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*References to the male gender within this Guide with respect to players, officials, referees and assistant referees are for simplification and refer to both males and females.*

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# 1 RICHARDSON SOCCER ASSOCIATION PHILOSOPHY

## 1.1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Richardson Soccer Association was founded to provide the youth of Richardson the opportunity to learn and play the game of soccer. The Association's activities are based on the philosophy and mission, which emphasizes fun, education, and sportsmanship as the principal direction.

The philosophy and mission directs the Association to:

- Promote the game of soccer
- Emphasize enjoyment, sportsmanship and personal accomplishment in young age groups and competition in upper age groups
- Provide the opportunity for all youths of Richardson to learn and play soccer regardless of ability or physical disabilities
- Limit the amount of stress placed on the players
- Develop soccer abilities in players and coaches
- Accomplish the previous philosophies in an environment of cooperation, sportsmanship and mutual enjoyment

To accomplish this the Association will:

- Establish a constitution, operating by-laws, policies, procedures and regulations to govern play
- Enforce the regulations of the organization and govern according to these laws and regulations
- Recruit interested people for membership to promote, guide and develop the organization
- Involve people at all levels of the organization and levels of play
- Develop players, coaches and officials
- Cooperate, communicate and become partners with the surrounding environment (City Council, Parks Department, North Texas State Soccer Association and other playing associations)

## 2 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 2.1.1 AFFILIATIONS

The Richardson Soccer Association is a member of the North Texas State Soccer Association who is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation and Federation Internationale de Football Association. All players, coaches and teams registered with this Association are also registered with North Texas State Soccer Association.

#### 2.1.2 ELIGIBILITY

New players must provide proof that they meet minimum age requirements before they will be placed on a team.

#### 2.1.3 PLAYING YEAR

The playing year shall begin September 1, and shall end August 31, of the following calendar year. The playing year shall be divided into two playing seasons, the Fall season and the Spring season.

#### 2.1.4 TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a listing of definitions used for terminology and abbreviations in this Guide:

A & D	Appeals and Disciplinary [Committee]
Age Group	Grouping of players to a division by playing age
Application	Required document used to register new players (player contract)
Association	Properly constituted organization consisting of ten (10) or more teams representing USSF soccer within an incorporated city, town or county (NTSSA definition). RSA meets these requirements
Club Teams	Competitive (non-recreational) teams that are formed by evaluating & selecting players through try-outs and recruiting as prescribed in NTSSA rules
Coach	Registered coach of a team (or assistant coach acting for head coach in his absence; or person so designated by the RSA board)
Competitive League	League that allows soccer clubs to form teams by using try-outs and skill evaluations to select players based on NTSSA rules
Conference	Grouping of teams within a division based on team skill levels
DC	Division Commissioner (responsible for one age group)
Division	Grouping of players by age group and gender
FIFA	Federation Internationale de Football Association (world governing organization for soccer)
Free Agents	Status of players during the period as defined in NTSSA rules which allows players to try-out and move to or between competitive club teams
IFAB	Internationale Football Association Board
LC	(League Commissioner) responsible for conduct of the entire league - all age groups
League	Grouping of divisions with common player interest and commitment level i.e., youth recreational, youth competitive, indoor, adult, amateur
Member	Any person entitled to vote as defined in the RSA Bylaws
NTSSA	North Texas State Soccer Association

Player	An individual properly registered as a participant with RSA
Playing Age	The player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year
Playing-up	The action allowing a player who has been approved to play in an age group above his playing age
PISD	Plano Independent School District
RISD	Richardson Independent School District
RSA	Richardson Soccer Association
Recreational League	League which allows all registered players a minimum playing time and does not allow team formation based on try-outs and skill levels. RSA operates a recreational league.
Try-outs	Process of evaluating a player's skill and soccer attitude with the intent of selecting players for a team. Recreational leagues prohibit this activity
U9	Example of designation of the under 9 division (the number indicates the age group)
-14B	Example of designation of under 14 boys (a B or G added indicates boys or girls)
USSF	United States Soccer Federation (national governing body for soccer in the United States)
USYSA	United States Youth Soccer Association (Youth Division of USSF)

## 2.2 REGISTRATION

### 2.2.1 APPLICATIONS

All persons who wish to participate in RSA league play shall submit a player contract (application) along with league fees and proof of age (if not on file with RSA) to the registrar within the specified time period for registration each season. The LC will not accept an application for assignment to a team until all these requirements are met. A player contract is for one playing season, but is renewed each subsequent playing season when the player registers through his returning team. Players not returning to their team must complete a new contract.

### 2.2.2 FREE AGENTS

Rules for NTSSA players becoming *free agents* apply only to those players trying out or being selected for competitive (club) teams. The rule does not apply to movement of players within recreational leagues.

### 2.2.3 FEES

League fees will be established prior to registration each season by the RSA Executive Board. Players whose applications are received after the registration period is closed may be assessed an additional late fee.

### 2.2.4 PROOF OF AGE

Proof of age shall consist of any one of the following documents: a birth certificate, birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious documents will not be accepted as proof of age. Additional clearance by FIFA may be required for birth certificates issued outside the United States.



### **2.2.5 ROSTERS**

The approved NTSSA roster form shall be completed by the registrar, signed by the head coach, and submitted to NTSSA in accordance with the instructions of the League Commissioner, as the last step of the registration process. Only those players named on the official NTSSA roster are eligible to participate in league play.

### **2.2.6 ILLEGAL PLAYERS**

A player who is not registered with RSA and NTSSA shall not be allowed to participate in RSA sanctioned league play and any such player shall be deemed an illegal player. Illegal players are defined as:

- an unregistered player
- a player whose submitted birth date misrepresents his true age
- a player not properly registered
- a player officially suspended

Any coach registering, attempting to register or playing an illegal player may be suspended for a period of one year or more. Any team that plays an illegal player may forfeit each game in which the illegal player participated.

### **2.2.7 LATE REGISTRATION**

Applications received after the registration period is closed may be accepted at the discretion of the League Commissioner for placement in the player pool. Late registrants are not guaranteed placement on a team. The late registration fee will not be refunded regardless of reason for not being placed on a team. If teams have already been formed, the late registrant will be placed on a waiting list in the order of application receipt. Such players will be assigned to teams that are below the recommended roster size (see Table 2-1), team formation guidelines not withstanding.

### **2.2.8 REQUESTS TO PLAY OUT OF DIVISION**

During the registration period a player may request to play above their age division with the permission of his parents. Such requests may be reviewed by the League Commissioner before they will be considered by the Team Formation Committee.

A player will not be allowed to play in a younger age division than their age dictates except by written approval from RSA Executive Board and NTSSA.

### **2.2.9 REQUESTS TO PLAY OUT OF ASSOCIATION**

Players who reside within the boundaries of RSA, but wish to play outside the Association, must notify RSA using procedures dictated by NTSSA (currently by electronic GotSoccer form).

Teams formed within the boundaries of RSA wishing to play outside the Association, when competition is offered in that age division, should obtain permission from RSA

RSA recreational teams that must play in leagues out of the Association because no competition is offered within the Association in that age division, shall return to league play within the Association at such time as competition is again offered in their age division.

### **2.2.10 PLAYER MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

It is the responsibility of a child's parents to determine if their child has any medical condition that may be detrimental to the health and well-being of their child through playing soccer. Any concerns should be brought to the attention of the coach and league officials. RSA, at the request of the coach or a league official, may require the parents to provide a written medical release from their personal physician. Medical releases that restrict or limit activity, or that require specific protective equipment, must be renewed at the start of each playing year, or if noted conditions change.

According to FIFA rules, the referee may rule a player ineligible due to the use of such protective equipment if, in the referee's opinion, the equipment is dangerous to the player or other players. For example, a cast on a broken arm

may result in such a ruling if it is not adequately padded. The referee of a particular game is the sole judge of whether a player may participate in that game.

## 2.3 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

### 2.3.1 DIVISIONS

RSA competition will ideally be divided into a minimum of seven divisions each for boys and girls (see Table 2-1) following NTSSA guidelines. Eligibility for play in each division will be based on the players age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following year. Exception: Players who are three (3) years of age before July 31 of the current soccer year will be permitted to participate in the appropriate age division (ideally U4).

If enough players register in each age group within a NTSSA division, RSA may split the division to form separate age group playing divisions. For example, NTSSA defines a single U-8 division but if RSA has enough players, it may elect to form a U-8 division and a separate U-7 division.

In addition to the NTSSA divisions shown in Table 2-1, RSA regularly operates separate playing divisions for U-9, U-7 and U-5 age groups independently from their respective U-10, U-8 and U-6 NTSSA age group divisions. When NTSSA divisions are separated into separate age group playing divisions, all references to rules that apply to the older division will also apply the younger division, unless specifically noted otherwise.

### 2.3.2 COMPETITIVE LEVELS

RSA will conduct competition on two levels based on the age group of the players. They are:

- **CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS** - In the U-9 and above divisions a champion will be determined in each conference based on points earned using won/lost records.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP DIVISIONS** - Teams playing in the U-8 and below divisions are in the sportsmanship division. In the U-8 and below divisions, in keeping with RSA philosophy, no scores or standings will be kept and no champions will be named. Players in these age divisions will receive participation awards at the end of each season.

### 2.3.3 CONFERENCES

Divisions may be separated into conferences based on skill level and competitive strength. The number of teams in a division will determine the number and size of conferences required. Conferences will be established in order of estimated competitive strength, First, Second, etc., with First being the strongest. Each conference shall consist of no more teams than one greater than the number of games to be played that season, unless approval is granted by the League Commissioner.

Placement of teams into conferences will be done by the Division Commissioner at the preseason meeting of the division where attendance by a team coach or representative is mandatory. Assignment to a conference will be based on a subjective combination of the player ages, previous won/lost record, number of returning players, coaches' experience, requests from teams for placement in a higher conference, and results of preseason games.

If the number of teams in a conference, makes it is necessary for teams to play each other an unequal number of times, only those games that each team played each opponent an equal number of times will count in conference standings. For example, if there are eight teams in a conference and RSA decides they should play ten games during the season, each team will play every other team at least once, and play three of the other teams a second time. In such a situation, unless otherwise specified by the Division Commissioner prior to the season, only the last game played against each opponent will count for standings.

