

CHAMBER CLASSIC SOCCER ALLIANCE, INCORPORATED
NORTH DALLAS CHAMBER SOCCER

GENERAL RULES FOR RECREATIONAL PLAY
(As Amended March 2007)

1. SOCCER YEAR OF CHAMBER CLASSIC SOCCER ALLIANCE, INC-NORTH DALLAS CHAMBER SOCCER (HEREINAFTER THE “LEAGUE”)

The soccer year shall begin August 1 and end on July 31 the following calendar year.

2. AGE REQUIREMENTS

Age grouping for League play shall be: under 6, under 8, under 10, under 12, under 14, under 16 and under 19.

The age of a player shall be his age on the July 31 immediately prior to the start of a soccer year. The minimum age for U6 players to participate is four (4) years old.

A player shall be required to present proof of age when he registers for the beginning of each soccer year in the League. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Bureau of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the U.S. Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

NOTE: The playing of any person over the age limit for his team will result in the forfeiture of all games in which such player has participated. Further disciplinary action may be taken against the player, coach or other team representative including possible suspensions per NTSSA rules.

3. TEAM REGISTRATION

A player that registers after the registration deadline may not be placed on a team according to the League’s player criteria until all timely registered players have been assigned to a team and will be assessed a late registration fee. Such placement is subject to approval by the appropriate age group Commissioner and Program Chairman.

4. TEAM FORMATION

The following rules apply to the League’s membership for the soccer year.

A. Player Assignment Committee:

The Player Assignment Committee shall consist of the appropriate age group Commissioner and the appropriate Program Chairman. If a Program Chairman or Commissioner has a conflict of interest (for example, coaches, manages, sponsors or is affiliated with a team, or has a child playing in the age group for which they have responsibility), such person shall be replaced with a Commissioner, Board Member or other person appointed by the President.

B. Team Formation Committee:

A Team Formation Committee may be formed for the purpose of hearing appeals of team formation decisions. It shall be appointed by the League's President. The Team Formation Committee has the authority to rule on disputes concerning team formation and player assignments.

C. General Rules:

1. There are no "free agents" in recreational soccer. Free agents are only those players in the U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-19 age divisions who desire to try out or be selected for a competitive team.
2. There shall be no recruiting.
3. All adds, deletes, transfers and assignments of players to teams must be made by the Player Assignment Committee. This includes adds, deletes, transfers and assignments of players between the fall and spring season. No player may practice with a team until he or she has been assigned to that team.
4. No recreational team shall hold any tryout and players on recreational teams shall not be selected based on their athletic ability, but rather shall be assigned by the Player Assignment Committee.
5. No team may be merged with another team without prior approval from the Player Assignment Committee.
6. No team may be disbanded without approval of the League Registrar or Executive Director.
7. No team may play in a league unless 2/3 of the players are the correct age for that league without the express permission of the League's Board of Directors.
8. A player may only be registered with one (1), NTSSA Member League outdoor team at any given time during the soccer year.
9. A player assigned to a team must be accepted by the coach and manager regardless of the circumstances.

10. Any player found to be practicing or playing with a team before being assigned to that team will be in violation of the League's rules and may be sanctioned along with the coach of the offending team. If this rule is violated, the offending player MAY NOT be allowed to join the offending team under any circumstances.
11. Coaches and teams must have a written release from the player's coach (if the player is currently registered with another team) and from the playing league (regardless of whether the player is currently registered), if a player who has been previously listed on any NTSSA roster for another team is to practice or be placed on their roster. Failure to comply constitutes a violation of the player formation rules and may be punishable by suspension of the guilty parties (i.e. coach, assistant coach, team manager, etc.). This does not preclude the League from overruling any written release.
12. In the event that a player (i) refuses or fails to begin practicing and playing with the team after being contacted by the coach or manager, or (ii) makes statements to the team coach or manager suggesting he will not or may not play with his assigned team, the team coach or manager shall immediately inform the appropriate age group Commissioner. The Commissioner shall inform the Player Assignment Committee and then attempt to contact the player using the contact information provided on the player registration application. If the player or the parent fails to respond to calls by the Commissioner, or if, when contacted, the player or the parent refuses to play or is non-committal about playing, the Commissioner shall deem such response as a decision by the player and the parent to drop out of the league if no appeal has been filed.
13. All U-8 and older male players will be assigned to teams participating in the boys program. All U-8 and older female players will be assigned to teams participating in the girls program. (Requests to play in an opposite gender division must be approved by the Board of Directors.)
14. All teams will be required to roster a coach and manager to participate. All rostered adults are required to meet NTSSA rules regarding background checks and identification.

