

ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

2025/2026 Officers

President - Ariana Campos

Vice President 1 – Julio Lorea

Vice President 2 – Jorge Hernandez

Secretary/Registrar – Ana Campos

Director Coach/Technical – Adrian Cardona

Treasurer – Elida Saucedo

Communications/Marketing – Desirae Zarate

Coach’s Commissioner – Adrian Cardona

Division1 Commissioner – Karianne Valdivia

Division 2 Commissioner – Faustino Rodriguez

Division 3 Commissioner – Adolfo Kiehl

Division 4 Commissioner – Ruben Cervantes

Division 5 Commissioner – Monica Sifuentes

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CHAPTER 1
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF THE ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION
NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and two (2) of whom are citizens of the State of Texas, acting as incorporations 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 ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

1.2 ARTICLE TWO

Ennis Soccer Association shall be a non-profit organization.

1.3 ARTICLE THREE

The period of its duration is perpetual.

1.4 ARTICLE FOUR

The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Ennis, Texas, Ellis County. The primary mailing address shall be P.O. Box 8351 Ennis, Texas, 75120.

1.5 ARTICLE FIVE

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

1. The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas as a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Corporation in the State of Texas, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
2. The purposes of the Corporation (hereinafter called "Association" or "Corporation") shall be to create and maintain a recreational soccer program for the under 19 youth of our area so that the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage may be taught through organized competitive athletic activity. Association officials will do their best to develop athletic skills and competitive fair play among our youth and to place in secondary importance the winning of game. By building strong minds and bodies and implanting in our youth the principles of sportsmanship, we, the Association, will be making a significant contribution to the development of our youth and our communities and building future responsible citizens.
3. The Association shall control and represent all local youth soccer teams falling within the Ennis Association defined as follows: all territory falling within the Ennis Independent School District, Palmer Independent School District, Ferris Independent School District, Corsicana Independent School District, and any Independent School District voted by the board members of the ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION.
4. The Association shall be affiliated with the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and shall be an integral until of that association and shall at all times recognize the authority, ruling, and laws of that body which were founded on the rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and FIFA International.
5. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall incur 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 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.

CHAPTER 2

BYLAWS
ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2.1 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

The Association shall have one (1) class of members. Every youth soccer team organized within the territory defined under Article II, Section 2, shall be eligible for membership in the Association.

2.1.1 As a condition of membership, any team otherwise qualified must agree to abide by the bylaws, rules and regulations of the Association, must pay the membership fees agreed by the Board of Directors, and must compete and sign a NTSSA Risk Management form. Every head coach, assistant coach and manager of the member team must sign a statement each season stating that they have read the bylaws, rules and regulations of the Association and will abide by them. Failure to adhere to the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the Association and/or failure to pay all membership fees when due subjects the individual/member team to possible disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the Association. Those expelled for any reason, except for nonpayment of fees, are eligible for membership reinstatement by the decision from the board members of the ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION. Those members expelled for nonpayment of debts may be reinstated after all debts due to the Association are paid in full.

2.1.2 The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/Registrar, and Communications/Marketing, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote.

2.1.3 The representative of each member team shall be the registered head coach. In addition, all members of the Board of Directors shall be allowed to vote at any Association meeting; however, no person present shall have no vote.

2.1.4 Any member team representative may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the members present at any association meeting where two-thirds (2/3) of the members are present.

2.1.5 A written request signed by a former team member representative and filed with the Board of Directors may, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board, reinstate such former member team to membership on such terms as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

2.1.6 Membership in the Association is not transferable or assignable.

2.2 ARTICLE II – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

2.2.1 Semi-Annual Meetings:

A semi-annual meeting of the members, commencing with the year 2024, shall be held once during the Spring soccer season and once during the Fall soccer season on such dates as selected by the Board for the purpose of transacting business as may come before the meeting. The members shall meet at the Spring semi-annual meeting for the purpose of electing Directors. Election of members of the Board of Directors and Commissioners shall be held at the Spring semi-annual meeting.

2.2.2 Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the members may be called by the President and/or Vice President. The special meetings upon written or verbal request, at least four (4) members of the Board of Directors must be present. The receipt of such request must be decided with seven (7) to ten (10) business days.

2.2.3 Place of Meeting.

The Board of Directors may designate any place, within the State of Texas, as the place of meeting for any semi-annual meeting or for any special meeting called by the President and/or Vice President. If no designation is made or if a special meeting be otherwise called, the place of meeting shall be the registered office of the Association in the State of Texas; but if all the members shall meet at any time and place, either within our without the State, and consent to the holding of a meeting, such meeting shall be valid without call or notice, and at such meeting, any corporate action may be taken.

2.2.4 Notice of Meetings

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The President and/or Vice President shall notify members at least seven (7) days prior to any semi-annual meeting and at least two (2) days prior to special meetings. Such notice shall be by personal contact or written contact with members.

2.2.5 Order of Business Meeting

The association shall be held by the order of business for such meetings shall be:

- Roll Call and Vote Accreditation
- Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- Communications
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Election of members and/or officers
- Adjournment

2.2.6 Informal Action by Members

Any action required by law is to be sent to the North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. (NTSSA) Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. Any informal action by a member shall be in writing and submitted to the appeals & disciplinary committee. A hearing by the appeals committee for a visiting association must be notified of the decision of the appeals committee withing seven (7) to ten (10) Business days.

2.2.7 Proxies

A proxy will be recognized through verbal or written notification to the Board of Directors by the representative of that team prior to any association meeting. A proxy has no voting right at the meeting. If in writing, no proxy shall be valid after three (3) months from the date of execution, unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

2.2.8 Appeals and Disciplinary Committee

The appeals and disciplinary committee shall consist of unbiased and fair representatives based on the actions of the individual. All actions must be in written form and submitted to the board of directors.

2.3 **ARTICLE III – GOVERNENCE**

2.3.1 General Powers

The affairs of the association shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

2.3.2 Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than five (5) directors nor more than fourteen (15) who shall be elected. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following officers:

President	U3 – U19 Commissioner
Vice President	U3 – U19 Commissioner
Treasurer	U3 – U6 Commissioner
Secretary/Registrar	U7 – U10 Commissioner
Communications/Marketing	U11 – U19 Commissioner

2.3.3 Voting by Directors

Each director shall cast one (1) vote, with the exception of the President who shall vote only in case of a tie. The Immediate Past President shall have no vote.

