

Waxahachie Soccer Association



Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Revised June 2017

Waxahachie Soccer Association

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2016/2017 Officers and Directors

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CHAPTER 1
ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

- 1.1 The name of the association is WAXAHACHIE SOCCER ASSOCIATION.
- 1.2 WSA is a nonprofit which can file for 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service.
- 1.3 The period of its duration is perpetual.
- 1.4 The purposes for which the Waxahachie Soccer Association (hereinafter called “WSA” or “Association”) is organized are:

WSA has been organized to foster and advance the cause of soccer within Waxahachie and surrounding cities and to create and maintain a soccer program for the youth members of said communities in order to foster through organized competitive athletic activity the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage; to develop athletic skills and a sense of competitive fair play; and to serve its members as an affiliate of the North Texas Soccer Association and to recognize thereby the authority, rules and regulations of the North Texas Soccer Association as adapted from the rules of the United States Soccer Federation. WSA is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as a 501(c)3 organization, defined by the Internal Revenue Code.
- 1.5 Upon the dissolution of WSA, the Executive Officers shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of WSA, dispose of all the assets of WSA exclusively for the purposes of WSA 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 Rule or Regulation), as the Executive Officers shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court in which the principal office of WSA 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.
- 1.6 Membership requirements are to be determined by the Executive Officers. WSA shall provide open and equal opportunities to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, and employees who are not under suspension or other disciplinary action, to participate in amateur soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.
- 1.7 The address of WSA is PO Box 130, Waxahachie, TX 75168, and the registered agent shall be the President of WSA. The address and the registered agent may be changed from time to time by a majority vote of the Executive Officers.
- 1.8 The number of members constituting the Executive Committee of this Association is four (4) and the position of the members are as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

CHAPTER 2

BYLAWS OF THE WAXAHACHIE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2.1 MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

2.1.1 Membership in Association

This Association shall be comprised of adults and youths who have become members of the Association by application to and approval of the Board of Directors and who also adhere to the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association. All adult members must be willing to submit to a background check at the request of the Association.

2.1.2 Good Standing of Members

To be in good standing in WSA, a Member must meet all the following requirements:

1. All current dues, fees and assessments due this Association must be paid.
2. Each Member shall submit to WSA an application for membership (also known as a registration form). The form must be submitted on time and be accepted by WSA before becoming a member.
3. All Members will also be individual members of the United States Soccer Federation.
4. Members will, at all times, recognize the authority, rules, rulings, constitution and bylaws of WSA, which comply with the authority of the North Texas State Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation, and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member.
5. Failure to comply with one or more of the subsections in Section 2.1.2, will result in the Executive Committee determining the Member is not in good standing. Failure to be in good standing is further defined as meaning players and teams registered through WSA will not be allowed to participate in any tournament/event sponsored or sanctioned by WSA, nor will they be certified to play outside of the WSA in any games, tournaments or other competitions for which they might have been otherwise eligible. The Member may not vote on any matter at any meeting of WSA while it is not in good standing.

2.1.3 Board Member Membership

All Board Members (Executive Officers and Directors) will be considered members.

2.1.4 Player Membership

Any player may become a member of the Association upon submission to and approval by the Board of Directors of the Association of a properly executed Application/Release form, birth certificate and payment of all fees.

2.1.5 Associate Membership

Any adult resident of Waxahachie wishing to promote soccer, but who is not a member, can become a member by application & Board approval. Associate members cannot vote.

2.1.6 Coach Membership

Any adult who agrees to abide by the 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 a cause by the Association.

2.2 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

2.2.1 Voluntary Termination

Any member has the right to terminate their membership at any time. Board members must do so in writing.

2.2.2 Censure

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 Association's Board of Directors or through its consideration of a recommendation of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or he or she may be censured by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and/or by the Association's Board of Directors for a violation of the Association's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations or for conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

The Association will honor all orders of suspension of players, coaches or referees issued by this Association or any other association or United States Soccer Federation (hereinafter sometimes called "USSF") Division provided that organization provide WSA with all appropriate documentation.

2.3 LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP

An annual membership is established as being from August 1 through July 31 of the following calendar year.

2.4 OPEN MEETING VOTING RIGHTS

2.4.1 Board Members

All Board Members shall be entitled to one vote.

2.4.2 Teams

Each team, found to be in good standing as described above, is entitled to one vote which may be cast by the head coach or other adult representative provided they have received and shown written consent from the team's head coach. If written authorization cannot be obtained from the team's head coach, a majority vote will be taken by the Board of Directors to determine eligibility of present representative. The head coach or designated adult representative must be a member in good standing and must be either an Assistant Coach, Team Manager or parent/guardian of a player on the team. A team shall be in good standing and capable of voting provided they have competed in recreational play within the Association during the season immediately prior to the vote and are under no current sanctions.

2.4.3 Individuals

No individual may cast more than one vote.

2.5 GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION

2.5.1 Government of Association

This Association shall be governed by its members which shall consist of the Executive Officers of WSA and the recognized Board of Directors in good standing, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote. Proxies will be accepted for voting purposes only if they have been given written authorization from the Executive Officer or Member of the Board of Directors whom they are presenting. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote. Only the recognized delegates will have the right to speak at the meeting. Any Executive Officer or delegate may introduce anyone to speak provided he has the permission of the chair.

2.5.2 Appointment of Alternates (Proxies)

Should an alternate/proxy request to be seated, they shall submit a letter from the Officer/Director, stating their authority to represent their position as an alternate/proxy for that meeting. The alternate/proxy must be a member of the Association.

2.5.3 Affiliations

This Association shall be a direct member of, and comply with the Authority of, the Best Southwest Soccer Association, the North Texas State Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation and shall represent all its members and respective interests in and before the WSA. This Association shall maintain membership in the NTSSA.

2.5.4 Superseding Authority of WSA Rules

WSA recognizes the superseding authority and precedence of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Requirements of the NTSSA for those matters that are covered by the NTSSA and WSA and its Members will abide by those Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Requirements. WSA and its Members will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the NTSSA or WSA governing documents. WSA shall register all its players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators with NTSSA at least once each year and will timely pay all dues and fees of the NTSSA. WSA will

1. Provide annually to NTSSA copies of WSA's Bylaws, Rules and other governing documents
2. Submit changes to those documents to NTSSA for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption
3. Make those documents available to WSA members. WSA will allow NTSSA to review the documents and procedures of WSA at the request of NTSSA to determine compliance with NTSSA Bylaws and Rules.

2.5.5 Territory of WSA

The boundaries of the Association shall consist of the entire Waxahachie Independent School District and contiguous cities which do not have a recognized NTSSA soccer association.

2.5.6 Jurisdiction

This Association shall have jurisdiction over all administrators, coaches, assistant coaches, managers registered players and teams affiliated with it. If WSA is presented sufficient evidence that a Member is not adhering to its Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, WSA may form a committee to investigate the allegations and determine any punishments.

2.6 MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION

2.6.1 Notice of Meetings

Written, printed, or electronic notice stating the place, day, time and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called, shall be delivered not less than twenty-one (21) days before the meetings, either personally, by mail, by electronic version, or at the direction of the President, to each Member entitled to vote at the meeting unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Member at the address as it appears on the records of WSA, with

postage thereon prepaid. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent to the electronic mail address to the Member Association at the address as it appears on the records of WSA. If posted, such notice shall be delivered when the electronic posting is live.

2.6.2 Meetings of Association

1. Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of WSA shall be held each year during the period from May 1-July 31 and a Semi-Annual Meeting of WSA shall be held each year during the period from October 1-December 31 at such time and place as designated by the President. These meetings can be in conjunction with the End-of-Season Coaches Meetings.

2. Board of Director Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet for the transaction of business at least eight times per year. Public attendance may be requested with a minimum of 72 hours' notice. The President shall designate the time and place of this meeting with a minimum of ten days' notice. Electronic communication of such notice shall be considered notification as of the time sent or posted.

A simple majority (as defined in Roberts Rules of Order as "more than half") of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any Board of Director's Meeting, and a simple majority of the quorum, unless specified elsewhere in the bylaws, may transact business.

3. Open Meetings (General Membership Meetings)

There shall be four general membership meetings held annually, posted 72 hours in advance as scheduled by the President. Electronic communication of such notice shall be considered notification as of the time sent or posted. Additional membership meetings may be called by the President. Any member may request a General Membership Meeting for a specific purpose and the Board of Directors shall hold a Special Board Meeting to rule on whether such a meeting will be held.

4. Election Meeting

There shall be an annual Election Meeting which accompanies the general membership meeting immediately following the Outdoor Spring Recreational Season, known commonly as the "End-of-Season Coaches Meeting". This meeting may be in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

5. Special Board Meetings

A Special Board Meeting may be called to take emergency action on matters demanding immediate attention. Action may be taken at a special meeting by any three (3) Board Members (including the President) provided all board members were notified of the emergency meeting on or before the day prior to the meeting. Special Board Meetings can be open to the membership, but voting must be done during a closed session.

6. Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet to discuss matters as needed. These meetings can occur in conjunction with any of the above meetings.

7. Robert's Rules of Order

All meetings of the Association may be guided by Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise specified.

2.6.3 Quorum

1. Open, Annual, Semi-Annual and Election Meetings

Any twenty (20) voting members in good standing, at least fifteen (15) of whom must be non-board members, shall constitute a quorum at an open meeting. A simple majority of that (as defined by Robert's Rules of Order as "more than half") is needed to transact business.

2. Board of Director and Special Board Meetings

A simple majority (as defined by Robert's Rules of Order as "more than half") of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. A simple majority of that is needed to transact business.

3. No Quorum Reached

a. In the event that a quorum is not reached, a second meeting may be called with fourteen (14) days' notice. One-half of a simple majority (as defined by Robert's Rules of Order as "more than half") of the membership will constitute a quorum, a simple majority of it is needed to transact business.

b. In the event that a quorum is not reached at the second meeting, a third meeting may be called with fourteen (14) days' notice. A quorum will not be needed for the third meeting. A simple majority (as defined by Robert's Rules of Order as "more than half") is needed to transact business.

2.7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2.7.1 Executive Committee

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by its Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Executive Officers of this Association (the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary), each of whom shall be entitled to one vote in accordance with Rule 2.4. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of WSA and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, Bylaws and Rules of the NTSSA, the Best Southwest Soccer Association and the National Associations of which WSA is a member, along with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. It also shall hear appeals of decisions made by the standing committees of the WSA. The President may from time to time designate individuals other than those elected to the Executive Committee to serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. Ex-officio members shall have the right to attend all meetings and participate in all discussions of the Executive Committee but shall have no voting rights therein. The term of office for ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the President.

2.7.2 Meetings

The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the discretion of the President at a time and place appointed by him.

2.7.3 Removal

Any member of the Executive Committee shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. Any three (3) Members of the Board of Directors, simultaneously may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee that, in turn, will review the petition and forward copies of same to all Members within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a unanimous vote of all remaining Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Committee whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Board of Directors so vote.

1. If an officer receives this vote of No Confidence, he is automatically suspended from the board until the next open meeting. The matter must be submitted in writing to the membership and the members must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote for the removal to be effective.

