



# FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC.

## Rules

**Last Updated February 21, 2018**

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## **FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The following rules (the “**Rules**”) of Frisco Soccer Association, Inc. (“**FSA**”) have been adopted by the FSA board of directors (the “**Board**”) and govern all FSA activities, subject to the FSA bylaws (the “**Bylaws**”). In the event of any inconsistency between these Rules and the Bylaws, the Bylaws control. Defined terms used in these Rules that are not otherwise defined, have the meaning given such terms in the Bylaws.

### **1. RECREATIONAL DIVISION GENERAL RULES**

The following rules apply to the recreational division of FSA (the “**Recreational Division**”).

#### **1.1 SOCCER YEAR**

The soccer year begins on September 1 of each calendar year and ends on August 31 of the following calendar year.

#### **1.2 PLAYING SEASONS**

Fall Season:	September 1 through and no later than December 31.
Spring Season:	February 1 through and no later than May 31.

#### **1.3 LEAGUES**

The Recreational Division consists of girls leagues and boys leagues, each with a league per age group (each a “**League**”): 4 and under (4U), 5U, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U. Eligibility for each League is based upon age requirements established by North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. (“**NTSSA**”). The Board will appoint a commissioner for the boys Leagues and a commissioner for the girls Leagues (each a “**League Commissioner**”). Depending on the number of teams registered for a League for a season the League Commissioner may (i) combine age group Leagues (e.g., combine 13U and 14U) or (ii) cause teams in a League to play in a neighboring NTSSA member association, in each case as the League Commissioner deems appropriate.

#### **1.4 LEAGUE SUBDIVISION**

The League Commissioner will appoint a league director for each age group League (a “**League Director**”). A League Director may subdivide Leagues into “**divisions**” or other groups as the League Director may determine advisable based on the number of teams in a League.

#### **1.5 LEAGUE STANDINGS**

1.5.1 The following point system is used to determine standings within a League or division thereof:

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- 1.5.1.1 No standings will be kept for 8U and below.
- 1.5.1.2 Points will be awarded for 9U through 19U, as follows:
  - 1.5.1.2.1 3 points for a win
  - 1.5.1.2.2 1 points for a tie
  - 1.5.1.2.3 0 points for a loss
  - 1.5.1.2.4 A forfeit game will be scored at a 3-0 win in favor of the non-forfeiting team. The winning team receives 3 points for the standings.
- 1.5.2 If two or more teams are tied in points after their regular seasons games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used in the following order of priority to determine the team standings:
  - 1.5.2.1 Head to Head game results: the team that has won in head to head play will win the tie-breaker.
  - 1.5.2.2 Goal Differential: the team with highest goals differential against their opponents will win the tie-breaker.
  - 1.5.2.3 Fewest Goals Allowed: the team with the fewest goals allowed will win the tie-breaker.
- 1.5.3 The tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement in the standings.
- 1.5.4 Championship games will follow NTSSA game format unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- 1.5.5 If there are an uneven number of games played by each team in a League or division thereof (e.g., due to game cancellations), “averaging” will be used to determine the standings for that season. “Averaging” means total points earned by a team divided by that team’s total games played.

## **1.6 AWARDS**

- 1.6.1 A participation award will be presented to all players in the 10U and below Leagues. A placement award will also be given to teams in 10U Leagues as provided below.
- 1.6.2 Any team playing up to higher League (e.g., in the event of a combination of Leagues) will follow the awards rules of the higher

League. Teams participating in a playing league outside of FSA will be subjected to the award rules of the playing league in which it participates.

- 1.6.3 Place awards will be given for each League (and if subdivided into divisions, for each division thereof) for 10U and above Leagues based on the results of the playoffs conducted in accordance with the playoff format determined by the VP of Rec for that season. In the event playoffs are not conducted for a season (e.g., due to weather cancellations or other circumstances), then placement awards will be determined by the League (or division) standings for that season.
- 1.6.4 If there are only two or three teams in a League (or division), only a FIRST PLACE award will be given. If there are four or more teams in a League (or division), only FIRST and SECOND PLACE awards will be given.

