on any other team in the organization) can return to the player's former team provided roster space is available on that team. However, no player may be asked or coerced to leave the team by the

coach or team members to make room for the returning player. Otherwise, that player will be reassigned through the Player's Pool unless decided otherwise by the Team Formation Committee.

## **7.2 Player Pool/Player Acquisition**

New recreational teams and returning recreational teams needing additional players will obtain players in the manner described below.

A. All approved hardships or requests will be assigned to the approved teams before any other players are added to any roster in that age group.

B. In addition, the Board may ask players of record to actively recruit players in the age group of their team within the boundaries of WYSA to be added to the player pool.

1. The player is not presently registered on an existing North Texas registered recreational or competitive team
2. The player did not play for a returning recreational team the previous season
3. The player has registered and indicated the desire to be reassigned through the player pool, and
4. The coach does not violate an USYSA, NTSSA or WYSA recruiting rules

## **7.3 Outside Teams**

A team requesting to participate in WYSA recreational league, which was formed outside of WYSA, must be approved by the WYSA Team Formation Committee. Minimum requirements for a team requesting to play in WYSA recreational league are:

1. The team must join WYSA, be subject to all rules governing WYSA, and pay all costs set forth by the WYSA league for that season.
2. Furnish a complete list of players who were on the team, signed by an official of the previous organization, including player's names, addresses, telephone numbers, birth dates.
3. The players meet the age requirements for the league in which they wish to play.
4. The team should have played in a similar recreational league for a minimum of four seasons.

## **7.4 Civic or Youth Groups**

No civic or youth groups, other than soccer teams, applying to play as a team in WYSA shall be admitted as a formed team unless it is determined by the Team formation committee that membership to such a group was not in any way based upon athletic ability and that the group was formed in accordance with WYSA rules and policies in regards to year of birth, school area, etc. Upon a favorable recommendation by the Team Formation Committee, the WYSA Board may vote on whether to accept the applying group.

## **7.5 League Competition – Team Reassignment**

A. WYSA can reassign teams to various levels of competition within an age group based upon performance and ability (with the exception that teams can be required to play in a higher age group if a request is made by the team's coach and approved by the League Director, or unless that team already has requested to play at a higher age level in another association).

B. WYSA can promote teams within the recreational levels upward or downward from one division to another or from one conference to another, within an age level.

1. NOTE: Nothing in this policy should be construed to allow girls' division teams to be made to play in the boys' division, at any level, unless it is so requested by the team's coach and duly approved by the Team Formation Committee. However, any team composed of at least one male player must be required to play in the appropriate boy's division.

C. The League Director for each league shall determine, prior to the beginning of league play, which division and/or conference each team shall be placed.

1. At the option of the League Director, placement can be determined by a seeding evaluation.
2. Final placement of teams shall be approved by the team Formation Committee.

D. In the event a team's level of competition appears to exceed that of the teams in its own division (or conference), that team shall be reviewed by its League Director in order to determine whether it shall be forced to play in a higher division within its own age group or in the next higher age group for the next season. If such placement of a team is into a higher age group, the team will be placed in the level of competition deemed appropriate by the league director in that age group, with approval of the Director of League Management

1. Any such placement of a team shall be made prior to the beginning of the next season's play.
2. A season includes any period identified by the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer

## **7.6 Player/Team Release and Transfer**

Players and teams shall be released and/or transferred only as set forth by stated WYSA Policy and NTSSA rules (See NTSSA rule 4, RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS) In summary, WYSA requires that:

A. Players and teams require a written release from the WYSA Registrar, President or Vice President in order to play outside of WYSA, whether the player(s) or team(s) previously has been released, during any soccer year

B. Players can be released to the Players' Pool at the time of registration by requesting on the application that they be reassigned to the Players' Pool.

C. Players and coaches should become familiar with existing WYSA and NTSSA Rules and the latest WYSA policy if they are anticipating the request for a release for a player or team, especially regarding any request to play outside WYSA.

## **8.0.0 League Procedures**

### **8.1 Mandatory Playing Time**

In order that players have an opportunity to develop their abilities and skills, learn teamwork and sportsmanship, WYSA requires that each team member be played in every game except for illness, injury, or disciplinary reasons.

