

# Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association Bylaws and Rules and Regulations

Revised 2022

Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association

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## **STATEMENT OF POLICY BY THE GWFSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

“Each person having any responsibility whatsoever for a team participating in the GWFSA is responsible for reading and understanding these rules. In the event charges of infraction of these rules are made against a captain, coach, player, manager and/or team representative, claims by said accused person of ignorance of these rules will not be considered a viable defense to said charges. It is each team’s responsibility to see to it that each person having any responsibility for the team receives a copy of these rules or are instructed to read the rules as posted on the GWFSA web page and that said rules are understood by all of the team’s coaches, players and/or representatives.”

“The by-laws and rules and regulations of the GWFSA were written for the benefit for the association and its players. While the bylaws and rules and regulations 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 occur. Therefore, it shall be the firm policy of this Board in resolving such conflicts to exercise its authority to override and/or interpret these rules, regulations and by-laws in keeping with the intent and purpose and in the best interest of the association and the spirit of the game.”

Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association

By Laws

Article One

Name, Type, Duration, Purpose  
Membership, Place of Business

- Section 1     Name and Type of Organization  
The name of the organization shall be the Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association, and it is a Texas non-profit corporation.
- Section 2     Duration and Purpose  
The period of duration is perpetual. The purpose shall be to foster, promote and advance the cause of soccer within the Greater Wichita Falls area and to guard the interests of its members as more fully stated in the Articles of Incorporation, fully adopted herein by reference.
- Section 3     Team Names  
The teams will be recognized by their respective team names. Team names that are ethnically recognized will not be accepted.
- Section 4     Subordinate Associations  
Clubs and subordinate associations and affiliated teams, having so qualified, may be admitted to membership in good standing upon payment of their membership fee and upon agreeing to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of this association, and upon submitting their constitution and/or by-laws for approval by the Executive Board.
- Section 5     Charitable Purpose  
The association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and regulations (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States federal tax law.)
- Section 6     Membership  
Members of the association shall consist of the Executive Board members, Executive Committee members and all teams in good standing, including registered players, parents or legal guardians of players, coaches and managers, with the governing responsibilities and voting rights as provided in the By-Laws of this association.
- Section 7     Place of Business  
The principal office of the association shall be in Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas. The mailing address for the association shall be Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association, P.O. Box 4612, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308.

Article Two

Governmen

- Section 1 Governing Body  
The governing body of this organization shall be the Executive Board.
- Section 2 Business Transactions  
The Executive Board shall transact all business and manage the affairs of the association. It shall enforce the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the laws of the game, and the rules and regulations of the State and National associations of which this association is a member.
- Section 3 Officers and Committees  
The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected voting officers: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Players Advocate/Adult Representative and Referee Representative (who shall be elected by the Referee Association.)  
The Executive Committee shall consist of the following additional persons (who shall act as an advisory council to the Executive Board); Girls and Boys Commissioners of each division, and the Chairman of each currently existing committee. The President may create new committees and appoint new chairpersons as deemed necessary. The number of new committees shall be limited to a maximum of three at any given time. There shall be one Coordinator for each area community with three or more teams. The Commissioner and Coordinators shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
- Section 4 Board and Committee Meetings  
Executive Board meetings may be held at the discretion of the President, with a minimum of one monthly meeting to be set during the soccer season. A majority of five will constitute a quorum.  
Executive Committee meetings will be held at the discretion of the Executive Board. A simple majority will constitute a quorum.
- Section 5 Absenteeism  
Any member of the Executive Board or Executive Committee who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive board meetings or committee meetings shall have his or her office declared vacant at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- Section 6 Non-Elected Vacancies  
The Executive Board shall appoint a replacement for any non-elected position on the Executive Committee.
- Section 7 President Duties  
The President shall be the principal officer of the association and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the association. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board, Executive Committee and general meetings of members. He or she may enter into any and all contracts and agreements authorized by the Executive Board on behalf of the association and may sign all writings evidencing such agreements or as otherwise necessary to the fulfillment of his or her duties as President. He or she shall not be authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of the association for the conveying of association owned real or personal property, personal service contracts: borrowing money, encumbering or in any manner pledging association property, or expending association money for any single purpose (whether by one or more payments) in an amount exceeding \$1,000.00, without having first obtained the express written approval of the Executive Board. The President in general shall perform all duties incident to the Office of President in accordance with the association's Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations and

- other such duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board from time to time.
- Section 8 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Duties  
 The First Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President, preside in his or her absence, and act as chairman of the appeals and discipline committee. He or she will also keep copies of all violations, reports of misconduct, and minutes and decisions of all A&D proceedings. He or she will be responsible for obtaining proof that all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, volunteers, etc. pass the risk management assessment.
- Section 9 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Duties  
 The Second Vice President shall coordinate membership, recruitment, and placement of players. He or she shall act as chairman over commissioners and coordinators. He or she will be active in the placement of teams in playing divisions and the scheduling. He or she will act as assistant to the President.
- Section 10 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Duties  
 The Third Vice President shall coordinate any fund raisers and any coaches' clinics. He or she will act as assistant to the President.
- Section 11 Secretary Duties  
 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all association meetings and is responsible for league standings. He or she shall be responsible for all correspondence and any other record keeping duties. He or she will be responsible for preparing the registration packets for each team every season.
- Section 12 Treasurer Duties  
 The Treasurer shall have charge of all dues and fees, and keep an accurate account of of income and expenditures, and shall pay all bills approved by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall also prepare and submit a financial statement of all monies generated and spent annually at the general meeting, and monthly at all Executive Board meetings. A written handout shall be prepared and distributed at the Annual General Meeting. Two officer signatures will be required on checks over \$50.00.
- Section 13 Registrar Duties  
 The Registrar shall be in charge of registration of players.
- Section 14 Players Advocate/Adult Representative Duties  
 The Players Advocate/Adult Representative shall coordinate with the First Vice President on Appeals and Discipline. He or she will act as a liaison between the youth and adult teams, coaches, players, etc. and the Appeals and Discipline Committee. He or she will assist in the training and education of coaches. He or she will be the liaison between the youth and adult teams and players and the Executive Board.
- Section 15 Referee Representative Duties  
 The Referee Representative shall act as a liaison between the Referee Association and the Executive Board.
- Section 16 Appeals and Discipline  
 The Appeals and Discipline Committee (hereinafter referred to as the A&D committee) has the authority to suspend members from participation for violation of the Rules and Regulations of this association or conduct detrimental to the association. The A&D Committee will have charge of investigating and determining all reported violations of Rules and Regulations of the association and as may be directed by the association President. The A&D Committee will consist of the following voting members: The First Vice President, will act as its chairman, another elected officer and three of the following: any other appointed Member of the Executive Committee or any other coach of record or referee in good standing with the GWFSA. The A&D Committee members and four alternates will be selected by the Chairman on a soccer year basis (from

