ALLEN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

SOCCER GUIDELINES, RULES & REGULATIONS

Fall 2025/ Spring 2026

www.allensports.org

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1 Introduction

ASA Soccer welcomes all new and returning parents, coaches and players for another season of recreational soccer. Thank you for your participation and all of your efforts.

The primary goal of ASA Soccer is to promote a fun environment where kids can learn and enjoy the essence of the game of soccer and fair play. The development of ALL players should be your major focus. As such, your season will be considered a success if all players are encouraged to reach their own personal potential and at the same time are allowed to be children and enjoy the game of soccer.

ASA Soccer is part of Allen Sports Association (ASA) and as such, adopts the ASA By-Laws as its own. ASA Soccer is a member of North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and is obligated to follow the NTSSA rules to continue to be a member association in good standing. NTSSA is associated with United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and Federation International de Football Association (FIFA). The referees on the field will either be qualified USSF Grassroots Referees and will be following the FIFA "Laws of the Game". Please note that some of the rules are modified for small-sided games for the younger groups as documented herein.

Due to annual changes in the FIFA "Laws of the Game", ASA Soccer will not attempt to annually restate the soccer rules, from which all games are based, including youth recreational soccer. ASA Soccer recommends that the readers obtain a copy of the FIFA "Laws of the Game" or refer to the section in question by reference to FIFA and NTSSA through the ASA website: www.allensports.org. Only modified rules for youth and any ASA specific rules will be shown in this document.

The sections that follow may refer the reader to rules, regulations, or updates made available through the sources listed in the References section.

1.1 ASA Contact Information

ASA Office: 972-727-9565
Allen Sports Association website: www.allensports.org

2 [1]Definitions

ASA
Allen Sports Association is the official governing body for NTSSA approved soccer in Allen, TX.

OPEN REGISTRATION
The process through which ALL New players or players wanting a different team are assigned to teams every season. See the Draft Process section.

FIFA
The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA /ˈfiːfə/; "International Federation of Association Football") is the international governing body of association football (Soccer), futsal, and beach soccer.

Laws of the Game
The official document from FIFA describing the governing rules for the game of soccer.

League
Recreational ASA Soccer is separated into different age levels, referred to as leagues.

League Director
An ASA volunteer whose responsibility is to oversee and manage a particular league(s).

A new player is defined as a player who has never participated in ASA Soccer.

NTSSA
North Texas State Soccer Association is the official governing body for USSF approved soccer in the North Texas region.

Player
A youth (boy or girl) registered to play soccer in ASA

Regular Registration
Regular registration is the normal period for players to register for the upcoming season. All players registering during this period are guaranteed placement on a team as long as a team is available.

Returning player
A returning player is defined as a player who registered and played in ASA Soccer in any previous season.

Soccer Coaching Clinic
A course through which coaches obtain training for coaching soccer.

Late Registration

[1]

Supplemental Registration is an optional registration period, occurring after regular registration has ended, to allow registration to continue to fill leagues with player needs.

USSF
The United States Soccer Federation is the official governing body for FIFA approved soccer in USA.

3 References

- North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA)
- Federation International de Football Association (FIFA)
- United States Soccer Federation (USSF)
- Allen Independent School District (AISD)
- The City of Allen (City)
- Allen Sports Association (ASA)

4 General Guidelines

4.1 Seasons

The ASA soccer year spans across calendar years, starting in the fall of the current calendar year (the Fall Soccer season) and ends after the spring of the next calendar year (the Spring Soccer season).

4.1.1 Fall Season

The Fall Soccer season starts between August and September. Please see the ASA website for exact dates.

4.1.2 Spring Season

The Spring Soccer season starts between February and March. Please see the ASA website for exact dates.

4.1.3 Games per Season

Each season is scheduled to have 8 games. In addition to those games, some leagues also have playoff games, please see the Rules section.

Please note that the schedule is subject to cancellations due to weather and other unforeseen events. See the Cancellations and Reschedule Policy section.

4.2 Player Registration

4.2.1 Geographic Area

The Allen Sports Association soccer boundaries are the AISD boundaries (including residents who live in the surrounding communities but whose children qualify to attend an AISD school), Fairview, and Lucas. Players from these areas can register directly via the ASA website: www.allensports.org. ASA is open to anyone no matter where they reside, as long as they are not simultaneously registered with another member association.

4.2.2 Age Eligibility

Players registering must turn 3 in the birth year on the North Texas State Soccer Association age by September 1 of calendar year.
Players registering for Spring must be at least three (3) years of age before December 31st for Spring Season

4.2.3 Registration Costs

Please visit the ASA website: www.allensports.org.

4.2.4 Regular Registration

Regular registration is available on the ASA website: www.allensports.org as follows:

Season	Registration Start
Fall	May 1st
Spring	December 1st

ASA offers Financial Aid for those that resides in Allen and Fairview ISD Financial aid is limite. Financial aid is considered on an individual player basis" on an individual player basis, to one sport per season, and 2 sports per

For further registration information, please refer to NTSSA Rule 4, RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS.

4.2.5 Late Registration

Late registration is not always made available, but when it is available it generally takes place after all players registering during the regular registration period have been assigned to their teams. Late Registration will close once the season starts. Only teams extremely short of players may reach out to the League Director for additional players to be added.

Players registering during this period will be placed on a team as long as a roster spot is available. Players will receive a refund if a team is not available.

4.2.6 Requesting Team Re-Assignment

At the time of registration, recreational players have the option to request removal from their previous team and reassignment to another team through the Players' Pool in the draft/open registration.

4.2.7 Special Requests for Registration Fulfillment of all registration requests is subject to several conditions, such as (but not limited to) space being available on existing teams after all returning players have been placed. As such, there is no guarantee that requests of any type will be fulfilled. Players, whose requests cannot be fulfilled, will be placed into the draft pool (see the Draft Process section). Please read this entire section and subsections thoroughly as there are various limitations regarding requests. Coaches may not request players or recruit players from existing teams in NTSSA member organizations.
Playing down is not permitted. See the Player Eligibility section.

4.2.6.1 Play up requests

players eligible to play in the U4 and older age groups may elect to play up one (1) age group. Players must meet the minimum age to play soccer for the soccer birthdates set by NTSSA, please see the Player Eligibility section.

Under certain circumstances entire teams may be permitted to play up together with the approval of the ASA soccer board. A registered coach from the requesting team should submit a request to play up to their league director during the spring season. If all the current team meets all player eligibility, the team's request will be added to the agenda of a spring board meeting where the registered coach will explain in person their reasons for wanting to play up. If approved, the team will be required to play at their requested age group for the entire upcoming soccer year.If after playing both the fall and spring season the team would like to return back to their original age group, the team will be disbanded and all players will be redrafted.

4.2.6.2 Play with a sibling requests

Per normal player eligibility rules any player may request team placement with a sibling whose birthday is no more than one (1) calendar year apart (See Section 5.3.3). Players may request team placement with a sibling whose birthday is two (2) calendar years apart if the younger sibling is eligible for U13 or above ***and would be playing up no more than two age groups***, and a parent or legal guardian of the siblings is a registered head or assistant coach of their team.

4.2.6.3 Play with a friend

NTSSA Rule 4.7.1 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES 4.7.1 In order to promote soccer participation, a player may invite a friend from the same Member Association who was not registered in any Member Association during the last two seasons to join his existing team with the permission of the Member Association.

Only players who have not played for ASA Soccer, or any other NTSSA member association, for at least the past 2 seasons may request to play with a friend. However, there's no guarantee that this request may be granted (see above). Also, please note that players who played ASA recreational soccer in at least one of the previous two seasons cannot request to be added to a different specific team. If the players want to switch teams, they must request to go into the draft for placement by the draft itself. Players 13-19U may request to play with friend who is not registered for current soccer year.

Please note that if four (4) or more players request to play together, they must also provide a head coach.

4.2.7 Player Registration Restrictions

1) Players may only register and participate on one (1) NTSSA sanctioned soccer team per season.
2) In accordance to NTSSA Rules Under no conditions can a player on a select/competitive team participate as a guest player for a recreational team unless that team is playing in an open or competitive tournament.
3) Players U11 (Born in 2011) and older may NOT register for both recreational and competitive teams. If a player is found in violation, games in which the player participated will result in forfeiture, and the player may be suspended.
4) Coaches may not refuse the addition to any players on the roster

NTSSA RULE 4.7 Any recreational coach who knowingly and/or willingly drops a player from their roster, or advises that player not to play for their team, whether through direct contact or coercion shall be called before the Member Association discipline committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching

4.3 Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Manager Registration

4.3.1 Geographical Requirements

There are no geographical limitations for coaches, assistants or team managers.

4.3.2 Age Eligibility

All head coaches and assistant must be 21 years or older.

4.3.3 Background Checks

All head coaches, assistant coaches and team managers must undergo a background check coordinated via ASA.

Background checks are mandatory for head coaches, assistant coaches and managers on a yearly basis. Aspiring coaches must register with Allen Sports Association (ASA) and complete a background check through the GotSport website and SafeSport training for North Texas State Soccer (NTSSA).

4.3.4 Registration Costs

There is a $5 replacement badge cost for ASA Coaches.

ASA cover the NTSSA background cost for Head Coaches and 2 assistant coaches.

