



# Tyler Soccer Association By-Laws & Rulebook

Revised and Adopted  
January 2025

# Tyler Soccer Association

## Table of Contents

|           |  |    |
|-----------|--|----|
| Chapter 1 | Membership and Elections                         |    |
| 1.        | Membership.....                                  | 7  |
| 2.        | Voting.....                                      | 7  |
| 3.        | Executive Officer Elections.....                 | 7  |
| Chapter 2 | Board of Directors                               |    |
| 2.1       | Management.....                                  | 7  |
| 2.2       | Removal of Director.....                         | 8  |
| 2.2.1     | Removal by Petition.....                         | 8  |
| 2.2.2     | Removal by Vote.....                             | 8  |
| 2.2.3     | Removal for Failure to Attend Meetings.....      | 8  |
| 2.2.4     | Removal by Resignation.....                      | 8  |
| 2.2.5     | Ten Year Probation.....                          | 9  |
| 2.3       | Terms of Executive Officers.....                 | 9  |
| 2.4       | Vacancies on Board of Directors.....             | 9  |
| 2.5       | Quorum for Board of Directors Meetings.....      | 10 |
| 2.6       | Motions and Reports before the Board.....        | 10 |
| 2.7       | Budget.....                                      | 10 |
| 2.8       | Notice.....                                      | 10 |
| 2.8.1     | Manner of Giving Notice.....                     | 10 |
| 2.8.2     | Waiver of Notice.....                            | 11 |
| Chapter 3 | Executive Board                                  |    |
| 3.1       | Officers of the Corporation.....                 | 11 |
| 3.2       | President.....                                   | 11 |
| 3.3       | First Vice President (Rules).....                | 12 |
| 3.4       | Second Vice President (Fields).....              | 12 |
| 3.5       | Third Vice President (Referees and Coaches)..... | 12 |
| 3.6       | Secretary.....                                   | 12 |
| 3.7       | Treasurer.....                                   | 13 |
| 3.8       | Competitive League Representative.....           | 13 |
| 3.9       | Academy League Director.....                     | 14 |
| 3.9.1     | Academy League Committee.....                    | 14 |
| 3.10      | Cup and Games Director.....                      | 14 |
| 3.10.1    | Cup and Games Committee.....                     | 14 |
| 3.11      | Media Director.....                              | 15 |
| 3.12      | Preclusion from Serving on Multiple Boards.....  | 15 |
| Chapter 4 | Other Board Members                              |    |
| 4.1       | Boys' Scheduler.....                             | 15 |
| 4.2       | Girls' Scheduler.....                            | 15 |
| 4.3       | League Committee Chairperson/Coordinator.....    | 15 |
| 4.4       | Registrar.....                                   | 16 |

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
| 4.5        | Employees/Staff.....  | 16 |
| 4.6        | Adult League Chairman.....  | 16 |
| 4.6.1      | Adult League Committee.....   | 17 |
| Chapter 5  | Board Meetings  |    |
| 5.1        | Meeting of the Board of Directors.....                              | 17 |
| 5.2        | Emergency Meetings.....   | 17 |
| 5.3        | Executive Board Meeting.....  | 18 |
| Chapter 6  | Leagues   |    |
| 6.1        | League Definition.....  | 18 |
| 6.2        | Management.....   | 18 |
| Chapter 7  | Fiscal Year.....  | 18 |
| Chapter 8  | Dissolution.....  | 18 |
| Chapter 9  | Parliamentary Procedures.....                                       | 19 |
| Chapter 10 | Amendments to By-Laws.....  | 19 |
| Chapter 11 | Governing Rules.....  | 19 |
| Chapter 12 | Inclement Weather.....  | 19 |
| Chapter 13 | Playing Time.....   | 20 |
| Chapter 14 | General Rules   |    |
| 14.1       | Practice Time.....  | 20 |
| 14.2       | Casts, Braces & Splints.....  | 20 |
| 14.3       | Non-Registered Player May Not Practice.....                         | 20 |
| 14.4       | Roster Players.....   | 21 |
| 14.5       | Guest Players.....  | 21 |
| 14.6       | Background Checks / Safe Sport.....                                 | 21 |
| 14.7       | Wins, Losses, Forfeits, Postponements.....                          | 21 |
| 14.8       | League Standings.....   | 21 |
| 14.8.1     | League Awards.....  | 22 |
| 14.9       | Games Duration, Soccer Ball Size, Goal Size, Number of Players..... | 22 |
| 14.10      | Modified Playing Rules for 9U through 10U.....                      | 22 |
| 14.11      | Modified Playing Rules for 4U through 12U.....                      | 23 |
| 14.12      | Use of Drones and Aircraft.....                                     | 23 |
| Chapter 15 | Game Protocol   |    |
| 15.1       | Behavior of Coach.....  | 23 |
| 15.2       | Behavior of Parents and Spectators.....                             | 24 |
| 15.3       | Choice of Sidelines and Color Conflict.....                         | 24 |

|            |  |    |
|------------|--|----|
| 15.4       | Five (5) Foot Touchline Rule.....                                  | 24 |
| 15.5       | Paid Coaches Not Permitted.....                                    | 24 |
| 15.6       | Flag Rule.....   | 24 |
| Chapter 16 | Protests   |    |
| 16.1       | General Protest Rules.....   | 25 |
| 16.2       | Protesting a Judgment Call.....                                    | 25 |
| 16.3       | Conflicts of Interest.....   | 25 |
| 16.3.1     | Definition.....  | 25 |
| 16.3.2     | Procedure When Conflict Exists.....                                | 25 |
| 16.3.3     | Procedure When Conflict Discovered Post-Game.....                  | 26 |
| 16.3.4     | Replaying Game While Coach Suspended.....                          | 26 |
| 16.3.5     | Conflict of Interest with Coordinator.....                         | 26 |
| 16.3.6     | Conflict of Interest with Coordinator Discovered<br>Post-Game..... | 26 |
| Chapter 17 | Registration   |    |
| 17.1       | Schedule.....  | 27 |
| 17.2       | Placement of Players Registering After Draft.....                  | 27 |
| 17.3       | Registration Rate for Youth .....                                  | 27 |
| 17.3.1     | Registration Rate for Adult.....                                   | 28 |
| 17.4       | Registration for Board Members.....                                | 28 |
| Chapter 18 | Draft  |    |
| 18.1       | Assignment to Prior Team.....                                      | 28 |
| 18.2       | 4U & 5U Draft.....   | 28 |
| 18.3       | 6U Draft.....  | 28 |
| 18.4       | 7U & 8U Draft.....   | 29 |
| 18.5       | 9U & 10U Draft.....  | 29 |
| 18.6       | 11U through 12U Draft.....   | 29 |
| 18.7       | 13U through 14U Draft.....   | 29 |
| 18.8       | 16U through 19U Draft.....   | 29 |
| 18.9       | Adult League.....  | 30 |
| 18.10      | Formation of New Teams.....  | 30 |
| 18.11      | Assignment by Registration Date.....                               | 30 |
| 18.12      | Player Required Approval.....                                      | 30 |
| 18.13      | In Order of Division.....  | 30 |
| 18.14      | Carpool Rule in Drafting.....                                      | 30 |
| 18.15      | Brother/Sister Rule.....   | 31 |
| 18.16      | Parent Allowed to Take Child to New Team Only.....                 | 31 |
| 18.17      | No Request for Specific Team.....                                  | 31 |
| 18.18      | Drafting Attendance.....   | 31 |
| 18.19      | Refusal to Play on Team after Draft.....                           | 31 |
| 18.20      | Players Not Assigned In Draft.....                                 | 32 |
| 18.21      | Indoor Players.....  | 32 |
| 18.22      | 4U/5U Team Formation.....  | 32 |

|            |  |    |
|------------|--|----|
| Chapter 19 | Recreational Teams   |    |
| 19.1       | Age Divisions.....   | 32 |
| 19.2       | Age Pure Teams.....  | 33 |
| 19.3       | Requirements for a Team.....                               | 33 |
| 19.4       | New Coach Who Forms Team.....                              | 33 |
| 19.5       | Dividing League into Division, Equal Play.....             | 33 |
| 19.6       | Fall and Spring Season, Challenge and Regulation Play..... | 33 |
| 19.7       | Team Attending Tournament.....                             | 34 |
| 19.8       | Teams Not Originated In T.I.S.D.....                       | 34 |
| 19.9       | Number of Players to Field 4U and 5U.....                  | 34 |
| 19.10      | Number of Players to Field 6U.....                         | 34 |
| 19.11      | Number of Players to Field 7U and 8U.....                  | 35 |
| 19.12      | Number of Players to Field 9U and 10U.....                 | 35 |
| 19.13      | Number of Players to Field 11U through 12U.....            | 35 |
| 19.14      | Number of Players to Field 13U through 19U.....            | 35 |
| 19.15      | Number of Players to Field Adult.....                      | 35 |
| 19.16      | Same Name Rule.....  | 35 |
| 19.17      | Concession Stand Rule.....                                 | 35 |
| 19.18      | Field Monitor Rule.....                                    | 36 |
| Chapter 20 | Soccer Academies   |    |
| 20.1       | Definition.....  | 36 |
| 20.2       | Academy Soccer Team Assignment.....                        | 36 |
| 20.3       | Background Checks.....                                     | 36 |
| 20.4       | General Rules.....   | 36 |
| 20.5       | League Play.....   | 37 |
| 20.6       | Formation & Tournament Play.....                           | 37 |
| 20.7       | Rosters.....   | 37 |
| 20.8       | Purpose.....   | 37 |
| 20.9       | Recruiting.....  | 38 |
| 20.10      | Priority of Teams.....                                     | 38 |
| Chapter 21 | Competitive/Select Players.....                            | 38 |
| Chapter 22 | Schedulers and Coordinators                                |    |
| 22.1       | Priority Schedule.....                                     | 39 |
| 22.2       | Fields.....  | 39 |
| Chapter 23 | Coaches  |    |
| 23.1       | Coaching Changes.....                                      | 40 |
| 23.2       | Approval of Coaches Required.....                          | 40 |
| 23.3       | Registration and I.D. Cards.....                           | 40 |
| 23.4       | Photo I.D. and Fee Required.....                           | 40 |
| 23.5       | NTSSA Coach I.D. Card.....                                 | 41 |
| 23.6       | Registration with NTSSA.....                               | 41 |
| 23.7       | Indoor Facilities.....                                     | 41 |