September 1 through July 31 of the following year). The A&D Committee will meet on an as needed basis, and a majority vote of all members will decide all matters. Appeals of decisions of the A&D Committee may be heard by the Executive Board and the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals and Discipline Committee through the Appropriate procedures.

Section 17

Procedure for Filing Appeals

Procedure for filing appeals with the Executive Board shall be as follows:

1. Decisions of the Appeals and Discipline Committee, any other existing committee, or the action of a particular officer, commissioner, committee chairman or area coordinator, are appealed to the Executive Board of this association. This appeal must be made and concluded prior to appealing such decisions or actions to NTSSA of USSF.
2. All appeals to the Executive Board must be submitted in writing and received within five (5) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by a \$25.00 fee (cash, cashier's check or money order). If the appeal is upheld by the Board, the fee will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of this Association. In the case of appeals regarding individual suspensions, the Board may waive or request a \$25.00 fee.
3. The Board, at its discretion, may when requested in writing to do so, extend the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.
4. All appeals to the Board must be made in writing to the President who will then notify the Secretary of the Board and all the members of the Board. In cases of controversy as to the timely receipt of appeals, the postmark date (postage meter not acceptable) will govern mailed appeals, and actual date of in-hand receipt (not left in mailbox) will govern hand-delivered appeals.
5. Upon receipt of appeal, properly submitted, the President shall set a time and place for the hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Board, but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal at the hearing.
6. Decisions of the Executive Board may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association and thereafter the United States Soccer Federation. In no event shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of this Association resort to the Courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations to this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines as set forth by the United States Soccer Federation, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by defending each court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by the GWFSAs and the NTSSA officers and members in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.
7. All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

Section 18

Commissioners and Chairman Duties



The Commissioners shall be active in player placement within their age divisions and shall serve on any placement committee within their divisions.

Section 19 Elections and Terms of Office

Elected Officers shall be elected for a term of two years and may succeed themselves in office. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meetings, or at a Special Meeting called for the specific purpose of elections, if no quorum is present at the Annual Meeting. Any person who has the intent to be elected to the office of President of the GWFSA must have served at least one (1) season as an officer on the Executive Board before he or she may seek election. The President, First Vice President, Secretary and Registrar shall be elected in even numbered years. The Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Treasurer and Players Advocate/Adult Representative shall be elected in odd numbered years. An Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the office he/she is holding prior to the election. Spouses may not serve on the Executive Board simultaneously and in conjunction, only one member of any household may serve on the Executive Board at the same time. Terms of office shall run June 1 of appropriate year to May 31 of appropriate year with odd and even terms as stated, being based on the year of the annual general meeting. No elected officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

In the event of a vacancy occurring in any elected office, other than the office of the President, prior to the end of term, the Executive Board shall appoint a successor to the office. In order for a person to be elected or appointed to any Executive Officer Position on the GWFSA Executive Board, he/she must have served as a GWFSA Commissioner for a minimum of two soccer seasons. If the First Vice President is unable to assume the office of President in the event of vacancy in that office, a successor will be elected at a special meeting.

Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote at a special association meeting. Any officer may resign at any time by written notice of such resignation to the President or Secretary.

Article Three

General

Meetings

Section 1 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be held on any Monday in April.

Section 2 Representation and Voting Members

Each team and academy registered in the current soccer season shall be represented by an appointed delegate to the Annual General Meeting and any general, regular or special meeting, and each team's delegate shall be a member-at-large. Each member of the Executive Committee who is not the coach of record for a registered team will be allowed one vote. Only team delegates, Executive Board members and applicable Executive Committee members shall be voting members at the general meetings. Roll call will be taken. Anyone appearing other than the coach, assistant coach or manager must be at least the age of 16 years, must have a written proxy and only one proxy per person present will be allowed.

Section 3 Regular Meetings

Regular meetings may be held on any day and time established by the President or Executive Board.

Section 4

Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President, Executive Board or upon request of not less than twenty (20) voting members. The President shall call such meetings.

Section 5

Player Placement Meeting

All Player Placement meetings must be scheduled and posted with a minimum of three (3) days notice and must be an open meeting for the coaches to

attend. Section 6

Quorum

Twenty Per Cent (20%) of voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. The voting members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

Section 7

Place of Meetings

The Executive Board may designate any place within Wichita Falls, Texas, for meetings. If a place for a meeting is not designated, then meetings will be at the Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association Youth Soccer Complex at 5401 Southwest Parkway, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308.

Section 8

Notice of Meetings and Agenda

Written or printed notice, stating the place, day and hour of a general meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, **shall** be delivered electronically not less than ten (ten) or more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting by or at the direction of the President, or the Secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member entitled to vote at such meeting. Only one notice of any regular meeting shall be required. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given as provided above to each registered team in the current soccer season.

Article Four

Amendment

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Section 1

Amendments

The Articles of Incorporation may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3), and By-Laws and association Rules and Regulations may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting or any announced meeting published for that purpose. Any proposed amendments must be submitted to the Executive Board in writing thirty (30) days prior to the date of the next scheduled Annual General meeting of the association for review and distribution to the membership.

Article Five

Miscellaneous

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Section 1

Nonprofit Status

This Association shall conduct its business in a manner conforming to the purposes as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, being careful to comply with all rules and regulations as set forth under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so as to maintain its status as a nonprofit charitable organization.

