

# Table of Contents

<b>PART I</b>	<b>1</b>
CONSTITUTION OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER, INC.	1
NAME	1
PURPOSE	1
AFFILIATION	1
BOUNDARY	2
MEMBERSHIP	2
GOVERNMENT/BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	4
AMENDMENTS	4
DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION	5
<b>PART II</b>	<b>1</b>
BYLAWS OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.	1
POWERS	1
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	1
COMMITTEES	5
QUORUM	6
REMOVAL	6
VACANCIES	7
VIOLENCE, MISCONDUCT, AND APPEALS	7
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	7
DIRECTIVE	7
INCORPORATION OF RULES AND LAWS OF GAME	8
FISCAL YEAR	8
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD MEETING	8
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES/BUSINESS PROCEDURES	8
PAID STAFF	9
<b>PART III</b>	<b>1</b>
LEAGUE RULES OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER, INC.	1
SOCCER YEAR	1
PLAYING SEASON	1
REGISTERED PLAYERS	1
UNREGISTERED PLAYERS/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY	2
FRIENDLY GAMES	2
SUSPENSIONS	2
PLAYING AGE	3
PLAYER CONTRACTS, RELEASES AND TRANSFERS,	
TEAM REGISTRATION	3
DISBANDMENTS	8
FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE, RESCHEDULING OF GAMES	
AND FORFEITURES	8
DISCIPLINE	11
BCSA APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE	21
GAME PROTEST	22
VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE RULES	22
BCSA RULES OF COMPETITION	23
DETERMINING LEAGUE STANDINGS AND GAME RESULTS	37
FIELD AND GAME PROCEDURES	37

LEAGUE STRUCTURE	38
TOURNAMENTS	39
REFEREES	39
IN-DOOR SOCCER	40
PLAYING IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS	41
MANDATORY COACHES MEETING	41
COACHES TRAINING	41
CONFLICT IN RULES	42
CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT	42
COMPETITIVE LEAGUE	48
FUND RAISERS	53
COACHING STAFF	54
MISCELLANEOUS DEFINITIONS OF TERMS	54
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>58</b>
LIST OF REVISIONS	58

# **PART I**

## **CONSTITUTION OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER, INC.**

### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be BIG COUNTRY SOCCER, INC., also known as BIG COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION (BCSA), and shall be identified throughout this document and others as the “Association” or the “BCSA”. BCSA is a nonprofit Texas corporation.

### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be:

A. To promote and advance the cause of soccer within the territory under the Jurisdiction of the BCSA and to protect the interests of its members. The program shall provide the opportunity for fun and recreation for its membership, and promote the highest ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage through organized athletic competition.

B. To engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which a corporation may be incorporated under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act and which are consistent with exemption from federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

C. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall incur to the benefit of any private individual, member or officer of the Association (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Association affecting one or more of its purposes), and no private individual, member or officer of the Association shall be entitled to a share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Association; and

D. The Association shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist to as they may here after be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they hereafter be amended.

### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III AFFILIATION

This Association shall be directly affiliated to and comply with the authority of the NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (NTSSA) and through it, with the UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), which is affiliated with the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA). This Association shall abide by the rules of these organizations and promote the interest of the organizations and of the sport of soccer.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV BOUNDARY

This Association shall represent all members residing within the boundary lines of Taylor, parts of Jones, Callahan and Shackelford counties of Texas and may accept voluntary membership applications from outside this area. The BCSA headquarters shall be located in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

This Association shall be composed of adults and youths who have become members of BCSA by application to and approval of the Board of Directors and who also adhere to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Association. Any player may become a member of the Association upon submission to and approval by the Board of Directors of the BCSA of a properly executed application or release form, birth certificate, and payment of all fees. Any adult who agrees to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Association may become a coach upon the signing of a Coach's Agreement and of the approval of the Board of Directors and continue coaching, subject to removal for cause by BCSA.

Any member of the Association (or coach, team, or official) may be expelled and his or her membership canceled, forfeited or suspended unilaterally by the BCSA Board of Directors or through its consideration of a recommendation of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or he/she may be censured by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and/or by the BCSA Board of Directors for a violation of the Association's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, or for conduct prejudicial to the interests of the BCSA. A red card shall not in itself be considered an expulsion for these purposes.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI GOVERNMENT/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, the Rules of the United States Soccer Federation, the North Texas State Soccer Association, and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of this Association. The Board of Directors shall have the final authority to rule on all forfeits, suspensions, and probation under its jurisdiction and it shall have the power to settle all disputes, appeals, or protest, subject to rehearing by the proper governing authorities, if any. Its meeting shall be held at the discretion of the President or upon a written request by three or more directors at the time and place designated by the President and upon such notice as required elsewhere in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of the Association. Its meetings shall use parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules of Order). Robert's Rules of Order, as the means of procedure, may be temporarily suspended with the consent of two-thirds of those present and voting. Rules (but NOT the Constitution or Bylaws) may be suspended by way of Robert's Rules of Order for a season only with the consent of two-thirds of those present and voting. The same rule may not be suspended in the following season (the intent being the rule, or changes thereto, should be debated and voted upon prior to the next season). The Board must meet at least twice during the period from August 1 through December 31, and twice during the period from January 1 through July 31. Board members shall be notified of each Board meeting.

There will be an annual general meeting of the membership of the Association. The voting members for the annual general meeting shall be the members of the Board of Directors and one authorized representative of each team in the Association. Each shall have only one vote and all votes must be cast in person at the meeting involving the particular question voted upon. Unless the Board is notified in advance of the meeting to the contrary, the coach of each team shall be considered the authorized voting representative of his team for that meeting. Should a member of the Board of Directors also be coach of a team, then that member shall only be able to vote as a member of the Board (thus, only one vote). However, the coach may designate a representative to vote for his team as prescribed in the sentence above. Should a member of the Board also hold more than one Board position, then that member shall have only one vote and may not designate a person to vote for the other Board position.

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following individuals:

Elected:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Previously elected:

- The Immediate past Two Presidents

Non-Elected:

- Chairperson of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee
- Director of Referees
- Tournament Director
- League Commissioner/Girls
- League Commissioner/Boys
- Age Group Commissioners/Girls
- Age Group Commissioners/Boys
- North Texas State Soccer Association Representative
- Indoor League Commissioner
- Competitive League Commissioner
- Adult League Commissioner

Advisory (non-voting):

- Awards Chairperson
- Chairperson of the Rules Committee
- Community Representative
- Association Coach
- Association Referee
- Publicity/Promotions Director
- Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
- Fund Raiser Chairperson
- Members of the A&D Committee (other than the Chairperson)
- Fields and Equipment Manager
- Referee Assignor
- League Scheduler
- Permanent Office Staff Members
- Members of the Board of Trustees
- Members at Large

The term of office of the members of the Board of Directors shall be for a period of one-year beginning May 1 to April 30. All elections shall be held at the annual meeting of the Association. Election of the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be by secret written ballot. Each member of the Board of Directors and each team shall be entitled to only one vote for each elected position as prescribed above. The persons receiving the majority of the votes shall be declared elected. Should there be more than two persons nominated and there be no majority then the persons receiving the top two numbers of votes shall have a run-off. Should two nominees remain tied, the then current Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall declare one person elected from the nominees receiving an equal number of votes.

The offices of all non-elected positions shall be selected by the President of the Association with the majority approval of the elected members of the Executive Committee. These non-elected positions may, from time to time, be combined by the President, with the majority approval of the Executive Committee, if so desired, PROVIDED HOWEVER, that any combination of offices shall not in and of itself cause the removal of any prior office holder of that office.

The Board of Directors shall, not less than 30 days prior to the annual election meeting, appoint to a Nominating Committee, four members, no more than two of which shall be members of the Board of Directors, and the President shall additionally name a chairperson of this committee. In addition to the five persons above, the President and Vice President are ex-officio voting members of this committee. The seven person nominating committee shall name at least one consenting member for the offices of President (if applicable), Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and shall publish such list at least twenty calendar days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor provided that the Nominating Committee is notified at least fifteen calendar days prior to the annual election meeting of such intent, including the offices for which a nomination will be made and the nominees. Any such floor nominee shall be included in the final published list as a floor nominee and the office in which he seeks. A final list of all nominees shall be published at least ten calendar days before the annual meeting. For the purposes of the rule, "published" shall mean visibly posted at the Soccer office.

All nominees shall submit, at least fifteen calendar days before the annual meeting, a letter to the committee listing their qualifications and why they feel they should be elected. These letters shall be sent to the voting membership no later than seven calendar days before the annual meeting.

Subject to Article VII below:

The President shall select for the office of Director of Referees the person chosen by a vote taken of BCSA's certified referees.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees comprised of all past Presidents of the Association living within the boundaries of BCSA is hereby established. In the event that two thirds of the Board of Trustees believes that the officers of this Association are failing in their responsibilities and obligations to the Association and its membership, management of the Association may be assumed by the Trustees who shall call a meeting of the voting membership to conduct elections for new officers.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and the Bylaws of the Association may be amended by two-thirds vote of those present of the Board of Directors and authorized representatives of each team in the Association. Any proposed amendment must be submitted to the Board in writing at the last regular Board meeting preceding the meeting in which the vote on the proposed amendment is taken. Any proposed amendment must be mailed to the Chairperson of the Rules Committee and to all Board members at least five days before the Board meeting in which the amendment is submitted. At least five days prior to the meeting in which such a voted is taken, all coaches and Board members are to be mailed a copy of the proposed amendment and notice of the time and place of the meeting in which such a vote is to be taken.

The League Rules should not be altered contrary to this Constitution or Bylaws. Whenever the Rules are altered or changed, it should be for the betterment and for the protection of the players, especially for the younger members of the Association. The League Rules may be changed by a majority vote of those present of the Board of Directors.

Any proposed rule change must be mailed to the Chairperson of the Rules Committee and to all Board members at least five days before the Board meeting in which the rule change is submitted. The Board

meeting in which the vote on the proposed rule change is taken shall be no earlier than five days or no later than fifteen days from the Board meeting in which the rule change was submitted.

All approved amendments of the Constitution and Bylaws and changes to the League Rules shall immediately become a part of the governing Laws of BCSA, and the coaches and Board of Directors shall receive a written notice of such amendment or change with ten days of such approved amendment or change. All approved amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and changes to the League Rules shall immediately be submitted to NTSSA in accordance with NTSSA rules.

#### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION

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

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## **PART II**

### **BYLAWS OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

#### **BYLAWS ARTICLE ONE POWERS**

The Board of Directors of the BCSA shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, the Rules of the United States Soccer Federation, The United States Youth Soccer Association, the North Texas State Soccer Association, and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of this Association (BCSA). It shall have the authority to settle all disputes, appeals, or protest, subject to those expressly reserved, if any, by the NTSSA. The Board of Directors shall have special events, and other areas relating to competition within its own structure.

#### **BYLAWS ARTICLE TWO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. He/She is responsible for the overall administrative and executive functions of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Association. He/She shall select, with the majority approval of the elected members of the Executive Committee, all non-elected members of the Board. He/She shall also appoint such committees and their chairpersons, as he/she deems necessary provided however, that he/she shall appoint only the chairperson of the Nominating Committee and the Tournament Committee. He/She shall assign duties to all officers as required, call meetings of the Association, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or of any committee as he/she deems necessary. He/She shall be responsible for the training of all coaches and shall arrange clinics and seminars, hire necessary instructors as the budget prescribes and coordinate all coaching instruction. The President shall review the responsibilities of all Board Members to ensure that all tasks are being completed. As chief officer, the President is empowered to take prudent and reasonable action in cases not covered in these Bylaws, and such authority is implicit in the office. The President is an ex-officio voting member of all committees, except the A&D Committee. Only the President or his/her official delegate shall be responsible for deciding postponements of games due to weather condition. Upon such postponement, he/she shall notify all Age Group Commissioners, the media and concession vendors. The President shall make his/her best efforts to attend all NTSSA meetings and shall head BCSA's delegation to such meetings

**VICE PRESIDENT:** In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or Board of Directors and become familiar with all operations of BCSA. The Vice President is an ex-officio voting member of all committees, except the A&D Committee. Should the office of President be vacated, then the Vice President shall become President for the remainder of the unexpired term and the office of the Vice President shall be filled as prescribed by the Bylaws.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall record and keep in a permanent file at the Soccer Office, minutes of all Association and Board meetings, including Executive Committee meetings, in accordance with these Bylaws. He/She shall send copies of the minutes of all such meetings to each member of the Board of Directors and shall present for approval said minutes at the next regular meeting of the Board. The Secretary shall have available at all meetings, copies of the previous meeting's minutes and shall act as **HISTORIAN** of the Association. The Secretary shall also maintain a master copy of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the Association and all amendments and changes to each.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for financial operations and reports and shall review all financial records prepared by the employed staff of BCSA. He/She shall review and approve monthly financial statements, handle reconciliation and other financial data. He/She shall recommend financial investments to be made on behalf of BCSA. A Treasurer's current financial report must be submitted as

requested by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be bonded as provided for under Article 13 of the Bylaws. The Treasurer shall establish a permanent facility-building fund. These funds are to be kept separate from any other operating funds. For funds to be appropriated from the permanent facility-building fund, a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at a regular scheduled meeting is required. The Treasurer shall establish a scholarship fund. These funds are to be kept separate from any other funds. For funds to be appropriated to the Scholarship fund, a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at a regular scheduled meeting is required.

**IMMEDIATE PAST TWO PRESIDENTS:** The immediate past two Presidents are to offer continuity to the current Board with past Boards and BCSA actions. Should one or both persons be unavailable to serve then that position(s) shall go to the most recent two past presidents, if available. If there are not enough past presidents available to fill these spots, then any unfilled spot shall remain vacant.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:** The Chairperson of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall preside over all such committee meetings and shall meet as necessary to review cards as required by NTSSA. The committee shall review charges made against any team, coach, player, or spectator and determine appropriate disciplinary actions.