### 2.3.4 AGE BRACKETS AND ROSTER SIZE

The age brackets for each playing division, number of players on the field in each division, and the recommended roster size limits for each division are shown on the following Table 2-1. In the U-4 through U-8 divisions, the goalkeeper position is not used. In U-9 and older divisions, the team must include a goalkeeper and the Players On The Field column below includes the goalkeeper.

**TABLE 2-1  
AGE DIVISIONS AND ROSTER SIZE LIMITS**

NTSSA DIVISION	RSA DIVISION	PLAYERS ON FIELD	MINIMUM ROSTER SIZE	MAXIMUM ROSTER SIZE
U-19	U17/U18/U19	11	14	22
U-16	U15/U16	11	14	18
U-14	U13/U14	11	14	18
U-12	U11/U12	9	14	18
U-10	U9/U10	7	10	14
U-8	U7/U8	4	6	8
U-6	U4/U5/U6	4	6	8

### 2.3.5 GENDER MAKEUP

Teams in the U-4 and U-5 divisions may have both boys and girls on the same roster. All other divisions shall form teams of just one gender and will have separate competition for both boys and girls within each division. The League Commissioner may, when necessary due to number of players, make an exception and form coed teams in any division.

## 2.4 TEAM FORMATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYERS

### 2.4.1 TEAM FORMATION COMMITTEE

New teams will be formed, and established teams' rosters will be filled, by a committee consisting of at least three members. The Registration and Team Formation Coordinator, or his designee, who must be a Board Member, shall be the chair and shall be assisted by the Division Commissioner and a volunteer. None of the committee members should have a relative playing in the age group of the teams being formed.

### 2.4.2 DEFINITION OF AN ESTABLISHED TEAM

If the number of players on a returning team is at least half of the Minimum Roster Size (see Table 2-1), that team may request to remain together as a unit. With such a request, RSA will strive to keep that unit together on a team, however, there are no guarantees that such an endeavor will be successful. If a team loses its coach, the League Commissioner will consider any assistant coach and the parents of members of that team before selecting a new coach from outside the team.

### 2.4.3 AGE CONSIDERATIONS

In the event divisions are established such that age is a factor for grouping the players to the various teams, this will be an additional consideration for the Committee.

A player without proper proof of age will not be assigned to a team.

**2.4.4 DIVISIONS U-4 THROUGH U-10**

All applications for a team in U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9 and U10 shall be submitted to the Team Formation Committee. Teams will be formed or filled using the following guidelines.

- 2.4.4.1 **SCHOOL TEAM** - When openings exist, players will be assigned to a team from the nearest public school to where they reside. When space is available, players registered on a team other than their school team have priority for placement on their school team over a player just joining RSA. Players desiring to *play up* will only be placed on their school team after everyone else of the correct age from that school has been assigned to a team.
- 2.4.4.2 **TOO MANY IN SCHOOL AREA** - When the number of players in the player pool exceeds the number of openings available on a school team, players will be assigned to a team from a school as near as possible to the area where the player resides (preferably one of the other schools that feed the junior high school or high school the player would attend).
- 2.4.4.3 **GEOGRAPHICAL AREA** - Whenever possible, players who reside east of US Hwy. 75 will be assigned to teams from schools in that area and players who reside west of US Hwy. 75 will be assigned to teams from that area.
- 2.4.4.4 **BLIND DRAW** - A blind draw, conducted by the Committee, will be used to resolve any discrimination, such as having more players from a school than there are openings available or more than one team from a school with openings to fill.
- 2.4.4.5 **REASSIGNMENT REQUESTS** - During the registration period, players have the option to request removal from a team and reassignment through the Committee. Players requesting reassignment to a different team will not be returned to their former team.
- 2.4.4.6 **FORMER PLAYERS** - A player sitting out (unregistered) for one or more seasons is not automatically returned to his former team and may be reassigned by the Committee.
- 2.4.4.7 **TEAM SIZE** - The Committee shall make every effort to establish teams at the lowest recommended roster size limit (see Table 2-1). Before the Committee can assign any players over the recommended roster size limit to a team, all the teams within the division should be filled to the highest recommended roster size. A coach may be allowed to decline accepting players over the upper recommended roster size range. Once a coach has declined to accept players over the upper recommended roster size range, the coach can not later accept other player(s) during the same playing season.
- 2.4.4.8 **LATE APPLICATIONS** - Players whose applications are accepted by the League Commissioner after the registration period is closed will be placed in the player pool and will be made available to the Committee for team assignment. Late registrants will not be guaranteed placement on a team, and will not be placed until all earlier registrants in the age group have been placed on a team. No player will be placed on a team after three league games are completed.
- 2.4.4.9 **TEAM BALANCING** - Players who have requested to leave one team are assigned from the player pool to another team based on the need to bring the team up to the recommended lower roster size or to keep teams within an age group division close to having the same number of players. After all teams in the division have been brought up to the recommended lower roster size, the Team Formation Committee shall attempt to balance teams to allow for near even rosters.

### **2.4.5 DIVISIONS U-12 THROUGH U-19**

When players are available in the player pool for U-12 and above divisions, they shall be assigned to teams by the methods described above. If no players are available in the player pool, coaches of record or a group of players wishing to form a team among themselves, may actively seek players of the proper age group within the Association to be added to the team as long as:

- no method is used to assess the ability of the player,
- the player is not registered on an existing team, and
- the player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season

These players must still be assigned to a team by the Team Formation Committee from the player pool and are subject to all other team formation rules, including team balancing.

### **2.4.6 TRYOUTS**

No tryouts or practices may be held to assess the ability of any player for placement on a RSA recreational team. Such activity shall result in suspension of the coach(s) or player(s) conducting such a tryout or practice, for a period of not less than one year.

### **2.4.7 EXTRA PLAYERS**

During the registration period, coaches may request additional openings above the recommended level (see TABLE 2-1) be made available on their rosters, to be filled during the team building process. Approval of the League Commissioner is required. RSA will not allow any team to register more players than the maximum allowed by NTSSA for tournament play. RSA reserves the right to assign additional players to any team if necessary.

## **2.5 COACHES**

### **2.5.1 PRIVILEGES**

The Association feels strongly that it is a privilege to coach an RSA team. This privilege may be revoked for infringing upon the Philosophy or Rules and Regulations of the Association.

Only the head coach may request to have any of his children that meet the eligibility requirements be assigned to his team. This privilege does not extend to assistant coaches.

### **2.5.2 REQUIREMENTS**

Each head coach and designated assistant coach must be approved by the RSA Executive Board prior to commencement of each playing season. No individual may coach more than two teams registered through the North Texas State Soccer Association without Executive Board approval. No person shall be paid to coach a RSA recreational team. A coach or team may pay a skills instructor to provide clinics or training sessions for the players of the team. (See Clinics - Section 2.13.4).

Persons not registered as an RSA coach will be considered acting as coach, and will be subject to the rules and regulations of RSA, if they attend practices and games on a regular basis and provides skill training and/or tactical and strategic instructions to players. The A&D Committee and the RSA board has the authority to determine if a person is functioning as a coach.

**2.5.2.1 CONTRACTS** - In consideration for the privilege of coaching an RSA team, each coach and designated assistant coach will be required to submit an application to coach (coach's contract). All such contracts are effective from the date approved by the board and automatically terminate at the end of each playing year. The contract is an agreement to abide by all Regulations, Laws and policy and procedures specified in the RSA Soccer Guide and any supplements. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the coach being subject to disciplinary action. All coaches are required to read and understand these rules and regulations.

**2.5.2.2 LICENSING** - All new coaches, prior to the start of the season, are required to attend an RSA coaches clinic. All U-8 divisions coaches will be encouraged to attend the NTSSA "F" clinic. Prior to coaching in U-9 and older divisions, coaches will be required to hold an "F" Coaching License or its equivalent. First year coaches in the older divisions will be allowed one playing year to secure the "F" license. Attendance at other clinics to obtain additional coaching skills and attainment of higher levels of coaching licenses is encouraged.

### **2.5.3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

All coaches are charged with the responsibility for the eligibility of their players; for encouraging fair play and sportsmanship among players, parents and spectators; for the amount of playing time given each player; for the discipline and conduct of his team; and for carrying out the administrative duties associated with running a team. All RSA coaches, players and members are expected to follow not only the letter of the rules, but the spirit and intent of all bylaws, rules, policies and procedures as approved and published by RSA.

**2.5.3.1 VERIFICATION** - The accuracy and authenticity of all player information on the team roster is the responsibility of the coach.

**2.5.3.2 PLAYING TIME** - Each coach is required to see that each player on his roster plays the required amount of time defined by RSA rules. Any coach not playing a player the required amount of time will be subject to disciplinary action.

**2.5.3.3 PLAYER DISCIPLINE** - A coach may, for disciplinary reasons, request that the playing time for a player be reduced for one game. The coach shall submit in writing the reasons for proposing such action to the Division Commissioner (DC) and the players' parents at least 48 hours prior to the game. The coach shall take no action without approval of the DC.

Upon approval by the Division Commissioner (DC), the request along with a description of the disciplinary action taken shall be forwarded by the DC to the A&D Committee. Three disciplinary misconduct reports on one player during the season will require that player to appear for a hearing before the A&D Committee.

### **2.5.3.4 GAME REPORTS**

**2.5.3.4.1 Intra-association Play** - Each coach whose team is involved in intra-association play is responsible for filling out the Game and Referee Evaluation Reports. These reports are to be filled out completely, including signatures of the referees and opposing coach, date, sportsmanship ratings, and scores where applicable. The game report is to be turned in to the Division Commissioner (DC) or other association authority as may be appropriate. All the players on the roster must be listed on the Game Report with any reason for a player not playing noted in the comments section. Failure to turn in Game Reports in accordance with the instructions of the DC may result in the team receiving no score for that game.

**2.5.3.4.2 Inter-association Play** - Each coach whose team is involved in inter-association play is responsible for communicating such game reports and referee reports as their RSA Division Commissioner may require, in addition to any reports which may be required by the officials of the league in which they play.

## **2.6 DIVISION COMMISSIONERS**

### **2.6.1 AUTHORITY**

Each Division Commissioner (DC) shall be appointed by the League Commissioner (LC) and approved by the RSA Executive Board. The DC works directly for the LC and is responsible directly to the LC. No other member of the Board or other official shall have any influence or supervisory authority over the DC.