Section 2

Dissolution of Association

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liability of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purpose of the Association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, humanitarian, religious or scientific purposes as shall the time qualify as exempt organization, or organizations, under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding decision of any future United States Internal Revenue rule or regulation), as the Executive Board shall determine. Any of such assets not disposed of, shall be disposed of by the District Court of any county in which the principal office of the association is then located, exclusively for such purposed or to such organization(s) as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 3

Net Earnings

No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, member or officer of the association (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the association affecting one or more of its purposes), and no private individual, member or officer of the association shall be entitled to a share of the distribution of any of the corporate assets on the dissolution of the association.

Section 4

Political Involvement

No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propoganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 5

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the association shall be on September 1 to August 31.

Section 6

Affiliations

This association shall be affiliated with, and be in compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the North Texas State Soccer Association, as amended from time to time.

Rules and Regulations

Article One

Eligibility and Registration

Section 1

Eligibility

Age grouping/divisions for NTSSA and Member Associations play shall be:

**YOUTH**

**19U**

**16U**

**14U**

**12U**

**10U**

**8U**

The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. The age of three (3) is the minimum age to play soccer. A player may not register on more than one team during a soccer year. Players are permitted to register and play up from their official age bracket. A player must have attained the age of three (3) years by July 31 to register for the U4 fall soccer season or by December 31 to register for the U4 spring soccer season. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

Section 2      Releases

Release of liability and recognition of rules must be signed by players and their parents or guardians prior to the start of any regular playing season.

Section 3      Fees and Registration of Teams

A      Each player shall pay a registration fee, the amount of which is to be set by the Executive Board.

B      Each player must complete on line registration and submit a copy of their birth certificate (if not already on file) by the date established by the Executive Board in order for teams and players to be eligible to play. Failure to comply with this rule will result in that team's eligibility to play to be decided by the Executive Board.

C      Every coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, and other volunteer must complete the NTSSA Volunteer Risk Management portion on the GWFSFA web page, pay the appropriate fee, if any.

D      Player placement and registration deadline for the fall season will be set forth by the Executive Board. Player placement and registration deadline for the spring season will be set forth by the Executive Board.

All players must go through the Division Commissioner regardless of playing experience or player pool size. No players may be added after the registration deadline unless approved by the Executive Board.

During a playing season, no player will be allowed to enter a player pool of any age group, if in doing so, he/she leaves his/her original team in jeopardy unless approved by the Executive Board. Jeopardy for this purpose shall be thirteen (13) or less players in the 19U, 18U, 17U, 16U, 15U, 14U, 13U age divisions, eleven (11) or less players in the 11U and 12U age divisions, nine(9) players or less in the 9U and 10U age divisions, six (6) players or less in the 8U, 7U, 6U, 5U and 4U age divisions.

When players are added after the registration deadline, required registration must be completed before the player is eligible to play. When a player has been added to a team, the division commissioner shall inform the registrar.

E      Players who have quit the team, or been dropped by the coach for disciplinary reasons, may be deleted from the roster with the approval of the Executive Board. In those instances where a player is being dropped for disciplinary reasons, the parents or guardians must have been notified by the coach before the player may be deleted from the roster.

F      No coach of a recreational team will be allowed to refuse players of the appropriate age group.

G      Team formation (new players and transfers) shall be in accordance with NTSSA Rules for Registration of Youth Players (Recreational Team Formation Rules), which states as follows:

1 For 4U, 5U,6U,7U, 8U,9U and 10U Age Groups

If a member association permits teams to remain together from season to season, then the player has the right to stay on the team, and the member association must insure that all those rostered players have been given the opportunity to remain on that team.

New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following methods:

- a. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group committee of more than one member on a territorial basis as defined by the member association By-Laws/Constitution. (Example-neighborhood schools, precincts, zip codes, etc.)
- b. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a territorial basis as stated in (a) above.
- c. In order to promote soccer participation for young children, a 4U, 5U,6U,7U and 8U player may invite a friend from the same member association who has never registered in any association to join his existing team with the permission of the member association. Players names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the member association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons, or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the member association's Board of Directors. A member association may have only one recreational team formation process per age group. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non recreational.

2 For 11U,12U,13U,14U,15U,16U,17U,18U and 19U Age Groups

Players are assigned by the method described in paragraph 1 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 member association to be added to the player pool if:

- a. The player is not presently registered on an existing team. (and)
- b. The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.

Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the member association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing

seasons, or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the member association's Board of Directors.

A member association may have only one recreational team formation process per age group. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non recreational.

All player placement meetings will be scheduled and posted with a minimum of three (3) days advance notice to coaches and be open to the coaches attendance.

3 Any team not formed of players assigned as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 is considered a select/competitive team.

4 Soccer Academies

a. A "Soccer Academy" is a group of 7U through 10U registered NTSSA recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Players must register with a member association and may or may not be on a recreational team. Academies are to be governed by NTSSA Youth Associations, and the home association and the home association may host as many Soccer Academies as they deem desirable. Academy teams are governed by the league in which they participate. (If more than one association is involved in an academy league, an A&D committee should be in place.)

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

c. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may only participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspensions from all soccer activities for a period of time.

d. GWFSFA may provide league play if it has enough teams, or may coordinate with other member associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play will be designated as Under 7 through Under 10. Scores and standings should not be kept.

- e. Soccer Academy teams are not considered “registered teams” and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournament s unless the tournament has specified a “Soccer Academy” bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament. Soccer Academy teams may not travel out of NTSSA as a team to play in tournaments.
- f. Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.
- g. The purpose of the Soccer Academies are to:
  1. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
  2. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
  3. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.
- h. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
- i. For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with a GWFSA youth recreational team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the GWFSA recreational team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary team.