**DIRECTOR OF REFEREES:** a currently certified USSF referee, registered through BCSA to NTSSA, shall hold the position of Director of Referees. The person filling this position shall direct all activities of the referees, assistant referees, and junior assistant referees and shall arrange for recruiting, training and assessment of all game officials. He/She, with the Referee Committee, shall provide a "rated" list of referees to the Association's Referee Assignor. He shall assign a member of the Referee Committee or an experienced referee to act as the senior referee for each weekend of play. The purpose shall be to ensure all games are covered throughout the day and to assist all scheduled referees. A list of all assigned senior referees shall be posted at the soccer office and each complex. The person holding this position may also hold the position of Association Referee

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** The Tournament Director shall be responsible for and direct all tournaments sponsored by BCSA. He/She shall appoint the members of the Tournament Committee, be responsible for, and direct the Tournament Committee. He/She shall advertise invitational tournaments, handle registrations, issue invitations, order tournament trophies and other awards, supervise the preparation of tournament brackets and schedules and assemble and distribute tournament packets. The Tournament Director shall have final decision on any problems occurring during the tournaments and may delegate such responsibility to members of the Tournament Committee. They shall promote invitational tournaments to provide a high level of competition for BCSA's most competitive teams and such other teams outside BCSA as they may invite. They shall be aware of NTSSA tournament policies and rules.

**FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER:** The Fields and Equipment Manager shall be in charge of and maintain an inventory of the goals, nets, flags, fields, and all other property or equipment of the Association. He/She shall have the responsibility for the maintenance of all Association playing fields if so required. He/She shall coordinate use of all fields under contract to BCSA. He/She shall work with Parks Department of the City and the AISD regarding schedule coordination and field use. (Please note that due to possible rain out make-up games, BCSA's contract with the City and the AISD should exceed the regular scheduled season by at least one week.) Use of fields at any time shall be at the discretion of the Fields and Equipment Manager. He/She may appoint and/or solicit help from any member in fulfilling their duties. The Fields and Equipment Manager shall be responsible for the safe keeping and upkeep of all Association property and shall be responsible (with Board of Directors approval) for the purchase and acquisition of all replacements and additions to Association equipment. He/She shall also see that the

fields are open and ready for play and that the gates are closed at the end of each playing day. He/She shall also see that flags, nets, and other necessary equipment are available on days of play. This is a paid position.

**LEAGUE COMMISSIONER:** The two League Commissioners (boys and girls) shall coordinate and assist the Age Group Commissioners in recruiting coaches for the Association. They shall review all team placements before scheduling. They shall be voting members of the Executive Committee. They shall also serve as voting members of the Registration Committee.

**AGE GROUP COMMISSIONERS:** Each age group within each League shall have a Commissioner. The Age Group Commissioners shall be responsible for the efficient operation of their particular age group. The Age Group Commissioners will also work closely with the coaches with regard to proper enforcement of League Rules. Vice Commissioners may be appointed by the Commissioners, but this appointment shall not operate to relieve the Commissioner of their duties and responsibilities to the Association. The office of Vice Commissioner shall not be a Board position. The Age Group Commissioners shall not be responsible for team formation or for placing players on teams (such being the responsibility of the office staff), but they shall be responsible for recruiting coaches in order that each team shall have a coach. They shall meet with any new team no later than five days after the formation of that team, unless the team has a coach. They are responsible for coordination of activities in their age division and should strive to prevent any foreseen problems that could ultimately end up with the A&D Committee. They are responsible for notifying local coaches within their age group of rainouts and rescheduling of regular league play. They shall be responsible for the seeding of teams within their respective age groups. If the total number of girls' teams is less than thirty-three, the President may appoint only the League Commissioner to serve as all Age Group Commissioners.

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE:** Community Representatives shall coordinate all soccer activities between BCSA and their individual community surrounding Abilene. They shall inform all coaches from their community of rainouts, make-up games, and other necessary information. He/She shall present the wishes and views of his/her community to the Board of Directors. The Community Representatives currently include, but are not limited to, the following areas: Albany, Clyde, Dyess AFB, Jim Ned, Merkel, and Baird. The coaches of the teams of their respective community shall elect Community Representatives. In case agreement cannot be reached, the President shall appoint a person to fill the position. Community Representatives shall place players on his community teams with an unbiased committee if more than one team in an age group exist. Players must reside within the community in which those teams originate. If no team(s) is available in a particular age group, then the Registration Committee may place players from that community on teams. Communities with only one team in a given age group must fill that team's roster on a first come basis by the Community Representative. (Coaches may not assign their own players.)

**NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:** The NTSSA Representative shall represent the Association at North Texas State Soccer Association meetings, and in the absence of the President, shall cast votes on NTSSA matters for BCSA and report NTSSA information to the BCSA Board of Directors. He/She shall give specific emphasis on matters, ideas, and opportunities that would affect BCSA operations. BCSA shall reimburse their necessary, reasonable expenses in attending NTSSA meetings. The NTSSA Representative shall act as Chairperson of the Registration Committee.

**INDOOR LEAGUE COMMISSIONER:** The Indoor League Commissioner shall coordinate all activities of the Indoor League.

**COMPETITIVE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER:** The Competitive League Commissioner shall coordinate all activities of the Competitive League, if such is in existence. He/She shall schedule and conduct a mandatory meeting of the Competitive League coaches, or representatives, prior to each soccer season. Should a Competitive League not be in existence, the President may leave this office vacant.

**REFEREE ASSIGNOR:** The Referee Assignor shall be USSF certified and registered with NTSSA per their requirements. He/She will be responsible for the scheduling of Referees, Assistant Referees, and

Junior Assistant Referees to ALL games (including make-up games). At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the Referee Assignor may handle all or part of BCSA's Referee payroll duties. At the end of each spring season, the Executive Committee shall review the performance of the Referee Assignor. If he/she has properly performed the job, he/she will retain the position for the following soccer year, should he/she so desire. If he/she does not wish to continue in the position, they shall see that the person taking their place is fully prepared to assume the responsibilities. This is a paid position.

**LEAGUE SCHEDULER:** The League Scheduler shall have the responsibility for scheduling all regular season and tournament games, except rescheduled games not covered by automatic make-up schedule. His/Her duties shall include scheduling game dates and times, assigning fields, typing the schedule and delivering it to the soccer office for distribution. The League Scheduler shall be free from influence or coercion from ANY member of BCSA. At the end of each spring season, the Executive Committee shall review the performance of the League Scheduler. This examination shall be concerned only with abuse of position (e.g., favoritism), promptness, and accuracy in completing the schedules. If they have properly performed their duties, they will retain their position for the following soccer year should they so desire. If he/she does not wish to continue in the position, they shall see that the person taking their place is fully prepared to assume the responsibility. This is a paid position.

**AWARDS CHAIRPERSON:** The Awards Chairperson shall order and distribute regular League trophies, patches, and other necessary awards. At the Tournament Director's request, he/she shall assist in the ordering and distribution of Tournament awards, trophies, etc.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE RULES COMMITTEE:** The Chairperson of the Rules Committee shall preside over all such committee meetings to review possible Constitution and Bylaw amendments and League Rule changes and additions. He/She shall present their interpretations of the impact to BCSA of any amendment or change proposed at the meeting at which an amendment or change is voted upon. He/She shall be knowledgeable of NTSSA rules. He/She shall act as Parliamentarian of the Association.

**ASSOCIATION COACH:** The Association Coach shall, with the coordination of the President and/or Assignee, conduct coaches' clinics and training of coaches in helping BCSA achieve the highest quality coaching standards. It would be desirable for this person to hold at least a D coaching certificate.

**ASSOCIATION REFEREE:** The Association Referee shall, with the coordination of the Director of Referees, conduct referee clinics and training of referees in helping BCSA achieve the highest quality of referee standards. This person must be a certified USSF referee. The person holding this position may also hold the position of Director of Referees. This person shall be elected by a vote taken of BCSA's certified referees and assistant referees.

**PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR:** The Publicity/Promotions Director shall be responsible for all media coverage regarding BCSA. He/She shall work closely with the President and coaches to ensure a well-organized media program that will involve all BCSA teams. He/She shall oversee all BCSA promotions. He/She shall review the office staff's placing of advertisements promoting season openings and registrations.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee shall oversee the distribution of scholarship funds to pay for BCSA registration fees for qualified, needy children

**FUNDRAISER CHAIRPERSON:** The Fundraiser Chairperson shall be responsible for recommending to the Board, any fundraising events. Upon Board of Director's approval, he/she shall oversee all aspects of such fund raising events.

**MEMBERS OF THE APPEALS & DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OTHER THAN THE CHAIRPERSON:** These four members, along with the chairperson shall meet as necessary to review cards as required by NTSSA. The A&D Committee shall review charges made against any team, coach, player, or spectator and determine appropriate disciplinary actions.

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Members at Large shall be responsible for areas that the President determines need addressing for the efficient operation of the Association. There may be a maximum of three Members at Large.

**ALL MEMBERS OF BCSA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** All Board members shall from time to time be assigned shifts to monitor play, conduct, littering, etc., at the various soccer fields/complexes during the year. Paid Advisory (non voting) Board members shall not be assigned, unless they hold another Board position.

### **BYLAWS ARTICLE THREE COMMITTEES**

The President and Vice President shall be ex-officio voting members of all committees (including the Nominating Committee) and shall be treated as any other member of the committee with regard to notice of meetings, etc. The President shall not be a member of the A&D Committee.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Boys' League Commissioner and Girls' League Commissioner and shall act ONLY on matters demanding immediate attention where it is impractical or impossible to call a meeting of the full Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall employ, supervise, and review paid BCSA personnel, other than referees. All sessions of such Executive Committee meetings shall be promptly reported to and ratified by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee is not empowered under any circumstance to suspend or change rules (such being the domain of the Board of Directors). The Executive Committee shall have authority over all other committees, except for the A&D committee as prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall meet at least one time per month during the months of August, September, October, January, February, and March.

**APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:** The Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee shall have the authority and be empowered to investigate, hold hearings and make rulings concerning all violation of League Rules, game protests and misconduct (or conduct not in the best interests of BCSA) of League officials, coaches, players and spectators. The committee shall also meet as necessary to review all cards and assess points as required by NTSSA. Selection of members of the A&D Committee shall be by the BCSA President and shall have five members, including the Chairperson. Of the four members that are not the Chairperson, at least two shall be from the previous A&D Committee, unless all such previous members have declined the position. The committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings and place such in a permanent file in the Soccer Office. Only the Chairperson of the A&D Committee shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors. All other A&D Committee members shall be non-voting, advisory Board members. All A&D Committee members are to be knowledgeable of BCSA and NTSSA rules (especially NTSSA Rule 11).

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The Nominating Committee's duties, etc. are established in Article VI of the Constitution.

**RULES COMMITTEE:** The Rules Committee shall review possible amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and changes and additions/deletions to the League Rules.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Scholarship Committee shall establish a program and criteria for needy children and upon ratification by the Board of Directors shall use such criteria to assist in the payment of such children's registration fees. The procedure of determining need and payment must be accomplished with the greatest of dignity and confidentiality and minimum of paperwork. The assistance will be subject to budget constraints.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** The Registration Committee shall oversee the registration of all players, the placement of players on teams, and formation of new teams, complying, and coordinating such activity with NTSSA. The Registration Committee shall consist of the NTSSA Representative, who shall serve as Chairperson, the Boys' League Commissioner, the Girls' League Commissioner, and three members to be appointed by the President. (Members appointed by the President shall only serve for one year.) Members of the office staff shall serve only in an advisory manner (non-voting). One of the three members appointed by the President will be a non-board member. Any member of the committee who is involved with a team (e.g., coach, child playing) shall not participate in placing players in the age group that team is in.

**COACHES COMMITTEE:** The Coaches Committee shall be comprised of a representative of each age group for each league of BCSA and shall be chaired by the President and/or Assignee. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate coaches' activities and to further enhance the coaching skills of BCSA coaches.

**REFEREE COMMITTEE:** The Referee Committee shall be comprised of five members, which shall include three referees elected from a vote taken of BCSA's certified referees, the Referee Assignor and the Director of Referees. The Director of Referees shall chair the committee. The purpose of the Referee Committee is the promote standards of officiating, to provide means for correct interpretations of the rules, to secure closer cooperation and understanding among the officials and the Association, to encourage and assist in developing officials, to foster a high standard of ethics, and to further the interests of all sports generally by fostering a proper spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. One member of this committee shall be assigned as senior referee each weekend of play to assist fellow officials when needed and to insure all games are covered by a certified official, or make the necessary adjustments. An experienced non-committee member (certified referee) may fill the senior referee position.

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:** The Tournament Committee shall be comprised of at least six members, which shall include the Tournament Director and the past year's Tournament Director, provided the past year's Tournament Director is available. The Tournament Committee shall oversee all tournaments sponsored by BCSA. This committee shall be aware of NTSSA tournament policies and rules (which may differ from BCSA's regular season policies and rules).

**OTHER COMMITTEES:** The President shall appoint other committees that he/she or the Board deems necessary to facilitate the efficient operation of BCSA and the sport of soccer.

#### **BYLAWS ARTICLE FOUR QUORUM**

A fifty- percent or a greater percentage of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors. A quorum for the annual election meeting or any meeting of the general membership of the Association shall not be required to constitute a lawful meeting, if the notices of such meeting were properly given.

Once a quorum is established at a meeting, all actions taking place at that meeting shall be legal, regardless of the number present at the time of a vote, provided the meeting had not been previously legally adjourned. There shall be no vote by proxy except at the Annual General Meeting.

For purpose of the Executive committee, a quorum shall be a simple majority of the voting members

#### **BYLAWS ARTICLE FIVE REMOVAL**

Any member of the Association, player, parent, coach, or team, may be expelled or censured and he/her/its membership forfeited or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors for violation of the Association's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Association or its membership. Suspension or expulsion for purposes of the Bylaws does not include red cards or suspension or expulsion made by the A&D Committee for a period of fifteen days or less. Any such person suspended or expelled may also be restricted from being a spectator at any BCSA sponsored

activity, subject to the authority of the facility being used. The A&D Committee has the authority to expel and suspend. However, any expulsion or suspension for a period of greater than fifteen days shall be automatically reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Any member of the Board of Directors who is absent from three consecutive Board meetings shall have his office declared vacant at the vote of a majority of the Board of Directors. In addition, any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the full Board of Directors for conduct not in the best interest of BCSA.

#### BYLAWS ARTICLE SIX VACANCIES

The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy in any office, other than that of President or Immediate past Two Presidents (covered in Article Two of the Bylaws), for the unexpired portion of the term. Any vacancy not covered elsewhere by these Bylaws or by the Constitution shall be filled by an election of the voting membership of the Association.

