

## **CLASSIC LEAGUE LEAGUE RULES**

**The Classic League is a competitive playing league sponsored by the Chamber Classic Soccer Alliance, Inc. (“Alliance” or “CCSAI”), which is affiliated with and sanctioned by the North Texas State Soccer Association, and as such, the NTSSA Rules and Regulations apply to every team and every participant in the Classic League.**

**Each person having any responsibility whatsoever for a club or team either participating in the Classic League or desiring to participate in the Classic League is responsible for reading and understanding the rules of NTSSA and the League Rules of the Classic League. In the event any player, parent, club, team, coach, team manager, and/or club or team representative is accused of violating any of these Rules, ignorance of these Rules will not be considered a viable defense. It is each club or team's responsibility to see to it that each person having any responsibility for the club or team receives a copy of these Rules and that copies are made available, read, and understood by all of the club or team's parents and players and/or guardians.**

**The League Rules of the Classic League were written for the benefit of the Classic League and its participants. While these Rules (together with the NTSSA rules) are intended to be comprehensive and thorough, it should be understood that not all situations, circumstances, and events can be anticipated and therefore covered precisely. Further, it is recognized that on occasion conflicting rules or statements may occur. Therefore, it is the firm policy and sole right of the Classic League to interpret and enforce these Rules (and resolve any conflicts) in accordance with and in keeping with the intent, purpose, and spirit of the Rules.**

**CLASSIC LEAGUE**  
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# CLASSIC LEAGUE LEAGUE RULES

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Structure of League.** The Classic League ("Classic League") is an invitational competitive playing league sponsored by the Chamber Classic Soccer Alliance, Inc. ("Alliance" or "CCSAI"). Participation in the Classic League requires that an invitation first be received (which invitation is subject to revocation or other termination as provided in these Rules and/or in the Classic League's Constitution and/or Bylaws). The CCSAI is affiliated with and sanctioned by the North Texas State Soccer Association ("NTSSA"), and as such, NTSSA Rules and Regulations apply to every participant in the Classic League. Because the Classic League is a competitive playing league within NTSSA, all participants in the Classic League are responsible for knowing and following all rules of NTSSA. Therefore, it is each team's responsibility to (i) obtain from NTSSA<sup>1</sup> a copy of the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book and (ii) read and understand those rules and adhere to them accordingly (in addition to the Classic League Playing Rules, as set forth below).
- B. NTSSA Rules and USYSA Rules Apply.** Except to the extent inconsistent with Classic League Rules as set forth below, all applicable United States Youth Soccer Association ("USYSA") rules and regulations and all applicable NTSSA rules and regulations are incorporated herein by this reference, and with regard to teams participating in any Classic League activity (including, but not limited to, the Classic League or DFW Qualification Games and Classic League play), the Classic League reserves the right to independently enforce such rules.

## II. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Classic League is to provide a select soccer program in a safe environment so that the serious players can develop their skills to the highest level on the best competitive teams in youth soccer.

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<sup>1</sup> The NTSSA Administrative Rule Book is available at the office of NTSSA at 1740 South I-35, Suite 105, Carrollton, Texas 75006. Their phone number is 972-323-1323. Such Administrative Rule Book may also be found on the NTSSA Web page at [www.ntxsoccer.org](http://www.ntxsoccer.org).

### III. TEAM FORMATION

- A. **NTSSA Rules and Regulations.** How competitive teams are formed, when and under what circumstances you may conduct soccer camps and tryouts, what players may practice with a team, how transfers and guest players are handled, how players are registered, how teams are registered, player contracts and releases, free agency, etc. is all subject to, and required to be in compliance with, rules set forth in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book. In addition, the following Classic League Rules must also be complied with to participate in the Classic League.
- B. **Classic League Roster Limits (Minimum and Maximum).**
1. **U11-U13.** The maximum number of players on a roster in U11-U13 in the Classic League is sixteen (16). If a team loses one or more players for an extended period of time (at least the remainder of the season), they may add additional players to their roster if approved by the Classic League. The League must be satisfied that the additional player or players will not take the place of current active players. However, a team which finished the previous season with more than 16 players on their roster will not be required to drop or cut any player to come within the 16 player limit (assuming such team was in full compliance with these Rules in exceeding 16 players). Except as set forth above in the second sentence of this paragraph, no addition to an U11-U13 team will be allowed until the roster for such team has been first properly reduced to 15 or fewer players.
  2. **U14-U15.** The maximum number of players on a roster in U14-U15 is eighteen (18). No team with more than eighteen (18) players may participate in the Classic League.
  3. **U16-U19.** The maximum number of players on a roster in U16-U19 is twenty-two (22). No team with more than twenty-two (22) players may participate in the Classic League.
  4. **Roster Minimum.**
    - a. U11-U13. As of the dates/deadlines set forth in sub-paragraph 4(c) below, the minimum number of players on a roster in U11-U13 in the Classic League is twelve (12).
    - b. U14-U19. As of the dates/deadlines set forth in sub-paragraph 4(c) below, the minimum number of players on a roster in U14-U19 in the Classic League is fourteen (14).
    - c. Compliance with the minimum roster Rule shall be determined as of the following dates/deadlines:
      - i. deadline for turning in application for U11 Qualification

Games;

- ii. deadline for turning in Bye Applications; and,
- iii. deadline for turning in all paperwork required of teams invited to or wishing to compete in Challenge (or other qualification) Games.

5. **Guest Players.** Guest players are not permitted in Classic League play and guest players are not permitted in either the Classic League Challenge Games or the Qualification Games.

C. **Age Divisions.**

1. It is desired that all teams be single year (that is, all players on a team will have been born in the same soccer year). Age divisions will be comprised of players who are (as of the date determined by USYSA Rules):
  - a. Under 19 years of age
  - b. Under 17 years of age
  - c. Under 16 years of age
  - d. Under 15 years of age
  - e. Under 14 years of age
  - f. Under 13 years of age
  - g. Under 12 years of age
  - h. Under 11 years of age
2. Younger players are allowed to play in an older age division with the consent of their coach and parents. However, in accordance with NTSSA Rules, any player who has not attained the proper age to play U11 select soccer may not play up on a competitive (select) team.
3. Teams will be placed in age divisions according to the age of their oldest player.

D. **Recruiting Prohibited.**

1. **Recruiting Prohibited.** It shall be a violation of League Rules for any person, team, club, or other organization to engage in recruiting as defined by NTSSA Rule 3.10.9. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all of the above listed participants associated with their team.

2. **Violations.** Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time to be determined by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as the A&D Committee).

#### IV. REGISTRATION

- A. **Introduction.** Any team desiring to participate in or try-out for the Classic League must be properly formed and registered in accordance with both (i) the rules and policies of its home association and (ii) the NTSSA Rules and Regulations, and each such team must be in good standing with both their home association and NTSSA.
- B. **Home Association.** The NTSSA member association through which a team registers is that team's home association. Each team must register through its home association and deliver copies of its approved roster and other paperwork to the Classic League, otherwise in accordance with instructions distributed by the Classic League prior to the Qualification Games and/or Challenge Games and/or prior to Classic League regular season play for each of the fall and spring seasons.
- C. **Team Release.** If required by their home association, any team playing in the Classic League that does not register through the CCSAI must obtain a team release from its home association and present same at Classic League registration each year.
- D. **Rostered Adults.** Classic League Rules permit no more than three (3) adults on the players' side of the field (the coach and two other team officials). Each and every adult on the players' side of the field must be registered on the team's official roster through the team's home association, and a copy of all required official rosters must be delivered to and accepted by the Classic League, through its office, before any of those adults are allowed on the players' side of the field (this applies to the coach, any assistant coach, the team manager, any team trainer, etc.). In the case where the coach of record is unable to be at the game and the team desires to have a substitute coach present at the game, the substitute coach may be one of the three (3) adults on the players' side of the field, if he is an official rostered coach or assistant coach of a team that is registered with NTSSA and one of its local home associations.
- E. **Receipt of Paperwork by Classic League.** All registration paperwork and fees required by NTSSA and/or the Classic League must be received and accepted by the Classic League, through its office, before a team or player will be allowed to play in its first season game. Registration dates, as well as League and other fees will be as announced from time to time by the Classic League. The Classic League reserves the right to require U19 teams to pay both their fall and spring League fees at the fall registration.