2.7.4 Grievance Against WSA Executive Committee Members for Unethical Misconduct

A member in good standing of WSA may, if he believes he has just cause, bring a grievance against an Executive Committee Member of WSA. The following procedure must be followed before WSA will recognize or act on any grievance brought against any member of the WSA Executive Committee.

1. The individual bringing the grievance must submit in writing and bring necessary documentation to support the grievance to the Administrative Assistant or Secretary who will then forward to the President (or Vice-President). The President will then verify in writing that the individual filing the grievance is a member in good standing. If the grievance is against the President, the Vice-President will stand in for the President.
2. The President (or Vice-President) will review the grievance with the members of his board of directors, and if approved by a two-third (2/3) majority vote by the board, the grievance may then be submitted to WSA members for consideration.
3. The grievance must be fully documented and accompanied by a check in the amount of \$100 made payable to WSA. The fee is to be used to cover the cost of the investigation, typing, office work, etc., and is not refundable.
4. A hearing will be called where both parties may present their case to a special committee which will have seven (7) members, no more than three (3) of which may be members of the Board of Directors. All must be a member in good standing. The committee members will be chosen by the A&D Chairperson who will preside the hearing. If the committee determines that the Executive Committee Member is guilty of unethical misconduct (by a two-thirds majority vote), the special committee may impose punishment including the removal of the Executive Committee Member from the Executive Committee until the next open membership meeting where a vote may be taken for permanent removal from the Executive Committee. If the grievance is against the Vice-President, the President will preside as the A&D Chairperson.
5. The Board of Directors may take a vote and unanimously determine that a member of the Executive Committee be removed immediately until the next open membership meeting where a vote may be taken for permanent removal from the Executive Committee.

2.7.5 Attendance at Meetings

An Executive Committee member not attending three (3) consecutive meetings, including regular meetings, of this Association or Executive Committee meetings, will have this office declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the Executive Committee. His office shall then be filled in accordance with Rule 2.5.6.

2.7.6 Vacancies

In the event any office of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy until the next Annual or Semi-Annual meeting, at which time a special election shall be held and an officer is elected to fill the vacancy.

2.7.7 Compensation

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

2.7.8 Minutes

The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The approved minutes, including reports from Officers, Directors, Commissioners and Committees, shall be placed in the minute book of WSA and a copy shall be made available to any member who requests it. Names may be redacted for confidentiality purposes.

2.7.9 Conflict of Interest

A member of the Executive Committee can be a member or official of a team. In the event of any grievance involving such team, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the issue.

2.7.10 Veto of Executive Committee Action

The Members may veto any Executive Committee action by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present and voting at the open meeting following the action.

2.7.11 Appointment of Committees

The Executive Committee will appoint all members of any committee deemed necessary by WSA.

2.8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMISSIONERS AND DIRECTORS

2.8.1 Board of Directors

The business and affairs of the Association shall be secondarily managed by its Board of Directors, which shall consist of the Commissioners and Directors of this Association, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote in General Membership Meetings in accordance with Rule 2.4. The Board of Directors shall transact all business of WSA and shall have the secondary power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Bylaws and Rules of the NTSSA, the Best Southwest Soccer Association and the National Associations of which WSA is a member, along with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. The President may from time to time designate individuals other than those appointed to the Board of Directors to serve as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. Ex-officio members shall have the right to attend all meetings and participate in all discussions of the Board of Directors but shall have no voting rights therein. The term of office for ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the President.

2.8.2 Meetings

The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the discretion of the President at a time and place appointed by him.

2.8.3 Removal

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. Any three (3) Members of the Board of Directors, simultaneously may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee that, in turn, will review the petition and forward copies of same to all Members within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a unanimous vote of all Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee may call for a vote of no confidence on a member of the Board of Directors whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Board of Directors so vote.

1. If an officer receives this vote of No Confidence, he is automatically suspended from the board until the next open meeting. The matter must be submitted in writing to the membership and the members must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote for the removal to be effective.

2.8.4 Grievance Against WSA Board of Directors for Unethical Misconduct

A member in good standing of WSA may, if he believes he has just cause, bring a grievance against a Board of Directors Member of WSA. The following procedure must be followed before WSA will recognize or act on any grievance brought against any member of the WSA Board of Directors.

1. The individual bringing the grievance must submit in writing and bring necessary documentation to support the grievance to the Administrative Assistant or Secretary who will then forward to the President. The President will then verify in writing that the individual filing the grievance is a member in good standing.
2. The President will review the grievance with the members of his Executive Committee, and if approved by a two-third (2/3) majority vote by the Committee, the grievance may then be submitted to WSA members for consideration.
3. The grievance must be fully documented and accompanied by a check in the amount of \$100 made payable to WSA. The fee is to be used to cover the cost of the investigation, typing, office work, etc., and is not refundable.
4. A hearing will be called where both parties may present their case to a special committee which will have seven (7) members, no more than two (2) of which may be members of the Executive Committee. All must be a member in good standing. The committee members will be chosen by the A&D Chairperson who will preside the hearing. If the committee determines that the Board of Directors Member is guilty of unethical misconduct (by a two-thirds majority vote), the special committee may impose punishment including the removal of the Board of Directors Member from the Board of Directors until the next open membership meeting where a vote may be taken for permanent removal from the Board of Directors.
5. The Executive Committee may take a vote and unanimously determine that a member of the Board of Directors be removed immediately until the next open membership meeting where a vote may be taken for permanent removal from the Board of Directors.

2.8.5 Attendance at Meetings

A member of the Board of Directors not attending three (3) consecutive meetings will have this office declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the Executive Committee. His office shall then be filled in accordance with Rule 2.6.6. Meetings include, but are not limited to, those listed in Rule 2.4.

2.8.6 Vacancies

In the event any office of the Board of Directors becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy until the next Annual or Semi-Annual meeting, at which time a permanent appointment will take place.

2.8.7 Compensation

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

2.8.8 Minutes

The Board of Directors shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The approved minutes, including reports from Officers, Directors, Commissioners and Committees, shall be placed in the minute book of WSA and a copy shall be made available to any member who requests it. Names may be redacted for confidentiality purposes.

2.8.9 Conflict of Interest

A Member of the Board of Directors can be a member or official of a team. In the event of any grievance involving such team, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the issue.

2.8.10 Veto of Board of Directors Action

The Members of the Executive Committee may veto any Board of Directors action by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee Members present and voting at the meeting following the action.

2.9 OFFICERS, CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

Powers and Duties (Reference to the male gender within the WSA Bylaws with respect to Officers, Employees, Agents, Coaches, Administrators or Players is for simplification and refers to both males and females.)

2.9.1 Executive Officers

1. The Executive Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may succeed themselves in office. Any Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office, must first resign the Office he is holding 30 days prior to the election. Any Member who qualifies under Rule 2.7 may volunteer to be elected as an Executive Officer. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting with one-half of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

President	Elected in Even Years
Vice President	Elected in Odd Years
Treasurer	Elected in Odd Years
Secretary	Elected in Even Years

2. All officers shall be elected by the general membership.
3. With the exception of the President, all Executive Officers of this Association shall report the functions of their office at each regular meeting of WSA.

- a. President

1. Qualifications

A candidate must have previously served at least one (1) full term as an Executive Officer or a candidate must be appointed by a majority of the Executive Committee. Must be a member in good standing with the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the President include, but are not limited to the following: He shall preside at all Association meetings. He shall appoint all Commissioners. He will serve as an ex-officio member of any committee of WSA. He may vote only when the vote is by ballot, or in all other cases, to affect the results of the vote. He shall submit an annual report in writing at the Annual Meeting and said report shall become a part of the minutes of such meeting. He shall be the liaison between the Executive Committee and the General Membership. He shall be responsible for seeing that an adequate staff is maintained and that administrative policies and operations of WSA are carried out. In the event of the death, permanent incapacity (unable to perform the major duties of his office for a continuous period exceeding three months), or resignation of the President, the Executive Committee shall appoint an individual to serve as President for the remaining unexpired term of office. Will be added to the WSA bank account and therefore be willing to submit for a credit check and must pass. Must complete a background check through WSA annually. Will be a member of the Best Southwest Soccer Association President's Committee and will be in attendance at all meetings.

- b. Vice President - Appeals and Disciplinary

1. Qualifications

A candidate must have previously served at least one (1) full term as an Association Board Member or a candidate must be appointed by a majority of the Executive Committee. Must be a member in good standing with the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Vice-President include, but are not limited to the following: The Vice President/Appeals and Disciplinary shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of the President if the President is absent or temporarily incapacitated. He shall be the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee. Can be added to the WSA bank account and therefore be willing to submit for a credit check and must pass. Must complete a background check through WSA annually.

- c. Treasurer

1. Qualifications

A working knowledge of basic computer/financial programs and electronic mail. Candidate must have a working knowledge of any financial programs that the Association may use. Candidate must be a member in good standing with the Association and willing to undergo a credit check at the request of the Association. Must have been a member in good standing with the Association for at least (1) full season.

2. Duties

The duties of the Treasurer include, but are not limited to the following: The Treasurer shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of President if the President, Vice President/Appeals and Disciplinary are absent or temporarily incapacitated. He shall serve as the financial officer of WSA and shall be responsible for coordinating budget preparation, complete financial reconciliation and reporting in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to each scheduled membership meeting, a balance sheet and income statement. The reporting will be itemized by category and listed in the manner approved by WSA. He shall chair the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee. He

shall review and initial all contracts that extend over a period of more than 60 days, or that are contracts for goods or services that are not budgeted and exceed a value of \$500. Must be added to the WSA bank account and therefore be willing to submit for a credit check and must pass. Must complete a background check through WSA annually.

d. Secretary

1. Qualifications

A working knowledge of basic computer programs and electronic mail. Candidate must be a member in good standing with the Association. Must have been a member in good standing with the Association for at least (1) full season.

2. Duties

The duties of the Secretary include, but are not limited to the following: The secretary shall keep minutes of all Board of Directors meetings and membership meetings. The Board of Directors will approve their minutes and the members will approve membership meetings minutes. Will keep all approved minutes in a book and have this book available for review by all Board of Directors and Association members. Shall be responsible for the public relations for the association. Must complete a background check through WSA annually.

2.9.2 Board Members

1. The Board Members shall be appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year and may succeed themselves in office. Any Board Member that desires to seek appointment to another office, must first resign the office he is holding 30 days prior to the appointment.
2. The Board Members will make up the Board of Directors. The following offices are open for appointment on a yearly basis. Additional offices may be created as needed and will follow the same rules as all Board Members.

Under 4 Commissioner	Appointed Yearly
Under 6 Commissioner	Appointed Yearly
Under 8 Commissioner	Appointed Yearly
Under 10 Commissioner	Appointed Yearly
Under 19 Commissioner	Appointed Yearly
Director of Coach and Player Development	Appointed Yearly

3. The President may appoint any Member who is in good standing to any of the Board Member positions provided they have been a Member in good standing for at least one (1) full season.
4. All Board Members of this Association shall report the functions of their office at each regular meeting of WSA.

a. Commissioners (all ages)

1. Qualifications

A working knowledge of basic computer programs and electronic mail. Candidate must be a member in good standing with the Association. Must have been a member in good standing with the Association for at least (1) full season.