### **1.7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 1.7.1 Age of a player as of January 1st of the current calendar year determines the league in which the player will play regardless of age at the start of the season. Players may play up one (1) age group with a written request from the parent(s), and may play up two (2) age groups with the written request from the parent(s) and approval of FSA.
- 1.7.2 No team is permitted to play in a League game without first having turned in the association fee, player's registration, risk management forms for all rostered adults and all pertinent information forty-eight (48) hours prior to the league game. No player may be added after the season starts without approval of the League Commissioner and submittal of the necessary information to the FSA office. The playing of any player for whom FSA holds no record may result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated and suspension of the coach for a period of time determined by a disciplinary hearing.
- 1.7.3 For the purpose of league play, only players who are rostered to a team may participate in the league play and no guest players will be allowed on the team.
- 1.7.4 **PLAYERS:** A properly executed registration for each player must be submitted to FSA along with the proper player fee prior to the start of the season. A record of the registration will be held by FSA. **PROOF OF AGE IS REQUIRED FOR EACH NEW PLAYER BEFORE THEY CAN BE REGISTERED. FSA MAY REQUIRE RE-EXAMINATION OF PROOF OF AGE.** A certified birth certificate or valid, government issued passport are the only forms of verification that will be accepted.

- 1.7.5 The coach of the team, prior to the first practice, must obtain an original signature of each player's parents/guardian, on a printed medical waiver made available to him/her by FSA.
- 1.7.6 A team residing outside the FSA jurisdiction that FSA has approved for participation in FSA is subject to the Bylaws, these Rules and any cooperation agreement between FSA and the team's home association.

### **1.8 ACADEMY PLAY AND REGISTRATION**

- 1.8.1 A "Soccer Academy" (referred to in these Rules as "***Academy***") is a group of 7U through 10U recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Academy play is in addition to recreational play.
  - 1.8.1.1 Players may join any Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their FSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team.
  - 1.8.1.2 Players may join as many Academies as they like as long as the Academy is recognized by an NTSSA Member Youth Association.
  - 1.8.1.3 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.
  - 1.8.1.4 Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule will 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.
- 1.8.2 The purposes of the Academies are to:
  - 1.8.2.1 Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
  - 1.8.2.2 Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
  - 1.8.2.3 Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players

they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.

- 1.8.3 Recruiting is not allowed on Academy teams. Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
- 1.8.4 For the purpose of this Rule 1.8, all players participating in Academy play who are also registered with an FSA recreational team, in the event of a conflict, must consider the recreational team to be the primary team and the Academy as a secondary commitment.
- 1.8.5 7U – 10U recreational players desiring to participate in Academy play may register for Academy play through FSA by submitting proof of age and payment of fees (unless already registered as a recreational player with FSA). An Academy player registration form must be validated by the Registrar.
- 1.8.6 Academy teams are not considered “registered teams,” and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a “Soccer Academy” bracket. In that event, players must declare which Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament.
- 1.8.7 Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.

### **1.9 REFUNDS**

- 1.9.1 Refund Policy: FSA only provides a full refund for a player that cannot be placed on a team. A refund may be granted on a case by case basis subject to a minimum administrative fee.
- 1.9.2 All requests for refunds must be made by the player’s parent or guardian through FSA’s online refund form and must be submitted one week prior to the opening day.
- 1.9.3 Refunds are generally processed no earlier than the third week after opening day.

### **1.10 TEAM STRUCTURE**

- 1.10.1 A team (coaches and players) formed by FSA and playing in FSA the previous season, may remain as a unit provided they meet the league eligibility and age requirements. At the time of registration, recreational players may request to remain on or be removed from a team and



reassignment through the player's pool. A recreational player sitting out one season can return to the player's former team provided space is available and the team is in existence. Otherwise that player will be reassigned through the player's pool.

1.10.2 New recreational teams and returning recreational teams needing additional players will obtain players in the draft from the player pool conducted by FSA.