### **2.6.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The function of the Division Commissioner (DC) is to oversee and supervise the operation of a playing division. A playing division may be a specific age group, group of age groups or group of genders. The LC will determine the groups to oversee based on volunteers and teams. A detailed set of guidelines and instructions is available under a separate cover. Some of the duties, tasks and responsibilities required of the DC include:

- assist the League Commissioner during registration
- team formation within the division
- conduct preseason coach's meeting and establish conferences
- building division/conference schedules and their distribution (if applicable)
- determine Sportsmanship winners (if applicable)
- monitor games in progress
- determine condition of pitch used by division in order to cancel or postpone games
- schedule makeup games (if applicable)
- tabulate game results and maintain standings (if applicable)
- recommend disciplinary action against coaches, players or parents as necessary

## **2.7 SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **2.7.1 PLAYING ENVIRONMENT**

League officials, referees and coaches are responsible for encouraging fair play and sportsmanship among all participants and spectators. The RSA Executive Board wishes to provide a wholesome playing environment for the mutual enjoyment of all players, coaches, spectators and officials. To provide this environment, the Board will not condone actions by players, coaches or spectators which are detrimental to the conduct of the game. Players, coaches or spectators responsible for such action will be subject to disciplinary action.

Games should be a time for enthusiastic support of the players. Criticism of the referee, assistant referees or players, from the sidelines or field, is regarded as unsportsmanlike. Such conduct will not be tolerated and will be cause for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **2.7.2 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**

The "Sportsmanship Award" should be regarded as highly as championship awards. Sportsmanship awards may be presented to one team from each conference based on rating points received throughout the season and observations of the Division Commissioner and other league officials.

## **2.8 MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

### **2.8.1 AUTHORITY**

All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of Richardson Soccer Association have requested to participate in our program; therefore, they have agreed to abide by the Constitution, by-laws and rules of RSA and NTSSA as well as those of the USSF. The RSA Constitution provides that it has jurisdiction over all members, players, coaches, team representatives and administrators who choose to affiliate.

### 2.8.2 ENFORCEMENT AND PUNISHMENT

Enforcement of this policy shall be by the RSA Executive Board and other designated League Officials, including the League Commissioner, Division Commissioners and members of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, as charged by the Board. These officials are authorized to observe the conduct of coaches, players and spectators, and to speak to those persons whose actions are contrary to the Philosophy and goals of RSA, as specified in these Rules and Regulations. The intent of such action by a League Official is to serve as a deterrent to the offender. The offender may be required to leave the playing field area and be subject to additional disciplinary action.

A member or participant in the Association must appear before the Committee, League Official or RSA Executive Board for disciplinary action when requested to do so. The offender will be automatically suspended from participation in any RSA soccer related activity for failure to appear before the designated official(s) at a mutually agreed upon time. Possible disciplinary actions that may be taken by the Association are:

- reduction of playing time of the offender for one game
- probation of the offender for a specific period of time
- suspension of the offender for the next soccer game
- suspension of the offender for more than one game, the remainder of the season, or other specific period of time
- suspension of the offender from RSA sponsored activities forever

At such time as any member or participant in RSA receives a suspension or probation from the Association, NTSSA or any RSA or NTSSA affiliate, the offender loses his right to vote in any Association matters for the duration of the suspension or probation.

### 2.8.3 SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Listed below are some specific actions which are prohibited while engaged in any RSA soccer-related activity. Offenders will be subject to severe disciplinary action by RSA and/or NTSSA. No player, coach or spectator shall:

- use foul or abusive language
- harass league officials, referees or assistant referees physically or verbally
- harass opponent's players physically or by making belittling or derogatory comments
- harass opponent's coaches or spectators physically or verbally
- be guilty of violent conduct (i.e. threatened, attempted, or actual physical violence) towards another player, league official, referee, assistant referees, coach or spectator
- accepting any form of assistance from any persons suspended by RSA, NTSSA, USSF, or any of their member affiliates.
- have in their possession or consume alcoholic beverages at a game or practice field (City of Richardson ordinances prohibit the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on city parks and school property)

### 2.8.4 DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

This Association, as directed by NTSSA, will operate and keep records for all players and coaches on a card accumulation system. Offenses resulting in the cautioning of a player or coach by the referee are punishable according to NTSSA Rule 3.11 in Appendix A of this Guide. **Cards are cumulative during the playing year.**



Described below are the minimum penalties to be imposed by RSA for misconduct by a player. Additional punishment may be imposed, taking into consideration the severity of the offense, by the RSA A&D Committee and/or the NTSSA A&D Committee.

2.8.4.1 **CAUTION (yellow card)** – One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league 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.

2.8.4.2 **SEND OFF (red card)** – One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic indefinite suspension 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.

### 2.8.5 MISCONDUCT OF COACHES

Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or being ordered from the field of play. Coaches or assistant coaches will not be shown the yellow or red card by the referee. They will be told by the referee that they are cautioned or sent off. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee. Upon receipt in the RSA office of any report of misconduct by a coach from a referee or any other person, such report shall be directed to the A&D Committees of RSA and NTSSA. The RSA Committee shall hold a hearing and rule on the report within five days of its receipt and send its decision to the NTSSA Committee who may take additional action.

Described below are the minimum penalties to be imposed by RSA for misconduct by a coach. Additional punishment may be imposed, taking into consideration the severity of the offense, by the RSA A&D Committee and/or the NTSSA A&D Committee.

2.8.5.1 **CAUTION** - A coach who receives a caution will be on probation for the remainder of the soccer season. A coach who receives a caution while on probation will be suspended for the next game and will be on probation for the remainder of the season.

2.8.5.2 **SEND OFF** – One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic indefinite suspension 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.

### 2.8.6 SERVING GAME SUSPENSIONS

A player or coach who has received a red card, or who will be suspended due to excessive cards, should serve the suspension at the next game even if a hearing has not been held. A suspension is to be served by the player or coach at the next scheduled game (regular league game, makeup league game, playoff, championship, cup game, local or state tournament game) in which his team is involved.

2.8.6.1 **PLAYERS** - A suspended player must attend the game from which he is suspended, but not in uniform, and sit on the bench with his team. The player must have a sit-out verification form signed by the head referee in the game the player is sitting out.

2.8.6.2 **COACHES** - A suspended coach shall not be within sight of the field where his team is playing during any game from which he is suspended. If a suspended coach appears at such a game, he will be subject to further disciplinary action and the sit-out will not be valid.

### **2.8.7 MISCONDUCT OF SPECTATORS**

Each RSA coach is responsible for the conduct of his team's spectators. The referee has the authority to caution and/or send off the coach for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If the coach is unable to do so, the Association will take appropriate action toward any identifiable unruly spectator. If the spectator is not identifiable, the Association will take action against the team as a whole. Possible actions for misconduct of spectators include:

- assess the offending spectator's coach a yellow card
- report spectator to the Parks and Recreation Department
- require team to forfeit any games at which the spectator is present on the touch-line (RSA cannot keep him off public streets or parking lots)
- require offending team to pay for presence of police at its games
- revoke or refuse registration to the offending team
- cause the spectator to be placed under a *peace bond*

### **2.8.8 MISCONDUCT HEARING**

Upon receipt of a misconduct report in the RSA office, copies will be forwarded immediately to the A&D Committee who will notify all parties involved and hold a hearing on:

- every player sent off from a game
- every coach sent off from a game
- suspensions due to an excessive number of cards
- reports of misconduct of spectators or parents

The hearing, with all parties having a right to be present, will be held within 7 – 14 days after the report is received in the RSA office. The Committee will make a decision on punishment based on testimony of all parties present. If any party refuses to attend, the Committee will act on the matter with the information before it. A report of the disciplinary action taken will be forwarded to the NTSSA A&D Committee.

### **2.8.9 APPEAL PROCEDURE**

An offending player, coach, spectator or team wishing to appeal the decision of the Committee may do so by filing a written notice of appeal directed to the RSA office within five days after receipt of the decision of the Committee, including a fee of \$25.00. See also the Appellate Procedures Section of this Guide.

### **2.8.10 MISCONDUCT TOWARDS REFEREES**

North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction of any abuse of officials, both referees and assistant referees, in any competition conducted by this Association. This jurisdiction includes USSF licensed officials or any non-licensed person serving as a game official.

### **2.8.11 REFEREE COMPLAINTS**

If, in the opinion of a coach, a referee's performance is below the expected level of quality, is not in keeping with the Philosophy and goals of RSA, or is detrimental to the game of soccer, a complaint may be made by filing a written report directed to the RSA office. Such report should be made within 72 hours after the game. Send a copy of the report along with the Referee Evaluation form to the Division Commissioner. Upon receipt of a referee complaint in the RSA office, copies will be forwarded immediately to the League Commissioner and the Chairman of the Referee Committee. Reviews of these complaints and any disciplinary action or punishment of the referee with regard to his referee activities will be handled by the Referee Committee.

The Referee Committee of the Association has jurisdiction when any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant or spectator of the game. The Referee Committee will hear such allegation and deliver to the State Office its findings and punishment of the referee.

## 2.9 PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

### 2.9.1 GAME PROTESTS

Any coach wishing to protest the outcome of a game may do so by filing a written notice of protest directed to the RSA office within 72 hours after the game. Protests of games in U-08 and younger divisions will not be accepted (no standings are kept) nor will any protest be accepted after the stipulated time period.

2.9.1.1 **REVIEW** - Upon receipt of the protest the League Commissioner will review the situation with the protester and determine its validity. Grounds for a protest are:

- an obvious error in the Laws of the game by the referee and that error affected the outcome of the game (not the score)--protests of judgment calls by the referee will not be accepted
- playing an illegal, ineligible or suspended player
- a suspended coach present at a game, whether or not they were coaching
- a coach not playing all players at least the minimum playing time required by these rules

2.9.1.2 **HEARING** - If a hearing on the protest is held the League Commissioner (LC) will notify all parties involved. The hearing, with all parties having a right to be present, will be held within ten days after the protest is received in the RSA office. The LC will make a decision on the protest based on testimony of all parties present. If any party refuses to attend, the LC will act on the matter with the information before him.

2.9.1.3 **APPEALS** - Any person wishing to appeal the decision of the League Commissioner (LC) may do so by filing a written notice of appeal directed to the RSA office within five days after receipt of the decision of the LC, including a fee of \$25.00. See also the Appellate Procedures Section of this Guide.