2.3.4 Term of Office

The term of office shall be for a minimum of 2 years or deemed unworthy by the board of directors. Terms of office will begin on the first (1st) of January and expire on December 31 of applicable years.

2.3.5 Absence

Any member of the Board of Directors who shall be absent from two (2) meetings shall have their position declared vacant, unless excused by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The former board member shall be notified in writing of the action taken; the former board member is not eligible to run for any elected office in the association for a period of one (1) year from the date of removal of office.

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2.3.6 Removal

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be removed from office following a vote of no confidence in his/her ability to remain in office. Any four (4) voting directors, as defined in Article III, section 3, may simultaneously petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the President and/or Vice President who in turn will review the petition, and after removing the names of the petitioners, forward copies of the same to all members of the Board of Directors within fourteen (14) business days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence shall be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all of the board of directors, excluding the Board Member named in the petition. The former board member is not eligible to run for any elected office in the Association for a period of five (5) years from the date of his/her forced resignation.

2.3.7 Vacancy

In the event of any office of the Board of Directors 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.

2.3.8 Compensation

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

2.3.9 Duties of the Board of Directors

- A. **President:** The president shall be the principal executive office of the Association and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the association with board approval. He/She shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. He/She assign duties to all officers as required. As Chief Officer, the President is empowered to take any reasonable action in cases not covered in these Bylaws upon approval of the Board of Directors. He/She shall annually appoint an auditing committee to review the association's financial record and to certify the annual financial report. He/She can approve an alternate shall represent the association at the annual and semi-annual meetings of the NTSSA. He/She may sign, with the Vice President, Secretary, or any other proper officer of the Association authorized by the Board of Directors, any deeds, mortgages, bonds contracts, or other instrument which in Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these Bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the association.
- B. **First Vice President:** The First Vice President is responsible for the oversight and coordination of field maintenance, usage, and assignments. He shall appoint such committees as he deems necessary to carry out such functions. He will maintain records of all games schedules which shall be submitted to him by approval by each Division Commissioner. He shall approve the assigned Referee schedule before being published. He shall succeed to the powers of the President in his/her absence.
- C. **Second Vice President:** The Second Vice President shall have the responsibility of overseeing the training of coaches, referees, and linesman. He/She shall succeed to the powers of the President in the absence of the President and the First Vice President
- D. **Secretary/Reporter/Registrar:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the member of the of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose, given all notices in accordance with the provisions of these ByLaws or as required by the association, and affix the seal of the association to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the association under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these ByLaws; keep a complete roster of members and member teams which shall be furnished to the Secretary by each member, and, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President

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or by the Board of Directors. In the event that the President and both Vice Presidents are absent, the Secretary/Reporter/Registrar shall assume the duties of the President.

- E. **Treasurer:** If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his/her duties in such sum and with such sureties as the Board of Directors shall determine. He/She shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the association; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the association from any source whatsoever, deposit all such moneys in the name of the association in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of the ByLaws; and submit a statement of receipts and expenditures and a complete statement of assets and liabilities at the end of each season (financial report). The Treasurer shall set forth clearly the sources of receipt and purpose of expenditures, including such items as load or lease details and the extent to which any receipts or income is derived from non-members through ticket sales, facilities furnished, or any other income producing activities. He shall pay all bills properly approved by the Boards. All checks, more than \$.50 on the association bank account must be signed by two Board Members. Those authorized to sign checks drawn on the Association bank account are the President, Vice President, the Treasurer, and any other office selected by the President. No money, in excess of \$100,000, may be withdrawn from the bank account unless it was previously approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. He/She shall submit a written report of finances at all regular meetings and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.
- F. **Immediate Past President:** The Immediate Past President shall have no vote and serve as in an advisory manner when needed by the Board of Directors.
- G. **Registrar:** It shall be the responsibility of the Registrar to oversee the registration of players and coaches (if required), maintain the permanent records of such registration, compile the official rosters of all teams registered with ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION, and file all required reports with North Texas State Soccer Association. At the end of each registration period, the registrar shall, using the League Organizer software and his or her understanding of the association ByLaws, rules and regulations, produce the team rosters at an open meeting. The decision of which returning teams to leave intact will be left to the Registrar based on the number of returning players, whether or not the team has a coach, and so forth. The decision(s) of the Registrar with respect to team formation shall be final and binding on all players and coaches involved.
- H. **Commissioners:** All Commissioners shall have the following duties:
- a. Be present at all meetings of the association.
 - b. Assist the President in matters of the Team Formation Process.
 - c. Be responsible for soliciting coaches.
 - d. Shall divide teams into conferences where applicable.
 - e. Shall compose his division's game schedule in association with the First and Second Vice Presidents and other commissioners and submit copies of the schedule to them no later than seven (7) business days prior to the opening of the season.
 - f. Shall set up playoff schedules for his age division (if applicable) in association with the First and Second Vice Presidents and submit copies of the schedule to them no later than seven (7) business days prior to the playoff games.
 - g. Shall maintain a permanent record of standings for his age division.
 - h. Shall be responsible for overseeing the maintenance of his age division's fields, which shall include but not be limited to the marking of the fields, inserting and removing nets and flags before first and after last games and

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emptying trash cans.

i. Shall serve as Tournament Commissioner of his age division.

I. **General:** The Board of Directors shall transact all business of the Association and shall have power to enforce the Laws of the Games, the rules of USSF, and the Constitution and ByLaws of this association and the NTSSA. It shall have the sole authority to settle all disputes and protests or may assign these matters to the committee selected by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Appeals of decisions made by the Association may be made to the NTSSA. The Board of Directors shall set up rules governing the division's tournaments, and any special competitions within the Association's jurisdiction with the expectation of the National or Regional Competitions directed by the USSF or the NTSSA.

2.4 ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION

2.4.1 Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than as provided by these ByLaws, immediately after, and at the same place as, the semi-annual meetings of the members. The Board of Directors may provide by resolution the time and place, either within or without the State of Texas, for the holding of additional regular meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution. However, the Board of Directors shall meet each month during each soccer season.

