

FSA

FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.



Frisco Soccer Association

**Rules and Bylaws
2010 - 2011**

FSA

FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

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June, 2010

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FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

I/We, the undersigned natural person(s) of the age of eighteen (18) years of age or over, acting as incorporator(s) of a corporation under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

ARTICLE ONE

The name of the corporation is FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE TWO

The corporation is a non-profit corporation.

ARTICLE THREE

The period of its duration is perpetual.

ARTICLE FOUR

The purposes for which the corporation (hereinafter called "Association") is organized are:

- 1) To engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which a corporation may be incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and which are consistent with exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code;
- 2) To foster and advance the cause of soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association and to support and develop players for such competitions, the primary portion of which is to plan, establish, approve, and administer all rules and regulations of all activities sponsored by and under this Association (including all league play), and servicing of basic coaching clinics, referee clinics, and assessments and training and grading of coaches and referees on "as needed" basis.

To foster and advance a soccer program which will promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and courage through amateur athletic competition.

ARTICLE FIVE

The Association shall have Members. Members, membership requirements and the rights and responsibilities of members shall be determined by the Board of Directors, as set forth in the Bylaws of the Association. The Association shall not discriminate in hiring or provision of services or in any other manner against any person on account of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin or age.

ARTICLE SIX

The street address of the initial registered office of the Association is 7661 Kings Ridge Rd., Frisco, Texas 75034, and the name of its initial registered agent at such address is June Taylor.

ARTICLE SEVEN

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors who shall be responsible to the Members of the Association. The number of members constituting the initial Board of Directors of this Association is (3) and the name and address of the members are as follows:

NAME	ADDRESS
1. June Taylor	7661 Kings Ridge Rd., Frisco, TX 75034
2. Debbie Scoggins	8525 Scott Circle, Frisco, TX 75034
3. Steve Hardwick	7014 Fieldstone Dr., Frisco, TX 75034

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The Association will distribute its income for each tax year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the Tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; and

The Association will not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; and

The Association will not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; and

The Association will not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; and

The Association will not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE TEN

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended only at annual meetings or at special meetings of the Members called for the specific purpose of amending these Articles of Incorporation. Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation shall be by two-thirds vote of the adult Members present and voting at such meeting. All voting Members of the Association must be furnished in writing, at least 10 days in advance, proposed amendments and notified of the time, date and place of the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the undersigned, being the sole incorporator hereinabove named, have hereunto set my hand, the ___ day of _____, 1996.

Name: _____

[Notary]

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FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

BYLAWS OF THE FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

These are the Bylaws of Frisco Soccer Association, Inc., (the 'Association') duly adopted on _____, 1996, at an organizational meeting of the Board of Directors named in the Articles of Incorporation of the Association.

ARTICLE I - OFFICES

The principal office of the Association in the State of Texas shall be located in the City of Frisco, County of Collin, Texas. The Association may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Texas, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Association may require from time to time.

Registered Office and Registered.

The Association shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Association, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II - 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 Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and regulations of the Association. Any player may become a member of the Association upon submission to and approval by the Board of Directors of the Association of a properly executed Application/Release form, birth certificate and payment of all fees. Any adult who agrees to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Association may become a coach upon the signing of a Coach's Agreement and of the approval of the Board of Directors and continue coaching, subject to removal for a cause by the Association.

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 ensured by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and/or by the Association's Board of Directors for a violation of the Association's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations or for conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association. A red card shall not in itself be considered an expulsion for these purposes.

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.

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

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION

Government of Association.

This Association shall be governed by its members which shall consist of the Board of Directors of the Association and the recognized delegate from each registered team in good standing, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote. Only the designated delegates will have the right to speak at the meeting. Any Board of Director or delegate may introduce anyone to speak provided he has the permission of the chair. The designated delegate shall be the coach of the team unless otherwise specified in writing. If the coach cannot attend, one of the following people, in this order, may attend with written permission from the coach:

Assistant Coach
Team Manager
Parent of one of the players

There shall be no vote by proxy.

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FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Affiliation with The North Texas State Soccer Association.

This Association shall be directly affiliated with and comply with the authority of, the North Texas State Soccer Association and shall represent all its members and respective interests in and before the North Texas State Soccer Association.

Superseding Authority of NTSSA Rules.

The Association recognizes the superseding authority of the rules of the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

Territory of the Association.

The territory under the jurisdiction of this Association is defined as being that part of Texas which includes:

Frisco Independent School District

A map reflecting the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be on file with NTSSA.

Jurisdiction

This Association shall have jurisdiction over all members, administrators, referees, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, teams, parents, and other persons affiliated with such teams. Each member will adhere to these Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and will comply with the authority of the Association. If the Association is presented sufficient evidence that a Member is not adhering to these Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, the Association will ask the A & D Committee to investigate the allegations and take necessary action.

Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from September 1 to August 31.

Books and Records.

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of all meetings at its principle office.

Resignation.

Any director, committee member, officer or agent may resign by giving written notice to the President. The resignation shall take affect 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.

Amendments to Bylaws.

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present membership; provided, however, that all members have been given ten (10) days written notice, including a written copy of the proposed changes. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting without advance notice.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION

Place of Meetings.

All meetings of the Association shall be held at such place as shall be designated by the President. All meetings of the Association will be open to the members and the general public. Executive sessions may be called by a 2/3 approval of the Board of Directors or a committee to discuss personnel or legal matters.

Annual Meeting.

An Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held each year on a day to be selected by the President during the month of May or June, at which they shall elect officers in accordance with Article VII hereof, and transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. A quorum is not required for this meeting so long as notices of such meetings were properly given. The order of business for such meeting shall be:

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Roll Call and Vote Accreditation
Public Appearance
Approval and Minutes of Last Meeting
Communications
Unfinished Business
Reports of Chairman of Standing Committees
Reports of Officers
New Business
Good of the Game
Adjournment

Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Association for any purpose or purposes, unless otherwise prescribed by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, may be called by the President or by petition of 20% of the designated delegates from registered teams in good standing. Business transacted at all special meetings shall be confined to the purpose stated in the notice of the meeting. A quorum is not required for this meeting so long as notices of such meetings were properly given.

Board of Directors Meetings.

The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month. A quorum of 50% of the Board of Directors is required. If the meeting is changed, then notice must be given.

Once a quorum is established, all actions taking place at the meeting shall be legal regardless of the number present at the time of a vote, provided the meeting had not been previously legally adjourned. All members of the Association may attend this meeting.

Emergency Actions.

Any three (3) voting members of the Board of Directors (which may include the President) may take emergency action on matters demanding immediate attention when it is impractical or impossible to call a meeting and shall report their actions to all Board of Director members in writing within three (3) days.

Notice of Meetings.

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour, of a meeting, and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called, shall be delivered not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the meetings, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the President, to each delegate or Board Member of record 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 delegate or Board Member at their address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon prepaid.

Proxy.

There shall be no vote by proxy for any meetings.

ARTICLE V - NOTICE

Manner of Giving Notice.

Whenever, under the provisions of applicable statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any delegate or Board Member of the Association and no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall be construed to mean personal notice, shall be given in writing, by mail, postage paid, addressed to such delegate or Board Member at the address appearing on the records of the Association. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at the time when the same is thus deposited in the United States mail as aforesaid.

Waiver of Notice.

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any delegates or Board Members of the Association under the provisions of applicable statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing, signed

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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 on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors.

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by its Board of Directors, which shall consist of the Directors of this Association, each of whom will be entitled to one vote (the Past President is not a voting member). The Board of Directors shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Rules of the NTSSA, the USSF and its respective divisions, and the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. The Board of Directors shall also hear appeals of decisions of their A & D Committee.

Election of Board of Directors.

The Directors, i.e., the members of the Board, are listed below and shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, and may succeed themselves in office. To be eligible, the members of the Board of Directors must reside within the FSA jurisdiction and/or they are not bound by any other NTSSA member association, subject to Board approval. Should any member of the Board of Directors change residence outside said jurisdiction, the position shall be grandfathered until the end of the term of such position. The Past President position is to be ratified each year.