|              |  |    |
|--------------|--|----|
| 23.8         | Background Checks.....   | 41 |
| Chapter 24   | Discipline   |    |
| 24.1         | Governing Rules.....   | 41 |
| 24.2         | Practicing at Lindsay Park.....  | 42 |
| 24.3         | Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches.....   | 42 |
| 24.3.1       | Misconduct.....  | 43 |
| 24.3.2       | Misconduct of Coach who is also Official.....  | 43 |
| 24.3.3       | Red Cards and Suspension.....  | 43 |
| 24.4         | Ejections of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches.....  | 44 |
| 24.4.1       | One Ejection.....  | 44 |
| 24.4.2       | Two Ejections.....   | 44 |
| 24.4.3       | Three Ejections.....   | 44 |
| 24.4.4       | Additional Penalties.....  | 44 |
| 24.5         | Misconduct of Spectators/Parents.....  | 45 |
| 24.6         | Player Discipline.....   | 45 |
| 24.7         | Common Sense.....  | 45 |
| 24.8         | Select Team Try-Outs.....  | 45 |
| Chapter 25   | Clinics  |    |
| 25.1         | Referee Clinic.....  | 45 |
| 25.2         | Coaching Clinics.....  | 45 |
| Chapter 26   | Tournament of Champions.....   | 46 |
|              | Appeals and Disciplinary Committee Rules.....  | 46 |
|              | NTSSA Code of Ethics/Conduct.....  | 47 |
| Section 1    | Responsibilities to Players.....   | 48 |
| Section 2    | Responsibility to NTSSA and Member Associations.....   | 48 |
| Section 3    | Responsibility to the Laws of the Game.....  | 49 |
| Section 4    | Responsibility to Officials.....   | 49 |
| Section 5    | Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting.....  | 50 |
| Section 6    | Responsibility of Public Relations.....  | 50 |
| Section 7    | Game Day and Other Responsibilities.....   | 51 |
| Section 8    | Ethics Committee.....  | 52 |
| Section 9    | NTSSA Parent's Code of Conduct.....  | 52 |
| Section 10   | Code of Conduct for USSF/NTSSA Registered Referees and Assignors.....  | 53 |
| Section 11   | USSF Code of Ethics for Referees.....  | 54 |
| Section 12   | USSF Code of Ethics for Assignors.....   | 55 |
| Section 13   | NTSSA Code of Ethics for Executive Committee, State Committee Members and Member Association Administrators..... | 56 |
| Appendix One | TSA Weather and Lightning Policy.....  | 57 |

# **Article I By-Laws**

## **Chapter 1 Membership and Elections**

### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

The members of the Tyler Soccer Association shall be any board member, parents or legal guardian of the youth registered with the Tyler Soccer Association, any person eighteen (18) years of age or older that is a registered player, any head coach, any assistant head coach, or any manager of a team registered with the Tyler Soccer Association. All members of TSA when required must be registered as volunteers with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. They must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **1.2 VOTING**

Members are entitled to one (1) vote at the Executive Officer's Election. Those voting will be allowed to vote for any Executive Officer position on the ballot and any position on the ballot in any age group in which those voting have registered players. For example, if a mother and father have two children, a 10U boy and a 5U girl, the family is entitled to one vote for any Executive Officer contest on the ballot, as well as one vote in the 10U election and one vote in the 5U election.

### **1.3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ELECTIONS**

The Executive Officer's Elections shall be held at Lindsey Park on the Saturday of the last scheduled league games unless for any reason the games are rescheduled then it will be that weekend (ex.games cancelled due to rain) from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. All candidates must declare by written or electronic notice their candidacy a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the election by contacting the Secretary and Registrar and requesting their nominee be placed on the ballot. If no candidates declare their candidacy, then the office is vacant, and an appointment will be made according to the by-laws of Tyler Soccer Association. Proxies shall not be allowed.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Board of Directors**

#### **2.1 MANAGEMENT**

A Board of Directors shall manage the business and affairs of the Tyler Soccer Association. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten (10) officers of the corporation, the League Committee Chairperson/Coordinator/Scheduler for all leagues, a duly elected representative of the Referee's Association, and an Adult League Chairperson.

#### **2.2 REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR**

##### **2.2.1 REMOVAL BY PETITION**

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his/her ability to remain in office. Any three (3) Directors, simultaneously, may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing or electronic notice to the Executive Board, which, in turn, will review the petition and forward copies of same to all other Directors within three (3) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Board of Directors members, after all Directors have been given fourteen (14) days' written or electronic notice of such pending petition.

##### **2.2.2 REMOVAL BY VOTE**

The Executive Board may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Board of Directors whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or severe improprieties, or other serious irregularities provided that a two-third (2/3) majority of all Executive Board Members vote. If a Director receives this vote of no confidence, he/she is automatically suspended from the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors, excluding the Executive Board, must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote removal to be effective.

##### **2.2.3 REMOVAL FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS**

Active participation by all Directors is necessary for proper functioning of the Tyler Soccer Association. Once notice of a Board of Directors meeting is provided to a Director, it shall be the responsibility of that Director to either attend, or prior to the time of the meeting, notify the Director originally providing notice of his or her inability to attend the meeting. Failure to attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of the called meetings of the Board of Directors for any six-month period will be considered a voluntary resignation unless the Executive Board excuses such absences.



#### **2.2.4 REMOVAL BY RESIGNATION**

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

#### **2.2.5 TEN YEAR PROHIBITION**

Any director that has been removed by either petition or vote of no confidence may not run for or be appointed to any office or committee for a period of no less than ten (10) years.

### **2.3 TERMS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The executive officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may succeed themselves in office. Any executive officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign from the office he/she is holding prior to election. Elections shall be held pursuant to Section 1.3 above with one-half (1/2) of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| President                   | Even Years |
| 1st Vice President          | Odd Years  |
| 2nd Vice President          | Even Years |
| 3rd Vice President          | Even Years |
| Secretary                   | Odd Years  |
| Treasurer                   | Odd Years  |
| Media Director              | Even Years |
| Competitive League Director | Even Years |
| Academy League Director     | Odd Years  |
| Cup and Games Director      | Odd Years  |

The term of office starts on June 1st for two (2) years to end on May 31st of second year.

#### **2.3.1 TERMS OF NON-EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The non-executive officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year and may succeed themselves in office. Any non-executive officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the office he/she is holding, prior to election.

## **2.4 BOARD VACANCIES**

### **2.4.1 VACANCIES ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The President shall fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors through appointment. In the event a vacancy in the office of President should occur, the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board of Directors following the occurrence shall elect, by an affirmative vote of a majority of those in attendance, a new President. However, the newly elected President must have, at any time in the past, served at least one (1) full year as a board member of the Tyler Soccer Association. Any Director filling a position that has been vacated will serve until the next election. That position will then be up for election no matter if it is odd or even years and will serve until the next regular election year.

### **2.4.2 VACANCIES ON NON-EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The President shall fill any vacancies for non-executive officers through appointment. Any officer filling a position that has been vacated will serve until the next election. That position will then be up for election at the next regular election.

## **2.5 QUORUM FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors or a majority of the Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise specifically required by law or by these by-laws.

## **2.6 MOTIONS AND REPORTS BEFORE THE BOARD**

All motions to change the playing rules will be presented in writing by the presiding officer. A copy must be available for each board member's present.

## **2.7 BUDGET**

Every fiscal year starting September 1st, and ending August 31st, a balanced budget will be submitted by the Executive Board and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors on or before the regular July board meeting. The budget may only be amended by specific line items by a two-third (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors.

## **2.8 NOTICE**

### **2.8.1 MANNER OF GIVING NOTICE**

Whenever, under the provisions of the statutes or these by-laws, notice is required to be given to any member of the Association and no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall be construed to mean personal notice shall be given in writing, either by electronic means or by mail, postage paid, addressed to such Association member at the physical or electronic address appearing on the records of the Association. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at such time when the same is thus deposited in the United States Postal Service mail as aforesaid.

### **2.8.2 WAIVER OF NOTICE**

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

## **Chapter 3 Executive Board**

### **3.1 OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION**

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Competitive League Director, Academy League Director, and Cup and Games Director. Any person wishing to run for election of the office of President is required to have at any time in the past served at least one (1) year as a board member on the Tyler Soccer Association Board prior to filing as a candidate for the office. Collectively, the officers of the corporation make up the Executive Board.

### **3.2 PRESIDENT**

The President will be elected on even years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The President will be charged with the overall administrative and executive functions of the corporation. He/She will be the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. He/She will preside at all general membership meetings. He/She will cast the deciding vote in the

event of a tie at any meeting, or he/she may waive the right to do so. He/She will assign duties to all officers as required. He/She will appoint such additional committees as he/she deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Association, and he/she will take prudent reasonable action in cases not covered within the by-laws, and such authority is implicit in the office. He/She will be responsible for verifying all taxes and 1099's be received by the individuals to meet the deadlines of NTSSA and the IRS.