2. Duties

The duties of the Commissioners include, but are not limited to the following: Age level Commissioners will be responsible for recruiting coaches for their respective age divisions. They will also work with all coaches in their age level to aid in understanding the Rules of this Association as well as assist when needed for things such as uniform ordering and day-to-day tasks. Any issues with any team in their age level is to be reported to the Youth Commissioner or the Administrative Assistant/Secretary. Each Commissioner will be the liaison for coaches, parents, players and spectators within their age level to WSA. Each Commissioner is to observe at least one practice for all new coaches to WSA before the first week of games for WSA. Each Commissioner will also observe at least one game for each new coach before the third week of games for WSA. Any issues with practices or games should be reported to the Director of Coach and Player Development. Must complete a background check through WSA annually.

b. Director of Coach and Player Development

1. Qualifications

A working knowledge of basic computer programs and electronic mail. Candidate must be a member in good standing with the Association. Must hold a minimum of a USSF D license or equivalent. Must have been a member in good standing with the Association for at least (1) full season.

2. Duties

The duties of the Director of Coach and Player Development include, but are not limited to the following: Shall be responsible for overall program development for coaches and players and will be responsible for setting up and administering all necessary player development programs and coaching clinics. Will also aid coaches during practices/games when called upon to do so by their age level Commissioner.

2.9.3 Contract Employees

1. Contract Employees will be contracted annually (except for Referees who will be contracted semi-annually) and must complete a contract and submit a W9 before employment can begin. Contract Employees must be approved by the Executive Committee.
2. The following Contract Employees will be employed by WSA. Other Contract Employees may be added as needed and will follow the same rules as those listed below.

Referees	As Many as Needed	Contracted Semi-Annually
Registrar	1	Contracted Annually
Referee Assignor	1	Contracted Annually
Administrative Assistant	1	Contracted Annually
Tournament Director	1	Contracted Annually

3. Nothing in these rules will forbid a Contract Employee from subcontracting for assistance in their duties provided that the Contract Employee first gains approval from the Executive Committee. The Contract Employee will be responsible for compensating their assistant(s).
4. Advertisement for contract employment must be presented to the general public at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Meeting (and Semi-Annual Meeting for Referees) and a list of qualified candidates must be submitted to the Executive Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting (and Semi-Annual Meeting for Referees).

a. Vacancies

1. In the case of vacancies during the contract of a Contracted Employee, the Executive Board will appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of contract.

b. Compensation

1. All matters of compensation for Contract Employees will be per the terms of their contract.

c. Referees

1. Qualifications

Will be as listed in the employment ad to meet the current needs of the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Referees include, but are not limited to the following: All Referees must be in compliance with USSF Rules, all referees serving WSA 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. Referees will officiate the matches scheduled for WSA teams in accordance with the Rules of the Game of WSA.

d. Registrar

1. Qualifications

Will be as listed in the employment ad to meet the current needs of the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Registrar include, but are not limited to the following: The Registrar shall report directly to the President and shall perform such duties as may be incident to their office or specifically delegated to them by the Executive Committee. The Registrar of the Association shall be responsible for the registration and eligibility of all players and teams within the jurisdiction of the Association. In addition, they will be responsible for implementing valid Identification Cards for the Association along with

any other duties as outlined in their employment contract. Must complete a background check annually.

e. Referee Assignor

1. Qualifications

Will be as listed in the employment ad to meet the current needs of the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Referee Assignor include, but are not limited to the following: In accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the NTSSA State Referee Committee all referee assignors must have satisfactorily completed the approved assignor clinic and be registered with USSF and NTSSA. The Referee Assignor shall organize the programs for instruction, registration and administration of all USSF referees within the Association in compliance with the programs and policies of WSA, NTSSA and USSF National Referee Committee. Shall have the power to remove referees from being eligible to officiate and set the levels in which they can officiate within the Association. Actions requiring the removal of eligibility shall be reported to the Executive Committee within three (3) days. Will be responsible for scheduling referees for league play and that the assigned referee or a qualified replacement, officiates the game along with any other duties as outlined in their employment contract. Must complete a background check annually.

f. Administrative Assistant

1. Qualifications

Will be as listed in the employment ad to meet the current needs of the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Administrative Assistant include, but are not limited to the following: The administrative assistant will be responsible for answering the WSA phone and responding to and forwarding emails as needed. The administrative assistant will be required to work a minimum of 20 hours per week on average throughout the length of their contract along with any other duties included in their employment contract. Must complete a background check annually.

g. Tournament Director

1. Qualifications

Will be as listed in the employment ad to meet the current needs of the Association.

2. Duties

The duties of the Tournament Director include, but are not limited to the following: The Tournament Director will be responsible for successfully completing the administration of any WSA tournaments and ensuring that they stay within budget and if the tournament is being used as a fundraiser, ensuring that funds are raised. The Tournament Director will be responsible for hiring any staff and soliciting any volunteers needed to successfully complete the tournament(s) along with any other duties outlined in their employment contract. Must complete a background check annually.

2.9.4 Voting Rights

All Executive Officers and Board Members will be entitled to one (1) vote for all meetings except meetings of the Executive Committee where only Executive Officers may vote. The President will only vote if there is a tie during all meetings. Only one (1) vote per Member may be cast per item, per meeting. Contract Employees will not be permitted to vote unless they are a Member under Rule 2.1 and then, they will only be allowed to vote during votes of the General Membership or while serving on a Committee.

2.9.5 Equal Opportunity

WSA shall provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in both adult (if available) and youth soccer competitions. Individuals serving on the Executive Committee or any committee of WSA shall be selected without regard to the individual's race, color, religion, national origin, or sex from an equal opportunity perspective. WSA will also be an equal opportunity employer for all Contract Employees.

2.10 COMMITTEES

2.10.1 Committee Appointment and Terms

The following committees may be appointed if necessary. All committee members will be appointed by the Executive Committee and must be a member in good standing with no conflicts of interest. The committee will be disbanded at the completion of the committee's appointment.

1. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee

It shall be comprised of the A&D Chairman who is also the Vice President of WSA and five (5) members appointed by the Executive Committee. However, a limit of three members of the committee from the Board of Directors or Executive Committee combined is permitted. Five (5) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments.

a. The Chairman shall notify the Board of Directors immediately, in writing, of the rulings of this Committee.

b. The Committee will be disbanded once a ruling has been made.

2. Tournament Committee

It shall be comprised of the Chairman who is also the Tournament Director and three (3) members appointed by the Executive Committee. The Chairman shall call all meetings of this Committee and in matters requiring a vote shall cast his vote after the other members and only in the event of a tie. Three (3) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments. This Committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all tournament play sponsored by and under this Association. When such tournament play is conducted for the WSA, such rules and regulations are not to be superseded by those of the Cup and Games Committee of NTSSA. The Committee is responsible for sanctioning all local tournaments. Any decision on placement or rules made by the Tournament Committee may be appealed by the concerned Members to the Committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the formal announcement, but at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the tournament. Their decision may be appealed to WSA's Executive Committee within twenty-four (24) hours. This committee is responsible for hiring the Referee Assignor and submitting an approved budget to the Board of Director's at least 72 hours before any fees or purchases are made. The Board of Director's has fourteen (14) days to approve the budget.

3. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee chairperson shall be the Treasurer and at least two (2) additional members, who are not current WSA Executive Committee members and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Audit Committee shall audit the finance records of WSA to ensure accuracy. It is recommended that an Audit Committee be appointed to review the financial records of WSA at the end of each term for the Treasurer. Two (2) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments.

4. Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee

It shall be composed of WSA's Vice President/Appeals & Discipline as Chairman and at least two (2) additional members of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. It shall be responsible for annually reviewing WSA's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and proposing changes, as required, to such Bylaws and Rules at an Executive Committee meeting preceding the Annual or Semi-Annual meeting of this Association. Any proposed changes to Bylaws and Rules will be voted on by the members at the Annual or Semi-Annual Meeting each year. The Committee shall maintain a list of rules and regulations enacted by the WSA, The Best Southwest Soccer Association, the NTSSA and its National Associations of which WSA is a member. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to make certain the Bylaws and Rules of all above affiliations do not conflict with the Bylaws and Rules of WSA and to point out to

this Associations Executive Committee where such conflicts exist in order that any problems may be solved in the most expeditious manner possible. Two (2) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments.

5. Referee Committee

It shall consist of the Chairman whom is also the Referee Assignor and at least two other members (all of whom serve on the Board of Directors or Executive Committee). All members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Any two (2) members of the Referee Committee, including the Chairman, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of this Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review any rule changes presented by WSA, BSW, NTSSA or USSF and ensure that all material presented to WSA referees reflects these changes. The committee will also review all referees who have submitted applications for contract employment to finalize the list of available referees for the season. Two (2) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments.

6. Nominating Committee

It shall consist of the Chairman and at least two other members. The Chairman must be a member of the Executive Committee. Two (2) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments.

7. Dispute Resolution Committee

Disagreements between WSA and the Tournament Director which cannot be resolved will be sent to a Dispute Resolution Committee comprised of seven individuals which no more than 3 individuals can be a member of the WSA board, the remaining individuals will be members in good standing with WSA. The Tournament Director may choose two WSA members to serve on this committee. The Chairperson of this committee will be the WSA Vice President. The Tournament Director and one designated WSA board member (usually the President) will submit their cases to the committee. After which, the committee will hold a closed session to decide the outcome. The committee's decision is final.

2.10.2 Simple Majority

A simple majority (as defined by Robert's Rules of Order as "more than half") of the quorum present is needed to transact business.

2.11 NOTICE

2.11.1 Manner of Giving Notice

Whenever, under the provisions of the statutes, the Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any member of WSA, and if no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall now be construed to mean personal notice, given in writing, either by mail, electronic posting or electronic mail, postage paid, addressed to such Association member at the address appearing on the records of WSA. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at the time when the same is deposited in the United States mail. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent to the electronic mail address of the Member at the email address as it appears on the records of WSA. If electronically posted, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the posting is live.

2.11.2 Waiver of Notice

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

2.12 GAME PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

2.12.1 Protests

1. There shall be no protests in Under-4, Under-6, & Under-8 league play.
2. All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to the Association within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, accompanied by a \$50 fee paid by cash or cashier's check.
3. \$50 fee shall be returned if protest is upheld.
4. The A&D Chairperson shall review the protest to determine the situation and the validity of the protest. A game may be protested only if:
 - a. 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.** (Note: The Laws of the Game are the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by NTSSA/Best Southwest/The Association).
 - b. A team has played an ineligible or suspended player.
 - c. A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team: and/or
 - d. There has been a violation of the minimum playing requirements for any player, as outlined in the Association Playing Rules.
5. The Association A&D Committee shall receive protests and grievances through its Chairperson and shall meet to consider them within seven (7) days of their receipt. All involved parties, coaches, and players shall be notified of the hearing and shall be requested to be present. Failure to attend after being requested to do so may cause default of the protest or require other action to be taken.
6. The Association A&D Committee shall not assume that a game result should be changed strictly based on a protest being valid because a Law of the Game has been broken or for any other valid reason. Game protests should be upheld based on the merits of the protest and the entire circumstances or was not affected by the events referred to in the protest of the game.