- F. Late Registration.** Teams must complete and return all registration paperwork and payment of all Classic League fees to the Classic League by the date set each season by the Classic League. Failure to timely comply (with either the paperwork requirements or the payment of fees) will result in a \$200 fine, plus \$50 a day for each day such delinquency continues after the first day, as determined by the Classic League (subject to usual appeals).
- G. Performance Deposit.** The Classic League reserves the right to require performance deposits from teams in circumstances determined appropriate by the Classic League.
- H. Registration of Players Required.** No team will be allowed to participate in the Challenge Games, the Qualification Games, or the regular season Classic League play with players, coaches, assistant coaches, or managers that have not been properly registered to that team through that team's home association, and a copy of all appropriate paperwork delivered to and accepted by the Classic League, through its office. This also applies to trainers and any other adults that are to be on the players' side of the field - up to three (3) adults. All player transfers must have been approved by NTSSA (as provided in the NTSSA Rules).
- I. Roster Changes.** Specific forms must be completed and submitted any time a roster change is necessary. Roster changes will not be processed by the Classic League office until all roster change forms and information is complete. All roster changes must be properly submitted *before* a player is eligible to participate in Classic League play; and, *before* an adult (coach, any assistant coach, the team manager, any team trainer, etc) is allowed on the players' side of the field. If there are any questions about the current roster change procedures, the team manager should contact their Age Division Commissioner. Failure to properly submit a roster change in a timely manner may result in team sanctions as determined by the A&D Committee. See the Classic League Bylaws, Article VI, for more information.
- J. Team Contact Information.** All teams are required to provide and maintain current e-mail contact information for their team coach(es) and manager(s) throughout the playing year. Failure to do so will result in monetary fines and possible loss of standing points, in addition to other sanctions as determined by the A&D Committee.  
Furthermore, it is understood by all teams that contact by e-mail (or attempted contact if an e-mail address on file with the League is not current) by the Classic League constitutes sufficient notice to all teams for all League business including, without limits, registration deadlines; A&D notices of sit-outs and/or hearings; dues and/or fines owed; new or revised League Rules and/or policies.

## V. INVITATION TO CLASSIC LEAGUE AND LEAGUE STRUCTURE

### A. Eligibility.

1. **Invitational League.** The Classic League is dedicated to providing the highest level of competition possible. Therefore, **the Classic League is strictly an invitational league.** Invitations are not property rights and remain revocable at all times. Invitations are merely invitations to apply for a Bye Position. Regardless of a club's or team's competitive performance, participation is strictly dependent upon receipt of an invitation to compete in the League for the upcoming soccer year. Generally, the invitation will take the form of an invitation to apply for a Bye Position. This invitation to participate can be withdrawn by the Classic League Board upon a finding that a club or team has participated in conduct which is unsporting or unethical or harmful or detrimental or injurious or in any manner prejudicial to the Classic League; or, prior to a club's or team's acceptance into the Classic League, upon a finding by the Classic League Board that the past conduct of a club or team is unsporting or dishonest or unethical or gives the Board reason to believe that acceptance of the club or team in question could be harmful or detrimental or injurious or in any manner prejudicial to the Classic League. All such findings fall within the sole and unfettered discretion of the Classic League; and, all such decisions made by the Classic League in this regard are final and non-appealable. In addition, any club, team, coach or other club or team representative and any other member of the Classic League may be expelled from the Classic League by the Representatives Committee, as provided in the Constitution of the Classic League.
2. **Invitation.** Generally, **but subject to sub-paragraph (A) (1) above,** to be eligible to participate in the Classic League, clubs will be invited to field teams in the Classic League (a) based upon the performance of their teams during the prior soccer year (see Rules below relating to Byes) or (b) through a qualification game format or process as set forth below (herein referred to as the Classic League "Challenge Games" and/or "Qualification Games" or "Qualifying Games" regardless of the format or process used, as set forth below).
3. **Returning Player Rule.** To be eligible to participate in the Classic League, all returning U19 Bye teams must satisfy the Returning Player Rule (see below).

### B. **Returning Player Rule (Returning U19 Bye Teams Only).** The elements of the returning player Rules are as follows:

1. **League Play.** If any returning U19 Bye team has qualified for the

Classic League as a Bye Team, in order to retain such Bye in the Classic League, such team must thereafter and continuing until its first fall game have returning players on its current roster at least equal in number to 1 more than half of the number of players on its actual roster as of the immediately preceding NTSSA State Cup roster freeze date (rounded up for any half players).

2. **Returning Player.** A “returning player” is a player that legitimately continues on the same team's roster as of the applicable date and who was also on the official roster of such team as of the immediately preceding NTSSA State Cup roster freeze date; provided (barring extraordinary circumstances) such player, his parents and his team all expect such player to be available on the sideline to play at the start of the fall season and generally for the remainder of the fall season. The Classic League reserves the right to require sworn affidavits and such other proof from players, parents, and/or team officials, or to require attendance verification at each game.
3. **Bye Application Deadline.** By the announced deadline, each returning U19 team applying for a Bye must submit their official roster for the coming soccer year (bearing the original signature of the team’s home association registrar) and that roster must reflect the names of all “returning players” upon whom the asserted Bye is based. Failure to submit such roster by the deadline may result in such sanctions as the Board may assess up to and including denial or withdrawal of the offending team’s Bye or invitation to compete in the League. See also Rule V. (E.) (4.).
4. **Failure to Comply.** If any returning Bye team fails to satisfy the Returning Player Rule, it will lose its Bye into the Classic League.
5. **Duty to Provide Information.** Owing to the relatively greater difficulty of accurately predicting the number of returning U19 players, the U19 Commissioner may, immediately following the conclusion of spring play, require returning U19 teams desiring to return the following year to: (1) declare such intention, in writing; (2) list the names and contact information for all players expected to return; and, (3) require reasonable assurances of the team’s ability to perform, including, without limitations, early payment of Bye or other fees for the following year.

NOTE: In order for a returning U19 team to avail itself of a “Bye” based upon performance from the previous year, substantially the same team that earned the Bye must be available to play the upcoming season. It is incumbent on each team to take prompt action to notify the Classic League when circumstances exist that may cause such team to have fewer than the required number of returning players, so that the Classic League may take appropriate action. Keeping a player on your roster (in order to avoid losing your Bye or position in the League) that will not be available to play the upcoming season is not in keeping with the spirit of this Rule.

**C. Desired Number of Teams and Structure.**

1. The desired number of teams for each age division in the Classic League will be as follows:

	<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>	<u>Division III</u>
U11	20 teams	10 teams	NONE
U12-U19*	10 teams	10 teams	10 teams

\* In the spring, U19 play may be modified by the U19 Commissioner to fit the circumstances.

2. An exception to this number can be made at the discretion of the applicable Age Division Commissioner, with approval of the Board of Directors.

**D. Invitation To and Structure of League.<sup>2</sup> Subject to paragraph (A) above, each year:**

1. **For U11**, prior to the fall season, all teams wishing to be invited to Classic League must participate in the Classic League or DFW Qualification Games. Based on the results of these games, the top 20 teams will be invited to Division I and will play each of the other 19 teams once (typically 10 games in the fall and 9 games in the spring). The next 10 teams will be invited to Division II, and will play each of the other 9 teams twice (typically 9 games in the fall and 9 games in the spring).
2. **For U12**, a club whose team(s) finished among the top 10 teams from U11 the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in U12 Division I the following year. A club whose team(s) finished among the next 8 teams from Division I the previous year or the top 2 teams from Division II the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in U12 Division II the following year. A club whose team(s) finished among the bottom 2 teams from Division I the previous year or the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place teams from Division II the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in Division III the following year. The remaining 2 places in U12 Division III will be determined through the Classic League Challenge Games, as provided below.
3. **For U13 through U17**, a club whose team(s) finished among the top 8 teams from Division I or the top 2 teams from Division II the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams in Division I

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<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, invitations will be based on full year standings.

in the following year. A club whose teams finished among the remaining 2 teams from Division I, or among the 3rd through 8th teams from Division II the previous year, or among the top 2 teams from Division III the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in Division II the following year. A club whose team(s) finished as the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> place team from Division II the previous year or among the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place teams from Division III the previous year will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in Division III the following year. The remaining 2 places in Division III will be determined through the Classic League Challenge Games as provided below:

4. **In U12 through U17**, the 10 teams in each of Divisions I, II, and III will typically play each of the other 9 teams within their division once in both the fall and spring. Due to the UIL Season and certain other considerations, U15 through U17 age divisions may play unbalanced seasons (i.e., the second set of 9 games may commence in the fall.)
5. **For U19**, the 10 teams in each division will typically play the other 9 teams once in the fall. The spring season, if any, will be structured by the U19 Commissioner (with Board approval) to fit the circumstances. Clubs will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) in U19 each fall from the following list and in the following order or priority until all Bye Positions are filled:

a. **Division I Qualifiers (10 Byes)**

- (i) A club whose team(s) finished among the top eight (8) teams from U17 Division I the previous year;
- (ii) The two (2) highest finishing Classic League teams returning from U19 Division I the previous year (based on fall standings alone if the prior spring season was not played or was played in a “modified” or “alternate” format such as a spring Tournament), provided such team(s) finished in not less than 5<sup>th</sup> place in U19 Division I the previous year; and,
- (iii) A club whose teams(s) finished among the top two (2) teams from U17 Division II the previous year.

b. **Division II Qualifiers (10 Byes)**

- (i) A club whose team(s) finished among the top two (2) teams from U17 Division II the previous year (assuming such team(s) did not qualify for a Bye under the preceding paragraph);
- (ii) The two (2) highest finishing Classic League teams

returning from U19 Division II the previous year (based on fall standings alone if the prior spring season was not played or was played in a “modified” or “alternate” format such as a spring Tournament), provided such team(s) finished in not less than 5<sup>th</sup> place in U19 Division II the previous year;

- (iii) A club whose team(s) finished among the bottom two (2) U17 Division I teams from the previous year;
- (iv) A club whose team(s) finished among the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place teams in U17 Division II the previous year; and,
- (v) A club whose team(s) finished among the top two (2) teams from U17 Division III the previous year.

**c. Division III Qualifiers (Up to 10 Bys)**

- (i) A club whose team(s) finished among the top two (2) teams from U17 Division III the previous year (assuming such club’s team(s) did not qualify for a Division II Bye under the preceding paragraph);
- (ii) The two (2) highest finishing Classic League teams returning from U19 Division III the previous year (based on fall standings alone if the prior spring season was not played or was played in a “modified” or “alternate” format such as a spring Tournament), provided such team(s) finished in not less than 5<sup>th</sup> place in U19 Division III the previous year;
- (iii) A club whose team(s) finished among the bottom two (2) U17 Division II teams from the previous year;
- (iv) A club whose team(s) finished among the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place teams from U17 Division III from the previous year; and,
- (v) Remaining places, if any, will be determined through the Classic League Challenge Games as provided below. If, after utilizing these resources, U19 Division III places still remain, the League may draw on other resources to help complete the field of Division III teams for the benefit of healthy League competition.

**6. Unfilled Invitations in the League. If any invitations (“Bye Positions”)**

go unfilled, the following will apply:

- a. In U12-U19, if any Bye Position into the Classic League goes unfilled, the remaining invitees will be promoted up to fill those places. Any resulting vacancies in the Classic League will be filled through the Challenge Games. For example, if one of the 10 Bye Positions into U12/Division I is not filled, the club whose team finished in 11th place from U11 the previous year (which otherwise would have received an invitation to field a team in Division II of U12 the following year), will now be invited to field a team in Division I U12 the following year. NOTE: the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> place team (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> in Division II) in U11 the previous year will not be promoted into a U12 Division III Bye Position because teams finishing in the last 2 places of the bottom division are not considered “invitees” for a Bye Position. If such circumstances arose prior to the beginning of the Challenge Games, such Challenge Games would be modified to accommodate the additional open position, and if such circumstances arose after the beginning of the Challenge Games, such open position would be filled through the Supplemental Challenge Games as provided below.
- b. If any vacancies occur before the date of the Challenge Games, the Challenge Games may be modified to accommodate such circumstances. If such vacancies occur after the Challenge Games, Supplemental Challenge games may be held to accommodate such circumstances. If such vacancies occur after the start of the Supplemental Challenge Games, the Board of Directors will decide how to most equitably accommodate the circumstances.

7. **Teams Joining at Mid-Year.** Any club’s team that joins the Classic League at mid-year (to fill a vacancy for teams that have withdrawn, disbanded, etc.) will not inherit any team points or standing points from the team they replaced. Nevertheless, such club will be eligible for Classic League benefits (Byes or promotions the next year, etc.) if such club’s teams earns sufficient team or standing points using only points earned by such club’s team after they joined the Classic League.

8. **Parties Invited.**

- a. **Limited Conditional Transfer of Invitation (“75% Exception”).** As set forth above, in the typical setting, invitations to submit an application to participate in the Classic League for the upcoming soccer year (based on a team’s prior year’s competitive performance) will be extended *to the club* for which that team played (and not the team itself). Provided, however, if 75% of the

players on the roster<sup>3</sup> of the team upon whose competitive performance the invitation to apply for a Bye Position was extended return to such team the following year, *and* such team will then be playing for a new club (including a one team club), then the invitation previously extended to the former club will follow such team to its new club (that is, the invitation will be conditionally “transferred” to the new club). To count as a ‘returning player’, a player must be officially rostered to such team (through such team’s home association) prior to the deadline for submission of such team’s Bye team application. Moreover, such player, his parents, and his team must all expect such player to be available on the sideline to play at the start of the Fall Season and generally for the remainder of the Fall Season. Classic League reserves the right to require sworn affidavits and such other proof from players, parents, and/or team officials, or to require attendance verification at each game. By the announced Bye application deadline, each such team must submit its official roster for the coming season (bearing the original signature of such team’s home association registrar) and that roster must reflect the names of all of the ‘returning players’ upon whom the asserted “transfer” of the invitation is based (that is, the roster must reflect the players who comprise the 75%). Failure to submit such roster by the deadline may result in a determination that the invitation (Bye Position) will remain with the former club (plus appropriate sanctions, if any).

**b. Changing Clubs During the Soccer Year.**

The Classic League will extend any invitation which is based on a team’s competitive performance *to the club for which that team is playing* as of *January 1* of the current soccer year. If a team leaves a club during the soccer year, any and all steps required to be taken (including NTSSA rules and/or policies relating to the changing of a team’s name) must have been completed by January 1 of the current soccer year and all relevant paperwork turned in to the League office by that date. Notwithstanding, if a team leaves a club after January 1 of the current soccer year, the invitation to apply for a Bye Position is still subject to the Limited Conditional Transfer of Invitation (“75% Exception”) set for above in subparagraph ‘a’.

**c. Merger/Sale/Assignment and/or Other Transfers.**

There may be limited circumstances under which the Classic League will permit invitations issued to one club to be transferred to another club as a result of a merger of clubs. This will only be

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<sup>3</sup> As of the relevant state cup roster freeze date for such team (barring extraordinary circumstances).

permitted in very limited circumstances to be decided on a case-by-case basis in the Board's sole discretion. Invitations are not property rights and remain revocable at all times. Invitations are merely invitations to apply for a Bye Position. No person or entity should assume that an invitation extended by the Classic League may be transferred to another club (even in the face of an otherwise effective merger) without the *prior written consent* of the Classic League. **ALL DECISIONS ABOUT WHETHER TO PERMIT AN INVITATION TO BE TRANSFERRED FALL WITHIN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE CLASSIC LEAGUE AND ITS DECISIONS ON THIS POINT ARE FINAL AND NON-APPEALABLE.** In this connection, all persons and entities are advised that it is highly unlikely that the Classic League will permit the transfer of an invitation in a circumstance where less than 100% of the teams currently playing for a given club merge (or claimed to have merged) with another club (to whom it wishes to see the invitation transferred). **IN THE EVENT THAT A DISPUTE ARISES BETWEEN ANY INTERESTED PARTIES (INCLUDING CLUBS, TEAMS, PLAYERS, PARENTS, OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES) AS TO THE VALIDITY OF AN INVITATION (INCLUDING THE IDENTITY OF THE CLUB TO WHOM AN INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED), THE CLASSIC LEAGUE SHALL HAVE THE SOLE RIGHT TO DETERMINE SUCH DISPUTE FINALLY AND CONCLUSIVELY IN THE UNFETTERED EXERCISE OF ITS DISCRETION.**

**E. Challenge and Qualification Games**

**1. Format.**

- a.** The Challenge Games and the Qualification Games will be generally formatted as outlined below:
  - (i)** Challenge Games (including Supplemental Challenge Games): Classic League clubs whose teams did not end up in Bye Positions per the above Rules (i.e., typically the bottom 2 places in the lowest division) will be invited to field a team (or, if applicable, teams) to participate in Challenge Games to fill open places, if any; and,
  - (ii)** Additional outside teams will also be invited to participate in the Challenge Games. The identity and number of additional Invitees will be set by the League, in its sole discretion, prior to the Challenge Games. The format for the Challenge Games will be determined by the Board and

announced to the teams prior to the start of the Challenge Games. At its sole discretion, the League may require some or all of the Invitees from outside of the League to participate in an initial round of games for the right to challenge teams from inside the League; and,