2.4.2 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any three (3) Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place as the place for holding any special meetings of the Board called by them.

2.4.3 Notice

Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given (either verbally or by other means) at least two (2) days previously thereto. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular meeting or special meeting of the Boards need to be specified in the notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these ByLaws. Any Director may waive notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objection to the transaction of any business because the meetings is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular meeting, or special meeting of the Board need to be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless it is specifically required by law or by these ByLaws.

2.4.4 Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Board Meeting; but if less than a majority of the Directors is present, the Director may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice.

2.4.5 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. 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.

2.4.6 Informal Action by a Director

Any action required by law to be taken at a Board Meeting or any action which may be taken at a Board Meeting may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all members of the Board of Directors.

2.5 ARTICLE V – STANDING COMMITTEES

2.5.1 Appeals and Disciplinary Committee

Prior to the beginning of each season, an Appeals & Disciplinary (A&D) Committee consisting of a Chairman appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors,

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the Second Vice President, the appropriate Age Division Commissioner, and six (6) coaches, parents, and/or volunteers appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors shall be established which shall be responsible for all summary disciplinary actions affecting all coaches, managers, players, team representatives and parent and/or spectators under the jurisdiction of this association. The Chairman of the A&D Committee need not be a member of the association. The appropriate Age Division Commissioner shall mean the Commissioner responsible for the coaches, managers, players, and team representative related to the age division affected by the disciplinary action being instituted at the time. The A&D Committee shall serve until a new A&D Committee is appointed next season.

2.5.2 Quorum

A quorum for any hearing will be three (3) members.

2.5.3 Hearings

All reports will be heard in a timely manner by the A&D Committee and in no event shall this time period exceed seven (7) business days.

2.5.4 Notice of Hearings

Persons involved in the disciplinary action will be notified no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the hearing by the Chairman of the Committee.

2.5.5 Procedure of Hearings

During A & D Committee hearings, parties involved have the right to appear with evidence and witnesses in their defense, although the Committee reserves a right to limit the number of witnesses and the time allotted to each so long as fair hearings are held. The A & D Committee also reserves the right to restrict the persons present at any such time.

2.5.6 Notice of Decisions

The A & D Committee must give written notification to the disciplined party and the President within forty-eight (48) hours of their decision.

2.5.7 Reports and Records

The Chairman is responsible for forwarding all copies of misconduct reports and results of the A&D Committee hearings to the State A&D Committee as directed by Rule 3.11 of the NTSSA Rules and maintaining a permanent file of all reports and actions taken.

2.5.8 Right to Appeal

The disciplined party has the right to appeal in writing this summary disciplinary action in the following order.

A. Board of Directors of the Association. By a simple majority, the whole of the Board of Directors will render the final decision.

B. The above decision may be appealed to the NTSSA A & D Committee as outlined in Article X of the NTSSA Bylaws.

2.6 **ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

2.6.1 Amendment to ByLaws

These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted at any regular meeting of the Association by a majority of the members present with the exception of Article I or Article II which may be amended only by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership during the last (if not presently in a soccer season) or current active season, if at least two (2) days' written notice is given of an intention to alter, amend, or repeal these bylaws or to adopt new bylaws at such a meeting.

2.7 **ARTICLE VII – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

2.7.1 The rules and regulations of the Association related to teams, coaches, players and any related areas may be changed or new rules and regulations may be added at any Association Meeting by a majority vote of members present providing that a public announcement of the meeting was made no less than five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

2.8 **ARTICLE VIII – CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS**

2.8.1 Contracts

The Board of Directors must authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the

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Association in writing, in addition to the officers so authorized by these ByLaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association through a majority of vote.

2.8.2 Checks and Drafts

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer, President, Vice President, or Secretary of the association in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer and countersigned by the President or the Vice President of the association.

2.8.3 Deposits

All funds of the association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the association in such banks, trusts companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

2.8.4 Donations and/or Gifts

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the association any contributions, gifts, donations, requests, or devise for the general purposes of the association.

2.9 **ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS**

2.8.1 Books and Records

The association shall keep correct and complete books, records of account, and minutes of meetings of the proceedings of its members Board of Directors, and committees having any authority of the Board of Directors. All books and records may be inspected by any member of the Board of Directors for proper purpose at any reasonable time.

2.9.2 Dues

The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the amount of registration fee, if any, and the fee payable to the Association by the players by majority of vote.

2.9.3 Payment of Fees

Registration fees shall be payable each season on or before the Registration Deadline determined by the Board of Directors. Late fees may be applied after the registration deadline by vote of the Board of Directors.

2.9.4 Seal

The Board of Directors shall provide a corporate seal, by which shall be in the form of a circle and inscribed thereon the name of the corporation and the words “Ennis Soccer Association” and/or “ESA”.

2.9.5 Audit Comm

The audit committee chairperson shall be the Treasurer and at least two (2) additional members, who are not current Board of Director members and are not members of the Finance Committee, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The audit committee shall screen and recommend independent auditors to the Board of Directors. The independent auditor shall be in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

2.9.6 Parliamentary: Roberts Rules of Order

When not in conflict with these ByLaws, Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of this association.

2.9.7 Liability

No officer, member of committee of this Association shall make any contract or incur any indebtedness in the name of this Association without the approval of the Board of Directors. Neither the Board of Directors nor any officer shall have the authority to incur any indebtedness beyond the amount of cash on hand after deducting all unpaid obligations. The corporation may purchase real estate and related improvements for the purpose of furthering

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the purposes of the Corporation. The Corporation may incur a liability for the purchase of real estate and improvements with the consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Association.

2.9.8 Waiver of Notice

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the bylaws of the Corporation, a thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

**CHAPTER 3
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
ENNIS SOCCER ASSOCIATION
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

General Rules and Regulations of the Ennis Soccer Association (ESA) (hereinafter referred to as the “Association”) and its affiliated members must be subject to the rules and regulations of the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and FIFA.

3.1 **RULE 1 ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISIONS**

3.1.1 Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association. A team which uses unregistered players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said players have participated.

3.1.2 Registered soccer players under these rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants of the age of Under Nineteen Years.

3.1.3 Age grouping for play shall be:

Under 19	Under 10
Under 16	Under 8
Under 14	Under 6
Under 12	

** Age 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 January 1st through December 31st of the current soccer year.