#### BYLAWS ARTICLE SEVEN VIOLENCE, MISCONDUCT, AND APPEALS

It is mandatory that all member associations of the North Texas State Soccer Association follow the guidelines set forth in Rule Eleven of the NTSSA Rules and Regulations (as it is amended from time to time). Therefore, this rule is hereby adopted and shall be set out in the Rules and Regulations of the Big Country Soccer Association and be distributed or made available to all of the Association's members. BCSA shall also have additional cumulative disciplinary powers over its members.

#### BYLAWS ARTICLE EIGHT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A member of the Board of Directors may be a member of, coach of, or parent of a child, on any team in the Association, but in the event of any grievance or dispute involving his/her team or child, that Director may not vote at any meeting concerning that dispute. The Director shall additionally be excluded from the official deliberations or discussions concerning the disputed matter, except as to appear as a witness or spokesman, if so requested to appear, by the Board of Directors or other official BCSA body. Should such a conflict preclude the seating of a quorum of the Board of Directors or of an official body of the BCSA, the President may appoint an Ad Hoc Committee of impartial persons to hear and decide any such grievance, protest or dispute.

No member of the Executive Committee shall be related to any of the BCSA paid full-time secretarial/clerical staff. For purposes of this paragraph, the Referee Assignor, League Scheduler and Fields & Equipment Manger shall NOT be considered full time secretarial/clerical staff. All Board Members shall serve without salary for their services, except for compensation (set by the Board) to Referees, the Association Coach, the Association Referee, the Referee Assignor, the League Scheduler and the Fields and Equipment Manager, subject to Board approval. Board Members may be reimbursed for expenses previously approved by the Executive Committee. The Board above must approve all compensation to those above.

#### BYLAWS ARTICLE NINE DIRECTIVE

Although spirited and skilled competition is certainly encouraged in the BCSA, the Board of Directors and membership is hereby directed that the primary purpose of this Association is to provide good, wholesome recreation and guidance for the members of the Association and to promote the sport of soccer in general.

BYLAWS ARTICLE TEN  
INCORPORATION OF RULES AND LAWS OF GAME

By adoption of these Bylaws, the BCSA League Rules, and Laws of the Game, and all additions to BCSA League Rules and Laws of the Game here to and future amendments to the Rules and Laws thereof are hereby approved and become a part of these Bylaws for all purposes. This inclusion of the Laws of the Game and Rule Eleven of the NTSSA Rules and Regulations shall not require the Bylaws to be amended each time the NTSSA Laws of the Game and the NTSSA Rule Eleven are changed, nor shall such change require a two thirds or majority vote, respectively, for approval as is required for amendments of the Bylaws (2/3) or the Constitution (2/3) or changes to League Rules (majority).

BYLAWS ARTICLE ELEVEN  
FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from June 1 to May 31.

BYLAWS ARTICLE TWELVE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the Monday before the final Saturday game of the Big Country Soccer Spring Season between the hours of 7-10 PM, unless that day is a national holiday. Should that Monday be a national holiday, then the next previous Monday will be used. The President shall designate the place and time of the meeting. BCSA shall make its best efforts to alert the voting and general membership of this meeting.

Regular Board of Directors meetings shall be held as prescribed by Article VI of the Constitution. At such meetings and at meetings of the Executive Committee, voting rights of a member of the Board shall not be delegated to another or exercised by proxy. One person may have only one vote regardless of the number of offices held.

BYLAWS ARTICLE THIRTEEN  
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES/BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Two authorized signatures shall sign any BCSA check, draft, or other order for payment of money in an amount of over \$400.00. The person receiving the check may not be one of the authorized signatures for the check. Persons authorized to sign checks on any bank account shall be the President, Vice President and Treasurer. The Tournament Director is authorized to sign checks on the tournament bank account. The Referee Assignor is authorized to sign checks on the Referee payroll account.

All notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of BCSA, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, of BCSA and in such manner as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors at a meeting in which notice of such resolution was given.

No loans shall be contracted on behalf of BCSA and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of two-thirds of the Board of Directors at a meeting in which notice of such resolution was given. Such authority may be general or confined to special instances.

All funds of BCSA not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of BCSA in such bank, trust companies, or other depositories as the Executive Committee may select. All checks should be made payable to "BCSA".

Separate bank accounts (including saving accounts and CD's) may be setup for BCSA's invitational tournament, permanent facility building fund, scholarship fund, referee payroll and for other purposes. For funds to be appropriated to or from the permanent facility-building fund and to the scholarship fund, a majority vote of the Board present at a regular scheduled meeting is required.

An operating budget shall be prepared and submitted by the Executive Committee to the Board for approval prior to each playing season.

The treasurer shall be bonded in an amount set by the Executive Committee.

There shall be a financial review and compilation of the financial records of BCSA by an independent agency (chosen by the Executive Committee) at the end of each fiscal year. Results of this financial review and compilation shall be made available to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the organization, and such authority may be general or confined to special instances.

All compensation to Board members, Paid Staff, Referees, Referee Assignor, League Scheduler, Fields and Equipment Manager and others are to be approved by the Board of Directors.

If there should be an Adult League formed as part of BCSA, all funds collected prior to that date should never be invested in the Adult League.

#### BYLAWS, ARTICLE FOURTEEN PAID STAFF

A. All permanent paid staff positions are subject to budget approval of the Board of Directors. After approval, the Executive Board shall be empowered to advertise for, interview and hire a staff member. The Board of Directors may delete any position due to budget restraints or upon recommendation of the Executive Board. Filled positions shall be given a minimum of 14 days notice of position deletion.

Upon Board approval, the Executive Committee may employ and shall be responsible for supervision of a secretarial/clerical staff. This staff shall directly report to the President and shall be responsible for keeping the Soccer Office open during hours as directed by the Board, coordinating registration of players, placing advertisements promoting season opening and registration (within budget constraints), and other duties as directed by the Executive Committee. This staff shall also be responsible in mailing to coaches, Board members, etc., the fall general BCSA calendar. Such mailing shall be after the end of the spring season.

NOTE: The placement of players and the formation of teams shall only be done through and with the approval of the Registration Committee.

The Executive Committee shall employ a Referee Assignor, League Scheduler and Fields & Equipment Manager.

B. Recreational League: No head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, team trainer(s), or other team representative(s) shall be paid for services rendered to or for a Recreation League team. However, a team representative may be reimbursed for providing drinks and/or snacks for players.

C. Competitive League: Head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, team trainer(s), or other team representative(s) may be paid for services rendered to or for a Competitive League team.

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## **PART III**

### **LEAGUE RULES OF BIG COUNTRY SOCCER, INC.**

#### **RULE 1 SOCCER YEAR**

As prescribed by the NTSSA, the Soccer Year shall begin on September 1, and end August 31 of the following year. However, for purposes of formation of teams and release of players (except those participating at the time in post season tournament play) coaches may sign up players for their teams beginning July 15.

#### **RULE 2 PLAYING SEASON**

**FALL:** Officially opens on or after September 1, and will close on or about November 30, if possible and subject to field availability and weather considerations.

**SPRING:** Officially opens on or after February 1, and will close on or about June 30, if possible and subject to field availability and weather considerations.

For both seasons, the head coach will be supplied a game schedule. It is the responsibility of the coach to distribute his game schedule to his/her team members. Any person who chooses to coach more than one team cannot expect ANY special consideration in scheduling in order to avoid conflict. Such a coach should be prepared to have an assistant(s) available to coach one or more of his teams should a conflict in scheduling occur.

#### **RULE 3 REGISTERED PLAYERS**

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association.

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

Registered players are covered by insurance for the Soccer Year. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

New players are not covered by insurance until BCSA receives the player's signed registration form, the appropriate fees, proof of age (first time players), etc.

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

Each team is limited to the following number of players under contract:

Under 6: Limited to a maximum of 10 players and a minimum number of seven.

Under 8: Limited to a maximum of 12 players and a minimum number of nine.

Under 10: Limited to a maximum of 12 players and a minimum number of nine.

Under 12, 14, 16, and 19: Limited to a maximum of 18 players and a minimum number of eleven.

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

#### RULE 4

##### UNREGISTERED PLAYERS/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

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

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

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

#### RULE 5

##### FRIENDLY GAMES

Friendly games shall be defined as games which:

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

B. Do not lead to any trophy or other award,

C. Do not require a registration fee to be paid by any player or sponsor,

D. Are organized in a spontaneous fashion, and

E. Do not include any guest players within NTSSA Boundaries for NTSSA registered teams.

#### RULE 6

##### SUSPENSIONS

The BCSA shall honor all orders of suspension of players, coaches, and referees issued by NTSSA or its members and affiliates. A team that uses individuals under suspension shall automatically forfeit those games in which said individuals have participated while under suspension.

Any team that uses individuals under suspension by the BCSA shall also forfeit those games in which said individuals have participated while under suspension. The forfeitures under this rule shall be automatic, without regard to knowledge or lack of knowledge of such suspension.

A red card to an individual from a referee automatically operates as a suspension for that individual for the balance of the game. Suspension for the entire next game will be automatic when the red card is officially written and reported to the BCSA office.

## RULE 7 PLAYING AGE

- A. The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on July 31<sup>st</sup> of the immediately preceding soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. **Exception:** Players who are 4 years of age before January 1 of the current Soccer Year will be permitted to participate in the Under 6 age division in the Spring Season.

Age divisions shall be comprised of players who are, before the first day of August of the immediately preceding soccer year:

Under 19 years of age.  
Under 16 years of age.  
Under 14 years of age.  
Under 12 years of age.  
Under 10 years of age.  
Under 8 years of age.  
Under 6 years of age.

Age 4 (four) is the minimum age to play soccer.

B. Except where prohibited by USSF rules, youth players may participate in their age division or the next older division (as provided below), but may not play in a younger division than their age dictates or in divisions older than the next older division.

1. Players shall be permitted to play "up" to the next highest age group upon request made at the time of registration.

C. Once a player has played "up" to the next age bracket, he may play "back" in his own age bracket upon receiving approval of a transfer.

D. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player participated. The team may also be barred from championship or tournament competition for up to one (1) year. Also, the coach, assistant coach, manager, sponsor, parent or supporter of the offending team shall be suspended from participation in the BCSA for a period of not less than one year.

## RULE 8 PLAYER CONTRACTS, RELEASES AND TRANSFERS, TEAM REGISTRATION

### A. Player Contracts

1. A player's contract (application to play/release of liability) is a two-way obligation between the player and the team from the time the contract is signed to July 1, unless:

a. The team participates in tournaments during July and/or August, in which case the obligation ceases after the last game of the last tournament.

b. The player is properly released (see Rule 8C).

c. The team is disbanded by BCSA

2. Even though a player's obligation may cease prior to July 1 because his team is through playing for the spring/summer season, he must still obtain a proper transfer as per Rule 8C and approval of his Age Group Commissioner before he/she is able to participate in any BCSA play, including post spring season tournament play, with another team.

3. A player may not be a guest player for any team for league or tournament play except for those tournaments that allow guest players. A proper guest player release form must be completed before a player can participate in tournament play with a team other than his own. Under no conditions can a player on a select/competitive team participate as a guest player for a recreational team unless that team is playing in an open or competitive tournament.

4. A player's contract may not be signed nor renewed for the following fall season before July 15.

5. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative may practice a soccer-related activity with any NTSSA registered player that does not appear on his current NTSSA roster or is not considered to be a free agent by current BCSA and NTSSA Rules and Regulations except for a coach, who at the request of another team's coach, substitutes for that coach at practice or games for the convenience of the requesting coach.

**Note:** The above (Rule 8 (A)(5)) does not apply to indoor soccer.

#### B. Recruiting

1. There shall be no recruiting of a player under contract to another team.

a. Recruiting is any action or statement, made by a representative, either verbally or in writing, that encourages or entices a player to register with a particular coach, team, club and/or organization

b. A representative is defined as a coach, assistant coach, manager, sponsor, player, parent, family member, or friend.

2. There shall be no tryouts in the recreational league.

#### C. Releases and Transfers

1. Any player who wishes to be free of his contractual obligation before July 1, in order to join another team must:

a. Provide to the Soccer Office a properly completed transfer/release form with all required signatures.

b. Get approval and placement to another team by the Registration Committee.

c. Pay the appropriate transfer fee to the Association (if required).

d. Any player that wants to leave his or her team between the fall and the spring season, and whose team is participating in the spring, may request a transfer. All transfers approved by the Registration Committee shall be placed through the player pool. All requests for transfers shall include a brief reason why the request was made. Both the Age Group Commissioner and the Registration Committee shall review the reason for the request in order to help all parties concerned.

#### 2. Restrictions on Transfers

a. A player may transfer only once during the Soccer Year unless his team has been disbanded by BCSA.

b. A player under contract may not sign a contract with a different team without first obtaining a properly executed release form and appropriate approvals.

c. There shall be no transfers during the period from the next to last scheduled fall season game through December 31.

d. A player currently under contract shall not play with another team without first obtaining a properly executed release form. The coach of the accepting team is responsible for compliance.

e. The recreational guest players 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 BCSA's Registration Committee.

f. A player who has transferred to a team for the purposes of playing in post-spring season tournaments may not become a member of that team the season after the tournament. If the player's previous team has been disbanded by BCSA or the player and his previous team will be in different age groups, the player will be placed in the player pool.

g. Subject to the following, any U6 through U14 recreational team shall be limited to three "advanced" team players as defined below. If a team already has 3 "advanced" players, no more can be added. However, if a team already has more than three such players, it will not be required to drop players to satisfy this rule. A team may have more than three such players if they played on that team the previous season.

An "advanced" player is a player selected on the basis of tryouts and/or talent and skill by representatives of and under the direction of BCSA, NTSSA or an affiliate of NTSSA to become a pool, all-star, district or state select team player or a player to play in competition above the BCSA regular recreational team level. Players selected to be alternates should not be considered to be "advanced" until they actually replace a team member on such an "advanced" team. An "advanced" player shall remain classified, following the month in which he is selected.

h. It is the intent of NTSSA to insure that the recreational program is not abused by the formation of illegal recreational teams that may be in fact a select team. BCSA will strive to meet the intent of this policy.

i. Coaches, assistant coaches or managers involved in more than one team may not use each other to transfer players from one team to the other in order to build up a team in the same age group. BCSA's Board of Directors may deem this practice as a player tryout for the higher division team.