4.4 Season Schedule

The season game schedule is posted online on the ASA website no later than one (1) week before the season's regularly scheduled games. Coaches are responsible for distributing the schedule to all their players.

4.4.1 Schedule Format

The Home team is listed first on the schedule.

4.4.2 Schedule Conflict Policy

The following guidelines will be used to handle requests to change the schedule of a game(s):

1) No team may request a Saturday "bye".
2) All requests for schedule changes must be made by given deadline to the first weekend of scheduled matches for the season.
3) The requesting team must be unable to field the minimum number of players fpr request to be considered.
4) The absence of a coach is not sufficient reason to reschedule a match. With proper notification, ASA Soccer Board can approve a parent to substitute for the coach on a temporary basis. In addition, ASA Soccer Board members and other licensed volunteers are available to assist.
5) Duringthe season, teams may request a game slot 'swap' with another game already scheduled on an ASA soccer field. The request must include written/email confirmation from all coaches involved in the change. Please contact your respective League Director for further information.

4.4.3 Cancellations and Reschedule Policy

The following will apply to matches cancelled, postponed, or abandoned because of weather (rainouts) or other events beyond ASA control (e.g. equipment/facility malfunction, etc). These are all generally referred to as, from here on, as "cancelled games".

1) Suspension of a match before the kick-off of the second half results in re-play of the entire match at a rescheduled date.
2) Suspension after the second half kick-off qualifies as a completed game with score standing. Exception: Championship games are re-played in their entirety at a rescheduled date.
3) Cancellations will be rescheduled, if time permits.
4) It may not be possible to reschedule cancellations occurring within the last two weeks of the scheduled season be rescheduled.

4.4.4 Cancellation Reschedule Posting

1) Cancellations will be rescheduled and posted on the ASA website (www.allensports.org) at least 72 hours prior to the rescheduled game time.
2) It is the coach's responsibility to check for the reschedule (i.e. make-up) date.
3) Coaches must notify each player in their team of the new schedule for the rescheduled game.
4) There will be no refunds due to cancellations, regardless of the cause.
5) A team that fails to show up for a rescheduled game will receive a forfeit for that game.
6) All rescheduled games will be considered official games.
7) In the age groups where score is kept, rescheduled games will count towards the standings.

4.5 Practice Fields

4.5.1 Practice Field Reservation

Coaches will be informed of designated practice areas freely available to them or available via reservation, at least one (1) week before the first game of that season.

4.5.2 Practice Areas

Only practices scheduled through ASA and approved by the city, may be held on a City of Allen soccer field such as those at Celebration Park. ASA recommends for teams to cancel their practice(s) when fields or practice areas are wet or damp to prevent injury.

City parks and public areas may be used on a "first come, first served" basis for practices. Nevertheless, such areas are usually large enough to accommodate several teams practicing simultaneously.

Allen ISD Athletic Fields are strictly off limits for any soccer practices or ASA activities.

4.5.3 Practice Field Conditions/Game Field Conditions

Please check the Allen Sport Association website under Field Conditions-Rainout Hotline Do not use the soccer fields until you have checked and verified that they are open for soccer use. Change to Rainout hotline

4.5.4 Practice Rules/Limitations

A recreational team shall have no more than three (3) meetings per week, which incluing practices, scheduled and rescheduled games after the beginning of league play, except under unusual circumstances with the approval of the ASA Soccer Board.

Scheduled and rescheduled games have priority usage of the soccer fields over practices.

U8 and younger
Teams should limit practices to one (1) hour per session.

U9 & U10
Teams should limit practices to one and one half (1 1/2) hours per session.

U11 and older
Teams should limit practices to two (2) hours per session.

4.6 Team Formation Procedures

Please see **NTSSA Rule 4.7.6 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES** (only the areas that are different are discussed herein).

Teams are formed and players are assigned to teams every season via the draft. All decisions made by the draft committee are final.

Note: A League Director is NOT permitted to have a son or daughter playing, or coaching, in a team that plays in the league upon which the volunteer director resides.

The player's registration information is used to determine the wishes of the parent/player with regards to team assignment. Please see the Special Requests for Registration section for restrictions and limitations.

Team assignments are final and will not be changed unless the assignment can be shown to be contrary to the parents/players wish during registration or after a successful appeal to the League Director and/or ASA Soccer Board.

Players may NOT be added after the season starts without approval of League Director and only if extreme low roster size. Please note that players will NOT be added after ASA has submitted final reconciliation to NTSSA.

4.6.1 Draft Process

A Draft Committee (or the League Director), to determine the player assignment into teams for the league. This assignment is known as "The draft/Open registration.. New and returning players that are changing teams. Players are assigned to teams only via the draft, no coach, player, parent, or other interested party may dictate otherwise.

The draft occurs every season, immediately after regular registration for that season has ended. If a late registration becomes available, players are assigned to teams via a supplemental draft as described below.

4.6.1.1 Existing Team Assignment Priorities

The following priorities are followed for player assignment into existing teams (as long as the team does not exceed the maximum number of players) during the regular draft:

1) Returning players

2) Returning players who sat out one (1) season
3) Sibling
4) School area and Special Requests
5) Player requests (see Special Requests section for limitations)

4.6.1.2 New Team Formation

Teams are formed only via the draft/. No coach, player, parent, or other interested party may dictate otherwise.

4.6.1.3 Disbanding a Team

An existing team may be disbanded during the draft when there aren't enough returning players for that team to continue, as required and documented in the Number of players section. Under such conditions, disbanding of a team does not require approval from any team coach, team manager, parent or player. The decision in this situation is solely at the discretion of the respective League Director and/or Draft Committee.

4.6.1.4 Number of Teams in a League

The number of teams in each league is completely dependent on the number of registering players for that league, and the number of players per team shall not exceed the "maximum number of players per roster" as set forth by NTSSA and described herein (see the Number of players section).

Consequently, the number of players on each team is determined by the total number of players in the player pool for that league and the total number of teams/coaches for the league, as decided by the Draft Committee. No coach, parent, or other interested party may dictate otherwise.

Players who did NOT skip a season

Players returning from the previous immediate ASA Soccer season will be assigned first during the regular draft and are guaranteed placement back on the team as long as the following conditions are met:

1) Player must have played with the team during the previous immediate ASA Soccer season and be on the official ASA Soccer roster for that team in that season.
2) Player MUST register during the regular registration period.

Players who skipped one or more seasons

Please see the Sitting Out Seasons section for rules regarding sitting out.

Players who skipped one seasons who request placement back on the team in which they last played, will be placed back on that team as long as all of the following conditions are met:

1) The player registers during the regular registration period
2) The maximum number of rostered players on that team has not been met already by players returning from the previous immediate season

The process for placement into their previous team is as follows:

1) A returning player from a season prior to the most recent ASA Soccer season will be allowed to take an unassigned spot back on the team after all returning players from the previous season have been placed.
2) If there are more than one returning players who did not play in the most recent ASA Soccer season, assignment for these players will be prioritized according to the last season assigned to the team, with the most recent player being assigned first.

Players who did not play during the most recent season who cannot be placed back on their previous team will be added to the player pool so they can be assigned to a different team by the Draft Committee. If these players remain undrafted (not enough spots in remaining teams) they will NOT be given refunds.

4,6.1.5In cases where a Supplemental Registration period is made available, a supplemental draft will be performed to assign players registering during that period.

Priority for assignment into teams for such players will be based on the registration date/time of the players.
There is a $15 late fee for all registrations after regular registration end date.

4.7 Concussion Initiative

NTSSA and its member associations, including ASA, have adopted USSF Concussion initiative. For more information, please see the NTSSA rules.

Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed. If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment.

The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player in writing.

Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game.

4.8 NTSSA Tournaments

Requests for signed team rosters must be made to ASA prior to playing in NTSSA approved soccer tournaments. The requests must be received by the ASA Registrar three (3) days BEFORE the tournament or the requests will not be fulfilled.

No team may participate in an NTSSA approved soccer tournament unless the official team roster has been previously validated by the home association registrar and signed by the ASA registrar.

4.9 Volunteer Registration

ASA is an all-volunteer organization. The organization would not be able to function without the tremendous amount of people that are willing to contribute time and effort. Please join us in the youth of Allen. Fill out a coach registration on our website (www.allensports.org) and encourage

others to join in the fun. The only limitation to improve the program at times is not having enough people. Help us improve by volunteering.

4.10 ASA Soccer Board Meeting and Voting criteria

Quorum: Half of the ASA Soccer Board will constitute a quorum in order to hold any ASA Soccer meeting.

Voting: A majority of the ASA Soccer Board present is needed to approve any voting item before the Board at which a quorum is present.

Members of the ASA Soccer Board: Commissioner, Secretary, Coaching Director, A&D Chair, League Directors, Equipment Director, Events Director and League Directors. Members at Large are not voting members. Referee assignor is not a voting member

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4.11 Qualifications for Soccer Commissioner

The Commissioner of each sport must be a member of ASA in good standing and submit a signed Code of Ethics along with completing an annual criminal background check.

