RULES OF PLAY OF
FORT WORTH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
(Revised May, 2010)

1. **FIFA RULES GOVERN**
    a. The Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA control except as provided hereafter by this Association.
    b. The affiliate stepladder of rules is:
        i. Federation International de Football Association (FIFA)
        ii. United States Soccer Federation (USSF)
        iii. United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA)
        iv. North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA)
        v. Fort Worth Youth Soccer Association (FWYSA)
2. **SOCCER YEAR**
    a. The soccer playing year shall begin on August 1st and end on July 31st of the following year.
    b. The soccer playing year shall contain two seasons, Fall and Spring. The Fall season may begin in August. The Spring season may begin in January.
3. **"RECREATIONAL" AND "SELECT" SOCCER**
    a. FWYSA forms teams that are recreational in nature who participate in recreational leagues administered by FWYSA, or other associations who are members of NTSSA. It is the intent of FWYSA to insure that the recreational program is not abused by the formation of illegal recreational teams that may in fact be "select" teams.
    b. Teams are classified as "recreational" or "select" (select teams are also called "tryout" or "competitive" teams) based on these criteria:
        i. Recreational team.
            1. A team is classified as a recreational team if it is made up of players who are placed on teams based upon factors other than athletic ability. FWYSA permits teams to remain together from season to season; therefore, a player on such a team's roster for the immediate preceding season has the right to stay on the team for the next season (so long as they register before the prescribed deadline). Sufficiently prior to the registration deadline, FWYSA shall insure that all players on a recreational team roster have been contacted and given the opportunity to timely register (return registration form and pay appropriate fee to FWYSA) in order to remain on the recreational team for the following season. New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are filled by the Playing Committee on a territorial basis (e.g., neighborhood schools, zip codes, etc.)
            2. Players' names must not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. New and/or non-returning players shall not be considered as placed on any team until the team's roster is delivered to the coach of record at each pre-season coaches meeting. Only the head coach may request her or his child to be placed on to the team that she or he is coaching. Each team's coach, assistant coach, team manager or other team representative shall not have authority to place any other player on a recreational team and has no authority to advise any other player that they are on a special team's roster.
            3. For Under 11, 12, 14, 16, and 19 playing age groups, players are assigned by the method described in paragraph a. 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 FWYSA to be added to the team as long as no methods are used to assess the ability of the player, and:
                a. the player is not presently registered on an existing team; and
                b. the player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.
            4. FWYSA requires that all head coaches and assistant coaches for recreational soccer teams be volunteers (preferably parents). The distinction between volunteer and paid coaches is one of many differences between recreational and select soccer. A recreational team may, however, pay a skills coach under the following guidelines:
                a. the skills coach will register with FWYSA and complete the requisite Risk Abuse Statement;
                b. the skills coach is limited to working with any one team a total of eight sessions each season, and such skills sessions should be in addition to the regular practices;
                c. the skills coach does not coach scheduled games;

d. each player will not pay more than $5 per session, and payments are not mandatory. If a player and his/her parents cannot afford the fee or otherwise prefer not to pay for skills training in recreational soccer, they cannot be treated any differently for not participating.

ii. Select or competitive teams--are those which are formed of players assigned in any manner other than that described above. FWYSA does not form select or competitive teams even though such teams whose players come from within FWYSA's boundaries set forth below are to register through FWYSA and currently play in competitive leagues administered by other member associations within NTSSA.

4. BOUNDARIES

a. The boundaries of FWYSA are the boundaries of Aledo I.S.D. and Tarrant County, except those portions of Tarrant County allocated to other soccer associations by NTSSA.

b. A recreational player must register with the association within whose boundaries which the player resides with the player's parent(s) or guardian(s).

c. A recreational player residing outside of FWYSA boundaries wishing to play on a FWYSA recreational team must obtain a release from the player's home association to play on a that team if the player's home association offers play within the player's age group.