Age divisions shall be formed by birth year as outlined by NTX Soccer and US Soccer Under 4 years of age through Under 16 years of age.

In the Under 4 division only, players shall turn 3 years of age on or after January 1st of the current soccer year but prior to January 1st of the spring season, shall be eligible to participate in the fall season.

The player is registered from the moment the player or the player’s agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees. **No refunds.** Before playing the league games, the coach must see that all his assigned players have been properly registered and paid all necessary fees. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in forfeiture of all games in which improperly registered players participated.

3.1.4 Registrants will be required to present proof of age when they register to play for the first

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time and therefore after if no birth certificate is on file within 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 or a certification of an American citizen board abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

3.2 RULE 2 PLAYER AND TEAM REGISTRATION

3.2.1 Two general signups shall be held for players and coaches. The first shall be no less than one month prior to the beginning of season play. The second shall be held no less than two weeks prior to the beginning of season play. Teams will be formed within 10 days of the final registration in accordance with Rule 3 below. Coaches will be assigned to teams at this time.

3.2.2 Coaches shall contact their players within 48 hours of receiving their rosters.

3.2.3 Coaches wishing to register teams through the ESA to participate in other leagues shall present to the President a completed team roster, all player registration forms, birth certificates, money and necessary releases not later than 14 days prior to the start of season play for the league.

3.2.4 Coaches wishing to register their teams with ESA to participate in a League hosted by ESA shall present to the President a completed, properly signed team roster, add and deletes (if applicable), all necessary releases, and the league fee no later than 14 days prior to the start of season play for the league and shall agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the ESA.

3.2.5 Games schedules will be given to coaches no later than one week prior to the start of the season.

3.3 RULE 3 TEAM FORMATION RULES

3.3.1 Teams will be permitted to remain together from season to season provided that the team meets the provisions defining a returning team in 3.1 and all players on that team have the right to remain on that team provided that they meet the age requirements of the division. Coaches must contact each player on their roster and give him/her the opportunity to remain on that team. Brothers and sisters may request assignment to the same team provided that they meet the age requirements of that division. Players may be allowed to “play up” one age division provided that the proper release forms have been completed and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the time of registration. Only the Head Coach may request that their child be placed on the team that he/she is coaching. **No name may be added to the roster within one week of the start of the season except in unusual circumstances as ruled by the Board of Directors (i.e., protracted illness, moving to the area within this time period, or an unusual shortage of players on a team).**

3.3.2 A team shall be considered a returning team provided that there are enough returning players to meet the following minimums for the age division in which the team will be playing whether or not the coach returns.

U4 thru U6	Minimum of 4 returning players
U8	Minimum of 5 returning players
U19	Minimum of 7 returning players

3.3.3 There shall be only one method of player assignment per age division for recreational team formation. Any other method of team formation shall be considered non-recreational.

For Under 6 and Under 8 age divisions. All player to be reassigned and all new players not covered by the provisions in 3.1 shall be assigned by a random draw from a players pool conducted by the Registrar and all Commissioners as explained in the Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Balance shall be sought in all teams within a division with regards to number and age. Reassignment may be granted by the Board of Directors after review of the reason for transfer which shall be submitted in writing by the parents of the players along with the proper transfer and release forms signed by both coaches involved. Player’s names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team.

For Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19 age divisions. Players will be assigned by the method described above for Under 6 and Under 8 age divisions with the following exceptions:

A. Balance shall be sought in all teams within a division within a division with regards to number;

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however age-pure team will be allowed as long as players are available in the Player pool.

B. After all players from the player pool have been assigned, coaches of record may actively seek players of the proper age group within the Association to be added to the team as long as no methods are used to assess the ability of the player and:

1. The player is not presently registered on an existing team.
2. The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.

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

3.4 RULE 4 COACHES

- 3.4.1** The Association shall recognize one Head Coach and one Assistance Coach.
- 3.4.2** If a Head Coach resigns, the Assistant Coach on that team shall be considered the Head Coach and allowed to select another assistant.
- 3.4.3** All official coaches shall have attended a NTSSA Coaches grass roots clinic prior to the start of the season for their specific age group. If no coaches are available who have attended a clinic, another person may be chosen for one season (Fall or Spring). That person shall then be requested to attend the first available coaches' clinic. If a coach fails to attend a coaches' clinic within one year, he/she shall be replaced. The Board of Directors may at its discretion waive this requirement upon submission of a written request from a coach stating his reasons/qualifications for waiver.
- 3.4.4** Any head of assistant coach is subject to suspension by a majority vote of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee after presentation to his/her commissioners of 3 written complaints for unethical conduct.
- 3.4.5** Coaches shall be responsible for collecting all sponsored uniforms from each player at the end of each season and turning them into the age division Commissioner. If only part of the uniform has been paid for by a sponsor, only that part of the uniform must be collected unless the persons paying for the remainder of the uniform are in agreement to donate their portion to the Association. Players shall be responsible for turning sponsored uniforms into their coach at the end of each season. Players that fail to turn in their uniforms shall not be allowed to register for any subsequent seasons until the uniform (or the cost of the uniform) has been turned in to the appropriate age division commissioner.
- 3.4.6** Every head coach on the roster or a designated team representative must attend a Coaches Meeting to be held by the 1st Vice President or his/her designated representative each season, Fall and Spring. They shall be notified of the meeting no later than ten (10) days prior to the day of the meeting and advised that it is mandatory to attend. If a coach does not attend the meeting, his team(s) will be required to forfeit their first games(s) of the current season unless a written waiver is obtained from the Executive Board prior to the date of the meeting.

3.5 RULE 5 REFEREES

- 3.5.1** Referees for all games shall be approved by the Association and, if possible, certified by NTSSA. If no certified referees are available, the Association can appoint an associate referee.
- 3.5.2** Referees for all playoff games shall be certified by NTSSA.
- 3.5.3** If ten minutes after the scheduled start of a game the official referee is not present, the head coaches of each team may select a referee mutually and proceed with the game. The competence or bias of a referee so chosen shall not be grounds for protest.
- 3.5.4** The referee is in charge of proceedings from the time he/she comes to the field to the time he/she leaves the field. His/her decisions are final.
- A. He may stop the game for infringement of rules.
 - B. He may suspend or terminate the game for:
 - a. severe weather
 - b. interference by a coach or spectator
 - c. darkness

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C. 13 He may suspend a player guilty of violent conduct or repetitious infringement of rules.