The Commissioner of each sport may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive two-year terms. Any person seeking a position as a sports Commissioner must hold a position on that sport's board for one year prior to seeking that position. The sport board will nominate a candidate to be reviewed & approved by the Executive Director and presented to the ASA Board of Directors for final approval. If multiple candidates are interested, the Executive Director will interview all candidates and give their recommendation to the Board of Directors.. Exceptions to this rule follow:
In the event that a sport does not have a working board from which to nominate a candidate, the Executive Director, or their delegate, should then search for a qualified candidate.
In the event that a sport has a board, but no qualified candidates have expressed an interest in the Commissioner position, that board can form a nominating committee to seek a candidate for the position of Commissioner for that sport. Such candidate is not required to have served the minimum of one year on that sport's board.

5 Rules & Regulations

For distinction between age groups within the rules, when all age groups are not specifically mentioned in the rule, the following classifications will apply:

- U4 , U5 & U6 will be referred to as U6
- U7 & U8 will be referred to as U8
- U9 & U10 will be referred to as U10
- U11 & U12 will be referred to as U12
- U13 and up follow the same even age pattern as above until U19

5.1 Adoption of the NTSSA Rule Book

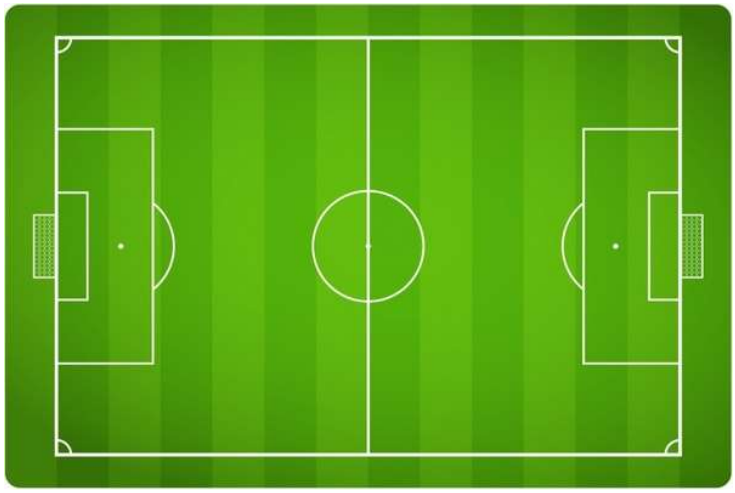
Anything not discussed herein falls within the rules of the NTSSA Rule Book. ASA adopts the guidelines set forth in the NTSSA Rule Book in the event ASA does not specify a particular policy.

5.2 Playing rules

The FIFA Laws of the Game define 17 rules for the game of soccer. These 17 rules have been adapted for youth play by USSF and NTSSA. Those rules shall be followed with the changes described herein.

Please also refer to FIFA "Laws of the Game", and the NTSSA Rules of Competition for additional information.

5.2.1 **Law 1** – Field of Play



The size of the field, penalty area and goals will be set by the Allen Parks and Recreation Department. The following are recommended goal sizes and NTSSA minimum field sizes:

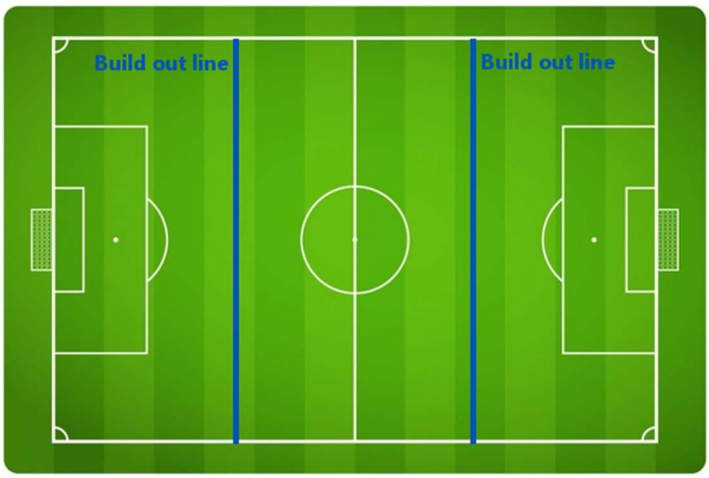
League	Width (min. in yards)	Length (min. in yards)	Goal Size (H x W in feet)
U8 and younger	20	30	4 x 6
U9/U10	40	60	6.5x 18.5
U11/U12	50	80	6.5x18.5
U13/U14	70	112	8 x 24
U15/U16	70	112	8 x 24
U19	70	112	8 x 24

4U-19U Teams

The Home team sits on the North or on the West sideline of the field when games are played in Allen.

5.2.1.1 The Build-out Line

The purpose of the build out line is "to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting." **The build out line applies only to the U9 & U10 leagues.**



5.2.2 **Law 2** – The Ball

The Home team provides the game ball.

The size of the ball is adapted for youth play as described below:

Age	Ball Size

U8 and younger	#3
U9 through U12	#4
U13 and older	#5

5.2.3 **Law 3** – The Number of Players, Substitution and Playing Time

5.2.3.1 Number of players

The following table lists the number of players that can be playing on the field for each youth team. Please note that for U4 teams, the coaches are also allowed on the field, but only one (1) coach per team may be on the field at a time and the coaches are not allowed to play the ball.

League	Maximum # of Players On the Pitch At Once	Minimum # To Begin	Maximum Roster Size
U4	4 (No goalkeeper)	3	8
U5-U8	4 (No goalkeeper)	3	8
U9 & U10	7 (6 + a goalkeeper)	5	12
U11 & U12	9 (8 +a goalkeeper)	7	16
U13 & U14	11 (10 + a goalkeeper)	7	18
U15 & U19			22

5.2.3.2 Substitutions

All substitutes will enter the field at the halfway line, and **substitutions may only be made with the consent of the referee.** Please instruct your players to wait for the players to leave the field before they enter it.

Teams may **request** to substitute as follows:

All leagues:

1) The team in possession may request to substitute on a throw-in. The other team can request to substitute as well if the team in possession executes a substitution
2) Either team may request a substitution, at a goal kick
3) Either team may request a substitution, after a goal is scored
4) Either team may request a substitution, at half-time

5) Either team may request a substitution, at an injury (sub for injured player only and opponent may also substitute only one player) when the referee stops play
6) When a player is CAUTIONED (yellow card), the cautioned player may be substituted immediately
7) Any other time with the referee's approval

Additionally, for U6 and younger:

1) Either team, at quarter breaks

5.2.3.3 Playing Time

A violation of a recreational player's playing time rule will result in possible suspension of coach and review of the Soccer A&D for further sanctions and hearing.

Each child in a recreational team shall play a minimum of one half (50%) of each half of each game. This includes games for league play, playoffs, qualifying games and tournament play.

In cases where a player's time is to be reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, the coach must notify the player, the parents of the player, the ASA Soccer Board and the opposing coach forty eight (48) hours prior to the beginning of the game in writing AND must also get approval from the ASA Soccer Board.

Non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action. Coaches seeking action due to non-attendance at practices need to contact the League Director for their age group. If the coach wants to pursue disciplinary action, the coach must follow the proper procedure with the League Director.

When a player is late in arriving to a game and that game is already in progress, the coach is required to play that child in only the last half of the game. However, if the player arrives after the start of the second half, the coach is not required to play that child during any part of the remainder of that game.

5.2.4 **Law 4** – Player's Equipment

All player equipment rules specified in the FIFA Laws of the Game are to be followed along with any additions and changes specified below.

1) Uniforms with numbers permanently printed on the back of the jersey, and visible, are required for all players.
2) Shin guards must be worn under the socks, with the socks completely covering the shin guards. Please note, you may not put socks on, then the shin guards, and then flop the socks over the shin guards.
3) Proper soccer shoes must be worn. No toe cleats are allowed. No metal cleats are allowed.
4) All jewelry must be removed. For example: earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. However, medical alert jewelry is allowed. No hard hair restraints or beads.
5) Tape numbers are not allowed to be worn on Jerseys.

6) Casts or Splints (this rule applies to any equipment used to protect or prevent an injury) may be worn during play only at the discretion of the referee. Hard casts should be completely covered in 1/2 inch of soft material such as bubble wrap or soft foam.
7) Goalkeepers must wear a different colored jersey to distinguish him/her as a goalkeeper. The jersey color must be noticeably different than the jersey color of the field players of both teams. A vest of a different color may be worn over the jersey to achieve a different color.
8) The home team is responsible to wear (or change into) an alternate jersey in case of jersey color conflict. The final decision on whether there is a jersey color conflict is up to the referee.
9) Cold Weather – Additional clothes may be worn, if worn safely. However, the uniform's jersey must be worn on the OUTSIDE so as to allow the player's jersey number to remain visible.

Note: Area police departments strongly discourage putting your child's name anywhere on the uniform. In accordance with their recommendation, ASA Soccer also **discourages** this practice.