## 2.9.2 GRIEVANCES

A grievance is that which oppresses, injures or causes a sense of wrong; a complaint, or a cause for complaint, because of a wrong suffered. Any person wishing to complain about a perceived injustice, or any matter not specifically covered in these rules, may do so by filing a written notice of grievance directed to the RSA office, including a fee of \$25.00. Said grievance should be filed in a timely manner, and in no case more than 72 hours after the alleged occurrence. The fee is to be used to cover the cost of the investigation, office work, etc., and is not refundable. In no event will the filing fee be waived.

2.9.2.1 **REVIEW** - Upon receipt of a grievance in the RSA office, copies will be forwarded immediately to the League Commissioner (LC) who will review the situation with the complainant and determine a course of action. Such action may be to conduct a hearing or to forward the complaint to the proper Division Commissioner, the A&D Committee, or the RSA Executive Board, for further action. In the event the grievance is directed at the LC, the Chair of the A&D Committee will review the situation with the complainant and determine a course of action.

2.9.2.2 **HEARING** - If a hearing on the grievance is held, the RSA official concerned will notify all parties involved. The hearing, with all parties having a right to be present, will be held within five days after the grievance is received in the RSA office. The RSA administrator(s) concerned will make a decision on the grievance based on testimony of all parties present. If any party refuses to attend, the RSA administrator(s) will act on the matter with the information available.

2.9.2.3 **APPEALS** - Any person wishing to appeal the decision taken on the grievance may do so by filing a written notice of appeal directed to the RSA office within five days after receipt of any decision, including the appropriate fee. The amount of the filing fee will vary depending on which authority hears the appeal, see the Appellate Procedures Section of this Guide.

## 2.10 APPELLATE PROCEDURES

### 2.10.1 HEARING RESTRICTIONS

RSA reserves the right to restrict the number of witnesses and the time allotted to each, and to determine if the hearing shall be open or closed. The presence or use of recording devices, stenographers, court reporters, or attorneys representing any party will not be permitted at any RSA administrative hearing.

### 2.10.2 APPEALS

Any persons wishing to: Appeal the decision after a misconduct hearing; Appeal the decision on a game protest; Appeal the decision made in regard to a grievance; or Appeal the decision made concerning player discipline; may do so by filing a written notice of appeal directed to the RSA office within five days after receipt of written notice of the lower level authority's decision. Upon receipt of an appeal in the RSA office, copies will be forwarded immediately to the affected Division Commissioner, the League Commissioner, Chairman of the A&D Committee, or the Association President acting for the Executive Board.

A hearing on the appeal, with all parties having a right to be present, will be held within seven days after the report is received in the RSA office. The RSA administrator(s) will make a decision based on testimony of all parties present. If any party refuses to attend, the RSA administrator(s) will act on the matter with the information available.

### 2.10.3 ALL APPEALS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPROPRIATE FILING FEE OF \$25.00 (CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK). THE FEE WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IN THE EVENT THE LOWER LEVEL AUTHORITY'S DECISION IS OVERRULED. IN NO EVENT WILL THE FILING FEE BE WAIVED. FURTHER APPEALS

All those under the jurisdiction of RSA must exhaust all appellate procedures specified herein before the State Association can acquire jurisdiction to hear any appeal. Decisions of a Division Commissioner may be appealed to the League Commissioner, decisions of the League Commissioner to the RSA A&D Committee, and decisions of the A&D Committee to the RSA Executive Board.

Decisions of the RSA Executive Board may be appealed to the NTSSA A&D Committee and, then to the NTSSA Executive Committee and then on to the USYSA and USSF, through their respective polices and procedures for appeals, and upon payment of such fees as shall be in effect for those organizations.

#### **2.10.4 LEGAL ACTION**

Commissioners, Committees and the RSA Executive Board will refuse to hear any matter where any person is threatening legal action. The matter will be passed to the next forum, which would hear any appeal. 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.

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

#### **2.10.5 RECORDS**

The A&D Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it, and the action taken. When a person or a team shows a trend towards an undue number of misconduct reports, the Committee will contact and advise such person or team of the problem or may require such person or team to appear before the Committee.

### **2.11 GAME DAY PROCEDURES**

#### **2.11.1 PLAYING TIME**

The following are the minimum playing times required for players and substitutes. Failure to abide by these rules shall result in disciplinary action for the coach and may be cause for forfeiture of the game. These rules shall also apply to play-off and championship games. For substitution procedures refer to Section 3.3.1 of this Guide.

- 2.11.1.1 **DIVISIONS U4 through U7** - The game will be divided into four quarters. Each player shall play at least one-half of each half of each game. To accomplish this, every player/substitute on the bench shall enter the game at each quarter. U4 through U7 games do not use the goalkeeper position.
- 2.11.1.2 **DIVISION U8** - Coaches in U8 division are responsible to see that each player shall play at least 50% of each game. To accomplish this, coaches are able to make substitutions during approved stoppages during the game.
- 2.11.1.3 **DIVISION U9/U10** - Coaches in U9/U10 divisions are responsible to see that each player shall play at least 50% of each game. To accomplish this, coaches are able to make substitutions during approved stoppages during the game. Goalkeeper substitution is recommended, but not required.
- 2.11.1.4 **DIVISIONS U11 – U19** - Coaches in U11 and older divisions are responsible to see that each player shall play at least 50% of each game. To accomplish this, coaches are able to make substitutions during approved stoppages during the game. Goalkeeper substitution is recommended, but not required.
- 2.11.1.5 **EXCEPTIONS** - Any exceptions shall be noted on the Game Report. The referee and opposing coach must be notified prior to the start of the match of any players present who will not play the required amount of time. The only exceptions to the minimum playing time rules shall be due to:
- injuries
  - illness
  - player absent from game
  - player arriving after game has started:
    - before half-time, coach only required to play him in second half of game
    - after half-time, coach not required to play player in the game

- player withheld for disciplinary reasons (requires approval of Division Commissioner, see Section 2.5.3.3 of this Guide).

### **2.11.2 LATE TEAM**

If a team fails to field the minimum number of players (see Section 3.3 in this Guide) within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, such team shall forfeit the game. The score of such a game shall be, 3 - 0. The referee shall submit a report to the RSA office, directed to the League Commissioner, within 48 hours after the game.

### **2.11.3 LATE REFEREE**

If the assigned referee does not arrive within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the coaches of the competing teams may mutually agree on one or two people to serve as the *acting referee* for the game. If two people are selected, each will be the *acting referee* for one half of the game. In no case shall more than one person at a time referee the game. An *acting referee* must either be a registered referee appropriate for the age group or be at least 18 years of age. The decisions of a person serving as an *acting referee* are just as binding as if he were a registered referee. If the assigned referee eventually arrives at the game, he may replace the *acting referee* at an appropriate stoppage in play.

### **2.11.4 NETS AND FLAGS**

Unless otherwise directed by a Division Commissioner (DC), each coach of a game is required to install two corner flags on the field and then remove them at the end of the game.

### **2.11.5 COACHING AREA**

A coach may convey tactical instructions to players during the match; however, all coaches, parents, spectators and players not actually in the game (substitutes) shall remain within the boundaries of the "technical area", whether marked or not. At no time during a match will coaches, parents, spectators or players be permitted in the area behind the goals or along the goal-lines.

The technical area is defined as extending 10 yards in each direction from the half-way line and up to one yard away from the touch-line. On U-8 and smaller fields the area shall be eight yards in each direction from the half-way line and up to one yard away from the touch-line, or closer than 10 yards to the goal-line, whichever is more restrictive.

After the game has started, or when it has been temporarily stopped, coaches, parents, spectators or players shall not enter the field of play unless directed to do so by the referee. The referee will stop the game if, in his opinion, a player has been seriously injured. If the referee's opinion is that a player is only slightly injured, he may elect to continue the game until there is a normal stoppage in play.

### **2.11.6 SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

Games in progress can only be suspended or canceled by the match referee. Competent authority should direct the referee's attention to immediate dangers such as lightning.

### **2.11.7 EARLY TERMINATION OF GAME**

In the event a game is terminated by the referee before the specified time limit is reached, a written report must be submitted by the referee to the RSA office, directed to the League Commissioner, within 48 hours after the game. The coach of each competing team involved in a game which is abandoned by the referee shall submit a report to the RSA office, directed to the League Commissioner, within 48 hours after the game.

Any RSA sanctioned game which does not meet the requirements set forth herein will be considered an incomplete game and shall be replayed in its entirety. The Association will consider a game complete under the following circumstances:

2.11.7.1 **DIVISIONS USING QUARTER SUBSTITUTION SYSTEM** - When two quarters have been completed and the third quarter has begun.

2.11.7.2 **ALL OTHER DIVISIONS** - When the second half has begun.

### **2.11.8 RULE MODIFICATIONS FOR U-8 AND YOUNGER DIVISIONS**

In addition to the modifications specified in Section 3 of this Guide, the following revisions to the Laws of the Game will apply to the indicated age groups.

2.11.8.1 **OFFSIDE** - The off-side rule will not be applied in U8 and younger divisions unless, in the opinion of the referee, an infringement is a flagrant violation. (Example: Stationing a player in the area of the opponents goal, in an off-side position).

2.11.8.2 **FREE-KICKS** - All free-kicks in U8 and younger divisions shall be indirect, including those taken for fouls called within the penalty-area. All other procedures for free-kicks shall apply.

2.11.8.3 **THROW-INS** - Players in U6 and younger divisions are encouraged to use throw-ins, however they may replace the throw-in with a kick-in. A kick-in is an indirect kick from the touch line where the ball went over the touch line.

## **2.12 SCHEDULE CHANGES**

### **2.12.1 POSTPONEMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND FORFEITS**

Only the League Commissioner, Division Commissioners, any RSA Executive Board member, the Parks Department, or the match referee, has the authority to postpone or cancel a game. A coach cannot postpone or cancel a game without the prior consent of the Division Commissioner. Any violation may result in forfeiture of the game by the offender. Any coach who deliberately forfeits a game for any reason will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **2.12.1.1 FORFEITURE OF GAMES**

Unless officially notified by the League, in a manner determined by the League as set out in Section 2.12.2, BAD WEATHER, teams must report to the playing fields for assigned games.