D. He shall apply the Advantage Rule:

D. The referee shall not signal a foul if calling such a violation would be disadvantageous to the team which has been fouled.

E. Whenever the referee is in doubt as to the proper decision, he should not penalize the defending team.

3.5.5 Referees shall be paid as recommended by the Referee Committee and approved by the Association.

3.5.6 The Referee Committee shall be chaired by the Association Second Vice President and include two other members appointed by him/her.

3.6 RULE 6 SCHEDULING OF GAMES

The game schedule shall be provided by the Age Division Commissioner as provided in Article III Section 8B of the Constitution.

3.6.1 Changes may be made in the schedule prior to the start of a season with sufficient cause. Requests for changes shall be submitted and approved by the Age Division Commissioner who shall in turn report all schedule changes to both the First and Second Vice Presidents.

3.6.2 Championship in each division shall be awarded to the team with the most points on the following method:

A. 3 points for a win

B. 1 points for a tie

C. 0 points for a loss

In the case of a tie in points at the end of a regular season, championship shall be determined by a playoff game. Playoff games shall not end in a tie. Ties shall be resolved in the following order.

A. Overtime periods shall be played according to FIFA rules with the following times to be used:

Under 16 and Under 19 2 - 15 minute periods

Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 2 – 10 minute periods

B. If a tie exists after overtime play, a shootout will be played in a manner as outlined by FIFA.

3.6.3 The above rules concerning standings will not apply to Under 6 or Under 8.

3.7 RULE 7 RULES OF COMPETITION

The Rules of Play shall be FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as to the following:

3.7.1 Size of fields See Rule 7.1

3.7.2 Size of ball See Rule 7.2

3.7.3 Number of Players (and substitutions) See Rule 7.3

3.7.4 Linesmen See Rule 7.6

3.7.5 Duration of the Game See Rule 7.7

3.7.6 Charging of Goalkeeper See Rule 7.12

3.7.1 Field of Play – realizing that we must generally accept and play upon the fields available, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Field Width</u>	<u>Field Length</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
Under 19	Min 70 yds	Min 120 yds	8 ft x 8 yds
Under 15/16	Min 70 yds	Min 120 yds	8 ft x 8 yds
Under 13/14	Min 60 yds	Min 100 yds	8 ft x 8 yds
Under 11/12	Min 45 yds	Min 70 yds	7 ft x 7 yds
Under 9/10	Min 35 yds	Min 55 yds	6 ft x 6 yds
Under 7/8	Min 15 yds	Min 25 yds	4 ft x 6 ft
Under 4/5/6	Min 15 yds	Min 25 yds	4 ft x 6 ft

3.7.2 The Ball o- ball sizes for various age divisions will be as follows: Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19 Size #5

Under 10 and Under 12 Size #4

Under 6 and Under 8 Size #3

3.7.3 Number of Players and Substitution – The Under 6, Under 8 and Under 10 divisions shall play

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under the Developmental Player Modified Rules as published by USYSA (See Rules 3.8, 3.9, and 3.10).

The maximum and minimum number of players on the field during a game shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Minimum on Field</u>	<u>Maximum of Field</u>
Under 19	7	11
Under 16	7	11
Under 14	7	11
Under 12	7	9
Under 10	5	7
Under 8	3	4
Under 6	3	4

Substitutions may take place at the following times pending notification of the referee:

- 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. An injured player, after the referee has stopped the play.
- E. At half time.
- F. When a caution (Yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.
 - a. NTSSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System: for use in Under 6, Under 8 only.

3.7.4 Player’s Equipment – Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than 4 inches high. Jerseys should be of uniform color. Shin guards shall be mandatory and shall be entirely covered by the sock.

3.7.5 Referees – No changes

3.7.6 Linesmen – Specifically trained and certified “Junior Linesmen” may be used if necessary. Their infraction calling authority is limited to ball in and out of play, direction of throw in, goal kick, and offside.

3.7.7 Duration of Game – The duration of games for each age division shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Halves</u>
Under 19	2 – 45 min.
Under 16	2 – 40 min.
Under 14	2 – 35 min.
Under 12	2 – 30 min.
Under 10	2 – 25 min.
Under 8	As modified rules specify
Under 6	As modified rules specify

For Under 10 tournaments, a winner may be determined. For Under 8 and Under 6 competition, ties will stand.

3.7.8 Start of Play – No changes.

3.7.9 Ball in and out of Play – No changes.

3.7.10 Method of Scoring – No changes.

3.7.11 Offsides – Under 6 and Under 8 shall play under Modified Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3). No changes for all other divisions.

3.7.12 Fouls and Misconduct – conform to FIFA with the exception that Under 6 and Under 8 shall play according to the Modified Playing Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3). Note of the following clarifications should be taken:

- A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED. Possession is defined as: “One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching its, or patting it along the ground”.
- B. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital

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areas of his/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.

C. 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.

3.7.13 Free Kicks – No changes with the exception that Under 6 and Under 8 will play in accordance with the Modified Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3).

3.7.14 Penalty Kicks – No changes with the exception that Under 6 and Under 8 will play in accordance with the Modified Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3).

3.7.15 Throw In – No changes with the exception that Under 6 and Under 8 will play in accordance with the Modified Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3).

3.7.15 Corner Kicks – No changes with the exception that Under 6 and Under 8 will play in accordance with the Modified Rules mentioned above (see Rule 7.3).

3.8 RULE 8 MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 6

Under 6 will play under the Development Player Program Modified Rules as published by USYSA – see Appendix A.

3.9 RULE 9 MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 8

Under 8 will play under the Development Player Program Modified Rules as published by USYSA – see Appendix B.

3.10 RULE 10 MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 10

Under 10 will play under the Development Player Program Modified Rules as published by USYSA – see Appendix C.

3.11 RULE 11 DISCIPLINE

The Association in all cases shall abide by NTSSA Rule 3.10 in regards to discipline procedures, penalties, and fines. See Appendix D

3.12 RULE 12 GAME PROTEST

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

A. A team knowingly plays as an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player, or

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.