5.2.5 **Law 5** – The Referee

1. The referee has jurisdiction from the time the referee arrives at the field of play. The referee's decisions on facts connected with the play shall be final.
2. The referee can stop the game for infringement of the rules and can suspend or terminate the game whenever the referee deems such stoppage necessary, for example, severe weather, and interference by spectators and/or coaches.
3. The referee can suspend from play any player guilty of violent conduct or repetitious infringement of playing rules. Any player receiving a caution or who is ejected by the referee is to be reported to ASA by submitting a completed Caution and Dismissal form (download from www.ntxsoccer.org) through the ASA office, attn: Soccer Commissioner.
4. The referee shall not allow any persons other than the players and linesmen to enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
5. The referee may stop the game if the referee believes a player has been injured and shall have the player removed as soon as possible from the field of play. All coaches should be consulted in case of injured players.
6. If the assigned referee does not appear within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time, a person mutually agreed upon by both coaches may referee the game. The decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he/she were a registered referee.
7. In cases of in-game rule violations, where a whistle would be disadvantageous to the "fouled" team, the referee may signal "play on" and not stop play for the rule violation. This is called "PLAYING THE ADVANTAGE."

5.2.6 **Law 6** – The Assistant Referee

Assistant referees will be supplied, when available, for regular season games but will be required for playoff and championship games. At the referee's request, each team shall supply a club/team assistant referee. The club/team assistant referee will assist the referee in determining ball in and out of play.

5.2.7 **Law 7** – The Duration of the Game

The duration of the game is adjusted for youth play as described in the table below.

Please note that regular season games do not go into overtime. Overtime is only used for playoff, qualifiers and championships games which are tied at the end of regulation time.

League	Length of Halves/Quarters	Length of Overtime
U4	8 minute quarters	
U5 & U6	10 minute quarters	
U7 & U8	12 minute quarters	Not Applicable
U9 & U10	25-minute halves	
U11 & U12	30-minute halves	
U13 & U14	35-minute halves	
U15 & U16	40-minute halves	10-minute halves
U17 - U19	45-minute halves	15-minute halves

5.2.8 **Law 8** – The Start and Restart of Play
At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of ends; the team losing the toss will kick-off first.

A goal may be scored directly from a kick off for U9 and older. At U8 and younger, all restarts are indirect.

During a kick-off, the opposing players shall remain on the defending half of the field and also outside the center circle until the ball is played.

5.2.9 **Law 9** – The Ball In And Out Of Play
The whole of the ball must cross the goal or touch line before it is out of play. Likewise, the whole of the ball must cross the goal line for a goal to be scored.

ADVICE TO PLAYERS
This means that if the ball rolls along one of the lines, it is still in play. So, for this rule particularly, "play to the whistle" and not to the flag from the assistant referee. An assistant referee's flag signal is only intended for the referee, and the latter is the only person empowered to give final decisions in a game.

5.2.10 **Law 10** – The Method of Scoring
No change.

5.2.11 **Law 11** – Offside

Offside is enforced as follows:

U8 and younger

Not enforced at all.

U9 and U10

Enforced from the build out line without any further changes.

To clarify:

a) Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the goal line
b) Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line

U11 and older

Enforced with no changes.

5.2.12 **Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct

1) Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play**.** A goalkeepers is considered to be in possession of the ball when:
A)The ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body) or by touching it with any part of the hands or arms.
b. Holding the ball with an open hand
c. Bouncing the ball on the ground or throwing it in the air

2) It is not considered an intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball or to protect the vital areas as described above.

2) Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections. If a player or coach exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior and is cautioned verbally by the referee, but continues to act in a manner deemed inappropriate, a yellow card may be issued. Earning a second yellow card is equal to a red card or ejection, and the offender will be sent off.
3) Slide tackling is not allowed for U8 and younger.
4) Deliberately heading the ball is not allowed for U12 and younger. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

ADVICE TO PLAYERS

The following points may help you stay within the spirit of the game as well as within the Laws of the Game:

1) Never retaliate when fouled.
2) There is no such thing as accidental jumping at an opponent.
3) Do not accuse the opponent of using their "hands". If you claim you were fouled and the referee considered the offense accidental, you may put yourself and your team at a disadvantage.
4) Control your temper.
5) It is no disgrace to be bowled over by a fair charge. Let your own charging be fair and honest. If an opponent intentionally obstructs you, you have no right to charge the opponent in a way that may cause injury.
6) Accept the referee's decision without question. It is an offense to show dissent by word or action.
7) Remember that no player may attempt to kick the ball when it is held by the goalkeeper. If this is considered by the referee to be dangerous play, an indirect free kick will result.

ADVICE TO COACHES

Prior to a game start, approach the center referee and ask him to explain how he will enforce and interpret this rule, and remember that the center referee has the last word on the field.

5.2.13 **Law 13** – Free Kicks

This rule is enforced as follows:

U8 and younger

All free kicks are to be indirect.

U9 and older

No change.

5.2.14 **Law 14** – The Penalty Kick

This rule is enforced as follows:

U8 and younger

No penalty kicks shall be awarded.

U9 and older

No change.

5.2.15 **Law 15** – The Throw-In

This rule is enforced as follows:

U6 and younger

Throw-in is replaced by a Kick-in (see Kick-in procedure described below).

U7 and older

No change.

5.2.15.1 Kick-in Procedure

5.2.16 **Law 16** – The Goal Kick
This rule is enforced as follows:

U8 and younger
No change.

U9 & U10
The opposing team must move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.

U11 and older
No change.

5.2.17 **Law 17** – The Corner Kick
No change.

5.2.18 **Additional Build Out Line Rules**

1) When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play
2) Once the goalkeeper has possession of the ball on a save, the opposing team must start to retreat behind the buildout line. The goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are NOT allowed). If the goalkeeper plays the ball early to an opponent that is retreating to the buildout line but has not crossed the buildout line, play continues.
3) After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal
4) If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
5) If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
6) Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule on the goalkeeper and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line

ADVICE TO PLAYERS
Ideally, a goalkeeper should wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, a goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

ADVICE TO COACHES
Prior to game start, approach the center referee and ask him to explain how he will enforce and interpret this rule, and remember that the center referee has the last word on the field.

5.3 Recreational Division

5.3.1 Leagues

Recreational ASA Soccer shall be separated into different age levels, referred to as **leagues**. Eligibility to play in a team on a particular league will be based upon players meeting the player age requirements outlined in the Player Eligibility section.

ASA Soccer shall provide separate boys and girls leagues for each age group, unless prohibited or otherwise undesirable, based upon the number of available players. Coeducational leagues may be formed at the discretion and the with approval of the ASA Soccer Board. Coeducational teams shall not play in a girl's league. Other recreational coeducational teams or leagues may be formed in keeping with NTSSA procedures.

The U8 and younger leagues are completely non-competitive, for the players' development and enjoyment only. As such, scores and standings are not kept on these leagues.

5.3.2 Divisions

Each league may be further separated into divisions, but only if the number of teams in a league becomes so large as to prohibit the effective administration by a single League Director, or if desired in order to provide for multiple conferences according to teams' skill-levels.

5.3.3 Player Eligibility

A player's eligibility for play in a league is primarily determined by their age. ASA abides by the NTSSA/USSF rules for youth placement into teams based on birth year, as follows:

League	Birth Year
U4	2022
U5	2021
U6	2020
U7	2019
U8	2018
U9	2017
U10	2016
U11	2015

League	Birth Year
U12	2014
U13	2013
U14	2012
U15	2011
U16	2010
U17	2009
U18	2008
U19	2007

Players may request to play up one (1) age group, but playing down is NOT permitted.
Players must have been born no later than September 1, 2022 for the Fall season and December 31, 2022 for Spring Season of the Fall 25/Spring 26 Soccer year.

Additionally:

1. The playing of any youth outside the age limits of the team, as defined above, shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.

2. Teams found to be guilty of playing an ineligible player in the regular season, playoffs, qualifying games, or which may have engaged in general and/or persistent misconduct may be disqualified from playoffs, qualifying games and/or tournament competition.
3. Youth players may only be registered with one NTSSA sanctioned team at any given time during the soccer year.
4. No team shall play in a league game without first having turned in to the ASA the association fee, the player's registration, and all pertinent information forty-eight (48) hours prior to the league game.
5. No player may be added after the season starts without approval of the League Director and submittal of the necessary information to the ASA office. If records are not turned in, this will result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated and suspension of the coach for one (1) season.
6. No player or coach registered with ASA Soccer may participate in unregistered/non-sanctioned play, as stated in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book. Registration with ASA will be suspended once a player or coach participates in such play.

   **Unsanctioned play shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Outdoor/indoor league not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
   b. Outdoor/indoor tournament not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
   c. Any game (friendly or scrimmage) with a non-USSF affiliate.

7. For the purpose of league play, the transfer or addition of new players must be accomplished forty-eight (48) hours prior to the first scheduled game through the Add and Delete form once the team roster is validated. Any team found in violation of this rule is subject to forfeiting all the games in which the violation occurred.

5.3.4 Sitting Out Seasons

5.3.4.1 Players Sitting Out

For the purposes of being able to be placed back on a previous team, a player may:

a) 'sit out' (for any reason) a maximum of two (2) seasons as long as the player is not a registered NTSSA outdoor player during any of those seasons.
b) 'sit out' up to two (2) seasons if the reason is family relocation

If the above conditions are not met, a returning player who sat out one or more seasons may not be able to return to the previous team.

5.3.4.2 Teams Sitting Out

1. Any team sitting out one season will be allowed to return as a team the following season.
2. Any team sitting out more than one season will be required to disband and its players shall individually enter the draft's player pool upon returning to the ASA Soccer league.
3. Any former players who played on other teams during the one season a team sat out will be allowed to return to the team that sat out without going through the draft process if space is available.