### 3. Returning Rights

a. All players on a team will have the right to that slot from year to year. Coaches may not refuse that right nor shall a coach deliberately omit calling the player for team registration. Player registration forms shall include the name of the previous team the player was assigned to.

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

b. A player who sits out a season for medical reasons shall have the right to return to his/her previous team providing a note/letter is signed by a doctor stating the length of time the player must sit out. The note/letter

must be submitted with the team package during registration. This shall apply to a player that does not appear on the team's roster for that season.

c. A team that does not play in the spring shall be classified as a non-participating team. All players shall have returning rights if that team registers for the fall season. The Registration Committee may transfer players that wish to play, although the majority of the team is not playing, to another team for that season.

d. Any team returning to the spring season with 8 players on the roster of a single fall team or 60% or more of the fall roster, whichever is less (8 players or 60%), shall be considered the same team regardless of team name or coaching changes. Any transfers from that team at the end of the fall season or between the fall and spring seasons are valid and the player(s) may NOT transfer back to his original team.

4. Any player requesting but failing to receive his release within 72 hours may request his release directly from the BCSA Executive Committee, which must render a decision within 72 hours after receiving the request. The BCSA decision may be appealed directly to the State Youth Commissioner, whose decision may be appealed directly to the NTSSA State Executive Committee, to be acted upon immediately.

5. Once a player has obtained a release from his home association to play on a competitive team outside his home association, that release is valid as long as the player remains with the team he has been released to. If that player changes competitive teams prior to the fall season, a new release from his home association is required. (If a player transfers teams during a soccer year, the rules governing mid-year transfers will apply).

It is the team's responsibility to retain copies of releases and turn in a copy of each release when the team registers each year. The copy of the release is to be turned into NTSSA with the team's registration paperwork.

Each home association that releases players to play outside their association on competitive teams must keep precise records of all releases granted, including the player's name, the team to which he was released and the date of the release.

#### D. Team Registration

1. A team will be considered registered and may begin scheduled or league play ONLY after submitting to the Soccer Office the following materials:

a. Completed application/release form (contract) on each player.

b. Copies of proof of age for each player are to be kept by the BCSA office. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency, or any other such document approved by the Executive Committee or its delegate. Copies of proof of age may be waived for a player, at the Soccer Office staff's discretion, only if that player has proof of age that is already on file with the BCSA Soccer Office.

c. Legible team roster in alphabetical order.

d. Registration of Coaches (NTSSA Rule 4.10).

1. Each coach/assistant coach/manager of a team shall be required to register with NTSSA each soccer year.

2. To register, every coach/assistant coach/manager shall present a valid photo I.D. and shall submit a completed NTSSA Coach/Referee/Volunteer/Staff Application, along with the appropriate coaches fee, if any, with the team paperwork at the time of team registration.

3. Any coach/trainer offering or participating in individual/team practices or training sessions. Soccer camps, skills camps, and/or similar activities involving youth players, must be registered with NTSSA.

4. If the coach has not registered with NTSSA as part of a youth team, a coach shall register directly with NTSSA. To direct register, a coach shall present a valid photo I.D., complete a NTSSA Coach/Referee/Volunteer/Staff Application, and pay the appropriate NTSSA fee, if any.

e. All fees (checks payable to "BCSA") or approved applications for scholarships. A team may not receive more than three scholarships per season without approval of the Scholarship Committee. All scholarship applications must be accompanied by a letter from a parent or guardian stating the need for a scholarship and submitted to the Scholarship Committee for approval.

2. If a coach fails to submit his complete registration packet by the deadline set by the Board of Directors, he/she, not his/her team, may be required to pay a fine of \$25.00. The Age Group Commissioner shall also contact the team's parents to notify them that the team is in jeopardy.

3. If, on the last day of general registration, a complete packet has not been submitted, the coach may be suspended for up to one (1) Soccer Year, in which case the following steps may be taken regarding the players he/she has already signed up:

a. The Age Group Commissioner, President and/or Assignee and/or the A&D Committee may assist parents in selecting a successor for the coach, or

b. The players may go into a player pool.

4. All new players: All players (with the exception of our community areas) will be placed by their particular school boundaries (i.e. elementary, middle or senior high school) depending on the age group of that player. (Example, an U6, U8 may be placed by elementary school and an U16, U19 by high school).

a. If no teams are available in a player's school boundary, then that player will be placed in his or her closest school boundary. If more than one team is available in an age group within the player's school boundary, the Registration Committee shall consider the following factors:

1. Age purity of team (for continuity of the team).

2. Practice location versus home address.

NOTE: Second year U10 or U8 teams may move up to the next age group in the spring season if they choose. Teams may move up using their current roster only with a signed consent from all team members' parents. Pool players indicating a willingness to play up at registration may be added to the roster.

b. Conflicts: Players, parents, and coaches may submit letters of exception due to extenuating circumstances. However, at no time will this be a guarantee, nor shall it be the sole factor in player placement by the Registration Committee.

**NOTE: ANY ABUSE OF THIS PRIVILEGE BY PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND COACHES SHALL BE DEALT WITH SERIOUSLY BY THE ASSOCIATION AND MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO A ONE YEAR SUSPENSION.**

5. Completed registration materials and materials pertaining to teams or players shall not be permitted to be removed from the Soccer Office. Changes to any registration materials or documents already in the possession of the Soccer Office may be made **ONLY** with the approval of the BCSA Office Staff.

6. Any team returning to the spring season with 8 players on the roster of a single fall team or 60% or more of such fall roster, which ever is less (8 or 60%), shall be considered the same team regardless of team name or coaching changes.

E. Outside Teams: Every team outside BCSA, which wishes to participate in the BCSA program, shall be required to:

1. Pay all league fees.
2. Submit all documents as in subparagraph D (1) above.
3. Submit releases from its home association, if applicable.
4. Meet BCSA recreational team requirements.

F. Violations: Any violation of Rule 8 shall result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative, being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year. The offending player may be suspended from soccer activities for a period of not more than one (1) year.

#### RULE 9 DISBANDMENTS

A. Only BCSA has the right to disband a team (a coach may not disband a team without BCSA approval).

B. Any team having registered is considered under contract with BCSA and shall not be disbanded or merged with another team without prior approval of the Registration Committee.

C. If team leadership is lost or is in jeopardy, the following steps are to be followed:

1. The coach, prior to resignation, is requested to inform his Age Group Commissioner of his intention at the earliest possible date. The Age Group Commissioner shall see that all of the players on that team are notified of the resignation.
2. If the coach cannot find a successor to coach the team, then the President and/or Assignee, Age Group Commissioner and League Commissioner will "adopt" the team temporarily to assist the team's parents in selecting a successor for coaching and management.
3. If, after all possible consideration by the President and/or Assignee, Age Group Commissioner, League Commissioner and team parents, a new coach cannot be found, then every effort will be made to place each player on a new or existing team.
4. Appeals regarding the placement of these players on other teams shall be directed to the Executive Committee.
5. If the leadership of a team resigns or does not reconvene a team for the following season, the Executive Committee is empowered to review all releases from that team which result in player transfers to another team during the previous active season to determine if unauthorized mergers/transfers resulted.

#### RULE 10 FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE, RESCHEDULING OF GAMES AND FORFEITURES

A. The BCSA President or the Vice President, in the President's absence, or a Vice President, in the order shown in Article VI of BCSA's Constitution, in the absence of both the President and Executive

Vice President, has the authority to postpone games because of weather conditions. Decisions will be based on the conditions of the playing field, weather conditions, player safety, and well being.

B. Teams must report to the playing field ready to play at the scheduled field and time unless previously officially notified. A 10-minute grace period will be allowed after start time, after which forfeiture for the team not in attendance will be declared. If both teams do not arrive within their 10-minute grace period, a double forfeiture will be declared. Forfeiture is equivalent to a 3-0 loss (a double forfeiture means both teams are assigned a 3-0 loss). **COACHES MUST NOT ASSUME THAT A GAME HAS BEEN POSTPONED!** Tournament rules can allow for no grace period.

C. The Referee will notify the Soccer Office of all games postponed or suspended by the Referee.

D. If a game is suspended because of dangerous weather before the second half has been started, that game shall be replayed. If suspended after the second half of play has begun that game shall be considered a full game.

E. If circumstances necessitate rescheduling of a game, that game will be rescheduled only through the Soccer Office. The automatic make-up schedule will be used, if possible, for weather related rescheduling. The automatic make-up schedule will not be used for non-weather related scheduling. No team shall devise its own make-up game or schedule. BCSA referees needed for ANY game shall be contacted only through the Referee Assignor.

F. Once the game has been scheduled or rescheduled through the Soccer Office, said game may NOT be rescheduled again for any reason except when:

1. The Referee fails to show up for a scheduled league game or,
2. The weather or field conditions prevent a scheduled league game and it is officially postponed or,
3. Via subparagraphs G or H below, and in such case, every effort will be made to accommodate the team not requesting the change.

G. For purposes of attending out-of-town tournament play, any team may miss two BCSA regularly scheduled games without penalty provided that the Soccer Office is notified in writing at least 10 days prior to the date of the games so that all parties concerned can be notified by the Soccer Office. These missed games will be rescheduled by the Soccer Office only and not by the coaches or their representatives. If a team fails to properly notify the Soccer Office or misses an additional game for tournament play, that team shall forfeit such missed games.

H. Should a team in the U12 through U19 age brackets be unable to field a team (11 players) for a regular BCSA league game (but NOT a tournament game) due to a conflict with an OFFICIAL school event, then, with proper notification, the game will be rescheduled through the Soccer Office. Proper notification will be the formal notification in writing of both the Referee Assignor and the Soccer Office prior to noon of the Wednesday before the day of the conflicting game. In addition, prior to 2:00 p.m. of the Wednesday before the day of the conflicting game, the coach is to provide the Soccer Office with a written list of those players having the conflict and unable to play. The list shall include the following:

1. Name of players (including telephone numbers) involved in the conflict and unable to play.
2. Nature of the OFFICIAL school event.
3. Name (including telephone number) of the school official responsible for the OFFICIAL school event.

Upon proper notification, the Soccer Office will further notify the opposing coach and appropriate Age Group Commissioner as soon as possible.

An OFFICIAL school event may be a track meet or UIL band competition involving other schools, etc. However, school parties, social events, or assemblies do not qualify as OFFICIAL school events as defined above. Organizations other than schools do not qualify.

Failure in giving the required advance notification to the Soccer Office will result in forfeiture of the league game missed.

I. An automatic make-up schedule for weather related make-ups will be sent to all coaches before the season starts. This make-up schedule takes priority over any other scheduled games. It is the responsibility of each coach to know the make-up schedule and to distribute such to his players.

J. Failure to show up for a game is a serious matter. Such deprives children of the opposing team an opportunity to play and creates inconvenience for the other team, referees, schedulers, and League officials. It is noted that failure to show up due to measles outbreak is one thing and failure to show up just because it is inconvenient for the coach or parents is another. Thus, the A&D Committee will have broad powers in this area such that forfeitures are kept to a minimum.

Should a team fail to show up for any league game (including non-conference and intra-association tournament games) for any reason other than described above, then:

1. An automatic forfeit (loss) will be charged to the team.
2. The coach shall make a MANDATORY appearance before the A&D Committee to explain the reasons for his team's failure to show up for the game.
  - a. The coach shall be informed by the Soccer Office of the date and time of his appearance.
  - b. Failure to appear or reschedule his appearance will result in additional penalties.
3. Depending upon circumstances, any number, none, or all of the following penalties may be applied by the A&D Committee:
  - a. Disallow BCSA tournament participation for the coach and team for up to one year.
  - b. In addition to the loss in (1) above, a deduction of one or more wins in conference standing (regardless whether or not the game in question was conference or non-conference).
  - c. Suspension of the coach for the next conference game for U10 - U19 or for the next game for U6 - U8.
  - d. Probation of the team for up to one year: Further infraction resulting in the suspension of the coach for one year beyond the second infraction.
  - e. Suspension of the coach for up to one year
  - f. Monetary penalty of \$25.00 for referee, etc., compensation: Teams being assessed a monetary penalty MUST pay this amount before playing another game.
  - g. Deprive the team of trophies (including participation trophies for U6 - U8).
  - h. Ask that a game be arranged for the team deprived of a game because of the forfeiture. Such a game is NOT to include the forfeiting team.
  - i. Any other disciplinary measures the A&D Committee deems appropriate.

At the discretion of the A&D Committee, these penalties may also be applied to violation of any league rules.

## RULE 11 DISCIPLINE

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

### A. Authority

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the North Texas State Soccer Association have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, their local playing association, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member. The NTSSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Playing Associations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, team representatives and referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of NTSSA found in violation of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, their local member association, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member, may be subject to publication in the monthly newsletter or NTSSA President's Newsletter of this association of their name, the type of violation, and the disciplinary action taken. Publication will be limited to individuals receiving disciplinary actions of three months or greater.

2. All Member Associations and /or Playing Leagues are directed to form their own Appeals and Disciplinary Committees and to hold hearings – **WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT** – on every player/coach/assistant coach/spectators and/or parents as required for serious misconduct. All Member Associations are required to furnish the State Office with a maintained up-to-date list of their A & D Chairman and Committee members and to include their addresses and phone numbers.

3. Should a recreational Playing League cover multiple Associations, the members of the Appeals and Discipline Committee for this league should be comprised of representatives from each available association represented. The NTSSA A&D Committee shall serve as the first level of appeal involving complaints from participants of differing Associations. If a Playing League is hosted by a primary Association, the Appeals and Discipline Committee may be comprised of members of that Association.

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

### B. Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials are directed to operate and keep records on a "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for all players/coaches/assistant coaches. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his or her old and new teams. Player suspensions mentioned in this section, including automatic suspensions "from all NTSSA sanctioned activities," include all games (including indoor), organized scrimmages, friendly games, and the like, but do not include team practices.

2. A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:

a. Yellow Cards : One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

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

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

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

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

d. Exceptions For misconduct cards issued during State Cup, Regional's, or National competitions (US Youth Soccer), the misconduct will be handled within that competition.

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

a. Yellow Cards One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's 6th yellow card of the tournament.

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

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

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

such individual's respective total of red and yellow cards for the tournament and punished accordingly. If Tournament Officials determine 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 officials may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly. The Tournament Officials may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to NTSSA.