D. Under 6, 8 and 10 Age Groups

1. The League will permit teams to remain together from season to season and players have the right to stay on their current teams. The League must ensure that all rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on their current teams.
2. The Player Assignment Committee assigns players (rostered) on the basis of age, school and/or neighborhood. Age is based upon one year increments although requests may be considered for exceptions within the age band or

where a player requests to "play up". No exceptions will be made for a player requesting to "play down" and is strictly prohibited in all circumstances except as provided by NTSSA.

3. Only the head coach may request his child to be rostered to the team he is coaching as long as the team complies with the League's rules pertaining to team formation and provided the coach resides in the League's geographical boundaries.

E. Under 12, 14, 16 and 19 Age Groups

1. Players are assigned by the method described in paragraph D. above when players are available in the player pool. If no players are available in the player pool, coaches of record may actively seek players of the proper age group within the League's boundaries to be added to the team as long as no methods are used to assess the ability of the player and:
 - (a) The player is not presently registered on an existing team.
 - (b) The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.
 - (c) The player did not play on an indoor team with the coach of the outdoor team they are requesting.
2. Only the head coach may request his child to be rostered to the team he is coaching as long as the team complies with the League's rules pertaining to team formation and provided the coach resides in the League's geographical boundaries.

F. Players (In General):

1. Teams must be composed of players who live within the League's boundaries or who attend school within the League's boundaries. For purposes of team formation the League's boundaries shall include zip codes 75001, 75201, 75202, 75204, 75205, 75206, 75207, 75209, 75219, 75220, 75225, 75226, 75229, 75230, 75235, 75240, 75246, 75247, 75248, 75251, 75252, 75254, 75287, and that portion of 75234 and 75244, that falls within the Dallas Independent School District. Players outside the League's boundaries must (each soccer year) obtain a properly executed release from the league within which they reside regardless of the school they attend.
2. Any player assigned to a team must be accepted by that team.
3. Recruiting of players is not allowed. Specific NTSSA rules concerning recruiting are as follows:

- a. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative may practice any soccer related activity with any NTSSA registered player that does not appear on his current NTSSA roster.

NOTE: The above does not include indoor soccer. Refer to **Section M (Litigation)-Rule 5-Indoor Soccer.**

- b. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending coach being suspended from soccer activities for a period of one (1) year or more.
- c. If the complaint is intra-league, then the complaint will follow the member league's rules for filing complaints. Any appeal from a member league's decision would then follow the ordinary process of appeals from member leagues.
- d. Should the complaint be of an inter-league matter, then the complainant will file his complaint directly with the NTSSA Youth Commissioner, who shall render a decision. Either party may then file an appeal with the State Executive Committee of the NTSSA according to the NTSSA's By-Laws.

G. New Players:

1. A new player is a player who has not been registered on a NTSSA team during the previous or current soccer year.
2. A new player must register with the League for team placement by the Player Assignment Committee.

H. Existing Teams:

1. An existing team from the prior soccer season may and are encouraged to remain intact.
2. A new player added to an existing team must be assigned by the Player Assignment Committee, using the same criteria as provided for in paragraphs B and C above.
3. A returning team that has 1/2 or more of its players returning must be filled from the pool before new teams are formed. New teams will be formed as necessary to accommodate players in the pool.
4. A player may request to return to the pool after any season and may request to be reassigned to a specific team provided they have not been a "guest player" or played on an indoor team with that team/coach during the current or prior soccer year.

5. A returning team that requests to play up must have approval from the appropriate age group Commissioner and Program Chairman.
6. Any pending Appeals and Disciplinary issues against a coach, assistant coach, or manager prevents their registration to a team.

I. Releases:

1. A team cannot release a player without the League's or appropriate Program Chairman's approval.
2. A player requesting and receiving a release must register with the League for reassignment.
3. A team must offer a returning position to all existing players on its previous roster. **EXCEPTION:** Younger player on team when a team moves up to the next age group. However, if a position is offered to any younger player, then all players of that birth year must be given the same option. Any player not moving up must be reassigned under paragraphs B and C above.
4. A player desiring to be released from their team before the end of the soccer year (August 1 through July 31) must obtain a written release from the team with which they are currently registered. A player requesting and failing to receive said release within seventy-two (72) hours may request their release directly from the President of the League who must render a decision within seventy-two (72) hours. The League's decision may be appealed directly to the NTSSA Youth Commissioner who shall render their decision. The NTSSA Youth Commissioner's decision may be appealed directly to the NTSSA State Executive Committee to be acted upon immediately.

J. Team Disbandment:

A team may only disband with the League's approval. If a team disbands, all players must register with the League for reassignment under paragraphs B. and C. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, a team may be disbanded and its players assigned to other teams by the Player Assignment Committee.