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

1. Fielding an ineligible player or a player under suspension
2. A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game.
3. Failure to field a team with the minimum number of players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time according to the referee's watch.
4. Violation of the minimum playing requirement for any player as outlined in the General Rules for Recreational Play
5. Intentional failure to appear for a scheduled game, whether or not notification of such intention has been provided. If one or both teams fails to appear for a scheduled game, that team(s) (coaches, managers, and/or other responsible parties) may be required to appear before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman to present its reason for the forfeit. A team found 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 participating in any playoff games

- d. Have the coach suspended for up to one (1) year
- e. Be penalized as deemed appropriate by the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman

A team knowing that it will not be able to field a team should notify the League office and the applicable League Director at least 48 hours prior to the game. A call to the opposing coach and the appropriate age group Commissioner may diminish the punishment for an intentional forfeit, but such a call will not eliminate an appearance before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman, nor will it release the offending team from the possibility of sanctions.

There will be no make-up of a forfeited game. All referee fees provided by the League for the forfeited game must be reimbursed by the team prior to their next scheduled game.

### **2.12.2BAD WEATHER**

Whenever possible, coaches will be notified when fields are closed. Fields will normally only be closed due to bad weather or turf conditions. Such decisions will be based on the condition of the pitch (dangerous, unplayable, etc.) and/or actual or impending weather (i.e. lightning, severe cold or heat, etc.) with the utmost consideration given to player safety.

### **2.12.3SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS**

Requests for schedule adjustments should be made to the Division Commissioner prior to the completion of the schedule. After the schedule is published, requests to reschedule a game will only be considered if made at least 96 hours before game time.

### **2.12.4RESCHEDULING PROCEDURES**

Each Division Commissioner may develop his own guidelines and procedures to handle such requests, subject to approval of the League Commissioner. Rescheduling procedures will be made known to all coaches at the preseason meeting. Because rescheduling just one game can affect more than 80 parents, players and coaches as well as the match officials, a request to reschedule a game will not be granted as a matter of course, but only after due consideration of all factors including impact on the opposing team, open dates, remaining games, availability of game fields, and the schedules of the involved teams.

## **2.13 TRAINING (PRACTICE) SESSIONS**

### **2.13.1ATTENDANCE**

Training sessions are a necessary activity and should be taken seriously. Everyone who signs up to play soccer is expected to attend training sessions so they can be taught the skills appropriate to their age level. An essential part of the learning process is that each player practice on their own between training sessions. Coaches should set up a regular team training schedule. Players who continually fail to attend training sessions may be subject to disciplinary action.

Games are the place for players to showcase newly acquired skills and a time to have fun playing the game with a minimum of interference by the coach. Players should not be made to feel that games are just another training session.

### **2.13.2LIMITED NUMBER**

Regular season games are not counted as training sessions. The number of training sessions per week shall be limited to the following:



2.13.2.1 **DIVISIONS U8 AND YOUNGER** - Training sessions in U8 and younger divisions are limited to a maximum of two per week, each not more than one-hour long.

2.13.2.2 **DIVISIONS U9 AND OLDER** - Training sessions in U9 and older divisions are limited to a maximum of two per week, each not more than 90-minutes long, after the start of the season. Prior to the first scheduled game, a maximum of three sessions per week, each not more than 90-minutes long, will be permitted.

### 2.13.3 FIELDS

Open areas at city parks and schools are available for team training sessions and friendly scrimmages. The game fields at Breckinridge Park are not available for training sessions or practice games. Soccer fields located around the city in neighborhood parks that are designated alternate game sites will be protected from destructive use. Teams or coaches damaging the playing area (pitch) may be subject to disciplinary action.

### 2.13.4 CLINICS

An individual or team or group of teams may seek additional skill training. The instructor of such training may be paid; however, a coach cannot require a player to participate in any activity in which the player is required to pay a fee. If a clinic or skill training session is offered to a team, it must be offered to all players on the team roster. Private clinics and skill training sessions given by paid instructors will be limited by RSA to a maximum of two clinics between soccer seasons, and two clinics during the period of scheduled league play, including RSA sanctioned tournaments. Clinics offered through public registration or sponsored by RSA are not included in these limitations.

## 2.14 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

### 2.14.1 DETERMINATION OF REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONS

In U-09 and older divisions, the champions of each conference/division shall be the team that accumulates the most points during the regular season using the following point system or tie-breaking procedure.

2.14.1.1 **GAME POINTS** - Total points based on six points for a win, three points for a tie, and no points for a loss in all regular season games. In addition to won/loss/tie points, each team shall be awarded one point for each goal scored, up to a maximum of three in each game. Maximum possible points in a single game will be nine points.

2.14.1.2 **PROCEDURE FOR BREAKING TIES** - To determine the championship or any other place which is to receive a trophy when two or more teams are tied in points when all regular season games are complete, use the following steps, to be applied in order to the teams tied until one is selected.

- a. Head to head game results.
- b. Team with highest goal differential, goals scored fewer goals against, using only the first three goals by any team in any game. (Ex: A 4-1 game = 3-1 for a 2 point differential; a 10-4 game = 3-3 for a 0 point differential).
- c. Fewest accumulated misconduct points using 1 for a yellow card, 2 for a red card.
- d. Play-off game to be scheduled by the DC (alternative: kicks from penalty mark).

## 2.15 TOURNAMENT PLAY

### 2.15.1 NTSSA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

RSA will send one boys team and one girls team from U-19, U-16, U-14, U-12, and U-10 divisions to represent the Association at the NTSSA annual Tournament of Champions (TOC). Unless another procedure is outlined prior to the start of the season, the following guidelines will be used to select the representatives. Apply the tie breaking procedure in Section 2.14.1.2 of this Guide if necessary.

The RSA representative for each division playing within the Association or with another Association will be the Champion of the regular season of the first conference (or highest competitive level). If a team must be selected before the regular season is concluded, the representative will be the team in first place in the standings of the first conference on the date specified by the League Commissioner. RSA may elect not to send a representative if it is determined that their placement in the standings indicate that the team would have a negative tournament experience.

### **2.15.2RSA SPRING TOURNAMENT**

RSA may sponsor a spring end-of-season tournament. The tournament will be held at the completion of the regular scheduled season play. The Format of the tournament and the rules will be determined by the tournament committee and a nominal entry fee may be required..

### **2.15.3OTHER TOURNAMENTS**

Teams desiring to participate in other tournaments should contact the tournament director of the desired tournament as early as possible. Rules governing player registration, guest players, releases, transfers and roster limits vary with each tournament and it is the coaches' responsibility to insure the eligibility of each player. Teams traveling outside the boundaries of NTSSA must have a Travel Permit approved by the State Youth Commissioner. NTSSA Travel Procedures are available through the RSA or State office.

### 3 RULES OF COMPETITION

#### LAWS OF THE GAME

The Rules of Competition for RSA shall be the current issue of Laws of the Game as published by FIFA and authorized by the International Football Association Board except as modified herein. The following does not reproduce the complete text of the Laws of the Game, but does denote some basic information for RSA players and coaches and reflects those areas that have been modified for youth play.

#### 3.1 LAW 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY

The field of play shall be rectangular. The FIFA laws for field size, size of the goals, goal area and penalty area have been modified for youth play. Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by various municipal parks departments, the maximum and RSA recommended field and goal sizes are shown in Table 3-1. Sizes for additional field markings are shown in Table 3-2.

**TABLE 3-2**  
**RECOMMENDED FIELD SIZE BY DIVISION**

Age Division	Recommended Width x Length (Yards)	Maximum Width x Length (Yards)	Goal Height x Width (Feet)
U17/U18/U19	75 x 112	80 x 120	8 x 24
U16	75 x 112	75 x 112	8 x 24
U14	60 x 100	75 x 112	8 x 24
U12	47 x 75	55 x 80	6.5 x 18.5
U9/U10	35 x 55	45 x 65	6.5 x 18.5
U8 and younger	20 x 30	25 x 35	4 x 6

**TABLE 3-3**  
**RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL FIELD MARKINGS BY DIVISION**

Division	Goal Area yds x yds	Penalty Area yds x yds	Center Circle Radius	Corner Arc Radius
U-19 to U-12	6 x 20	18 x 44	10 yds	1 yd.
U-10, U-9	6 x 19	14 x 35	8 yds	1 yd.
U-8, U-7	6 x 16	10 x 24	6 yds	2 ft
U-6, U-5, U-4	3 x 4	none	10 ft	2 ft

The first dimension listed for the Goal and Penalty areas indicates the distance the area shall extend into the field of play and also the distance from each goal post for the lines at right angles to the goal line.

The center circle radius is also the encroachment distance, the minimum distance the defensive team must remain from the ball during the taking of a free kick or corner-kick.

### 3.2 LAW 2 - THE BALL

Ball sizes to be used in RSA competition will be as follows:

Division	Ball Size
U13 and Older	5
U9 – U12	4
U4 - U8	3

### 3.3 LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than the maximum number of players specified in Table 3-4.

Substitutes may be used in any match; however, FIFA laws will apply except as to number of players and frequency of substitutions as modified herein. The referee shall be informed of any proposed substitution, before it is made. The substitute shall enter the field during a stoppage in the game, and at the halfway line. He shall not enter the field of play until the player he is replacing has left, and only after having received a signal from the referee.

In U9 divisions and older, each team must have a goalkeeper. Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and provided also that the change is made during a stoppage of the game.

If the substitute enters the field of play without the authority of the referee, play shall be stopped. The substitute shall be cautioned and removed from the field or sent off according to the circumstances.

A player who has been sent off after play has started may not be replaced.

**TABLE 3-4**  
NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTION RULES BY DIVISION

Division	Maximum Players	Minimum Players To Start	Substitution Rules
U13 – U19	11	7	3.3.1.1
U11/U12	9	6	3.3.1.1
U9/U10	7	6	3.3.1.2
U4 – U8	4	4	3.3.1.2

### 3.3.1 SUBSTITUTION RULES AS MODIFIED FOR YOUTH PLAY

#### 3.3.1.1 U8 AND OLDER DIVISIONS

Keeping in mind the minimum playing time required for each player, coaches may request to make substitutions at the following times:

- at a throw-in, by the team in possession only (if play is interrupted for substitution, the other team may also request to substitute during the stoppage)
- either team at a goal kick
- either team after a goal is scored
- either team at an injury, when the referee stops play
- at half-time
- when a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted out [this may not apply outside RSA competition]

All substitutions must be done at the halfway line. Players leaving the field of play must exit the game at the halfway line. All players entering the game must enter the field of play from the halfway line. Players entering the field of play must wait until the players exiting the game have reached the touchline.