5. DEFINITION OF YOUTH REGISTRANTS

a. Youth registration for soccer players under these rules shall include all those registrants under nineteen years old on the July 31st immediately before the current soccer year.

b. The playing age of a player for the purpose of league play is the player's age on July 31st immediately before the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on August 1st and ends on July 31st of the following year. A player must be at least four years of age on July 31st immediately before the current soccer year to register with FWYSA. Age divisions are comprised of players who are, before August 1st immediately before the current soccer year: Under 19; Under 18; Under 17; Under 16; Under 12; Under 11; Under 10; Under 9; Under 8; Under 7; Under 6; Under 5; and Under 4.

c. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card issued by the uniformed services of the United States, or a Certificate of an American Citizen Born Abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, school, baptismal, or religious certificates are not accepted. FWYSA shall keep a copy of proof of age on all current players.

6. PLAYER REGISTRATION

a. Registered Players

i. Only registered players may play under the auspices of FWYSA. A team that uses unregistered players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said players have participated. The coach of record of a team playing unregistered players may be suspended from further soccer-related activity with FWYSA by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee ("A&D") of FWYSA.

ii. Player registration forms must first be delivered to the office of FWYSA. The forms shall be sent by the FWYSA to the appropriate Age Group Commissioner ("AGC") for team assignment.

iii. No player may appear on a roster if that player has not been placed on the team by the appropriate AGC.

iv. Youth players may only be registered with one youth team at any given time during the soccer year.

v. An individual player wishing to play up an age division may do so only upon the approval of FWYSA's Playing Committee after receiving the player's written request and acknowledgment that the player will be placed in the player pool for assignment by the appropriate AGC. Such player may not request to be placed on a particular team, but shall be placed on a team pursuant to VI.D hereof.

vi. A team wishing to play up out of their age division may do so if parents/guardians of all players on such team provide written notice to FWYSA of their desire to do so. Such team may not request the addition of any specific players to their roster; to the extent necessary to have the appropriate roster size in the older division, players may be added to such team's roster from those available within the player pool according to player placement criteria contained herein, without regard to keeping the team which is playing up age pure in nature. Any such team which chooses to play up an age group must play in the older division in all league games, tournaments or other events under the auspices of FWYSA.

b. Definition of Registered Player

i. In order to be a registered player, the player's name must appear on the team's NTSSA-approved roster form, properly signed by the FWYSA Registrar. Players not on such roster or otherwise eligible to play with that team in a tournament through the proper use of guest player release forms, are considered unregistered players.

ii. The player must have furnished the required proof of age and paid the appropriate fees.

c. Special Considerations and Financial Hardships

i. Financial Aid. FWYSA has limited resources with which to provide financial aid. The goal is to spread these resources as widely as possible and to provide opportunities for as many players as possible. The ability to offer full scholarships is particularly limited. Full scholarships should be requested only in extreme cases. In order to judge financial need, applicants must furnish a copy of the most recent tax return showing total taxable income. Final decisions on granting financial aid are determined by the Executive Committee.

ii. Play Downs. Requests for any physically or mentally challenged player to play in an age group younger than their playing age must be in writing and supported by a certification from a licensed physician, in order to be considered for approval by FWYSA's Playing Committee and the NTSSA's Youth Commissioner. Otherwise, such requests will not be considered.

d. Players are placed on FWYSA teams by the appropriate AGC after giving consideration to the following factors: Player's age and gender, provided that the child is playing within the age group that is the same as the child's playing age; schools; neighborhoods; and zip codes.