### **3.3 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (RULES)**

The First Vice President will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The First Vice President will assist the President in the performance of his duties. He/She will assume and exercise all the powers of the President in his/her absence. He/She will chair any committee appointed to recommend changes in the rules and by-laws. He/She shall be responsible for seeing that an Association representative be available for assisting any group interested in affiliating with the Association. He/She will assume and exercise all the powers of the Media Director's primary responsibility for the marketing, public relations and publicity of the Association.

### **3.4 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (FIELDS)**

The Second Vice President will be elected on even years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The Second Vice President will be in charge of fields, equipment for the corporation, and will assume and exercise all the powers of the President in the absence of the President and the First Vice President. He/She will serve as liaison between Tyler Soccer Association and the City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department. He / She will oversee the schedulers.

### **3.5 THIRD VICE PRESIDENT (REFEREES AND COACHES)**

The Third Vice President will be elected on even years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The Third Vice President will work with the Referees' and Coaches' Association for the purpose of improving the skill of the referees and coaches. He/She will accumulate records and monitor the caution and ejection points by player, coach and team. He/She will initiate appropriate notification of requisite points by a player, coach or team. He/She will be responsible for the design and ordering of player awards.

### **3.6 SECRETARY**

The Secretary will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The Secretary will record the minutes of any Board of Directors meetings. He/She will attend to all correspondence of the corporation. He/She will keep a complete list of all registered players. He/She will notify the members of the Board of Director meeting time, date, and agenda for the scheduled meeting. He/She, along with the Registrar, will be in charge of handling ballots in the general election. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **3.7 TREASURER**

The Treasurer will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. The Treasurer will collect all moneys of the corporation and keep detailed accounting of all income and expenditures. He/She will pay all bills approved by the Board of Directors. He/She will sign all checks on the corporation bank account, the checks to be countersigned by either the President or First Vice President if the amount exceeds \$300.00. He/She will submit a written financial report to the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings and will be responsible for forwarding all mail received at the Tyler Soccer Association post office box. He/She will be responsible for submitting all taxes and 1099's to meet the deadlines of NTSSA and the IRS. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **3.8 COMPETITIVE LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

The Competitive League Director will be elected on even years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. He/She will represent competitive teams for the Tyler Soccer Association. He/She will provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Tyler Soccer Association Board of Directors with a current playing schedule prior to the season. He/She will assist in collecting funds pertaining to registration, play, and referee fees, for the Treasurer prior to season play. Duties and tasks involve management and oversight of the teams participating in the Tyler Soccer Association Open League in conjunction with the League Committee Chairpersons/

Coordinators. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

## **1. COMPETITIVE LEAGUE COMMITTEE**

The Competitive League Committee shall be comprised of the Competitive League Director, members appointed by the Director and approved by the Executive Board, and a representative appointed by the Tyler Soccer Referees' Association. The representative of the Referees' Association will serve as an advisor and shall not have voting rights. This committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of the Competitive League play sponsored by and under this Association. He/She shall report all Competitive League Committee outcomes to the Tyler Soccer Association Board of directors at board meetings for final approval. All members of the committee must be registered volunteers with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

## **3.9 ACADEMY LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

The Academy League Director will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. He/She will represent academy teams for the Tyler Soccer Association. He/She will provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Tyler Soccer Association Board of Directors with a current playing schedule prior to the season. He/She will assist in collecting funds pertaining to registration, play, and referee fees, for the Treasurer prior to season play. Duties and tasks involve management and oversight of the teams participating in the Academy League; organizing and promoting the Academy League; and developing and enforcing rules of play for the Academy League. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

## **1. ACADEMY LEAGUE COMMITTEE**

The Academy League Committee shall be comprised of the Academy League Director, members appointed by the Director and approved by the Executive Board, and a representative appointed by the Tyler Soccer Referees' Association. The representative of the Referees' Association will serve as an advisor and shall not have voting rights. This committee shall plan, establish,

approve and administer all rules and regulations of the Academy League play sponsored by and under this Association. He/She shall report all Academy League Committee outcomes to the Tyler Soccer Association Board of directors at board meetings for final approval. All members of the committee must be registered volunteers with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **3.10 CUP AND GAMES DIRECTOR**

The Cup and Games Director will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. He/She will be a member of the Board of Directors. He/She will aid coaches in finding outside tournaments to attend. He/She will appoint members to serve on the Cup and Games Committee, with approval of the Executive Board, and shall call all meetings of this committee and in matters requiring a vote, shall cast his/her vote after the other members. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **1. CUP AND GAMES COMMITTEE**

The Cup and Games Committee shall be comprised of the Cup and Games Director, members appointed by the Director and approved by the Executive Board, and a representative appointed by the Tyler Soccer Referees' Association. The representative of the Referees' Association will serve as an advisor and shall not have voting rights. This committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all Tournament play sponsored by and under this Association. He/She shall report all Cup and Games Committee outcomes to the Tyler Soccer Association Board of directors at board meetings for final approval. All members of the committee must be registered volunteers with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. They must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **3.11 MEDIA DIRECTOR**

The Media Director will be elected on even years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. He/She will be responsible for maintaining Association's web-site as well as the

Association's social media web-sites. He/She will also be responsible for any and all other forms of media that affects the Association. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **3.12 PRECLUSION FROM SERVING ON MULTIPLE BOARDS**

No Tyler Soccer Association Board Member shall serve on any other North Texas Soccer Association Boards excluding the North Texas State Board.

## **Chapter 4 Other Board Members**

### **4.1 BOYS SCHEDULER**

The Boys Scheduler will be responsible for creating the Boys age 4U-10U schedule with the help of the three age group coordinators. The three age group coordinators (4U-6U, 7U-8U, 9U-10U) will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. He/She will be responsible for coordinating with the Girls Scheduler when field overlap occurs. He/She will be required to have all schedules completed prior to the Coaches' Meeting. He/She will be responsible for entering the schedules into any electronic database and/or website used by the Tyler Soccer Association. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

### **4.2 GIRLS SCHEDULER**

The Girls Scheduler will be responsible for creating the Girls age 4U-10U schedule with the help of the three age group coordinators. The three age group coordinators (4U-6U, 7U-8U, 9U-10U) will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. He/She will be responsible for coordinating with the Boys Scheduler when field overlap occurs. He/She will be required to have all schedules completed prior to the Coaches' Meeting. He/She will be responsible for entering the schedules into any electronic database and/or website used by the Tyler Soccer Association. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas



State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **4.3 LEAGUE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON/COORDINATOR**

The League Chairperson/Coordinator will preside at all league meetings. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will chair the league committee. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will be a member of the Board of Directors. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will assign duties to all committee officers as required. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will be the presiding officer at the league draft. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will appoint such additional committees, as he/she deems necessary to carry out the functions of the league. The League Chairperson/Coordinator will take prudent and reasonable action in cases not covered herein, and such authority is implicit in the office. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. You must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **4.4 REGISTRAR**

The Registrar will attend the regular meeting of the North Texas State Soccer Association. He/She will report to the Board of Directors any actions of the North Texas State Soccer Association. He/She will be in charge of all registration of players by the corporation. He/She will supervise and coordinate the activities of the various leagues with the League Chairpersons/Coordinators. He/She will be responsible for forwarding messages with North Texas regarding registration of individuals and teams, and will keep a supply of all forms needed to communicate with North Texas, including insurance forms. He/She, along with the Secretary, will be in charge of handling ballots in the general election. He/She will be allowed to appoint an individual (on as “as needed basis”) to help in performance of his/her duties. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **4.5 EMPLOYEES/STAFF**

The Executive Board shall be authorized to employ such employees, as it is necessary to carry out the functions of the Association. Employees shall not have a vote in any business of the Association. The terms of employment for all employees shall be at the will of the Executive Committee. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer

Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **4.6 ADULT LEAGUE CHAIRPERSON**

The Adult League Chairperson will be elected on odd years at the annual league meeting by those members who he/she represents. He/She will represent adult teams for the Tyler Soccer Association. He/She will provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Tyler Soccer Association Board of Directors with a current playing schedule prior to the season. He/She will assist in collecting funds pertaining to registration, play, and referee fees, for the Treasurer prior to season play. Duties and tasks involve management and oversight of the teams participating in the Adult League; organizing and promoting the Adult League; and developing and enforcing rules of play for the Adult League. Must be a registered volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. Must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

#### **1. ADULT LEAGUE COMMITTEE**

The Adult League Committee shall be comprised of the Adult League Chairperson, members appointed by the Chairperson and approved by the Executive Board, and a representative appointed by the Tyler Soccer Referees' Association. The representative of the Referees' Association will serve as an advisor and shall not have voting rights. This committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of the Adult League play sponsored by and under this Association. He/She shall report all Adult League Committee outcomes to the Tyler Soccer Association Board of directors at board meetings for final approval. All members of the committee must be registered volunteers with Tyler Soccer Association which includes passing an annual Risk Management background check with North Texas State Soccer Association. They must also receive a certificate of completion for the Safe Sport Training.

## **Chapter 5 Board Meetings**

#### **5.1 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. at a place designated by the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors may vote to change the regularly scheduled meeting should the meeting conflict with another event such as, but not limited to, holidays or Spring Break. Notices of meetings and notices of rescheduled meetings shall be posted on the website of the Tyler Soccer Association. Board meetings are open to the public; however, any guest requesting to address the Board must notify an Executive Board Member at least 48 hours prior to the next meeting scheduled. All items needing to be added to the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the next scheduled meeting. The regularly scheduled meeting shall be adjourned two (2) hours after the call to order unless a motion is made to extend the time to complete the agenda. The presiding officer will halt the discussion in progress approximately ten (10) minutes before adjournment time to call for a motion to continue. If no motion is received, a time and place must be set to reconvene the agenda.