2.12.2 Grievances

These shall be handled in the same manner as protests with the Association Office or Age Level Commissioner accepting the grievance. An initial fee is not required. Grievances will then be forwarded to the appropriate committee, which shall determine whether a formal hearing should be called, and if a fee is required.

*Definition of Grievances: A wrong, real or fancied, considered as grounds for complaint against an unjust act.

2.13 RECOURSE TO COMMISSIONER'S DECISIONS

2.13.1 Since the Age Level Commissioner is empowered with some approval and veto authority related to players' assignments; the individual coach or manager should be left with some recourse or appeal to these decisions. For cases not reconciled at the Age Level Commissioner's level the Coach or Manager may address the matter, IN WRITING, to the Association Youth Commissioner and then Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

2.14 RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL

2.14.1 Procedure for Filing Appeals

WSA will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. The procedure for filing appeals with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be as follows:

1. All appeals to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee must be submitted in writing and received within five (5) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$100 (cash or cashier's check). If the appeal is upheld by the Committee, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of this Association.
2. This Committee may, at its discretion, when requested in writing to do so, waive the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.
3. All appeals to this Committee must be made in writing to the Administrative Assistant or Secretary who will then notify the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairperson. In cases of controversy as to timely receipt of appeals, the postmark date (postage meter not acceptable) will govern.
4. Upon receipt of appeal, properly submitted, the Chairman of this Committee shall set a time and place for the hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Committee, but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal at the hearing.
5. Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will be heard by the Executive Committee.

6. Decisions of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the Best Southwest Soccer Association Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
7. All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.
8. In no event shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of WSA invoke the aid of the Courts in the United States, without first exhausting all available remedies and appeals within the appropriate soccer organizations including an appeal to NTSSA and a final appeal to the Appeals Committee of the USSF. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines, and shall be liable to WSA for all expenses incurred by the WSA and its officers and employees and its members in defending each court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney's fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by WSA officers, employees and members in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.

2.14.2 Protests and Grievances Against Referees

These must be filed with the Age Level Commissioner who will forward the submission to the Administrative Assistant/Secretary and the Referee Assignor. It is the responsibility of the Referee Assignor to determine the validity of such actions and to handle this within the Association. After complete investigation, the Referee Assignor will make a written report to the Association A&D Chairperson with findings and recommendations.

1. A coach shall have the right to request that a specified referee not call games for his/her team.
2. The following actions may be recommended by the Referee Assignor:
 - a. Request that an Executive Committee Member or a Board of Directors member assist the Age Level Commissioner in observing a game called by that referee in which the complaining coach is coaching.
 - b. Remove that Referee from any games in which that team plays and no longer schedule that Referee to officiate games with that team.
 - c. Submit the Referee to NTSSA for further review.
3. The A&D Chairperson must approve any actions taken by the Referee Assignor regarding protests and grievances against referees.

2.14.3 Rules of Play

Except as otherwise specified herein, Rules of Play of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which WSA is a member, will apply in all competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSA and its affiliated members. However, the Executive Committee shall have the right to approve special Rules-of-the-Game for games not involving the Best Southwest Soccer Association and for all tournaments.

2.15 MISCELLANEOUS

2.15.1 Conduct of Association as Nonprofit Corporation

This Association shall conduct its business in a manner conforming to the purposes as set forth in section 1.4 of its Bylaws, being careful to comply with all rules and regulations as set forth under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code so as to maintain its status as a nonprofit corporation.

2.15.2 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of WSA shall be from June 1 to May 31

2.15.3 Books and Records

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be made available to any requesting member in good standing.

2.15.4 Resignation

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

2.15.5 Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any meeting of WSA at which a quorum is present by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present membership; provided, however, that all members have been given twenty-one (21) days written notice or electronic notice, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.

2.15.6 Who May Propose Bylaw Changes and Amendments

Any proposal to amend the Bylaws or add new Bylaws may be made only by Executive Officers or by the consensus of a properly constituted committee. Any member may request a change in the Bylaws to the Executive Committee and request to be placed onto the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed changes must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time required.

2.15.7 Lawsuits Against WSA

Any person who files a lawsuit or invokes the aid of the courts on their own behalf or as the representative for another person against WSA, or its officers, employees, or members or representatives of any of its officers, employees, or members, shall be subject to the sanction of immediate suspension from membership and from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of WSA and its affiliates including NTSSA. WSA may also elect to subject a person who threatens to file a lawsuit or who threatens to invoke the aid of the courts to the same sanctions of suspension.

2.15.8 Philosophical Statement

WSA adopts a philosophy and policies which meet or exceed the minimum criteria established by USSF that prohibits physical or sexual abuse of or by players, coaches, referees, administrators and spectators, and will take steps necessary to remove from further soccer activities any person found guilty of such.

2.15.9 Indemnification

WSA shall indemnify each of its present or former directors, officers, employees, or official representatives or any person who is or was serving in any capacity at the request of WSA against all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person (including, but not limited to, judgments, costs, and counsel fees) in connection with the defense of any pending or threatened litigation to which that person is, or is threatened to be made, partly because that person is or was serving in such a capacity. This right of indemnification may also apply to expenses of litigation, which is compromised or settled, including amounts paid in settlement, if WSA approves such settlement. Such an individual shall be indemnified if the individual acted in good faith and in a manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of WSA. The termination of any litigation by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the individual did not act in good faith or in the manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of WSA. Any amount payable as indemnification under this bylaw may be paid by WSA upon a determination by the Executive Committee, not including those members who have incurred expenses in connection with the litigation for which indemnification is sought, that the individual in question need the standard set forth in this bylaw. If no disinterested Executive Committee members are available, the required determination shall be made by a majority vote of the members of WSA. The Executive Committee may authorize the purchase of insurance on behalf of any persons potentially identifiable under this bylaw.

CHAPTER 3
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WAXAHACHIE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

General Rules and Regulations of the Waxahachie Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “WSA”):

1. The seasonal year of this Association shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31 of the following calendar year.
2. The playing seasons of this Association shall be:
 - a. Fall: August 1 thru no later than December 31
 - b. Spring: January 1 thru no later than July 31

3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS

3.1.1 Registered Players and Punishment for Unregistered Players

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association or its affiliated members. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have knowingly allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) may be assessed a penalty ranging from probation to a suspension for one (1) year or more, this penalty may be from all soccer activities. The team may be required to forfeit all games in which the unregistered player(s) participated or is believed to have participated in.

3.1.2 Registered Teams

No team shall play in a league game without first having turned in the Association fee, player’s registration, risk management for all adults (coaches/team managers) and any other pertinent information at least 48 hours prior to the first league game. No player may be added after the third game of the season without approval of the President.

3.1.3 Guest Players

1. League Play
Guests players will not be allowed for league play.
2. Tournaments
Per NTSSA, up to five (5) guests players will be allowed for tournaments provided that the rules of that specific tournament allow for guest players.

3.2 UNREGISTERED/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

3.2.1 Punishment

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 and disciplinary or insurance protection while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play. Such players and teams must certify in writing to the appropriate WSA 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 WSA team in outdoor/indoor leagues, tournaments, and games not sanctioned by WSA or another NTSSA affiliate. This shall not be construed to prevent any individual player from participating with school or church teams, or neighborhood unsupervised games.

3.2.2 Special Circumstances

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.

3.3 FRIENDLY GAMES

3.3.1 Definition

Friendly games shall be defined as games which:

1. Are not associated with any other games either played or to be played, and they do not lead to any championship;
2. Do not lead to any trophy or award;
3. Do not require a fee to be paid by any player to sponsor;
4. Are organized in a spontaneous fashion, and
5. Do not include any guest players within WSA boundaries for WSA registered recreational teams.

3.4 SUSPENSIONS

3.4.1 Definition

The WSA shall honor any and all orders of suspension of players, coaches and referees issued by NTSSA or its affiliates, if the suspension indicates “suspended from all NTSSA activities” and due process has been followed. A

team which knowingly uses individuals under suspension shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated.

3.5 REFEREES

3.5.1 Registration

In compliance with USSF Rules, all referees serving WSA 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.

3.5.2 Un-Registered Referees

The use of unregistered referees is approved only in emergency situations and only to serve as the assistant referee in U9 and older or as the referee in U8 and younger; then, the captain or coaches of two competing teams may decide on someone agreeable to both 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. If necessary to free registered referees for higher level competition, WSA may require coaches or adults of the Under 4, Under 6, and Under 8 teams to each officiate one-half of their own games. In these circumstances, the decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he were a registered referee.

3.5.5 Referee Assignor

In accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the NTSSA State Referee Committee all referee assignors must have satisfactorily completed the approved assignor clinic and be registered with USSF and NTSSA.

3.6 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

3.6.1 Scope

1. Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must in the manner prescribed by current NTSSA procedures, annually provide the necessary information required by NTSSA so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, Adult Volunteers agree and consent to having Criminal Background Checks performed as deemed necessary by WSA.
2. For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

3.6.2 Procedures

1. Volunteers identified in 3.6.1 will visit the WSA website and register with GotSoccer and annually input or update their Volunteer Online Registration and Background Check.
2. A background check response from the Texas Department of Public Safety or other agency/vendor that is deemed unacceptable by the NTSSA Risk Management Committee will cause a written notice to be sent to the individual stating that the individual is not eligible to participate.
3. Should any individual who has received a negative response wish to appeal the finding, an appeal may be filed with the NTSSA Risk Management Committee according to the NTSSA Procedure for Filing Appeals.
4. When the Risk Management Committee has heard an appeal and rules an individual ineligible, or when the appeal time has elapsed, a letter of notification will be sent to WSA notifying them of the individual's suspension, but not the cause of the suspension.
5. All responses shall be kept in strict confidence by NTSSA.

3.7 PLAYING AGE

3.7.1 Definition

Except where prohibited by NTSSA rules, youth players may participate in older divisions but may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the NTSSA State Executive Committee. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player participated. Also, the coach, assistant coach and/or manager of the offending team may be suspended for a period of not less than one year.

3.8 YOUTH CONTRACTS AND RELEASES

3.8.1 Definition

No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative may practice any soccer related activity with any WSA registered player who does not appear on his current WSA roster except for a coach, who at the request of another

teams' coach, substitutes for that coach at practice or games for the convenience of the requesting coach. A player may practice with another team if he has received a written permission letter or release signed by his current coach that sets out the dates and the team with which the player will practice. The player is to give the letter to the coach of the team with which he is practicing, and he must keep a copy for himself.

NOTE: The above does not include indoor soccer.