1.10.3 The number of players on a team will be as follows:

<b>Leagues</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
8U and younger	8	6
9U and 10U	12	9
11U and 12U	14	11
13U and older	16	13

1.10.4 A player can only be on one recreational team roster. A player cannot simultaneously be registered on a recreational team roster and competitive team roster. This does not apply to recreational players playing Academy (i.e., a recreational player may be registered with a recreational team and participate in Academy play).

### **1.11 DISBANDMENT**

Any team registered with FSA cannot be disbanded without prior approval by the League 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:

1.11.1 The coach, prior to resigning, must inform the League Director of his/her intentions. A coach cannot disband a team and should encourage the players to return to the team.

1.11.2 If the coach cannot find an eligible successor, the League Director will work in selecting and securing a new head coach.

1.11.3 If a new head coach cannot be found, the League Director will place each player into the player's pool.

1.11.4 Teams without the requisite minimum number of returning players are subject to disbandment.

### **1.12 PLAYER RELEASE, TRANSFER AND PLAY-UP**

Players will be released as stated in the NTSSA rules (See NTSSA rule 4, RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS)

In summary, FSA requires that:

- 1.12.1 A player can request ONLY ONE transfer per soccer year.
- 1.12.2 Players require a written release from the FSA Registrar in order to play outside of FSA, during a soccer year.
- 1.12.3 Players can be released to the player pool at the time of registration by requesting on the application that they be reassigned to the player pool.
- 1.12.4 Any FSA qualified player desiring to return to FSA, after playing outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the FSA, must obtain a release from the NTSSA team where he/she is currently registered.
- 1.12.5 Any player, who desires to play-up two or more age pure Leagues, must provide a play-up release form to the Registrar which must be signed by the parents or legal guardian of the player. The play-up release form must be approved by FSA.
- 1.12.6 Players and coaches should become familiar with existing FSA and NTSSA Rules and the latest FSA policy if they are anticipating the request for a release for a player, especially regarding any request to play outside FSA.

### **1.13 COACHES**

- 1.13.1 Only the head coach will have the privilege of having his or her child assigned to their team's roster provided the player meets the age requirements of the League.
- 1.13.2 Only players who are currently rostered to the coach's team are allowed to participate in practices and league games for such team.
- 1.13.3 The coach and assistant coach of record are to be active coaches for the team and not in name only.
- 1.13.4 Coaches are 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.

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- 1.13.5 Coaches are subject to the jurisdiction of FSA, the Bylaws, these Rules and all FSA policies. Coaches in good standing and teams in good standing are permitted and welcomed.
- 1.13.6 A coach cannot remove a player from a team roster. A coach must not knowingly and/or willingly drop a player from the roster, or encourage or advise a player not to play for the team, whether through direct or indirect contact or coercion.
- 1.13.7 Coaching players in the FSA program is a privilege, not a right. Coaches who do not adhere to the FSA Bylaws, Rules and policies may be removed at any time as determined by the Board in its discretion, with or without a disciplinary hearing.

### **1.14 THE BALL**

- 1.14.1 FSA will supply one game ball to each team registered and playing in the FSA Recreational Division at the start of the soccer year (fall season).
- 1.14.2 FSA will supply one game ball to each new team registered and playing in the FSA Recreational Division at the start of the spring season.
- 1.14.3 If the game ball becomes lost, stolen, or damaged, the coach is responsible for replacing the game ball with one of equal quality.
- 1.14.4 If the coach quits or is removed from the team, prior to the end of the soccer year, the coach must return the game ball to FSA.
- 1.14.5 After the soccer year is complete, the game ball becomes the property of the coach.

### **1.15 IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- 1.15.1 FSA issues identification (ID) cards for each rostered coach, assistant coach and manager upon completing and submitting annual Risk Management forms as required by NTSSA.
- 1.15.2 Each rostered coach and team manager whose name appears on the team roster is required to visibly wear a valid FSA ID card during all games and present to League Directors, League Commissioners, Complex Directors, Board members, referees or other authorized FSA personnel when requested.