K. Adds/Deletes/Transfers:

1. All adds, deletes and transfers of players must be approved by the Player Assignment Committee. This rule includes not only adds, deletes and transfers of players during a soccer year, but also between soccer years.
2. NTSSA youth players may only be transferred once during the soccer year. Should any member league desire to transfer a youth player more than once during a soccer year they may file an appeal directly with the NTSSA Youth Commissioner. Only those circumstances which directly affect the successful

completion of their program or the welfare of the player will be considered. Decisions of the Youth Commissioner may be appealed directly to the NTSSA Executive Committee.

3. A transfer player is a player that was listed on a NTSSA roster for another team during the current or previous soccer year.

L. Appeals of the Team Formation Committee Decisions:

Any transfer, assignment, add or delete decision made by the Player Assignment Committee may be appealed by a player or parent to the Team Formation Committee within three (3) days of such decision being rendered. Violation of team formation rules shall be referred directly to the Appeals & Disciplinary Chairman.

There are no fees for appeals to the Team Formation Committee. If the Team Formation Committee fails to overturn the decision of the Commissioner or the Player Assignment Committee, or if the player or parent cannot convince the Team Formation Committee that they have an appealable case, then the case will be dropped and the decision of the Commissioner or the Player Assignment Committee, as the case may be, will prevail.

Once notified of the decision of the Team Formation Committee, a player or parent shall have twenty-four (24) hours to advise the Player Assignment Committee of their decision to (i) accept the decision of the Team Formation Committee and play as assigned, (ii) reject the decision and drop out of the league, or (iii) appeal the decision as provided below.

Any appeal by a player or parent of the decision of the Team Formation Committee must be made to the NTSSA Youth Commissioner.

The League will refuse to allow the use of tape or video recorders, court reporters and the presence of attorneys at any hearing. Any party acquiring legal representation for a hearing will have their hearing remanded to NTSSA.

M. Litigation

The League will refuse to hear any appeal when any person is threatening a lawsuit. The appeal will be remanded directly to NTSSA.

5. INDOOR SOCCER

Previously registered (outdoor) players, playing indoor for a specific team or coach, may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after such indoor team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following year, unless the player transfer is approved by the League.

6. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- A.** New player roster assignments may not begin for the coming seasonal year prior to July 1, for returning players and until player assignments are made by the Player Assignment Committee for new players.
- B.** A player's roster registration is an agreement between the player and the team for the period of the soccer year, or until the player is properly released. This two-way obligation ceases at the end of the soccer year unless renewed through new registration each season. While a player is registered on a team roster the player shall not practice, play, participate with, or register with any other team without first obtaining a written release from the League. The burden of responsibility for seeing that these rules are complied with lies with the coach and manager of the team that a player tries to join and the parents of the player.

NOTE: If Rule 6(B) is violated, the coach shall appear before a committee presided over by the Appeals & Disciplinary Chairman. The coach may be suspended from participating in the League for one year. Any player guilty of violating contract rule paragraph (B) will automatically be suspended for a minimum of the number of games in which he illegally participated.

- C.** The playing of any person for whom the appropriate age group Commissioner holds no contract shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which such person has participated.
- D.** If a team does not actively participate in a regularly scheduled season, all of the players registered to that team are automatically released from their rosters. The coach or manager should inform all of the players on the team at the earliest possible date if it is decided that the team is not going to participate for the season. All players of the disbanded team must register with the League office for reassignment by the Player Assignment Committee.
- E.** If no adult attends the organizational meeting to represent his team, the League may decide that the team will be considered to have decided not to play in the applicable season, and all players registered to that team will be automatically released and reassigned. The League will advise all affected members that they have been released because no adult from the team attended the organizational meeting.

7. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A.** Only registered players will be permitted to play in competition under the auspices of the League. A team that uses unregistered players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said player or players have participated. The coach, assistant coach and or manager of the offending team will also be subject to being suspended for a period of not less than one year.

- B.** Each team must maintain current registration information on each player on their team within the League’s database. Each team should have a copy of their roster registration signed by the League’s Registrar at all League competitions.
- C.** Except where prohibited by USSF rules, youth players may participate in older divisions, but may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval by the NTSSA State Executive Committee. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player participated. Also, the coach, assistant coach and/or manager of the offending team will be subject to being suspended for a period of not less than one year.
- D.** No team will be permitted to participate in League play without properly registering, paying all fees, and providing all required paperwork. Checks should be made out to “CCSAI”. A team’s failure to properly register by the registration deadline may result in forfeiture of the team’s right to participate in the soccer season. **See League Rule 9-FEES.**
- E.** All requests for a reduction in fees shall be submitted in writing to the League’s Registrar. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis subject to final approval by the League’s Executive Director.
- F.** Every organized team from outside the League that wishes to participate in the League program shall be required to have a proper release from its home association and to pay the registration fee before it will be scheduled for any games in the League, whether they be exhibition games or regular season games.

8. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Teams will be formed under the following guidelines for numbers of players.