3.8.2 Exceptions

1. Camps/Clinics

Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, WSA registered players may attend soccer camps (clinics), or private lessons etc., hosted and/or coached by individuals, teams, clubs and/or organizations other than the player's current coach, team, club and/or organization as long as the soccer camps meet the following criteria:

- a. The clinic or camp, must be available to all interested persons for each age group offered through an open invitation.
- b. Each individual, team, club and/or organization hosting any soccer clinic or camp, etc., must require written registration of each participant that includes the following information:
 1. Player's name
 2. Name, address and phone number of individual(s), team(s), club(s) and/or organization(s) affiliated with and/or hosting the clinic
 3. Name(s) of coaches at clinic
 4. Name and date(s) of clinic
 5. Name of player's current team and home association
 6. A statement signed by the player's current coach/manager stating that he or she is aware that the player is attending the camp or clinic, etc.
 7. The following disclaimer: "Recruiting is strictly prohibited. Any person having knowledge of any player recruitment at or through this soccer clinic, camp, private lesson, etc., should report same, in writing, to the Youth Commissioner of NTSSA." (For an in-depth definition of recruiting see WSA rule 3.10.9)
 8. Parent signature acknowledging that he/she has read and understands the disclaimer.
 9. Date of signature. (If player is 18 years or older, player should sign also.)
- c. The host of the clinic or camp must keep all registration forms for one (1) year from the date of the camp or clinic, etc., so they will be able to produce on demand from WSA a copy of the registration form to verify compliance with this rule in the event charges of rule violations are alleged against the hosting individual, team, club and/or organization as stated above.
- d. This rule does not apply to WSA sponsored clinics/camps, etc., for their players where the registration publicity is conducted by WSA. Any publicity must indicate this camp/clinic, etc., is sponsored by WSA.

2. Private Lessons

Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, players requesting private lessons from any person must obtain a written statement from their current coach stating their knowledge of the private lessons. The person giving the private lessons must retain the acknowledgment slip and be able to present same when requested by WSA.

3.8.3 Soccer Academies

1. A "Soccer Academy" is a group of Under 7 through Under 10 registered NTSSA recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Players must register with a member association and may or may not be on a recreational team.
2. Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc., of Soccer Academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and the information sent to WSA before any player releases are to be signed.
3. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their WSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in

addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.

4. Soccer Academy teams are not considered "registered teams," and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter WSA 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.
5. Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.
6. The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:
 - a. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
 - b. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
 - c. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.
7. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
8. For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with a WSA recreational or recreational plus team shall, in the event of a conflict (this includes games, practices, and tournaments), consider the WSA recreational team or recreational plus team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment.

3.8.4 Punishment

Failure to comply with Rule 3.8 may 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.

3.8.5 Intra-Association Appeals

If the complaint is intra-association, then the complaint will follow the WSA rules for filing complaints. Any appeal from WSA's decision would then follow the ordinary process of appeals in section 2.12.

3.8.6 Inter-Association Appeals

Should the complaint be of an inter-association matter, then the complainant will file his complaint directly with the Best Southwest Soccer Association or the NTSSA State Youth Commissioner (depending on which associations are involved in the complaint), who shall render a decision. Either party may then file an appeal with the State Executive Committee of NTSSA according to the Bylaws of the North Texas State Soccer Association.

3.8.7 Competitive Releases

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 June 30 of the current soccer year). Release to transfer to a WSA recreational team will be allowed under the following circumstances:

1. Transfers that are approved by the player's current coach may be granted at any time on or prior to April 1. Any request for transfer that is not approved by the player's current coach, as indicated on the release form or transfer request form, will be scheduled for a Competitive Soccer Committee hearing which shall be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee, with all parties being invited to attend. This shall be done between the dates of December 1 and January 31 for U-11 through U-14 and December 1 and March 15 for U-15 through U-19 only. (NOTE: The Competitive Committee may grant transfers prior to the start of the fall season in extremely limited circumstances, and only after receiving input from the coach or club official.)
 - a. Any appeal of the decision of the Competitive Soccer Committee after the hearing must be made directly to the Executive Committee of NTSSA within five (5) days.
2. A player may leave a competitive team and go into the WSA recreational player pool at any time on or prior to April 1 of the current soccer year with the written permission of the NTSSA Youth Commissioner.

- a. Players may not be released from their competitive team after April 1, as no recreational player pool is available.
 - b. Exceptions: player has moved outside NTSSA territory, current team has disbanded, or medical documentation the player has been injured and is unable to play the remainder of the soccer year.
3. 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 March 15 and may do so only with the written permission of WSA if he is currently rostered. A competitive registration form must be completed prior to the players' transfer to a competitive team.

3.8.8 Player Releases

1. Definition of Release: The withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.
2. Definition of Recreational Player Releases: Once a player has registered with a Member Association and been rostered to a recreational team, they are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player is granted a release.
 - a. A recreational player may be released by a member association to join a competitive team between December 1 and March 15, per Rule 3.8.7.
 - b. A request for a recreational player to be released to another member association for recreational play 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. Releases to transfer to another member association will be allowed from December 1 up until they are registered and rostered to a team for the Spring season. Releases outside of those dates will be considered only as an exception.
 - c. The decision of the Youth Commissioner may be appealed to the North Texas Executive Committee.
3. Definition of Competitive Player Releases: Any player rostered to a competitive 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. Approval of a player release from a competitive team by North Texas Soccer does not constitute a release of financial liability, if applicable to the team.

3.9 RECRUITING

3.9.1 Defined as:

1. Allowing a player to participate in practice or games with a team on which the player is not rostered unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by these WSA rules, and all paperwork incidental to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
2. Allowing a player to participate in camps, skills, clinics, academies or other training activities unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by WSA rules, and all paperwork incident to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
3. Actively soliciting a player to break a commitment to his current team in order to join another team.
4. Making false, misleading, and/or unsubstantiated negative statements which could reasonably be expected to influence the decision of a player regarding his choice of teams.
5. Offering anything of monetary value to anyone to induce a player to commit to play for a particular team; provided, offering to pay, waive or reduce a player's expenses associated with participating with a particular team does not constitute recruiting so long as
 - a. The offer is, in good faith, based on financial need and
 - b. Any value received is in fact applied to the reasonable and necessary expenses associated with such player's participation.
6. Signing for the upcoming soccer year prior to July 1. Any commitment prior to July 1 is not binding on either the player or coach.
7. In recreational soccer, recruiting is also defined as any coach, parent, player or agent of such soliciting any player at any time to join or practice with any team unless these rules of WSA expressly give consent.
8. As long as the above rules are observed, nothing herein is intended to restrict the ability of a player at any time to express a general interest in a prospective team or for a prospective team to express at any time a general interest in a prospective player.

3.9.2 Violations

It shall be a violation of these rules for any person, team, club or other organization to engage in recruiting as defined above. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all of the above listed participants associated with their team. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the WSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered. Complainant will file his complaint with the Administrative Assistant or Secretary. Either party may file an appeal of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee decision with the WSA Executive Committee according to the Bylaws of the WSA.

3.10 DISCIPLINE

3.10.1 NTSSA Rule 3.11

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

3.10.2 Authority (NTSSA Rule 3.11.1)

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.

3.10.3 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches (NTSSA Rule 3.11.2)

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
 1. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card.

2. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card.
3. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.
4. 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.
 - a. 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

1. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card.
2. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all WSA sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play red card.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all NTSSA sanctioned activities.

d. Exception

When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standings and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or national body that has been charged with the operation of said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games of that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

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

a. Yellow Cards

1. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card.
2. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament.
3. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.
4. 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.
5. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

b. Red Cards

1. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament.
2. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA sanctioned activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament.
3. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.
4. 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 tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.
5. If Tournament Officials determine 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 WSA.

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)

d. Exceptions

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

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.

a. 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. 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 chooses to call one of its own volition.

b. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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. 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. 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.

8. Extreme Violent Conduct

- a. 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.

3.10.4 Misconduct of Spectators (NTSSA Rule 3.11.4)

1. Each team (youth and adult) in NTSSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee has the authority to insist that the coach or acting coach deal with the misconduct of the spectators and resolve the problem. Failure to do so may result in the coach's dismissal from the field and/or termination of the match. 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".

3.10.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams (NTSSA Rule 3.11.5)

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 twenty-five (25) the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Member Association and/or Playing League Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. If desired, the Member Association and/or Playing League may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. 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 send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) will result in a fine of \$100 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 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth 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 will result in a fine of \$100 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. 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.

3.10.6 Games Directly Sponsored by NTSSA (NTSSA Rule 3.11.6)

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.

3.10.7 Misconduct Toward Referee (NTSSA Rule 3.11.7)

1. North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee, 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 NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, the appropriate State Commissioner (Adult Men's, Adult Women's, Youth or Indoor), the Olympic Development Program Chairman and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, 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 3.9.7.2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault or referee abuse, a formal hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act upon or towards a game official as defined in Paragraph 3.9.7.1 above shall be deemed "referee assault" or "referee abuse" in the NTSSA under the terms, references, and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9. If the subcommittee determines there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault, the committee, at its discretion, may suspend the individual involved until the hearing on the alleged assault. Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.9.7.2 above, determine the action committed to be Misconduct Towards a Referee rather than Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, it shall impose an administrative punishment of a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the suspended party. Should a formal hearing be requested and held, it shall be an NTSSA Executive Committee hearing as described in Paragraph 3.9.7.4.
4. State Executive Committee Hearing Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Executive Committee in the following manner:
 - a. The alleged offending party should 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.
5. Terms and References
 - a. Referee Assault
An intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.).
 1. Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
 - a. 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.

b. Referee Abuse

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.

1. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
 - a. 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.

c. Misconduct Towards a Referee

Persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or abuse as provided under Federation Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:

1. Excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;
2. Statements that diminish the authority of the referee;
3. Statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.
4. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:
 - a. Confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;
 - b. Spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;
 - c. Throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;
 - d. Re-entering the field.
 - e. These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:
 1. If a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
 2. If the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.

6. Penalties and Suspensions

a. Referee Assault

The person committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

1. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least three (3) months from the time of the assault;
2. except as provided in clause one (1) or two (2), for any other assault, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
3. for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
4. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

b. Referee Abuse

The person committing the referee abuse shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

c. Misconduct Towards a Referee

The person committing the misconduct towards a referee shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

d. Any suspension assessed against an individual under this section does not affect any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league for a violation that is not referee assault or abuse.

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

3.10.8 Misconduct of Referees (NTSSA Rule 3.11.8)

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.

3.10.9 Appellate Procedures (NTSSA Rule 3.11.9)

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 optional with the Member Associations NTSSA will refuse to allow such recording devices, and the presence of attorneys at hearings is optional with the Member Associations.
5. Should any aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all avenues of appeal including through to the USSF, the State Association may, at its discretion, suspend such person or refuse to accept further registration in soccer activities within its jurisdiction.
6. An appeal of decisions pursuant to 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 - (\$25 paid by the player and \$25 paid by the coach)
 - b. All Coach Appeals & Referee Appeals - \$100
 - c. All Team Appeals - \$100

3.10.10 Records (NTSSA Rule 3.11.10)

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.