- (iii) Any places which come open after the Challenge Games may be filled by Supplemental Challenge Games. Invitees *may* include teams not qualifying from the Challenge Games, or any other teams in the League's sole discretion. The identity and number of any invited teams will be determined by the League, in its sole discretion, prior to the Supplemental Challenge Games. Alternatively, in its sole discretion, the League may fill any open places by direct invitation; and,
  - (iv) U11 Qualification Games – the 30 places available in U11 will be filled through Qualifying Games. No team may apply for the Qualifying games with fewer than 12 players on their roster. All other rules and formatting decisions will be determined by the Board and announced prior to the start of the qualifying games.
- b. The Challenge Games will be scheduled at the Board's discretion, and may be held in conjunction with the Qualification Games for U11.
  - c. The Classic League Board of Directors reserves the right to modify this format to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances (for example, if an extraordinary number of Bye Positions go unfilled in any particular age group). It is possible that other circumstances may arise that will prevent the use of this format. In that event, the Classic League Board of Directors has the power to change the format of the Challenge and/or the Qualification Games in a manner the Board deems will be equitable to the teams involved.
- 2. **Seeding.** Seeding of teams will be based on the best available information, with the most capable teams being seeded higher in the pairings. All information submitted will be considered, including primarily their most recent League standings.
  - 3. **Organizational Meeting.** Any participants desiring to enter the Qualification Games, and all clubs invited to field teams either in Bye Positions or in Challenge Games, and all Bye Teams must comply with the Classic League's registration and other requirements, prior to the applicable deadlines, as announced by the Classic League. Each team must also send one or more representatives to the applicable Organizational Meeting to be held at a time and place announced by the

Classic League.

4. **Registration.** All clubs invited to field teams in the various Bye Positions or clubs invited to field teams in the Qualification Games or the Challenge Games must register such teams with their home association prior to the announced registration deadline or certification date. By the announced deadline, each club fielding teams must (a) submit such team's official roster for the coming soccer year (bearing the original signature of their home association registrar) and any required Classic League forms or information sheet(s) and any other forms required by the Classic League; and, (b) pay the required fees as specified. At the applicable Coaches and Managers Meeting, each club must update any forms or other paperwork submitted earlier. If registration requirements have not been established prior to the applicable Organizational Meeting, then the clubs are required to turn in the proper paperwork at the meeting.

Clubs invited to field teams in Bye Positions are also required to provide volunteers to help administer the Challenge and/or Qualification Games, as required by the Classic League. Clubs invited to field teams in Bye Positions will be required to pay a "Bye Fee" due no later than the date announced by the Classic League (usually in July).

5. **Roster Changes.** Specific forms must be completed and submitted any time a roster change is necessary. Roster changes will not be processed by the Classic League office until all roster change forms and information is complete. All roster changes must be properly submitted *before* a player is eligible to participate in Classic League play; and *before* an adult (coach, any assistant coach, the team manager, any team trainer, etc.) is allowed on the players' side of the field. See also Rule IV. (I).
6. **Guest Players.** Guest players are not permitted in either the Challenge Games or the Qualification Games.
7. **Play-Up.** All teams must participate in their proper age division. No team will be allowed to "play up" during the soccer year.
8. **Combination Challenge and/or Qualifying Games.** The Classic League reserves the right, with approval of the Board of Directors, to hold any Challenge and/or Qualification Games in combination with one or more other competitive soccer leagues (including the Plano Premier League and the Arlington Premier League).

## VI. CLASSIC LEAGUE PLAY

- A. **FIFA Laws Apply.** Classic League play is governed by FIFA Laws of the Game, as modified for youth play (except as noted below).

B. **Age Division Placement.** Each team is required to play in its proper age division in the soccer year.

C. **Points for Season Play.** The fall and spring seasons will be played and each team will be awarded standing points as follows:

WIN	THREE (3) POINTS
TIE	ONE (1) POINT
LOSS	ZERO (0) POINTS

These points will be used to determine League standings for each season and for the soccer year (fall and spring combined).

D. **Champions.** The "Champion" in each U11-U19 age division (Division I only) shall be determined by adding together the fall and spring season standings points. If the U19 Commissioner elects to play a modified or alternate format in the spring (i.e., a U19 tournament), the Champion in the U19 age division (Division I only) will be determined by fall season standings points. When possible, the U19 Commissioner shall make such election prior to the start of fall play.

E. **End of Season/Year Tie Breakers/Placement.** If two (2) or more teams are tied in the number of points, the tie will be broken as follows:

1. Overall team goal differential.
2. Total goals scored.
3. Board decision.

NOTE: In the event a Classic League game or games have been forfeited, the score of any forfeited game will be recorded as 1-0. If any tied team played an opponent that forfeited to another or other tied team(s), then all games against that opponent will be omitted before applying the above tie breaker rule.

F. **Voluntary Withdrawal from Classic League.** Any club whose team withdraws from the Classic League voluntarily will not be invited to field a "replacement team" in the Classic League for a period of not less than one (1) year from the end of the season in which said team withdrew. Additional sanctions may be taken against such team and sanctions may be taken against the club with which such team is affiliated. The ban and any sanctions must be approved by 2/3's vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a duly called meeting in which a quorum is present.

G. **Voluntary Forfeiture or Withdrawal from Challenge or Qualification Games.** Any club whose team (a) willfully or purposely forfeited a game in either the Challenge Games or Qualification Games; or, (b) voluntarily withdrew from the Classic League's Challenge Games or from the Qualification Games will not be invited to field a "replacement team" in the Classic League for a period of not less than one (1) full year from the end of the season immediately following

such voluntary withdrawal or forfeiture. Additional sanctions may be taken against such teams and sanctions may be taken against the club with which such team is affiliated.

**H. Willful Forfeiting of Game(s).** A club whose team willfully or purposely forfeits a regular season game may not receive an invitation to field a team in such team's age division notwithstanding the competitive performance of such team for at least one (1) year starting at the end of the season in which they forfeited the game. Additional sanctions may be taken against such teams and sanctions may be taken against the club with which such team is affiliated. At the discretion of the Chairman, the A&D Committee may hold a preliminary hearing with regard to such circumstances.

**I. Game Report Requirements.** The manager of the both teams must call the team's Age Division Commissioner and report the score of the game on the same day after the conclusion of the game (with any other information requested by the Commissioner). The official standings will be maintained by the Age Division Commissioner. Each team is also required to fill out a Classic League game report (such report to be turned in as indicated on the form).

**J. Equipment and Uniforms.**

1. All players are required to have proper uniforms including permanent numbers on the back of their jerseys that correspond to the number on the team's official roster. Players without numbers on their jersey will not be allowed on the playing field. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a rostered team player does not have his numbered jersey that corresponds to his number on the team's official roster, a different jersey number may be worn as long as no other player on the same team is wearing that same number during the same game. This substitute jersey must match the team's jerseys. This number change must **(a)** be clearly marked on the Game Day Report form; and, **(b)** pointed out to the Center Referee prior to the start of the game. Failure to follow these procedures may result in monetary fines in addition to other sanctions as determined by the A&D Committee. A team with less than seven (7) players in numbered uniforms will forfeit the game.

2. Each team must have alternate colored jerseys available at each game for use if necessary. The alternate jerseys must have permanent numbers on the back of their jerseys that correspond to the numbers on the team's official roster (same as on their regular jerseys). If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a rostered team player does not have his numbered jersey that corresponds to his number on the team's official roster, a different jersey number may be worn as long as no other player on the same team is wearing that same number during the same game. This substitute jersey must match the team's jerseys. This number change must **(a)** be clearly marked on the Game Day Report form; and, **(b)** pointed out to the Center

Referee prior to the start of the game. Failure to follow these procedures may result in monetary fines in addition to other sanctions as determined by the A&D Committee. The home team (team listed first on the schedule) must wear jerseys that are predominately (substantially more than 50%) white (or light in color) and the visiting team must wear jerseys that are predominately (substantially more than 50%) dark in color. The jersey of each goalkeeper may not be the same color as either team's jerseys; it may not be the same color as the jersey being worn by the referees; and, it may not be the same color as the jersey of the other goalkeeper (if both goalkeepers have the same color jersey, the home team keeper will change, although reasonable cooperation is expected from all involved).