A. Teams that play quarters shall play their players a minimum of one (1) quarter per half.

B. Teams that play halves shall play their players at a minimum of one-half (1/2) of each half.

C. A player's time may be reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach

must notify the player, the parent(s) of the player and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the match.

1. Non-attendance at practice may be a reason for disciplinary actions.
2. Non-payment of fees may be a reason for disciplinary action.
3. If a reduction of playing time is sought the coach will must contact the appropriate league director to discuss the issue as a disciplinary action and receive written permission.
4. After permission is received the coach must notify the parents of the player.
5. The coach must bring the written approval to the game and notify the referee crew of the approved reduction, as well as the opposing coach.

D. When a player is late in arriving to the match and the match is in progress, the coach is required to play the child in only the last half of the game.

E. If a player arrives after the start of the second half, the coach is not required to play that child during any part of the remaining match.

F. Parents of players not given minimum playing time and not provided with a plausible explanation should discuss this with the coach, immediately following the game and away from others.

## 8.2 League Standings

A. League standings will be kept during the fall season for the U9 and older age groups and will be posted at <http://www.wyliesoccer.com> every week.

B. No standings or scores are to be kept in the U-4, U-5, U-6, U-7, and U-8 leagues.

## 8.3 Point Systems

A. Method of Scoring for League or Division Standings:

1. Standings Points. Three (3) points are given for a win, one (1) for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. The team with the greater number of standings points finishes higher in the standings table.

2. Head-to-Head. Standings points earned in head-to-head competition between the tied opponents. The team with the greater number of points between the tied opponents wins the tiebreaker.

a. If three or more teams are tied with an equal number of games against each tied opponent, the team with the greatest number of head-to-head points is the winner of the tiebreaker.

b. If three or more teams are tied with an unequal number of games against each tied opponent, the team with the greatest number of head-to-head points divided by games played against the tied opponents is the winner of the tiebreaker.

3. Goal Differential (GD). GD is calculated as total goals scored (up to 3 goals/game) less total goals against (up to 3 goals/game). The team with the higher goal differential wins the tiebreaker

4. Goals Against (GA). GA is the total number of goals (up to 3 goals/game) scored against a team. The team with the lower total number of GA up to a limit of 3 per game wins the tiebreaker.

5. Head-to-Head Goal Differential (H2H GD). The team with the higher goal differential in games among the tied teams wins the tiebreaker. If three or more teams are tied, but played each other an unequal number of times, H2H GD is divided by the number of games against the tied opponents to determine the adjusted H2H GD.

6. Head-to-Head Goals Against (H2H GA). The team with fewest goals allowed in games among the tied teams wins the tiebreaker. If three or more teams are tied, but played each other an unequal number of times, H2H GA is divided by the number of games against the tied opponents to determine the adjusted H2H GA.

7. Penalty Points. Each yellow card issued to a player in a League game counts for one (1) point and each red card issued to a player, send off for a coach, or send off for a parent in a League game count for two (2) points. A second yellow card issued to a player in a game that results in a red card (or a second warning to a coach in a game that leads to a sendoff) will count as two yellow cards. The team with the fewest Penalty Points wins the tiebreaker.

8. Penalty Shootout. If two teams cannot be separated by any other tie breakers; a penalty shootout will take place.

B. All forfeit games will be scored 3-0.

C. No points are awarded for running up the score or for shutouts.

1. WYSA strongly recommends that the difference in scores should not exceed five (5) points. Winning coaches, in the “spirit of the game”, should attempt to control excess point differentials.

#### **8.4 Game Reports/Score Reporting**

A. Game reports are the official record of any game played and, as such, shall constitute the information of record in any game appeal. The only approved game report is that downloaded from the team’s official gotsoccer account.

B. Before the season starts all coaches are required to update each player’s number in the team gotsoccer account. Each players jersey number must be correct before each game.

C. The gotsoccer game report must be printed for Majors and Minors teams before each game and given to the referee crew before the game can start. Games will not start until a game report has been received by each coach. Failure to bring a game report can result in a forfeit.