7. TEAM REGISTRATION AND FORMATION

a. Registration Format

i. Registration dates shall be determined and made available by FWYSA's Board of Directors. Typically, the deadline for regular registration is 5 weeks before the first season game and the deadline for guaranteeing returning players a spot on their previous team is 9 weeks before the first season game.

ii. Player fees shall be received on or before the deadline date specified for each playing season unless specific arrangements have been made and confirmed.

iii. Player fees shall not be refundable unless the parent/guardian requests the refund in person in the FWYSA office by the deadline established for that season.

iv. Registration requirements will include any documentation required by USYSA, NTSSA, and FWYSA.

b. The age group of a team shall be classified by its oldest player at any given time.

c. Maximum Roster

i. No team (North Texas Soccer does allow 22 players on U16-U19 teams) shall be allowed more than 18 registered players at any given time.

ii. No team roster shall contain more than twice the number of players on the field in a league play.

d. Ineligible or Improper Registration

i. Any team playing an ineligible or unregistered player shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part.

ii. Any coach, assistant coach, or team manager who may be responsible for playing ineligible or unregistered players or carrying "ghost" players on the roster shall be subject to suspension and/or other penalty as may be determined by FWYSA's Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. When ghost players are discovered and single responsibility cannot be determined, the coach of record shall be deemed responsible.

iii. A "ghost" player is any player being carried on a team roster, prior to the deadline for deleting players, but who has not actively participated in practice or games, for the purpose of keeping the Playing Committee from adding players from the playing pool.

iv. All teams and players are subject to roster verification during any competition under the auspices of FWYSA. Coaches are responsible for maintaining current rosters.

8. COACH REGISTRATION

a. Prior to the beginning of each soccer season, all individuals who will be acting as coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and/or team representatives of any team registered through FWYSA shall notify FWYSA in writing of their desire to act in such capacity. The ability to act in such capacity within FWYSA is a privilege granted by FWYSA and not a right. As such, FWYSA, in its discretion, reserves the right to refuse to allow any individual wishing to serve in such capacity, as long as the basis for such refusal is not prohibited by law.

9. RELEASES AND TRANSFERS

a. Releases: NTSSA player release forms may be secured through the FWYSA Registrar or the NTSSA Office by coaches, players, or parents. The only allowed reasons for releasing players from a team are:

i. The player is a persistent discipline problem at practices or games, even after the parents have been notified in writing of the problem by the coach and been given a reasonable opportunity to correct the problem with a copy of the written notification being given to FWYSA.

ii. The player refuses to attend practices or games on a regular basis, even after the parents have been notified in writing of the problem by the coach and been given a reasonable opportunity to correct the problem with a copy of the written notification being given to FWYSA.

iii. The player's parents create problems for the coach, other players, or referee, even after the parents have been notified in writing of the problem by the coach and been given a reasonable opportunity to correct the problem with a copy of the written notification being given to FWYSA.

iv. The player requests a release.

b. Transfers
   i. All players are limited to one transfer per soccer year. If a team disbands first, the number of player transfers is not restricted.
   ii. A player may seek a transfer from the team currently registered. Once the player has a signed release from the coach of record, the player will be placed in the player pool to be assigned to a new team according to 6.d and 7 above.
   iii. If a player changes from one team to another between the Fall and Spring seasons of any given year, a coach must fill out a NTSSA add/delete/transfer registration form. The form must be accompanied by a $5.00 transfer fee.
   iv. No more than three players from any registered team may transfer to one single team, even between Spring and Fall. If a team disbands first, the number of player transfers is not restricted. All requests to transfer must be approved by the FWYSA Playing Committee.

c. Free Agents
   i. A free agent is a player in the U10 (age-pure) and older age divisions who desires to try out or be selected for a competitive team between July 1 and August 31 of the current soccer year. A free agent does not need a release from his or her team to try out or be selected to play on a competitive team.
   ii. The "free agent" rule applies only to those players trying out or being selected for competitive teams. The rule does not apply to movement of players in the recreational leagues.