#### 3.3.1.2 U7 AND YOUNGER DIVISIONS

The "Quarter Substitution System" will be used. To insure that all players play at least the minimum required time in each game, substitutions will be made in the following manner and only at the following times:

- **QUARTER POINTS** - The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw-in, goal-kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through the first half of the game and the second half of the game. Coaches will not go onto the field of play nor will players leave the field, except for those being replaced by a substitute. It is intended that this process take less than one minute. Play shall be resumed as it would have had it not been stopped to allow the substitutions.
- **HALF TIME** - At the normal halftime break (between quarters two and three).
- **INJURIES** - In case of injury (for the injured player only).
- **CAUTION** - When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player will be substituted for. [this may not apply outside RSA competition]. A card will not be shown and the infraction will be explained to the coach.

### 3.4 LAW 4 - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

Shin guards, meeting the standards set by FIFA, are mandatory and must be covered entirely by the stockings.

A player shall not wear anything, which is dangerous to another player or to himself (metal cleats, jewelry, etc.). Casts or braces will be allowed at the discretion of the match referee.

Footwear is required (tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes, not baseball cleats or football shoes which have a cleat on the toe).

The designated home team shall provide contrasting jersey colors when there is a color conflict.

The goalkeeper shall wear colors, which distinguish him from the other players of both teams and from the referee.

If the referee finds that a player is wearing articles not permitted by the Laws and which may constitute a danger to other players, he shall order him to take them off. If he fails to carry out the referee's instruction, the player shall not take part in the match.

Each player must have a number on the back of their jersey not less than 4 inches high. The players number should be the same number as listed on the NTSSA roster. All players' number must be different from any other players' number on their team.

### **3.5 LAW 5 - REFEREES**

A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. His authority and the exercise of the power granted to him by the Laws of the Game commence as soon as he enters the field of play and until he leaves or the next referee arrives.

His power of penalizing shall extend to offenses committed when play has been temporarily suspended, or when the ball is out of play. His decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. He shall:

- Enforce the Laws
- Refrain from penalizing in cases where he is satisfied that, by doing so, he would give an advantage to the offending team
- Keep a record of the game and act as timekeeper
- Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other cause, he deems such stoppage necessary
- Allow no person other than the players and assistant referees to enter the field of play until play has stopped, and only then if he has given such person a signal to do so
- Caution and show a yellow card to any player guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behavior
- Send off the field of play and show a red card to any player guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language or who persists in misconduct after having received a caution
- Stop the game if, in his opinion, the player has been seriously injured; if a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play
- Decide that the ball provided for a match meets the requirements of Law 2

#### DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD.

The coach may convey tactical instructions to players during the match. The coach and other officials, however, must remain within the confines of the technical area (as defined in Section 2.11.5 of this Guide) and they must conduct themselves, at all times, in a responsible manner.

### **3.6 LAW 6 - ASSISTANT REFEREES**

Specifically trained and certified "Assistant referees" may be used to assist the referee. Their duty (subject to the instructions of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- when the ball is out of play
- which side is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in
- when a substitution is desired
- when a player is offside

- Other duties dictated by the referee

When official assistant referees are not available, the referee may request that each team provide a "club linesman" who will assist the referee with balls out of play.

### 3.7 LAW 7 - DURATION OF THE GAME

The duration of a match in RSA regular season league play will be as defined in the following table. In the U4 – U7 divisions, play will be stopped near the mid-point of each half for player substitutions (see Section 3.3.1.2).

Overtime periods will only be used during RSA post-season play when a winner must be determined. If a post-season game ends in a tie after two halves, the game will continue for two additional overtime periods, each of the length defined below.

**TABLE 3-4  
DURATION OF THE GAME**

Division	Length of Periods (minutes)	Length of Overtime (minutes)
U17/U18/U19	2 x 45	2 x 15
U15/U16	2 x 40	2 x 15
U13/U14	2 x 35	2 x 10
U11/U12	2 x 30	2 x 10
U9/U10	2 x 25	2 x 10
U8	4 x 10	n/a
U4/U5/U6	4 x 8	n/a

### 3.8 LAW 8 - THE START OF PLAY

**At the beginning of the game**, choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of ends. The other team takes the kick-off. The referee having given a signal, the game shall be started by a player taking a place-kick (i.e. a kick at the ball while it is stationary on the ground in the center of the field of play) into his opponents' half of the field of play. Every player shall be in his own half of the field and every player of the team opposing that of the kicker shall remain outside the center circle until it is kicked-off. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

**After a goal has been scored**, a player of the team losing the goal shall restart the game in a like manner.

**After half time**, ends shall be changed and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game.

**After the substitution break**; in divisions that use the "Quarter Substitution System"; when restarting the game after the substitution breaks in the middle of the first and second halves, play shall be resumed as it would have had it not been stopped to allow the substitutions.

**After any other temporary suspension**, the referee shall drop the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended, unless it was within the goal-area at the time, in which case it shall be dropped on that part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. The ball shall be deemed in play when it has touched the ground. A player shall not play the ball until it has touched the ground.

A goal may be scored direct from a kick-off.

**Special Circumstances.** A free kick awarded to the defending team inside its own goal area is taken from any point within the goal area. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in its opponents' goal area is taken from the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. A dropped ball to restart the match after play has been temporarily stopped inside the goal area takes place on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

### **3.9 LAW 9 - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

The ball is out of play:

- when it has wholly crossed the goal-line or touch-line whether on the ground or in the air
- when the Referee has stopped the game

The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish including:

- if it rebounds from a goal post, crossbar or corner-flag post into the field of play
- if it rebounds off either the Referee or Assistant Referee when they are in the field of play
- in the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws, until a decision is given

The lines belong to the area of which they are the boundaries. In consequence, the touch-lines and the goal-lines belong to the field of play.

### **3.10 LAW 10 - METHOD OF SCORING**

Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goal-posts and under the cross-bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking side, except in the case of a goalkeeper, who is within his own penalty-area.

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a game shall be the winner; if no goals or an equal number of goals are scored, the game shall be termed a "draw".

In accordance with Section 2.3.2, U8 and younger divisions will not have winners declared or scores published for regular season league games.

### **3.11 LAW 11 - OFFSIDE**

RSA age specific modifications to the offside rules are listed in Section 2.11.8.1.

It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponent's goal-line than the ball, unless:

- he is in his own half of the field of play, or
- he is not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents. A player who is level (even) with the second last opponent or with the last two opponents is not in an off-side position.

A player shall only be declared off-side and penalized for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee:

- interfering with play or with an opponent, or
- gaining an advantage by being in that position.

Off-side shall not be judged at the moment the player in question receives the ball, but at the moment when the ball is passed to him by one of his own side. A player who is not in an off-side



position when one of his own team passes the ball to him or takes a free-kick, does not therefore become off-side if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.

A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee if he receives the ball directly from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or throw-in.

If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free-kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from where the infringement occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from any point within the goal area.

### **3.12 LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Fouls and misconduct are penalized as follows:

#### **DIRECT FREE KICK**

A direct free-kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent

A direct free-kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offenses:

- tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

A direct free-kick is taken from where the offense occurred, subject to Law 8's Special Circumstances.

#### **PENALTY KICK**

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offenses is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

#### **INDIRECT FREE KICK**

An indirect free-kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, commits any of the following three offenses:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands

An indirect free-kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offenses:

- takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball back into the field of play after he gains possession of the ball

- touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any player
- touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

The indirect free kick is taken from where the offense occurred, subject to Law 8's Special Circumstances.

#### **Disciplinary Sanctions - Cautionable Offenses**

A player is **cautioned and shown the yellow card** if he commits any of the following seven offenses:

- is guilty of unsporting behavior
- shows dissent by word or action
- persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- delays the restart of play
- fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
- enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

#### **Disciplinary Sanctions - Sending-off Offenses**

A player is **sent off and shown the red card** if he commits any of the following seven offenses:

- is guilty of serious foul play
- is guilty of violent conduct
- spits at an opponent or any other person
- denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
- receives a second caution in the same match

#### **DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD.**

**Decision 1:** A player who commits a cautionable or sending-off offense, either on or off the field of play, whether directed towards an opponent, a team-mate, the referee, an assistant referee or any other person, is disciplined according to the nature of the offense committed.

**Decision 2:** The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his hand or arms. Possession of the ball includes the goalkeeper deliberately parrying the ball, but does not include the circumstances where, in the opinion of the referee, the ball rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper, for example after he has made a save.

**Decision 3:** Subject to the terms of Law 12, a player may pass the ball to his own goalkeeper using his head or chest or knee, etc. If however, in the opinion of the referee, a player uses a deliberate trick while the ball is in play in order to circumvent the Law, the player is guilty of unsporting behavior. He is cautioned, shown the yellow card and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to Law 8's Special Circumstances.

A player using a deliberate trick to circumvent the Law while he is taking a free kick, is cautioned for unsporting behavior and shown the yellow card. The free kick is retaken.

In such circumstances, it is irrelevant whether the goalkeeper subsequently touches the ball with his hands or not. The player commits the offense in attempting to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law 12.

RSA includes the following comments to guide coaches and referees in regular season RSA league play:

- The letter and spirit of Law 12 does not oblige the referee to stop a game to administer a caution. He may, if he chooses, apply the advantage. If he does apply the advantage, he shall caution the player when play stops.
- Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is not allowed in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it , bouncing it, tossing it up and catching it, or patting it along the ground."
- It is not an intentional "hand ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball.]
- Playing in a dangerous manner includes attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper.
- Charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it is a punishable offense.
- When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent is a punishable offense.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or being ordered from the field of play.

### **3.13 LAW 13 - FREE-KICK**

RSA age specific modifications to the free-kick rules are listed in Section 2.11.8.2.

Free-kicks shall be classified under two headings: "direct" (from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side), and "indirect" (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick inside his own penalty-area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten\* yards from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty-area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked beyond the penalty-area. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands, in order that he may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play, beyond the penalty-area, the kick shall be retaken.