Guidelines for Number of Players

Age Group	Minimum	Maximum	Players on Field
U-5	6	8	4
U-6	7	8	4
U-8	9	12	7
U-10	10	14	8
U-12 and Up	13	18	11

The League will set the team rosters as described above. However, the Player Assignment Committee may vote to increase the number of players assigned to a particular team, on a case by case basis, provided the facts and circumstances clearly warrant such increase. The Player Assignment Committee shall use reasonable discretion and may ask for and consider the wishes of the coach, the manager and a majority of the parents.

Once a coach or manager has stated a desired number of players or has asked that his roster be frozen at a certain number, they may not increase that number in order to accommodate late registrants or other players requesting their team without the express permission of the Player Assignment Committee as described above.

All teams must have at least two (2) adults, one (1) of which must be a volunteer adult, age 18 or over, acceptable to the League, who will be held responsible for the team. The strong preference is that this adult be the parent or legal guardian of one of the players. Each adult must submit a written background check and personal identification which must be approved by NTSSA.

9. FEES

Should, for any reason, a player or team withdraw or be expelled from the League, no part of the fees shall be returned. A full refund of the fees shall be paid to a player if the League is unable to assign the player to a team. A refund of the fees, less an administrative fee to be determined by the League, shall be paid to a player that withdraws prior to the closing of the player pool. Refund payments shall be paid within thirty days of the close of the registration deadline.

A late registration fee shall be assessed to all teams (\$50.00) and all players (\$10.00) not paying in full by the registration deadline. Any team that has not paid in full by the registration deadline will not be allowed to play regular season games until all fees have been paid.

10. PLAYER RELEASE

Any player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire soccer year, unless they are released or transferred. No player may be released or transferred without the League's approval. If a release or transfer is absolutely necessary, it may be obtained as follows:

A. By Coach: A coach may release a player:

1. If the player requests it and the coach agree (with the League's approval); or
2. by written request to the appropriate age group Commissioner if the player:
 - a. has violated USYS rules; NTSSA state disciplinary rules or League rules;
 - b. has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance;
 - c. is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remaining playing season; and

To affect such a release, the coach must complete and sign an official player release form, which must be approved by the League's Registrar.

- B.** By Player: A player may obtain their release by the mutual consent of their coach (without the League's approval).
- C.** By League: A player may be released from his current team by the recommendation of the appropriate Program Chairman.

NOTE: The coach is not required to release a player upon request, but is expected to exercise good, practical judgment in such cases.

- D.** The coach will deliver one copy of the written release to the player and one to the League's Registrar. It must be clearly signed by the coach.
- E.** The League's Registrar will take appropriate note and review of the release for final processing.

11. SCHEDULING OF GAMES

- A.** All scheduling shall be accomplished by the Scheduling Committee appointed by the President pursuant to Article VII of the League's By-Laws.
- B.** The Scheduling Committee shall in good faith attempt to schedule one bye weekend per team consistent with a team's request for bye.
- C.** The team bye request must be submitted in writing on the team's registration form prior to the team registration deadline.
- D.** If, after a good faith effort, the Scheduling Committee cannot accommodate a bye request, the team may be scheduled for a game on its bye requested weekend. In the event of a regularly scheduled game on a bye requested weekend, the affected team may notify its Commissioner of its intent to forfeit, if the Commissioner is notified 72 hours in advance of the scheduled playing time and no Appeals and Disciplinary action will be necessary.
- E.** All forfeits of regularly scheduled games other than those meeting the criteria of Rule 11D shall be reviewed by the age group commissioner for recommendation to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman for appropriate action. For a forfeit game, any referee fees issued by the League must be reimbursed by the team prior to their next scheduled game.
- F.** After the Scheduling Committee has completed scheduling for the upcoming season, the schedule shall be posted on the League's website. The schedule posted on the website is the official schedule of the League.
- G.** Teams may not voluntarily reschedule games among themselves. Any such rescheduled games result in a forfeit for both teams and a referral to Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman of both team's coaches and managers for a possible hearing.

- H.** Games not played because of inclement weather shall be rescheduled by the Scheduling Committee and posted on the League's website. Although age group commissioners will make every effort to inform teams and coaches of the time and place of rescheduled games, it is the coaches' and managers' responsibility to obtain the time and place of rescheduled games and comply with the schedule. The League will make every attempt to reschedule games cancelled due to inclement weather but may be unable to do so depending on the remaining available dates and fields for the season.
- I.** If a team is unable to comply with a rescheduled game time and place it must notify its age group commissioner immediately. Although every effort will be made to reschedule to a time and place of availability for both teams, if no such rescheduling is possible, the first rescheduled time and place will be the official rescheduled game time and place. Should a team not be able to comply with the official rescheduled game time it may notify its age group commissioner at least 72 hours prior to game time of its intent to forfeit. If it does so, referral to Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman will not be necessary.
- J.** All forfeits of rescheduled games other than those meeting the criteria of Rule 11I shall be reviewed by the age group commissioner for referral to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman for appropriate action. For any forfeit of a rescheduled game, any referee fees issued by the League must be reimbursed by the team prior to their next scheduled game.
- K.** All scheduling requests other than the routine bye request in Rule 11C must be submitted in writing to the appropriate age group commissioner on a form separate from the team registration form. There is no guarantee that the Scheduling Committee will consider or accommodate the separately submitted scheduling requests.