10. RECRUITING

a. "Recruiting," as it applies to recreational soccer within FWYSA, is any action by any team representative (including but notlimited to a coach, assistant coach, manager, player, or parent/guardian) who induces or entices, or causes to be induced or enticed, by word or action, a player of any team to seek a release from the team to which that player is bound to allow that player to join another team for any purpose. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or other team representative may practice any soccer-related activity with any NTSSA-registered player that does not appear on her/his roster or has written permission or an appropriate guest player release from the player's coach of record.

b. Recruiting or attempting to recruit registered players from any FWYSA recreational team by anyone to play on any other recreational team is strictly prohibited.

c. Offenses
   i. Violations will be determined and punished by the A&D Committee, with a right of appeal to the Board of Directors.
   ii. Any individual or team found to be in violation of this section of these rules shall be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee, including, but not limited to:
      1. Suspension from any soccer-related activities up to a maximum of one year for the first offense. For repeat offenders, action may include longer suspension, expulsion from FWYSA, or other penalties; and
      2. Automatic forfeit of all games in which an illegally recruited player participates. For multiple offenses by the same team, that team may be disbanded.

11. TRYOUTS

a. A tryout is any event that attempts to judge a player's ability and skills for the purpose of placement with a team, whether it is select or recreational.

b. Tryouts for recreational teams are strictly prohibited. This includes a player practicing with a team before being placed on that team's roster by the Playing Committee. This also includes any act of omission or commission to attempt to induce or encourage any player to leave a team due to a perceived lack of ability.

c. Offenders will be dealt with as specified in 10.c above.

12. UNSANCTIONED PLAY

a. Unsanctioned play includes, but is not limited to:
   i. An outdoor or indoor league not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
   ii. An outdoor or indoor tournament not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
   iii. Any game (friendly or scrimmage) with a non-USSF affiliate.

b. Friendly games are games that:
   i. Are not associated with any other games either played or to be played, and they do not lead to any championship;
   ii. Do not lead to any trophy or other award;
   iii. Do not require a fee to be paid by any player or sponsor; and
   iv. Are organized spontaneously.

c. A team or player may apply to the appropriate Playing Committee, League Director, or NTSSA Youth Commissioner to engage in a game or games, and that body may approve it under certain conditions deemed to be in the best interest and enhancement of the game.
d. Youth players who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play void their NTSSA registration and must reapply for reinstatement to their appropriate State Youth Commissioner. Application for reinstatement must be directed to the appropriate State Commissioner along with an appropriate refiling fee.
e. Any appeal concerning the action of the particular State Commissioner shall be made directly to the State Executive Committee of NTSSA, and such complaint shall be acted upon within 15 days by that Executive Committee.

13. THE RIGHTS OF PLAYERS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS--The rights of players and their parents/guardians concerning coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, or anyone who is delegated any team responsibility.

a. If at any time during the course of the existence of a team a coach, assistant coach, team manager, or any individual who is delegated any team responsibility exhibits irresponsibility or character that may be deemed detrimental to the development of a player, that individual may be required to surrender his or her position by FWYSA.
b. A request for such action from parents/guardians must be submitted in writing to the A&D Committee. If that request is signed by at least 50% of a team's parents/guardians (each child's family counting as one signature), the A&D Committee shall hear the request.
c. The A&D Committee shall decide whether to grant the request.
d. Offenders are subject to removal from their position and up to a one-year suspension from all FWYSA soccer-related activities.

14. CODES OF ETHICS

a. Players. All players registered in FWYSA shall abide by the USYSA Player's Code:
    i. Play the game for the game's sake.
    ii. Be generous when you win.
    iii. Be grateful when you lose.
    iv. Be fair always no matter what the cost.
    v. Obey the laws of the game.
    vi. Work for the good of your team.
    vii. Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
    viii. Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
    ix. Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.
b. Coaches. All coaches, assistant coaches, managers and team representatives in FWYSA shall abide by the NTSSA Code of Ethics for Coaches:
    i. Responsibility to Players
        1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of the 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.
        9. In youth recreational tournaments, each player is required to play a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of each game, including overtime. All players on the rostered team must be invited to each tournament in which the team participates.

ii. Responsibility to NTSSA and Member Associations
    1. Adherence to all NTSSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players is 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 appropriate NTSSA Commissioner, Member Association, or Director of Leagues immediately.

iii. Responsibility to Laws of the Game

iv. 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.

v. 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.

vi. 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.