### **1.16 TEAM PRACTICES**

- 1.16.1 Only players who are currently rostered to a team are allowed to participate in practices for such team.
- 1.16.2 Unauthorized usage (e.g., practices, scrimmages, games) of the game fields is not permitted. Under city ordinances, violations are subject to a fine.
- 1.16.3 FSA in conjunction with the City of Frisco provide a list of approved public practice areas. This is the primary list a coach should use for establishing a practice area. If a coach wishes to utilize a practice area not on the list, the head coach is responsible for obtaining written authorization from the owner of any property or facility. If a practice area or facility charges a fee for use, a coach cannot require a team or player to pay for use of the facility.

### **1.17 COACHES / PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Coaches and parents are reminded that there is a responsibility, which must be met not only to their players but also to the Leagues and FSA. The following actions by the coaching staff and/or parents are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** in all related FSA soccer activities:

- 1.17.1 FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE
- 1.17.2 HARASSMENT OF PLAYERS
- 1.17.3 HARASSMENT OF LEAGUE OFFICIALS, REFEREES OR SPECTATORS
- 1.17.4 ACTS OF AGGRESSION TO PLAYERS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, REFEREES OR SPECTATORS
- 1.17.5 ACCEPTING ANY FORM OF ASSISTANCE FROM ANY PERSON OR PERSONS OFFICIALLY SUSPENDED FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES BY NTSSA OR FSA
- 1.17.6 CONDUCT CONTRARY TO THE RULES OR POLICIES OF FSA, THE COACHES CODE OF ETHICS OR THE PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT
- 1.17.7 VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCES AS POSTED
- 1.17.8 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF FSA OR NTSSA.

Any violation of the above may result in a warning, and/or suspension from all FSA related activities. Offenders can be subject to suspension from the FSA for an indefinite period of time. Parents and interested spectators will be expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. It must be remembered that all adults are examples for our youth.

The NTSSA Coaches Code of Ethics is set forth on [Appendix B](#) and the NTSSA Parent Code of Conduct is set forth on [Appendix C](#).

### 1.18 GAME PROCEDURES

- 1.18.1 Each recreational player, when present at a game, must be allowed 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). **Any reduction in playing time as a disciplinary action (i) may only be used in 11U and above Leagues and (ii) must be approved by the VP of Rec prior to reducing a player's playing time.**
- 1.18.2 Parents and spectators must remain behind the spectator line at all times.
- 1.18.3 Players and rostered coaches and team managers must remain within the technical area as marked on the sideline.
- 1.18.4 Only rostered coaches and team managers ("**Team Personnel**") visibly wearing a valid ID card are permitted in the designated coaching technical area.
- 1.18.5 A maximum of three rostered Team Personnel are allowed within the technical area.
- 1.18.6 For 5U and below age groups, one rostered coach wearing a valid ID card is allowed on the field from each team to assist players as required.
- 1.18.7 For 6U and older age groups, 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.
- 1.18.8 The home team is responsible for providing contrasting jerseys/shirts in the event of conflict of color. The referee has the final decision on whether there is a color conflict.
- 1.18.9 The home team is responsible for providing the match ball.

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- 1.18.10 For 8U and below age groups, the location of players, Team Personnel and spectators will be as follows:

HOME team: Occupies the north or west side of the field

VISITOR team: Occupies the south or east side of the field.

In the event that such placement is impractical due to the configuration of the fields, the referee or onsite FSA personnel will determine the location of the players, Team Personnel and spectators.

- 1.18.11 For 9U and older age groups, the players and Team Personnel for both the home and visitor teams will occupy the north or west side of the field. All spectators will occupy the opposite side of the field.

HOME team: Occupies the north or west end of sideline.

VISITOR team: Occupies the south or east end of sideline.

- 1.18.12 9U and above: A game roster must be submitted by the coach to the referee prior to every game. Failure to comply may cause forfeitures and/or abandonment of the game.

- 1.18.13 A “Sit Out Verification Form” is required for any member (coach, player, parent, etc.) 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. The Sit Out Verification Form must be submitted to the VP of A&D within 48 hours of the game completion.

- 1.18.14 Game Forfeiture

- 1.18.14.1 The score for forfeiture is 3-0. The following constitutes a game forfeiture.