- Section 4      Suspended Players  
Any suspended player shall be ineligible for participation in any league competition, and shall automatically be reinstated unless further action is taken at the end of the specific period of suspension. Players suspended indefinitely shall not be eligible until reinstated by the A&D committee.
- Section 5      Eligibility Responsibility  
Responsibility for player’s eligibility shall rest with team officials. Knowingly playing suspended or unregistered players shall result in forfeiture of the game or games in which such infractions occur, and be assessed a penalty ranging from probation to a suspension for one (1) year or more. This suspension may be from all soccer activities.
- Section 6      Residence  
A player must reside in the area governed by this association, with the exception of those in the armed forces.
- Section 7      Amateur Requirements  
Players must meet USSF amateur requirements to qualify for registration in this association or have obtained USSF approved amateur reinstatement.
- Section 8      Team Donations  
All teams registered with, or created under the auspices of this association shall submit a statement of income and expense if such teams receive donations as a result of the

association's 501(c)(3) status. The reports shall be presented to the treasurer for safekeeping no later than August 31 of each year. Failure to comply with this rule may cause the suspension of said team from all soccer activities, which shall be at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 9

Developmental Teams

A Developmental Team (4U,5U,6U,7U,8U,9U or 10U) moving up into an age division early may increase its roster size only to the maximum available roster size of the division into which it will be competing. Any added players must be added only from the pool in the age group in which the team playing up will be competing. For example, a 8U team moving up to 9U early may have players added from the 9U pool, but not from any 8U pool. Developmental teams moving up to an older age division must have written permission from the parent of each player registered on the team.

Section 10

Adult Teams

GWFSA Adult Teams shall follow NTSSA team formation and playing rules. Adult team representatives shall not participate in voting regarding youth playing rules and shall not be considered when calculating a quorum for youth rule changes.

Article Two  
Association Rules of the Game

Section 1      Playing Rules

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of NTSSA and its affiliated members shall be the IFAB Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

A

**Law I - Field of Play**

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

**Age Groups Field Width Field Length Goal Size**

**Adult**

All Ages Max. 80 yds. Max. 120 yds. 8ft. x 24 ft.

**Youth**

17,18 and 19U Max. 80 yds. Max. 112 yds. 8 ft. x 24 ft.

15 and 16U Max. 75 yds. Max. 112 yds. 8 ft. x 24 ft.

13 and 14U Max. 75 yds. Max. 112 yds. 8 ft. x 24 ft.

11 and 12U from 44-55 yds. from 70-80 yds. Max 7 ft. x 21 ft. Recommended 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.

9 and 10U from 35-45 yds. from 55-65 yds. Max 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft. Recommended 6.5 ft. x 12 ft.

4,5,6,7,8U and younger from 15-25 yds. from 25-35 yds. 4 ft. x 6 ft.

B

**Law II - The Ball**

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

**Age Groups Ball Size**

13U and older Size #5

12U and 10U Size #4

8U and younger Size #3

C

**LAW III - Number of Players and Substitution**

1. 13U and older shall play 11v11.

2. U11 and 12U shall play 9v9

3. 9U and 10U shall play 7v7

4. 8U and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.

5 Substitution Rule – Youth 9U and older

a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;

b. Either team, at a goal-kick;



- c. Either team, after a goal is scored;
  - d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
  - e. At halftime/period
  - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.
  - g. **Quarter Substitution System for those Youth 8U and younger age groups only.**  
The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period. There will be a two minute break between each quarter substitution.
6. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** During kick offs, goal kicks, for injured players or your own throw-in, (Both teams may substitute if the team in possession elects to substitute). There are no substitutions on the fly.
8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- Adult – maximum 25 players
  - 16U and 19U – maximum 22 players
  - 14U – maximum 18 players
  - 12U – maximum 16 players
  - 10U – maximum 12 players
  - 8U and younger – maximum 8

**D Law IV - Player's Equipment**

Proper soccer equipment shall be used in all games, and is subject to inspection and rejection by the referee.

- a. Teams must wear a proper uniform during the regular season and in post season games. The home team shall change uniforms when both teams have similar colors. The first team listed on the game schedule is the home team.
- b. Proper uniform consists of like-colored shirt with appropriate number, like-colored shorts, like-colored socks, shin guards and shoes meeting the standards set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda. (No toe cleat allowed) Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high. No jewelry is allowed. No headgear is permitted. Teams are allowed to put the team name on the front of the shirt and player names on the back of the shirt above the number. Advertisement of sponsors will be allowed on shirts not to exceed 4 X 11 inches. Executive Board must approve all advertisements before shirts are printed.
- c. Long sleeve shirts or sweat shirts may be worn under the uniform.
- d. Pants over shorts may be worn if approved by the referee on the field.
- e. Players may not play with a hard cast.

**E Law V - Referee \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB with the following exception:**

**B**

In 9U through 19U divisions, if a referee fails to appear, the game will be rescheduled. Should the referee become incapacitated during a game, he or she will turn control over to the senior assistant referee assigned to the game, who shall conduct the game to its conclusion.

IN THE 8U,7U,6U AND 5U AGE DIVISIONS, THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

- 1. Registered Referees
- 2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach

3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
5. Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.
6. NO REFEREES ARE ASSIGNED TO THE 4U AGE DIVISION.

- F Law VI - Assistant Referee**  
Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for 9U and older There are no Assistant Referees in 8U and younger.
- G Law VII - Duration of Game**  
**Age Groups Length of Periods Length of Overtime**  
Adult  
Two 45 min. Two 15 min.  
YOUTH  
19U Two 45 min. Two 15 min Overtime Period  
16U,17U and18U Two 40 min. Two 15 min Overtime Period  
13U and14U Two 35 min. Two 10 min Overtime Period  
11U and 12U Two 30 min. Two 10 min Overtime Period  
9U and 10U Two 25 min. Two 10 min Overtime Period  
7U and 8U Four 12 min. No Overtime  
5U and 6U Four 10 min. No Overtime  
4U Four 10 min. No Overtime
- H Law VIII - Start of Play \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.**
- I Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB.**
- J Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* U4 through U8 age divisions may not score from their own half of the field. All other age divisions conform with IFAB except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player.**
- K Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger there is no offside and for 9/10U there is not offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.**
- L Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct**  
1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground." Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per IFAB laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.  
2.It is not intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.  
3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.  
4. 10U and 9U – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line.  
5. 12U and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.
- M Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for all free kicks are indirect kicks in 8U and younger and opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.**
- N Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for no penalty kicks in 8U and younger.**
- O Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for 7U and 8U are allowed a re-throw and 6U and younger are allowed to re-kick.**
- P Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least ten feet from the ball.**