3. Players cannot wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or the other players and no jewelry is allowed. Proper shin guards are required for all players. Braces and other medically required support apparatuses must have no dangerous metal or hard plastic exposed, unless covered with a soft protective covering. The referee shall make the final decision whether or not the player can play.
4. **Dress Code.** In keeping with its Mission Statement to provide a select soccer program “in a safe environment so that serious players can develop their skills to the highest level”, the League has adopted the following dress code to promote health and well-being, instill discipline, prevent disruption, and avoid safety hazards. A rostered individual’s dress and grooming must not be a health or safety hazard to others. The League prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on materials or clothing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, immodest, or promote or refer to alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any illicit substance. Clothing items depicting or promoting acts of violence, membership in a gang or secret society, guns, weapons, death, dismemberment, disfigurement, or other offensive items are specifically prohibited.
5. **Dress Code Violations.** Any rostered individual failing to comply with the Dress Code may be removed from the game and/or soccer complex until such time as the individual is in compliance. During League sponsored soccer activities, Board members on duty and/or their representatives shall have broad discretion to determine whether an individual is in compliance with the Dress Code. Further, failure to comply with the Dress Code may result in additional sanctions against the offending individual, his team, his club, and his coach. Sanctions may include fines and/or suspensions as determined by the A&D Committee. Persistent, wide-spread, or egregious violations of the Dress Code may be deemed unsporting, unethical, harmful, and/or prejudicial to the League. *Nothing herein shall restrict the ability of a Board member on duty (or any other person in charge of a league sponsored soccer activity) from imposing additional standards, including with respect to spectators, to*

*the extent reasonably necessary to maintain the peace, prevent disruption, and avoid safety hazards.*

**K. Schedule Changes and Rescheduling.**

1. After the schedules have been prepared, **no schedule changes will be allowed without approval of the Classic League Board, except in the case of inclement weather.** Special effort will be made to avoid Classic League coaching conflicts for coaches that coach two Classic League teams. Requests will be considered only to the extent that the request does not cause disruption of the remainder of the scheduling, as determined by the Age Division Commissioner and/or the Classic League Board. Exceptions to this Rule may only be made by Age Division Commissioners with Classic League Board approval. Written requests stating specific reasons for rescheduling must be submitted and received at least ten (10) days prior to the date the game was originally scheduled to be played, and such request must be made early enough to allow for a regularly scheduled Board meeting to consider such request (the Board usually meets on the first Wednesday of every month). For numerous reasons, it is impossible to schedule or reschedule games to accommodate various spring breaks or tournament play, etc. Although reschedule requests are not likely to be granted, any team desiring a reschedule must submit that request in writing. Any team requesting to reschedule a game (other than for weather reschedules or on account of League error) after the schedules have been posted will be required to pay an administration fee of \$200 for such rescheduled game (if the reschedule is permitted by the Classic League Board). Any such request must be in writing and must be accompanied by the \$200 fee. See also Addendum 1 attached for additional information on policies regarding schedule changes and reschedules.
2. Unless either (i) the coach, team manager or other responsible person for the team is notified specifically by the Age Division Commissioner or (ii) the Classic League Hotline announces that their game has been canceled for any reason, both teams are required to appear at the game site on time, ready to play. Any team failing to appear who has not been given proper notice that the game has been canceled will be required to forfeit the game.
3. Regular season League games that are stopped short for any reason other than acts on the part of one of the teams (or their representatives or spectators) will be rescheduled and replayed in their entirety. Regular season League games that are stopped, abandoned, or suspended on account of the actions of one or more of the teams, team representatives, or spectators will be referred to the A&D Committee for consideration of disciplinary actions and final disposition of the game. See also Rule VII. (I.) (3.).

- L. **Duration of Games and Ball Size.** The duration of season games and specific ball sizes are as follows:

<b><u>Age Division</u></b>	<b><u>Length of Halves</u></b>	<b><u>Ball Size</u></b>
U11 – U12	Two 30-minute halves	4
U13 – U14	Two 35-minute halves	5
U15 – U16	Two 40-minute halves	5
U17 – U19	Two 45-minute halves	5

- M. **Number of Players.**

1. A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players ready to play to start a game and seven (7) eligible players to continue a game. If at the scheduled game time, a team does not have seven (7) players, a 10-minute grace period will be allowed. At any time during this 10-minute grace period, if the seventh player arrives, the game will begin immediately with the seven (7) available players who are present. If the team does not have seven (7) players available to play at the end of the 10-minute grace period, the team will be considered to have forfeited the game.
2. If the field is not available until after the scheduled start time for a game, the grace period will commence at the scheduled game time and will run for ten minutes or until the field is available, whichever is the longer time period.

- N. **Substitutions.**

1. **Number of Substitutions and Re-entry.**

a. **U11-U14.** The FIFA Rules that (a) limit the number of potential substitutes; or, (b) prohibit a player from returning to the game after he has been substituted for, do not apply for age groups U11-U14, and up to 7 potential substitutes (5 in U11 through U13, 7 in U14) may be designated. Players that have been substituted for may return to the game as an additional substitute for any player on the field at the times set forth below.

b. **U15-U19.** The Classic League limits the number of substitutions in all Classic League Challenge and League games to seven (7) per half, with no re-entry for field players during the half in which they were substituted. Goalkeepers are allowed one (1) re-entry in each half of play, provided the substitution is within the limit of seven (7) total substitutions for that half; and, the goalkeeper re-enters in the goalkeeper position.

## 2. Timing of Substitutions.

- a. U11-U14. With the permission of the referee, substitutions are allowed: **(a)** at a throw-in by the team in possession; **(b)** at a throw-in by the team not in possession so long as the team in possession is also making a substitution; **(c)** by either team at a goal kick; **(d)** by either team after a goal is scored; **(e)** by either team when the referee has stopped play due to an injury; **(f)** at the beginning of the second half of play; and, **(g)** when a caution (yellow card) is given (that player may be substituted for).
- b. U15-U19. Substitutions are allowed with the permission of the referee at all stoppages of play.

- O. Club Linesman. As defined by NTSSA Rule 3.12.1, all clubs participating in the Classic League agree that the appointment of a Club Linesman, when necessary, satisfies NTSSA Rule 3.12.3. Both teams must agree to the use of a Club Linesman; the coach from each team appoints a Club Linesman to serve for one half of the game (unless two Club Linesmen are needed – then both would serve the full game). A Club Linesman is responsible for calling in/out along the touchline. The Club Linesman may also assist on goal kicks and corner kicks *only with the explicit permission* of the Center Referee. Under no circumstances may a Club Linesman call offside; a foul; signal a goal or non-goal; enter the field to assist the Center Referee in handling players and/or the setting of a wall; or, converse with players, coaches, trainers, managers, or spectators.

## VII. DISCIPLINE

- A. Subject to NTSSA Disciplinary Rules. All teams trying out for or playing in the Classic League (and their rostered individuals and spectators) are subject to NTSSA disciplinary rules, including, but not limited to, the “CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM”, which among other things, provides for minimum sanctions against rostered individuals and/or teams that accumulate cautions and/or send-offs in excess of specific numbers. As used herein, the term “rostered individuals” is meant to include players (including guest players), coaches, assistant coaches and managers and the term “spectators” is meant to include all other team officials, parents, other family members, and any other individuals at or near to any activity sponsored by the Classic League or NTSSA. In addition, the following additional disciplinary rules apply to Classic League play.
- B. Right to Appear Before Committee. Any rostered individual or spectator expelled/ejected, sent-off, dismissed, or cautioned has the right to appear before the A&D Committee. The disciplinary committee shall base its decision primarily on the official written reports to the A&D Committee.
- C. Failure to Appear. Any individual, club, or team requested to appear before a

disciplinary hearing and who fails to do so, may be suspended from all Classic League activities until such time as he does or they do appear.