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

4. The CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM prescribed by these rules defines the **minimum** disciplinary punishment to be taken by all Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents Member Associations, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Misconduct of Amateur Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations are directed to operate and keep records on a twelve- (12) point "CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM" for all player/coaches/assistant coaches. Offenses resulting in the cautioning of a player/coach/assistant coach by the referee (yellow card) are allowed points according to their seriousness ranging from one (1) to four (4) points. Appeals of cautions (yellow cards) are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the caution. Points are cumulative during each soccer season. When a given player/coach/assistant coach accumulates twelve (12) points sanctions are applied as described in BCSA Rule 11 C (3). A player transferring to another team will carry over his or her accumulated points to his or her new team. Reports of these disciplinary actions are to be sent to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee at North Texas State Soccer Association Office.

2. The points of the "CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM" will be allocated as follows:

a. 12 points: Sent off from game due to Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting at Opponent/Person, Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity or Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language.

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

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

The CAUTION points are to be allocated as follows:

a. FOUR POINTS\*\*\*\*\*

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

b. THREE POINTS\*\*\*\*\*

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

c. TWO POINTS\*\*\*\*\*

1. Deliberate handball designed to break up attack.
2. Time wasting, including that by the goalkeeper.
3. Moving arms up and down to obstruct an opponent.

4. Gesticulating in front of a player taking a free kick or thrown-in.
5. Fails to respect required distance or unsporting behavior at a penalty kick.
6. Other unsporting behavior.

e. ONE POINT\*\*\*\*\*

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

3. ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS

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

4. SEND-OFF

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

5. FINES

- a. Teams Exceeding the Accumulated Point Limit - \$50.00
- b. Teams Exceeding the Accumulated Point Limit Second Time in Soccer Year - \$100.00

\*\* All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction to the North Texas State Soccer Association.  
 \*\* This is the **minimum** disciplinary punishment taken by all Member Associations on ejections. Nothing herein prevents a Member Association from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

6. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as the Member Association with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association shall promptly (within five (5) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A & D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association.

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

8. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A & D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the NTSSA.

9. Game suspensions for caution points and/or expulsions:

The suspension is to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach/manager/or team representative at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, playoff, championship, cup games, local or state tournament game) that the player's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by NTSSA shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify his suspension (to sit out) the next game.

10. All game suspensions must be reported to the State. When an ejection or game suspension under the caution point system is issued to a player, the Member Association or league to which the player is affiliated will forward a copy of the referee's Misconduct Report of the ejection or a copy of the league's Disciplinary Committee report on suspension due to the excessive Caution Points directly to the **NTSSA State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**, together with the action taken by the Member Association. The **State A & D Committee** will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct. Each additional caution and/or ejection of said player during the remainder of the soccer year will also be forwarded to the Committee for review and possible further action.

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

12. Extreme Violent Conduct:

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

D. Misconduct of Spectators

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

2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:

- a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
- b. Report spectator to the local Park & Recreation Department.
- c. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.)
- d. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
- e. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
- f. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal "peace bond".

## E. Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

### 1. Youth Association Teams

a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (including red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling 25 the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100.00 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) send-off or any combination of cards totaling 25. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. Failure of the Member Association or Playing League to notify the State A & D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) send-off or any combination of cards totaling 25 will result in a fine of \$100.00 per week for each week such notice is late. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

b. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (including red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) Tournament Officials shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100.00 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) send-off. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. Failure of Tournament Officials to notify the State A & D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) send-off will result in a fine of \$100.00 per week for each week such notice is late. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during league play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

### 2. Amateur Association Teams

a. When the players/coaches/team representatives/spectators of a given team have accumulated a combined point limit for that team, based on five (5) points per scheduled league game, per season, as described in the "CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM" in BCSA Rule 11 C (3), the Amateur Member Association will notify the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the NTSSA Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct.

b. The North Texas State Soccer Association will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

### 3. All Association Teams

a. The NTSSA holds the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.

b. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A & D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the NTSSA.

## F. Games Directly Sponsored by NTSSA

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

#### G. Misconduct Toward Referee

1. North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referees and assistant referees, in any competition by the State or Member Associations. This jurisdiction includes:

- a. All USSF registered referees (adult and youth).
- b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
- c. Any coach, parent or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.

2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the appropriate State Commissioner (Amateur Men's, Amateur Women's, Youth or Indoor) and the A&D Committee Chairman, Olympic Development Program Chairman and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the appropriate commissioner, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.

3. Should the majority of the members of the subcommittee listed above in paragraph 11, G., 2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident a referee assault, a formal assault hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act of physical violence upon a game official as defined in 11, G, 1 above shall be deemed "referee assault" in the NTSSA under the terms and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9.

**NOTE:** Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.). Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

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

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

(a) for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;

(b) except as provided in clause (c) or (d), for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault;

(c) for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or

(d) for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

5. Any party found to have committed the act of referee assault shall have the right to appeal, within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, to the USSF Appeals Board, following USSF Bylaw 705.

#### 6. Assault On Officials By An Amateur Player:

Should a player (male or female) be found guilty of referee assault, the State Executive Committee may, at its discretion, impose upon the team of which the player is a member, the requirement of posting a \$1,000.00 cash bond to be held in the treasury of NTSSA without interest for a period of one (1) year after posting. This cash bond will be required to be posted before the team may engage in any further games within the boundaries of NTSSA. Should any other member of said team be found guilty of a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the team shall forfeit the bond, and another similar bond will be required before the team can continue in competition. If no member of the team commits a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the bond will be returned to the person or persons designated to receive such payment. No member of such team which has failed to post such bond will be permitted to register with another team until that member has posted a \$50.00 bond with NTSSA; nor shall any new member be allowed to register on that team until such member has posted a \$50.00 bond, such bonds to be held under the same terms and conditions as the team bonds.

#### 7. Referee Abuse:

a. Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 11, G., 2 above, determine the action referee abuse as explained in Paragraph (1) below, it shall impose not less than a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested. Should a formal hearing be held, it shall be chaired by the appropriate Commissioner in accordance with Paragraph (11, G., 2) and the procedure of hearing shall be the same as 11, G., 4.

1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece", shall be deemed referee abuse.

2. Findings of this subcommittee and/or hearing may be appealed directly to the State Executive Committee within seven (7) days of the date of the letter of notification to the offending party. Copies of this notification shall be sent to the offending party, the coach, and/or team manager, if applicable, complainant and the President of the Member Association in which the abuse took place.

8. Any assault or abuse charges must be postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting). No complaints will be processed by NTSSA if not received within thirty (30) days of the alleged incident.

#### H. Misconduct of Referees

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

## I. Appellate Procedures

1. All those under the jurisdiction of NTSSA are reminded that they must exhaust all appellate procedures of the Member Association on all matters not covered by these Rules before the State Association can acquire jurisdiction to hear the appeal under its rules.

2. Member Associations are reminded that they may set the rules of hearings and may restrict the number of witnesses, and the time allotted to each, so long as fair hearings are held. It may also determine whether it wants to allow closed or open hearings.

3. Member Associations and their committees are urged to refuse to hear any appeal when any person is threatening a lawsuit. You should pass the appeal to the next higher forum which would hear it. This is a sport to which we are giving freely of our time, and none of us needs to take the trouble and expense to appear in court.

4. To allow the use of tape recorders, court reporters and the presence of attorneys at hearings is prohibited by BCSA.

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

5. Should any aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all avenues of appeal including through to the USSF, the State Association may, at its discretion, suspend such person or refuse to accept further registration in soccer activities within its jurisdiction.

6. An appeal of decisions pursuant to BCSA Rule 11 (NTSSA Rule 3.11) made by Member Associations, after Member Association's appeal procedures have been exhausted, will be made to the State A & D Committee in accordance with procedures established by this section.

7. An appeal of decisions made by the State A & D Committee will be made to the State Executive Committee in accordance with procedures established in this section.

8. An appeal of decisions presented to the NTSSA will be:

a. In writing.

b. Made to the General Manager of NTSSA within five (5) days of receipt of written notice of the lower level authority's decision(s).

c. Fees, as specified, will be in cash or certified check and will accompany the written notice of appeal.

9. Filing fees for appeals will, under no circumstances, be waived. Fees will be refunded to the appealing party only if the previous decision is overruled. Fees will be:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a. All Player Appeals                                      | \$50.00  |
| (\$25.00 paid by the player and \$25.00 paid by the coach) |          |
| b. All Coach Appeals & Referee Appeals                     | \$100.00 |
| c. All Team Appeals  | \$100.00 |

## J. Records

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

#### K. Association to Comply

When any Member Association, or a member thereof, fails to send in reports as required by this Rule, NTSSA will take any action it considers proper, including fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Repeated violation by Member Association can result in such association being declared not in good standing.

### RULE 12

#### BCSA APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

A. PURPOSE: The A&D Committee shall have the authority and be empowered to investigate, hold hearings, and make rulings concerning all violations of League Rules, game protests, and misconduct of League officials, coaches, players, and spectators, or conduct which the Committee deems not in the best interests of BCSA or its members. The A&D Committee shall act upon and assess points for ALL cards given by an official Referee (even in “friendly” games). The A&D Committee, at its discretion, can impose penalties for violations of league rules. Such penalties may include, but not be limited to, those found in Rule 10(J).

B. PROTESTS OF VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE RULES AND GAMES: Any person desiring to file a protest concerning a suspected violation of league rules, laws, or a protest of a game shall follow this procedure:

1. All protests must be in writing and delivered to the BCSA Soccer Office during normal office hours (set by the Board) accompanied by a certified check or money order for \$25.00, made payable to “BCSA”.
2. No game-related protests can be filed until a 48-hour “cooling-off” period has elapsed and must be filed no later than 24 hours after the expiration of the 48-hour “cooling-off” period.
3. Special protest and appeals procedures may be used from time to time during tournaments and playoffs as determined by the BCSA Board of Directors and these special rules and procedures shall supersede the regular rules and procedures in case of a conflict.

C. APPEALS OF BCSA A&D COMMITTEE: All decisions of the A&D Committee are final, subject to appeals to the Executive Committee of BCSA or to NTSSA

1. All appeals from a decision of the BCSA A&D Committee shall be in writing and delivered to the BCSA Soccer Office during normal hours, accompanied by a certified check or money order in the amount \$50.00, made payable to “BCSA”. Such appeals must be made within two (2) business days of notification of the A&D Committee’s decision.
2. All decisions of the BCSA A&D Committee resulting in the suspension or expulsion for a period of longer than 15 days of any party or team shall be automatically reviewed by the BCSA Executive Committee and subject to a re-opening of the case upon a two-thirds vote of those directors present at a regularly called meeting of the Board.
3. Should there be any conflict of these rules with NTSSA’s then existing Rule 11 regarding their chronological time spans, then the requirements of NTSSA shall supersede those of BCSA. If a protest or appeal under this rule is upheld by the BCSA A&D Committee (or the BCSA Executive Committee upon appeal) then the successful protester (or appellant) shall be entitled to the return of all protest or appeal fees previously deposited with BCSA. Protest or appeal fees of unsuccessful protests or appeals are automatically forfeited to BCSA.

RULE 13  
GAME PROTEST

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

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

B. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the local Referee Committee or the State Referee Committee.

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

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

D. A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all of the games in which the player participated. A coach, assistant coach, and/or manager of the team playing such player shall be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The player will also be subject to being suspended for one year.

RULE 14  
VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE RULES

A. If a player is ejected ("red card") from the game or the playing field, that player shall not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the match nor in the next Association game (which may be during the next season, or tournament play, wherever located).

B. If a coach is ejected ("red card") from the game or playing field, that coach shall not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the match nor in the next Association game (which may be during the next season or tournament play, wherever located).

C. If a spectator is ejected from the playing field area, that spectator shall be barred from the remainder of the match and the next Association game (which may be during the next season or tournament play, wherever located), provided such authority has been granted BCSA by the owner of the playing facility.

D. If the player, coach, or spectator mentioned in A, B, and C above, fails to leave the premises when so ordered by the Referee, or League Official, or violates the above suspension from the next game, That players', coach's', or spectator's' team shall have the next conference game forfeited (or the preceding game if his team won). A team forfeiture due to a spectator's conduct shall only result if that spectator is clearly identified as a spectator of the team being penalized and the coach of that team has been given a reasonable opportunity to first deal with the offensive person.

E. If a game is abandoned under this rule or because of actions under FIFA Law 12, the A&D Committee shall conduct a hearing for the applicable player, coach, spectator and/or team, and shall determine the outcome of the game. At the recommendation of the Committee, a team, player, spectator and/or coach may be suspended or expelled from play or participation (including being a spectator) in league activities

for a period to be determined by the Committee.

F. Any violations of League Rules may result in penalties, which may include, but not be limited to, those listed in Rule 10(J).

**RULE 15  
BCSA RULES OF COMPETITION**

Laws of the Game shall be as set out by NTSSA (FIFA Rules except where modified by NTSSA), except where allowed to be modified by BCSA. Should there be any conflict with the Laws presented below with NTSSA's then existing Laws, then the requirements of NTSSA shall supersede those of BCSA. BCSA can make additional clarifying statements regarding the Laws. It is possible that, for lack of space, the entire Law will not be duplicated in its entirety below.

FIFA Laws of the Game Modified:

Parents/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than five (5) feet from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty (20) yards to the goal line.

**NO** individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

The Rules of Play for Amateur and Youth competition of NTSSA and its affiliated members shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as to the following.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Size of fields         | For various age groups/Law I                           |
| 2. Size of ball           | For various age groups/Law II                          |
| 3. Number of Players      | Varies from Law III (and substitution)                 |
| 4. Assistant referee      | Allowing for certified Junior Assistant referee/Law VI |
| 5. Duration of Game       | For various age groups/Law VII                         |
| 6. Charging of Goalkeeper | Law XII  |

**A. RULES OF PLAY FOR AMATEUR AND YOUTH**

Law I - Field of Play

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

Age Groups	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
Amateur			
Over 40	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Over 35	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Over 30	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Over 23	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Under 23	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.