- Q Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\* Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least ten feet from the ball.**
- R Game Cancellation Due to Weather\*\*\*Games will be cancelled in the 4U, 5U and 6U age divisions if the temperature or wind chill falls to twenty five (25) degrees or lower at the scheduled game time.**
- S Teams may pay for additional coaching to be provided to the players but a fee cannot be required for a player to participate on a recreational team. Paid coaches must work with the whole team, whether or not all players have paid a coaching fee.**
- T The Coach or Manager must present an official roster listing all players names with a picture of each player to the Referee or Assistant Referee prior to the start of each game. The roster may be an official GotSoccer printed roster or on an electronic device displaying an official GotSoccer roster. The Referee or Assistant Referee shall verify that each player is eligible and dressed appropriately to play in said game.**
- U. Home team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict. Home team will occupy either the North or West side of the field unless said field is set up for the teams/players to be on the opposite side of the field from the spectators.**

**Men 6 V 6 With Keeper**

**Law 1 The Field**

1. The field shall be the size of a U10 field.

**Law 2 The Ball**

1. The ball shall be size five (5)

**Law 3**

1. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time-six (6), one of whom shall be designated as a goalkeeper.
2. The minimum number of players for the game to be played is five (5).
3. Substitution:
  - a. During kick offs, goal kicks, for injured players or your own throw-in, (Both teams may substitute if the team in possession elects to substitute). There are no substitutions on the fly.
  - b. Team must have a minimum of four (4) players for the game to be played.
  - c. Team may be coed if desired.
4. The maximum number of players on a roster is twenty five.

**Law 4 Players Equipment**

1. Conform to IFAB. (No jewelry is allowed.)

**Law 5 Referee**

1. One Grade 8 Registered Referee or above.

**Law 6 Assistant Referee**

1. Not required

**Law 7 Duration of Game**

1. The game will be divided into two equal forty (40) minute halves. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 8 The Start of the Game**

1. Conform to IFAB

**Law9 Ball in and out of Play**

1. Conform to IFAB

**Law 10 Method of Scoring**

- 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 11 Offside
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 13 Free Kicks
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 14 Penalty Kick
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 15 Throw In
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 16 Goal Kick
  - 1. Conform to IFAB
- Law 17 Corner Kick
  - 1. Conform to IFAB

## H Modified Rules for Coed

### Law 1 The Ball

- 1. The ball shall be size five (5).

### Law 2 The Number of Players

1. The maximum number of players on the field of play at any one time-nine (9), one of whom must be designated as a goalkeeper. The game may start with six players, (4 males and 2 females). There will be a maximum of five male players on the field of play at any one-time. The minimum number of players for the game to be played is five (5), two of which must be female. The maximum number of players on a roster is twenty five (25).

2. Substitutions may be made on teams own throw in only, unless the opposing team substitutes on their own throw in, then both teams may substitute. A player that is cautioned (given a yellow card) must be substituted and may not re-enter the game until the next available legal substitution.

### Law 3 Players Equipment

- 1. Conform to IFAB. (No jewelry)

### Law 4 Duration of Game

- 1. Two equal forty (40) minute halves. There shall be a ten (10) minute break between halves.

### Law 5 Referee

- 1. One Grade 8 Registered Referee or above.

### Law 6 Offside

- 1. None

### Law 7 Fouls and Misconduct

- 1. Slide tackling is not allowed. Slide tackling implies that two players are involved. Slide tackling will be cautioned by a yellow card and, if the tackle is violent, an ejection can be given. Play will be restarted by a direct kick by the fouled team. If the foul occurs in the 18 yard box, a penalty kick will be awarded.

### Law 8 The Start of the Game

- 1. Conform to IFAB

### Law 9 Ball in and out of Play

- 1. Conform to IFAB

Law 10 Method of Scoring

1. Conform to IFAB

Law 11 Offside

1. None

Law 12 Kicks

1. A punted ball by the goalkeeper, an indirect restart from inside the six (6) yard box, and a goal kick must touch the ground before crossing the midfield line. Play will be restarted at the approximate point of crossing midfield line by an indirect free kick by the opposing team.

Law 13 Free Kicks

1. Conform to IFAB

Law 14 Penalty Kick

1. Conform to IFAB

Law 15 Throw In

1. Conform to IFAB

Law 16 Goal Kick

1. Conform to IFAB

Law 17 Corner Kick

1. Conform to IFAB

Section 2 Games

A Each team will be limited to two reschedules per soccer season. It will be the responsibility of the team initiating the change to present to the appropriate officer an agreement by both coaches, not later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date the game was originally scheduled. Abuse of reschedules will be reviewed by the Executive Board.

B Games may be postponed if the referee declares the ground unplayable.

C Teams failing to start five minutes after the referee's order shall forfeit the game.

D All games shall be played in two equal halves, with the exception of the 4U, 5U, 6U, 7U and 8U age divisions who play with four equal quarters under modified playing rules, and the halves shall be as follows:

9U/10U 25 Minute Halves

11U/12U 30 Minute

13U/14U 35 Minute Halves

15U/16U 40 Minute Halves

17U/18U/19U 45 Minute

Halves

E No substitution shall be allowed for a player ejected from the game by the referee.

F Teams refusing to play or continue after being so ordered by the referee shall forfeit the game.

G Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie, none for a loss. The point system is used to determine seeding for the post season tournament. In divisions where there is an uneven number of teams and each team does not play every team in that division twice, the results of the first match the two teams played is thrown out of the season standings and the points for said match do not count toward placement for that season. If two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the regular season, and neither team has defeated the other during regular season play, GWFSAs post season tournament tie breaker procedure will be used to determine placement.

H The two referee system will not be allowed.

### Section 3 Post Season Tournament Rules

A Each team must notify the tournament director before the finish of week six's (6) games by posting a performance bond, the amount of which will be set by the Executive Board, if they want to play in the post season tournament. A team will not be allowed to enter after this deadline.

B All teams will be seeded into the Tournament based on their regular season finish. The number of teams participating in each age group will determine the elimination bracket that will be used.

#### C Post Season Tournament Rules of Play:

1. Each team must have numbered alternate jerseys or numbered T-shirts available with a unique number for each player. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected. Home Team is team listed first on schedule. Home Team will change jerseys if there is a color conflict. Home Team will occupy either the North or West side of playing field, except at complexes which are setup for teams/players to be on the opposite side of the field from spectators.