- a. No rostered coach present.
- b. Fielding an ineligible player or a player under suspension.
- c. A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game.
- d. A ten-minute grace period will be allowed after the starting time. After ten minutes, forfeiture for the team not fielding the minimum number of required players will be declared. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team fields the minimum number

of required players within ten minutes of game time. A FORFEIT is equivalent to a LOSS. No points will be accumulated for forfeiting teams. Coaches must not assume that a game has been postponed.

- e. Violation of the minimum playing requirement for any player.
- f. Abandoning a game prior to the end of play.

1.18.14.2 If a team intentionally forfeits a game that team (Team Personnel and/or other responsible party) may be required to appear before a disciplinary hearing to present the 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. Be subject to a penalty or other discipline determined in a disciplinary hearing.

1.18.14.3 Any team with knowledge of an upcoming need to forfeit a game must notify the league office and the applicable League Director at least 48 hours prior to the game if possible.

1.18.15 Paid coaches must not have a role in coaching a recreational team while that team is playing a game sanctioned by FSA or in an inter association game which was organized by FSA.

### **1.19 FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES:**

1.19.1 The referee, VP of Services or an onsite FSA representative may 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, or in accordance with the policies and procedures of the City of Frisco.

- 1.19.2 The referee, VP of Services or an onsite FSA representative may call a stoppage of play due to lightning or threat of lightening, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the City of Frisco.
- 1.19.3 Teams **MUST** report to the playing fields ready to play unless previously **OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED**.
- 1.19.4 If a game is suspended because of **FOUL WEATHER** before the first half has completed, that game will be replayed from the start. If a game is suspended after the first half has completed, the game will be considered a **FULL GAME** and will not be replayed.
- 1.19.5 The Board may implement cold and hot weather policies as it may communicate to the members from time to time.

### **1.20 RESCHEDULING GAMES**

- 1.20.1 If a coach is the head coach of two or more FSA teams, FSA will consider this a conflict and will schedule games to avoid any overlap in game times.
- 1.20.2 Reasonable efforts will be made to meet a team's conflict provided that the conflict would result in the team's inability to field the standard (not minimum) number of players required to play a game due to a school related event conflict and provided that the head coach submits the FSA Conflict Form prior to the designated deadline for submission. Any request submitted after the deadline may be considered by FSA on a case by case basis with no guarantee that the conflict will be resolved.

### **1.21 GUEST PLAYERS**

There are no guest players allowed for FSA Recreational Division play. Players registered to a competitive team are ineligible to participate in the Leagues of the Recreational Division.

### **1.22 TRYOUTS AND RECRUITING**

- 1.22.1 **THERE MUST BE NO TRYOUTS.** If a team and/or coach violate the rules concerning tryouts, the coach and/or team involved must appear before a disciplinary hearing.
- 1.22.2 **THERE MUST BE NO RECRUITING.** It will be assumed that a team has recruited if it can be established that any representative of that team in question has actively solicited a player to another team to join their team by talking to any team member, parent of any team member, coach of any team member or having anyone else talk to the team members or their parents without the written permission from the head coach and/or



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League Commissioner over that League. For any violation of this rule, the coach or coaches concerned and all offending parties must appear before a disciplinary hearing.

- 1.22.3 An indoor soccer league has no affiliation with FSA. Team rosters of teams organized outside of FSA will not be considered for FSA team formation.

### 1.23 DISCIPLINE

Unless FSA adopts additional rules or policies regarding disciplinary procedures that comport with the Bylaws and rules of the NTSSA, discipline will be rendered as set forth in NTSSA Rule 3.11. See APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINE (NTSSA RULE 3.11)

### 1.24 GAME PROTESTS, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

FSA will operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, etc., in a manner consistent with the Bylaws and rules of the NTSSA.

## 2. RECREATIONAL DIVISION PLAYING RULES

The rules of play for the Recreational Division will be the Laws of the Game modified as provided below.

### 2.1 LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

Field and goal sizes below are recommended, but may vary depending on municipal parks.