Any Director that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the Office he/she is holding, prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting with one-half of the Board of Directors being elected each year in the following manner:

To qualify for the positions of President and/or Vice-President, a candidate must have previously served at least one (1) year as a FSA Board or a candidate must be appointed by a majority of the Board. In the instance that a qualified Board member is not available, a candidate must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

President	(Elected odd years)
Vice President of Recreational Play	(Elected odd years)
Vice President of Cup and Game	(Elected even years)
Vice President of Non Recreational	(Elected even years)
Past-President	(Not elected-former President, non voting member)
Secretary	(Elected odd years)
Treasurer	(Elected even years)
Chairman, Boys Recreational Commissioner	(Elected even years)
Chairman, Girls Recreational Commissioner	(Elected odd years)
Chairman, Referee's Committee	(Elected even years)
Chairman, Facilities	(Elected odd years)

All officers shall be elected by the delegates and the Board of Directors.

Removal.

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be required to resign following vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. 20% of delegates or voting members of the Board of Directors may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors that in turn, will review the petition within fifteen (15) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all the Board of Directors. If an officer receives this vote of No Confidence, he is automatically suspended from the board. His/her office shall then be filled by an appointment approved by the majority of the Board until the next FSA Annual General Meeting.

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Attendance at Meetings.

A Board of Director member not attending two (2) consecutive scheduled meetings, including regular meetings, of this Association or Executive Committee meetings will have his/her office declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the Board of Directors. A vote of 'no confidence' by the Board of Directors shall be taken upon the first board meeting following the second consecutive absence. Should the vote of 'no confidence' pass, his/her office shall then be filled by an appointment approved by the majority of the Board until the next Annual Meeting.

Vacancies.

The Nominating Committee will find a candidate and present this person to the Board of Directors for a majority Board approval.

Compensation.

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

Parliamentarian.

The Past President shall act as Parliamentarian, using "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" as a guide. In the absence of the Past-President, any other voting member of the Board of Directors can act as Parliamentarian.

Minutes.

The Board of Directors shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The minutes shall be placed in the minute book of the Association. Minutes shall be approved at the next Board Meeting.

Grievance Involving Board of Directors Members.

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

Conflicts of Interest.

A member of the Board of Directors can be a member or official of a team, or club.

- a) *Soccer Conflict of Interest:* Any member of the Board, a Standing Committee, or any other committee of the Association shall abstain from discussion of and voting upon any subject matter being considered by the respective body if such would constitute a conflict of interest, directly or indirectly, with any individual, player, coach, manager, official, referee, parent, or team, including, without limitation, those conflicts of interest related to hearing protests or appeals related to the member's team, club players or coach, or parents or managers involved with the member's team or club.
- b) *Other Conflicts of Interest:* It is the policy of the Association that no member of the Board, a Standing Committee, or any other committee or any officer or any employee of the Association shall have any association with or interest in any business enterprise which would conflict with the proper performance of his duties or responsibilities as such or which might tend to affect his independence or judgment with respect to transactions between the Association and any such business enterprise.

It is also the policy of the Association that no member of the Board or any committee or any officer or employee of the Association shall have, directly or indirectly, any material personal business or financial interest with, or in any business enterprise with which, the Association does business, including, without limitation, the member, or any person in the immediate family of the member, holding a position with a supplier of goods and/or services to the Association, unless the material facts of the relationship or the interest in the business are disclosed to the Board and the Board in good faith authorizes the contract, of the disinterested Directors. If a member of the Board, rather than a member of a committee, is the person making the disclosure, the interested Director may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board, whereat the disinterested Directors consider whether to authorize the contract, transaction, or relationship.

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ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS: Powers and Duties

President

The President of the Association shall preside at all Association meetings. He/she shall appoint all Service Committees. He/she is an ex-officio voting member of all Committees. He/she shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting, or he/she may waive the right to do so. He/she may appoint delegates to any meetings of the members. He/she shall submit an annual report in writing at the Annual Meeting and said report shall become part of the minutes of such meeting. He/she shall be responsible for insuring that all members with check signing authority be bonded. He/she is empowered to take prudent and reasonable action in cases not covered in these Bylaws, and such authority is implicit in the office.

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.

Vice President of Recreational Play

He/She shall be responsible for communication, support, and direction of the FSA Commissioners and League Directors. He/she shall be responsible for seeing that the administrative policies and operations of the Association are carried out and will be responsible for setting up and administering player development programs and coaching clinics.

Vice President of Cup and Game

The Vice President of Cup and Game shall be the primary Chairman of the Cup and Game Committee. This Committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all tournament play sponsored by and under this Association. He/she shall be responsible for seeing that the administrative policies and operations of the Association are carried out.

Vice President of Non Recreational Play

The Vice President of Non Recreational Play shall act as the representative to all competitive soccer teams/clubs seeking Frisco and FSA as its home association. He/She shall be responsible for the operation of any competitive leagues that may play their games in Frisco. He/She shall also be responsible for gathering and disseminating information for the Frisco soccer community regarding competitive soccer. He/she shall be responsible for seeing that the administrative policies and operations of the Association are carried out.

Secretary

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. The Secretary will keep all approved minutes in a book and have this book available for review by all Board of Directors and Association members. He/she shall be responsible for the public relations for the association and assist the Registrar.

Treasurer.

He/she shall serve as the financial officer of the Association and shall be responsible for coordinating budget appropriations, complete financial reconciliation and reporting in writing, prior to each scheduled Board of Directors meeting, a balance sheet and income statement. The reporting will be itemized by category and listed in the following manner: Activity during the month, Accumulative to date; Approved budget; Difference (plus or minus). He/she shall chair the Budget and Finance Committee and shall review and initial all contracts by this Association. He/she shall require all checks, in an amount greater than sixty (\$60) dollars, have two (2) authorized signatures and shall be bonded. Along with the Treasurer, the President and Vice-President will be authorized to sign checks. The 2 signatures required on the checks can not be from people who are related. The person or persons receiving the check may not be either of the authorized signatures on the check. All financial records are available for review by any delegate.

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Chairman, Referee Committee,

He/she shall be a registered USSF Referee and shall report the activities of the Referee Committee at each regular meeting of this Association. The Referee Chairman will recommend a qualified Referee Assignor to the Board for their approval. He/she shall organize the programs for instruction, registration and administration of all USSF referees within the FSA in compliance with the programs and policies of NTSSA and USSF National Referee Committee.

Chairman, Facilities,

The Facilities Chairman will be in charge of the nets, flags, and other physical property of the Frisco Soccer Association. He/she shall also have the responsibility for the upkeep of the soccer fields. He/she may appoint and/or solicit help from any member or interested party in fulfilling his/her duties as defined herein.

Boys Commissioner

The Boys Commissioner shall be responsible for team formation within the jurisdiction of the Association and shall appoint such League Directors as he/she deems necessary to carry out this function, after approval of the Board of Directors. He/she shall be responsible for arbitration of issues/infractions involving coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives and/or teams within his/her jurisdiction. Problems of a more serious nature shall be reported to the A & D Committee. He/she must have served on the Frisco Soccer Association Board or any other appointed position for a minimum of one calendar year before becoming eligible to hold position. Boys Commissioner shall volunteer to serve on at least 2 FSA committees per soccer year.

Girls Commissioner,

The Girls Commissioner shall be responsible for team formation within the jurisdiction of the Association and shall appoint such League Directors as he/she deems necessary to carry out this function, after approval of the Board of Directors. He/she shall be responsible for arbitration of issues/infractions involving coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives and/or teams within his/her jurisdiction. Problems of a more serious nature shall be reported to the A & D Committee. He/she must have served on the Frisco Soccer Association Board or any other appointed position for a minimum of one calendar year before becoming eligible to hold position. Girls Commissioner shall volunteer to serve on at least 2 FSA committees per soccer year.

League Directors

All League Directors shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and ratified each year. One league Director will be appointed for each league (respective boys and girl's age group) Leagues shall be divided into conferences where the large size of the league dictates such need, and each conference shall have its own league director. The League Director who is responsible for the upper or senior conference will have overall responsibility for coordination of efforts common to all of the conferences of said league. League Directors shall keep a complete list of teams, including the coach and the parent representative from each team within their respective league or conference for the recorder of the committee; as to recreational leagues, they will recruit coaches and forward coaches' contacts to their respective commissioners. League Directors shall be responsible for the matters within their leagues and conferences and will be the liaison with the teams and commissioners. League Directors shall not be appointed to a division in which he/she either coaches a team or has a child participating in said division. The Recreational Division shall include all age conferences as needed.