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick outside his own penalty-area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten\* yards from the ball, until it is in play, unless they are standing on their own goal-line, between the goal-posts. The ball shall be in play when it kicked and moves.

\* The distance varies in younger age divisions, see Table 3-2 for the modified distances.

The ball must be stationary when a free-kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time, until it has been touched or played by another player.

Any indirect free-kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal-area, may be taken from any point within the goal-area.

Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team, within its opponent's goal-area, shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest to where the offense was committed.

### **3.14 LAW 14 - PENALTY-KICK**

RSA age specific modifications to the penalty-kick rules are listed in Section 2.11.8.2.

A penalty-kick shall be taken from the penalty-mark and, when it is taken, all players with the exception of the player taking the kick, properly identified, and the opposing goalkeeper, shall be within the field of play but outside the penalty-area, and at least ten\* yards from the penalty-mark. The defending goalkeeper must on his own goal-line, between the goal-posts, until the ball is kicked. The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward; he shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. A goal may be scored directly from a penalty-kick.

\* The distance varies in younger age divisions, see Table 3-2 for the modified distances.

### **3.15 LAW 15 - THROW-IN**

RSA age specific modifications to the throw-in rules are listed in Section 2.11.8.3.

When the whole of the ball passes over a touch-line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. The thrower at the moment of delivering the ball must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch-line or on the ground outside the touch-line. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his head. The ball shall be in play immediately it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal shall not be scored direct from a throw-in. The goalkeeper cannot handle the ball directly from a throw-in by his team mate.

If the ball is improperly thrown in the throw-in shall be taken by a player of the opposing team. A throw-in taken from any position other than the point where the ball passed over the touch-line shall be considered to have been improperly thrown in.

### **3.16 LAW 16 - GOAL-KICK**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty-area from any point within the goal-area by a player of the defending team. A goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands from a goal-kick in order that he may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play, beyond the penalty-area, the kick shall be retaken. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal may be scored directly from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the goal-kick shall remain outside the penalty-area until the ball has been kicked out of the area.

### **3.17 LAW 17 - CORNER-KICK**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall take a corner-kick, i.e. the whole of the ball shall be placed within the

quarter circle at the nearest corner-flag post, which must not be moved, and it shall be kicked from that position. A goal may be scored direct from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner-kick shall not approach within ten\* yards until it is in play, nor shall the player taking the kick play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

\* The distance varies in younger age divisions, see Table 3-2 for the modified distances.

## **4 BYLAWS OF THE RICHARDSON SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

### **4.1 (ARTICLE I) - OFFICES**

#### **4.1.1 PLACE OF BUSINESS**

Richardson Soccer Association (herein referred to as the "Association" or "RSA") is established as a nonprofit organization whose principal office in the State of Texas shall be located in the City of Richardson, as the Executive Board may determine.

### **4.2 (ARTICLE II) - MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION**

#### **4.2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

All rostered coaches become members of Richardson Soccer Association for the playing season for which they are registered. Board Members and Division Commissioners are considered members of Richardson Soccer Association for the year in which they serve. Any person over the age of 17, institution or organization actively interested in the purposes and objectives of the Association and complying with the requirements as to dues set by the Executive Board, may become a member upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the Executive Board.

#### **4.2.2 VOTING RIGHTS**

Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. A majority vote of members in good standing present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute an act of membership, unless a higher percentage is required herein or under applicable law.

#### **4.2.3 MERITORIOUS MEMBERSHIPS**

Distinguished service memberships may be granted by vote of the members at any meeting to any person, institution, or organization that has given undue support or assistance to the purposes and objects of this Association. Distinguished service members do not pay membership dues and any person awarded such membership may hold office.

#### **4.2.4 SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Board, by affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%), may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing.

#### **4.2.5 DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

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

#### **4.2.6 JURISDICTION**

The jurisdiction of the Association shall cover (i) any and all individuals with an established residence within the City Limits of Richardson, TX, and (ii) any and all individuals registered and attending any and all private, public or home schools physically located within the City Limits of Richardson, TX. The Board shall have the authority to establish policies and procedures for the granting to and the accepting from other associations, player releases under special and unusual circumstances.

### **4.3 (ARTICLE III) - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

#### **4.3.1 ANNUAL MEETING**

An Annual Meeting of the members shall be held during the month of April or May on a day fixed by the Executive Board, for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. Only those who are members of the Association on April 1, preceding the Annual Meeting, will be eligible to vote. (Newly elected officers will assume office on June 1.) The order of business for such meeting shall be:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call (alternative; have members sign their names in a roster).
- III. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
- IV. Reports of Officers and Chairman of standing committees.
- V. Unfinished business.
- VI. Election of officers.
- VII. New business.
- VIII. Announcements.
- IX. Adjournment.

#### **4.3.2 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

A Semi-Annual Meeting of the members shall be held during the month of August on a day fixed by the Executive Board, for the purpose of reviewing and adopting the annual budget, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the membership. Only those who are members of the Association on August 1, preceding the Semi-Annual Meeting, will be eligible to vote. The order of business for such meeting shall be:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call (alternative; have members sign their names in a roster).
- III. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
- IV. Reports of Officers and Chairman of standing committees.
- V. Unfinished business.
- VI. Presentation of Annual Budget, Discussion and Vote.
- VII. New business.
- VIII. Announcements.
- IX. Adjournment.

Additional meetings of the members may be called by the President or a majority of the members of the Executive Board at any time.

#### **4.3.3 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the members may be called by not less than one-fifth ( $\frac{1}{5}$ ) of the members having voting rights. Business transacted at all special meetings shall be confined to the purpose stated in the notice of the meeting.

#### **4.3.4 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

All meetings of the members shall be held within the City of Richardson, Texas. Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered, either personally, by post or by electronic mail, to each member entitled to vote at such meeting, not less than seven or more than twenty-one days before the date of such meeting. In case of a special meeting, the specific purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be deemed to be

delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon paid.

#### **4.3.5 QUORUM**

Provided notice of a meeting of the members is complied with as set forth in Section 4.3.4. of these bylaws, five percent of the RSA membership must be present to constitute a quorum. A majority vote of members in good standing present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute an act of membership, unless a higher percentage is required herein or under applicable law. When a membership meeting has been properly noticed, the members with voting rights present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **4.3.6 ABSENTEE OR PROXY VOTING**

Absentee, proxy, or voting by mail shall not be allowed by this Association.

### **4.4 (ARTICLE IV) - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

#### **4.4.1 AUTHORITY**

The affairs of this Association shall be managed by its Executive Board. It shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game; the Rules of the United States Soccer Federation; the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of North Texas State Soccer Association; and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Rules of this Association.

#### **4.4.2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Officers of this Association shall constitute the Executive Board.

#### **4.4.3 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or any two officers. The person or persons authorized to call meetings of the Executive Board may fix any place within the City of Richardson, Texas for holding such meetings.

#### **4.4.4 MANNER OF NOTICE**

Notice of meeting of the Executive Board shall be given to all officers at least forty-eight (48) hours previously thereto if by written notice delivered personally. Notice of meeting may be delivered by post or electronic mail at least five days previous to such meeting, to the officer at his address as shown by the records of the Association. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid.

#### **4.4.5 WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Any member of the Executive Board may waive notice of any meeting. His attendance at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at the meeting need not be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meetings, unless specifically required by law or these bylaws.

#### **4.4.6 LACK OF QUORUM**

A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board: but if less than a majority of the Board is present at said meeting a majority of the Board present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

#### **4.4.7 QUORUM**

The act of the majority of the Board present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Executive Board, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these bylaws.



**4.4.8 COMPENSATION**

Members of the Executive Board shall not receive any stated salaries for their services, but by resolution of the Executive Board, any member may be indemnified for expenses and cost, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily incurred by him in connection with any claim asserted against him, by action in court or otherwise, by reason of his being or having been a member of the Board, except in relation to matters as to which he shall have been guilty of gross negligence or misconduct in request of the matter in which indemnity is sought.

**4.5 (ARTICLE V) - OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION****4.5.1 TERM OF OFFICE**

The officers of the Association, except for the Member-at-Large, shall be elected annually by the Membership. Each officer shall hold office until his successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified. Tenure of officers shall be limited to not more than two duly elected, consecutive terms in any specific office. If an officer wishes to serve more than two years they must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board and Membership on an annual basis.

**4.5.2 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Any officer failing to attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive Board without adequate cause as determined by two-thirds of the total remaining members of the Executive Board shall have his office declared vacant.

**4.5.3 VACANCIES**

A vacancy in any office, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by Presidential appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. The President shall appoint a person to fulfill the position subject to approval of the Executive Board by a majority vote. Such appointment must be presented for ratification at the next meeting of members.

**4.5.4 REMOVAL**

Any officer or director of the Association shall be required to resign or shall be removed following a vote of no confidence by the Board at any meeting of the Board called for the purpose to consider such a vote of no confidence. An officer or director may be removed by the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of the Board members present at such meeting. Otherwise, a special meeting of the members of the Richardson Soccer Association may be called to consider a vote of no confidence of an officer or director. Such a meeting of the members may only be called by the president or members constituting not less than twenty percent (20%) (1/5) of the total voting membership. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of the members present at such special meeting is necessary to remove the officer or director.

**4.5.5 PERQUISITE FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENT**

Nominees for President must be current members of the Executive Board, unless no Board member desires the position in which case nominees shall be from the general membership.