## **5.2 EMERGENCY MEETINGS**

The President may call for an emergency meeting of the Board at a place and time of his/her choosing to conduct business as long as a valid quorum is present.

## **5.3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Any Executive Board Member may call for an executive board meeting at a place and time of his/her choosing to conduct business as long as a valid quorum of executive board members are present.

# **Chapter 6 Leagues**

## **6.1 LEAGUE DEFINITION**

A properly constituted league shall be defined as an organization consisting of one (1) or more teams and representing all soccer activities for a particular age grouping. Leagues within age groupings may be formed based on gender. The Board of Directors must authorize all leagues.

## **6.2 MANAGEMENT**

The affairs of each league shall be managed by a League Committee/Coordinator to be elected by the members of the league pursuant to Section 1.3. Actions taken by the league committee shall not be contrary to actions taken by the Board of Directors.

## **Chapter 7 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on the first day of September each year and end on the thirty-first day of August each year.

## **Chapter 8 Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the assets shall be distributed to any exempt organization under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Directors are to use their best discretion in making the distribution of assets to such exempt organizations under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and special consideration will be given to organizations promoting youth soccer.

## **Chapter 9 Parliamentary Procedure**

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order (newly revised) shall govern in all cases to which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order.

## **Chapter 10 Amendments to By-Laws**

These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, provided all the directors have been given twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.

## **Article II Amendments to the N.T.S.S.A. Rules and Regulations**

## **Chapter 11**

### **Governing Rules**

Play in all member leagues of the Tyler Soccer Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as TSA) shall be governed by the official laws and decisions authorized by North Texas State Soccer Association, (hereafter referred to as NTSSA) the United States Soccer Federation, and FIFA for the current soccer year. In addition, the following rules are hereby adopted by TSA to better define certain laws and regulations.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Inclement Weather**

The TSA has adopted the weather policy and procedure found in Appendix One of these Rules. In the event of inclement weather or other exceptional circumstances making the playing of any scheduled game on an assigned field at the time specified impossible or impractical as determined by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the coordinators shall attempt to notify the coach of each team of game cancellations. In the absence of such express notification it shall be assumed that the game will be played as scheduled. The playing rules related to the declaring of loss by forfeit for failure to field the required number of players shall be in full force and effect. The referee may, at his discretion, declare a field dangerous or unplayable and postpone the game. If a game is suspended in the first half and the weather does not allow the game to resume, then this game will resume at another date and time starting from the very beginning as if the game never started. If a game is suspended in the second half and the weather does not allow the game to resume, then this game will be considered a complete game.

## **Chapter 13**

### **Playing Time**

Each player must play approximately one-half (1/2) of each game. A player arriving late or having a penalty resulting from prior play may alter a player's ability to play at least one-half (1/2) of the game. A coach may reduce a player's playing time for disciplinary reasons, provided the Coordinator and the player (if 18 or over) or the player's parents or guardian (if player is under 18) is notified in writing of the action to be taken prior to the start of the game. In case of 6U and 8U Leagues, playing time may not be reduced for disciplinary reasons, following the procedures found above, to less than one-quarter (1/4) of the game.

## **Chapter 14**

### **General Rules**

#### **14.1 PRACTICE TIME**

4U through 10U Leagues shall limit their practice to four (4) hours per week. All other leagues shall limit their practices to six (6) hours per week.

#### **14.2 CASTS, BRACES & SPLINTS**

The referee for any game may deny a player if he/she is wearing a cast, brace or splint that is not wrapped properly to prevent harm to him/herself or anyone else. The decision of the referee is final.

#### **14.3 NON-REGISTERED PLAYER MAY NOT PRACTICE**

No coach, assistant coach, trainer or team representative may practice any soccer related activity with any NTSSA registered player that does not appear on his/her current NTSSA roster or any non-registered player by current NTSSA rules and regulations. **DISCIPLINE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE MAY RESULT IN THE OFFENDING COACH BEING SUSPENDED FROM SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR.**

#### **14.4 ROSTER PLAYERS**

Roster players are players currently on a team roster. A player may be removed from the roster during the season if he/she or his/her parents sign a statement that he/she no longer intends to play.

#### **14.5 GUEST PLAYERS**

A recreational guest player may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's recreational roster for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's Home Member Association.

#### **14.6 BACKGROUND CHECKS / RISK MANAGEMENT / SAFE SPORT**

All coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees must have satisfactorily passed a criminal background check before they are able to participate in any NTSSA sanctioned event. This must be completed annually prior to the fall season unless it's not applicable then prior to the spring season.

On February 14, 2018, the President signed the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, which is aimed at protecting amateur athletes from sexual abuse.

On June 4, 2019, the North Texas State Soccer Association Board of Directors voted to MANDATE the following program as a tool/resource to educate all our membership. All coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees shall watch the Safe Sport Training video prior to being able to volunteer with Tyler Soccer Association.

#### **14.7 WINS, LOSSES, FORFEITS, POSTPONEMENTS**

In addition to forfeits by other means provided in NTSSA, a forfeit will be declared ten (10) minutes after a schedule start, in which the referee will notify both coaches that the official game time has begun unless a team is able to field at least seven (7) players when a team normally fields eleven(11); six (6) players when a team normally fields eight (9) players; and five (5) players when a team normally fields seven (7) players; and three (3) players when a team normally fields four (4) players. If a game is deemed a forfeit, for standings, the result will be entered as 5-0 score.

#### **14.8 LEAGUE STANDINGS**

Tie Breakers – **head to head** (aggregate score, the sum of the goals of the games)

**Goal difference**-Is calculated as the number of goals scored in all games for standings minus the number of goals conceded in all games for standings with a maximum of 5 per game.

(add all goals scored with a max of 5 per game – all goals conceded with a max of 5 per game = goal difference

**Shut-Outs**- The team with the most shut-outs in standing games only

**Fewest caution points**

**Playoff game** – If 2 teams are still tied after all the tie-breakers have been exhausted, then the 2 teams will play a deciding playoff game.

##### **14.8.1 LEAGUE AWARDS**

Each player will receive a participation award in 4U through 8U age divisions at the conclusion of the soccer season.

First and second place trophies will be awarded to each player of the teams that win their division in 9U through 19U at the conclusion of the soccer season.

#### **14.9 GAME DURATION, SOCCER BALL SIZE, GOAL SIZE, NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

The TSA has adopted the standards found in 14.9 for game duration, goal size, number of players on the field, and soccer ball size.

## Small Sided Format

| 4U  | 5U  | 6U  | 7U  | 8U  | *8U | 9U  | 10U | 11U | 12U | 13U-19 U |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| 4v4 | 4v4 | 4v4 | 4v4 | 4v4 | 7v7 | 7v7 | 7v7 | 9v9 | 9v9 | 11v11    |

***\*8U – The last season of 8U, teams will play in a developmental 8U division. They will play 7v7 and follow all the playing rules of 9U and 10U. Score will not be kept so there will be no standings.***

| AGE GROUP       | BALL SIZE | # OF PLAYERS   | GOAL SIZE      | GAME LENGTH         | FIELD LENGTH Width x Length |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4U THROUGH 6U   | #3        | 4 v 4 (min3)   | 4 ft. x 6 ft.  | (4) 8 Minute Quart. | Max. 20 yds. x Max 30       |
| 7U THROUGH 8U   | #3        | 4 v 4 (min3)   | 4 ft. x 6 ft.  | (4) 10 Minute       | Max. 20 yds. x Max 30       |
| 8U              | #3        | 7 V 7 (min5)   | 6.5 ft. x 18.5 | 25 Minute Halves    | Max. 30 yds. X Max. 47      |
| 9U THROUGH 10U  | #4        | 7 v 7 (min5)   | 6.5 ft. x 18.5 | 25 Minute Halves    | Max. 30 yds. x Max. 47      |
| 11U THROUGH 12U | #4        | 9 v 9 (min6)   | 6.5 ft. x 18.5 | 30 Minute Halves    | Max. 47 yds. x 75 yds.      |
| 13U Through 14U | #5        | 11 v           | 8 ft. x 24 ft. | 35 Minute Halves    | Max. 80 yds. x 112 yds.     |
| 15U Through 17U | #5        | 11 v 11 (min7) | 8 ft. x 24 ft. | 40 Minute Halves    | Max. 80 yds. x 112 yds.     |
| 18U Through 19U | #5        | 11 v           | 8 ft. x 24 ft. | 45 Minute Halves    | Max. 80 yds. x 112 yds.     |
| Adults          | #5        | ***            | ***            | ***                 | ***                         |

\*\*\*Adults-TSA will decide on the number of players, goal size, game length, and field size per season after looking at the overall registration numbers.

### 8U Developmental /9U / 10U Build-Out Line Playing Rules

- The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting.
- When the goalkeeper has the ball, in hand during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate (punting and drop kicks are not allowed)
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.



- If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal box line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called.
- **PLAYERS CANNOT BE PENALIZED FOR AN OFFSIDE OFFENSE BETWEEN THE HALFWAY LINE AND THE BUILD OUT LINE, PLAYERS CAN BE PENALIZED FOR AN OFFSIDE OFFENSE BETWEEN THE BUILD OUT LINE AND THE GOAL LINE.**

## **Modified Playing Rules for 4U through 12U**

- 12U and younger shall not engage in heading the ball, either in practice or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be rewarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point of the nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then the play should continue.
- 13U players, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

### **14.12 USE OF DRONES AND AIRCRAFT**

City of Tyler ordinances prohibit the use of remote controlled airplanes at Lindsey Park. However, TSA further prohibits the use of drones at Lindsey Park while any soccer games are being played.