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

viii. 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 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.

ix. Responsibility 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 video tape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
    3. All 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/her 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 video tape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

x. 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, Member Association, 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, Member Associations, or NTSSA to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

xi. 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 shall 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 her/himself 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 postgame responsibility is her/his team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators who 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:
    a. Lewd gestures or remarks
    b. Overly critical remarks
    c. Ranting and raving
    d. Snide or demeaning remarks
    e. Threatening behavior or remarks
    f. Physical confrontations
    g. Temper outbursts

c. Parents. All parents of FWYSA players shall abide by the Parent's Code of Conduct:
i. Children have more need of example than criticism.
ii. Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
iii. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of her or his personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
iv. The opponents are necessary friends. Without them your child could not participate.
v. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
vi. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
vii. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
viii. Remember your children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment--not yours.
ix. Encourage your child to always play by the rules. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
x. Support all effort to remove verbal and physical abuse from your child's sporting activities.
xi. Remember that soccer is a team sport. Encourage your child to work with his or her teammates. Avoid giving special rewards to your child for scoring. No one player wins or loses a game.
xii. 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.

xiii. 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.

15. FWYSA RULES OF COMPETITION. FIFA Laws of the Game Modified.

a. Developmental Player Program Modified Rules. The philosophy of modified soccer is to have fun and teach the younger child skills and sportsmanship in a manner that is consistent with the child's emotional, physical, and mental development. Modified soccer should emphasize enjoyment over competition and offer maximum playing time for each child that allows the most opportunity for touches on the ball. The rules of Play for Youth competition in FWYSA shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as to the following.

i. Law I--Field of Play.

1. Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments and other entities, the following are recommended minimum field and goal sizes: U16-U19—field, 70 yards by 120 yards; goal, 8 feet x 8 yards. 11-U14—field, 60 yards by 100 yards; goal, 8 feet x 8 yards. U9-U10—field, 40 yards by 60 yards; goal 7 feet x 7 yards. U7-U8—field, 30 yards by 50 yards; goal, 6 feet by 12 feet. U4 -U6—field, 20 yards by 30 yards; goal, 4 feet x 6 feet. Goal Size is from the inside of all posts.
2. U4-6 Modified Field Markings. Commissioner may modify field size and goal sizes. Goal lines, touch lines, halfway line, center mark, center circle (3 yard radius), and corner arcs are all marked. Only coaches and players are allowed in the area between adjoining fields on which their team is playing. No goal area, no penalty area, no corner flags or corner arcs, no penalty mark, and no penalty arc.
3. U7-8 Modified Field Markings. Goal lines, touch lines, halfway line, center mark, center circle (5 yard radius), goal area (4 yards from each goal post and 4 yards out from goal line), and corner arc (2 foot radius) are all marked. No penalty area, no penalty mark, and no penalty arc.
4. U9-10 Modified Field Markings. Goal lines, touch lines, halfway line, center mark, center circle (8 yard radius), goal area (6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards out from goal line), penalty area (14 yards from each goal post and 14 yards out from goal line), penalty mark (8 yards into the field of play from the center of goal), and corner arc (1 yard radius) are all marked. Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than six yards from outside the touch line, nor closer than twenty yards to the goal line. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game (and one coach in U6 who may be allowed on the field).

ii. Law II--The Ball. Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows: U14-U19, #5 (standard FIFA); U9-U12, #4; and U4-U8, #3.