Age Group	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
19U	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
16U	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
14U	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
12U	45 – 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	7 ft. x 21 ft.
10U	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds.	6.5 ft. x 12 ft.
8U and younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 – 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

9U and 10U: There is to be a “build out line”, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

### 2.2 LAW II – THE BALL

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Age Group	Ball Size
-----------	-----------

13U and older	# 5
12U	# 4
8U and younger	# 3

### 2.3 LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

#### 2.3.1 Game format by age group

Age Group	Game Format	Minimum Players on Field
13U and older	11 v 11	7
12U	9 v 9	7
10U	7 v 7	5
8U and younger	4 v 4	3

2.3.2 There is no goalkeeper for 8U and younger age groups.

#### 2.3.3 Substitution Rule for 8U and below

2.3.3.1 At a quarter break and at half-time.

2.3.3.2 At an injury, when the referee stops the play.

2.3.3.3 With the permission of the referee.

#### 2.3.4 Substitution Rule for 9U and above

2.3.4.1 At a throw-in, by team in possession only; if team in possession is substituting, the team not in possession may also substitute.

2.3.4.2 Either team, at a goal-kick.

2.3.4.3 Either team, after a goal is scored.

2.3.4.4 Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play.

2.3.4.5 At halftime

2.3.4.6 When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.

### 2.4 LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

2.4.1 Players must wear a numbered shirt (number must be on the back of the shirt) of the same colors as their teammates. Each player on a given team must wear a different number. The referee will make the final decision in allowing or disallowing a player to participate.

- 2.4.2 The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and the referees. The referee will make the final decision on whether there is a color conflict.
- 2.4.3 Each goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish the goalkeeper from the other players and the referee. The referee will make the final decision on whether there is a color conflict.
- 2.4.4 A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.
- 2.4.5 All items of jewelry are forbidden and must be removed.
- 2.4.6 Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.
- 2.4.7 Gym shoes, tennis shoes, or soccer boots must be worn by all players. All footwear must be of soft toe and have no metal studs (screw-ins) or any other exposed metal. Baseball cleats are not allowed.
- 2.4.8 Shin guards are mandatory for all players and must be covered by the socks.
- 2.4.9 Casts will not be allowed unless properly padded. The referee will have the final decision as to whether padding is sufficient.
- 2.4.10 Under foul weather conditions, additional garments may be worn as long as the team jersey is on the outside.

### **2.5 LAW V – THE REFEREE**

- 2.5.1 Only registered referees are permitted to officiate a game.
- 2.5.2 A Referee's decision on issues of fact connected to the game is final.
- 2.5.3 All rule infractions must be briefly explained to the offending player.
- 2.5.4 Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off Team Personnel and spectators.

### **2.6 LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE**

- 2.6.1 Registered referees must be used as assistant referees for 9U and older.
- 2.6.2 There are no assistant referees for 8U and younger.

### **2.7 LAW VII – THE DURATION OF MATCH**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Length of Periods</b>
19U	2 x 45 min.
16U	2 x 40 min.
14U	2 x 35 min.
12U	2 x 30 min.
10U	2 x 25 min.
8U and younger	4 x 10 min.

2.7.1 Half-time break will be 5 minutes, except that half-time breaks for 15U and above will be 10 minutes.

2.7.2 Quarter-time breaks will be 2 minutes.

### **2.8 LAW VIII – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

2.8.1 For 8U and younger opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

### **2.9 LAW XI – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

Conform to FIFA.

### **2.10 LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING**

Conform to FIFA.

### **2.11 LAW XI – OFFSIDE**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

2.11.1 For 8U and younger there is no offside.

2.11.2 For 9U and 10U offside is determined from the build-out line.

### **2.12 LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

2.12.1 Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED. Possession is defined as; One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it or patting it along the ground.

2.12.2 10U and 9U: no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

- 2.12.3 12U and younger: a player must not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick 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, there is no foul and play should continue.
- 2.12.4 For players in 12U and 13U, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.
- 2.12.5 It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital body areas (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect themselves from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee will be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
- 2.12.6 Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as the players are, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.