2. A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team is not ready to play at the published time of the mini-games and within ten (10) minutes of the full-length games. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five (5) minutes of the referee's designation.

3. A game shall be declared a forfeit by the Cup & Games Committee or tournament committee if an ineligible player participates in a game. Any protest of ineligible player must be reported in writing, with either a twenty five dollar (\$25) cashier's check, money order or cash deposit before the end of the game to the tournament field headquarters.

4. Teams will play Mini-Games in preliminary & quarter-final games. Semi-final and Final games will be full length. Half-time will be five (5) minutes.

#### **DIVISION MINI-GAME LENGTH**

**10U 20 Minute Half**

**12U 25 Minute Half**

**14U 25 Minute Half**

**16U 30 Minute Half**

**19U 30 Minute Half**

#### **DIVISION FULL LENGTH AND OVERTIME PERIODS**

U10 25 Minute Halves (2) 10 Minute Halves

U12 30 Minute Halves (2) 10 Minute Halves

U14 35 Minute Halves (2) 10 Minute Halves

U16 40 Minute Halves (2) 10 Minute Halves

U19 45 Minute Halves (2) 10 Minute Halves

5. Brackets with three (3) or four (4) teams that play each other within the bracket, the teams with the highest total points will advance from the bracket. Three (3) team brackets that play crossover games with other three (3) team brackets, the team with the highest total points of the two (2) brackets will advance. Mini games may end in a tie. If Quarter Final games end in a tie, IFAB "kicks" from the penalty spot will be taken to determine the winner. If semi-final or final games end in a tie, two (2) overtime halves will be played, and if the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, IFAB "kicks" from the penalty spot will be taken to determine the winner.

**GWFS**A scoring system for mini-games will be as follows:

a. 6 points for a win

b. 3 points for a tie

c. 0 points for a loss

d. 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3

e. 1 point for a shutout (not allowing opponent to score)

f. A forfeit game will be scored at a 3-0 win in calculating mini-games points for tiebreaker determination.

In age brackets that contain flights with different numbers of teams, points will be determined on a 10-point system. All teams will divide points by total games scheduled.

**GWFSA** tiebreaker system for mini-games will be as follows:

If two or more teams are tied in points after their mini-games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine the team advancing:

- a. Head to Head game results - winner will advance.
- b. Most number of “shutouts” - team with most “shutouts” will advance.
- c. Goal differential – team with highest goal differential (goals scored – goals against) against opponent will advance (maximum of three (3) goal differential). (Example: A 7-0 game = 3-0 in calculating advancement; a 10-4 game=3-3 in calculating advancement).
- d. Fewest goals allowed - team with fewest goals allowed will advance.
- e. Fewest accumulation of caution points, 1 point for yellow and 2 points for red.
- f. Penalty kicks

These tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement.

6. The “Wild Card” team is the second place team with the highest number of points. The “Wild Card” team will be determined by the following procedure in age divisions with an unequal number of teams (4-4-4; 4-3-3; etc.) in brackets. Each team in the age division will divide their points by total games scheduled to determine the team with the highest percentage. The team with the highest percentage will advance to the next level of play. In the event of a percentage tie between teams, then the tiebreaker procedure in five (5) above will determine the “WildCard”.

7. Each team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field to start the game. There must be a minimum of seven (7) to continue the game.

8. There will be free substitution, with the referee’s consent, at the following times:

- A player receiving a yellow card (the player carded only)
- Prior to a throw-in for the team in possession only
- Prior to a goal kick
- After a goal by either team
- After an injury, when the referee stops the play
- At half-time by either team
- In case of extreme heat, at the referee’s discretion

9. Any send-offs should be reported to the Tournament Committee immediately following the game. Any player or coach sent-off (other than on account of receiving two cautions in the same game) shall automatically sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the send-off occurred in the last game of the tournament for that player or coach, in which case such player or coach would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played). If the send-off was for fighting, or if it is the player’s second tournament send-off, the player will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament. Any player receiving three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in the tournament must sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the third caution occurred in the last game of the tournament for that player or coach, in which case such player or coach would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played). The GWFSA Cup & Games A&D Committee has the right to hold a hearing and increase the suspension at its discretion.

10. All referee decisions are final. No protests will be allowed, except for ineligible player.

11. The tournament director, or their designee, is empowered to make all decisions regarding the competition during the tournament.

12. The decision of the Chairman of Cup & Games or Tournament Director is final in all matters. No appeals will be allowed beyond that point.

13. In the event the referee or linesmen are missing from the field, report immediately to your Field Coordinator. In the event the linesmen are not available, each team is required to provide a “club linesman”.

14. If a game is played into the second half but is stopped short of full time, other than acts on the part of one of the teams, the game shall be considered complete. Full-length games, if tied will be determined by the tiebreaker procedure.

15. In the event of inclement weather, format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the tournament committee.

16. All scores will be turned in to the Tournament Director by the coach of the winning team and the referee immediately following each game.

17. Any team that withdraws from a tournament after week seven (7) of the regular season or does not complete all required scheduled games, will forfeit their performance bond.

18. To be eligible to represent GWFSA at the tournament of champions, a team must play in the fall season and win the post season tournament unless there is only one team in the age division and present a performance bond in the amount which the GWFSA has to present to NTSSA when entering a team. The bond will be refunded if all games are completed at the NTSSA tournament. The bond will be forfeited to the association's treasury if the team does not complete the games at the NTSSA tournament.

19. Every player must play fifty (50) per cent of the each game including any overtime periods.

### Article 3 Conduct

#### Section 1. Conduct on the Field

A Any case of misconduct on the field of play, which is reported, shall be reviewed by the A&D Committee. These reports shall be written within seventy two (72) hours of the incident. The A&D Committee shall impose appropriate disciplinary measures to prevent any recurrence of each misconduct.

B Referees shall report to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (A&D Chairman) any violations of the rules and regulations by players, team officials, or fans. These reports must be made within forty eight (48) hours of the incident.