3.12.2 No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during the 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 first through the Second Vice President via a written complaint and then the state Referee Committee.

3.12.3 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 be possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the Division Commissioner within 48 hours of the protested game. He shall render a decision within 48 hours of receipt of the protest. If the protest is disallowed, the decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors in writing. This must be done directly to the President within five days of receiving the decision. The Board of Directors shall meet within seven days to render a verdict, which shall be final.

3.12.3 Protests must include a \$15.00 deposit. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. Appeals must include an additional \$10.00 deposit. If the appeal is upheld the deposits will be refunded. If the appeal is denied, the deposits are forfeited to the Association.

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3.13 RULE 13 MISCELLANEOUS RULES

3.13.1 Integrity of the Field:

- A. All coaches must remain off the field and within ten yards of the midfield lines.
- B. Players on the sideline must remain on the bench.
- C. Spectators must stay off the field at all times and may not be any closer than 20 yards to the goal line.
- D. The referee shall not allow any person to enter the field until play has stopped, and only then if he has given a signal to do so, nor shall he allow coaching from the boundary lines with the following exception and condition:
 - 1. Brief instructions regarding throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks, etc. delivered in a positive, unobtrusive manner (i.e., not excessively loud).

3.13.2 Game cards shall be completely filled out and signed by each coach and then signed by the referee immediately following each game. Referee Game Cards shall be completely filled out by referees signed and turned in immediately following each game. Completed game reports and Referee Game Cards shall be turned in to the Second Vice President or his designated representative within the following time limits.

- A. Within 48 hours of day of game for all out-of-town games. If mailed, it must be postmarked within 48 hours of the date of game.

Coaches failing to comply with this rule shall be required to forfeit the game in question – if their team won, or their next game played – if their team lost. Referees failing to comply with this rule shall forfeit their pay for the game in question.

3.13.3 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.

3.13.4 Home team shall be responsible for marking the game field as set forth by the division commissioner, providing the game ball, and shall take either the north or east side of the field.

3.13.5 The ESA fully endorses the NTSSA Code of Ethics/Conduct and will strive to uphold the professional, ethical and moral values therein. (See Appendix E).

3.14 RULE 14 RULE CHANGES

These rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at any General Assembly by a majority vote of members present providing that a public announcement of the meeting was made no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting.

3.15 RULE 15 SPONSORS

The Association shall not be responsible or involved in the sponsorship of individual teams. Each team shall be responsible for procuring its own uniforms and equipment, either internally or through sponsors. If sponsors are utilized, the team shall inform the sponsor that all equipment and/or uniforms, once given to the team, becomes the property of Ennis Soccer Association and will not be returned.

APPENDIX A MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 6

LAW 1 – THE FIELD

AI.1 Dimensions – the field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 35 yards, or less than 25 yards, and its width not more than 25 yards, nor less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed its width. **USYSA RECOMMENDATION:** Length: 35 yards. Width: 25 yards.

AI.2 Markings:

- E. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
- F. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
- G. A center circle with a five (5) foot radius.
- H. Four corner arcs with a two (2) foot radius.
- I. Goal area – three (1) foot from each goal post and three (3) foot into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

AI.3 Goals:

- A. Maximum: Five (5) feet high and ten (10) feet wide. B.

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Minimum: Size of hockey goals.

LAW II – THE BALL

AII.1 Size three (3).

LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

AIII.1 Maximum number of players on the field at one time – four (4). No goalkeeper.

AIII.2 Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed – eight (8).

AIII.3 Substitutions: Injuries. See Law VII.

AIII.4 Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. **AIII.5** Teams and games may be co-ed.

LAW IV – PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

AIV.1 Players' equipment must conform to FIFA with the following exceptions: A.

Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

B. Shin-guards: Mandatory all U-6.

LAW V – REFEREE

AV.1 Registered referee.

AV.2 Associate referees.

AV.3 Parent/coach or assistant.

AV.4 Referee's decision on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.

AV.5 All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

AV.6 Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.

LAW VI – LINESMAN

AVI.1 Use club linesman.

LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME

AVII.1 The game shall be divided in to four (4) equal seven (7) minute quarters.

AVII.2 There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarter one (1) and quarter (2), and another two (2) minute break between quarters three (3) and four (4).

AVII.3 There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between quarters two (2) and three (3).

USYSA RECOMMENDS that parent/coaches substitute between quarters to ensure that all players present play a minimum of 50% of the games.

LAW VIII – THE START OF PLAY

AVIII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must be five (5) foot from the center mark while kicking off is in progress.

LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

AIX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

AX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XI – OFF-SIDES

AXI.1 There shall be no off-sides.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

AXII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

A. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents five (5) yards away.

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- B. The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.
- C. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

LAW VIII – FREE KICKS

- AXIII.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
- AXIII.2** Shall be classified under one heading – indirect.
- AXIII.3** A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- AXIII.4** No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team’s goal box.

LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

- AXIV.1** No penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

LAW XV – THROW-IN

- AXV.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
 - A. No Throw in. Indirect free kick.

LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

- AXVI.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
 - Goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

- AXVII.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
 - A. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDER 6 PLAY

- Opposing parents/coaches should shake hands after each game. Do not record league standings.
- Do not record league standings.
- Participation trophies for ALL – no trophies or awards just for the best team.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents, and spectators should be located not less than six (6) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty (20) yards to the goal line.
- NO individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the games. Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

APPENDIX B MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 8

LAW 1 – THE FIELD

- BI.1** Dimensions – the Field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 35 yards, nor less than 25 yards, and its width not more that 25 yards, nor less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed its width. **USYSA RECOMMENDATION:** Length: 35 yards. Width: 25 yards.
- BI.2** Markings:
 - Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
 - A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius. Four corner arcs with a two (2) foot radius.
 - Goal area – two (2) yards from each goal post and two (2) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - A penalty area may be used, the size of which shall be in proportion to the size of the field.
- BI.3** Goals:
 - Maximum: Six (4) feet high and two (2) feet wide.
 - Minimum: Size of hockey goals.

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LAW II – THE BALL

BII.1 Size three (3).

LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- BIII.1** Maximum number of players on the field at a one time – four (4). One of whom may be a goalkeeper. USYSA recommends that should a goalkeeper be used, that this position not be the responsibility of just one player, but all team members take turns playing this position.
- BIII.2** Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed - eight (8)
- BIII.3** Substitutions: Injuries. See Law VII
- BIII.4** Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. **BIII.5** Teams and games may be co-ed.

LAW IV – PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

BIV.1 Players' equipment must conform to FIFA with the following exceptions: Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes. Shin-guards: Mandatory all U-8.

LAW V – REFEREE

- BV.1** Registered referee.
- BV.2** Associate referees.
- BV.3** Parent/coach or assistant
- BV.4** Referee's decision on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- BV.5** All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- BV.6** Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.

LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME

- BVII.1** The game shall be divided into four (4) equal twelve (10) minute quarters.
- BVII.2** There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarter one (1) and quarter (2), and another two (2) minute break between quarters three (3) and four (4).
- BVII.3** There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between quarters two (2) and three (3). USYSA RECOMMENDS that parent/coaches substitute between quarters to ensure that all players present play a minimum of 50% of the game.

LAW VIII – THE START OF PLAY

- BVIII.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
A. Opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kicking off is in progress.

LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

BIX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

BX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XI – OFF-SIDES

BXI.1 There shall be no off-sides.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- BXII.1** Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
A. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents six (6) yards away.
B. The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.
C. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players.

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LAW VIII – FREE KICKS

BXIII.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.
- C. No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team’s penalty area.

LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

BXIV.1 No penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

LAW XV – THROW-IN

BXV.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

BXVI.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

BXVII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDER 8 PLAY

- Opposing parents/coaches should shake hands after each game. Do not record league standings.
- Do not record league standings.
- Participation trophies for ALL – no trophies or awards just for the best team.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should not be located less than six (6) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty (20) yards to the goal line.
- NO individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game. Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

APPENDIX C MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 10 LAW 1 – THE FIELD

CI.1 Dimensions – The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 80 yards, nor less than 60 yards, and its width not more than 50 yards, or less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed its width. **USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS:** Length: 80 yards. Width: 50 yards.

CI.2 Markings:

- A. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
- B. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
- C. A center circle with a eight (8) yard radius. D. Four corner arcs with a two (2) foot radius.
- E. Goal area – six (6) yards from each goal post and three (3) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- F. A penalty area may be used the size of which shall be in proportion to the size of the field.

CI.3 Goals:

- A. Maximum: Seven (6) feet high and seven (6)yards wide.
- B. Minimum: Size of hockey goals.

LAW II – THE BALL

CII.1 Size four (4).

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LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

CHL.1 Maximum number of players on the field at one time – seven (7). One of who may be a goalkeeper. USYSA recommends that should a goalkeeper be used.

A. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed – twelve (12).

B. Substitutions:

1. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor.
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After a goal, by either team.
4. After an injury, by either team, when the Referee stops play.
5. At half time.

Playing time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams
and games may be co-ed.

LAW IV – PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

CIV.1 Players' equipment must conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Shin-guards: mandatory all U-10.

LAW V – REFEREE

CV.1 Registered referee.

CV.2 Associate referees.

CV.3 Parent/coach or assistant.

CV.4 Referee's decision on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.

CV.5 All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

CV.6 Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.

LAW VI – LINESMAN

CVi.1 Use club linesman.

LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME

CVII.1 The game shall be divided into two (2 equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each.

CVII.2 Half- time break shall be five (5) minutes.

LAW VIII – THE START OF PLAY

CVIII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

CVIII.2 Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kicking off is in progress.

LAW IX O- BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

CIX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

CX.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XI – OFF-SIDES

CXI.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

CXII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

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LAW XIII – FREE KICKS

CXIII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before the kick is allowed.

LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

CXIV.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before the kick is allowed

LAW XV – THROW-IN

CXV.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

CXVI.1 Conform to FIFA.

LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

CXVII.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDER 10 PLAYER

- Opposing parents/coaches should shake hands after each game.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than six (6) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty (20) yards to the goal line.
- NO individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game. Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

APPENDIX D

NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION RULE 3.11 – DISCIPLINE

All Member Associations are directed to distribute this rule to every youth and senior 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 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, their local playing association, as well as those of the USSF and its respective Youth and Amateur Divisions. The NTSSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Playing Associations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, team representative, and referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in youth or 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 USSA and its respective Youth and Amateur Divisions, may be subject to publication in the monthly newsletter of 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 are directed to form their own Appeals and Disciplinary (A & D) Committees and to hold hearings – **WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT** on every player/coach/assistant coach cautioned or ejected and on referee's reports of

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serious misconduct by spectators and/or parents as required by subsequent sections of this rule. All Member Playing Associations are required to furnish the NTSSA 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.

3.11.2 Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations are directed to operate and keep records on a twelve (12) point “CAUTION SYSTEM” for all players/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 to four caution points. Points are cumulative during the entire soccer year (September 1 to August 31). When a given player/coach/assistant coach accumulates twelve (12) Caution Points, his or her points over the 12 are carried over. A player transferring to another team will carry over his or her accumulated points to his or her new team. Report of these disciplinary suspensions **must** be sent immediately to the State A & D Committee at the State Office.

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

Four Points –

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

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.

Two Points –

1. Deliberate hand ball 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 throw-in
5. Encroachment or ungentlemanly conduct at a penalty kick.
6. Other ungentlemanly conduct.

One Point –

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

2. ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SYSTEM

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 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 |

3. EJECTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. One Ejection | One Game Suspension |
| B. Second Ejection | Two Game Suspension |
| C. Third Ejection | Suspension pending A & D Committee |

4. FINES

- | | |
|---|----------|
| A. Teams Accumulating Sixty-Four (64) Penalty Points | \$100.00 |
| B. Teams Accumulating Thirty-Two (32) Tournament Penalty Points | \$100.00 |

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**All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction to NTSSA.

This is the **minimum disciplinary punishment taken by all Member Association 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.

5. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by referee or any other person shall be directed to the State A & D 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.
6. The state A & D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports of before 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.
7. 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.
8. 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, play off, championship, cup games, local or state tournament game) that they 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 or her suspension (to sit out) the next game.
9. 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 A & D Committee, together with the action taken 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.
10. 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, or its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.
11. Extreme Violent Conduct:
The State Member Association's A & D 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.