12. PLAYERS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Shirts, shorts and socks shall match in color with all players participating from the same team on the field of play. Shirts shall have a permanent number. There shall be no advertising on a player's shorts and no advertising pertaining to alcohol and tobacco on a player's uniform or equipment. A player's uniform and equipment must comply with any agreement and contract entered into by the League, and the League may choose to furnish uniforms as part of the registration package.

13. FIELD AND GAME PROCEDURES FOR TEAMS, COACHES, AND SPECTATORS

The coach, assistant coach and manager are responsible for the conduct of their players, their parents and supporters.

- A.** The yelling or use of derogatory or abusive language or the making of physical contact with either (i) a game official or (ii) a league official will not be tolerated. Any such behavior may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game, including any other actions the League may take, including referring the matter to the proper legal authorities and to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman.
- B.** Persons encouraging a player or players to enact physical or verbal abuse will be required to desist from further such actions and to leave the field area. Failure to desist and to leave the field area may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game. Any person dismissed from a League game will be reported to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman to determine if a hearing is required.
- C.** The League will be responsible for supplying nets and flags for all scheduled games. It will be the responsibility of each team for the first scheduled game of the day at each field to put up the nets and flags. It will be the responsibility of each team for the last scheduled game of the day to take down the nets and flags.

For failing to comply with this rule, the appropriate age group Commissioner may (i) deduct one (1) point from a team's league standing point total, (ii) enter a forfeit for the offending team, or (iii) refer the matter to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman.

- D.** Players not in the game and spectators must remain at least six (6) feet back from the touch lines and within 20 yards of midfield. No one is permitted behind the goal lines. Failure to comply may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game.
- E.** All registered coaches and managers on a team roster may coach at any game only from the coaching area. The coaching area is limited to ten (10) yards on each side of the halfway line along the touch line and a minimum of two (2) yards back from the touchline. Each team coach must remain on their half of the coaching area during the game. Failure to comply may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game.
- F.** Both teams and their respective coaches will occupy one sideline and all spectators for both teams will occupy the opposite sideline. No individual except registered and approved coaches and managers may be on the same sideline as the teams.
- G.** Teams are required at all League games to have an official registration roster which may be obtained only from the League's registrar. A "roster check" may only be called for by the League or by the referee. If a team wishes to have a roster check of another team, it should contact its age group commissioner and request such a roster check (giving its reasons for such request). The decision whether to hold such a roster check shall be in the discretion of the League or the referee. During any roster check, no coaches, managers, parents or other spectators shall be allowed in the vicinity of the roster check (roster check is usually conducted in the center of the field, in which case no other person should be on the field of play other than the players and the League's officials or the referee conducting the roster check).

- H. The League follows a “Good Neighbor” policy. Each team shall be responsible for its players, parents, and spectators complying with the following rules. For failing to comply with this rule, the appropriate age group Commissioner at his discretion may (i) deduct one (1) point from a team’s league standing point total, (ii) enter a forfeit for the offending team, or (iii) refer the matter to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman.
1. No horns, whistles or other devices which can be used to generate loud noises of any kind shall be used at any field used by the League or at adjoining streets and neighborhoods.
 2. The team manager shall be responsible at each game and practice for enlisting parents and players to pick up trash on both sides of the field before leaving the complex.
 3. No pets are allowed at any field during soccer activities used by the League, regardless of whether the pet is on a leash. The only exception is for Seeing Eye dogs necessary to assist aide.
 4. Park only on the “field side” of the streets adjacent to the fields-not on the neighborhood side. Park “right wheels to curb” to avoid ticketing from local law enforcement.
 5. North Dallas Chamber Soccer fields are by reservation only for scheduled games and practices. Any team practicing without a reservation will be in violation of the general rules and may be fined at the discretion of the Board.

14. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE

- A. The decision will be made as early as possible based on weather conditions by the League on game day whether to close any or all of the fields. The hotline number or website will be updated as early as possible.
- B. Teams must report to the playing field ready to play unless previously officially notified of a cancellation. The penalty for failure to follow this rule is forfeiture of the game and review by the age group commissioner for recommendation to appear before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman for possible further disciplinary action. Coaches and Managers **MUST NOT ASSUME** a game has been postponed or cancelled.
- C. If a game is suspended because of foul weather before the completion of the first half has been completed, that game shall be replayed in its entirety, except as set forth in the next sentence. It shall be within the discretion of the appropriate age group commissioner to decide not to replay a game suspended because of foul weather.
- D. If suspended after the first half of play has completed, that game shall be considered a full game.
- E. Any team or teams which play on a field after the game has been canceled by the referee or the League shall be financially responsible for any damage to the field, the game shall be declared a forfeit for both teams and the coach and manager of each

team shall appear before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman for possible further disciplinary action.