Complex Director(s)

The Complex Director(s) shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and ratified each season. The Complex Director(s) shall be responsible for checking in and monitoring the activities of all Field Marshal(s). He/she shall serve as a resource outlet for Frisco Soccer (i.e., answering questions regarding field locations, game times, concessions locations, and restroom locations, etc.) and will fulfill any other responsibility and guidance needed and deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

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Partnership Liaison(s):

Partnership Liaisons are a designated member from each FSA partnership program. These liaisons are intended as a bridge between the FSA Board of Directors and said Partnership group. Liaison(s) may enter into all general board discussions; however they do not attend executive sessions. Liaison(s) shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The liaison(s) serve at the sole discretion of the board.

Past President.

He/she will assist the President. . The Past President will be a non-voting board member who will succeed from the office of President.

Registrar

The Registrar of the Association shall be the chief administrative staff person of the Association and, subject to the supervision of the Board, 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 Board. The Registrar shall be selected by and serve at the pleasure of the Board and receive such compensation and other emoluments as the Board may from time to time determine. The Registrar shall be an at-will employee of the Association and may be terminated at any time by the Board in its sole discretion.

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, the Registrar will be responsible for implementing valid Identification Cards for the Association. The Board may appoint as many Assistant Registrars to assist the Registrar in their duties as Registrar as the Board deems appropriate.

Referee Assignor

The position of Referee Assignor will report directly to the Chairman, Referee Committee. The Referee Assignor will be responsible for scheduling referees for league play and that the assigned referee or a qualified replacement officiates the game.

Scheduler.

The Scheduler will be responsible for the scheduling of games for league play. The President appoints the Scheduler for approval by the majority of the Board.

Employees/Staff.

The Executive Committee shall be authorized to employ such employee's, as it deems necessary to carry out the day-to-day functions of the Frisco Soccer Association. Employees shall not have any voting roles in any business of the Frisco Soccer Association. The term of employment for all employees shall be at the will of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson and approved by 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first Board Meeting following the Annual General Meeting of each year. Vacancies on such committees shall be filled by appointment, within thirty (30) days of occurrence of such vacancy. In case of an emergency, the Committee Chairperson shall have the power to fill vacancies of any Committee by appointment until such vacancy can be filled in accordance with normal procedures. All committee meetings/hearings are open to the membership.

Executive Committee.

It shall be composed of the President, Vice President of Recreational Play, Vice President of Non Recreational Play, Vice President of Cup and Game, Secretary, Treasurer, and Referee Chairman with the President as the Chairperson.

Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

It shall be composed of the A&D Chairperson and four additional members, of which three shall constitute a quorum. The Chairperson shall notify those parties involved in any A&D hearing within three days, in writing, of

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the rulings of this Committee. The Frisco Soccer Association, Inc. (hereinafter sometimes called FSA) shall appoint a referee who will serve as an advisor to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. All reports will be heard in a timely manner by the Committee and in no event shall this time period exceed 14 days.

Budget and Finance Committee.

It shall be composed of the Treasurer as Chairperson, the President and two (2) members. It shall submit a proposed budget for the Association for the upcoming fiscal year to the Board of Directors two (2) months prior to the Annual General Meeting. It shall report the status of the budget to the Members at the Board of Directors Meetings. An audit shall be conducted the lesser of two years or changing of the Treasurer. The audit shall be conducted by an agency appointed by the Board of Directors. The agency shall be instructed to make any recommendations to improve the Association record keeping processes. The Budget and Finance Committee shall not include a salaried employee of the Association.

Cup and Game Committee

It shall be comprised of the Vice President of Cup and Game and six (6) members appointed by the Vice President and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Referee Chairman shall serve on this Committee as an advisor. The Vice President shall call all meetings of this Committee and in matters requiring a vote shall cast his vote after the other members. The advisors shall not have a vote. This Committee shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all tournaments play sponsored by and under this Association. When such tournament play is conducted for the USSF, such rules and regulations are not to be superseded by those of the Cup and Games Committee. However, in such an event, the particular League Director involved is expected to be an advisor as to the State portion of the tournament being conducted. The Committee is responsible for sanctioning all FSA tournaments.

Any decision of placement or rules by the Cup and Games Committee may be appealed by the concerned Member Association to the same Committee within 72 hours of the formal announcement, but at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the tournament. Their decision may be appealed to the Association's Executive Committee within 24 hours.

Rules, Regulation, Constitution and Bylaw Committee.

It shall be composed of the Vice President of Recreational Play as Chairperson with four (4) members. It shall be responsible for annually reviewing the Association's Rules and Regulations and the Constitution and Bylaws and proposing changes as required to such rules at the meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of this Association. All proposed rules shall be presented to the membership for 2/3 approval of membership present.

The proposed changes will be voted on by the members at the Annual Meeting each year. It shall maintain a list of rules and regulations enacted by the NTSSA and shall provide all coaches and or managers with a copy of the FSA Rules and Regulations and Constitution and Bylaws.

Nomination Committee.

It shall be composed of a chairperson appointed by the Board and at least two (2) other members. These appointments should be made no later than three (3) months prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It shall be the duty of the Nomination Committee to nominate and present to the Board at least one member for each open position, including any unexpired term vacancy, for which elections are being held, and to determine that the individuals nominated are agreeable to the placing of their names in nomination and will accept office if elected. The Committee shall prepare written ballots to be used with such elections.

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ARTICLE IX - RULES, REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES FOR APPEAL

Procedure for Filing Appeals.

In no event shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of this Association resort to the Courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations to this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines as set forth by the United States Soccer Federation, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the FSA and its officers and members in defending each court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by the FSA officers and members in responding to and defending against allegations in the actions, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.

Procedure for filing appeals shall be as follows:

- 1) All appeals to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee must be submitted in writing and received within ten (10) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (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, at its discretion, may, 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 Chairman of the Committee. 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 may be appealed to the Executive Committee of this Association. Procedures for filing appeals with the Executive Committee shall be exactly (including time limit and filing fee) as for filing with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee except that all material shall be submitted to the President, who shall notify all concerned parties of the receipt of the appeals and the time and place for the hearing as set by the President.
- 6) Any decision of a Board member or standing Committee may be appealed to the A&D Committee.
- 7) Decisions of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association. Appeals must be mailed to NTSSA within five (5) days of the Executive Committee decision.

All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION PLAYING RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. SOCCER YEAR AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

The soccer year shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year.

2. PLAYING SEASON

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

3. LEAGUES

The FSA Recreational Division further shall be divided into eight (8) age levels (Under-5, Under-6, Under-8, Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-16 and Under-19), referred to as leagues. Both boys and girls leagues shall be formed in each age group. Eligibility for each league will be based upon NTSSA age requirements.

4. AGE CONFERENCES AND GROUPS

The FSA leagues may be divided into age conferences (i.e. Under-8 will be divided into Under-7 and Under-8), as deemed necessary by the League Director of said league for playing purposes. Furthermore, the age conferences may be divided into groups (i.e. Under-7A, Under-7B, etc.)

5. LEAGUE STANDINGS

5.1. The following point system is used to determine standings:

5.1.1. Under-5 through Under-9 will be noncompetitive and no Standings will be kept.

5.1.2. Points will be awarded for Under-10 through Under-19, as follows:

5.1.2.1. 3 points for a win

5.1.2.2. 1 points for a tie

5.1.2.3. 0 points for a loss

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.

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 to determine the team standings:

5.2.1. Head to Head game results - winner will advance.

- 5.2.2. Goal differential - teams with highest goals differential against their opponents will advance in the scoring standings (maximum of 3) goals scored - goals against. Only the first 3 goals scored by any team in any game will be counted in calculating winning points allowed for advancement. (Example: A 4-1 game = 3-1 in calculating advancement; a 10-4 game= 3-3 in calculating advancement).
- 5.2.3. Fewest goals allowed – team with the fewest goals allowed will advanced
- 5.2.4. Kicks from the penalty mark will be applied at a time and place determined by the league. FSA bylaws and playing rules apply.
- 5.3. The tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement in standings.
- 5.4. In the event of a tie in season standings for First and Second place standings, kicks from the penalty mark process will be implemented by the league.
- 5.5. Championship games
 - 5.5.1. There will be no championship games for Under-5 through Under-9.
 - 5.5.2. 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.