D. Game scores are to be reported in accordance with the appropriate procedures. Failure to report scores may result in the score recorded as forfeit.

1. WYSA U9 – U14 teams and interleague teams are to call in scores after each game. The home team coach is required to call in the score within 72 hours of the completion of the game. The phone number and pin will be located under the coaches tab each season.
2. WYSA 15 and up that interleague will report scores in accordance to the governing association.

E. U9 coaches shall have one (1) week adjustment period to the game report system for FALL SEASON ONLY.

### 8.5 Trophies

In all cases, the number of players on the current roster will determine the number of trophies to be awarded.

A. Minor League (U4, U-5, U-6, U-7, and U-8)

1. Participation trophies are awarded to all WYSA players at the end of the fall and spring seasons in the Minor Soccer league.

B. Major League (U-9 and older)

1. Teams may earn a placement trophy, but no teams will receive participation trophies.
2. Placement trophies will be earned for each division as follows:

Number of Teams	Placement Trophy recipients
1 - 9	1st, 2nd
10 and more	1st, 2nd, 3rd

C. Playing in Other Associations

1. Teams playing in another association will follow that association's guidelines. If a WYSA team qualifies for and receives a trophy from that association said team will not receive an additional trophy from WYSA.

### 8.6 Tournament of Champions

The NTSSA Tournament of Champions occurs during the Fall Season, the games are typically played the first weekend of December.

A. Teams eligible to attend the Tournament of Champions (TOC) must notify WYSA so the required entry fee to the Tournament can be made one (1) week prior to the NTSSA deadline (see the NTSSA website for deadlines and information [www.ntxsoccer.org](http://www.ntxsoccer.org)).

B. Each team is responsible to pay the required performance bond.

C. Any team not in good standing is automatically ineligible for the TOC.

D. Any team who accepts the invitation to attend the TOC and withdraws after the NTSSA date of 'roster froze' (see NTSSA chapter 8), thus causing WYSA to forfeit any monies, will reimburse WYSA for their loss or be suspended from future participation until reimbursement is made.

E. The WYSA will decide, prior to the start of each season, what the criteria is for selecting TOC eligible teams. Criteria may be an end of season tournament, end of regular season standings, etc.

1. Refer to Wylie Cup Rules, if applicable.

### 9.0 Postponed Games

All games scheduled by a League Director must be played unless abandoned by the Association, League Director, or the referee under the following guidelines:

### **9.1 Reasons for Postponement**

- A. The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) Superintendent will close the field when there could be damage to the field and will update the Parks condition Hotline.
- B. The Field Director can make the decision to abandon games due to hazardous play, although the PARK has not closed the field, these updates will be made to the WYSA Hotline.
- C. A League Director or Executive Board Member may abandon any game prior to its scheduled start time for extreme circumstances. It becomes effective/official when the head coach, assistant coach or team manager of the first two affected teams have been notified. Notice may be written, oral, or by telephone.

### **9.2 Reasons for Abandonment**

#### **A. Referee Control**

The referee has control of the game from the time he/she enters the field of play and may abandon it any time for the following reasons:

1. Foul weather, darkness, unsafe field or unsafe equipment.
  - a. If abandoned in the first half, the League Director may reschedule the game or cancel it.
  - b. If play is stopped after the start of the second half, the League Director shall declare the game complete and record the score as it was at the time play stopped.
2. Fielding less than the minimum number of players during the game will cause it to be abandoned. If fielding less than the minimum number of players listed in Law III at the start of the game, abandonment will be declared fifteen (15) minutes after the game was scheduled to begin.
3. Failure of a coach, assistant coach, or player to leave the field after being asked to do so by the referee. The referee will abandon the game and complete the misconduct report, which will result in the League Director declaring a forfeit for that team, and other actions as decided by the A& D committee.