5.3.5 Team Structure

~~1.~~ A team (coaches and players) formed by ASA Soccer, and playing in ASA Soccer the previous season, may remain as a unit provided there are enough players in draft

If there are not enough players to place on the team, then team will be folded (disbanded) and players will be added into the draft's player pool.

1. Competitive players returning to a recreational league must be reassigned through the Players' Pool in the draft. During the Spring season, a player from a Competitive Division team must honor the valid l-year contract for that team, should one exist, unless the player has been duly released from that team.
2. New recreational teams and returning recreational teams needing additional players will obtain players as described in the Draft Process section.
3. Coaches must not violate any USYSA, NTSSA, or ASA recruiting rules.
4. A team which was formed outside of ASA Soccer, and which requests to participate in the ASA Soccer recreational league, must be approved by the ASA Soccer Board, and must meet NTSSA Team Formation guidelines.
5. Minimum requirements for a team requesting to play in ASA Soccer's recreational leagues are:
    a. The team must join ASA Soccer and be subject to all rules governing ASA Soccer and pay all costs set forth by ASA for that season.
    b. Furnish a complete list of players who were on the team, signed by an official of the previous organization, including players' names, addresses, telephone numbers, birth dates and schools.
    c. The players meet the age requirements for the league in which they wish to play.
6. Furthermore, the ASA Soccer board and/or Draft Committee is not required to obtain a coach's permission before exceeding the minimum number of players for the team roster. However, the maximum number of players shall not be exceeded.

No team may participate in an ASA Soccer tournament or regular season game until the official team roster has been previously validated by the home association registrar and signed by the ASA registrar.

The ASA Soccer Board reserves the right to review and approve or disapprove any decisions made under this policy provided the right is executed prior to the start of the season of play.

Any team affected by this policy has the right to appeal the decision made under this policy directly to the Commissioner. The team can then submit a protest directly to the Disciplinary and Protest Committee as allowed under ASA Soccer Recreational General Rules, with the right of appeal a decision made under this policy and shall provide ASA Soccer with sufficient time to execute a fair and equitable appeal hearing.

ASA Soccer shall not force a team to play outside of ASA Soccer for the simple reason that a league does not exist. Every effort shall be made to accommodate such a team, provided it does not force an unnecessary burden on the other teams affected.

5.3.6 **Release and Transfer (Players and Teams)**

Recreational Player releases:
Once a player has registered with a Member Association and been rostered to a recreational team, they are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player is granted a release.
1. A recreational player may be released by a member association to join a competitive team between December 1 and March 15, per rule 3.10.7.

2. A request for a recreational player to be released to another member association for recreational play shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for the request on the release. Releases to transfer to another member association will be allowed from December 1 up until they are registered and rostered to a team for the Spring season.

Competitive Player Releases
Any player rostered to a competitive team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year from the time the player signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer playing year (August 1 of the prior soccer year through June 30 of the current soccer year) unless the player requests a release or is released involuntarily. A player release shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner, stating the reason for the request on the release as described by the competitive policy manual. Approval of a player's release from a competitive team by NTSSA does not constitute a release of financial liability, if applicable to the team.

5.3.7 Coaches

ASA assigns volunteer coaches to the teams. As such, coaching positions are usually filled by family members of a player in the team, on a "first come, first served" basis but must be approved by ASA.

Returning coaches and teams in good standing are permitted and welcomed.

When a new team is created, the parents are given the opportunity to volunteer for the Head Coach role first. If no one volunteers, then ASA will search and select a volunteer Head Coach from outside the team member families

In the event that an established team loses its Head Coach, ASA Soccer will first offer control of the team to the assistant coach(s) and/or to the parents of the team. In the event that these parties do not show interest to assume control of team, ASA will have the right to search and select a volunteer Head Coach from outside the team member families.

Teams must have a badged adult at all games, so if the search for a new coach fails, the team may be disbanded. This is at the discretion of the ASA Soccer board.

5.3.7.1 Head Coach Privileges

1) The Head Coach shall have the privilege of having his or her child assigned to their team's roster, provided the player meets the age requirements of the league.
2) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to choose the assistant coach and team manager.
3) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to choose the practice location.
4) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to choose the practice date(s) and time(s).
5) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to choose the team name.
6) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to choose the team uniform.
7) The Head Coach shall have the privilege to assign the jersey numbers.

5.3.7.2 Head Coach & Badged Adults Responsibilities

Coaches and Badged adults are subject to the jurisdiction of ASA Soccer, its League Directors, the ASA Soccer Board, and all of ASA's rules and policies.

There may be other responsibilities for the coaches described in other sections of this document. Coaches are responsible for becoming familiar with those by reading this document in its entirety.

Primary responsibilities:

1) The Head Coach and Assistant Coach are responsible for reading and becoming familiar with this document in its entirety.
2) The Head Coach and Assistant Coach of record are to be active coaches for the team and not in name only.
3) The Head Coach is responsible for finding a suitable practice location for the team.
4) The Head Coach is responsible for communicating the game schedule to the players.
5) The Head Coach is responsible to report the score per the rules/process described herein.
6) The Head Coach is responsible to keep up to date with communication from ASA and ASA Soccer Board members.
7) Coaches are responsible for abiding by the league's substitution policy.
8) Coaches are responsible for abiding by the individual player's playing time rules.
9) Coaches are responsible for the eligibility of their players.
10) **Coaches are responsible for welcoming ALL players to the team. Any coach refusing a player or discouraging a player to play on their team will be addressed bye the ASA Soccer A&D Chair**
11) Coaches are responsible for checking the ASA website to learn the rescheduled date/time for cancelled games. No games will be rescheduled due to a coach not checking the website for updates.
12) Coaches may not dispute or question any decisions made by the referee.
13) Coaches and team managers must NOT use foul and/or abusive language/actions at games, practices, team events nor on team communication. **FOUL AND/OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR ACTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**
14) All coaching will be confined to an area ten (10) yards on either side of the midfield line unless existing ASA Soccer policy disallows coaching from the sidelines. Players on the sideline must stay within the ten (10) yard coaching box during play, and all persons, players, and spectators must stay at least five (5) feet back from the sideline (touch line) on each side. Spectators should remain in the area normally designated for spectators, which applicable, and in no case shall be allowed to line up along the sideline such that they interfere with the normal conduct of the game or officiating.
15) Head Coaches will be held responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's assistant coaches, spectators, parents, and players. This includes any foul and abusive language and any comments directed toward the referees, opposing players, and coaches. Offenders may be cautioned (including issuing of cards) or ejected from the field by the referee or league representative.
16) If a coach is expelled (sent off) from the field, he/she must leave the complex and will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled match.
17) 1Coaches receiving written complaints from anyone, with regards to the coach, team member or spectators, will be sent to the Soccer A&D Chair and Commissioner. Further complaints could result in temporary suspension of coaching privileges while the offender is

notified of an A&D hearing. The coach/team or spectator whom the complaint was filed against will be required go before the A&D Committee for judgment or determination of fitness to continue participation in the league. These complaints must be made on separate occasions (games, practices, etc) during the season, and may include written complaints from referees, other coaches, and spectators. All complaints must be written,and not anonymous.

18) The ASA Soccer Commissioner has the right to suspend a coach pending a hearing.
19) Coaches must respect the referees as ASA will follow the new referee abuse policy.

Game day responsibilities:

1) The home team's coach shall provide a properly inflated game ball
2) Coaches are responsible to provide the official roster form to the referee.
3) Coaches are responsible for the actions and behavior of your players and spectators, whether on your side of the field or on the spectator side.
4) Coaches may not coach at the end line behind or near the goals.
5) Coaches remind parents where to sit .
6) Coaches may not enter the field without the referee's permission.
7) Coaches whose team will participate on the first game of the day, on a given field, must put up nets and flags on that field.
8) Coaches whose team will participate on the last game of the day, on a given field, must take down the nets and flags from that field and take them to the park's storage. This only applies to games at Celebration Park.
9) The Head Coach, assistant coach, and team manager are Must be registered, completed the background check, safesport, and have the ASA Plastic Soccer Badge with current soccer year.

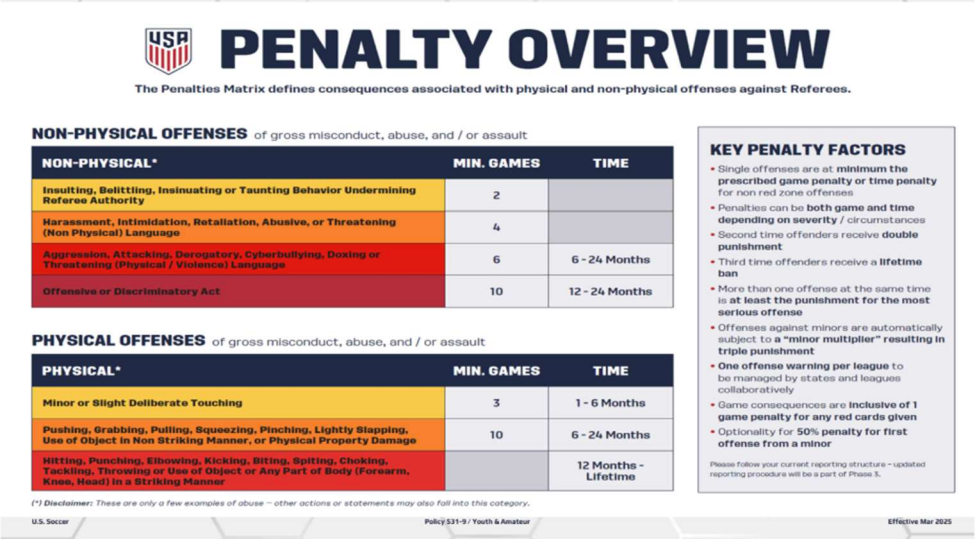
ANY COACH WHO IS NOT DISPLAYING HIS/HER VALID ASA Soccer Badge DURING A SCHEDULED GAME WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COACH THE GAME.