- F. No game will be played or continued during severe or dangerous weather conditions. The referee shall be solely responsible for determining if a game should be postponed because of weather. If lightning or severe thunder are in the area, the game may be temporarily postponed by the referee and then subsequently suspended if the lightning and thunder persists. If a game is postponed or suspended because of weather, it is each team's responsibility to find out if the game has been temporarily postponed (to be reconvened in a few moments) or suspended.

15. FORFEITURE OF GAMES

Unless officially notified by the League, in a manner determined by the League as set out in **Paragraph 14, FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE**, teams must report to the playing fields for assigned games.

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

- a. Fielding an ineligible player or a player under suspension
- b. A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game
- c. Failure to field a team with the minimum number of players within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time according to the referee's watch.
- d. Violation of the minimum playing requirement for any player as outlined in the General Rules for Recreational Play.
- e. If one or both teams fails to appear for a scheduled game, that team(s) (coaches, managers, and/or other responsible parties) may be required to appear before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman to present its reason for the forfeit. A team found intentionally forfeiting a game may:
 - 1. Be prevented from participating in any further games during the season
 - 2. Be ineligible for any awards
 - 3. Be prevented from participation in any playoff games
 - 4. Have the coach suspended for up to a year
 - 5. Be penalized as deemed appropriate by the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman.

A call to the opposing coach and the appropriate age group Commissioner may diminish the punishment for an intentional forfeit, but such a call will not eliminate an appearance before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman, nor will it release the offending team from the possibility of sanctions. There will be no make-up of a forfeited game. All referee fees provided by the League for the forfeited game must be reimbursed by the teams prior to their next scheduled game.

16. DETERMINING LEAGUE STANDINGS

A. The following point system will be used to determine league standings:

For North Dallas Chamber Soccer-U9 and U10 teams only-No scores or standings reported for U8 and younger:

WIN – 6 points TIE - 3 points LOSS - 0 points
1 point for each goal scored up to maximum of 3 per game (9 points max)

For RIAD-U12 and older teams:

WIN – 6 points TIE – 3 points LOSS – 0 points
1 point for each goal scored up to maximum of 3 per game (9 points max)

- B. The coach or manager of each team shall report the score of the game to the appropriate age group commissioner within 48 hours of the game completion. Failure to comply with this rule will result in one or all of the following at the commissioner's discretion: (i) deduct one (1) point from a team's league standing point total, (ii) enter a forfeit for the offending team, or (iii) refer the matter to the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman.
- C. The winner for each division within a league for each season shall be the team accumulating the most points earned in games pursuant to Section A.
- D. In the event of a tie, tiebreaker procedures will be applied as described in Section 17.

17. TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS REPRESENTATIVES

The qualification for the Tournament of Champions (TOC) representative for each applicable age group will be determined by the Board of Directors of the League prior to the beginning of the fall season in which the TOC occurs. A special competition may be held if there is a tie and time permits or if required due to League teams playing with other leagues to enable league play. The League's Board of Directors may disqualify a team from attending and participating in the Tournament of Champions and if it elects, the Board of Directors may select an alternative team. Prior to the beginning of the season the Board of Directors, or its designated committee, may designate that the Tournament of Champions' representative will be chosen by a season ending tournament. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will apply:

1. Winner of head-to-head competition if the tie is between two teams; if a tie still exists or there are three or more teams tied, then
2. Goal differential - Goals scored minus goals allowed, using all goals earned in games in all tournament games played to that point, with a maximum goal

differential of five (5) goal differential per game. Higher number shall finish in higher position; if a tie still exists, then

3. Most goals scored in all games played to that point (maximum of five (5) goals per game); if a tie still exists, then
4. Fewest goals allowed in games in that round of play; if a tie still exists, then
5. Team with fewest yellow and red cards in all games played to that point will finish in the higher position; if a tie still exists, then
6. FIFA penalty kicks from the penalty mark. If feasible, the appropriate age group Commissioner will provide some type of game situation competition to break any ties that continue to this point. However, the decision to provide game competition lies solely with the appropriate age group Commissioner. No appeal is allowed.

18. GAMES ENDING IN A TIE

If a regular season game ends in a tie, there shall be no overtime period or kicks from the penalty spot. Instead, each team shall be awarded applicable points per Section 16.A.

If a play-off game ends in a tie, OVERTIME periods may be used and, if still necessary, "KICKS FROM THE PENALTY SPOT" may be used to determine the winner.