### **2.13 LAW XIII – FREE KICKS**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- 2.13.1 All free kicks are indirect kicks in 8U and younger and opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

### **2.14 LAW XIV – PENALTY KICK**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- 2.14.1 There are no penalty kicks in 8U and younger.

### **2.15 LAW XV – Throw-in**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- 2.15.1 8U are allowed a re-throw.
- 2.15.2 6U and younger may use a kick-in.

### **2.16 LAW XVI – Goal Kick**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

# **FSA**

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## **FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

2.16.1 For 8U and younger the opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

2.16.2 For 9U and 10U, all attacking players must move behind the build out line.

### **2.17 LAW XVII – Corner Kick**

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

2.17.1 For 8U and younger the opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

## **3. COMPETITIVE DIVISION GENERAL RULES**

FSA does not currently run any competitive leagues.

### **3.1 RULES OF MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION – TEAMS USING FSA AS A HOME ASSOCIATION**

Any non-recreational, competitive team requesting application for membership with FSA must be approved by FSA. To register through FSA, thereby declaring FSA as their home association, competitive teams are subject to the following rules:

3.1.1 Competitive teams must abide by all competitive rules set forth by NTSSA to be in good standing with FSA. Teams who are not in good standing with NTSSA and FSA may, by vote of the Board be denied membership in FSA.

3.1.2 The City of Frisco game fields may not be used by competitive teams for practices or games unless such use is authorized by the city of Frisco and upon payment of any fees imposed by the City of Frisco. City of Frisco game fields assigned to FSA cannot be used by competitive teams without FSA approval.

### **3.2 REGISTRATION**

3.2.1 Teams must present all NTSSA required paperwork at the time of registration to the FSA Registrar. Required forms (including copies of the players' official birth certificate) must be presented in whole. Rosters will not be validated until all fees have been paid in full and all requirements have been met.

3.2.2 Teams must register for a soccer year (fall and spring). No roster will be valid for a soccer year until all fees have been paid.

3.2.3 No refund of registration fees will be made once a team has registered and the roster has been validated.

## **APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINE (NTSSA RULE 3.11)**

### **3.11 DISCIPLINE**

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

#### **3.11.1 Authority**

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA**, their local playing association, as well as those of the **USSF** and its National Associations of which **NTSSA** 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 **USSF** and its National Associations of which **NTSSA** is a member, may be subject to publication in the monthly newsletter of **NTSSA** 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 **NTSSA** 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.

#### **3.11.2 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches**

1. Member Associations, Playing leagues and Tournament Officials may institute their own “**CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM**” for players/coaches and assistant coaches or additional sanctions as they see appropriate. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Sanctions for misconduct will remain within the competition where they are earned unless the violation happens in the last game of that competition and the Member Association/Player League or Tournament Officials deem that it is serious enough to forward to North Texas A & D for consideration of further sanctions.
2. **Yellow Cards** A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.
3. **Red Cards** A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.

*If a Member Association's and/or Playing League's A & D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an “expulsion” offense in accordance with the **IFAB** 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.*

### **3.11.3 Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches**

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

1. A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and shall sit out the following game.
2. A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a red card is suspended for the balance of that game, and shall sit out a minimum of the following game.

***NOTE:*** *If the Member Association A&D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an “expulsion” offense in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, the Member Association may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess points for the yellow card. The Member Association may not, however, do away with the card altogether.*

### **3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators**

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 **NTSSA 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”.

### **3.11.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

1. **Youth Association Teams**
  - a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total number of thirty (30) cards in league play 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 thirty (30) cards. 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 cards



totaling thirty (30) 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. **Adult Association Teams**

- a. When the players/coaches/team representatives/spectators of a given team have accumulated a combined point limit for that team, based on five (5) points per scheduled league game, per season, as described in the "**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**" in Rule 3.11.3, the Adult Member Association will notify **NTSSA** Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the **NTSSA** Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct.
- b. **NTSSA** will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

## 3. **All Association Teams**

- a. The **NTSSA** holds the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.
- b. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the **NTSSA**.