C Youth Cumulative Card System (Includes Coaches and Assistant Coaches):

The GWFSA shall operate the NTSSA Cumulative Card System as fully stated in the NTSSA administrative rule book, such System being summarized as follows:

A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:

a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

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

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

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

c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all NTSSA sanctioned activities.

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

a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth



yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

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

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

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

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

The "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by GWFS A, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents GWFS A, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as to the GWFS A. The GWFS A shall promptly (within ten (10) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association

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

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the GWFS A and the State A & D Committee.

Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled game (including league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) that such individual's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension. All game suspensions must be reported immediately to the State A&D Committee. GWFS A Officials making the report will forward a copy of any referee's Misconduct Report(s) which underlie the suspension. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct.

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

**Extreme Violent Conduct**

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

**D 3.11.3 Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches**

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

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

a. **12 points** Sent off from game due to Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting at Opponent/Person, Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity or Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language For ejection from a game due to misconduct after receiving a caution, except for twelve (12) point offenses as stated above, points will be based on two (2) cautions.

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

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

**a. FOUR POINTS**

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

**b. THREE POINTS** 1) Deliberate, tactical obstruction.

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

**c. TWO POINTS**

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

**d. ONE POINT**

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

**3. ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS**

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

**4. SEND-OFF**

- a. One Send-off - One Game Suspension and a fifty (50) dollar fine.
- b. Second Send-off - Two Game Suspension

c. Third Send-off - Suspension pending A&D - Committee Inquiry

## 5. FINES

a. All fines must be paid before the player is eligible to participate in any future games for the team for which he /she played when receiving the red card.

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

6. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as the GWFSA. The GWFSA shall promptly (within ten (10) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the GWFSA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Extreme Violent Conduct:

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

## E 3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators

1. Each team (youth and adult) in GWFSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he is unable to do so, GWFSA is directed to take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself. GWFSA shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.

2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:

a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.

b. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.)

- c. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
- d. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
- e. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal “peace bond”.

**F 3.11.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

1. **Youth Association Teams** a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the GWFSA A&D Committee to explain the team’s continued misconduct. If desired, GWFSA may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. Failure of GWFSA to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team’s seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team’s spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

b. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) Tournament Officials shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth send-off. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the committee to explain the team’s continued misconduct. Failure of Tournament Officials to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team’s fourth will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team’s spectators or against that team during league play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

2. **Adult Association Teams** a. When the players/coaches/team representatives/spectators of a given team have accumulated a combined point limit for that team, based on five (5) points per scheduled league game, per season, as described in the “**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**”, the Adult Member Association will notify the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the NTSSA Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team’s continued misconduct.

b. The GWFSA will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

**3. All Association Teams**

a. The GWFSA holds the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his other players, parents, and spectators.

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

**G 3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee**

1. North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee, in any competition by the GWFSA. This jurisdiction includes:

- a. All USSF registered referees (adult and youth).
- b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
- c. Any coach, parent or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.

2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, the appropriate State Commissioner (Adult Men’s, Adult Women’s, Youth or Indoor), the Olympic Development Program Chairman and the

Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.

3. Should the majority of the members of the subcommittee listed above in Paragraph 3.11.7.2 of the NTSSA By Laws determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault or referee abuse, a formal hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act upon or towards a game official as defined in Paragraph 3.11.7.1 of the NTSSA By Laws shall be deemed “referee assault” or “referee abuse” in the NTSSA under the terms, references, and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9.

If the subcommittee determines there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault, the committee, at its discretion, may suspend the individual involved until the hearing on the alleged assault.

Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.11.7-2 above, determine the action committed to be Misconduct Towards a Referee rather than Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, it shall impose an administrative punishment of a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the suspended party. Should a formal hearing be requested and held, it shall be an NTSSA Executive Committee hearing as described in Paragraph 3.11.7.4.

#### 4. State Executive Committee Hearing

Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Executive Committee in the following manner:

a. The alleged offending party should be present at such hearings, however, if he is not present, the State Executive Committee will act upon the matter with the information before it.

b. The game official(s) are required to be present at the hearings. However, if they are not present, the State Executive Committee will act upon the matter with the information before it.

c. It is intended that the officials’ reports be clear and that no explanations are required at the hearing. Only the State Executive Committee will question the official(s). If the offending party or any other party or any other person(s) need explanation, such queries will be addressed through the Chair.

#### 5. Terms and References

a. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.). Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

b. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee’s personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece”, shall be deemed referee abuse.

c. Misconduct towards a referee means persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or abuse as provided under Federation Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:

a. excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;

b. statements that diminish the authority of the referee;

c. statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.

d. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:

1. confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;

2. spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;

3. throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;
4. re-entering the field.

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:

- a. if a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
- b. if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.

#### 6. Penalties and Suspensions

##### a. Referee Assault

The person committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

1. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least three (3) months from the time of the assault;
2. except as provided in clause one (1) or two (2), for any other assault, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
3. for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
4. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

##### b. Referee Abuse

The person committing the referee abuse shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

##### c. Misconduct Towards a Referee

The person committing the misconduct towards a referee shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

d. Any suspension assessed against an individual under this section does not effect any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league for a violation that is not referee assault or abuse.

7. Any party found to have committed the act of referee assault, referee abuse, or misconduct towards a referee shall have the right to appeal, within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, to the **USSF Appeals Board**, following **USSF Bylaw 705**.

#### 8. Assault On Officials By An Adult Player

Should a player (male or female) be found guilty of referee assault, the State Executive Committee may, at its discretion, impose upon the team of which the player is a member, the requirement of posting a \$1,000 cash bond to be held in the treasury of **NTSSA** without interest for a period of one (1) year after posting. This cash bond will be required to be posted before the team may engage in any further games within the boundaries of **NTSSA**. Should any other member of said team be found guilty of a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the team shall forfeit the bond, and another similar bond will be required before the team can continue in competition. If no member of the team commits a referee assault during that one (1) year period, the bond will be returned to the person or persons designated to receive such payment. No member of such team which has failed to post such bond will be permitted to register with another team until that member has posted a \$50 bond with **NTSSA**; nor shall any new member be allowed to register on that team until such member has posted a \$50 bond, such bonds to be held under the same terms and conditions as the team bonds.