Youth

Under 19	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Under 16	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 120 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Under 14	Min. 60 yds.	Min. 100 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Under 12	Min. 60 yds.	Min. 100 yds.	8 ft. x 8 yds.
Under 10 - 6 v 6	Min. 40 yds.	Min. 50 yds.	7 ft. x 7 yds.
Under 10 - 7 v 7	Min. 40 yds.	Min. 60 yds.	7 ft. x 7 yds.
Under 10 - 8 v 8	Min. 40 yds.	Min. 70 yds.	7 ft. x 7 yds.
Under 8 - 4 v 4*	Min. 20 yds.	Min. 30 yds.	6 ft. x 12 ft.
Under 8 - 5 v 5	Min. 30 yds.	Min. 50 yds.	6 ft. x 12 ft.
Under 8 - 7 v 7	Min. 40 yds.	Min. 60 yds.	6 ft. x 12 ft.
Under 6 - 3 v 3*	Min. 15 yds.	Min. 20 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.
Under 6 - 4 v 4*	Min. 20 yds.	Min. 30 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

**\*Note: Corner flags may be substituted in place of goals.**

#### Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Age Groups	Ball Size
Over 40, Over 35, Over 30, Under 23, Amateur	Size #5
Under 19, Under 16 and Under 14	Size #5
Under 12 and Under 10	Size #4
Under 8 and Under 6	Size #3

Each team shall furnish the Referee with an acceptable game ball, and he will choose one which will be returned at the conclusion of that game. The circumference and weight of the ball shall be according to FIFA Laws. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the Referee. For interdivisional play, (e.g., U12 vs. U14) the smaller ball shall be used.

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

The Under 6, Under 8, and Under 10 age divisions shall play under the additional Developmental Player Program Modified Rules for Under 6, Under 8, and Under 10.

1. A match shall be played by two teams; each consisting of not more than eleven players and not less than eight at the start of the game, one of whom shall be the keeper. If, at any point during the course of a game a team has fewer than seven players because of player ejection or injury, the game shall be abandoned, but once the game begins the game result counts for all purposes, however. The coach of the opposing team may reduce the number of players on his team to correspond to the opponent's number, but he shall not be morally or legally required to do so.

#### 2. Substitution Rule – Youth

- a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
- b. Either team, at a goal kick.
- c. Either team, after a goal is scored.
- d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play:

e. At halftime;

f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for. \*\*(This may not apply in interstate games).

\*\*\* NTSSA allows for the use of the "Quarter Substitution System" for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 6 and Under 8 age groups only.

The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.

3. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play the minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action). The coach shall keep the reduced playing time to a minimum and is subject to League review. Flagrant violations of this rule will be managed as an official protest to be reviewed by the A&D Committee.

4. Substitution Rule - Amateurs: FIFA rules for substitution will apply with the exception of the number of players and the frequency of their substitution.

5. No youth team shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

#### Law IV - Player's Equipment

1. A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). Casts and braces may not be worn if they present a danger to another player and cannot be wrapped or cushioned such that the danger is eliminated.

2. The required equipment of a player shall consist of:

a. Same color jersey or shirt with a number on the back not less than 4 inches high that designates him from his or her teammates.

b. Short matching pants are preferred but not required. Goalkeepers may, of course, choose to wear long pants.

c. Socks.

d. Shin guards, meeting standards as set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game, are mandatory for all age groups, worn under the socks (socks are to be pulled up completely over the shin guards).

e. Shoes: League approved shoes are authorized for all divisions. For U6 and U8, tennis shoes or soft cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Cleats must be rounded.

NOTE: The following types of shoes are not allowed for use in League play; baseball shoes, shoes having toe cleats, or track shoes with metal spikes or street shoes with leather or hard rubber soles.

f. Head straps for eyeglasses (optional, but recommended).

3. Each goalkeeper wears colors, which distinguish him from the other players, the referee and the assistant referees.

4. If two playing teams have the same or similar colored jerseys, the Referee shall require the home team to change jerseys or play in pullovers.

5. The Executive Board must approve all team sponsorship name(s) and/or logo(s) that are to be displayed. In order to be displayed on player uniforms, no name(s) or logo(s) shall be on the back of players' jerseys. Sponsorship(s) will be the direct, sole responsibility of the team for obtaining and allocating of said funds. BCSA is not responsible for obtaining and/or allocating sponsorship(s). BCSA is a nonprofit organization and is thereby removed from all liabilities of said funds from sponsorship(s). BCSA will not take receipt of any sponsorship funds.

6. There will be a maximum uniform cost that a team can pass on to individual players in the Recreational Division. The uniform considered shall consist of 1 shirt with a number on the back, 1 pair of shorts, and 1 pair of socks.

The cost of individual uniforms may exceed the set maximum provided the team has a sponsor that covers all of, or the remaining, cost of the uniform.

A committee consisting of all the Recreational Division Boys and Girls Age Level commissioners shall determine what the maximum individual uniform cost will be for the next soccer year and have the uniform cost set within two weeks of the conclusion of BCSA's Spring Season. This committee will be co-chaired by the Boys and Girls Commissions. The committee will be required to contact a minimum of 3 different sources for uniform cost information. The information shall be provided to each recreational division coach after the committee's decision is reached.

#### Law V – Referee

1. Have discretionary power to order from the park or playing area any person who is abusive toward any other person or player or, whose demeanor is becoming disruptive or whose conduct or behavior is not suitable to be viewed or heard by the players or other children in the area.

Any member of the Board of Directors of BCSA shall concurrently have the same powers as the Referee in the circumstances covered above except that only the Referee can eject a player from game.

2. If a Referee is needed for ANY BCSA sanctioned game, he/she shall be contacted only through the Referee Assignor or Senior Referee on duty.

#### Law VI - Assistant Referee

Specifically trained and certified "Junior Assistant Referees" may be used by Member Associations or, if necessary, in State tournaments in place of the neutral referee/assistant referee. Their infraction calling authority is limited to ball in and out of play, direction of throw in, goal kick, corner kick and off side.

If the Referee requests, each team will provide one assistant referee acceptable to the Referee. The assistant referee shall meet with the Referee in the center circle about five minutes before the scheduled start of the game. BCSA shall attempt to provide Assistant Referees or Junior Assistant Referees serving as assistant referees for each match.

#### Law VII - Duration of Game

Age Groups	Length of Halves	Length of Overtime***
Amateur		
Over 40	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Over 35	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Over 30	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.

Over 22	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 23	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.

#### Youth

Under 19	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 16	Two 40 min.	Two 15 min.
Under 14	Two 35 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 12	Two 30 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 10*	Two 25 min.	Two 10 min.
Under 8	As Modified Rules Specify **	
Under 6	As Modified Rules Specify **	

\* For U-10 tournaments, a winner may be determined.

\*\* For U-8 and U-6 competition, ties will stand.

\*\*\* May be used in tournament play or play-off games, but not in regular season games.

For interdivisional play (e.g., U12 vs. U14), the shorter time periods shall be used.

#### Law VIII - Start of Play

Before the game, the Referee shall call the captain of each team to the center of the field, toss a coin and give the call to either team captain of his choice. The team winning the toss decides which goal it will attack. The other team takes the kick off to start the game. The Referee, having given a signal, shall start the game by a player taking a place kick from the center of the field of play. The ball must be kicked forward. No player of the opposing team shall be less than 10 yards (8 yards for U10, 6 yards for U8 and 5 yards for U6) from the ball until it is kicked off. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. In the second half of the match the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals. The team that won the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the game

#### Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* No Changes

#### Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* No Changes

EXCEPTION: In Amateur Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player if local playing rules so provide.

#### Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* No Changes

#### Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground." Charging the goalkeeper in senior competitions (per FIFA laws) is left strictly up to the Amateur Leagues involved.
2. Slide tackling by any player under U-11 (U-6 to U-10) is strictly forbidden. Violations of this rule will result in a foul and /or caution as deemed appropriate by the referee. For any violation, the referee will explain the offense to the violator.
3. It is not an intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.

4. Coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.

Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\* No Changes

Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\* No Changes

Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\* No Changes

Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\* No Changes

Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\* No Changes

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

## **B. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 6**

Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

Do not record final score. Game win/loss results are recorded for seeding purposes only.

Participation awards for ALL- No trophies or awards just for best team.

Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than three (3) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than ten (10) yards to the goal line.

**NO** individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

Parents/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

## **LAW I - THE FIELD**

### **1. Markings:**

a. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.

b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.

c. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius.

d. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

e. Goal area – An arc (semi-circle) that is at least the width of the goal, but not to exceed one (1) foot on either side of the goal.

## **LAW II - THE BALL**

Size three (3)

### **LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is three (3). The minimum number of players to start a game is two(2). There shall be no goalkeeper.
2. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed six (6) / ten (10) if playing "Dual field" method.
3. Substitutions:
  - a. Injuries.
  - b. See Law VII.
4. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
5. Teams and games may be coed.

### **LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

### **LAW V – REFEREE**

1. Registered Referee.
2. Associate Referees.
3. Parent/Coach or Assistant. (In most cases, one parent/coach from each team will act as a referee on each field.)
4. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
5. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
6. Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.
7. The home team coach is responsible for collecting and depositing the game cards, noting team names and winner only, from each field into the box located outside the referee room.

### **LAW VI - ASSISTANT REFEREE**

There will be no assistant referee.

### **LAW VII - DURATION OF GAME**

1. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters.
2. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
3. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between quarters two (2) and three (3).

### **LAW VIII - THE START OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

Opponent must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

### **LAW IX - BALL IN AN OUT OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA

### **LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING**

Conform to FIFA- with the following exception:

If a defending player interferes with the ball while it is in the goal area, a goal will be scored for the attacking team.

### **LAW XI – OFFSIDE**

There is no offside.

### **LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents three (3) yards away.
- B. The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.
- C. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

### **LAW XIII - FREE KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- 1. All free kicks will be indirect.
- 2. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- 3. Opponents must be three (3) yards away.

### **LAW XIV - PENALTY KICK**

There are no Penalty Kicks.

### **LAW XV - THROW-IN**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

Replaced by a kick-in. Kick-in is an indirect free kick from the sideline. Opponents must be three (3) yards away.

### **LAW XVI - GOAL KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

1. Goal kicks may be taken from any point two (2) to three (3) yards from the goal.
2. Opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.
3. If an attacking player interferes with the ball while it is in the goal area a goal kick will be awarded to the defending team.
4. If the ball comes to rest inside the goal area play will be restarted with a goal kick.

#### **LAW XVII - CORNER KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

1. Opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.

### **C. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 8**

Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

Do not record league standings.

Do not record final score.

Participation awards for ALL - no trophies or awards just for the best team.

Parents/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than three (3) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than ten (10) yards to the goal line.

**NO** individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

#### **LAW I - THE FIELD**

Markings:

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

#### **LAW II - THE BALL**

Size three (3).

### **LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time –Four (4). There shall be no goalkeeper. The minimum number of players to start the game is three (3) and the minimum number after play starts is three (3).

2. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed – ten (10) for 5v5/(Eight (8) for 4v4) or Twelve (12) if using the “dual field” method.

3. Substitutions:

a. Injuries

b. See Law VII.

4. Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

5. Teams and games may be coed.

### **LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

Players' equipment must conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:  
Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

### **LAW V – REFEREE**

1. Registered Referee.

2. Associate Referees.

3. Parent/Coach or Assistant.

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

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

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

### **LAW VI - ASSISTANT REFEREE**

None

### **LAW VII - DURATION OF GAME**

1. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal twelve (12) minute quarters.

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

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

## **LAW VIII - THE START OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

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

## **LAW IX - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA

## **LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING**

Conform to FIFA- with the following exception:

1. Intentional handling of the ball by a defensive player in his/her goal area shall result in a goal for the attacking team.

## **LAW XI – OFFSIDE**

There shall be no off-sides.

## **LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

1. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents five (5) yards away.
2. The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.
3. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

## **LAW XIII - FREE KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

1. Shall be classified under one heading - indirect.
2. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. Opponents must be five (5) yards away.
3. No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal box.

## **LAW XIV - PENALTY KICK**

No penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

## **LAW XV - THROW-IN**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

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

## **LAW XVI - GOAL KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

1. Goal kicks may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
2. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

## **LAW XVII - CORNER KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

1. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.
2. Corner kicks are indirect free kicks.

## **D. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 10**

Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

Awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each division with six or more teams. Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in divisions of five or less teams.

Parents/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than six (6) yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty (20) yards to the goal line.

NO individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

## **LAW I - THE FIELD**

Markings:

1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs, each with a two (2) foot radius.
5. Goal area - six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty Area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

7. Penalty spot: eight yards out from the center of the goal line .

## **LAW II - THE BALL**

Size four (4).

## **LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight. One of whom may be a goalkeeper. The minimum to start the game is seven and the minimum number after play starts is six.

2. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed - Twelve(12).

3. Substitutions:

a. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor.

b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.

c. After a goal, by either team.

d. After an injury, by either team, when the Referee stops the play.

e. At half time.

4. Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

5. Teams and games may be coed.

## **LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

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

Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

## **LAW V – REFEREE**

1. Registered Referee.

2. Associate Referees.

3. Parent/Coach or Assistant.

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

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

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

## **LAW VI - ASSISTANT REFEREE**

1. Registered Assistant Referee
2. Certified Junior Assistant Referee
3. Use club assistant referee.

## **LAW VII - DURATION OF GAME**

1. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each.
2. Half-time break shall be five (5) minutes.

## **LAW VIII - THE START OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

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

## **LAW IX - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA.

## **LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING**

Conform to FIFA.

## **LAW XI – OFFSIDE**

Conform to FIFA.

## **LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

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

## **LAW XIII - FREE KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

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

## **LAW XIV - PENALTY KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

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

## **LAW XV - THROW-IN**

Conform to FIFA.

## **LAW XVI - GOAL KICK**

Conform to FIFA.

## **LAW XVII - CORNER KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

1. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

## **RULE 16**

### **DETERMINING LEAGUE STANDINGS AND GAME RESULTS**

- A. The following system will be used to determine U10 - U19 league standings and resolve final season tiebreakers:

Win = 3 points    Tie = 1 point    Loss = 0 points

Should a tie in wins, and in conference standings occur, the tie would be broken for awards, and tournament seeding purposes, **ONLY** by the following procedure:

1. Head-to-head (conference) play during season.
2. If a tie remains after (1) above, the tie will be broken by most goals scored (up to a maximum of three per game) in conference play.
3. If a tie remains after (2) above, the tie will be broken by the fewest goals allowed in conference play.
4. If a tie remains after (3) above, for any of the first three places, then the tie shall be broken by a playoff game. If the playoff game ends in a tie at the end of regulation time then two overtime periods as described in Law VII shall be played. If a tie remains after the overtime periods, the taking of FIFA penalty kicks as described in Law VII shall break the tie.