## **Chapter 15 Game Protocol**

### **15.1 BEHAVIOR OF COACH / UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR**

Prior to the start of a game, each coach shall introduce himself to the referee and introduce or indicate his respective assistant coach, if any. Coaches may issue positive verbal instructions to their players on the field of play, but only to the point of not being disruptive to the game. This does not mean that the coaches in the younger age groups cannot position their players and issue tactical instructions. The older age players will require fewer instructions as their knowledge of the game increases. The referee will be sole judge of when a coach uses negative or derogatory statements, which in his judgment will bring the game into disrepute, and only positive or supportive comments will be allowed. Coaches must not allow any parent or spectator to do any

coaching during the game and will be responsible for their conduct. Coaches will show good sportsmanship when their team has an 8 goal lead. Failure to not try and keep the score under control can lead to a caution (yellow card) by the referee for unsporting behavior.

## **15.2 BEHAVIOR OF PARENTS AND SPECTATORS**

Coaches shall be responsible for the behavior of the spectators and be advised to refrain from using abusive or offensive language, contesting referee decisions or otherwise displaying displeasure with respect to actions on the field and to caution spectators regarding such behavior. Unsportsman-like conduct will result in penalties and possible abandonment of the game. Coaches are subject to be cautioned or ejected by the referee. When a coach is ejected for any reason, he must leave the vicinity of the game and will not be allowed at his/her team's next game.

## **15.3 CHOICE OF SIDELINES & COLOR CONFLICT**

Spectators and fans of both teams will occupy one sideline with players on the other. With the exception of a parent tending to an injured child, spectators, fans, and siblings are not allowed on the players' sideline nor are they allowed to sit behind either end line. Home team is listed first on the schedule and must change jerseys in case of color conflict.

## **15.4 FIVE (5) FOOT TOUCHLINE RULE**

All persons attending a game, including coaches, shall remain at least five (5) from the respective touchline. All persons not on the field of play shall remain in the area extending, in case of 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U and 10U League play, twenty-five (25) yards on either side of the midfield line.

## **15.5 PAID COACHES NOT PERMITTED**

No person shall be paid to coach a team; however, an expert in one or more aspects of the game may assist on occasion.

## **15.6 FLAG RULE**

TSA will provide flags for all fields.

## **Chapter 16**

### **Protests**

#### **16.1 GENERAL PROTEST RULES**

All protests must be filed in writing within forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Sundays, after the incident, with the Registrar. A \$50.00 protest fee must be made at the time the protest is filed. The protesting coach must clearly indicate in writing that he/she is protesting, not merely making a complaint or suggestion to bring about some rule changes. Should the protest be upheld, the disputed game will be replayed in a fashion prescribed by the A&D Committee. And the protest fee shall be returned by the Registrar.

#### **16.2 PROTESTING A JUDGMENT CALL**

Protests based on judgment calls made by the referee will not be entertained, as judgment calls cannot be reversed. The only two acceptable reasons for protesting a game after it has been played are:

1. A team knowingly playing an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player; or
2. There were obvious errors made in the application of the Laws of the game that directly affected the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.

A game cannot be protested because a player, team, coach, parent, or fan thinks the referee was incompetent. Complaints should be directed to the Tyler Referees' Association or the State Referee Committee.

#### **16.3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

##### **16.3.1 DEFINITION**

A conflict of interest exists when a referee or lineman (or their spouse) is related to the coach, assistant coach or player on a team participating in a game he/she is to officiate.

##### **16.3.2 PROCEDURE WHEN CONFLICT EXISTS**

The referee assignor should maintain a current list of all conflicts of officials. However, an occasional conflict of interest may arise due to an oversight, an incomplete list or scheduling of games. If after arriving at a game an official

or coach realizes that a conflict of interest exists, he/she should notify the referee who will call both coaches together to inform them of the conflict. If both coaches agree to play the game using the official(s) assigned, or using a fewer number of officials, then the outcome will be final. If one of the coaches cannot accept the official because of the conflict of interest, then an attempt should be made to substitute that official with another official of equal or similar qualifications, if one is available in the immediate area. If no alternate official is available, then the game will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date. Both coaches will sign the official's card on which has been noted "Abandoned Conflict of Interest."

#### **16.3.3 PROCEDURE WHEN CONFLICT DISCOVERED POST-GAME**

Should a conflict of interest involving an official become known within seven (7) days of the completion of the game, either coach or assistant coach of the opposing teams may petition the A&D Committee to replay the game. The petition must be delivered to the Registrar within seven (7) days, exclusive of Sunday, of the date the game was played. No fee will be required to accompany the petition.

#### **16.3.4 REPLAYING GAME WHILE COACH SUSPENDED**

Should the game be replayed before game suspension resulting from caution points or ejections received by a coach has been served, the A&D Committee must decide if the coach can attend the game. The facts and circumstances surrounding the suspension should be weighed and reviewed to make the determination. The suspension cannot be abated; only postponed to the next scheduled game. In no event will a player's suspension be postponed.

#### **16.3.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH COORDINATOR**

Should a scheduler need to schedule a game which is a makeup game for a scheduled season game or a postseason game for a play-off challenge, or regulation and a conflict of interest exists with regard to the coordinator, the scheduler will notify both coaches that a conflict of interest exists before a game is scheduled. If both coaches agree to play the game as scheduled, the outcome of the game will be final. If either coach or assistant coach cannot accept the proposed schedule because of conflict of interest, the coordinator will schedule the game for the earliest possible time for which officials will be available.

#### **16.3.6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH COORDINATOR DISCOVERED POST-GAME**

Should a conflict of interest involving the coordinator, or an alternate, become known within seven (7) days of the completion of the game, either coach of the opposing teams may petition the A&D Committee to replay the game. The petition must be delivered to the Registrar within seven (7) days, exclusive of Sundays, of the date of the game. No fee will be required to accompany the petition. Should the game be replayed before game suspension resulting from caution points or ejections received by a coach has been served, the A&D Committee must decide if the coach can attend the game. The facts and circumstances surrounding the suspension should be weighed and reviewed to make the determination. The suspension cannot be abated; only postponed to the next scheduled game. In no event will a player's suspension be postponed.

## **Chapter 17**

### **Registration**

#### **17.1 SCHEDULE**

Registration will run a minimum of four (4) consecutive weeks for each season ending the Friday prior to the beginning of the drafts. The drafts will be held Monday following the close of registration and end at least two (2) weeks prior to the first scheduled regular season games. After registration ends, all registrants will be placed on the waiting list by the Registrar with his/her registration date noted. The team with the next draft shall be offered the first player on the waiting list. This will continue until the waiting list is exhausted or the end of the first weekend of play.

#### **17.2 PLACEMENT OF PLAYERS REGISTERING AFTER DRAFT**

The first player to be placed on a team from the waiting list shall be the player of the earliest date and so on. Only dates will determine placement. The only exception is a player returning to a team.

#### **17.3 REGISTRATION RATE FOR YOUTH**

The board shall set or readopt the registration rate based on the previous year's budget to meet the needs of TSA. A discounted rate for families after (2) children in the family have registered shall be set at half the regular registration. Returned checks will suspend the player's registration status. Players will not be allowed to practice or play until appropriate fees are paid. Financial assistance will be approved according with the amount budgeted per calendar year and will not be accepted after the end of late registration.

Players receiving financial assistance will be required to pay half of their fees for the season.

#### **17.3.1 REGISTRATION RATE FOR ADULT**

The board shall set or readopt the registration rate based on the previous years' budget to meet the needs of TSA. Returned checks will suspend the player's registration status. Players will not be allowed to practice or play until appropriate fees are paid.

#### **17.4 REGISTRATION FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members as listed in our By-Laws and any member of their immediate families (up to maximum of three) who are registered players will receive free registration for the period of their active participation on TSA Board. Registration forms must be completed during the normal registration time.

## **Chapter 18 Draft**

#### **18.1 ASSIGNMENT TO PRIOR TEAM**

Players registering prior to the end of REGISTRATION, who played on a team in the previous soccer season, will be assigned to that team UNLESS they have registered as a free agent under the rules provided herein. ALL PLAYERS REGISTERING AFTER REGISTRATION ENDS will be placed on the waiting list. All players on a team which participated in the preceding season and remains together as a team for the next season must play on that same team or be placed in the player pool. A player may sit out one season but must pay full registration fee in the fall or ½ the fee in the spring and remain on the roster of the team. If an entire team wishes to sit out one (1) season, said team will be allowed to register at the full registration fee in the fall or ½ the fee in the spring. Any player not registered will not be carried on the team roster and may not return directly to the team the next season, but will be placed in the draft.

#### **18.2 4U & 5U DRAFT**

Players in age group 4U and 5U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time each team has a minimum of six (6) players and

a maximum of eight (8) players. When a team fields four (4) players a team may be required to take up to seven (7) players.

### **18.3 6U DRAFT**

Players in age group 6U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time each team has a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players. When a team fields four (4) players a team may be required to take up to seven (7) players.

### **18.4 7U & 8U DRAFT**

Players in age group 7U and 8U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time each team has a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players. When a team fields four (4) players a team may be required to take up to seven (7) players.

### **18.5 8U Development, 9U, & 10U DRAFT**

Players in age group 9U and 10U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of nine (9) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players when a team field seven (7) players. A team may be required to take up to eleven (11) players.

### **18.6 11U & 12U DRAFT**

Players in age group 11U and 12U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of eleven (11) players and a maximum of sixteen (16) players when a team field nine (9) players. A team may be required to take up to fifteen (15) players.

### **18.7 13U & 14U DRAFT**

Players in age group 13U and 14U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of eighteen (18) players when a team field eleven (11) players. A team may be required to take up to sixteen (16) players.