#### **B. Misconduct by the participants or spectators.**

1. If misconduct occurs by player(s) on one team and that team was ahead or tied it becomes a forfeit; if that team was behind the score stands.
2. If misconduct by head coach or coach's successor or spectators identifiable as being in favor or that team occurs and that team is ahead or tied the game may be rescheduled and replayed in entirety or canceled at the league director's discretion. If that team is behind the game will be declared as played and the score stands.
3. If misconduct occurs by both teams, coaches, or spectators the game may be rescheduled, replayed, canceled, or both teams declared to have forfeited upon the discretion of the league director.
4. If misconduct is unidentifiable, the game may be replayed or stand as played at the discretion of the League director.

### **9.3 Referee No Show**

A. Major League - A game shall be considered postponed if the referees are not at the field within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled game time, unless it is known that he/she is held up by an earlier game still in progress.

1. The "home" team coach shall notify the League Director, who will reschedule the game.

B. Minor League - If no referee is present a team representative shall officiate the game.

1. Coaches from each team shall notify the League Director of referee no show

## 10.0 Game Protests

WYSA shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals and the like. The Recreation Division shall operate its own system including an Appeals and Discipline (A&D) Committee to hear and review all game-related protests. The WYSA Executive Committee is the first level of appeal for decisions rendered by the A&D Committee. In addition, the WYSA Executive Committee shall provide the first level of appeal for any other organization under the jurisdiction of WYSA.

- A. There are only three (3) acceptable causes for the protest of a game after the game has been played:
  - 1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player.
  - 2. A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team.
  - 3. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game, that directly affects the outcome of the game, and the referee admits it.
- B. Protests based on judgment calls made by the referee will not be entertained. The reason, judgment call cannot be reversed.
- C. Protests will not be allowed in the minor leagues.

## 10.1 Procedure

- A. All protests must be filed with the Vice President of WYSA, in writing, within seventy- two (72) hours after the incident. The protesting coach must clearly indicate that he/she is protesting, not merely making a complaint or suggestion to bring about a rule change.
- B. A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for hearing a protest and must be paid at the time the protest is filed. Checks, money order and cash are acceptable forms of payment.
  - 1. Checks should be made payable to Wylie Youth Soccer Association.
  - 2. Under no circumstances will the fees be waived.
  - 3. If the outcome is in the favor of the coach protesting, then the fee will be refunded.
  - 4. If the outcome is not overturned following a hearing, then the fee becomes that of WYSA.
- C. WYSA shall refuse to hear any protest, appeal or the like where legal action is threatened or has been initiated.
- D. Recording devices, stenographers and attorneys representing either party will not be permitted at hearings.
- E. The minutes of the hearing may be approved, date and time recorded, by the secretary of the committee, for purpose of recording the minutes only.
- F. In no event shall any person or organization, under the jurisdiction of WYSA resort to the Courts, at any government level, until all appeal procedures have been exhausted.
- G. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanction of suspensions and fines as set forth by WYSA, NTSSA, USYSA, USSF and FIFA and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by these organizations in defending related Court action, including but not limited to Court costs, attorney's fees, compensation for persons defending such allegations, travel expenses, and expenses for holding meetings related to the Court action.

## 11.0 Laws of the Game

The Rules of Play for youth competition of NTSSA and its' members shall be FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as to the following:

### 11.1 Law 1- Field of Play

<b>Age Groups</b>	<b>Field Width</b>	<b>Field Length</b>	<b>Goal Size (Maximum)</b>
Under 4 - 8	15-25yds	25-35yds	4ft x 6ft
Under 9 - 10	35-45yds	55-65yds	6.5ft x 12.0ft to 6.5 x 18.5ft
Under 11 - 12	45-55yds	70-80yds	6.5ft x 18.5ft
Under 13 – 19	Max. 75yds	Max. 112yds	8ft x 24ft

A. The Wylie Parks and Recreation Department will furnish Fields. Everything possible will be done to ensure the above recommendations are met.

B. WYSA will provide, whenever possible, the following equipment with which teams may use to play regularly scheduled games on WYSA fields.

1. One set of goal nets for each playing field.
2. Set of corner flags
3. Markings for the coach's area.

C. Minors Teams: Coaches, players and spectators of the Home team shall occupy the North or West side of the field.

D. Major teams: Coaches and Players shall occupy the South and East side of the field. Parents and spectators shall occupy the North and West side of the field.