OVERTIME PERIODS:	U12	Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
	U14	Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
	U16	Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves
	U19	Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves

OVERTIME PENALTY KICKS WILL BE TAKEN ACCORDING TO THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME.

6. AWARDS

A participation award (to be determined by the FSA Board of Directors) will be presented to all players in the Under-10 and below Leagues. The only exception is the teams in the Under-10 League winning a place trophy. Any team playing up to higher League shall abide to the awards rules of such League. Teams participating in the U12 playing league will be separated into 2 groups as applicable, (either U11 or U12 age pure). Awards will be given as stated below. Teams participating in a playing league outside of FSA will be subjected to the award rules of the playing league in which it participates.

Place trophies will be awarded as follows:

- 6.1. Two (2) or three (3) league teams - FIRST PLACE
- 6.2. Four (4) or Five (5) league teams - FIRST & SECOND PLACE
- 6.3. Six (6) or more league teams - FIRST, SECOND & THIRD PLACE

7. PLAYER ELEGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1. To be eligible, all players must reside within the Frisco Independent School District boundaries and/or they are not bound by any other NTSSA member association, subject to Board approval.
- 7.2. Age of youth as of July 31st of the immediate soccer year determines the league in which a youth will play regardless of age at the start of the season (Note: This is required by the USSF/NTSSA). Players may play up one (1) age group with a written request from the parent(s) and written approval of the League Director.
- 7.2.1. Exception 1: Players who are three (3) years of age before August 1st of the current soccer year will be permitted to participate in the Under-5 age division in the Fall Season.
- 7.2.2. Exception 2: It is to the League Director's and Commissioner's mutual agreement to approve a request to play up to more than one age group, based on the player's ability to compete in such age group.
- 7.3. The playing of any youth outside the age limits of the team, as defined above, is prohibited unless approved by FSA. Violation of this rule shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.
- 7.4. No team shall 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 one (1) year.
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. PLAYERS: A properly executed registration for each player must be submitted to the Association along with the proper player fee prior to the start of the season. . A record of the registration will be held by the Association **PROOF OF AGE IS REQUIRED FOREACH NEW PLAYER BEFORE THEY CAN BE REGISTERED. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY REQUIRE RE-EXAMINATION OF PROOF OF AGE IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE.**
- It is required that the coach of the team, prior to the first practice, obtain an original signature of the players parents/guardian, on a printed waiver made available to him/her by FSA.
- 7.7. Teams residing outside the FSA boundaries that are approved for participation in the FSA program shall be required to submit a valid roster, signed by the team's home association and pay any applicable fees before they will be scheduled for any games within the FSA.

8. REFUNDS

8.1. Refund Policy

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

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- 8.1.1. No refunds will be given to a player after he/she has participated in a team practice and/or any games.
- 8.1.2. All refunds will be minus an administrative processing fee approved by the Board of Directors.
- 8.1.3. Late fees are not refundable.
- 8.1.4. Online transaction fees are never refundable.
- 8.2. Procedure for Requesting and Paying Refunds
 - 8.2.1. All requests for refunds must be received in writing by FSA one week prior to the opening day.
 - 8.2.2. All requests for refunds must be initiated by the parent or player in writing to the FSA office, using the Refund Request form.
 - 8.2.3. All refund checks will be issued no earlier than the third week after opening day.

9. TEAM STRUCTURE

- 9.1. 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 have the option to request removal from a team and reassignment through the Player's Pool. A recreational player sitting out one season (i.e., not playing soccer in any organization) 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.
- 9.2. New recreational teams and returning recreational teams needing additional players will obtain players in the manner described below. However, before new players are added to a returning recreational team, the head coach must contact each player from the previous season and invite them back, unless the player has moved or requested to be removed from that team.
 - 9.2.1. In the Under-5 and Under-6 leagues, players will be assigned by the League Director from the Player's Pool, from their local elementary school area in which they live whenever possible. If not enough players are available from the team's school; players from neighboring schools that feed into the same next level school should be used first.
 - 9.2.2. New players to FSA in the Under-5 thru Under-8 leagues may request to be placed on a team with a friend. The friend may be a new or existing player in FSA. This rule is independent of school boundaries.
 - 9.2.3. In all other leagues, players will be assigned by FSA from the Player's Pool via the blind draft.
- 9.3. The number of players on a team will be as follows:

Leagues	Maximum	Nominal	FSA Recommended
Under 5 / 6	8	6	8

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Under 7 / 8	10	7	9
Under 9 / 10	14	9	11
Under-12 & older	18	14	16

10. DISBANDMENTS

Any team registered with FSA shall not 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:

- 10.1. The coach, prior to resigning, will inform the League Director of his/her intentions. A coach cannot disband a team and should encourage the players to return to the team.
- 10.2. If the coach cannot find an eligible successor, the League Director will work in selecting and securing new leadership.
- 10.3. If, after all possible effort by the League Director, a new coach cannot be found, the League Director will place each player into the Player's Pool.
- 10.4. Teams with the fewest returning players are subject to disbandment.

11. PLAYER RELEASE, TRANSFER AND PLAY-UP

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

In summary, FSA requires that:

- 11.1. A player can request ONLY ONE transfer per soccer year.
- 11.2. Players require a written release from the FSA Registrar in order to play outside of FSA, during a soccer year.
- 11.3. Players can be released to the Player Pool at the time of registration by requesting on the application that they be reassigned to the Players' Pool.
- 11.4. 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.
- 11.5. 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 the corresponding commissioner.
- 11.6. 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.

12. COACHES

- 12.1. Only the Head Coach shall 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.

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- 12.2. Only players who are currently rostered to the Coach's team are allowed to participate in practices and league games for such team. There will be no swapping of players at any time.
- 12.3. All Head Coaches must complete the F certification course (G certification for Under-8 and below) prior to or during the next season they coach those age groups. Assistant Coaches are encouraged complete the same certification as the Head Coach
- 12.4. The Coach and Assistant Coach of record are to be active coaches for the team and not in name only.
- 12.5. In the event a team loses its Head Coach, the League Director will offer the team to the Assistant Coach and the parents of the team before selecting a Head Coach from the outside.
- 12.6. Each Head Coach has one (1) vote at any Annual General Meeting of FSA at which they are entitled to vote.
- 12.7. 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.
- 12.8. Coaches are responsible for following the league's substitution policy (see Playing Time in the Playing Rules section of this book).
- 12.9. Coaches are subject to the jurisdiction of FSA, its League Commissioners and the Board of Directors and all FSA rules and policies. The League Commissioners shall approve all coaches in their league. Coaches in good standing and teams in good standing are permitted and welcomed.
- 12.12 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 FSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and, if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching. (NTSSA rule 4.7.6.1 & 4.7.6.2)
- 12.13 Coaching players in the FSA program is a privilege. Coaches who do not adhere to the FSA rules and or do not promote a positive experience for the players may be removed at any time as deemed necessary by the League Director or the FSA Board of Directors.

13. THE BALL

13. THE BALL

The game ball is provided by the home team as indicated on the schedule. Game balls are provided to each Recreational team by FSA.

Ball Distribution - Recreational Teams

FSA will supply one (1) game ball to each team registered and playing in the FSA Recreational Division at the start of the soccer year (fall season).

FSA will supply one (1) game ball to each new team registered and playing in the FSA Recreational Division at the start of the spring season.

The coach is responsible for supplying the game ball at each scheduled match.

If the game ball becomes lost, stolen, or damaged, the coach is responsible for replacing the game ball with one of equal quality.

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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.

After the soccer year is complete, the game ball becomes the property of the coach.

14. IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Each coach/assistant coach and manager whose name appears on the team roster is required to produce a valid FSA Identification card during all games, when requested by a NTSSA representative, FSA Board member and/or referee. FSA issues ID cards for rostered coach/assistant and manager upon completing and submitting annual Risk Management forms as required by NTSSA.

15. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. Unauthorized usage(e.g. practices, scrimmages, games) of the game fields will not be permitted. Under city ordinances, violations are subject to a fine.
- 15.4. FSA in conjunction with the City of Frisco provide 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 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.

16. 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 League. The following actions by the coaching staff and/or parents are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** in all related soccer activities:

- 16.1. FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE
- 16.2. HARASSMENT OF PLAYERS
- 16.3. HARASSMENT OF LEAGUE OFFICIALS, REFEREES OR SPECTATORS
- 16.4. ACTS OF AGGRESSION TO PLAYERS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, REFEREES OR SPECTATORS

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- 16.5. ACCEPTING ANY FORM OF ASSISTANCE FROM ANY PERSON OR PERSONS OFFICIALLY SUSPENDED FROM ALL SOCCER ACTIVITIES BY NTSSA OR FSA
- 16.6. CONDUCT CONTRARY TO THE RULES OF THE FSA.
- 16.7. VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCES AS POSTED

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.

17. GAME PROCEDURES

- 17.1. Players, parents and spectators must remain behind the designated technical area or spectator line. The coaches' technical area is defined as marked on the sideline and is perpendicular to the half. 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.
- 17.2. 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.
- 17.3. The Home team of the First game at each field is responsible for acquiring and putting up the flags (and goals, if portable) at that field. The Home team of the last game at each field is responsible for taking down the flags (and goals, if portable) and returning them to the storage area.
- 17.4. For Under 7 and older age groups, the Players, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers for both the Home and Visitor teams shall occupy the North or West side of the field. All spectators shall occupy the opposite side of the field. The Referee shall be charged to enforce this rule and make sure that only Players, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers are the only ones occupying the designated side of the field for this purpose.
- 17.5. The Home Team is responsible for providing contrasting jerseys/shirts in the event of conflict of color. The final decision on whether there is a color conflict is up to the referee.
- 17.6. A Game Roster and Misconduct 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. The Game Report and Sit Out Verification Form (if applicable) must be submitted by the referee to FSA within 48 hours of the game.
- 17.7. Game Forfeiture
 - 1. The score for forfeiture is 3-0. 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.
 - c. Failure to field a team 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.
2. If a team intentionally forfeits a game, that team (Coaches, managers, and/or other responsible party) may be required to appear before the divisional 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 league office and the applicable League Director at least 48 hours prior to the game if possible.

18. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES:

- 18.1. The Referee or any member of the 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 Frisco Policy and Procedure.
- 18.2. The Referee or any member of the Board of Directors may call a stoppage of play in case of rumbling thunder or lightning, in accordance with the City of Frisco policy and procedures.
- 18.3. Teams MUST report to the playing fields ready to play unless previously OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED. A ten-minute grace period will be allowed after the starting time. After ten minutes, forfeiture for the team not in attendance will be declared. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team arrives 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.
- 18.4. The Referee Chairman will notify the Scheduler and respective League Directors of all games postponed or suspended by Referees. Notification of postponement should be made to the League Directors within twenty-four (24) hours.
- 18.5. 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.

19. RESCHEDULING GAMES

19.1. PRE-SEASON:

Every effort will be made to meet a team's conflict, provided they:

- 19.1.1. Have submitted a pre-season FSA Conflict Form to the Scheduler, by the indicated deadline for the season and
- 19.1.2. Fall into one of the categories listed below:

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19.1.2.1 School related events.

19.1.2.2 Head Coach has more than one recreational team in FSA.

19.1.3. Affect the number of players specified in the FSA Conflict form.

19.2. IN-SEASON:

Any request made during the season must be submitted to the League Commissioner and fall within the conflict guidelines.

The Scheduler will coordinate with the City of Frisco Parks and Recreation Staff to determine field availability and the Referee Assignor will determine referee availability. The Scheduler will notify the Referee Assignor, the Facilities Chairman, and the League Commissioners of the rescheduled game(s). It will be the League Commissioner's duty to notify their teams of the rescheduled games.

20. DISCIPLINE – NTSSA RULE 3-11

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

Discipline will be rendered as set forth *NTSSA Rule 3.11. (SEE APPENDIX –A DISCIPLINE (NTSSA RULE 3.11))*

21. GAME PROTESTS, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

21.1. FSA shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, and the like, as described under the Article IX of the FSA By-Laws.

21.2. Protests, grievances, and the like against the conduct of referees must be filed with the League Commissioner. **JUDGEMENT CALLS BY REFEREES MAY NOT BE PROTESTED!!!!** The League Commissioner shall forward the filing to the Referee Committee. It is the responsibility of the Referee Committee to determine the validity of such actions and to handle this within the association. Persons filing such charges should direct them to the Referee Committee through the FSA office who shall forward them to the Referee Committee through the Board of Directors, Referee Chairman. After complete investigation the Referee Committee will make a written report to the FSA Executive Committee with findings and recommendations. A coach shall have the right to request that a specified referee not call games for his/her team. Such requests shall be given to the appropriate League Commissioner, who will, at his/her discretion take one or both of the following actions:

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- 21.2.1. Request that two (2) Board of Directors members assist the League Commissioner in observing a game called by that referee in which the complaining coach is coaching.
- 21.2.2. Request of the Referee Assignor that the specified referee not call such games. In some cases it may not be possible to comply with this request.

21.3. Protests:

- 21.3.1. There shall be no protests in Under-5, Under-6, Under-7 & Under-8 league play.
- 21.3.2. All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to FSA within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, accompanied by a \$50 fee.
- 21.3.3. \$50 fee shall be returned if protest is upheld.
- 21.3.4. Protests of any other type may be made within five (5) days to the appropriate League Commissioner, who will take whatever action is necessary.
- 21.3.5. All protests received by the League Commissioner must be resolved within five (5) days of receipt.
- 21.3.6. All appeals of a League Commissioner's decision of a protest must be filed within seventy-two (72) hours of the League Commissioner's decision on said protest.
- 21.3.7. 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:
 - 21.3.7.1. 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/FSA).
 - 21.3.7.2. A team has played an ineligible or suspended player.
 - 21.3.7.3. A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team: and/or
 - 21.3.7.4. There has been a violation of the minimum playing requirements for any player, as outlined in the FSA Playing Rules.
- 21.3.8. The FSA 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.
- 21.3.9. The FSA A&D Committee shall not assume that a game result should be changed strictly on the basis of a protest being valid because a Law of the Game has been broken or for any other valid reason. Game protests should be upheld on the basis of the merits of the protest and the entire circumstances or was not affected by the events referred to in the protest of the game.

21.4. Appeals:

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21.4.1. Decisions from the FSA A&D Committee and other organizations under the jurisdiction of FSA, may be appealed to the FSA Executive Committee with the President receiving the appeal directly. The appeal must be received by the President within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision. The FSA Executive Committee shall be the only level of appeal prior to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee of NTSSA. The procedure for filing an appeal is the same as for protests. 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 appeal or require other action to be taken.

21.4.2. Decisions of the FSA Executive Committee may be appealed to the NTSSA A&D Committee through the State Office and, then, to their Executive Committee and on to the USYSA/USSF and FIFA through their appeals and protest policies and procedures, upon payment of such fees and filing of such forms as required through these organizations at that time.

21.5. Grievances*:

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

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

21.6. Rule on all player release requests. (Refer to NTSSA Rule 3-11) **RECOURSE TO COMMISSIONER'S DECISIONS:** Since the League 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. With a properly functioning League Commissioner, i.e., one hearing, suggesting, guiding, helping and compromising rather than dictating, there should be little, if any, need for appeals. However, for cases not reconciled at the League Commissioner's level the Coach or Manager may address the matter, **IN WRITING**, to the FSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

22. GUEST PLAYER

There will be no guest players allowed for FSA league play.

For tournament play, the use of guest player is sanctioned by NTSSA and FSA under the following restrictions:

22.1. The number of guest players sanctioned by NTSSA may be added to a team for the purpose of playing in USYSA sanctioned tournaments providing:

22.1.1. The tournament allows guest players. (Refer to specific tournament rules for the maximum number of players allowed)

22.1.2. The guest players are previously registered to a sanctioned team, or are registered through a sanctioned NTSSA organization but not on an existing team roster.