iii. Law III--Number of Players. U11 and above—no changes with regards to number of players (rosters are maximum of 18, with North Texas Soccer allowing 22 players on U16-U19 teams). U4-U6—4 field players per side (no goalkeeper allowed). Each team plays two games simultaneously. Each team must have a minimum of 3 players to start and to continue. Maximum roster size is 10. U7—5 field players per side (including goalkeeper). Each team must have 4 players to start and 3 to continue. Maximum roster size is 10. U8—5 field players per side (including goalkeeper). Each team must have 4 players to start and 3 to continue. Maximum roster size is 10. U9—7 field players per side (including goalkeeper). Each team must have a minimum of 6 players to start and 5 to continue. Maximum roster size is 14. Rosters of 14 may not be allowed in some North Texas State Soccer tournaments. U10—7 field players per side (including goalkeeper). Each team must have a minimum of 6 players to start and 5 to continue. Maximum roster size is 14. Rosters of 14 may not be allowed in some North Texas State Soccer tournaments.

1. Substitution Rule for all ages. At a throw-in, by team in possession only; either team, at a goal-kick; either team, after a goal is scored; either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play; at halftime (for all) and between quarters (for U8 and below); when a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for. In addition, referee in U6 may allow substitutions at any stoppage in play.
2. Minimum Playing Time. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play no less than 50% of the time, and preferably no more or less [approximately] than any other teammate present. In FWYSA tournaments, each recreational player is required to play a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of each game, including overtime. All players on the regular season's rostered team must be invited to each tournament in which the team participates.

iv. Law IV—Players' Equipment. No changes.

v. Law V—Referee. No changes.

vi. Law VI--Assistant Referee. No changes for U10 and above. For U8 and below, there are no assistant referees.

vii. Law VII--Duration of the Match. U17-U19—Two 45 minutes halves, 5 minutes halftime. U15-U16—Two 40 minutes halves, 5 minutes halftime. U13-U14—Two 35 minutes halves, 5 minutes halftime. U11-U12—Two 30 minutes halves, 5 minutes halftime. U9-U10—Two 25 minutes halves, 5 minutes halftime. U7-U8—Four 12 minutes quarters, 5 minutes halftime, and two minute break between quarters 1 & 2 and quarters 3 & 4. U4-U6—Four 10 minutes quarters, 5 minutes halftime, and two minute break between quarters 1 & 2 and quarters 3 & 4.

viii. Law VIII--Start and Restart of Play. No changes for U11 and above. U4-6—Opponents must be in their own half of play and 3 yards from center mark at Kick-off, which will take place at the beginning of each quarter. U7-8—Opponents must be in their own half of play and 5 yards from center mark at Kick-off, which will take place at the beginning of each quarter. U9-10—Opponents must be in their own half of play and 8 yards from center mark at Kick-off, which will take place at the beginning of each quarter.

ix. Law IX--Ball In and Out of Play. No changes.

x. Law X--Method of Scoring. No changes. However, no scores are recorded for U4-U6; and no standings are kept for U4 through U8 (though the FWYSA Office may keep such records for the sole purpose of divisioning the next season for U7-8). Participation awards are given to all U4 through U8 players at the conclusion of the season.

xi. Law XI—Offside. No changes for U9 and above. U8 and below—No offside rule.

xii. Law XII--Fouls and Misconduct

1. No changes for U11 and above with the following clarifications: (1) charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is not allowed in any youth play in FWYSA--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"; (2) it is not an intentional "handball" 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) oaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections; and opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
2. U9-10—No changes, except opponents must be 8 yards away from the ball for all free kicks. In U7 through U10 the goalkeeper is considered to have control of the ball when some part of his/her body other than the foot is touching the ball and the ball is not moving.
3. U4 through U8—No penalty kicks, no disciplinary sanctions (yellow or red cards) and no direct free kicks. All fouls result in an indirect free kick with opponents at least 3 yards (for U6) and 5 yards (for U8) away from the ball. A goal may not be scored directly from an indirect kick unless it has been touched by another player. In U7 through U10 the goalkeeper is considered to have control of the ball when some part of his/her body other than the foot is touching the ball and the ball is not moving. Referee must explain all infractions. Slide tackling is strictly prohibited in U4 through U8. Such an offense is considered dangerous play. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the other team.
4. In cases of consistent infringements or very serious violations by players, coaches, parents, or spectators, the referee may provide a written report to the FWYSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

xiii. Law XIII--Free Kicks. No changes.