The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend towards numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

##### Conduct off the Field

- a. Any case of misconduct off the field which affects this association shall be reported to the A&D Committee for review. These reports shall be in writing and submitted within seventy two (72) hours of such incidents.
- b. Any actions by the members of this association that are considered detrimental to the association or its members shall the offenders to penalties which may include suspension,

finer, or expulsion from the association.

Section 3

Appeal of A&D Decisions

Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be appealed to the Executive Board of the Association. An appeal must be submitted in writing and received within five (5) days of the appealed decision. All appeals must be accompanied by a cashier's check or money order in the amount of twenty five (\$25) dollars. The decision of the Executive Board may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals and Disciplinary Committee in accordance with applicable NTSSA By Laws and Rules and Regulations.

Article 4

Game Protests

Section 1

Protests

- A. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game. They are as follows:
  - 1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
  - 2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the rules of the game that directly affects the outcome of the game and the referee admits it.
- B. No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the GWFSA referee staff.
- C. All protests must be presented in writing, accompanied by a cashier's check or money order in the amount of twenty five (\$25) dollars to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the association by mail, postmarked, or in person, within forty eight hours after the game in question. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld, or if it is not an acceptable cause as defined in subsection A(1) and (2), the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of the association.
- D. The A&D Committee will conduct the hearing on all protests. It shall be at the discretion of the committee to consult with the coach filing the protest, coach of the opposing team of the game in which the objection occurred, and the referee. It will be the responsibility of the A&D Committee Chairman to notify all applicable parties including the Association Secretary and Chairman of Referees of the decision, which will be final.

Article 5

Pride Teams

Section 1

Governing Body

All play and participation in the Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association All Star Team Program shall be governed by Articles of Incorporation, By Laws and Rules and Regulations of the association except where specifically modified by this Article and shall abide by the NTSSA rules and regulations governing such teams.

Section 2

Name

The name of the organization shall be Wichita Falls Pride.

Section 3

Purpose

To stimulate player growth and development by providing opportunities for a higher level of competition and upper level of play.

Section 4

Age Groups

- A Under 11 through Under 19 teams. (Must be ten before July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current soccer year)
- B There may be more than one girls or boys All Star Team per single age bracket.
- C Players may play up (in older age bracket), but may not play or be rostered on more than one All Star Team at the same time.

Section 5

Players

- A Only players registered and actively playing with the GWFSA are eligible for the GWFSA All Star Team Program.
- B Players must be on both GWFSA Recreational Division Team roster and the All Star Team roster.

Section 6

Coaches

- A Any coach desiring to form an All Star Team may do so by advising the All Star Committee. A parent, coach or assistant coach is not disqualified as a team manager.
- B A manager or coach may be removed from the position by a two thirds majority vote of the All Star committee at a meeting called for that purpose after notice to all parties involved.
- C The Team manager of an All Star Team will be responsible for carrying out all necessary functions involved in the management of All Star affairs, relieving the Coach of all such responsibilities.
- D Any Coach wishing to coach an All Star Team must notify the All Star Committee in writing indicating the age division and his personal qualifications. Approval may be granted by a simple majority vote of the committee.
- E An All Star Team coach may not be a coach or assistant coach of record for a recreational team in the age division in which he is coaching such All Star Team.
- F All Star Team coaches may not practice/play/participate with non registered players.
- G All Star Team coaches or managers may not influence players to become free agents for the purpose of changing recreational teams.

Section 7 Teams

- A All Star Teams may only participate in NTSSA sanctioned or approved tournaments designated for All Star or select teams or friendly games.
- B All Star Teams must notify their respective age commissioner of the time and place of their team tryouts at least two weeks in advance of such a tryout.
- C All Star Team tryouts shall be held at least once a year. Said tryouts shall be held during the fall from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> or during the spring from February 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- D The coach of any All Star Team shall be solely responsible for choosing the players for the team which he coaches.
- E All Star teams may receive monetary sponsorship and may display name of the sponsor in whatever manner they deem appropriate.

Section 8 All Star Committee

- A The All Star Committee shall be made up of and consist of the GWFSA President, the Recreational All Star Commissioner, who will be elected by the Pride Committee, and one coach and one manager from each registered All Star Team. Each registered All Star Team is entitled to be represented by one vote at Pride Committee meetings and all GWFSA meetings.
- B All protests and inquiries concerning All Star Team affairs are to be brought directly to the All Star Committee. Decisions may be appealed to the GWFSA Executive Board.
- C The color of the uniform shall be governed by a majority vote of the All Star Committee, and matters not specified herein shall be governed by a majority vote of the All Star Committee

Article 6  
Special Events

- Section 1 Any request for a special event or tournament must be submitted in writing and be received by the Executive Board not less than ninety (90) days before the proposed event. All applications and pertinent releases must be submitted to the Executive Board Secretary before approval of the event. Requests for special events and tournaments will be considered on a first submitted basis.

Article 7  
Code of Ethics/Conduct

**GWFSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES**

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

**ARTICLE I - RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS**



1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate NTSSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
8. A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.

#### **ARTICLE II - RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND GWFSA**

1. Adherence to all NTSSA and GWFSA rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the Division Commissioner or Players Advocate immediately.
4. A coach's dealings with NTSSA and GWFSA (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to NTSSA and GWFSA (including playing leagues).

#### **ARTICLE III-RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, GWFSA, NTSSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

#### **ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS**

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

spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.

4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

#### **ARTICLE V - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING**

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

2. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.

3. All GWFSA and NTSSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.

4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.

5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.

6. When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.

7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.

8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

#### **ARTICLE VI - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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

2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.

3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, GWFSA, and NTSSA.

4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.

5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.

6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, GWFSA or NTSSA to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

#### **ARTICLE VII - GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.

2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.

3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.

4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.

5. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.

6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

7. Coaches must act in a professional manner at all times when in the presence of players, whether at games,

practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming an adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lewd gestures or remarks
- Overly critical remarks
- Ranting and raving
- Snide or demeaning remarks
- Threatening behavior or remarks
- Physical confrontations
- Temper outbursts

#### **GWFSFA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
2. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
3. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
4. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
5. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
6. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, **NOT YOURS!**
7. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
8. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
9. Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.
10. Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.