5.3.8 Spectators

1) Spectators shall remain on a sideline, at least five (5) feet back (outside) from the touch line, between the top of the penalty areas.
2) Spectators mayNOT enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
3) Spectators may NOT coach.
4) Spectators may NOT stand or sit at the end line behind or near the goal. This also applies to pets.
5) Spectators may NOT dispute or question the decisions of the referee.
6) **Spectators may no use foul and/or abusive language/actions.See Referee Abuse Policy**
7) **Noise makers /Megaphones are not permitted at any games in Allen.**
8) The Home team sits on the North or on the West sideline of the field when games are played in Allen.

FOUL AND/OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR ACTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

See USYSA Referee Abuse



PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to **a "minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure – updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

U.S. Soccer | Policy 531-9 / Youth & Amateur | Effective Mar 2025

5.3.9 Foul Weather Procedure for Games

Unless officially notified by ASA, in a manner determined by ASA, teams must report to the playing fields for their assigned games. Only a referee or a League Official can cancel the games at any field, should it be so warranted.

Any games scheduled and not played, due to field or weather conditions, will be rescheduled if possible.

In the event a team refuses to play because of questionable field or weather conditions, the coach shall protest the situation to the Referee and any subsequent decision will be decided by ASA subject to the approval of the ASA Soccer Board. A coach can further protest or appeal the decision by filing a protest to the Actions & Disciplinary (A&D) Committee.

In the event Allen Parks and Recreation and/or ASA have closed a field for game usage, that field is also closed for practice usage.

Any fines imposed upon ASA by the city for improper field usage will be passed on to the offending team, and the offending team will be required to forfeit the next scheduled game.

ASA Soccer does not have any policies governing ambient temperatures to cancel games. It is the parent's responsibility to determine if it is too hot or too cold for their child to participate. It is the parent's responsibility to dress children appropriately for the weather. See the Law 4 – Player's Equipment section.

5.3.10 Standings/Point System

U8 and younger

Standings are not kept at these leagues.

U9 and older
Standings are kept according to the rules described herein.

5.3.10.1 Standings

For the leagues in which standings are kept, the standings are determined by accumulated points. ASA Soccer uses the "NTSSA Win-Loss-Tie (3-1-0)" system for points accumulation. In this system, teams earn points per game as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

5.3.10.2 Forfeits

Failure to show up (no show) or failure to have the minimum number of players constitutes a forfeit. Appeals are NOT allowed for no shows.

All forfeits shall be considered to be a "played" game, with a score of 3-0 in favor of the team showing up. As such, a forfeit results in the accumulation of points just like a played game.

Teams may also forfeit ahead of time by notifying the League Director. In cases where forfeit notification is received ahead of time, the forfeit is immediate and the other team is no longer required to show up to the game, but that team will still be giving the 3-0 win.

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 at least than 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 Playing Rules;
5) If a team intentionally forfeits a game, that team (coaches, manager, and/or other responsible parties) will be required to appear before the divisional Disciplinary and Protest Committee to present its reasons for the forfeit.
6) A team found intentionally forfeiting a game may be under review by the soccer A&D Committee.

There may also be other violations which may result in a game forfeiture, as stated in other sections herein or in the NTSSA rules. Coaches must familiarize themselves with these rules.

5.3.10.3 Tie Breakers

In cases where a tie needs to be broken, the league uses the following criteria (in the order listed) as the tie breaker:

1) Head to Head (Please note that this criteria is not used for cases involving ties between 3 or more teams)
2) Most Wins

3) NTSSA Modified Point System
    - 6 points for a win
    - 3 point for a tie
    - 0 points for a loss
    - 1 point for each goal in favor (up to 3 goals per game)
    - 1 point for each shutout
    - Please note that using this modified system, a team can earn a maximum of ten (10) points per game.
4) Minimum goals allowed
5) Max (3) goal differential
6) Coin Flip

In the event of a tie between three or more teams, the above procedures are applied until the tie is narrowed to two teams. At that point the tie breakers are reset and reapplied to the remaining two-team tie beginning with the first tie breaker (head-to-head).

5.3.10.4 Adjusting standings for games not re-scheduled.

For leagues which at the end of the season have games that were not rescheduled, the points for all teams in the league will be calculated based on the team with the fewest number of played games.

In other words, if at the end of the season there are games which were cancelled but which were not rescheduled, then the standings for the league will be analyzed to determine the team which played the fewest number of games in that league. After making that determination the number of games played by that team will be the number of games which all other teams will be allowed to use to accumulate points in the standings for that league.

For example:

A league is scheduled to have each team play ten (10) games. Team X has 2 of its games canceled due to rain and none of them were rescheduled. Additionally, team X also forfeited a game. Using the above criteria, the total number of games that team X will be considered to have "played" will be eight (8).

Then, assume that Teams Y and Z, who are in the same league as Team X, only had one (1) of their games cancelled and not re-scheduled, and both teams showed up to all their other games. Using the above criteria, teams Y and Z will be considered to have "played" 9 games.

Lastly assume that all the other teams in the league besides Team X, Y and Z played all their games ten (10) games.

In this example the result is that Team X played less number of games than everyone else because team X only played eight (8) games. Therefore, only the points earned for the first 8 "played" games for each team in the league would be used to calculate each team's season standings.

5.3.11 Playoffs

Playoffs are considered extra games in any season and are not guaranteed to be provided. Inclement weather, field conditions, budget limitations, etc. could prevent playoffs from being provided in any given season.

1. Circumstances permitting, playoff competitions will be held each fall and spring season for

U9 and U10 age groups.

2. Playoff competitions may also be held in fall or spring seasons for other age groups at the discretion of the ASA Soccer Board, and as advised by the respective League Directors.
3. Playoffs will NOT be used to determine NTSSA Tournament of Champions (TOC) nominations.
4. Playoff formats and the number of teams eligible to participate in the playoffs will be determined by the ASA Soccer Board each season, based on the size of respective leagues, field availability, budget limitations, etc.
5. When playoff eligibility is limited, regular season results will be used to determine which teams are invited to participate. In instances where playoff participants must be selected before the end of the season, selections will be based on results as of the Friday before playoff games for that league are scheduled to begin.
6. Any ASA playoff competitions will be formatted as a single elimination bracket with full length games.
7. Playoff games cannot end in a tie. If a tie persists at the end of regulation time, two (2) overtime halves will be played (NO GOLDEN GOAL). The overtime halves shall be structured as described in the section Law 7 – The Duration of Game. If the game is still tied at the end of the overtime, the "penalty shoot-out" procedure described in the FIFA Laws of The Game will be implemented.
8. Normal substitution rules (including the 50-percent playing time requirement) will still apply in all playoff games, including overtime periods.
9. No protests will be allowed during playoffs and/or championship games except for the fielding of an ineligible player.

5.3.12 Awards

U8 and younger
All teams participating in the ASA Soccer program will receive participation awards.

U9 through 12
Awards will be given to winners and runners up of each league.

U11 and older
These teams may receive awards from the other associations hosting their respective league.

5.3.13 NTSSA Tournament of Champions

ASA will send the top team from each of the ASA Soccer leagues to the North Texas Tournament of Champions (TOC). This tournament is traditionally played the first weekend in December Friday through Sunday

The ASA Soccer leagues eligible to send one (1) representative team from each league to the TOC are U9 through U19. The board reserves the right to disallow a coach, player, or team the right to attend the TOC if subject to disciplinary action throughout the season.

ASA will pay for half of the team entry fee. The selected team must pay half of the entry fee to ASA office via credit card, check or cash by date sent out to the teams. This date is based on time to enter teams into the NTSSA event. This fee is non-refundable. This date will be published on ASA Important dates once received from NTSSA on the tournament deadlines

In the event a team forfeits game during the TOC, or decides not to attend. There will not be a refund, and the team will not be invited next year to participate in the TOC , and may be subject to a hearing at NTSSA Soccer Association

U9 -U12

The first-place regular season team from the fall season will receive that year's TOC nomination. If there are multiple divisions in any league, the team finishing in first place of the designated "top" division will be nominated. If that team declines or is unavailable to participate, the nomination will be offered to the second-place team, and so on.