- D. Promptness of Hearings.** The disciplinary committee shall make every effort to hold a hearing on any matter deserving attention within ten (10) days of receipt of the official reports by the Secretary, A&D Director, or other responsible member of the Classic League Board. However, failure to hold such hearing within that time does not negate its right to act on the matter.
- E. Safety of the Referee.** Clubs and teams, and their respective representatives are responsible for the safety and well being of referees and League officials – before, during, and after the game.
- F. Issuance of Cards to Players.** FIFA rules allow the referee to issue cards before, during, and after the game.
- G. Disciplining Others.** In addition, Classic League Rules allow the referee and/or League officials to deal with, sanction (including dismiss from the soccer complex), and/or report other incidents of misbehavior by any player, coach, parent, or other spectator before, during and after the game, (including those away from the field). Such reports may be accepted from other Classic League Officials and/or other credible witnesses. State and National rules stipulate that any instances of alleged referee assault must be referred directly to NTSSA.
- H. Responsibility for Team.**
1. The Classic League recognizes that the club, coach, assistant coach, and team manager are each responsible for their team(s). In the event disciplinary action is necessary, any of these parties may be held accountable for the team.
  2. Only the coach and/or manager of record, and/or club representative may represent an entire team and all of its members at a disciplinary hearing. The coach, assistant coach, manager, and club are responsible for the behavior of a team's spectators and players, both individually and collectively. The disciplinary committee may, at its discretion, hear other interested parties.
  3. A rostered team or club representative must be present with and is responsible for the team and spectators during all games.
- I. Standard of Conduct.** Conduct at League-sponsored events is expected to be of the highest caliber. Therefore, any misconduct (including, but not limited to, profanity, dishonesty, abusive language, racial slurs, and/or obscene gestures) shall be dealt with in a decisive manner.
1. **Non-Players.**

- a.** The North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) adopted a comprehensive set of rules referred to as the "NTSSA Code of Ethics for Coaches". The Classic League, being a member of NTSSA, will support and adhere to these rules in every respect. Accordingly, Classic League coaches (and assistants, whether listed officially on the team roster or not) are expected to act and teach in accordance with these rules. Classic League coaches (and assistants, whether listed officially on team rosters or not) are expected to act and teach in sportsmanlike, ethical, and gentlemanly ways.
- b.** Actions that are deemed to be contrary to these rules are considered to be detrimental and/or prejudicial to soccer and to the Classic League. Such actions should be reported in written detail to the Classic League so that they may be investigated by the A&D Committee.
- c.** A non-player accused of violating the aforementioned rules or the NTSSA Code of Ethics will be asked to appear before the A&D Committee for possible disciplinary action. If found guilty, such individual may be reprimanded or suspended for some specific period or number of games, depending on the severity of the incident. Appeal of the A&D Committee's decision will be in accordance with the Classic League Bylaws.
- d.** If a rostered team or club representative is unable to control a team's spectators, they are to immediately notify a member of the Classic League Board so that the Classic League may take appropriate action toward the identifiable unruly spectator(s); or, if unidentifiable, toward the team itself and those individuals responsible for the team. Referees may suspend play and request coaches (or other rostered individuals) to intervene with regard to and to calm down, control and/or remove (i) unruly spectators, (ii) spectators that are demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior and (iii) spectators that the referee is having any other problem with. Referees can and will abandon games when spectator conduct becomes too disruptive or if individuals requested to leave the field or the surroundings fail to immediately leave as requested.
- e.** Any dismissal or expulsion of a non-player from any Classic League game or event shall result in an automatic minimum 1-game suspension. No appeal shall be allowed with regard thereto. In addition, as soon as reasonably practical thereafter, such non-player may be required to appear before the A&D Committee who may assess additional penalties to those listed above, if deemed appropriate. Failure for the individual to appear at such hearing may be grounds for additional sanctions, up to and including

suspension of the team or club.

- f. A non-player suspension is to be served at the next scheduled sanctioned game for that team.
- g. If a non-player is dismissed or expelled from any Classic League game, in addition to the automatic minimum one game suspension, that person will be automatically fined \$50.00. If not paid by the individual, such fine will be the financial responsibility of the applicable team and/or club. The fine must be paid by the date set forth by the League. Failure to pay the fine may be grounds for additional sanctions, up to and including suspension of the team or club.
- h. If the Classic League Board of Directors receives word through any source (including referee reports, a Commissioner or other Board member, field marshal, etc.) that there is a team or spectator that is disruptive from the sidelines, out of control at the field, or demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior, such individual and/or the manager, coach and/or team may be required to appear before the A&D Committee for investigation.

## 2. **Players.**

- a. Hearings for players shall be held only when written reports are submitted to the Classic League. These are usually referee reports, but misconduct need not be confined only to the field of play and reports need not be limited to referee reports. Referee misconduct reports are required to be postmarked or hand-delivered to the Classic League no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game in which the misconduct occurred (Sundays and holidays are excluded when calculating the 72-hour time period).
- b. Violent conduct by a player, on or off the field, when related to Classic League sponsored activities requires appearance by the player before the A&D Committee and may result in a suspension of up to ten (10) games.

**NOTE:** The penalties listed above are minimum penalties and cannot be reduced. These suspensions must be served whether or not the referee turns in his misconduct report in a timely manner or not.

- 3. **Game Stoppage.** Regular season League games that are stopped, abandoned, or suspended due primarily to the actions of one team or their team representatives or spectators will be referred to the A&D Committee for consideration of any disciplinary actions, possible monetary fines, and

final disposition of the game.

4. **Sit-Out Verification.** Any rostered individual or spectator required to sit out a game (on account of being dismissed or expelled, receiving a red card or accumulation of yellow cards in Classic League play or for any other reason in the course of any Classic League activity) is required to complete and return to the Classic League A&D Director a Sit-Out Verification Form, in order to verify that the suspended individual sat out the requisite number of games. This shall be completed on a form provided each year by the Classic League and distributed at registration and/or on the Classic League web site. This form should be completed by the coach or team manager and, in the case of a player or coach sit-out, given to the referee prior to the start of the game, and the referee must sign off on the fact that the rostered player or coach did not participate in that game. Parent or spectator sit-out only requires coach and manager verification (on the same form) A separate form must be used for each sit out game served.
5. **Parents Code of Conduct.** In addition to any other provisions of these Rules applicable to non-players, parents are expected to always conduct themselves in accordance with the Parents Code of Conduct of the Classic League, attached hereto as Addendum 3.

- J. **Ineligible Players.** A team that plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player may forfeit all the games in which the player participated or face such other sanction as the Board decides. 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, and/or manager of the team knowingly playing such a player shall be suspended for a minimum of one year. A coach, assistant coach, and/or manager of the team playing such a player without first exercising due care may be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The offending player may be suspended from all soccer activities.

## VIII. GENERAL RULE WITH REGARD TO PLAY AT THE RICHLAND/CLASSIC SOCCER COMPLEX

The Classic League has made a major investment in providing you with a first quality playing complex. However, this would not have been possible without the generous help of the Richland College Administration and the Dallas County Community College District. Our agreement with the College and our ability to continue using the facility requires that we respect the property and that behavior of the players, spectators, and officials be exemplary.

## IX. ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

- A. **Classic League Soccer Complex at Richland College & All Other Playing Locations.** Every team, player, parent, or other spectator participating in either

the Classic League Challenge Games, Qualification Games, or in Classic League play is required to adhere to the following soccer complex rules (these should be copied and distributed to every player, club/team official, and parent on a team):

1. No driving, soccer parking, or drop-offs are allowed at the Richland complex; **(i)** along the adjoining alleys, **(ii)** in adjoining apartment complexes; or, **(iii)** in adjoining neighborhoods. This includes the apartment complex adjacent to Field #1, the alley and neighborhood east of and along Fields #2-4, and the alley and neighborhood south of the auxiliary fields #11-14.
2. At the Richland complex, parking is only permitted in the main paved parking lot adjacent to the fields (nearest Fields #9 and #10). No driving, parking, or drop-offs are permitted **(i)** on the grass; or, **(ii)** ON THUNDERDUCK ROAD OR THE PARKING LOT leading up to and adjacent to the concession building and baseball area. NO PARKING signs are also posted in designated areas around the LeCroy Center building. These are primarily behind the building and on the drive leading up to the area. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense. Please drive very slowly in all of the parking lots and do not allow any drop offs along the street or the parking lot drive alongside Fields #9 and #10. Pull into a parking aisle before you drop off.
3. At all complexes, no flyers or any other types of advertisements or announcements of any kind are allowed to be distributed at the complex or in the parking lot without advance approval by the Classic League Board.
4. No alcohol is allowed at any complex during League play or anywhere on the Richland campus grounds. Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited from ALL athletic fields on the Richland campus. Richland College Police may issue citations for violations of smoking/tobacco use on campus grounds. For more detailed information, please refer to the League website.
5. At all complexes, parents and other spectators of both teams are required to sit on the same side of the field (opposite the players) and they may sit at either half of the field but not at the end of the fields between the goal line corner flags (i.e., anywhere along the parent touch line) - parents/spectators are not required to sit on the same end of the field as their team is sitting on. Only the players, one coach, and two other team officials are allowed on the players' side of the field. All adults on the players' side of the field must be registered on their official roster (or in the case of a substitute game day coach, on some NTSSA official roster).
6. At the conclusion of each game, all post-game discussions, team cool down, etc. are to take place off the playing field. Coaches and players are expected to promptly clear the playing field, their bench, and the

immediate surrounding area. All trash from the bench and immediate surrounding area must also be removed.