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- 22.1.3. Each guest player has submitted to the FSA Registrar a completed Guest Player Release form signed by the releasing coach and the home association.
- 22.1.4. Any FSA player that wishes to guest play must submit a completed Guest player Release form to the FSA Registrar.
- 22.2. Any player playing as a guest player may not be transferred or assigned to the hosting team's roster for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the home association (NTSSA Rule 4.8.1).

Players registered to a competitive team are ineligible to participate as guest players for a recreational team playing in a recreational tournament.

23. TRYOUTS AND RECRUITING

- 23.1. THERE SHALL BE NO TRYOUTS.
 - 23.1.1. If a team and/or coach violate the rules concerning tryouts, the coach and/or team involved shall appear before the FSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Either or both may be suspended from participation in FSA for a period of one (1) year.
- 23.2. THERE SHALL BE NO RECRUITING. It shall be assumed that a team has recruited if:
 - 23.2.1. 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, Assistant 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 League Commissioner of that age group.
 - 23.2.2. For any violation of this rule, the Coach concerned and all offending parties shall appear before the FSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. The Coach and all participating persons may be suspended from participation in FSA for a minimum of one (1) year.
- 23.3. An Indoor Soccer League has no affiliation with FSA. Indoor rosters shall not be considered for FSA team formation.

24. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

**NOTE TO PARENTS: For FSA Playing league, earrings of any kind will not be allowed and must be removed.*

- 24.1. Players should 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 shall make the final decision in allowing or disallowing a player to participate. The final decision on whether there is a color conflict is up to the referee. In the event two teams are to play and the normal jersey of both teams are identical or similar in color such that confusion might arise, the home team shall be instructed by the referee to wear a white T-shirt

or other contrasting shirt over the jersey so that they are all the same color for that team, whether or not these substitution shirts are numbered. The referee shall make the final decision in approving or disapproving alternate jerseys.

- 24.2. Shin guards are mandatory for all players. Socks must be worn over the shin guards with the shin guards to be completely hidden from view. Shirts must be tucked in.
- 24.3. The goalkeeper will wear colors that distinguish him/her from other players, from the referee and from all members of the opposing team.
- 24.4. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to himself or herself or to another player (for example, jewelry, broken cleats, earrings etc.). **Earrings of any kind are not allowed.**
- 24.5. In FSA playing league, casts will not be allowed unless properly padded. The referee shall have the final decision.
- 24.6. Players wearing eyeglasses are encouraged to wear an eyeglass retainer strap.
- 24.7. Under foul weather conditions, additional garments (knit caps, gloves, and warm-ups) may be worn as long as the team jersey is on the outside.
- 24.8. 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.

UNDER 5 THROUGH UNDER 6 - PLAYING RULES

1. LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

The field size below is the FSA recommended, but may vary depending on field availability.

The field of play is 20 (twenty) yards wide by 30 (thirty) yards long.
A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
The center circle is 4 (four) yards in radius.
The goal area is 7 (seven) yards wide and 2 (two) yards in depth.
The corner area is 1 (one) yard.
The goal size is 4 (four) feet high and 6 (six) feet wide.

LAW II - THE BALL

2.1 *The ball is a size 3 (three). (See General Rules – Rule 13)*

3. LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Teams are composed of eight (8) players.

The number of players on each side is four (4) (NO GOAL KEEPERS).

A team may not play with less than three (3) players on the field.

Substitutions

For an injured player, when the referee stops play;

3.4.2 At a quarter break.

***NOTE:** Coaches, spectators, or parents shall not enter the field of play for any reason without permission of the referee.

4. LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

4.1 Players equipment must conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

4.1.1 Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

4.1.2 No Jewelry of any sort (this includes earrings).

***NOTE TO PARENTS:** Shinguards are mandatory for all practices and games. Players will not be allowed to participate without them.

5. LAW V – THE REFEREE

5.1 Registered Referee.

5.2 Associate Referee.

5.3 Parent/Coach or Assistant who must remember that he/she is serving as an official.

5.4 Referee's decisions on points of facts connected to the game shall be final.

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

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

6. LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

6.1 None

7. LAW VII – THE DURATION OF MATCH

EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST 50% OF EACH GAME.

7.1 Age Groups U5/U6 play with the NTSSA Modified Rules and the Rules for Optional 4 v 4 Play described in NTSSA Rule 3.15.

7.2 The game shall be divided into 4 ten-minute quarters with a 2-minute between quarters and a 5-minute half-time period.

7.3 Teams that are not ready to play within 10 minutes of published time will forfeit game. There will be no time stoppage for any reason.

8. LAW VIII - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

8.1 Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

8.1.1 Opponents must be 4 (four) yards from the center mark while kicking off is in progress

9. LAW XI – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

9.1 Conform to **FIFA**.

10. LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING

10.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

11. LAW XI – OFFSIDE

11.1 There shall be no off-side.

12. LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

12.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

12.1.1 All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents 4 (four) yards away.

12.1.2 The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.

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

*NOTE: Any player that is sent off can be replaced with another player from the same team. The player being sent off must sit out the rest of that game.

13. LAW XIII - FREE KICKS

13.1 Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

13.1.1 Kick-off, throw-ins, goal kick and fouls are indirect kicks (i.e. a goal cannot be scored by kicking the ball directly into the goal: the ball must first be touched by another player).

13.1.2 Defending players must be at least 4 (four) yards from the ball at the time of the free kick.

14. LAW XIV – PENALTY KICK

14.1 No Penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

15. LAW XV – Throw-in

15.1 Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

15.1.1 If a throw is done improperly, a second throw-in must be allowed. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

16. LAW XVI – Goal Kick

16.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

16.1.1 Opponents must be 4 (four) yards away.

17. LAW XVII – Corner Kick

17.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

17.1.1 Opponents must be 4 (four) yards away.

18 OTHER GENERAL RULES

18.1 Coaches are not allowed on the field during play, unless they are invited by the official for the purpose of assisting an injured player.

18.2 Score is not kept during games. At the end of the game there are no winners and losers. ALL kids are winners.

18.3 Playing Restrictions: If in the opinion of the referee a team is guilty of intentionally placing a player in front of their goal while his/her team is on the attack, the referee shall stop play, warn the team, and restart with a free kick to the other team at the point where the ball was at the time of the stoppage.

***NOTE TO COACH:** The intent of this rule is to encourage ALL players to be involved in the play of the game.

UNDER 7 THROUGH UNDER 8 - PLAYING RULES

1. LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

The field size below is the FSA recommended, but may vary depending on field availability.

The field of play is 30 (thirty) yards wide by 50 (fifty) yards long.
A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
The center circle is 6 (six) yards in radius.
The goal area is 10 (ten) yards wide and 3 (three) yards in depth.
The corner area is 1 (one) yard.
The goal size is 6 (six) feet high and 12 (twelve) feet wide.

2. LAW II - THE BALL

2.1. The ball is a size 3 (three). (See General Rules – Rule 13)

3. LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

3.1. Teams are composed of players using the follow guidelines:

League	Maximum	Nominal	FSA Recommended
Under 7 / 8	10	7	9

3.2. The number of players on each side is five (5) (NO GOALKEEPERS)

(A player may play as a defender with in his/her own goal area but is not permitted to use their hands).

3.3. A team may not play with less than four (4) players on the field.

3.4. Substitutions

3.4.1. For an injured player, when the referee stops play;

3.4.2. At a quarter break.

NOTE: Coaches, spectators, or parents shall not enter the field of play for any reason without permission of the referee.

4. LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

4.1. Players equipment must conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

4.1.1. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

4.1.2. No Jewelry of any sort (this includes earrings).

5. LAW V – THE REFEREE

5.1. Registered Referee

5.2. Associate Referee

5.3. Parent/Coach or Assistant who must remember that he/she is serving as an official

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5.4. Referee's decisions on points of facts connected to the game shall be final.

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

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

6. LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

6.1. None

7. LAW VII – THE DURATION OF MATCH

EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST 50% OF EACH GAME.

7.1. Age Groups U7/U8 play with the NTSSA Modified Rules described in NTSSA Rules, 3.16 and 3.17, respectively.

7.2. The game shall be divided into 4 twelve-minute quarters with a 2-minute between quarters and a 5-minute half-time period.