3.10.11 Association to Comply (NTSSA Rule 3.11.11)

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). Repeated violation by Member Association can result in such association being declared not in good standing.

3.11 REFEREE SYSTEM

3.11.1 Approved System

The only approved referee system for all WSA competitions shall be the International Three-Referee system (a referee and two neutral assistant referee) 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.

3.11.2 Dual Referee System

Under no circumstances will the dual referee system of officiating be utilized for any WSA sanctioned games.

3.11.3 Appropriate Action

Coaches of WSA registered and affiliated teams shall not play a 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.

3.12 GAME PROTESTS

3.12.1 Acceptable Causes

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.

3.12.2 Unacceptable Causes

1. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that . . . “A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the local Referee Assignor.
2. 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 protestor won the match) except by consent of said protest committee.

3.12.3 Unregistered, Ineligible and Suspended Players

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.

3.13 WSA RULES OF COMPETITION

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of WSA shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game (mandated Fall 2017 by NTSSA) modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

3.13.1 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:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Field Width</i>	<i>Field Length</i>	<i>Goal Size</i>
Under 19	Max 80 yds.	Max 112 yds.	8ft x 24ft
Under 16	Max 75 yds.	Max 112 yds.	8ft x 24 ft
Under 14	Max 75 yds.	Max 112 yds.	8ft x 24ft
Under 12	44-55 yds.	70-80 yds.	6.5ft x 18.5ft
Under 10	35-45 yds.	55-65 yds.	6.5ft x 18.5 ft
Under 8	15-25 yds.	25-35 yds.	4ft x 6ft
Under 6	15-25 yds.	25-35 yds.	4ft x 6ft
Under 4	15-25 yds.	25-35 yds.	4ft x 6ft

3.13.2 The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Ball Size</i>
Under 19	Size #5
Under 16	Size #5
Under 14	Size #5
Under 12	Size #4
Under 10	Size #4
Under 8	Size #3
Under 6	Size #3
Under 4	Size #3

1. The game ball is provided by the Home team as indicated on the schedule. The coach is responsible for supplying the game ball.
2. The game ball must be in good condition and checked in by the referee. Additional balls may be checked in by the referee and kept at either goal to assist with game play.
3. If the game ball becomes lost or damaged during the game, the Home team must provide another game ball to be checked in by the referee.
4. If at anytime the Home team does not provide an adequate game ball, the Away team may be asked to supply a ball for the match.

3.13.3 Number of Players and Substitution

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Players on Field</i>	<i>Goalie?</i>	<i>Min Players to Play</i>	<i>Recommended Players on Roster for WSA League Play</i>	<i>Max Players on Roster for NTSSA Tournaments</i>
Under 19	11v11	Yes	9	16	22
Under 16	11v11	Yes	9	16	22
Under 14	11v11	Yes	9	14	18
Under 12	9v9	Yes	7	12	16
Under 10	7v7	Yes	5	10	12
Under 8	4v4	No	3	8	8
Under 6	4v4	No	3	8	8
Under 4	4v4	No	3	8	8

1. Substitution Rule – Youth under 8 and older
 - 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/period
 - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.
2. Substitution Rule – Youth under 6 and younger
 - a. Either team, at quarter break
 - b. Either team, at halftime
 - c. Either team at an injury – when the referee stops the play and only for the injured player.
3. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a 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, the referee 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).

3.13.4 Player's Equipment

1. Each player shall have a permanently adhered number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high.
2. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.
3. Matching jerseys (or matching colored shirts) will be mandatory for all players on the team except the goalie who must wear a different colored jersey than all other players on the field while performing as the goalie.
 - a. At no time will a players' jersey be allowed to display pictures of/for or names of businesses/products which are only consumable/purchasable/viewable by adults over 18 years of age.
4. No jewelry or metal of any kind may be worn.
 - a. medical alert jewelry may be worn only if completely covered and padded so as not to injure another player and only after being approved by the referee.
5. Casts may be worn provided they are completely covered and padded so as not to injure another player and only after being approved by the referee.

3.13.5 Identification Cards

1. All coaches will be required to have an ID card which has their picture, name, member identification number, team name and season.
 - a. Coach ID's must be worn around each coach's neck for the duration of the match.

- b. All coaches must check-in prior to the match with the referee.
- 2. All players in Under 10 thru Under 19 must have an ID card which has their picture, name, birthdate, member identification number, team name and season.
 - a. Coaches may check their players in virtually thru their GotSoccer team account, with actual ID cards or with a print out of their team roster which includes each players pertinent information as described above..

3.13.6 Referee

Conforms with FIFA -Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

- 1. Registered Referees
- 2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
- 3. Referee’s decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- 4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- 5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players

3.13.7 Assistant Referee

Properly trained and registered referees will be used for Under 9 and older or in accordance with Rule 3.10. There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

3.13.8 Duration of Game

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Length of Periods</i>	<i>Length of Overtime</i>
Under 19	Two 45 minute	Two 15 minute
Under 16	Two 40 minute	Two 15 minute
Under 14	Two 35 minute	Two 10 minute
Under 12	Two 30 minute	Two 10 minute
Under 10	Two 25 minute	Two 10 minute
Under 8	Four 10 minute	None
Under 6	Four 8 minute	None
Under 4	Four 6 minute	None

- 1. Overtime will only be used in playoff scenarios.

3.13.9 Start of Play

Conforms with FIFA - Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

- 1. Opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

3.13.10 Ball in and out of Play

Conforms with FIFA

3.13.11 Method of Scoring

Conforms with FIFA

3.13.12 League Standings

- 1. The following point system is used to determine standings:
 - a. Under-4 through Under-8 will be noncompetitive and no Standings will be posted.
 - b. Points will be awarded for Under-9 through Under-19, as follows:
 - 1. 3 points for a win
 - 2. 1 point for a tie
 - 3. 0 points for a loss
 - 4. A forfeit game will be scored at a 1-0 win in favor of the non-forfeiting team. The winning team receives 3 points for the standings.
- 2. If two or more teams are tied in points after their regular seasons games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine the team standings:
 - c. Head to Head game results.
 - 1. If three or more teams are tied and they did not play each other an equal number of times, this tie-breaker will not be used.
 - d. Fewest Goals Allowed (all games).
 - e. Shutouts (all games).
 - f. Goals Allowed Head-to-Head
- 3. The tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement in standings.

4. In the event of a tie in season standings for First and Second place standings, a Championship Game will be scheduled.
5. Championship games
 - a. There will be no championship games for Under-4 through Under-8.
 - b. If a Championship game ends in a tie, overtime periods will be utilized and, if necessary, kicks from the penalty spot will be used to determine the winner.
 1. Overtime Periods:
 - a. U10 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - b. U12 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - c. U14 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - d. U16 Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves
 - e. U19 Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves
 2. Overtime penalty kicks will be taken according to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
6. Keeping with the spirit of the game, if a team is ahead by 6 goals, they are strongly recommended to stop scoring and change the attention of the team to passing, using the opposite (weaker) foot, etc. If a team continues to "run up" the score past a differential of 6, the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairperson will caution the coach and the coach will be on probation for the remainder of the season.

3.13.13 Off-Side

Conforms with FIFA - Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. There is no offside.

3.13.14 Fouls and Misconduct

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in WSA. 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."
2. 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.
3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line.
5. Under 8 and younger – no punting is allowed.

3.13.15 Heading

1. U12 and younger recreational play shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.
2. For players in U13 and older, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

3.13.16 Free Kick

Conforms with FIFA - Except for in Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. All free kicks are indirect kicks and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.
2. If the infringement occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

3.13.17 Penalty Kick

Conforms with FIFA - Except for in Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. No penalty kicks in Under 8 and younger.

3.13.18 Throw-In

Conforms with FIFA - Except for in Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. Allowed a re-throw.

3.13.19 Goal Kick

Conforms with FIFA - Except for in Under 8 and younger the following applies:

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

3.13.20 Corner Kick

Conforms with FIFA - Except for in Under 8 and younger the following applies:

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

3.13.21 Awards

1. Under 4 thru Under 8

Players in Under 4 thru Under 8 will receive a participation award despite the league standings.

2. Under 10 thru Under 19

Players in Under 10 thru Under 19 will receive awards based on their team's standings within their league age group and division.

3.13.22 Practice Guidelines

1. Recreational teams registered in this Association shall be allowed no more than five (5) private practices conducted by a paid coach within any single soccer season. This rule shall not apply to individual players who seek the private tutoring of a soccer coach. Nor shall this rule apply to participation in organized soccer clinics.

- a. Paid coaches shall not have a role in coaching a recreational team while that team is playing a game sanctioned by this Association or in an Inter-Association game which was organized by this Association.

2. Unauthorized usage (e.g. practices, scrimmages, games) of the game fields will not be permitted per the City of Waxahachie.

3. The City of Waxahachie provides public practice areas at local parks and public schools. This is the primary list a coach should use for establishing a practice area. If a coach wishes to utilize a private and/or paid practice area then the Head Coach must obtain written authorization from the facility. In addition, if the facility is a paid facility, NO coach can mandate a team or player to pay for use of the facility.

4. Teams are allowed a maximum practice time limit each week per NTSSA guidelines:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Maximum Weekly Practice Time</i>
Under 19	4 Hours
Under 16	4 Hours
Under 14	4 Hours
Under 12	4 Hours
Under 10	3 Hours
Under 8	3 Hours
Under 6	2 Hours
Under 4	2 Hours

3.13.23 Violation of City Ordinances

Any violation of the ordinances of the City of Waxahachie may result in a warning, and/or suspension from all Association related activities. Offenders can be subject to suspension from the Association for an indefinite period of time.

3.14 GAME DAY PROCEDURES

3.14.1 Spectators

Players, parents and spectators must remain in the spectator area which is an area at least 3 yards off the touchline and a minimum of 10 yards in from the goal line. The coaches' technical area is defined as an area on the sideline which is perpendicular to the half and 10 yards long. Only rostered and ID'd coaches may be in this designated coaching area at any time. During play, coaches may be allowed on the field when the game is stopped and ONLY with the Referee's approval. Failure to comply may cause forfeitures and/or abandonment of the game.

1. The Home team, where applicable, shall sit on the North or West side of the field. Under certain circumstances, such as adverse weather conditions, poor field conditions, etc., and with the concurrence of the referee, both teams may occupy the same side of the field.

3.14.2 Nets and Flags

The City of Waxahachie will be responsible for putting up and taking down all nets and flags on our home fields. While at any other associations fields, that team will be responsible for nets and flags.

3.14.3 Pinnies

The Home Team is responsible for providing contrasting jerseys/shirts/pinnies in the event of conflict of color. The final decision on whether there is a color conflict is up to the referee.

3.14.4 Game Reports/Sit-out Verification Forms

A Game Report must be submitted by the coach to the referee prior to every game. A Sit Out Verification Form shall be required for any coach or player who is required to sit out a game due to disciplinary reasons. This form must be submitted to the referee for his/her signature prior to the game.