### **18.8 16U through 19U DRAFT**

Players in age group 16U through 19U will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of

twelve (12) players and a maximum of twenty-two (22) players when a team field eleven (11) players. A team may be required to take up to sixteen (16) players.

## **18.9 ADULT**

Players in the adult group will be drafted until such team does not exceed the maximum twenty-five (25) roster limit. TSA will determine the size of rosters, duration of game, and field players each season after reviewing the amount of adults registered. Division will be determined at this time as well.

## **18.10 FORMATION OF NEW TEAMS**

Players in the draft pool will be subject to draft by existing teams so long as players are required to fill the rosters on those teams, after which new teams will be formed. If there are no coaches for these new teams at the time of the draft, the League Coordinators will assign players to form these new teams. Parents of players on these new teams will be notified of the assignment and may be asked to participate in coaching temporarily or in finding a new coach.

## **18.11 ASSIGNMENT BY REGISTRATION DATE**

The time for determining who has the fewest roster players shall be the time the assignments are made. The players are to be assigned according to their registration date. If players register on the same day, lot will determine assignment order.

## **18.12 PLAYER REQUIRED APPROVAL**

No player shall be allowed to play or practice until the registration form is submitted to the registrar and the player is approved by the registrar as being within all required rules regarding placement of the player on the team.

## **18.13 IN ORDER OF DIVISION**

Coaches shall draft new players for their respective teams from the player pool with Division I drafting first. Each team shall choose one (1) player, Division II shall draft in the same manner. This process will continue until the player pool is exhausted. The draft, assignment will continue until the player pool is exhausted. The draft, assignment will continue in this manner



beginning with the next team to draft. No names of players will be released until the draft in that age group is completed.

#### **18.14 CARPOOL RULE IN DRAFTING**

Up to two (2) players may be drafted as a group to accommodate carpooling. If a carpool group is drafted, that coach must pass in the draft number of rounds equivalent to the number of players in that carpool. Carpool request may only be made for carpooling with other players in the draft. A request for a carpool with a player already on a team will not be accepted.

#### **18.15 BROTHER/SISTER RULE**

Sisters and brothers of a player already on a team may play on the same team at the parents' request and with consent of the coach. Sisters and brothers may be added directly by the Registrar without going through the draft.

#### **18.16 PARENT ALLOWED TO TAKE CHILD TO NEW TEAM ONLY**

Any parent wishing to start a new team shall be allowed to take their child to that team without being required to draft this child would be placed on the team. This applies to the HEAD COACH of the new team ONLY.

#### **18.17 NO REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC TEAM**

In order to promote soccer participation a player may invite a friend, who has never registered in any NTSSA association, to join his/her existing team with the permission of Tyler Soccer Association provided there is space available on the team. This is a one to one system and both of their registration forms must list only the agreed upon friend. If the names do not match up, both players will be placed in the draft. In the event that a team has limited space and multiple players on the same existing team are requesting to invite a friend, the available space will be filled by the appropriate Board of Director members, not the coach. If roster limits preclude accepting all players designated within this rule, then the earliest registration time and date will be accepted.

#### **18.18 DRAFTING ATTENDANCE**

ABSOLUTELY NO ONE OTHER THAN THE COACH AND HIS/HER ASSISTANT OR REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE DRAFT. Draft will not begin without the Registrar or in his/her absence, an Executive Officer being present.

#### **18.19 REFUSAL TO PLAY ON A TEAM AFTER DRAFT**

Once players have been placed on teams through the draft procedure, said players must play on those teams and may not place themselves back on the waiting list. If the player chooses not to play on his/her assigned team and does not attend any practices, the player must sit out the season and will receive a refund.

#### **18.20 PLAYERS NOT ASSIGNED IN DRAFT**

Players who are not assigned to a team in the draft when there are not enough to form a new team shall be offered to all interested teams. If no coach takes the player/players, the player/players will be assigned to the team with the least number of players in that age group. If more than one (1) team is tied with the least number of players, numbers will be drawn between those teams to see who will receive the first, second, third, etc... player.

#### **18.21 INDOOR PLAYERS**

Previously registered outdoor recreational youth players playing indoor soccer for a specific team or coach, may not transfer to an outdoor team coached by that individual after the team plays their first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player's transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.

#### **18.22 4U/5U TEAM FORMATION**

A new 4U and 5U team may be formed by players who have never registered in any NTSSA association with a maximum of allowed roster size, as long as the team provides a volunteer coach. New 4U and 5U teams formed with a player that has registered in any NTSSA association may be formed with a maximum of three (3) players. These players must consist of children of the new team's head coach, assistant coach and team manager.

## **Chapter 19 Recreational Teams**

### **19.1 AGE DIVISIONS**

|     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 19U | 16U | 14U | 12U |
| 11U | 10U | 9U  | 8U  |
| 7U  | 6U  | 5U  | 4U  |

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

## **19.2 AGE PURE TEAMS**

All teams shall be formed age pure with divisions' age pure in each league. Youth players may participate in older divisions but may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates.

## **19.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEAM**

A team shall consist of six (6) players and a coach in all age groups except 8U and younger. Each team, once formed, may stay together as a team from season to season as long as there continues to be six (6) players and a coach in all age groups except for 8U and younger. In 8U and younger there must be four (4) players and a coach. Any team may move up to the next league (age group) as a team as long as these conditions are met.

## **19.4 NEW COACH WHO FORMS A TEAM**

If there is a coach who wishes to form a team in any division but who does not currently have a team, he/she shall be allowed to form a team by drafting from the pool with other teams in the division in which the new team is formed. The coach of the new team shall draft last in the division or by draw for the position if there is more than one new team. The coordinator shall place the new teams in the lowest division in the league.

## **19.5 DIVIDING LEAGUE INTO DIVISION, EQUAL PLAY**

When a league has ten or more teams, the League Coordinator shall divide the teams into divisions. A division shall consist of not less than four (4) or more than ten (10) teams. After all players' placement has been made for the season, the League Coordinator utilizing the procedures as set forth

hereafter, shall accomplish division of teams into separate divisions. After each league has been divided into divisions, each team must play all other teams in that division an equal number of times to determine standings. If interdivision play is allowed, the same ruling must apply.

#### **19.6 FALL AND SPRING SEASON RELEGATION RULE**

For the fall season, all teams will be placed into divisions according to their standing from the previous season. In the event standings were not officially kept during the previous season (i.e. in the previous season, the teams were in the 8U division), unofficial standings will be reviewed to determine which division each team should be placed in. For this reason, even though awards are not given for place in the 8U division, the records of wins and losses should still be maintained by TSA for this purpose only. For the Spring season, each division shall be made up of the teams which played in that division on the Fall season provided that the team with the worst record in any division during the Fall competition shall be relegated to play in the next lower division, and the team with the best record in any division shall be promoted to the next upper division. The TSA Board will handle this under their discretion.

#### **19.7 TEAM ATTENDING TOURNAMENT**

A coach will give the scheduler and coordinator two-week advance notice if they are going to attend a tournament and cannot make a season game. If the scheduler and coordinator is notified in less than two weeks in advance, the game will be a forfeit. A recreational team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) rescheduled weeks per season to attend a tournament.

#### **19.8 TEAMS NOT ORIGINATED IN T.I.S.D.**

Players not in TISD and registered to play in their own district (Chapel Hill, Whitehouse, etc...) must be drafted first by the coach of a team originating within these school district boundaries. Before drafting begins, the coach must indicate if he plans to draft any of these players in his school district. If more than one team originating in the same age bracket is in this school district, the coach must only indicate that he plans to draft those players requesting his school district. If a coach passes over and does not draft those players first, then any coach may draft them, providing a phone call is made to the player's parents for approval. Once a coach passes over these players and drafts a player from TISD, the requesting players are free to be drafted.

#### **19.9 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 4U AND 5U**

Teams in age groups 4U through 5U will field four (4) players with no goalkeeper.

#### **19.10 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 6U**

Teams in age group 6U will field four (4) players with no goalkeeper.

#### **19.11 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 7U AND 8U**

Teams in age groups 7U through 8U will field four (4) players with no goalkeeper.

#### **19.12 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 8U Developmental, 9U AND 10U**

Teams in age groups 8U Developmental, 9U and 10U will field seven (7) players with a goalkeeper.

#### **19.13 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 11U THROUGH 12U**

Teams in age groups 11U through 12U will field nine (9) players with a goalkeeper.

#### **19.14 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD 13U THROUGH 19U**

Teams in age groups 13U through 19U will field eleven (11) players with a goalkeeper.

#### **19.15 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO FIELD ADULT LEAGUE**

TSA will determine the size of rosters, duration of game, and field players each season after reviewing the amount of adults registered. Division will be determined at this time as well.

#### **19.16 SAME NAME RULE**

No team may have the same name as any other team in the same age division. In the event a team disregards this rule, the team entered first in the computer will remain the name and the new team shall be changed in the computer to the head coach's last name until the team complies with this rule.

#### **19.17 CONCESSION STAND RULE**

If a team is scheduled to work in the Concession Stand and does not show up or contact the 2nd Vice President/Fields to reschedule at least one week prior to their scheduled time, that team's coach will be suspended from scheduled play for two (2) consecutive league/tournament games.

#### **19.18 FIELD MONITOR RULE**

When a team is scheduled to monitor their age group fields and does not show up or contact the 2nd Vice President/Fields to reschedule at least one week prior to their scheduled time that team's coach will be suspended from scheduled play for two (2) consecutive league/tournament games.

## **Chapter 20 Soccer Academies**

#### **20.1 DEFINITION**

"Soccer Academy" is a group of 7U through 10U registered NTSSA Recreational Players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Players must register with their home association and may or may not be on a recreational team, unless required to be on a recreational team by their home association. Academies are to be governed by NTSSA Youth Associations, and NTSSA Youth Associations may host as many Soccer Academies as they deem desirable. Academy teams are governed by the league in which they participate. If more than one association is involved in an academy league, an A&D committee should be in place.