### 3.11.6 **Games Directly Sponsored by NTSSA**

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

### 3.11.7 **Misconduct Toward Referee**

1. **NTSSA** has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and 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 3.11.7.2 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 3.11.7.1 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 3.11.7-2 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** Board of Directors hearing as described in Paragraph 3.11.7.4.

#### 4. **NTSSA** Board of Directors Hearing

Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Board of Directors in the following manner:

- a. The alleged offending party should be present at such hearings; however, if he is not present, the **NTSSA** Board of Directors 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 **NTSSA** Board of Directors 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 **NTSSA** Board of Directors 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 is 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.). Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
- b. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee’s personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece”, shall be deemed referee abuse.
- c. Misconduct towards a referee means 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:
  - i. excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;
  - ii. statements that diminish the authority of the referee;
  - iii. Statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.

- iv. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:
  - 1. confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;
  - 2. spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;
  - 3. throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;
  - 4. Re-entering the field.

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:

- i. if a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
- ii. 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 effect 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**.

## 8. Assault On Officials By An Adult Player

Should a player (male or female) be found guilty of referee assault, the **NTSSA** Board of Directors may, at its discretion, impose upon the team of which the player is a member, the requirement of posting a \$1,000 cash bond to be held in the treasury of **NTSSA** without interest for a period of one (1) year after posting. This cash bond will be required to be posted before the team may engage in any further games within the boundaries of **NTSSA**. Should any other member of said team be found guilty of a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the team shall forfeit the bond, and another similar bond will be required before the team can continue in competition. If no member of the team commits a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the bond will be returned to the person or persons designated to receive such payment. No member of such team which has failed to post such bond will be permitted to register with another team until that member has posted a \$50 bond with

**NTSSA**; nor shall any new member be allowed to register on that team until such member has posted a \$50 bond, such bonds to be held under the same terms and conditions as the team bonds.

### **3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees**

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

### **3.11.9 Appellate Procedures**

1. All those under the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** are reminded that they must exhaust all appellate procedures of the Member Association on all matters not covered by these Rules before **NTSSA** 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**, **NTSSA** 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 Rule 3.11 made by Member Associations, after Member Association's appeal procedures have been exhausted, will be made to the **NTSSA** 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 **NTSSA** Board of Directors 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 Executive Director 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

### **3.11.10 Records**

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

### **3.11.11 Association to Comply**

When any Member Association or a member thereof, fails to send in reports as required by this Rule, NTSSA will take any action it considers proper, including fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by Member Association can result in such association being declared not in good standing.

## **APPENDIX B – Coaches Code of Ethics**

### **CHAPTER 8**

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

##### **8.1 NTSSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES**

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

##### **ARTICLE I - RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS**

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players’ time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate **NTSSA** recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician’s instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
8. A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.
9. Coaches shall not engage in or attempt to initiate a consensual relationship with an 18U or 19U player when the coach is in a “position of authority” with respect to the player. Should a consensual relationship develop or appear likely to develop, the coach should step down from his or her position with the player’s team. This will avoid any perception of pressure on the player to acquiesce to unwanted advances to maintain their position on the team or any perception of preferential treatment from the coach due to a consensual relationship with the player.

##### **ARTICLE II - RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

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

4. A coach's dealings with **NTSSA** and Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to **NTSSA** and Member Associations (including playing leagues).

### **ARTICLE III - RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, **NTSSA** and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

### **ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS**

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr. /Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

### **ARTICLE V - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING**

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
2. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
3. All **NTSSA** rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.
6. When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.
7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete, which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

## **ARTICLE VI - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association, and **NTSSA**.
4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, 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.

## **ARTICLE VII - 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:
  - Lewd gestures or remarks
  - Overly critical remarks
  - Ranting and raving
  - Snide or demeaning remarks
  - Threatening behavior or remarks
  - Physical confrontations
  - Temper outbursts



**8.1.1**

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.

## APPENDIX C– Parent Code of Conduct

### 8.2 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).

A parent must never be verbally or physically violent or threatening with any coach, parent, player, or representative of their Member Association or **NTSSA**.