7.3. Teams that are not ready to play within 10 minutes of published time will forfeit game. There will be no time stoppage for any reason.

8. LAW VIII - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

8.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

8.1.1. Opponents must be 6 (six) yards from the center mark while kicking off is in progress

9. LAW XI – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

9.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

10. LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING

10.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

11. LAW XI – OFFSIDE

11.1. There shall be no offside.

12. LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

12.1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

12.2. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents 6 (six) yards away.

12.3. The Referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.

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

NOTE: Any player that is sent off can be replaced with another player from the same team. The player being sent off must sit out the rest of that game.

13. LAW XIII - FREE KICKS

13.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

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13.2. Kick-off, throw-ins, goal kick and fouls are indirect kicks (i.e. a goal cannot be scored by kicking the ball directly into the goal: the ball must first be touched by another player).

13.3. Defending players must be at least 6 (six) yards from the ball at the time of the free kick.

14. LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

14.1. No Penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

15. LAW XV – THROW-IN

15.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

15.1.1. If a throw is done improperly, a second throw-in must be allowed. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

16. LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

16.1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

16.1.1. Opponents must be 6 (six) yards away.

17. LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

17.1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

17.1.1. Opponents must be 6 (six) yards away.

18. OTHER GENERAL RULES

18.1. Coaches are not allowed on the field during play, unless they are invited by the official for the purpose of assisting an injured player.

18.2. Score is not kept during games. At the end of the game there are no winners and losers. ALL kids are winners.

UNDER 9 THROUGH UNDER 10 - PLAYING RULES

1. LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

The field size below is the FSA recommended, but may vary depending on field availability.

The field of play is 50 (fifty) yards wide by 80 (eighty) yards long.

A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.

The center circle is 8 (eight) yards in radius.

The goal area is 16 (sixteen) yards wide and 4 (four) yards in depth.

The penalty area is 32 (thirty-two) yards wide and 12 (twelve) yards in depth.

A 6 (six) inch diameter penalty spot shall be marked 8 (eight) yards from the center of the goal line.

An 8 (eight) yard penalty arc shall be constructed outside the penalty area centered on the penalty spot.

The corner area is 1 (one) yard.

The goal size is 6 (six) feet high and 12 (twelve) feet wide.

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2. LAW II - THE BALL

2.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

2.1.1. For U9 thru U12 the ball shall be a size 4 (four). (See General Rules – Rule 13)

3. LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

3.1. Teams are composed of players using the follow guidelines:

Leagues	Maximum	Nominal	FSA Recommended
Under 9 / 10	14	9	11

3.2. The number of players on each side is 7 (seven)

3.3. A team may not play with less than 5 (five) players on the field.

3.4. Substitutions shall be unlimited.

All substitutes will enter the field at the mid-field. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

3.4.1 At a throw in, by the team in possession only;

3.4.2 By Either team, at a goal kick;

3.4.3 By Either team, after a goal is scored;

3.4.4 By Either team, at half-time;

3.4.5 By either team at an injury, when the referee stops play;

3.4.6 When a caution (Yellow Card) is given (that player may be substituted for)

3.5 Playing Time- Each child in the Recreational Division will play a minimum of 50% of the full game.

NOTE: Coaches, spectators, or parents shall not enter the field of play for any reason without permission of the referee.

4. LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

4.1. Players equipment must conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

4.1.1. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

4.1.2. No Jewelry of any sort (this includes earrings).

5. LAW V – THE REFEREE

5.1. Registered Referee

5.2. Associate Referee

5.3. Parent/Coach or Assistant who must remember that he/she is serving as an official

5.4. Referee's decisions on points of facts connected to the game shall be final.

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

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

6. LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

6.1. Use Assistant Referees

7. LAW VII – THE DURATION OF MATCH

EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST 50% OF EACH GAME.

7.1. The game shall be divided into 2 (two) equal halves of 25 (twenty-five) minutes each.

7.2. Half-time break shall be 5 (five) minutes.

7.3. Teams that are not ready to play within 10 minutes of published time will forfeit game. There will be no time stoppage for any reason.

8. LAW VIII - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

8.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

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

9. LAW XI – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

9.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

Advice to Players: Note that the whole of the ball must have crossed over the entire goal or touch line before it is out of play; this clearly means that if the ball rolls along one of the lines, it is still in play. In this rule particularly, play to the whistle not the flag; an assistant referee's signal is only intended for the referee, and the latter is the only person empowered to give decisions.

10. LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING

10.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

11. LAW XI – OFFSIDE

11.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

12. LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

12.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

13. LAW XIII - FREE KICKS

13.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

13.2. Opponents must be at least 8 (eight) yards from the ball at the time of the free kick.

14. LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

14.1. Conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

14.2. Opponents must be at least 8 (eight) yards from the ball at the time of the free kick.

15. LAW XV – THROW-IN

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15.1. Conform to FIFA.

16. LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

16.1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

16.1.1. Opponents must be 8 (eight) yards away.

17. LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

17.1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

17.1.1. Opponents must be 8 (eight) yards away.

UNDER 11 THROUGH UNDER 19 – PLAYING RULES

1. LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

Conform to FIFA

2. LAW II – THE BALL

Ball sizes vary as follows: (See General Rules – Rule 13)

Under 11 & 12	Size 4
Under 14 and older	Size 5

3. LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTION

3.1 Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

3.1.1 Substitutions
FOR UNDER 11 AND OLDER, substitutions shall be unlimited.

All substitutes will enter the field at the mid-field. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- 3.4.6.1 At a throw in, by the team in possession only;
- 3.4.6.2 By Either team, at a goal kick;
- 3.4.6.3 By Either team, after a goal is scored;
- 3.4.6.4 By Either team, at half-time;
- 3.4.6.5 By either team at an injury, when the referee stops play;
- 3.4.6.6 When a caution (Yellow Card) is given (that player may be substituted for)

3.2 Playing Time- Each child in the Recreational Division will play a minimum of 50% of the full game.

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*Note to Coach- For **Under-11 and older age groups**, NTSSA rule 3.14.3.3 applies: Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play the minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).

4. LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

4.1. Players equipment must conform to **FIFA** with the following exceptions:

- 4.1.1. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- 4.1.2. No Jewelry of any sort (this includes earrings).

5. LAW V – THE REFEREE

- 5.1. Registered Referee
- 5.2. Associate Referee
- 5.3. Parent/Coach or Assistant who must remember that he/she is serving as an official
- 5.4. Referee's decisions on points of facts connected to the game shall be final.
- 5.5. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- 5.6. Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players
- 5.7. If the official referee does not appear within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time, a person mutually agreed upon by both coaches may referee the game. The decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he/she were a registered referee.

6. LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

6.1 Conform to FIFA.

7. LAW VII – THE DURATION OF MATCH

EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST 50% OF EACH GAME.

Under 11/12	Two 30 minute halves	5 minute half-time break
Under 13/14	Two 35 minute halves	5 minute half-time break
Under 15/16	Two 40 minute halves	5 minute half-time break
Under 17/19	Two 45 minute halves	15 minute half-time break

7.1 Teams that are not ready to play within 10 minutes of published time will forfeit game. There will be no time stoppage for any reason

8. LAW VIII - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

8.1. Conform to **FIFA**

9. LAW XI – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

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9.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

Advice to Players: Note that the whole of the ball must have crossed over the entire goal or touch line before it is out of play; this clearly means that if the ball rolls along one of the lines, it is still in play. In this rule particularly, play to the whistle not the flag; an assistant referee's signal is only intended for the referee, and the latter is the only person empowered to give decisions

10. LAW X - METHOD OF SCORING

10.1 Conform to **FIFA**.

11. LAW XI – OFFSIDE

11.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

12. LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

12.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

13. LAW XIII - FREE KICKS

13.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

14. LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

14.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

15. LAW XV – THROW-IN

15.1. Conform to **FIFA**.

16. LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

16.1 Conform to **FIFA**

17. LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

17.1. Conform to **FIFA**

COMPETITIVE DIVISION – GENERAL RULES

1. RULES OF MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION - TEAMS USING FSA AS A HOME ASSOCIATION

Any Competitive team requesting application for membership with FSA must be approved by a majority vote of the FSA Executive Committee.