F. Coaches shall remain within 10 yards from the halfway line and shall remain on their side of the center mark.

1. If there are no markings, the coach will understand that the area is 3 yards behind the touchline and extends 10 yards from their side of the halfway line and will confine themselves, assistant coaches, and substitutes in or behind this area.

### 11.2 Law 2 – The Ball

A. Ball Size

<i>Under 4 – 8</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Under 9 - 12</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Under 13 – 19</i>	<i>5</i>

B. WYSA provides one game ball per team per soccer season

C. Generally, the home team will supply the game ball. However, at the start of the game, each team should present their game ball to the referee.

D. The referee will judge which one will be used.

### 11.3 Law 3 – Number of Players and Substitutes

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Max on Roster</b>	<b># on Field Per Side</b>	<b>Minimum<sup>1</sup></b>
Under 4	6	3	2
Under 5	6	3	2

Under 6	6	3	2
Under 7	8	4	3
Under 8	8	4	3
Under 9	12	7*	5
Under 10	12	7*	5
Under 11	16	9*	6
Under 12	16	9*	6
Under 13	18	11*	7
Under 14	18	11*	7
Under 16	22	11*	7
Under 19	22	11*	7

Key

*<sup>†</sup>Refers to the minimum number of players required to have a match*

*\*One (1) player shall be a goalkeeper*

A. Substitution Rule – Minor Division u4, U5, U6, U7, U8

1. Allowed at any stoppage of play, with the permission of the referee or game official.

B. Substitution Rule – Major Division U9 and Older

1. At a throw-in by the team in possession;
2. Either team at a goal kick;
3. Either team after a goal is scored;
4. At half-time;
5. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted;
6. Injured player;
7. Any other situation with the referee's permission and at the referee discretion.

**11.4 Law 4 - Players Equipment**

- A. Each player shall have a number on the back of his/her jersey not less than four (4) inches high. All jerseys must have sleeves.
- B. Shin guards meeting FIFA requirements are mandatory and must worn under the socks
- C. The home team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict as determined by the referee. Any failure to change may result in a forfeit.
- D. A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted. Medical necessary jewelry may be worn for those who have medical needs. This will be done in coordination with the FIFA rules and regulations.

**11.5 Law 5 – The Referee**

A. No changes.

1. In the case there is no referee (U4-U8) any WYSA Board Member may referee the game.
2. In the case there is no referee both coaches will referee the game. Each coach will referee one half of the game.

**11.6 Law 6 – The Other Match Officials**

No Changes

**11.7 Law 7 – Duration of Match**

Age Group	Length of Periods	Overtime
Under 4	Four 6-minute quarters	None
Under 5-6	Four 10-minute quarters	None
Under 7-8	Four 12-minute quarters	None
Under 9-10	Two 25-minute halves	None
Under 11-12	Two 30-minute halves	None
Under 13-14	Two 35-minute halves	None
Under 15-16	Two 40-minute halves	None
Under 17-20	Two 45-minute halves	None

**11.8 Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play**

Small Sided U4 – U8 – See age-appropriate Modified Laws on WYSA Website. U9 and up No Changes

**11.9 Law 9 – Ball in and Out of Play**

Small Sided U4 – U8 – See age-appropriate Modified Laws on WYSA Website. U9 and up No Changes

**11.10 Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of the Match**

No Changes

**11.11 Law 11 – Off Sides**

A. No Changes except that there are no offside calls in small sided games (U4, U5, U6, U7, and U8).

B. U9/10 games the player is not offside until they are behind the Buildout Line.

**11.12 Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in NTSSA.

1. Possession is defined as: “one or two hands on the ball holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and the catching it, or patting it along the ground, or holding it against the ground with one hand”.
2. Possession is at the discretion of the Referee(s).

B. Minor League teams (U4 – U8) players will not be allowed to slide-tackle the ball. The referee will use their judgment to determine if the play was incidental and/or dangerous, for which a free indirect kick will be awarded.