OVERTIME PERIODS

Overtime procedures, if any, will be determined prior to the game.

OVERTIME PENALTY KICKS

- A. The players who participate in overtime penalty kicks are the players of each team on the field at the conclusion of play.
- B. Each team shall take five penalty kicks. The kicks shall be taken alternately.
- C. The referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken.
- D. The referee shall toss, and the team whose captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
- E. The team which scores the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner.
- F. If, after each team has taken five kicks, the game is still tied, each team will take alternate penalty kicks until one is missed and the tie is broken.

- G. Each kick shall be taken by a different player. All players of a team including the keeper must have taken a kick before a player of the same team can kick a second kick.
- H. Any player on the field at the conclusion of regular play may change places with his goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the penalty kicks.
- I. Other than the player taking the kick, and the opposing goalkeeper, all the players shall remain within the center circle while the taking of the penalty kicks is in progress. The goalkeeper not in the immediate play shall stand on the end line at least 11 yards from the goal while his team is kicking.
- J. Those players participating at the conclusion of the overtime period must remain on the field. No other players or spectators, including coaches, will be allowed to enter the field of play until the conclusion of the penalty kicks.
- K. Only players participating at the conclusion of the overtime period may take penalty kicks.

19. PROCEDURE FOR PROTESTS AND APPEALS OF GAMES

- A. All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to the League within 48 hours of a game accompanied by cash, cashiers check, or money order for \$100.00 made payable to “CCSAI”. All protests must be submitted to the CCSAI soccer office. Judgment calls by a referee or assistant referee may not be the basis of a protest.
- B. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
 - 1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player;
or
 - 2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the game and the referee admits it in writing.
- C. No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that... “A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game...his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach or both think the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to be handled through the local referees’ group or the State Referee Committee.

- D. A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all of the games in which the player participated. A coach, assistant coach, or manager of the team playing such player shall be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The offending player may be suspended from all soccer activities.

- E. All protests will be received by the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman who will consider them for hearing within seven days of receipt. The League may restrict the number of witnesses, and the time allotted to each, so long as fair hearings are held. All hearings shall be closed hearings. The use of tape recorders, court reporters and the presence of legal representation shall not be allowed. The Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman may uphold, remand or overturn the earlier decision or render his own decision (including additional sanctions). The decision of the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman may be appealed.

- F. Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman may be appealed to the President of the League who will select a panel to hear the appeal. NTSSA cannot acquire jurisdiction to hear any appeal until a final ruling by the League nor can an aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all revenues of administrative appeal including through the League and NTSSA. Any violation of this rule by the offending party shall result in the immediate prohibition of the offending party from participating in any capacity in the League except as a parent/spectator and further subject the offending party to the sanctions of suspensions and fines as set forth by the League and NTSSA. In addition, an offending party shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the League and its officers and members in defending any court action including but not limited to court costs, attorneys fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by League officers and members in responding to and defending against allegations in any action including responses to discovery and court appearance, travel expense and expense for holding special meetings necessitated by any court action. The League expressly adopts the policy that allows it to take full advantage of rights permitted to it by the laws of the state of Texas for non-profit organizations.

- G. No appeals or hearings shall be held when any person is threatening a lawsuit. Should any aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all administrative appeals and hearings, such person shall be suspended from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the League and NTSSA.

20. REQUIRED PLAYING TIME

Each player present at the start of a game must play at least 50% of each game, unless such player is injured, ill, has missed practices or is otherwise being reasonably disciplined by the coach; provided that if a player is to be played less than 50% of any game, the parents of such player, the referee, and the coach of the opposing team must be notified of such fact prior to the start of such game. NOTE: The 50% playing rule applies to all games played whether league or tournament games. If a team intends to withhold playing time for disciplinary reasons, the team must advise its players and parents at the start of each season of their policy regarding the withholding of playing time because of missed practices or

other disciplinary reasons. The application of this rule must be uniformly applied to all players on the team and may not be used to withhold playing time from only the weaker players.

Violation of this rule will subject the offending coach to a penalty of suspension for not less than one League game. A more severe penalty may be imposed based upon the flagrancy of the violation.