xiv. Law XIV--Penalty Kick. No changes for U11 and above. U9-10—The penalty kick is taken 10 yards from the goal line in the center of the field. All players must be 8 yards behind the kicker. U4 through U8—No penalty kicks.

xv. Law XV--Throw-In. No changes for U7 and above. U4-U6—No throw-ins. Indirect kicks from the touch line is awarded instead. Opponents must be 3 yards away.

xvi. Law XVI--Goal Kick. No changes for U7 and above. U7-8—we do use penalty areas. U4-6—Goal kicks taken from the goal line, opponents at least 3 yards away, and the ball must travel 3 yards before it can be played.

xvii. Law XVII--Corner Kick. No changes for U11 and above. U9-10—No changes, except opponents must be at least 8 yards away. U7-8—No changes, except opponents must be at least 5 yards away. U4-6—No changes, except opponents must be at least 3 yards away.

b. Divisions and League Standings

i. Divisions will be formed with a minimum of four FWYSA teams or six teams including non-FWYSA teams. Divisions are formed in the following age categories: U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U14, U16, and U19. All divisions are divided between boys and girls. Girls may play on a boys' team,

with the written permission of their parents and the coach to be provided to FWYSA. Boys may not play on a girls' team. If sufficient teams exist each of the above divisions will be further divided into I, II, III, etc. Ideally, teams will be as "age pure" as possible and will be divisioned accordingly. Divisions within playing ages U9 and older should be composed of six teams, except for the lowest division, which should contain between six and eleven teams.

ii. Standings and Awards. Neither scores nor standings will be kept in U4-6. Scores may be kept in U7-8, but will only be used for purposes of divisioning. No standings will be kept in U7-8. U4 through U8 teams will play 8 games per season. All U4 through U8 players in FWYSA will receive participation trophies or equivalent. Scores and standings will be kept in all U9 and above divisions. All U9 and above divisions will play 10 game seasons. Standings are determined by a point scheme, with: 3 points awarded for a victory; 1 point awarded for a tie; and 0 points awarded for a loss. In divisions with four teams, each team plays all other teams three times and plays one team four times—the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play four times will be a non-conference game (will not count in the standings—9 conference games). In divisions with five teams, each team plays all other teams twice and plays two teams three times--the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play three times will be a non-conference game (8 conference games per team—total of 25 games, with total of 5 non-conference games). In divisions with six teams, each team plays all other teams twice and all ten games are conference games (will count in the standings). In divisions with seven teams, each team plays all other teams once and plays four teams twice--the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play twice will be a non-conference game (6 conference games for each team—total of 35 games, with total of 14 non-conference games). In divisions with eight teams, each team plays all other teams once and plays three teams twice--the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play twice will be a non-conference game (7 conference games—total of 40 games, with total of 12 non-conference games). In divisions with nine teams, each team plays all other teams once and plays two teams twice--the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play twice will be a non-conference game (8 conference games for each team—total of 45 games, with total of 9 non-conference games). In divisions with ten teams, each team plays all other teams once and plays one team twice--the first game (as originally scheduled) between teams that play twice will be a non-conference game (9 conference games for each team—total of 50 games, with total of 5 non-conference games). In divisions with eleven teams, each team plays all other teams once and all games are conference games (10 conference games). In any cases in which a conference game cannot be played due to weather cancellations, the FWYSA Playing Committee may decide to use a non-conference game as a conference game. To determine first- and second-places, if two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the season, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used to break the tie (in order from 1 to 8): (1) head to head game results in conference games; (2) goal differential--teams with highest goal differential against opponents in conference games (maximum goal differential in a single game is three); (3) Fewest goals allowed in conference games.; (4) Most shut-outs in conference games ; (5) Fewest yellow/red cards in conference games; (6) Fewest yellow / red cards in all season games including non-conference; (7) Most wins in conference games; (8) playoff game; (8a) two ten minute overtime halves (not sudden death); and (8b) Penalty Kick Shoot-out--following the rules described in FIFA's Instructions Regarding the Taking of Kicks from the Penalty-Mark. Game Reports – Fully filled out and properly completed Game Reports should be submitted to the FWYSA Office or to appropriate locations at the field site within one business day of game. Game Reports should contain the appropriate referee signatures. Any post-game correction/changing of scores on the game report should be initialed by the referee. Scores will typically be posted on the web site (U9 and up) within approximately 2 days of receipt of game report. Thereafter, any error or dispute of posted game results must be verified by both coaches before the posted result will be changed. Trophies - First and Second Place trophies only will be awarded in each division (for U9 and above.