C. 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.

D. Coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players; however, the referee will not “card” a spectator **but may “card” a coach before the game, during the game, or after the final whistle.** The referee will warn the coach that the spectator’s behavior is unacceptable and if needed dismiss the coach and/or spectator. If they fail to dismiss themselves from the playing field area, the referee will abandon the game and complete a misconduct report. It’s strongly suggested that you never exclaim your opinion from the sideline.

F. Minor Division players will not receive yellow or red cards. The referee will warn them on the field of the misconduct or foul. If the player continues to violate the laws of play, the referee will escort the player to the coach and explain the misconduct or foul to the coach. The coach will substitute the player without argument to the referee and explain to the player the infraction or misconduct.

G. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting or drop kicking is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line.

H. \*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.

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

### **11.13 Law 13 – Free Kicks**

A. Small Sided U5/U6/U7/U8 – See age-appropriate Modified rules of play on the WYSA website. (All kicks are indirect)

B. No changes in U9 and Up.

### **11.14 Law 14 – Penalty Kicks**

There are no Penalty Kicks in small sided games (U4, U5, U6, U7, & U8).

### **11.15 Law 15 – Throw-In**

A. U4-U8 - “Small Sided” Kick-ins instead of throw-ins  
See age-appropriate Modified rules of play on the WYSA website.

B. No changes in U9 and up.

### **11.16 Law 16 – Goal Kicks**

A. U4-U8 - “Small Sided” See age-appropriate Modified rules of play on the WYSA website.

B. No Changes in U9 and Up.

### **11.17 Law 17 – Corner Kicks**

- A. U4-U8 - "Small Sided" See age-appropriate Modified rules of play on the WYSA website.
- B. No Changes in U9 and Up.

## 12.0 Discipline

All WYSA coaches are directed to distribute the NTSSA Discipline rule to every player, every coach and team manager. It is intended that each player will make known those contents to his or her parents and spectators. Discipline will be rendered as set forth in NTSSA Rule 3.11.

A. A Recreational player may be withheld from a game for disciplinary reasons, by the coach, when it has been reported to the League Director and the child's parents at least twelve (12) hours prior to the game.

1. Each disciplinary action by the coach serves as a written complaint of misconduct, with three disciplinary actions during the season requiring review of the player by the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

B. Complaints against Coaches, Players, Spectators, etc.

1. Coaches, players, and/or spectators receiving three (3) written complaints against them or (1) written complaint from a WYSA league official shall be required to go before the Appeals and Discipline Committee after the Appeals and Discipline Committee has reviewed the complaint. These complaints may come from referees, other coaches, or spectators.
2. These complaints must come from separate occasions.
3. Only signed written complaints will be considered.
4. It will be the prerogative of the Appeals and Discipline Committee to take whatever action they deem appropriate - probation, suspension, etc.

C. Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

Player card accumulation will start over each season

1. Yellow Cards - A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition. A double yellow will go against a player's red card accumulation.

- a. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card
- b. One game automatic suspension and a hearing for the game following an individual's fifth league play yellow card
- c. Two game automatic suspensions and a hearing for the game following an individual's sixth league play yellow card

2. Red Cards - A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.

- a. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA-sanctioned activities following such individual's third league play red card.

3. The CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by all Member Associations and Playing Leagues. Nothing herein prevents Member Associations or Playing Leagues 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.

4. 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.

#### 5. Game Suspension

Game suspensions are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled league game 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.

Players who are serving a sit-out must be in attendance at the game unless otherwise instructed by the Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. The player should be present on the team bench; however, should not be in uniform.

A coach, manager, or spectator who is serving a sit-out may not watch those games from any area of the complex. This includes the parking lot and neighboring streets. The coach may not have any contact with the players, including the use of any electronic device (cellphone, computer, etc.). A coach found to be in violation of the sit-out will result in their receiving additional suspension time. A coach who is serving a sit-out for one team may be at the complex to coach a different team they are rostered on.

#### 6. Coach Misconduct

Coaches who are ejected from a game for any reason will serve an automatic one-game suspension and may be required to appear before the A&D Committee which may assess additional penalties.

#### 7. Violent Conduct

Players ejected from a game for violent conduct will serve an automatic one-game suspension and will be required to appear before the A&D Committee which may assess additional penalties.