To register through FSA, thereby declaring FSA as their Home Association, Competitive teams are subject to the following rules:

- 1.1. Competitive teams shall 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 FSA Board be denied membership in FSA.
- 1.2. Competitive teams shall obtain approval, from the FSA Board of Directors, of their applicable operating Rules, Constitution and/or By-Laws.
- 1.3. The City of Frisco game fields shall not be used by Competitive teams for practices or games unless the City authorizes use and the FSA authorize use by a majority vote of the FSA Board of Directors or the FSA Executive Committee. Consulting with the FSA, the City will set any usage fee. Failure to care for the field during any permitted use may result in withdrawal of any right to future use.

2. PROTESTS, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

- 2.1. Protests relating to the Club or Competitive team requirements will be heard by FSA only when they apply to violations of the FSA Constitution, By-Laws or League Rules. FSA shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, and the like, as described under the Article IX of the FSA By-Laws.
- 2.2. Protests, grievances, and the like against the performance or conduct of referees must be made to the FSA Referee Chairman. It is the responsibility of the FSA Referee Chairman to investigate the validity of such matters and to handle within FSA. Persons filing such charges should direct them to the FSA Referee Chairman via the FSA office, who shall forward them to the FSA Referee Chairman.
- 2.3. All other protests, appeal and grievances should be directed to the Playing League.

3. REGISTRATION

- 3.1. 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.

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- 3.2. Teams must register prior to August 31 for the Fall season and January 31 for Spring season. Rosters will reflect the last season for which fees have been paid and new rosters for the Spring season will not be validated until all fees for the spring season have been paid.
- 3.3. The Competitive team's head coach or manager will handle all matters of team registration.
- 3.4. No refund of registration fees will be made once a team has registered and the roster has been validated.

4. TEAMS

- 4.1. The legal roster for a Competitive team shall have only three (3) persons listed for the adult positions on the roster. Each roster shall have only one (1) Coach, only one (1) Assistant Coach, and only one (1) Manager. Other support positions may be added (risk management forms are required), but will not appear on the legal roster.
- 4.2. FSA Home Association teams who practice or play on Frisco fields must conform to the policies of FSA and the City of Frisco Parks and Recreation Department.
- 4.3. Advertised team tryouts may be held according to the NTSSA and FSA rules during the month of July. The scheduling, announcement and reservations of fields for tryouts will be the responsibility of each coach or team manager.

NOTE: FSA will not release players who are registered for the upcoming season to go to a competitive team, if the request is made later than 3 weeks prior to the first day of scheduled games. If a request is granted once a player has registered in the recreational league, it will be considered a transfer.

5. COACHES

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.

6. SPECTATORS & PARENTS

Parents and spectators are subject to the same general rules and conditions of FSA, which apply to coaches and players. They should also comply with the rules and regulations of the Frisco Parks & Recreation Department governing the use of the playing facilities. These rules include, but are not limited to:

- 6.1. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- 6.2. Dogs are not permitted at the field.
- 6.3. No smoking or use of tobacco products at the field.
- 6.4. No climbing on the fences.

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- 6.5. Noisemakers are prohibited (including but not limited to, cowbells, rattlers, blow-horns, gob horns, drums, portable stereos, and gongs).

Parents must sit on the spectator side of the playing field. Only team officials are allowed on the same side of the playing field as the players.

7. GAMES

- 7.1. All games will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as authorized by FIFA, USYSA, NTSSA, and FSA for the soccer year.
- 7.2. FSA will not record any scores for teams who compete in another playing league, other than those sponsored by FSA, even though the game may be played on Frisco fields.

8. SCHEDULES

- 8.1. FSA, with a request from the Playing League, will schedule games on Frisco fields in accordance to all scheduling rules of FSA. It is the responsibility of the team to check for cancellation of games due to foul weather or poor field conditions by following the guidelines set by FSA.

NOTE: Games may sometimes be cancelled due to poor field conditions by previous poor weather. Check the hotline before you leave for a game! If the hotline is not updated, you can assume that games **WILL BE** played.

9. REFEREE FEES

Teams, who may have games scheduled on Frisco fields via the playing league, are required to pay the referees at the same wage as does FSA. Teams are required to submit referee fees to FSA ONE (1) week prior to the first scheduled game. FSA will then distribute checks to the team for all games scheduled on Frisco fields.

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APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINE (NTSSA RULE 3.11)

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 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.

3.11.2 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

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

2. A “CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM” in league play will be operated as follows:
- Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual’s third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s sixth league play yellow card.

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

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

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

- 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:

- Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual’s third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s fifth yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s sixth yellow card of the tournament.

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

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

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*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. 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 **NTSSA**.*

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

d. **Exceptions**

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

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.

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

The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association. 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

3.11.3 Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations are directed to operate and keep records on a twelve (12) point “**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**” for all player/coaches/assistant coaches. Offenses resulting in the cautioning of a player/coach/assistant coach by the referee (yellow card) are allowed points according to their seriousness ranging from one (1) to four (4) points. Appeals of cautions (yellow cards) are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the caution. Points are cumulative during each soccer season. When a given player/coach/assistant coach accumulates twelve (12) points sanctions are applied as described in Rule 3.11.3 (3). A player transferring to another team will carry over his or her accumulated points to his or her new team. Reports of these disciplinary actions are to be sent to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee at North Texas State Soccer Association Office.

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

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

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

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

The **CAUTION** points are to be allocated as follows:

a. **FOUR POINTS**

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

b. **THREE POINTS**

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

c. **TWO POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate handball designed to break up attack.
- 2) Time wasting, including that by the goalkeeper.
- 3) Moving arms up and down to obstruct an opponent.
- 4) Gesticulating in front of a player taking a free-kick or thrown-in.
- 5) Fails to respect required distance or unsporting behavior at a penalty kick.

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- 6) Other unsporting behavior.
d. **ONE POINT**

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

3. ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS

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

4. SEND-OFF

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

5. FINES

- a. Teams Exceeding The Accumulated Point Limit - \$50
- b. Teams Exceeding The Accumulated Point Limit Second Time in Soccer Year - \$100

***NOTE:** All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction to the North Texas State Soccer Association.*

***NOTE:** This is the **minimum** disciplinary punishment taken by all Member Associations on ejections. Nothing herein prevents a Member Association from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Extreme Violent Conduct:

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

3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators

1. Each team (youth and adult) in **NTSSA** is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he is unable to do so, Member Associations, Playing Leagues and/or Tournament Officials are directed to take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself. Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.
2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:
 - a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
 - b. Report spectator to the local Park & Recreation Department.
 - c. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.)
 - d. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
 - e. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
 - f. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal "peace bond".

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 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

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\$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 notified to appear before the committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. Failure of the Member Association or Playing League to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's seventh 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. 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 the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the **NTSSA** Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct.
- b. The North Texas State Soccer Association will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

3. All Association Teams

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

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 State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee immediately after the occurrence for appropriate disciplinary action.

3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee

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 3.11.7.2 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 Executive Committee hearing as described in Paragraph 3.11.7.4.

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 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 State Executive Committee may, at its discretion, impose upon the team of which the player is a member, the requirement of posting a \$1,000 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 State 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 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

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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 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

FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES:

On days which the ambient temperature outside is 35 degrees or lower, all league games/practices shall be suspended. Upon the discretion of the FSA Board and its agents, fields will remain closed until the temperature has risen above 35 degrees and suitable playing conditions exist.

On days which the ambient temperature outside is 90 degrees or above, water breaks for players will be implemented, by the referee, during matches (One break per half, to be taken midway through the period). The break shall last two minutes and game time shall not be stopped for breaks. Time will not be added to any half because of water breaks. Players are to remain on the field of play during water breaks (conform to FIFA).

Teams **MUST** report to the playing fields ready to play unless previously **OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED**. A ten-minute grace period will be allowed after the starting time. After ten minutes, forfeiture for the team not in attendance will be declared. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team arrives 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.

The Referee Chairman will notify the Scheduler and respective League Directors of all games postponed or suspended by Referees. Notification of postponement should be made to the League Directors within twenty-four (24) hours.

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.