**4.5.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The offices of this Association shall be:

- 4.5.6.1 **PRESIDENT** - The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall, in general, supervise and manage all of the business of the Association. He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Board. He shall appoint all members of committees and the North Texas State Soccer Association representatives and, where not defined in these bylaws, shall define such duties. He may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the Association authorized by the Executive Board, any contracts or other instruments that have been authorized to be executed. He may appoint an auditor to conduct an annual review of the financial records of the Association, which shall be reported to members. In general he shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time. The President shall vote at meetings of members of the Executive Board only in the event of a tie vote or he may waive the right to do so.
- 4.5.6.2 **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** - In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions on the President. He shall serve as a Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and as Chairman of the Rules Committee.
- 4.5.6.3 **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** - In the absence of the President and First Vice President or in the event of their inability or refusal to act, the Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions on the President. He must be a licensed United States Soccer Federation Referee and will serve as Chairman of the Referee's Committee. He shall be responsible for the referee affairs of the Association, to include but not limited to training of assistant referees and notification of scheduled NTSSA Referee Committee meetings.
- 4.5.6.4 **TREASURER** - At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Executive Board shall determine. Fees for such bond will be incurred by the Association. He shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Association; receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the Association from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Association in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Executive Board. He shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- 4.5.6.5 **SECRETARY** - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of members and of the Executive Board in one or more books provided for that purpose; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law; and keep a register of the post-office addresses of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member. The register of members shall be distributed by the Secretary to the members no later than May 15 of each year. The register of members shall be available to any member in good standing at any reasonable time. He is charged with issuing the publicity of the Association.
- 4.5.6.6 **LEAGUE COMMISSIONER** - The League Commissioner shall be in charge of all league competition operated under the auspices of this Association. He will pass on all registration and transfers, organize teams, schedule games, rule on protest, keep coaches informed as to all State and National competitions for which the players and/or teams might be eligible and shall see that all coaches are informed as to the rules of competition. He shall serve as Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

4.5.6.7 **MEMBER AT LARGE** - This officer will be the immediate past President who shall serve the Executive Board in an advisory capacity. If the immediate past President declines to serve, the current President shall appoint a person to fulfill the position, subject to approval of the Executive Board by a majority vote.

#### 4.5.7 ADDITIONAL DUTIES

All members of the Executive Board, in addition to performing the duties incident to their offices, shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to them by the President or the Executive Board.

#### 4.6 ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

4.6.1 **COACHING COORDINATOR** - He shall be responsible for providing the desire for the highest quality coaching standards for all registered coaches in the Association. He must organize and publish needed coaches clinics based on the rules of the Association throughout the soccer year. It is also his responsibility of keeping records of the clinics that Association coaches must take based on the rules of the Association and the clinics that the coaches have completed. The Coaching Coordinator shall also be responsible for working with the Association's Registrar to maintain an up to date record of the Association's volunteers that must complete the Risk Management Form that is required by NTSSA and who has been issued a Picture Identification Badge. This position will report to the First Vice President.

4.6.2 **EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR** - He shall be charged with the acquisition, maintenance, and issuance of all equipment necessary or incidental to the playing of soccer, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. This position will report to the Treasurer

4.6.3 **REGISTRATION AND TEAM FORMATION COORDINATOR** - The Registration and Team Formation Coordinator shall be in charge of setting up all association registrations for league play. This includes but is not limited to:

- Recruiting volunteers
- Setting up site for registration
- Checking all forms for required information after they are turned in
- Preparing all checks and money for deposit
- Serve as chairperson of the team formation committee.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Registration and Team Formation Coordinator shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Executive Board shall determine. This position will report to the League Commissioner.

4.6.4 **FIELD COORDINATOR** - It shall be the responsibility of the Field Coordinator to be the liaison between the Richardson Soccer Association and the City Parks and Recreation department. Listed below are the responsibilities associated with this position:

- Check fields conditions and determine playability
- Maintain mid-week nets
- Ensure that fields are being marked in a timely manner
- Coordinating Field Marshall's activities

- Work with the City of Richardson's Parks and Recreation department, NTSSA, and adjoining soccer associations (as needed) to develop strategies and plans for improving existing playing fields and developing new fields..

He shall have the authority to appoint, as needed, an ad hoc Playing Field Planning Committee, which will assist in the development of a long-term plan for soccer field development for RSA. All committee recommendations will be presented to the board for appropriate action. The committee will consist of 3 to 7 individuals who are members of RSA, and have been approved by the board. This position will report to the League Commissioner.

## 4.7 (ARTICLE VI) - COMMITTEES

### 4.7.1 STANDING COMMITTEES

The President, with approval of a majority of the Executive Board, shall appoint the following committees:

4.7.1.1 **APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE** - This Committee shall consist of the First Vice President as Chairman and at least four appointees. A quorum of three members is necessary to conduct an appeals hearing. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall hear all appeals relative to any soccer competition conducted by the Association, except that it will not have jurisdiction to hear an appeal of a judgment call by a referee when the laws of the game or any Association playing rule has not been violated. A member of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall disqualify himself from taking part in any hearing if he might be affected by the decision or if he is biased for or against any party to the hearing. The President or Chairman is empowered to make temporary appointments to this Committee when necessary. Appeal by any party from any decision of this Committee shall be made to the Executive Board prior to any appeal directed to North Texas State Soccer Association. (The right of appeal and reference to the procedures shall be announced to affected parties in all communications relating to a decision of the committee.)

4.7.1.2 **RULES COMMITTEE** - This Committee shall consist of the First Vice President as Chairperson and at least two appointees. The Committee shall review annually the Administrative Rules and Regulations as published in the *Richardson Soccer Association Soccer Guide* and any extracts thereof. The Committee shall recommend changes as required to such rules at the Executive Board Meeting immediately proceeding to the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Committee's recommendations shall be presented to the Executive Board for adoption by a majority vote. Should the Executive Board not agree with the recommendations of the Rules Committee, in whole or in part, the proposed change(s) in dispute shall be submitted, along with both recommendations, to the membership at the Annual Meeting for adoption by a majority vote.

The Executive Board shall publish the *Richardson Soccer Association Soccer Guide* at least once each year.

The Rules Committee shall review and accept for study proposed amendments to the Association Bylaws and shall make a report at the Executive Board Meeting immediately preceding to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

4.7.1.3 **FINANCE COMMITTEE** - The Committee shall consist of the Treasurer as Chairman and two appointees. The committee shall submit an annual budget to the Executive Board for approval prior to submission to the members for adoption.

Any expenditures by the Association not included in the adopted budget in excess of \$750, including any contracts or agreements requiring a cumulative total in excess of \$750; and

not considered an emergency in nature must, after approval of the Finance Committee or the Executive Board, be submitted to the membership for an affirmative vote before any funds can be disbursed. Any expenditures by the Association not included in the adopted budget in excess of \$750 and less than \$3000; including any contracts or agreements requiring a cumulative total in excess of \$750 and less than \$3000; and considered an emergency by nature must, after approval of the Finance Committee and the Executive Board, be reported to the membership at the next general membership meeting

An emergency expenditure is defined as any non-budgeted expenditure that, if not made in a timely manner, would have a negative impact on the operations of the Association.

- 4.7.1.4 **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** - This Committee shall consist of the League Commissioner as Chairman and two appointees. The Committee shall select the Association representative to the Cup and Games Committee of the North Texas State Soccer Association. The Committee shall direct all competition and play conducted by the Association relative to local, state and national tournaments and competitions, directly under the League Commissioner.
- 4.7.1.5 **REFEREE COMMITTEE** - This Committee shall consist of the Second Vice President, who shall serve as Chairman, and two appointees. The function of the Committee is to work with the referees and assistant referees regarding all referee matters affecting this Association.
- 4.7.1.6 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - This Committee shall consist of any number of appointees, but not less than three members, only one of which may be an officer of the Association. The function of the Committee is to nominate and present a slate of candidates for office at the Annual Meeting of the members. Nothing contained within this section shall prohibit nominations for any Association office from being made from the floor at the Annual Meeting, or at the meeting, which the Committee makes its report. The report of the Nominating Committee must be published in the notice of the Annual Meeting.

#### **4.7.2 AD HOC COMMITTEES**

The President, with approval of the Executive Board, may appoint other special purpose committees. Such ad hoc committees shall cease to exist at the direction of the President or no later than the next Annual Meeting.

#### **4.7.3 VACANCIES**

A vacancy in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointment made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointment.

#### **4.7.4 QUORUM**

Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Executive Board designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

#### **4.7.5 PROCEDURES**

Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Executive Board.

#### **4.7.6 COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION**

Members of each committee shall be members of the Association.

**4.8 (ARTICLE VII) - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS****4.8.1 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

The Bylaws of this Association may be amended, repealed or added to, or new Bylaws may be adopted by the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present at the Annual Meeting or at any other meeting called for that purpose, provided notice has been given as set forth in Section 4.3.4 of these Bylaws, and the members have been furnished with the proposed amendments along with the notice of the meeting. Proposals for amendments to the Bylaws may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting without advance notice.

**4.9 (ARTICLE VIII) - DISSOLUTION****4.9.1 DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the assets shall be distributed (1) to the North Texas State Soccer Association if it qualifies as an organization exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and, if the North Texas State Soccer Association is not exempt as stated, (2) to such other qualified organization or organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that serve similar purposes to this Corporation. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations (or to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose), as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**4.10 (ARTICLE IX) - ADOPTED****4.10.1 EFFECTIVE DATE**

These Bylaws are effective May 1, 1976.

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE

Pat Specht, Chairman  
Philo Hatch  
George Wooten  
Clint Wofford

Amended August 1979  
Amended November 1991  
Amended August 1995  
Amended August 1997 (Ray Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Rules)  
Amended May 1998 (Ray Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Rules)  
Amended January 1999  
Amended January 2000  
Amended January 2001  
Amended April 2004  
Amended August 2010  
Amended August 2011

**A. N.T.S.S.A. RULE XI****3.11 DISCIPLINE**

All Member Associations are directed to distribute this rule to every youth and amateur player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that the

player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators.

### 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.

### 3.11.2 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.
2. A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:
  - a. Yellow Cards One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**b. Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic indefinite suspension from all NTSSA-sanctioned activities following such individual's second



red card of the tournament. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's red card total for the tournament.

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

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

4. The CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM prescribed by these rules defines the **minimum** disciplinary punishment to be taken by all Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents Member Associations, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.
5. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A & D Committee. The State A & D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association
6. The State A & D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one.
7. A coach whose conduct is **less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators** will be firmly dealt with by the Member Association or Playing League involved and the State A & D Committee.
8. Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled game (including league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) that such individual's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

9. All game suspensions must be reported immediately to the State A & D Committee. The Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials making the report will forward a copy of any referee's Misconduct Report(s) which underlie the suspension. The State A & D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct.
10. The State A & D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the State A & D Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.
11. Extreme Violent Conduct:

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

#### **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 25 the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100.00 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) send-off or any combination of cards totaling 25. The coach and the players of said team may also be required 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 (7<sup>th</sup>) send-off or any combination of cards totaling 25 will result in a fine of \$ 100.00 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

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

RICHARDSON SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
MERITORIOUS MEMBERSHIP

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