

RULES AND POLICIES

In Accordance with NTSSA policy, NTSSA Tournament Rules will govern operation of the annual BCSA Invitational Tournament. All local policies and procedures are set forth in the accompanying pages.

Tournament Format: The Tournament consists of Recreational Brackets for the U-6 to U-14 age groups. Brackets consist of flights of four teams when possible. If a division has a number of teams other than four, advancement procedures will conform to NTSSA rules. Any rule not covered in the BCSA rules and policies shall be in accordance with NTSSA Tournament Rules.

Teams and Spectators: Coaches, spectators and team members for the home team (team listed first) will be on the north sideline and the visitors on the south sideline. All coaches are restricted to an area of 20 yards on either side of the halfway line. Spectators shall be at least 5 yards back from the touchline and may not go beyond the penalty box. Abuse of this rule may result in the removal of the individual, suspension of play, or forfeiture for the offending team. **COACHES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PLAYERS AND FANS.**

The home team must be prepared to switch to alternate jerseys or numbered t-shirts in the event of a color conflict.

Game Times: A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team is not ready to play at the published game time, within five (5) minutes of the preliminary/mini-games and within ten (10) minutes of full length games.

Scorecards: Each team will be supplied with scorecards for the tournament. The **winning team** from each game is responsible to submit a completed scorecard **signed by the game referee** to the Tournament Tabulator immediately following the game. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit. The game referee will also submit a signed score card to the Referee Assignor following the game.

Under 6: Will play 8-minute quarters. There will be two minutes between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime. Substitutions during quarters shall only be allowed in the event of injury.

Under 8: Will play 10-minute quarters. There will be two minutes between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime. Substitutions during quarters shall only be allowed in the event of injury.

Preliminary Games: will be played as mini games.

U-10	20 minute halves	#4 regulation ball	5-minute halftime
U-12	20 minute halves	#4 regulation ball	5-minute halftime

U-14 25 minute halves #5 regulation ball 5-minute halftime

Quarterfinals: If quarterfinals are needed the games shall be mini-games. NTSSA rule 5A is modified to include two 10-minute periods for overtime play.

Semi and Final games will be full games:

U-10	25 minute halves	#4 regulation ball	5-minute halftime
U-12	30 minute halves	#4 regulation ball	5-minute halftime
U-14	35 minute halves	#5 regulation ball	5-minute halftime

Preliminary games may end in a tie. If a Quarter-final, Semi-final or Final game ends in a tie, then two (2) ten (10) minute overtime halves will be taken to determine the winner. If a game is tied at the end of two (2) ten (10) minute overtimes, the teams will go to FIFA penalty kicks from the penalty mark.

NTSSA scoring system for preliminary/mini games will be as follows:

- A. 6 points for a win
- B. 3 points for a tie
- C. 0 points for a loss
- D. 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3 points
- E. 1 point for a shut-out (not allowing an opponent to score)
- F. A forfeit game will be scored a 3-0 win

In age brackets that contain flights with unequal number of teams, points will be determined on a ten (10) point system. All teams will divide points by total games played.

If two or more teams are tied in points after their preliminary games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine which teams will advance:

- A. Head-to-head competition – winner will advance
- B. Goal Differential – team with highest goal differential against opponent will advance (maximum of five (5) goal differential).
- C. Fewest goals allowed – team with fewest goals allowed would advance
- D. Most number of shut-outs – team with most shut-outs will advance
- E. Fewest accumulation of caution points, 1=yellow; 2=red
- F. Penalty kicks

These tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement.

Referee Decisions are final, within the laws of the game. No protests will be allowed, except for ineligible player or variances of 50% play rule (see below).

Tournament Director decisions are final in all matters. No appeals will be allowed beyond that point.

<u>Minimum Players:</u>	Under 6	Two to start and two to continue
	Under 8	Three to start and three to continue
	Under 10	Seven to start and six to continue
	Under 12 and up	Nine to start and eight to continue

Substitutions: NTSSA Tournament rules shall apply. All substitutions will come on and off the field at the half way line. U-6 and U-8 teams should refer to the appropriate modified playing rules for playing procedures and substitutions.

50% Play Rule: All participants are required to play 50% of each and every game, including quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. Variances shall not be tolerated.

Cautions & Ejections: A caution and/or an ejection shall be reported to the team's home and state associations. Coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and spectators. Anyone ejected from a game will be barred from playing or participating in the team's next scheduled tournament game. All coaches MUST notify their next game Referee that the player is sitting out that game, and failure to report may result in further actions by the BCSA Tournament Committee. Any team playing a player that was ejected (red carded) will forfeit all games in which he or she participated in and may cause the team to be disqualified from the remainder of the Tournament.

Game Ball: Each team must present a suitable game ball to the Referee for use prior to the game.

Guest Players: Up to three guest players will be allowed. Team rosters must match the roster on file at the state office. The coach and your Association Registrar must sign rosters. All guest player forms and the team roster must be presented at check-in to ensure all requirements have been met.

Medical Release Forms: Coaches are required to present to the Tournament Committee a **signed medical release form** for each player at the time of check-in. These forms will be returned to the coach and are required to be carried throughout the tournament. **NO EXCEPTIONS FOR LOCAL TEAMS.**

Shin Guards: Shin guards are mandatory for all age groups. Shin guards must be covered and worn under socks.

Out of Area Teams: All non-NTSSA teams must have travel permits from their state association. The Tournament Committee must receive travel permits at the time of check-in or with the application.

Contact Phone Number: During check-in, you will have to provide a telephone number. The number is required to inform the team of any last minute problems or changes (weather, team forfeiting or other required schedule changes).

Weather: The Tournament Committee reserves the right to stop games in progress should weather conditions become a factor in player health and safety. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to retain registration fees in case the Tournament must be cancelled due to weather. In case of hard rain, not a sprinkle, call the Abilene National Soccer Complex @ 325-692-5300. If the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, prior to start of the first scheduled games, a maximum of 50% of the entry fee will be retained by the tournament to cover start-up costs of the tournament.

Awards: U-6 and U-8 players will each receive a participation award. U-10 through U-14 will receive awards for first place and second place as well as a team trophy for first place and second

place. (When 10 or more teams are entered in a division, individual and team trophies will be awarded for third place also.)

Rule Changes: The Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify BCSA policy on tournament rules or schedules.

Point System: NTSSA Tournament Rules apply.

Extra Apparel: Bandannas, sweatbands, and foul weather gear may be allowed or disallowed at the discretion of the assigned referee. Jewelry however will not be allowed.

Liability: Neither BCSA, BCSA Tournament Officials, nor Tournament sponsors accept any liability for injuries or medical expenses incurred at this Tournament.

Withdrawals: Any team that withdraws from a tournament less than two (2) weeks from the start of the tournament or after the publication of the schedule, whichever comes first, or does not complete all required scheduled games, will not be allowed to enter any sanctioned tournaments until said team appears before the NTSSA Cup and Games Committee for a hearing explaining their actions and will forfeit their entry fee and performance bond, if one has been posted.

Other: Any rule not covered in the BCSA rules and policies shall be in accordance with NTSSA Tournament Rules.

BIG COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND/OR ITS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL NOT PERSONALLY CONTACT MANAGERS/COACHES REGARDING THE STATUS OF TEAMS FOR ADVANCEMENT. IT IS EACH TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE SCORE BOARD REGARDING THEIR TEAM'S STATUS IN THE TOURNAMENT.

PLEASE READ TOURNAMENT RULES AND POLICIES CLOSELY AND SEE YOU ON THE FIELD.