7. Teams are expected to work together to pick up the trash at their games (both the spectators' side and the players' side). Teams are expected to pick up any trash at their field at the conclusion of their game, regardless of whether the trash was left by members of their team (even if the trash was there at the beginning of their game). Prior to picking up another team's trash, the team manager may want to inform a field marshal or the Board Member on Duty so that follow-up action can be taken. Parents should be responsible for picking up their side of the field and the players are responsible for picking up their side of the field. Managers and coaches need to remind both the parents and the players at every game. NO TAPE OF ANY KIND OR BOTTLE CAPS MAY BE LEFT ON OR AROUND THE FIELDS - THESE CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE MOWING MACHINES.
8. At the Richland complex and campus, you are prohibited from entering the College buildings, except in cases of extreme emergency.
9. The soccer complexes are patrolled by Board members and field marshals. They are primarily there to be of assistance to you, and to remind you of the above rules. WE EXPECT YOU TO TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT.
10. The soccer complexes will also be patrolled on occasion by police officers. They are there to keep the peace. We hope they are not necessary. The officers will be official licensed police officers with state police authority to make arrests.
11. At the Richland complex, the first game of the day is responsible for putting up the corner flags and nets if they are not in place (volunteers may deliver them to your field; however, if they are not there within 30 minutes of your game time, they should be retrieved by the home team from the net storage area in the concession building). Each team is responsible for putting up one net and two corner flags. At the conclusion of your game, if there are no teams waiting to play, assume your game is the last game of the day and return the corner flags (even if the schedule indicates there is a later game – it may have been cancelled). Normally nets will remain up unless the Board Member on Duty instructs volunteers to have the teams remove them at the end of their game. At the Pizza Hut Park complex, nets and flags are in place and should not be removed at any time by the teams.
12. Rollerblading is not permitted on the Richland College Campus or at the soccer complex; and, no scooters, skateboards, or other wheeled or similar devices are allowed at or near the Soccer Complex. Exceptions

are motorized wheelchairs and Segways used by Richland Police.

13. During soccer activities, no dogs, cats, or other pets or animals are allowed at the soccer complexes (even if they are on a leash or in your lap, etc.).
14. Only official League games or other official or sanctioned League activities are allowed at the Richland Soccer Complex. No practices, clinics, scrimmage games, etc. are permitted without permission from the Classic League.
15. At all complexes, only the current teams (players and coaches) are allowed on the field (either for warm-ups or the actual game). NO TEAM WARMUP IS ALLOWED INSIDE THE 18 YARD PENALTY AREA OF THE GOALS AT ANY TIME. No one else is allowed on the field before, after, or at half-time. NO CROSSING GAME FIELDS AT ANY TIME – USE THE WALKWAYS PROVIDED. There is to be absolutely no free play (e.g. shots on the goal, etc.) by spectators at any time, including during half-time or before or after games, etc. Fields without games playing are closed and are not available for warm-up by teams or for spectator traffic to cross. Failure to comply may result in monetary fines in addition to other sanctions as determined by the Classic League Board.
16. Golf carts are available for handicap or injury assistance by contacting a Field Marshal for assistance. Medical trainers are allowed golf cart access to the playing fields/team bench areas at all playing locations.

**B. Inclement Weather Procedures.** In the event of inclement weather, the Classic League will determine if games are to be suspended. If games are suspended, teams and spectators should go to the parking lot and stay in their cars - do not leave the complex until you know the games will not be resumed. If play can be resumed, a Classic League official will sound the ALL CLEAR and play will resume at the point it was suspended. Games may be temporarily suspended in the 1st or 2nd half with the intention of resuming play as soon as possible. If games cannot be resumed, reschedule information will be posted to the Classic League website and on the League hotline. DO NOT LEAVE THE COMPLEX UNTIL YOUR COACH OR MANAGER TELLS YOU GAMES ARE CANCELLED. Either the coach or manager should check with the Classic League complex headquarters for more information before leaving. Games MUST BE COMPLETED to be considered complete games. See also Rule VI. (K.) (3.).

**WEATHER HOTLINE:** 972/738-9000-Option 1

**WEBSITE:** [WWW.CCSAI.ORG](http://WWW.CCSAI.ORG)

**In addition to the above information, each complex has a different warning system for suspending play as follows:**

### **CLASSIC LEAGUE SOCCER COMPLEX AT RICHLAND COLLEGE:**

A siren will sound with one long blast indicating all play should be suspended and fields cleared immediately. In addition, a **yellow light**, located on top of the concession building, will be turned on and remain on while play is suspended. All players, coaches, managers, and spectators should go to their cars immediately and remain there during suspended play. The ALL CLEAR signal will be three (3) short blasts from the siren to return to the fields to resume play from the point of stoppage. If the ALL CLEAR signal is given, the **yellow light** will be turned off. If a **red light** on top of the concession building is turned on, then games have been cancelled and teams should check the League website or with their team manager for rescheduled games. Referees should check with the assignor/field coordinator for any additional instructions before leaving the complex.

### **PIZZA HUT PARK – FRISCO:**

A siren will sound with one long blast indicating all play should be suspended and fields cleared immediately. All players, coaches, managers, and spectators should go to their cars immediately and remain there during suspended play. The ALL CLEAR signal will be three (3) short blasts from the siren to return to the fields to resume play from the point of stoppage. If games are cancelled, the Classic League Board Member on duty will make the call and send notification out from the PHP Tournament Office located in the concession building on Technology Drive. Only the manager or coach should check at the office for final determination of play before leaving the complex. Referees should also check with the assignor/field coordinator before leaving the complex.

**Any team that does not comply with this policy may be subject to an A&D hearing to determine possible fines or sanctions to the team. The safety of all participants – players, coaches, managers, officials, volunteers, and spectators – is of the utmost concern of the Classic League and as such taken very seriously when participants do not comply with the weather policy.**

- C. **Fundraising Events.** Each team participating in the Classic League will be required to fully participate in any Classic League-sponsored fundraising event(s) sponsored by the Classic League and conducted in accordance with procedures established and distributed by the Classic League Board.
- D. **Volunteers.** Each team in the Classic League is assigned two or three days each year during the regular season during which they must provide a certain number of adult volunteers to act as field marshals (Bye Teams have additional and similar requirements for the Challenge Games and/or the Qualification Games). In addition, each team participating in the Classic League may be assigned additional volunteer duties and responsibilities, as determined necessary by the Classic League Board.
- E. **Compliance with all Playing Complex Rules.** Every team, player, parent, or

other spectator participating in either the Classic League Challenge Games, Qualification Games, or in Classic League play is required to adhere to all playing complex rules, as published on the League's website or as posted at the complex or as otherwise disseminated from time to time.

- F. Additional Administrative Rules.** Additional administrative rules may be issued from time to time by the Classic League Board in order to administer the Classic League and the Classic League's soccer complex(es) in an efficient manner. Failure to comply with these administrative rules may result in monetary fines and loss of standing points, in addition to other sanctions as determined by the Classic League Board.
- G. Violations.** In addition to any other sanctions provided in these Rules, violation of any Classic League Rules may result in sanctions or other punishment against the offenders, possibly including one or more of the following: **(i)** confiscation of the scooter, skateboard, or other device; **(ii)** \$100 or more fine; **(iii)** additional (double) volunteer duty and \$100 per person fine for volunteer "no-shows"; **(iv)** forfeiture of games; **(v)** loss of standing points; and, **(vi)** possible expulsion from the Classic League, in addition to being responsible for any monetary damages or costs incurred by the Classic League (for example, replacement costs of nets and costs of contracting the pick-up of trash). More severe sanctions will be levied against repeat offenders. In addition, repeated violations of these Rules may result in the Classic League **(x)** notifying the team's Coaching Director and Club Director or President; and, **(y)** requiring the club to provide assurances that such circumstances will not continue (subject to fines and other disciplinary actions against the club, if the club does not take appropriate actions).

## **X. REVISION OF RULES**

These Classic League Rules may be changed or modified by a majority vote of the attending members of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting held in which a quorum is present, provided that all members on the Board have been notified prior to the meeting (either orally or in writing) of the proposed changes(s).

**SCHEDULING CONFLICTS AND RESCHEDULE POLICY STATEMENT**

The subjects of scheduling conflicts and rescheduling games have always been difficult and often include misunderstood issues. Therefore, it is appropriate that the policies regarding these issues be set forth in a statement for your use. First, it is important to understand the three scheduling conflicts we most often encounter:

- (1) scheduling conflicts with teams coached by the same person;
- (2) scheduling conflicts with other activities for which we have advance notice; and,
- (3) rescheduling games on account of scheduling conflicts, after they have already been scheduled.