U13 and Older

The TOC nominee will be determined each fall season by the ASA Soccer Board. The Soccer Board will consider overall regular season results, division placement, and head-to-head results between ASA teams in an attempt to assess which team should represent ASA at the TOC each year. In circumstances where multiple teams are in close contention for a TOC nomination, the Soccer Board may hold playoff games between the contending teams to determine the nominee. Playoffs may be deemed unnecessary in any given season, or may not be possible due to time constraints, field availability, budget limitations, and other factors..

ASA reserves the right to deny playoff participation and Tournament of Champions consideration to any team for unacceptable behavior, unruly conduct, persistent or critical rules violations, or other activities that run counter to the spirit of recreational soccer. These include but are not limited to the use of illegal or ineligible players, unethical behavior (by coaches, spectators, or players), playing time violations, serious or persistent misbehavior, or harassment/abuse of referees, opponents, or league personnel by players, coaches, or spectators. This determination will be made solely by the ASA Soccer Board leadership, advised by the full committee and our partner associations.
Any unusual situation not covered by the above guidelines will be decided by the ASA Soccer Board.

5.3.14 Discipline

Discipline will be handled as set forth in NTSSA Rule 3.11, please refer directly to NTSSA Rule 3.11.

In addition, the following apply to members of ASA:

1) Recreational players may be withheld from a game for disciplinary reasons, by the coach, when it has been reported to ASA (and acknowledged by the respective League Director), and the child's parents, at least forty eight (48) hours prior to the game.

2) Each disciplinary action taken by the coach serves as a written complaint of misconduct towards the player. A player reaching three (3) disciplinary actions during the season shall be reviewed by the A&D Committee.

5.3.15 Complaints against Coaches, Players, Spectators, etc.

1) Coaches, players, and/or spectators receiving ASA Soccer league official shall be required to be reviewed by the ASA Soccer Actions and Disciplinary Committee after the Actions and Disciplinary Committee has reviewed the complaint. These complaints may come from referees, other coaches, or spectators. These complaints must come from separate occasions. Only signed complaints will be considered.

2) It will be the prerogative of the Actions and Disciplinary Committee to take whatever action they deem appropriate – probation, suspension, etc.

5.3.16 Protests, Appeals and Grievances

ASA Soccer shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, and the like. Each division shall operate its own system including a Disciplinary and Protest Committee to hear and review all game related protests and grievances, and the Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) committee shall hear and review all game related protests and grievances.

The ASA Soccer Board is the first level of appeal for appeals from the A&D Committee. In addition, the ASA Soccer Board shall provide the first level of appeal for any other organization under the jurisdiction of ASA, e.g.: the

These committees, at their discretion and when requested in writing to do so, may waive the time limit for filing matters before them, but in no case shall grant an extension of more than ten (10) days. A request for an extension is not a valid reason for not meeting the original requirement for filing matters to these committees.

All protests, appeals, grievances, and the like shall be submitted in writing to the appropriate League Director or other official of ASA within forty-eight (48) hours of the matter concerned. The written document must have either PROTEST, GRIEVANCE, or APPEAL boldly written or typed across the top. Protests and appeals shall be accompanied by a $100 fee (money order or cashier's check).

If the protest or appeal is upheld by the committee, the fee shall be returned, if it is denied, the fee shall be forfeited to ASA. Once a fee has been forfeited to ASA it shall not be returned.

ASA shall refuse to hear any protest, grievance, appeal or the like where legal action is threatened or has been initiated. Recording devices, stenographers, and attorneys representing either party will not be permitted at hearings. The minutes of the hearing may be recorded, by the secretary of the committee, for purposes of accuracy of the minutes only.

In no event shall any person or organization, under the jurisdiction of ASA resort to the courts, at any government level, until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanction of suspensions and fines as set forth by ASA, NTSSA, USYSA, USSF, and FIFA and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by this organizations in defending related court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney fees, compensation for persons

defending such allegations, travel expenses, and expenses for holding meetings related to the court action.

The ASA Soccer Board may bring any protest, appeal, grievance, or the like directly before that body for a hearing when that body feels it is necessary in order to render a decision and to speed the normal process for matters of the utmost importance.

Protests, grievances, and the like against the performance or conduct of referees must be filed with the Referee committee and are not heard by the ASA Soccer Board. It is the responsibility of that committee to determine the validity of such actions and to handle this within that committee. Persons filing such charges should direct them to the Referee Association through their League Director who shall forward them to the Referee Association through the ASA Soccer Board and the referee representative on the ASA Soccer Board.

5.3.16.1 Protests

U8 and younger
No protests permitted.

U9 and older
All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner (or next higher level, in his/her absence) within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, accompanied by the $50 fee.

The Commissioner shall review the protest with the protester to determine the situation and validity.

A game may be protested only if any or all of the following apply:

1) There referee acknowledges that there was an obcious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match (and the referee admits it).

   **Note: The Laws of the Game are the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified herein, and in accordance with NTSSA, for youth players.

2) A team has played an ineligible or suspended player.
3) A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team
4) There has been a violation of the minimum playing time requirements for any player, as outlined in herein.

If the protest is judged valid for hearing, the League Director shall accept the protest and a $50 fee and will notify the ASA Soccer Commissioner, and forward the protest to the Chairperson of the Actions and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving it.

The A&D Committee shall receive protests and grievances through its Chairperson and shall meet to consider these protests and grievances within seven (7) days of their receipt. All involved parties, coaches, and players shall be notified of the hearing and shall be requested to be present. Failure to

attend after being requested to do so, may cause default of the protest or require other action to be taken.

The A&D Committee shall not assume that a game result's protest should be upheld strictly on the basis of a protest being valid because a Law of the Game has been broken or for any other valid reason. Game protests should be upheld on the basis of the merits of the protest and the entire circumstances surrounding the game, including the determination that said outcome of the game was or was not affected by the protested events of the game.

5.3.16.2 Appeals

1) Decisions from the division Actions and Disciplinary Committee, and other organizations under the jurisdiction of ASA may be appealed to the ASA Soccer Board with the President receiving the appeal directly. The appeal must be received by the President within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision. The ASA Soccer Board shall be the only level of appeal prior to the Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee of NTSSA.
2) The procedure for filing an appeal is the same as for protests. All involved parties, coaches, and players shall be notified of the hearing and shall be requested to be present. Failure to attend after being requested to do so, may cause default of the appeal or require other action to be taken.
3) Decisions of the ASA Soccer Board may be appealed to the NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee through the State Office and, then, to their Executive Committee and on to the USYSA/USSF and FIFA through their appeals and protest policies and procedures, upon payment of such fees and filing of such forms as are required through these organizations and as are in effect at that time.

5.3.16.3 Grievances

Grievances shall be handled in the same manner as protests with the ASA Registrar or League Official accepting the grievance. A fee is not required. Grievances automatically must be considered by the Actions and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee, which shall determine whether a formal hearing should be called, at which time a fee is required.

Note: A grievance is defined as a wrong, real or fancied, considered as grounds for complaint against an unjust act.

.5.3.17 ASA REFUND POLICY

A full refund will be issued any time prior to the end of registration.

Once regular registration closes all refunds will be minus a $35 administrative fee.

Refund requests will be reviewed within 1-3 business days from when they were received.

If the registration fee was paid via check or money order a replacement check will be issued. If the request is submitted by 5 p.m. on a Friday the refund check will be mailed no later than the following Friday.

If the registration fee was paid by credit/debit card the refund will be processed back to the same credit/debit card. It can take up to 5 to 7 business days to see the refund reflected on your credit card/bank account.

If a player was injured practicing or playing the sport they are registered for we will NOT issue a refund, regardless of the time of season the injury occurs.

There will be no refunds due to game cancellations, regardless of reason.

5.3.17 ASA Soccer Policies

All ASA policies, duly approved by the ASA Competition Committee automatically become part of the General Rules of ASA Soccer. Policy information is available through the ASA office.

5.3.18 Amendments to General and Playing Rules

Amendments to the General and Playing Rules may be proposed at any meeting of the ASA Soccer Board and voted on by the ASA Soccer Board at the end of each season.

All rule changes must be approved by the ASA Soccer Board and ASA Competition Committee.

The ASA Soccer Board are authorized to make any necessary changes to the ASA Soccer Playing and General Rules if such changes are dictated by NTSSA, based upon changes in the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules or NTSSA Rules and Regulations. Any such changes shall be made by a majority vote of the ASA Soccer Board. Rule Changes must be approved by ASA Competition Committee.

ASA Soccer Board and General Membership are not authorized to make any changes in the ASA Playing and General Rules that are contrary or not allowed by the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules, or NTSSA Rules and Regulations.

5.4 Competitive Teams

While we want to support those players who wish to participate in competitive soccer and still be affiliated with the City of Allen and ASA as their 'Home Association', our focus is and will remain youth recreational soccer.

Competitive teams wishing to call ASA their 'Home Association' will need to meet and agree to the following criteria before being considered by ASA:

1) Each team member will complete an ASA Registration Form and pay the fees set by ASA.
2) Teams must sign ASA's Competitive Team Agreement.

Be advised, that there is currently no provision for allowing competitive teams use of any scheduled practice areas.

5.5 Soccer Academies

A "Soccer Academy" is a group of U7 through U10 registered NTSSA recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Therefore, soccer academies participate in an Academy League.

Players who wish to join an NTSSA soccer academy must register with their home association and may or may not need to also be on a recreational team. This is up to the discretion of the player's home association.