#### **20.2 ACADEMY SOCCER TEAM ASSIGNMENT**

Academy players registered with Tyler Soccer Association are not required to be on a recreational roster and participate on a recreational team.

#### **20.3 BACKGROUND CHECKS / RISK MANAGEMENT**

All coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees must have satisfactorily passed a criminal background check before they are able to participate in any NTSSA sanctioned event. This must be completed annually. They also shall adhere to the Safe Sport Mandate Training per rule 14.6.

## **20.4 GENERAL RULES**

Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.

## **20.5 LEAGUE PLAY**

Member Associations may provide league play if they have enough teams, or may coordinate with other Member Associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play will be designated as 7U through 10U. Scores and standings should not be kept.

## **20.6 FORMATION & TOURNAMENT PLAY**

Soccer Academy teams are not considered "registered teams," and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a "Soccer Academy" bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament. Soccer Academy teams may not travel out of NTSSA as a team to play in tournaments.

## **20.7 ROSTERS**

Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.

## **20.8 PURPOSE**

The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:

1. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills;
2. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches; and
3. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.

## **20.9 RECRUITING**

Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting. *(For an in-depth definition of recruiting see NTSSA rule 3.10.9)*

## **20.10 PRIORITY OF TEAMS**

For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with an NTSSA Member youth association recreational or recreational plus team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the NTSSA recreational team or recreational plus team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment during the recreational season, except on Sundays.

# **Chapter 21**

## **Competitive/Select Players**

A competitive (select) player is obligated to his/her competitive team for the soccer-playing year for competitive players from the time he/she signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer-playing year (August 1st of the prior soccer year through May 31st of the current soccer year) and any release to transfer to another NTSSA competitive team will be allowed only in limited circumstances. A written request for a release with the purpose of being able to transfer to another competitive team must be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee. This shall be done between the date of December 1st and January 31st for 11U through 14U and December 1st and March 15th for 15U through 19U only and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 (refundable at the Competitive Soccer



Committee's discretion). The parent/player making the appeal will be required to attend a Competitive Soccer Committee hearing to consider the request. Any appeal of the decision of the Competitive Soccer Committee must be made directly to the Executive Committee of NTSSA within five (5) days. A player may leave a competitive team to go into his home Member Association recreational player pool at any time during the soccer year. Any recreational player currently rostered to a recreational team and wishing to be released to join a competitive team may do so only between December 1st and January 31st for 11U through 14U and December 1st through March 15th for 15U through 19U and may do so only with the written permission of the Member Association in which he/she is currently rostered. A competitive registration form must be completed prior to the player's transfer to a competitive team.

## **Chapter 22**

### **Schedulers and Coordinators**

#### **22.1 PRIORITY SCHEDULE**

The Schedulers should request officials based upon the following priority schedule. The referee assignor will use the same priority schedule to assign referees to games. When requesting an official, the League Coordinator should notify the assignor why the game is being scheduled or re-scheduled. The following priority list should be used:

1. Season Games listed on copy of season furnished to assignor whether game is scheduled on Saturday or any other day.
2. Games on season schedule not played due to lack of an official.
3. Games on season schedule not played due to rain or other uncontrollable event.
4. Play-off games required deciding a team's standing to receive an award.
5. Regulation games (fall season only).
6. Games re-scheduled due to teams participating in a tournament.

## **22.2 FIELDS**

The Scheduler shall schedule all games at Lindsey Park for teams that register through TSA or NTSSA. All games played will be scheduled through the league coordinator and approved by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The following procedures should be followed in order to obtain usage of a field:

1. The proper league coordinator should be contacted. The League Coordinator must then get approval from 2nd Vice President for all game changes at Lindsey Park
2. Only games may be scheduled for playing fields at Lindsey Park.
3. All games at Lindsey Park require two (2) separate registered teams in uniform and a licensed referee in uniform assigned through the Tyler Soccer Association Assignor.
4. Schedulers & League Coordinators will report any abuse of this privilege to the Board of TSA immediately.

## **Chapter 23 Coaches**

### **23.1 COACHING CHANGES**

Coaching changes involving players on an existing team must go before and be approved by a panel consisting of 1st Vice President (or designee), Registrar and appropriate age Coordinator.

### **23.2 APPROVAL OF COACHES REQUIRED**

The TSA Board, prior to each Fall and Spring Season, must approve team coaches, assistant coaches, and managers. A new team coach, assistant coach, or manager that is designated at draft or for any other reason by the 1st Vice President (or designee), Registrar, and appropriate age coordinator is considered in a temporary status until approved by the TSA Board. If the TSA Board does not approve any coach, that coach must relinquish all coaching responsibilities immediately.

### **23.3 REGISTRATION AND I.D. CARDS**

Each coach/assistant coach/manager of a team shall be required to register with NTSSA each year and will be issued an I.D. card. A valid TSA badge must be visibly worn by all persons on coach/player sideline at all times. Violation will result in removal to spectator sideline.

#### **23.4 PHOTO I.D. AND FEE REQUIRED**

To register, every coach/assistant coach/manager shall include a copy of a valid photo ID and a completed NTSSA Coach/Referee/Volunteer/Staff Application, along with the appropriate coach's fee, if any, with the team paper work at the time of team registration.

#### **23.5 NTSSA COACH I.D. CARD**

Any coach/trainer offering or participating in individual/team practices or training sessions, soccer camps, skill camps, and or similar activities involving youth players, must be registered with and hold a current, valid NTSSA coach I.D. card.

#### **23.6 REGISTRATION WITH NTSSA**

If the coach has not received an I.D. card from the registration of a youth team, a coach shall register directly with NTSSA. To direct register, a coach shall present a valid photo ID, to complete a NTSSA Coach/Referee/Volunteer/Staff Application, and pay the appropriate NTSSA fee, if any.

#### **23.7 INDOOR FACILITIES**

All affiliated indoor facilities shall require all youth coaches to present a valid photo I.D. and shall be required to complete a NTSSA Coach/Referee/Volunteer/Staff Application prior to the issuance of a Coach I.D. card. All affiliated indoor facilities are to submit completed NTSSA Applications to the NTSSA State Office within fifteen days of completion of the form and present a valid Coaches I.D. card.

#### **23.8 BACKGROUND CHECKS / RISK MANAGEMENT**

Every person over the age of 17, who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must have on file with NTSSA a completed "NTSSA Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check" (NTSSA Adult Application). For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players. They also shall adhere to the Safe Sport Mandate Training per rule 14.6.

## **Chapter 24**

## **Discipline**

### **24.1 GOVERNING RULES**

The official laws shall govern play in all member leagues of TSA and decisions authorized NTSSA, The United States Soccer Association, The United States Soccer Federation and FIFA as amended by TSA. The following disciplines are hereby adopted by TSA for failure to comply with the rules and regulations. All coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the following disciplines if he or she:

Improperly dismisses a player from a team – **MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.**

Falsifies the number of players on a team – **MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.**

Allows an unregistered player to play or practice with a team – **MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR.**

Refuses to accept players to a maximum required by League Committee to enable a registered player to be assigned to a team -- **MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.**

Fails to comply with the rule pertaining to playing time for any game played under the direction of TSA:

**FIRST OFFENSE – FORFIET THE GAME PLAYED.**

**SECOND OFFENSE – FORFIET THE GAME PLAYED AND MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.**

Holds practice in excess of the limits established – **MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.**

In any way holds tryouts to establish membership -- **TWENTY FIVE (25) YEAR SUSPENSION.**

### **24.2 PRACTICING AT LINDSAY PARK**

TEAMS MAY NOT PRACTICE/SCRIMMAGE AT LINDSAY PARK. VIOLATION SHALL RESULT IN A TWO (2) GAME SUSPENSION TO BE SERVED BY THE HEAD COACH. A SECOND VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN A TWO (2) YEAR

SUSPENSION TO BE SERVED BY THE HEAD COACH. VIOLATIONS MUST BE WITNESSED BY A TSA BOARD MEMBER OR A PERSON WHO HAS VISUAL EVIDENCE AND SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO TSA.

## **24.3 MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS/COACHES/ASSISTANT COACHES**

Member Associations, Playing leagues and Tournament Officials may institute their own **“CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM”** for players/coaches and assistant coaches or additional sanctions as they see appropriate. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Sanctions for misconduct will remain within the competition where they are earned unless the violation happens in the last game of that competition and the Member Association/Player League or Tournament Officials deem that it is serious enough to forward to North Texas A & D for consideration of further sanctions.

### **Yellow Cards**

A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.

### **Red Cards**

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

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

### **24.3.1 MISCONDUCT**

A coach or assistant coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators or by the referee, resulting from said behavior, then that coach or assistant coach may be required, to appear before the TSA A&D Committee. The A&D Committee does have the authority at that point to consider further sanctions.

### **24.3.2 MISCONDUCT OF COACH WHO IS ALSO OFFICIAL**

A coach or assistant coach who is also a TSA Referee or TSA Board of Director member, and as such representative of the standards of exemplary behavior of TSA, and whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators resulting from said behavior, that coach or assistant coach is required to appear before the TSA Executive Committee.