B. There shall be no scores and league standings published in U6 and U8. Such scores shall be recorded and standings kept by the Soccer Office only for the purposes of seeding teams.

C. Non-conference games played do not affect league standings. However, forfeits of non-conference games can affect league standing (see Rule 10(J)).

D. Game results: The Referee shall be responsible for turning in the game results.

## **RULE 17**

### **FIELD AND GAME PROCEDURES**

- A. Fans and team members of each respective team are to be on opposite sides of the field as will be designated on the BCSA schedule of games. Players not in the game and coaches must remain at least five feet back from the touch lines and within the area from penalty line to penalty line (**DEFINITELY NOT BEHIND THE NET**) and spectators sitting in the stands where seating is available and such is appropriate. Remember that the touchline is **IN** the field of play. No individual shall be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

NOTE: Under certain circumstances such as adverse weather, poor field condition, etc., and with the concurrence of the other team and the Referee, both teams may occupy the same side of the field.

B. If requested by the Referee or member of BCSA's Board of Directors, the teams that play the first game of the day shall put up the goal nets. If requested by the Referee or member of BCSA's Board of Directors, the teams that play the last game of the day shall remove the goal nets and return them to the soccer shed.

C. Each coach shall select an assistant referee as required under Law VI, if Assistant Referees or Junior Assistant Referees are not furnished by BCSA for that game.

D. Late starts and official game clock. All games must begin when scheduled except when:

1. The referee is late but arrives within ten minutes of game time.

2. A coach is late but arrives within ten minutes of game time.

3. A team is late or undermanned, but achieves the required number of players within ten minutes of game time.

4. Occasionally a regularly scheduled game, on the same field, or using the same referee, preceding the game in question "runs over" into the next game time period. In such cases, the later game is to begin immediately after the conclusion of the first game.

5. The Referee's watch shall be the official timepiece for this rule.

6. In order to help the League with the logistics of scheduling, any pre-game remarks by the Referee to players and coaches shall be made prior to the published scheduled start time of the game.

E. There shall be no practicing on the game fields unless permitted by the Fields and Equipment Manager for VERY special occasions (such as preparing for the Tournament of Champions). The Fields and Equipment Manger shall clear all such play with the appropriate Parks Personnel.

F. Players, coaches, managers, sponsors, parents and spectators are to abide by all Park rules. Drivers shall be careful and drive slowly around the Park area. LITTERING IS PROHIBITED. Each coach and team is responsible and accountable for cleaning its own area of sideline.

G. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed or allowed near the Park or playing area.

## RULE 18

### LEAGUE STRUCTURE

A. A "boys" team shall be any team with at least one boy on the roster. A "girls" team is one that has all girls on the roster. The "boys" league has often been referred to as the "mixed" league.

B. Coed play ("boys" team vs. "girls" team) may be allowed for U6 play and U8 play and is allowed where there are not enough girl's teams to form a division (two or less). Where scheduling allows, girls' teams may be provided with non-conference games with boys' teams at an equal skill level. Girls will not be allowed to play on a boys team unless there is no girls team available or available within that respective community (communities are specifically defined as Albany, Clyde, Dyess AFB, Jim Ned, and Merkel-Tye). However, a girl currently playing on a boy's team may continue with that team. Should such a girl choose to change teams, she will be required to register on a girl's team, if available. Should this Rule 18(B) result in a hardship to a community, as defined above, then the Executive Committee may waive this Rule 18(B) for that specific community.

C. Divisions shall be designated Division Red, White, Blue, Gray, Purple, etc. They shall be determined by competitive strength and skill level with the strongest teams assigned to the Red Division, the second

strongest group to the White Division, etc. A team may request to be placed in the Red Division. However, the decision to place such team in the Red Division rests with the individual(s) doing the seeding.

D. Competitive strength and skill level of all teams within a League will be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board may solicit assistance for this responsibility, but the final decision is theirs.

E. Each Division (except U6 and U8) will determine a division champion using the system outlined in Rule 16

## RULE 19 TOURNAMENTS

A. Special rules and procedures may be adopted by the Tournament Director and Tournament Committee for local tournament play, and these special rules (such as no late starts, length of the games, etc.) and procedures shall supersede the regular Rules and Procedures.

B. Coaches must be aware of procedures for playing in all NTSSA tournaments and obtain travel passes or have travel sanctioned where applicable. The Soccer Office will help in coordinating this and should be notified when a BCSA team is to play in a USSF or NTSSA sanctioned tournament. The penalties for not following NTSSA guidelines are severe.

If a team uses a guest player in a tournament, where such is allowed, the coach of that team is responsible for filing all the appropriate NTSSA forms. Guest players for each tournament are not required to be the same players.

C. For purposes of determining BCSA's Tournament of Champions representatives, the winner of the Red Division of each age group shall represent BCSA. Should that team elect not to participate, then the team to represent BCSA shall be (in order): 2<sup>nd</sup> team Red, 3<sup>rd</sup> team Red, 4<sup>th</sup> team Red, 1<sup>st</sup> team White, a team chosen by the Executive Committee. A girls team playing in the boys league shall not be the girls league representative to the Tournament of Champions unless there is no girls league for that age division (two teams or less in the division).

Should Tournament of Champions play be available to an age group that does not keep standings, then the team to represent BCSA shall be chosen by the Executive Committee.

D. BCSA shall attempt to hold an annual invitational tournament to provide a high level of competition for BCSA's most competitive teams and for teams invited from outside BCSA. Invitations are the sole responsibility of the Tournament Director.

## RULE 20 REFEREES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RULE 21 IN-DOOR SOCCER

In-door soccer games may be permitted under the NTSSA rules and guidelines.

## RULE 22 PLAYING IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Should a team wish to register with BCSA yet play in another league, such league must be sanctioned by NTSSA. Before such team is allowed to register with another league, the rules of the other league must be reviewed by the BCSA Executive Committee for approval and permission to participate. Permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

BCSA may require such team to put up a performance bond to encourage full participation. Any such performance bond will be returned to the team at the other association's season end if the team achieves full participation.

**RULE 23  
MANDATORY COACHES MEETING**

BCSA shall sponsor mandatory coaches' meeting prior to the beginning of each season. The meeting shall be held at least on two different dates. The purpose of this meeting is to explain BCSA Rules, policies and procedures (some of which may be new) and the Laws of the Game of soccer. Should the coach be unable to attend he may have an assistant coach, manager, parent or team representative attend for him. Attendance is MANDATORY. Failure to attend (or have a representative attend) may result in BCSA's suspending the coach, not permitting the team to register or disallowing the team to participate in championship or tournament play for a period of up to one year. Such action may be taken by the Executive Committee. Should a team be formed (including the designation of a coach) after the mandatory coaches' meeting, the coach (or representative) shall be allowed to attend a make-up session.

**RULE 24  
COACHES TRAINING**

It is recognized that the players of BCSA can only get better through improved coaching. To improve coaching improves and enhances a player's experiences with the game of soccer. To further BCSA coaches' skills, it is required that every coach in the recreational league obtains the appropriate coaching license as listed below:

**Recreational League**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>State License Level</b>
U6 & U8	G
U10 & U12	F
U14 & Up	E

\*The 'F' license is a prerequisite for the 'E', unless the coach already coaches an 'E' license age group.

\*\*The 'E' license is a prerequisite for the 'D'. (This is an NTSSA requirement)

NOTE: NTSSA may replace some of the clinics with the National Youth Coaching License. The following is the equivalent levels to the above mentioned levels:

<b><i>Current levels</i></b>	<b><i>NYCL levels</i></b>
<i>G</i>	<i>Level I</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Level II</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Level III</i>

It is required that within the start of a coaches' second season such head coach is to attend all of the sessions for the appropriate clinic for the age group being coached as designated above.

The Executive Committee shall give special consideration to new coaches and coaches recruited after the appropriate clinics have been held. The Executive Committee has the power to extend the above time frames in special individual circumstances.

All BCSA coaches must meet the above requirements by the start of the Fall 2007 season.

Should a coach not meet the above requirements, the Executive Committee may suspend the coach from coaching activities until the deficiency is corrected.

## RULE 25 CONFLICT IN RULES

Should any BCSA Rule conflict with any NTSSA Rule, the NTSSA Rule shall prevail. NTSSA Rule 11 and NTSSA Laws of the Game shall always apply. NTSSA may change Rule 11 and the Laws of the Game without BCSA having to rewrite its Rulebook. Should there be an apparent conflict, the BCSA Rule shall apply until the Chairperson the Rules Committee can get clarification from NTSSA. The absence of a NTSSA Rule does not necessarily mean such does not apply.

Remember that this Rulebook has been approved by the NTSSA. Also, remember that NTSSA Rules are written for both the recreational and competitive environments, and some of NTSSA's Rules are to be applied for competitive use only.

## RULE 26 CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT

Coaches, team managers, parents, spectators, administrators, and referees are reminded that there is a responsibility that must be met not only to the players, but also to the League. The following actions by the coaching staff, managers, parents, sponsors, supporters, friends and spectators are strictly forbidden in all related soccer activities (including, but not limited to, before, during, and after the game).

1. Offensive, insulting or abusive language.
2. Harassment or negative verbalizing of player.
3. Harassment or negative verbalizing of league officials referees assistant referees, junior assistant referees, coaches, or spectators.
4. Acts of aggression toward players, league officials, and referees assistant referees, junior assistant referees, coaches or spectators.
5. Accepting any form of assistance from any person or person officially suspended from all soccer activities by BCSA or NTSSA
6. Conduct contrary to the goals of the Big Country Soccer Association.

### I. NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

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

#### A. RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate NTSSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. 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.

#### B. RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. Adherence to all NTSSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate NTSSA Commissioner, Member Association, or League Commissioner immediately.

#### C. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance, which 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.

#### D. RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.

2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.

3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.

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

#### E. RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

2. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.

3. All NTSSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.

4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.

5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.

6. When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.

7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.

8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

#### F. RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.

2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.

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

#### G. GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet before the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.
5. The foremost post game responsibility of the coach is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

#### II. NTSSA PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

- ◆ Children have more need for example than for criticism.
- ◆ Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The opponents are necessary friends. Without them, your child could not participate.
- ◆ Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- ◆ Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.

- ◆ Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by working toward improvement.
- ◆ Remember that your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. NOT YOURS.
- ◆ Encourage you child to always play by the rules.
- ◆ Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

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

1. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
2. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and my training refreshed.
3. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
4. I pledge that I will make myself available whenever possible for game assignments for which I am qualified.
5. If I am a State or National USSF referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or USSF assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.
6. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during or after a match.
7. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches, or spectators.
8. As a registered USSF/NTSSA referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
9. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player, or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these e circumstances to serve as an example to all.
10. I understand that I should wear only the approved USSF referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat, and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach that I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
11. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat, or drink while actually officiating.
12. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association, and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the NTSSA affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the NTSSA and USSF, and

their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct, and performance as a registered USSF referee.

13. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of the Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is important to remember that as board members we are very high profile. It is equally important that we remember that we are primarily a service organization and that we treat fellow volunteers as partners with a

common goal – the organization, development and promotion of soccer. We should maintain high standards and serve by example.

1. Have respect for the game, players, officials, parents, coaches, member association volunteers and fellow board members and deal with them in a patient courteous and consistent manner.

2. Criticism channeled through the proper quarter should be educational, constructive, balanced and positive. Under no circumstances should it be demeaning or detrimental to the self-respect of the individuals involved.

3. Administrators should be informed and available. As facilitators, they should know the right questions; have the ability to elicit the right answers and foster creativity with accountability within their committee or area.

4. Regarding committee members and other volunteer, they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done, their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.

5. Above all – courtesy, self-control and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.

**NOTE:** Any violation of the above will necessitate the appearance of the persons involved before the A&D Committee. Parents and spectators will be expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. It must be remembered that all adults are examples for our youth. Failure to comply with the above may result in a warning or ejection of your players, coach, and spectators or possible forfeiture of abandonment of the game.

## RULE 27

### COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

#### A. INTERACTION WITH RECREATIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES.

##### B.

It is not the intent of the rules and guidelines found within this section to totally govern all aspects of the Competitive League. Many rules and guidelines found within the Recreational League will also apply to the activities of the Competitive League.

#### B. PLAYING AGE AND GENDER.

1. There shall be no competitive league competition in U6, U8 and U10 age groups.

Players who have not attained the proper age to be eligible for U12 play shall not be allowed to play up on competitive (select or tryout) teams or in tournaments designated as competitive (this includes recreational all-star teams).

Players who are not eligible for U12 play are not free agents and are not eligible to attend tryouts.

2. Male and female players are eligible, however no coed teams are permitted.

#### C. COMPETITIVE TEAM FORMATION

##### D.

If a team is formed by any other method than having players assigned from BCSA's Player Pool, then the team is considered competitive.

#### D. COMPETITIVE TEAM REGISTRATION

Competitive teams are required to register through BCSA

1. The registration fee for a competitive player will be based on a fee schedule as established by the Executive Board of BCSA
2. All competitive teams have to be fully registered (complete packet turned in) two (2) weeks before the close of general registration for the recreational teams.

#### E. SOCCER PLAYING YEAR FOR COMPETITIVE PLAYERS

1. The USSF Youth League and NTSSA have established the seasonal year as being from September 1 through August 31. However, these rules provide that a competitive player is a free agent beginning July 1. That player will continue to be a free agent until the player and/or his parents or guardians have signed a contract with a team. The period of August 1 of the prior soccer year through May 31 of the current soccer year is considered the soccer-playing year for competitive players. During the soccer-playing year, players are not allowed to tryout, practice, or participate with any other team, unless they are registered as a guest player with another team, in which case the proper release must be signed by all parties. Practice with a team on which a player is registered as a guest player is permitted only if the practice dates are included on the guest player release. After May 31 (the end of the soccer playing year for competitive players), players may practice with other teams without any required guest player release, although formal tryouts may not be held until July 1 and players may not sign any contract or otherwise commit to a team for the following year prior to July 15. Signing of contracts with teams and/or clubs is not permitted prior to July 15. (This does not include indoor soccer.)
2. Failure to comply constitutes a violation of current NTSSA directives concerning illegal recruitment and shall be punishable by suspension of the guilty parties, i.e., coach, assistant coach, and team manager for a minimum of one (1) year. Allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered and punishment periods are at the discretion of the Youth Commissioner committee hearing such allegations.