1. The game report submitted by the Home team will be retained by the referee for submittal. The game report submitted by the Away team will be returned to them so that they can submit it to their Home Association.
 - a. WSA teams submitting their completed Away game report should submit them to the WSA box located at the concession stand at the Waxahachie Sports Complex.

3.14.5 Game Forfeiture

1. The score for forfeiture is 1-0. The following constitutes a game forfeiture.
 - a. Fielding an ineligible player or a player under suspension.
 - b. A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game or appearing to coach the game.
 - c. Failure to field a team with at least the minimum number of players, within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, according to the Referee's watch.
 - d. Violation of the minimum playing requirement for any player, as outlined in the Playing Rules and as deemed valid by the Association.
2. If a team intentionally forfeits a game, that team (Coaches, managers, and/or other responsible party) may be required to appear before the Association Appeals and Disciplinary Committee to present its reason for the forfeit. A team found guilty of intentionally forfeiting a game may:
 - a. Be prevented from participating in any further games during the season;
 - b. Be ineligible for any awards;
 - c. Be prevented from participation in any playoff games;
 - d. Have the coach suspended for up to a year;
 - e. Be subject to any penalty deemed appropriate by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
3. Any team with knowledge of an upcoming need to forfeit a game should notify the Association office and the applicable Age Level Commissioner at least 48 hours prior to the game if possible.

3.15 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT

If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the respective authority, the respective authority shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

3.16 FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE

1. The Referee or any member of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors has the authority to postpone a game because of weather or field conditions. Their decision will be based on the conditions of the playing field, player safety and well-being, and in accordance with the City of Waxahachie Policy and Procedure.
2. The Referee or any member of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors may call a stoppage of play in case of rumbling thunder or lightning, in accordance with the City of Waxahachie policy and procedures.
3. Teams must report to the playing fields ready to play unless previously officially notified. A fifteen-minute grace period will be allowed after the starting time. After fifteen minutes, forfeiture for the team not in attendance will be declared. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team arrives within fifteen minutes of game time. Coaches must not assume that a game has been postponed.
4. The Referee Assignor will notify the Scheduler and respective Age Level Commissioners of all games postponed or suspended by Referees. Notification of postponement should be made to the Age Level Commissioners within twenty-four (24) hours.
5. If a game is suspended because of foul weather before the second half has started, that game shall be replayed from the start. If a game is suspended after the second half has begun, the game shall be considered a full game and will not be replayed.

3.17 RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

3.17.1 Procedure

Any coach needing to request a reschedule must submit that request to their Age Level Commissioner who will forward that request onto the President. If the President approves the request, he will submit the request to the League Scheduler.

1. Requests must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Requests must be submitted a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the date requested to be rescheduled.
 - b. Must fall into one of these two categories:
 1. School related events
 2. Tournament conflict
2. Coaches will be notified if their request is denied.
3. Coaches will be responsible for checking their schedule to obtain the reschedule information.

3.18 CHANGES

These Rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at either the Semi-Annual or Annual General Meeting provided twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes or additions, have been submitted to the membership. Any changes or additions to these rules that are approved by this membership shall immediately become a part of these rules, and all Members shall receive a written or electronic copy of the new rule or amendment of the rule within forty-five (45) days. Where a quorum is present at the above meetings, it will take a majority vote of the members present at the meeting to pass new rules or to change or amend present rules.

3.19 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Any proposal to amend the Rules or add new Rules may be made only by Executive Officers or by the consensus of a properly constituted committee. Any member may request a change in the Rules to the Executive Committee and request to be placed onto the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed changes must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time required in Rule 2.10.5.

CHAPTER 4 RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS

4.1 DEFINITION OF YOUTH REGISTRANTS

4.1.1 Youth Registration

Youth registration of soccer players under these WSA rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants under the age of nineteen (19).

1. Registration

a. Recreational

The player is registered to a recreational association from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the WSA registration form and pays the appropriate fees to that association subject to Rule 4.2.1. Rostering means assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by NTSSA or its member associations.

b. Competitive: The player is registered and rostered to that team from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the USYSA registration form and pays a portion of the fee to that team.

c. Recreational Plus: For proper age players U-11 and older. NTSSA allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of recreational plus soccer if available. For a dual registered player, the player's recreational team shall be considered the player's primary team and the recreational plus team shall be considered the player's secondary team. Players may be assigned to Recreational Plus teams by any WSA recreational team formation method (Rule 4.6).

Additionally, member associations may consider requests from Recreational Plus players to play together on a team. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. The member association accepts as participants in the league any and all eligible youths. Recreational Plus teams must play in a Recreational Plus or Open League. Recreational Plus teams may not enter Recreational Tournaments unless the tournament provides a Recreational Plus division.

4.1.2 Age Grouping

1. Under 19
2. Under 16
3. Under 14
4. Under 12
5. Under 10
6. Under 8
7. Under 6
8. Under 4

a. Age three (3) is the minimum age to play soccer.

9. The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year.

10. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays a portion of the appropriate fees.

11. The Association Age Grouping may be divided into age conferences as needed. For example, Under 8 can be divided into Under 7 and Under 8. Furthermore, the age conferences may be divided into divisions such as Under 7-A and Under 7-B.

12. Players may be allowed to play up into a higher age group by one (1) birth year with permission from the Age Level Commissioner. Players will only be allowed to play down with permission from NTSSA.

4.1.3 Age Verification

WSA will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play for the first time in WSA. 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 certificates will not be accepted.

4.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

4.2.1 Registration

Youth players may only be registered with one NTSSA sanctioned team at any given time during the soccer year. The soccer year will coincide with the soccer year of the United States Soccer Federation.

4.2.2 Releases

Youth players may change teams during the year in the following manner:

1. WSA reserves the right to reassign players at WSA's desire. All reassigned players are considered "transfers" for rostering purposes.
2. Youths who play on teams which will be involved in state and national competitions as well as inter-association play may only change teams during the soccer year in the following manner:
 - a. Obtain a written release from the team with which he was last registered during the soccer year. NOTE: Player must use NTSSA "Player Release Form".
 - b. New team must complete Add/Transfer/Delete form on a transfer player; pay a transfer fee set by NTSSA in order to register a transfer player on new team; and submit form and fee to their Home Association.
 - c. The player's home association or WSA within which team plays, must file with the State Association the Add/Transfer/Delete form and proper release forms.
3. Youth players will become "free-agents" on July 1.
 - a. Definition of "Free-Agent": A free agent is a player in the U-11 through U-19 age division who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team. All players in the U-11 through U-19 age divisions become free agents as of July 1.
 - b. NOTE: The "free-agent" rule applies only to those players trying out or being selected for competitive teams. The rule does not apply to movement of players in the recreational leagues.

4.2.3 Recreational All Star Teams

NTSSA and WSA allow for the formation of recreational All-Star Teams in U-12 through U-19 divisions from players who continue to be registered within WSA on recreational teams for purposes of participating in tournaments designated for Select or Competitive teams.

1. Recreational All-Star Teams shall be defined as teams composed of players selected from more than one recreational team that register with a single association.
2. A recreational All-Star team formed during the current soccer year may not form as a competitive team until the following soccer year.

4.2.4 Official Registration

Youth players registering (in the customary practice and form adopted by the Member Associations) with a team during the month of July or August for sanctioned competition which will continue into the subsequent soccer year will, at the time of registration, be deemed registered to the team for the subsequent year.

4.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Players must register to play soccer with a Member Association. Upon request, no Member Association is permitted to deny a Player Release to an individual player. No fee may be associated with an approved Player Release unless such player is being released outside of North Texas Soccer. Only the receiving Member Association will register the player. A Member Association may not actively recruit players from outside of their defined territory.

4.4 YOUTH TRANSFERS

NTSSA youth players may only be transferred once during the soccer year. Should any member association desire to transfer a recreational youth player more than once during a soccer year, it must file an appeal directly to the NTSSA Youth Commissioner. Only those circumstances that directly affect the successful completion of their program or the welfare of the player will be considered. Decisions of the Youth Commissioner may be appealed directly to the NTSSA Executive Committee.

4.5 GUEST PLAYERS

Per NTSSA rules, teams will be allowed up to five (5) guest players for tournaments, providing the hosting organization allows guest players. These guest players and guest players on teams traveling out of NTSSA may participate in any or all of the tournaments that the team may enter.

4.5.1 Releases

If a team uses guest players in a tournament sponsored by NTSSA, the Coach must file Guest Player Release forms with the NTSSA Cup and Games Chairman for his approval prior to the tournament. If a Recreational team is using Guest Players in any other tournament sanctioned by NTSSA, the coach must have the player's Home

Association signature before turning into tournament director for his approval prior to the tournament. Coach of the team who fails to submit the Guest Player Release forms shall receive a six (6) month suspension from all soccer activities.

4.5.2 Traveling Outside of NTSSA

On a team traveling outside of NTSSA and using guest players, the coach must file guest player release forms with the NTSSA Youth Commissioner for his approval. These forms should be filed with the NTSSA office fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament. Coach of the team that fails to submit guest player release forms shall receive a six (6) month suspension from all soccer activities.

4.5.3 Competitive Playing for Recreational

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.

4.6 LATE REGISTRATIONS

Players registering after the last day for regular registration will be accepted to the waitlist only as needed. Players will not be allowed to make requests.

4.7 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES:

4.7.1 Invitation to Friends

In order to promote soccer participation, a player may invite a friend from the WSA territory as defined in Rule 2.3.5 who was not registered in any other NTSSA association during the last two seasons to join his existing team with the permission of the Association.

4.7.2 Returning to Immediate Past Season Team

Players have the right to stay on the team they played for in the immediate past season if it returns, and the coach of the immediate past season must insure that all those rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on that team.

4.7.3 Inviting Players

In the event there are not enough players in the player pool, coaches are allowed to actively seek players of the proper age group within the WSA territory as defined in rule 2.3.5 to be added to the player pool.

4.7.4 Gender of Teams

Teams in age groups Under 4 and Under 6 may be coed if the league chooses. Teams in Under 8 thru Under 19 will be gender specific.

1. Players will be assigned to teams based on the gender on their birth certificate.
2. If there is even one (1) boy assigned to a team, that team will be considered a Boys team and will be placed into the Boys division in the league.

4.7.4 Team Formation

New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed using the following method:

1. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool based on their age when possible.
2. Player's names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team and the coach has completed a background check.
3. The Head Coach of each team will have their player assigned to their team.
4. Players requesting to return to their team from the immediate past season will be allowed to do so provided the team is returning.
5. If a Head Coach is not returning, WSA will attempt to contact all parents on that team to solicit a new Head Coach in order to keep the team together. If successful, this will be viewed as a returning team.
6. All new players to WSA, players returning from taking a season or more off and players whose teams will not be returning will be added to the player pool.
7. Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered non-recreational for recreational league and tournament play.
8. 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 WSA Appeals and Discipline Committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching.

4.7.5 Existing Team Transfers

Any team requesting to transfer to WSA from a different association or league must submit the team roster from that recreational association/league from the immediate past season before WSA's team formation. Any players on

that roster may be added to the team's WSA roster provided they register on time with WSA in accordance to the rules in Chapter 4.