Academies are to be governed by NTSSA Youth Associations, and NTSSA Youth Associations may host as many Soccer Academies as they deem desirable. Academy teams are governed by the league in which they participate. (If more than one association is involved in an academy league an A&D committee should be in place).

Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc., of soccer academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and information sent to NTSSA.

Soccer academy play is additional to recreational play. Players may join any soccer academy of their choosing within their age group, and are NOT required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an academy team.

Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an academy. Players may join as many soccer academies as they like as long as the soccer academy is recognized by a NTSSA member youth association.

No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an academy team. The academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may participate in only one academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.

Soccer academy teams are NOT considered "registered teams," and therefore do NOT have to follow recreational team formation rules. As such, soccer academy teams may not participate in recreational leagues or tournaments. For tournaments, soccer academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a "Soccer Academy" bracket. In that event, players must declare which soccer academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a given tournament. Soccer academy teams may not travel out of NTSSA jurisdiction as a team to play in tournaments.

5.6 Referee Responsibilities

The referee is responsible for:

1) Ensuring the safety of the players
2) Making fair and concise decisions and explaining these decisions in a short and friendly manner to the players
3) Allowing the game of soccer to be a fun learning experience for the players
4) Keeping the game under control

Please remember, referees deal only with coaches and players for any infractions. If a spectator is a problem, the referee will approach the coach ask the coach to deal with the spectator. Inappropriate behavior from a coach, spectator or player may result in a caution (yellow card) to the coach or player. If problems persist, the coach or player may be ejected (red carded). If the ejected party does not leave the park as requested, the game may be abandoned.

Everything that is requested by the referees in soccer is to ensure the safety of the players and the spectators during the matches. Your compliance to their requests is appreciated.

6 Discipline (NTSSA RULE 3.11)

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

Due to recent changes in this rule, we encourage readers to contact NTSSA or review the referenced rule available for view at the NTSSA website www.ntxsoccer.org. Due to length, ASA will not reprint it for the purpose of our ASA Guidelines, Rules, and Regulations.

7 Code of Ethics/Conduct

7.1 NTSSA Code of Ethics for Coaches

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

Article 1 - Responsibilities to Players

A. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
B. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
C. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
D. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
E. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
F. Coaches must never encourage players to violate NTSSA, recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
G. Under no circumstance should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

Article 2 - Responsibility to NTSSA and Member Associations

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

Article 3 - Responsibility to the Laws of the Game

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

D. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance, which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, NTSSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

Article 4 - Responsibility to Officials

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

Article 5 - Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

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

Article 6 - Responsibility of Public Relations

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

B. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
C. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association, and NTSSA
D. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
E. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
F. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club, or managers to pressure organizations. Member Associations or NTSSA to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
G. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

Article 7 - Game Day and Other Responsibilities

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

7.2 NTSSA Parent's Code of Conduct

1) Children have more need for example than for criticism.
2) Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
3) Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
4) The opponents are necessary friends. Without them your child could not participate.
5) Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
6) Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
7) Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
8) Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
9) Encourage your child to always play by the rules.

10) Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

7.3 USSF/NTSSA Referee Code of Conduct

As a registered USSF/NTSSA referee:

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

8 Coaches Information & Responsibilities

8.1 Education

Educational coaching clinics are recommended for all head coaches and recommended for assistant coaches and managers within two seasons.

Clinic location information can be obtained from your League Director or from the North Texas Soccer website: www.ntxsoccer.org.

8.2 ID Badges

All coaches are required to have their valid ASA Soccer ID in their possession during games and during practices. ASA Soccer ID badges are issued yearly by the ASA Office Staff after coaches have successfully completed, and passed, the required yearly background check, and Safe Sport Training. Badges must be worn during games.

Teams may have any number of badged adults. However, only 3 badged adults may be with the team on the sideline during games.

8.3 ASA Coaches Meeting

The head coach and/or a representative from each team is **required** to attend the coaches meeting **every** season.

8.4 Player and Team Management

The head coach can manage the team via the facilities provided through the ASA website: www.allensports.org

8.5 Game-day Roster

All teams are required to provide an official game-day roster form, with all players listed in alphabetic order and jersey numbercompletely filled out, to the referee prior to each game. Games scheduledin Demosphere will use the roster, Games 11U girls and 13U through 19U scheduled in other member cities will use Gotsport.

The referee will return the game-day roster to each coach at the end of the game, with the game's final score clearly written on it. In cases where a misconduct occurred, the referee will not return the game-day roster to the coach and will instead turn it into ASA office. See the Handling of Misconduct Reports section.

It is recommended that coaches keep a copy of the game-day roster showing the written score until the score has been posted.

8.6 Reporting Scores

It is the Head Coach's responsibility to report the score as described below.

U8 and younger

Score shall not be kept.

U9 and older teams Change to to U9 through U12
The team that WINs shall report the game score to their respective League Director within 48 hours of completion of the game. If a tie occurs, both teams shall report the score to their respective League Director. Failure to report the score in a timely manner shall result in a 0-0 score being recorded permanently for the game. Change to Upload in Demosphere

Please note that at his/her discretion, a League Director may modify the above procedure. In such cases, the League Director shall communicate, in writing or email, the procedure to all teams in the respective league. For example, a League Director may require that all teams (winner or not) always report the score within the 48 hour period. League Directors may also request a copy of the game roster/report from both teams in order to settle disputes between teams with regards to the correct score.

9 Communications

9.1 Suggestions, Concerns, Complaints and Escalations

The size of the ASA Soccer program continues to grow and due to the growth, methods and procedures that worked last season may or may not work this season. Your help is needed to speak up and let the respective League Director and Commissioner know if there is a problem. There will also be an end of season survey.

All formal suggestions, complaints and concerns need to be sent to the League Director written form and addressed to the respective league director and/or ASA Commissioner. Suggestions, complaints and concerns received any other way will not be considered.

In order to ensure all players have a fun and successful soccer experience, ASA urges coaches and parents to voice any concerns they may have. Regardless of the issue, we need to hear about it before we can address it.

Please use the GameDay Feedback form on the ASA Website for game day concerns, Please wait 2

Contact information for all League Directors and members of the ASA Soccer Board may be found in the ASA Soccer website (www.allensports.org).

9.2 Game Protests (See NTSSA Rule 3.13)

No protests will be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. A game cannot be protested because one coach or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent.

Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the match shall not be entertained unless an objection was lodged with the match referee prior to the start of the game.

9.3 Appeals Process

Players/Coaches may appeal a card by filing a written appeal with the ASA Soccer Commissioner. The Commissioner will organize an A&D hearing within 7 days.

Players/Coaches also have the right to appeal the A&D decision in writing within 48 hours of the hearing to the ASA President. The ASA President will then organize an A&D hearing within 7 days.

Lastly, players/coaches may appeal ASA's final decision to NTSSA. Please refer to NTSSA Rule 3.11.9 for that appeal procedure

10 Handling of Misconduct Reports

10.1 Referees Report

10.1.1 Time limit

The Referees Association shall submit a legal NTSSA Misconduct Report to the Commissioner of ASA Soccer within forty-eight (48) hours of said incident.

10.1.2 ASA Soccer Review

The incident report shall be reviewed by the ASA Soccer Commissioner and ASA Soccer Board and a decision will be made regarding the points (per NTSSA Discipline Rules) to be assessed.

10.1 Process

1) The Player, Coach, Assistant Coach, Team manager will be notified in writing the points assessed to the player and or team within seven (7) days of the decision.
2) Any misconduct report received indicating a Player, Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team manager has been issued a red card or ejection will automatically warrant one game suspension.
3) The Player, Coach, Assistant Coach, or Spectator has the right to request an A&D Hearing (with the right to attend) by the ASA Soccer A&D Committee. All hearing request must be made to the Commissioner of ASA Soccer within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision.
4) The A&D Committee will notify in writing within five (5) days of receipt of request for hearing the date, time and location of the hearing.
5) The Player, Coach, Assistant Coach, or Spectator has the right to appeal this decision to the ASA Soccer Boards A&D Committee.
6) The method of notifying the A&D Committee of appeals will be as follows: The appellant shall notify in writing the Commissioner of ASA Soccer of their decision to appeal the A&D Committees decision. This must be done within five (5) days of the A&D Committee's decision.
7) The Commissioner will notify the ASA Soccer Board A&D Committee of the request. The Executive A&D Committee will notify in writing within five (5) days of notice, the Player, Coach, Assistant Coach, or Spectator of hearing date, time and location.
8) Fees as specified will be in cash, certified check or money order and will accompany the written notice. Fees will be:

    - All player appeals ($50.00 paid by player;$50 by coach) — $50
    - All coach & referee appeals — $100
    - All team appeals — $100

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

10.2 Use of Tape Recorders, Etc.

The use of tape recorders, court reporters and the presence of attorneys will not be allowed at ASA A&D Committee hearings unless requested by ASA Soccer. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

10.3 Appeals to NTSSA

If after the decision of the ASA Soccer Appeals Committee, the Player, Coach, Assistant Coach or Spectator is still unsatisfied with the decision he/she may be referred to the NTSSA A&D Committee. All procedures as outlined in the official NTSSA Rules will be applied.