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

3. If a player is released from a team in accordance with NTSSA rules for releasing competitive players, he/she is a free agent.

#### F. COMPETITIVE TEAM PLAYER SELECTION

A competitive team has the privilege to select players they feel will best serve the needs of the team.

1. The BCSA Registration Committee will not assign any players to a competitive team.
2. A competitive team shall not recruit or solicit any registered player (recreational or competitive) while that player is under contract with another team.
3. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player, parent or advertisement may offer any kind of inducement to recruit a player to play on his respective team. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all of the above listed participants on their team. Forms of inducement include but are not limited to:

Free T-shirts, free uniforms, college scholarships, free or discounted travel costs and/or negative statements which could affect the decision of a player regarding choice of teams. This rule applies to verbal discussions, letters, brochures as well as radio and television advertisements. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending party being suspended from all soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year, except allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered. Complainant will file his complaint with the Youth Commissioner, who shall render a decision. Either party 50 may file an appeal of the Youth Commissioner's decision with the

NTSSA State Executive Committee according to the Bylaws of the NTSSA.

4. A competitive team is permitted to conduct tryouts and/or pick players. The BCSA office shall be notified, in writing, of said tryouts one (1) week before the actual tryout using the following format.

#### TRYOUT ADVERTISEMENT

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

1. Team name, age group and club affiliation.
2. Geographical area served by the team, if desired.
3. Season of tryout, dates, and times.
4. Location of tryout and directions, if necessary.
5. Coach's complete name and telephone number and/or the contact person's name and telephone number.
6. Notes regarding seasonal need for a release, if necessary.
7. What to bring, such as water, ball, etc.

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

#### G. START OF SEASONAL PLAY

It is understood that competitive teams will start their practices and games before the recreational season starts.

It is required that the competitive team must have turned in their team's roster and have it signed by BCSA's Registrar before team practicing or playing any games. (Exception to the rule; player tryouts).

#### H. ADDING PLAYERS DURING THE COMPETITIVE SEASON

A competitive team might need to add players to its roster as their season progresses.

1. The same rule for roster size of recreational teams also applies to competitive teams.
2. BCSA's Registration Committee will not assign a player to a competitive team.
3. A competitive team can add or "sign-up" an unregistered player.
4. A competitive team cannot pull a player from another team (recreational or competitive) during the other team's season of play. (Exception; guest player rule and Olympic Development Program).

#### I. DELETING/RELEASING/TRANSFERRING A PLAYER FROM A COMPETITIVE TEAM

1. A competitive (select) player is obligated to his competitive team for the soccer playing year for competitive players from the time he signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer playing year (August 1 of the prior soccer year through May 31 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 filed with the NTSSA office to be decided upon by the Competitive Soccer Committee which shall be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee. This shall be done between the dates of December 1 and January 31 for U11 through U14 and December 1 and March 15 for U15 through U19 only and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50 (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 and 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 1 and January 31 for U11 through U14 and December 1 through March 15 for U15 through U19, and may do so only with the written permission of the Member Association in which he is currently rostered. A competitive registration form must be completed prior to the players transfer to a competitive team.

2. A coach, deleting/releasing a player under contract, from his/her competitive team roster, for ANY reason, shall file a completed NTSSA Player Release Form with the BCSA soccer office when the player is "dropped".

3. Release: Means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.

Any player rostered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests a release or is released involuntarily. A player release shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for the request on the release.

A player may be released from a team involuntarily only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons.

- a. The player has violated rules of the US Soccer Federation, USYSA, NTSSA or BCSA.
- b. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by NTSSA.
- c. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

#### J. TRANSITION OF A RECREATIONAL TEAM TO COMPETITIVE

Because a recreational team is permitted to register with BCSA as competitive, it is extremely important that all members of that team be made aware of the intent of the team to register and play in the Competitive League.

1. All parents, players and BCSA's Competitive League Commissioner will be notified by the coach of the team's intentions to register competitive prior to BCSA's published date for the recreational coaches to pick up their packets.
2. If, in fact, the recreational team still has eight players who choose to stay recreational, then the team will be considered as staying intact within the Recreational League.

#### K. TRANSITION FROM COMPETITIVE TO RECREATIONAL.

WHEN A PLAYER NO LONGER WANTS TO PLAY IN THE COMPETITIVE LEAGUE AND WISHES TO RETURN TO THE RECREATIONAL LEAGUE, HE/SHE MAY BE PERMITTED TO DO SO PROVIDED THE PLAYER REGISTERS IN THE BCSA PLAYER POOL AND IS PLACED ON A TEAM BY THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

1. Competitive teams, as a whole, will not be permitted to keep the team membership intact and play as a recreational team.
2. Competitive players going back into recreational will be subject to the established rules that govern BCSA's Registration Committee.

#### L. COMPETITIVE TEAM MANAGEMENT.

It is permitted for competitive teams to have individualized team management structures. The intent is to help in sharing the additional workloads and commitments that are part of managing a competitive team. All team management members are to be governed by the rules and guidelines of BCSA

#### M. MANDATORY COACHES MEETING.

BCSA wants the competitive team coach to be fully aware of the additional new responsibilities, which he/she will have while coaching in the Competitive League.

1. BCSA's Competitive League Commissioner shall schedule and conduct a mandatory competitive coach's meeting (head and assistant coaches).
2. The mandatory coaches meeting, as called for by the President and/or Assignee of BCSA, is in addition to the competitive coaches meeting with the Competitive League Commissioner.

#### N. GAME SCHEDULING.

It is extremely important that all competitive teams, who expect to utilize BCSA's referees, assistant referees, soccer complex, etc., fully cooperate with BCSA and abide by the Rules.

1. Each competitive team is responsible for its own game scheduling.
2. All competitive teams wanting to host games and utilize any of BCSA's resources are to submit to the BCSA office a full seasons game schedule prior to BCSA's game scheduling for the Recreational League. Any revision to the team schedule must be submitted to the BCSA office.
3. For any games requested which are not listed on the season schedule, BCSA requires a one (1) week advance notice be given to the BCSA office and reserves the right to approve or disapprove use of BCSA resources.
4. BCSA will establish game fees, and will be paid in advance of the game played, by the team registered to BCSA.
5. All scheduled games are to have USSF licensed referees and assistant referees.
6. There cannot be any guaranteed commitment to game scheduling until the competitive team's schedule has been reviewed and approved by the BCSA office.

#### RULE 28 SOCCER ACADEMY

A. A "Soccer Academy" is a group of Under 9 and/or Under 10 (and in some instances U7 and/or U8) 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 must be on a recreational team.

B. All coaches, trainers, and administrators have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check performed through NTSSA.

C. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join our Soccer Academy, and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate in our Academy. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with our Academy. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of a player to commit a player to our Academy. Our Soccer Academy is charging a \$50.00 fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. This fee will cover field rental, two uniform tops, and any instructor expenses. Academy players are limited to one (1) Academy practice per week. Academy players may only play in one (1) Academy game per week, except tournaments. 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.

D. Our Academy will provide scrimmages (friendly games) each week after instruction if we have enough players. We will try to separate the players by gender and age for instruction and scrimmages. Scores and standings will not be kept. Under 7 and 8 players may participate in our Academy for one practice only per week and may not compete in any games (league or tournament).

E. Any Soccer Academy teams that may be formed 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.

F. Our Soccer Academy rosters will change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to participate and to make sure that our scrimmages (friendly matches) vary weekly.

G. The purposes of our Soccer Academy are to:

1. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming more accomplished an avenue to test and enhance their skills.
2. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
3. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, compete against and with more players in their own age group, and be exposed to different coaching methods and philosophies.

H. Recruiting is not allowed for our Soccer Academy. Our Soccer Academy will be used for training, not recruiting.

I. 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.

J. Players must be registered with BCSA to participate in the Academy. All coaches/managers/volunteers are required to provide NTSSA Risk Management applications with a copy of their current driver's license. A US Soccer Coach/Volunteer ID card will be issued by the registering NTSSA member association with a registration number on it. Player registration forms and Coach/Volunteer ID's are required for all training sessions and competitions

**RULE 29  
FUND RAISERS**

All teams shall participate in any BCSA general fundraiser.

**RULE 30  
COACHING STAFF**

No Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager may appear on more than two rosters in any age group and only once in a particular age group.

**RULE 31  
MISCELLANEOUS  
DEFINITIONS OF TERMS**

**ADVANCED TEAM**

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

**ADULT/AMATEUR**

All programs, events, state associations for the over 18 years old players under the auspices of USSF.

**AFFILIATION**

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

**AGE DIVISION/GROUP**

Method of registering players during a season under the NTSSA Rule 4.1.2. The divisions are set in two-year increments. Teams may be formed in a single age grouping. The maximum age within a team is determined by the birth date of the oldest player on the team as of July 31 of the prior seasonal year. See SEASONAL YEAR, TRANSFER.

**ASSISTANT COACH**

Assists the HEAD COACH, as requested, with the day to day function of the team; serves as the team representative and assumes the duty of the head coach in the absence of the HEAD COACH.

**CLUB**

An organization formed to help in the administration and development of players and teams; may consist of one or more teams playing in one or more leagues. A club may or may not be classified as a league. Clubs are governed by the same restrictions as leagues. See HOME LEAGUE.

**COACH**

See HEAD COACH or ASSISTANT COACH.

**COACHING PROGRAM**

See NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM.

**COMPETITIVE LEAGUE**

A league formed with teams participating in a higher-level league game program, usually comprised of ADVANCED TEAMS. Statistical records are kept on the teams involved. Teams are usually from a

designated geographical area in which there may be a HOME LEAGUE program. May be classified as a TRAVEL LEAGUE also.

#### DEVELOPMENT TEAM (Primary Team)

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

#### DISTRICTS

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

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

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

#### FREE AGENT

A free agent is a player in the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-19 age divisions who desires to try out or be selected for a competitive team between July 1 and August 31 of the present soccer year. A free agent does not need a release from his team to tryout or be selected to play on a competitive team.

#### GUEST PLAYER

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

#### HEAD COACH

Individual responsible for the instruction, training and coordination of the team. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Submitting completed registration packet, team rosters and associated paperwork required by BCSA/NTSSA.
- b. Schedules and conducts team practice.
- c. Serves as the key contact person on the sidelines during each game for the REFEREE.
- d. Determines player positions and substitutions during the game.
- e. Distributes game schedules to the members of the team.

#### HOME LEAGUE/CLUB

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

#### INTERMEDIATE TEAM

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

#### LEAGUE

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

#### LEAGUE SEASON

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

#### NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM

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

#### NATIONAL REFEREE PROGRAM

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

#### NATIONAL SELECT TEAM PROGRAM

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

#### NEW PLAYER

A person applying for playing membership through BCSA that was not on a BCSA team roster in the previous season OR a person applying for playing membership through BCSA that was on a BCSA team roster in the previous season (Spring only), is registering for the Fall season, and is not executing their returning rights.

PLAYER MOVEMENT - See TRANSFER

#### PLAYING LEAGUE

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

PRIMARY TEAM - See DEVELOPMENT TEAM

#### RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

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

REFEREE PROGRAM - See NATIONAL REFEREE PROGRAM

#### REGIONS

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

#### REGISTRATION

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

#### REGISTRATION FEE

Monetary fee, as determined by BCSA, for player registration. Portions go to NTSSA and BCSA for administrative, insurance, officiating and other expenses.

#### SEASONAL YEAR

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

#### SELECT TEAM

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

SENIOR - See AMATEUR

#### STATE ASSOCIATION

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

#### TEAM

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

#### TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

Someone acting on behalf of a team in any capacity.

#### TERRITORY

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

#### TRANSFER

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

#### TRAINER

An individual utilized by a competitive team to conduct practice(s) and training. A Trainer may receive monetary compensation for services rendered. Trainers may not be utilized in the RECREATION LEAGUE

#### TRAVEL LEAGUE

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

#### TRYOUTS

A structured process used to evaluate performance and skills of players in order to form a team(s). See ADVANCED TEAM, COMPETITIVE LEAGUE, SELECT TEAM.

#### UNITED STATES AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USASA)

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

#### UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF)

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

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

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

#### YOUTH

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

Some terms and definitions apply to the State level.

# APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A LIST OF REVISIONS

ITEM	LATEST REVISION DATE
Constitution	
Article I	08/24/92
Article II	08/24/92
Article III	08/24/92
Article IV	08/24/92
Article V	08/24/92
Article VI	04/12/04
Article VII	08/24/92
Article VIII	08/24/92
Article IX	08/24/92
Article VI	02/17/09
Article VII	02/17/09
Bylaws	
Article One	08/24/92
Article Two	04/01/02
Article Three	04/12/04
Article Four	04/19/93
Article Five	08/24/92
Article Six	08/24/92
Article Seven	08/24/92
Article Eight	04/01/02
Article Nine	08/24/92
Article Ten	08/24/92
Article Eleven	01/19/96
Article Twelve	08/24/92
Article Thirteen	04/01/02
Article Fourteen	08/24/00
Article Two	02/17/09
League Rules	
Rule 1	08/24/92
Rule 2	08/24/92
Rule 3	12/06/06
Rule 4	07/31/98
Rule 5	01/06/01
Rule 6	08/24/92
Rule 7	12/06/06
Rule 8	12/06/06
Rule 9	03/13/02
Rule 10	04/01/02
Rule 11	07/14/02
Rule 12	08/24/94
Rule 13	08/24/92
Rule 14	08/24/92

Rule 15

12/06/06

ITEM

LATEST REVISION DATE

Rule 16

08/24/92

Rule 17

08/24/92

Rule 18

03/13/02

Rule 19

08/24/92

Rule 20

07/01/99

Rule 21

08/24/92

Rule 22

08/24/92

Rule 23

08/24/92

Rule 24

12/06/06

Rule 25

08/24/92

Rule 26

08/14/02

Rule 27

04/06/98

Rule 28

12/06/06

Rule 29

12/06/06

Rule 30

12/06/06

Rule 31

12/06/06

Appendix

A

07/08/07