#### **24.3.3 RED CARDS AND SUSPENSION**

All players, coaches, assistant coaches receiving red cards may have their names listed in the next TSA BOD meeting minutes. Game suspensions for caution points and/or ejections will result in mandatory presence at the next TSA A&D Committee hearing. The suspension is to be served by the player, coach or assistant coach at the next regular scheduled TSA league game. This includes regular scheduled TSA league games for standings and play-off or championship games for TSA league standings. The suspended player/coach/assistant coach cannot be on the “playing area” during his or her suspension, as defined by NTSSA playing rules. A team official shall provide the referee the appropriate sit-out form(s) and, at the conclusion of the game, the team official is responsible for turning in the signed form to TSA. If the player/coach/assistant coach is observed on or near the playing area and/or verbally coaching his or her team, he or she will be required to appear before the TSA A&D Committee and be assessed a two (2) game suspension. The TSA League Coordinator will be responsible for enforcing this rule and reporting any infractions to the TSA A&D Committee.

#### **24.4.1 ONE EJECTION**

One game suspension. Name of player/coach/assistant coach may be listed in the minutes of the next TSA BOD meeting. The suspension is immediate. The offender shall sit out at the next scheduled game even if it is prior to having an A&D hearing.

#### **24.4.2 TWO EJECTIONS**

Two game suspension. Name of player/coach/assistant coach under suspension may be listed in the minutes of the next TSA BOD meeting. The suspension is immediate. The offender shall sit out at the next scheduled game even if it is prior to having an A&D hearing.

#### **24.4.3 THREE EJECTIONS**

Suspension pending A & D Committee inquiry. Name player/coach/Assistant coach under suspension may be listed in the minutes of the next TSA BOD meeting.

#### **24.4.4 ADDITIONAL PENALTIES**

The Executive TSA Board may, at their discretion, assess additional penalties to the player/coach/assistant coach and/or spectator.

#### **24.5 MISCONDUCT OF SPECTATORS/PARENTS**

If a coach/assistant coach or team manager is unable to control the chronic misconduct of an identifiable spectator/parent, he or she should submit a written complaint outlining the repeated offenses' of said spectator/parent to the TSA Board of Directors who will deal firmly with the matter.

#### **24.6 PLAYER DISCIPLINE**

Players who receive a red card for striking another player on the field will receive at a minimum automatic two (2) game suspension. For the second red card for striking a player, the punishment is an automatic suspension from Tyler Soccer for the remainder of the season.

#### **24.7 COMMON SENSE**

All rules and regulations should be judged using common sense and on its own set of circumstances. Not all situations concerning a rule merit the same attention and punishment, thus allowing either more or less punishment on a given rule or regulation.

#### **24.8 SELECT TEAM TRY-OUTS**

Any select team try-outs must be declared so a week in advance with the coordinator of the age group involved and will be open to any coaches who want to attend. The Coordinator of that age group must notify their coaches of these tryouts. Any alleged violation shall be ruled on by the A & D Committee of TSA. Appeals may be made to the Board of Directors of TSA.

## **Chapter 25 Clinics**

#### **25.1 REFEREE CLINIC**

Any referee clinic fee shall be paid ½ by TSA provided the registrant passes the test. Starter Kit uniforms will be provided to all newly certifying referees passing the clinic and refereeing a minimum of 5 games for TSA in the season immediately following the clinic. Failure to referee 5 games will require the referee to reimburse the TSA for the Kit.

## **25.2 COACHING CLINICS**

All registration fees will be paid by TSA for any coach completing the requirements of a NTSSA licensing clinic. Any coach wishing to attend clinics outside NTSSA must go before TSA board for reimbursement approval.

## **Chapter 26 Tournament of Champions**

The first-place team in the first division will go to the Tournament of Champions. ALL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT "CHAPTER 3 – DISCIPLINE" OF NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION PLAYER RULES IS DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY YOUTH AND SENIOR PLAYER, EVERY COACH, TEAM MANAGER, LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR AND REFEREE. IT IS INTENDED THAT EACH PLAYER WILL MAKE KNOWN THESE CONTENTS TO HIS OR HER PARENTS AND SPECTATORS. In the event a team registered with two different associations (i.e. Tyler Soccer Association and their home association) qualifies for the Tournament of Champions representing both associations, the qualifying team shall represent their home association in the Tournament of Champions and the team registered with the TSA and placing second in their division will represent TSA in the Tournament of Champions.

## **Article III APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE RULES**

A. A committee shall be appointed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors of Tyler Soccer Association, Inc. at a regularly called meeting. The committee shall consist of no more than six (6) members appointed by the Board of Directors and the Referee President, or a qualified TSA referee appointed by the Referee President and approved by the Board. Members of the committee shall not be Executive Officers in TSA. The appointed members shall choose a chairman from among themselves and shall serve two (2) years from the date of their appointment. The Chairman shall oversee the meetings of the A&D Committee. The committee shall be known as the Tyler Soccer Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Communications shall be addressed to: 1901 Rickety Lane, Suite 102, Tyler, Texas 75703.

B. Removal of an appointed Committee member may be accomplished at any regular or special Board meeting by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board.

C. The Tyler Soccer A&D Committee shall hear cases involving alleged violations of Tyler Soccer Association rules, shall work with the 1st Vice President in regards to changes in the rules or their disciplines, and shall be empowered to hear complaints



involving Section Seven of the NTSSA rules and regulations. All complaints to the A&D Committee must be in writing and be presented to the Registrar.

D. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee must accompany every complaint. A copy of the complaint must be sent to the President of TSA and the Registrar. TSA Board members are exempt from filing fees.

E. All complaints must be made within two (2) weeks of the alleged violations or such complaint will be deemed waived, with the exception of recruiting violations, which can be filed within six (6) months of alleged violations.

F. Upon receiving a complaint, the Committee Chairman shall have ten (10) business days to notify both parties and hold a hearing.

G. The hearing shall be run as follows: Except for the parties involved and their witnesses, the hearing shall be closed. The chairman shall allow equal time for each party to speak. Each party shall have a brief period for rebuttal.

H. After hearing all the evidence, the A&D Committee shall decide whether the alleged violation did occur and if so, what the punishment should be.

I. The Chairman shall have one (1) week from the date of the hearing to send written copies of their report to both parties and the President of TSA.

J. The aggrieved party shall have seven (7) days from the date he/she received the A&D Committee's ruling to appeal the decision to the Executive Board of TSA. The appeal must be made in writing to the President of TSA. The President shall notify both parties as to the time and place of the next hearing in writing. An appeal from the Executive Board of TSA can be made to the NTSSA regional A&D Committee.

## **Article IV**

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

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.)

#### **Section 1**

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS**

- A. 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.
- B. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
- C. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- D. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
- E. 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.
- F. Coaches must never encourage players to violate **NTSSA** recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.

## **Section 2**

### **RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

C. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate **NTSSA** Commissioner, Member Association, or League Commissioner immediately.

D. 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).

### **Section 3**

#### **RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

### **Section 4**

#### **RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS**

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

- D. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

## **Section 5**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING**

- A. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
- B. All NTSSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
- C. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

## **Section 6**

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

- C. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association, and NTSSA.
- D. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
- E. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
- F. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, Member Associations or NTSSA to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
- G. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

## **Section 7**

### **GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.
- F. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

G. 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

## **Section 8 ETHICS COMMITTEE**

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

## **Section 9 NTSSA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. Children have more need for example than for criticism.
- B. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
- C. 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.
- D. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
- E. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- F. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship.
- G. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
- H. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!

- I. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- J. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.

### **Section 10**

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

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
- D. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

H. 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.

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. 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.

L. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the local NTSSA- affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the NTSSA and USSF, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered USSF referee.

M. 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.

### **Section 11**

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

A. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.

B. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.

C. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.

D. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.

E. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.

F. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.



- G. I will be in good physical condition.
- H. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- I. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- J. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- K. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- L. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

## **Section 12**

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

- A. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game, and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
- B. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
- C. As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.
- D. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
- E. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

H. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.

I. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

### **Section 13**

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

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

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

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **TSA Weather & Lightning Policy**

The safety of the players, parents, coaches, and referees is the number one priority for TSA and shall be the main reason for making decisions about suspension of play. The board member on duty is responsible for monitoring weather conditions while working their shift. The board member on duty should monitor lightning and extreme weather to make a judgment call of what actions should be taken. Field conditions shall be monitored by the second vice president (fields). He or she shall make a judgment call to allow play, suspend, or cancel games based on the City of Tyler's recommendations and field conditions. If field or weather conditions are determined to be unsuitable or too dangerous for play, it is the responsibility of the board member on duty and/or the second vice president to cancel or delay games and to notify the participants at the fields of what actions they should take. Notification shall take place by sounding the air horns and/or the use of the loud speaker. He or she will then contact the third vice president (web site) to update the web site and the coordinators to notify the teams. The following guidelines should be used to determine if play should be cancelled or delayed:

#### **Field Conditions**

The Second vice president of fields shall assess the field conditions for standing water or mud. Judgment should be made taking into consideration the field conditions, time of season, and field grass conditions (seeding/time of year) regardless of current weather conditions.

#### **Dangerous Weather**

The use of a lightning detector, phone apps, and any other weather monitoring devices should be used along with monitoring the actual visual and sound conditions at location to determine distance of lightning and other extreme weather.

- a. Generally accepted protocol for suspension of play is any lightning within 10 miles. Thunder is audible to about 10 miles. If using flash to bang anything under 30 seconds requires immediate evacuation (flash to bang distance is 1 mile for every 5 seconds. 30 seconds would only be 6 miles). **If lightning is within five miles, with or without hearing thunder, the game(s) should be suspended and shelter sought.**
- b. In the event of evacuation, all participants should retreat to their vehicles until notified of an all clear.

- c. Generally accepted protocol is to wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike that is accompanied by thunder.
- d. The referee will have priority to call/postpone games based on field conditions while a game is in progress.

**Notice**

These are only guidelines and some exceptions to them will occur. The second vice president and/or the board member on duty shall make the final decision on game play. **Protecting the safety of all participants should be the number one priority.**