3.11.3 Misconduct of Amateur Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

This section has been omitted as the ESA does not administer an Amateur Division.

3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators

1. Each team (youth and adult) in NTSSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his or her spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he or she is unable to do so, the Member Association is directed to take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself. The Member Association report shall be sent to the State A & D

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Committee for review and further action if it feels it is warranted.

2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:
 - A. Assess the team with which the spectator is associated with a minimum of 12 and not to exceed 40 caution points.
 - 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 the 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 the player/coaches/team representatives/spectators of the given team have accumulated a total of 40 caution/ejection points or a combination of 64 caution/ejection points (with ejections equaling 12 for this purpose only), the Member Association will notify the NTSSA State A & D Committee who will require the coach and the players of said team to appear before the committee to explain the team’s continued misconduct. Misconduct points assessed during Tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.
 - B. When the players/coach/team representatives/spectators of the given team have accumulated a total of 32 caution/ejection points (with ejections equaling 12 points for this purpose only) during Tournament play, the Tournament Officials/Member Association shall notify the NTSSA State A & D Committee who will require the coach and the players of said team to appear before the committee to explain the team’s continued misconduct. Misconduct points assessed during League play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.
 - C. 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 into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives, or players for violation of the rule.
 - D. The NTSSA does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents and spectators.
 - E. 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.
2. Amateur Association Teams
 - A. This section has been omitted as the ESA does not administer an Amateur Division.

3.11.6 Games Directly Sponsored by NTSSA

Misconduct involving any participant (player, coach, parent, or 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 A & D Committee immediately after the occurrence for appropriate disciplinary action.

3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee

1. NTSSA has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and linesmen, 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 linesman serving as a game official.
2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including any players, coaches, managers or

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spectators, a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the appropriate State Commissioner (Amateur Men's, Amateur Women's, Youth or Indoor) and the Executive Vice President, A & D Committee Chairman, Olympic Development Program Chairman, and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the appropriate commissioner, 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 in paragraph 3.11.7.2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident a referee assault, a formal assault hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of the incident. An intentional act of physical violence upon a game official as defined in 3.11.7.1 above shall be deemed "referee assault" in the NTSSA under the terms and conditions of USSF Rule 30-42.

NOTE: Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing bodily, running into the referee, the act of throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.

4. Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Executive Committee in the following manner:
 - A The alleged offending party is requested to 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.

If any assault is found to have been made on an official, the State is obligated to suspend the person making the assault from all soccer activities (outdoor and indoor) for a minimum of one (1) year. Stiffer penalties may be imposed by the State Executive Committee at its discretion. If the State Executive Committee finds the actions to be a case of referee abuse, it shall follow the rules found in section 3.11.7.7(a).

5. Any party adjudged guilty of referee assault shall have the right to appeal, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the decision to the USSF Appeals Board, following USSF Rule 2104.
6. Assault On Officials By A Senior 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 \$1,000.00 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 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 \$50.00 bond, such bonds to be held under the same terms and conditions as the team bonds.
7. Referee Abuse:
 - A Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.11.7.2 above, determine the action referee abuse as explained in Paragraph (B) below, it shall impose not less than a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested. Should a formal hearing be held, it will be chaired by the appropriate Commissioner in accordance with Paragraph 3.11.7.2 and the procedure of hearing shall be the same as Paragraph 3.11.7.4.
 - B Referee abuse is a verbal statement of physical act 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; 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 Findings of this subcommittee and/or hearing may be appealed directly to the State Executive

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Committed within seven (7) days of the date of the letter of notification to the offending party. Copies of this notification shall be sent to the offending party, the coach and/or team manager, if applicable, complainant and the President of the Member Association in which the abuse took place.

8. Any assault or abuse charges must be postmarked with forty-eight (48) hours (unless there is a valid reason for late reporting). No complaints will be processed by NTSSA if not received within fourteen (14) days of the alleged incident.

3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees

1. When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant or spectator of a match, the State Executive Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to his activities.
2. When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward another referee, the State Referee Committee will hear such allegations and deliver to the State Executive Committee its findings and punishment of 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 rule.
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 open or closed 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 attorney 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 future registration in soccer activities within its jurisdiction.
6. An appeal of decisions pursuant to 3.11 (Rule XI) made by Member Associations, after Member associations appeal procedures have been exhausted, will be made to the State A & D Committee in accordance with procedures established in 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. Make 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 (\$25.00 paid by player and \$25.00 paid by coach)	\$50.00
B. All Coach Appeals & Referee Appeals	\$100.00
C. All Team Appeals	\$100.00

49.1.1 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

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before it.

49.1.2 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 (\$500.00). Repeated violation by Member Association can result in such association being declared not in good standings.

**APPENDIX E
CHAPTER 8 CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**

8.1 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.
9. Coaches shall not engage in or attempt to initiate a consensual relationship with an 18U or 19U player when the coach is in a “position of authority” with respect to the player. Should a consensual relationship develop or appear likely to develop, the coach should step down from his or her position with the player’s team. This will avoid any perception of pressure on the player to acquiesce to unwanted advances to maintain their position on the team or any perception of preferential treatment from the coach due to a consensual relationship with the player.

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

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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,

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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.

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 RESONSIBILITIES

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

8.2 NTSSA PARENTS 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.

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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.

8.3 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USSF/NTSSA REGISTERED REFEREES

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 NTSSA; 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.

(Approved and Adopted by the NTSSA State Referee Committee – July, 2021.)

8.3.1 USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11) 1.

1. Consider it a privilege to be part of the Federation Referee Program and use actions that will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.
2. Maintain the dignity of the position.
3. Conduct themselves ethically and honorably.
4. Treat themselves and others respectfully and honestly.
5. Perform duties knowledgably and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
6. Adhere to all policies and requirements of the Federation Referee Program.
7. Safeguard confidential registration and performance information.

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8. Give priority to all Federation affiliated assignments and programs.
9. Honor all Federation affiliated assignments and obligations.
10. Not discriminate against or take advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Failure to follow this Code may result in disciplinary sanctions or decertification.

8.3.2 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 USSF, 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 USSF and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

8.4 NTSS CODE OF ETHICS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 I 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 hat 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.*