21. PROCEDURE FOR VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE RULES

- A.** It is the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman's duty to follow up on any reported violations of any League rule. The appropriate age group Commissioner has the authority to investigate and take the necessary action to enforce these rules.
- B.** If a player is ejected from the game or playing field, that player shall not be allowed to participate in the next League game (which may be during the next season), subject to NTSSA rules regarding misconduct card accumulations.
- C.** If a coach or manager is ejected from the game or playing field, that coach or manager shall not be allowed to coach or manage at the next League game (which may be during the next season) and will be required to appear before the Appeals & Disciplinary Chairman.
- D.** The team of the player, coach, or manager that does not abide by (B) and (C), above shall have that game ruled as forfeited.
- E.** If a game is abandoned because of action under Law 12, the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman shall conduct a hearing for the applicable player, coach, manager and/or team. At the recommendation of the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman, a team, player, coach and/or manager may be suspended from play or participation, for a period to be determined.
- F.** The determination of a violation of the League's Rules by the Appeals & Disciplinary Chairman may be appealed to the League within 24 hours of notice of the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman's determination. Such appeal must be communicated to the League's President within 24 hours of notice of the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman's determination in writing accompanied with a \$100.00 fee payable by cashiers check or money order. The League's President shall appoint a panel of three of the League's Board of Directors to hear the appeal.
- G.** The determination of the League's Board of Directors may be appealed to NTSSA. NTSSA should be immediately contacted for their procedures in handling an appeal. If the appeal is upheld then the fee is refunded in full.

22. MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE (NTSSA)

NTSSA has adopted strict rules regarding misconduct and discipline which apply to the League. These rules are available at the League's office and online at www.NTXsoccer.org.

23. TEAM ROSTERS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE LEAGUE

Registration data and rosters are for the exclusive use of the League. Any use of information contained in the registration database or rosters by any other individual or organization must have the approval of the League's Board of Directors.

24. GUEST PLAYERS

When a team travels outside of the boundaries of the League for tournament games, there cannot be more than three guest players. All NTSSA rules regarding guest players apply. The guest players may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's roster during the same soccer year. Further, any transfer request after such soccer year may not be approved by the League.

Under no conditions may 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.

25. TRAVEL PROCEDURES

If a team intends to travel outside of NTSSA's boundaries (including into South Texas), it must apply for and obtain a Travel Permit from NTSSA well in advance of the trip.

26. INTER-LEAGUE LEAGUE PLAY

A shortage of teams in some age groups has compelled leagues to form league play with other leagues. Such inter-league league play shall be used by the League whenever necessary (as determined by the appropriate age group Commissioner and approved by the League's Board of Directors) and shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the Inter-League guidelines of NTSSA.

27. AWARDS AND TROPHIES

- A. U-6 - A participation trophy.
- B. U-8 - A participation trophy.
- C. U-10 – Participation trophies will be provided for all teams in each division within the league. If a tournament is held, 1st and 2nd place awards will be provided and medals will be given for 3rd and 4th place if there is a consolation bracket.
- D. U-12 and Older - Awards will be based on the number of teams in the divisions of the league they participate with and will be commensurate with the league policy and procedures on awards.

- E. No scores shall be kept in the U-6 and U-8 leagues and no league standings or win/loss records shall be kept or published in those leagues. U10 standings will be maintained in the fall season only for purposes of Tournament of Champions qualification.
- F. League tournament play may be provided at the end of the seasons as the discretion of the Board and Commissioners. All League tournament play will be announced prior to the start of the season the tournament would be played in.

The League's Board of Directors may from time to time make changes when needed pertaining to the criteria for awards and trophies.

28. APPROVAL OF COACHES AND MANAGERS

The League's Board of Directors reserves the right to not allow any person from serving as a coach, assistant coach, manager or team representative.

29. COACHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

The head coach of a U-6 or U-8 team who is not a licensed USYS coach must attend a "G" coaching course prior to or during the next season he coaches that age group. The head coach of a U-10 team and above who is not a licensed USYS coach must attend an "F" or above coaching course prior to or during the next season he coaches that age group. The league may provide certification classes depending on the number of participants.

30. RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF PAID COACHES

No paid coach of any kind will be allowed in the U-6 League. Teams in the U-8 and above leagues may have a paid coach twice a week at either games or practices. Every team in the League shall have a parent or other adult volunteer who is in charge of the team (either as the fully functioning manager and/or the head coach). Such parent shall be in charge of all paperwork and shall be ultimately responsible for the team and must attend all organizational meetings each season. All paid coaches must be registered as such with the League prior to coaching any team. **No player will be denied the chance to play on a team within the League because they could not afford or chooses not to pay the additional charges for a paid coach.**

Paid Coaches will not be allowed to be a registered head coach of more than two (2) teams in the league. Registered coaches will only be given schedule consideration for two (2) teams during any season of the league.

31. RESTRICTION ON PRACTICES

No team in the League may practice more often than twice per week. Practice fields provided by North Dallas Chamber Soccer must be reserved with the office and will be allocated based on availability to the ratio of teams in the league, returning teams preference, and compliance with all North Dallas Chamber Soccer field rules including our "Good Neighbor Policy". Any team violating field use rules for practices may be fined or required to attend an A&D hearing for possible suspension or expulsion.

32. AMENDMENTS

These rules and regulations may be amended by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, provided at least ten days notice of the proposed amendments, briefly indicating their nature, shall have been delivered in writing to each Director and provided that the amendment is approved by a two thirds vote of the Directors present at such meeting.