4.7.6 Disbandment of Teams

Any team registered with the Association shall not be disbanded without prior approval by the Age Level Commissioner. Every effort will be made to keep the returning players together before the team would be considered for disbandment. The following steps are to be followed if a coach is not returning to his team:

1. The coach, prior to resigning, will inform the Age Level Commissioner of his/her intentions. A coach cannot disband a team and should encourage the players to return to the team.
2. If the coach cannot find an eligible successor, the Age Level Commissioner will work in selecting and securing new leadership.
3. If, after all possible effort by the Age Level Commissioner, a new coach cannot be found, the Age Level Commissioner will place each player into the Player's Pool. The Age Level Commissioner will attempt to place groups of players from the disbanded team onto new teams together.
4. Teams with the fewest returning players are subject to disbandment.

4.8 REGISTRATION OF COACHES

4.8.1 Procedure

1. Each coach/assistant coach/manager of a team shall be required to register with WSA each soccer year.
2. To register, every coach/assistant coach/manager shall complete an Adult Criminal Background check as described in Rule 3.6.
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 WSA and complete an Adult Criminal Background Check as described in rule 3.6.
4. Head coach of record must be at least 18 years of age.

4.8.2 Certification Courses

1. All Head Coaches must complete the WSA Coaching 101 course their first season as Head Coach or the season immediately following their first season as Head Coach if the WSA Coaching 101 course was administered before the Head Coach was added.
2. All Head Coaches must complete the CDC Head's Up Concussion Course thru their GotSoccer coaches account a minimum of seven (7) days before their first scheduled match and before they will be given their Coach ID Badge.

4.8.3 Specific Rules for Coaches

1. The Head Coach and the Assistant Coaches of record are to be active coaches for the team and not in name only.
2. Coaches will be held responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's spectators, parents, and players. This includes any foul and abusive language and any comments directed toward the referees, opposing players, and coaches. Offenders may be cautioned or ejected from the field by the referee.
3. Coaches are responsible for following the league's substitution policy as outlined in Rule 3.12.3.
4. Coaches are subject to the jurisdiction of the Association, its Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and all Association rules and policies. The Age Level Commissioners shall approve all coaches in their league. Coaches in good standing and teams in good standing are permitted and welcomed.
5. Coaching players in the Association program is a privilege. Coaches who do not adhere to the Association rules and or do not promote a positive experience for the players may be removed at any time as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

4.9 REFUNDS

Only players for whom the Association cannot provide a team, on which a child can play, will be refunded registration and late fees with the exception of any credit card transaction fee. Otherwise the following guidelines will apply:

4.9.1 Refund Policy

1. A refund may be requested prior to Team Formation.
2. No refunds will be given to players after Team Formation.
3. All refunds will be minus an administrative processing fee approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.
4. Late fees are not refundable.
5. Credit card transaction fees are never refundable.

4.9.2 Procedure for Requesting Refunds

1. All requests for refunds must be received in writing by the Association prior to the first scheduled games for WSA.
2. All requests for refunds must be initiated by the parent or player in writing to the Association office, using the Refund Request form.

4.10 CHANGES

These rules of registration may be changed at any regular meeting or Annual General Meeting providing twenty-one (21) days written notice of the meeting, including a written copy of the proposed changes, has been submitted to the membership.

4.11 SANCTION FOR VIOLATION OF RULES

Failure to comply with the “Rules for Registration of Youth Players” shall result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative, and players being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year.

CHAPTER 5 DEFINITION OF TERMS

5.1 DEFINITION OF TERMS

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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/divisions may be formed in single birth year age groups. The age division of the team is determined by the birth date of the oldest player on the team as of December 31 of the current soccer year. See Seasonal Year, Transfer.

5.1.3 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.

5.1.4 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.

5.1.5 Free Agent

A free agent is a player in the U11 through U19 age divisions who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team.

5.1.6 Guest Player

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

5.1.7 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.

5.1.8 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 Home League, Playing League and Recreation League.

5.1.9 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.

5.1.10 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.

5.1.11 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.

5.1.12 Playing League

League in which a team plays. May or may not be the same as the Home League/Club.

5.1.13 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.

5.1.14 Recreational Plus League

A league that emphasizes older age participation (U-11 and higher) recreational aspects of soccer. Team formation may be comprised of methods outside normal recreational policies, but align with regulations listed in NTSSA Rule 4.11. Low-key competition program with a common set of rules. Statistics may or may not be kept. Teams formed as Recreational Plus may not participate in recreational tournaments.

5.1.15 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.

5.1.16 Registration Fee

Fee, as determined by USSF/USYSA/USASA/Futsal, paid by the state associations to the national body for all players of all leagues/club/teams affiliated with the state associations. Also the fee which players must remit to the Home Association in order to register.

5.1.17 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 July 1 to June 30, of the following year.

5.1.18 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.

5.1.19 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.

5.1.20 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.

5.1.21 Team Representative

Someone acting on behalf of a team in any capacity.

5.1.22 Territory

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

5.1.23 Transfer

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

5.1.24 Tryouts

A structured process used to evaluate performance and skills of players in order to form a Select Team(s).

5.1.25 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.

5.1.26 United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA)

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

5.1.27 Youth

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

5.1.28 Recruiting

1. Allowing a player to participate in practice or games with a team on which the player is not rostered unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by these WSA rules, and all paperwork incidental to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
2. Allowing a player to participate in camps, skills, clinics, academies or other training activities unless such participation is otherwise expressly authorized by WSA rules, and all paperwork incidental to said authorization has been fully completed prior to such participation.
3. Actively soliciting a player to break a commitment to his current team in order to join another team.

4. Making false, misleading, and/or unsubstantiated negative statements which could reasonably be expected to influence the decision of a player regarding his choice of teams.
5. Offering anything of monetary value to anyone to induce a player to commit to play for a particular team; provided, offering to pay, waive or reduce a player's expenses associated with participating with a particular team does not constitute recruiting so long as
 - a. The offer is, in good faith, based on financial need and
 - b. Any value received is in fact applied to the reasonable and necessary expenses associated with such player's participation.
6. Signing for the upcoming soccer year prior to July 1. Any commitment prior to July 1 is not binding on either the player or coach.
7. In recreational soccer, recruiting is also defined as any coach, parent, player or agent of such soliciting any player at any time to join or practice with any team unless these rules of WSA expressly give consent.
8. As long as the above rules are observed, nothing herein is intended to restrict the ability of a player at any time to express a general interest in a prospective team or for a prospective team to express at any time a general interest in a prospective player.

CHAPTER 6
CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT
(NTSSA Chapter 11)

6.1 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

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

6.1.1 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 WSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician’s instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
8. A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.

6.1.2 Responsibility to NTSSA and Member Associations

1. Adherence to all NTSSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate NTSSA Commissioner, Member Association, or Age Level Commissioner immediately.
4. A coach's dealings with WSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).

6.1.3 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 that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, NTSSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

6.1.4 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.

6.1.5 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.

6.1.6 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.

6.1.7 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 prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.

5. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
7. Coaches must act in a professional manner at all times when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming an adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Lewd gestures or remarks
 - b. Overly critical remarks
 - c. Ranting and raving
 - d. Snide or demeaning remarks
 - e. Threatening behavior or remarks
 - f. Physical confrontations
 - g. Temper outbursts

6.1.8 Violations

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

6.2 NTSSA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
2. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
3. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
4. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
5. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
6. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
7. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
8. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
9. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
10. Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.
11. Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.
12. A parent must never misrepresent to their team their child's eligibility to play on that team, and must be honest in dealings with NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).
13. A parent must never be verbally or physically violent or threatening with any coach, parent, player, or representative of their Member Association or NTSSA.

6.3 CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS FOR USSF/NTSSA REGISTERED REFEREES AND ASSIGNORS

6.3.1 Code of Conduct

1. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
2. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and have my training refreshed.
3. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
4. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.

5. If I am a State or National USSF referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or USSF assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.
6. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during or after a match.
7. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches or spectators.
8. As a registered USSF/NTSSA referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
9. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.
10. I understand that I should wear only the approved USSF referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
11. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat or drink while actually officiating.
12. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the local NTSSA- affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the NTSSA and USSF, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered USSF referee.
13. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 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.

6.4 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 committeemen and other volunteers: they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done; their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.
5. Above all: courtesy, self-control and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.

6.5 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

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 “Member Association” shall include, but is not limited to Officers, Commissioners, Volunteers and/or Employees.)

6.5.1 Responsibilities to Teams and/or Players

1. The Member Association must never place money or operation over the safety and welfare of its teams and/or players. Services should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. The Member Association shall instruct teams and/or players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. The Member Association shall not seek unfair advantage for certain teams through scheduling or administrative operations.
4. The Member Association should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from teams and/or players regardless of the situation.
5. The Member Association must never encourage players to violate NTSSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
6. The Member Association should under no circumstances authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter.
7. The Member Association’s dealings with teams, players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to teams, players and parents.

6.5.2 Responsibility to NTSSA and Other Member Associations

1. Adherence to all NTSSA 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 Member Association to know and understand these rules as it applies to their area of play (youth, adult, recreational, competitive, etc.).
2. The Member Association 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 Member Associations should be referred to the NTSSA Vice-President - Development immediately.
4. Member Association's dealings with NTSSA and other Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright.
5. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to NTSSA and other Member Associations (including playing leagues).
6. The Member Association will refrain from accepting, soliciting, copying or using information on operations, financial data, teams and/or players from other Member Associations for any purpose unless approved in writing by the other Member Association's Board of Directors for a specific use. Information offered by someone of another Member Association or other organization for solicitation, recruitment or other purposes should be rejected and the person(s) reported to the WSA Vice-President – Development.

6.5.3 Responsibilities to its Officers, Commissioners, Volunteers and/or Employees (“Administrators”)

1. Administrators must have the support of the Member Association. Criticism of Administrators undermines their purpose in WSA.
2. Member Association's Administrators must always refrain from criticizing other Administrators in the presence of others.
3. The Member Association should strive to develop a line of communication with its Administrators, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area.
4. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between Administrators. The Member Association must not incite its Administrators or attempt to disrupt their specific duties.
5. Comments regarding an Administrator should be made in writing to the appropriate official within the Member Association.

6.5.4 Responsibilities Regarding Recruiting

1. It is unethical for a Member Association to recruit teams to leave another Member Association.
2. When discussing the advantages of their Association, the Member Association has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other Member Associations; their Administrators, teams, facilities and/or organizational makeup.
3. It is unethical for any Member Association to make a statement to a prospective team and/or player which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
4. 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.

6.5.5 Responsibility of Public Relations

1. The Member Association has a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, other Member Associations, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. The Member Association has a responsibility to assist their Administrators, teams and/or players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their Member Association and NTSSA.
3. It is unethical for a Member Association to solicit alumni or members to pressure organizations, other Member Associations or NTSSA to operate outside established rules. The Member Association must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
4. The media should be allowed access to the Member Association for comment. The Member Association does have the right to appoint and limit who will represent them to the media. Administrators should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.