It is important to understand there is a big difference between (1) scheduling around a conflict when we have advance notice (let's call that a scheduling accommodation) and (2) asking that a game be rescheduled after it has already been scheduled.

**Coaching Conflicts.** First, the Classic League, your Commissioner, and the Scheduling Committee will try their best to avoid coaching conflicts if you coach two teams in the Classic League as long as your Commissioner is advised of those circumstances prior the Scheduling Committee Meeting, which is usually held immediately after the Qualification Games and again in early January. We cannot avoid every conflict, but know that we will try to consider your requests. If you coach more than two teams in the Classic League, it becomes a very difficult task to try to avoid coaching conflicts, and therefore, conflicts are inevitable if you coach more than two of our teams (in this case, you may want to have an assistant ready to substitute for you when you have conflicts). We do not address scheduling conflicts you may have with teams in other leagues. We also cannot honor requests that all games be scheduled exclusively in the morning or in the afternoon to avoid conflicts with your teams in other leagues.

**Schedule Accommodations.** Generally, it is our policy to not schedule around soccer tournaments or other non-Classic League events. Exceptions that may be considered include:  
(1) showcase tournaments for older teams; and,  
(2) school activities and religious conflicts if the conflict is unavoidable; if it involves a significant number of players on your team; and, if your Commissioner is advised in advance of the conflict before the schedules are prepared.

Teams are encouraged to advise their Commissioner of any scheduling conflicts they may have as soon as possible (but in any event, before the deadline set by the Scheduling Committee). Generally, other than for showcase tournaments for older teams, we do not schedule around tournaments. Most tournaments are not held during the regular season, so this is not a very big problem. However, every year, we receive a few requests to schedule a team for a weeknight game for some particular week so they can attend an out-of-town tournament that weekend (or sometimes for more unusual reasons, like the coach is getting married). We wish we could accommodate these scheduling requests, but if we did this for one team, we would have to do it for all teams. We already have an extremely difficult time scheduling our season as it is without these additional difficulties (and, it may be unfair to your opponent who would also have to play an additional week night game so you could attend a tournament). We also adjust our schedules to accommodate UIL soccer play, State Cup, Dallas Cup, etc., and this makes it almost

impossible to accommodate other conflicts.

These same factors also cause make-up games to be a difficult exercise. If you have a game rained out, it will likely be rescheduled as a night game or on one of the open weekends during or after the season is scheduled to end. Please keep these weekends open for makeup of rainout games. Rainout dates are typically posted on the League website, and often include spring break weekends and the weekend before and after Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, and State Cup. If you have a game rained out, and you have some particular scheduling conflict later that season, let your Commissioner know within 48 hours, so consideration can be given when scheduling the make-up game (again, no promises, since accommodating your schedule on a make-up is harder and sometimes impossible).

**Rescheduling Games.** Once a game is scheduled (either regular season or make-up games), it virtually takes an act of congress to change it, although it is not unusual for there to be a few corrections made to the schedule immediately after it has been distributed to the teams. Our Commissioners, Schedulers, Referee Assignors, Field Coordinators, etc., have a hard enough time as it is, and we simply cannot be rescheduling games once they have been scheduled.

COMMISSIONERS MAY NOT RESCHEDULE GAMES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE CLASSIC LEAGUE BOARD. This accomplishes several things. First, if the answer is "no", then the Commissioner does not have to make that decision by himself (and take all the heat) - remember not to shoot the messenger. Second, this gives the Commissioner the benefit of everyone's experiences on the Board and everyone's memory of precedents we can follow. Most important, it helps avoid any claim of "favoritism" being shown to any one coach, team, or club (since our Board is so diverse, with members for many different clubs, it is hard to imagine any one club receiving any favoritism).

We continue to try to be flexible for school activities (although the only one we have consistently accommodated with reschedules in the last several years was for the SAT). Normally, teams do not know before the start of the season how many of their players may be taking the SAT test on any particular date. Therefore, advanced scheduling accommodations for the SAT may not be possible, which means we may have to resort to after-the-fact reschedules if circumstances warrant. If you have so many players on your team taking the SAT that you will have to play with fewer than 11 players (and you will have to prove this by presenting a copy of the SAT Admission Ticket for every player on your team that has this conflict), we have in the past rescheduled games.

We hope this explanation of our policy with regard to scheduling conflicts and rescheduling games will help avoid disagreements in the future over these very matters. If you have any questions in connection with these matters, please do not hesitate to contact your Commissioner, since only your Age Division Commissioner can address your requests.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUT-OF-TOWN TEAMS**

It has been the League's ongoing policy to try to schedule games to accommodate out-of-town teams, in the hopes that this will encourage new teams to try out for our League and provide our existing teams with new and fresh competition.

To the extent possible, teams that travel from outside the Metroplex, but less than 150 miles (one way), our League will make a concerted effort to schedule game times to best accommodate their travel requirements (where possible, they will not be scheduled the first or last game any day, and during the week, we will try to schedule them the second game that evening). Sometimes, despite our best intentions, this does not work out. For example, we may have to schedule a first or last game for one of these teams in order to avoid a scheduling conflict for another coach. Obviously, if there are several teams from outside the Metroplex in the same division of a particular age group, it would be almost impossible to avoid some games that were first or last for the day (since there were so many of such teams in the same situation). When scheduling make-up games, the same accommodations may not always be possible (since our focus then is to get the games scheduled and played).

For teams traveling more than 150 miles (one way), to the extent practical and where possible, we will try to schedule their games to minimize trips to Dallas. We will make every effort to schedule them to play two games back-to-back on Saturday and Sunday. Usually we are able to schedule the Saturday game late in the afternoon or early evening, with the following Sunday game in the late morning or early afternoon. In some cases (particularly in U11-U14), this doubling up will result in these teams only playing every other weekend (except when games that would have been scheduled as week-night games are instead scheduled on off-weekends). However, for older teams (U15-U19), this will not result in them having every other weekend off, since we are typically having to play more than 10 games in the fall over only about 10 weeks (due to our having a longer fall season and a shortened spring season to accommodate UIL soccer). To the extent possible, no week night games will be scheduled for teams traveling more than 150 miles, and instead, their games will be scheduled on weekends. In most cases, these Saturday/Sunday double up games will only result in U15-U19 teams having 2 or 3 weekends each season with no play (maybe even less in the spring). When scheduling make-up games, these same accommodations may not always be possible.

In the event of rainouts, the League hotline and website will be updated as soon as possible (this is the only notice teams will receive and it is your responsibility to periodically check these sources). However, decisions on rainouts are often not made until very early (5:00-6:00 a.m.) the morning of the games. Therefore, while it is regrettable, there may be occasions when these teams will travel to Dallas for League games that are subsequently rained out. We suggest these teams caravan to Dallas, with at least one car calling the hotline occasionally (or staying in contact with your Commissioner via a cell phone) during your trip to Dallas, so that you could turn around and return home if games are postponed after you have left your home town. The effects of Mother Nature are largely out of our hands.

Any players, coaches, or others affiliated with out-of-town teams that must appear before the Classic League A&D Committee will be required to appear in accordance with the same procedures that apply to other teams (this applies to all out of town teams, not just those beyond 150 miles). While every attempt will be made to schedule those hearings in conjunction with the timing of their League games, no guarantee can be given that a special trip to Dallas for the hearing will not be required.

Teams that participate in the Classic League must clearly understand these policies. If you have any questions in connection with these matters, please do not hesitate to contact your Age Division Commissioner who can assist you with information about your scheduling accommodations.

**Classic League Parents Code of Conduct**

<b>As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of our players. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help all the players learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. Please read and observe the following Code of Conduct.</b>	
<b>Show Respect and Courtesy To:</b> <i>All Players, Including Opponents</i> <i>All Coaches</i> <i>All Officials</i> <i>Other Spectators</i>	<b>Be a Positive Role Model for Your Child and Others</b>
<b>Encourage:</b> <i>Fair Play</i> <i>Good Sportsmanship</i> <i>Competitive Play</i> <i>Cheering Instead of Yelling</i>	<b>Recognize and Cheer for Good Plays by Both Teams</b>
<b>Refrain From:</b> <i>Questioning, Criticizing or Abusing Official,</i> <i>Taunting or Booing Players or Officials</i> <i>Using Profanity or Degrading Gestures</i> <i>Coaching From the Sideline</i>	<b>Appreciate the Time and Energies Donated by All the Team and League Volunteers and Cooperate With Their Requests</b>
<b>Enjoy the Game!</b>	