c. Forfeits. If one team does not appear at game time, the referee shall award a forfeit victory to the team that is present. A forfeit victory will be recorded as a 3-0 win. If neither team appears, the FWYSA Office will need to determine which team will be awarded the forfeit victory or whether both teams will receive a forfeit loss (0 points). If a FWYSA team that is scheduled as the home team (and required to pay the referees) does not appear and does not make arrangements to pay the assigned referees, that team will be assessed a fine equal to the referee payments for that game.

d. Referees. Conforms to NTSSA Rules, Policies, and Procedures.

16. DISCIPLINE

a. Any reported infraction of these rules or game misconduct reports should be made in writing to the attention of FWYSA's first vice president. Such matters may be referred to FWYSA's A&D Committee for hearing and decision. Decisions of FWYSA's A&D Committee may be appealed, in writing to FWYSA's Board of Directors, if

done so within five (5) days of the decision by FWYSA's A&D Committee, and accompanied by an appeal fee in the form of a cashier's check or cash in the amount of $50.00. Conforms to NTSSA Rules, Policies, and Procedures.

17. FIELD RULES

a. Cancellations due to Weather. Scheduled games may be cancelled due to conditions dangerous to the players and spectators (e.g., lightning) or conditions detrimental to the playing field. On game days, the President and/or Chairperson of the Fields and Maintenance Committee will make a timely determination and relay any cancellations or delays to the Executive Director in time for a message to be placed on the FWYSA phone and posted upon FWYSA's web page. Weather conditions may develop during the day which would require either the field referee or other authorized individuals to cancel or delay games. If a team is not certain of delays or cancellations, they should proceed to their scheduled field. FWYSA typically does not cancel or delay games due to cold weather. Players should dress accordingly. Sweats and the like are acceptable as long as the uniform jersey and numeral are worn on the outside. Games that are cancelled due to weather prior to start of the second half shall not be counted and will be rescheduled, starting score to be 0-0. Games that are cancelled due to weather after the start of the second half shall be counted as completed, with the score at the time of cancellation recorded as the final score.

b. Jersey Color/Numbers. Customarily, home team is to wear light colored jerseys and visiting team is to wear dark colored jerseys. FWYSA encourages teams to follow this custom to avoid a color conflict. However, because significant color conflicts are relatively rare, and because the important thing is simply to be able to clearly distinguish Team A from Team B by jersey color, FWYSA will generally allow each team to arrive at games in the color of their choice. Should the referee decide there is a color conflict, the home team must be prepared to change jersey color. Note: In any conflict where the home team is wearing white (lightest possible jersey color) , the visiting team will be required to change color. U4-U6 – jersey numbers are acceptable but not required. U7-U8 – jersey numbers are preferred. U9-up – jersey numbers are required

c. Bleachers. Home team will sit on the north or west side of the field. Visiting team will sit on the East or South ("VES") side of the field. Parents/spectators will normally sit on the same side of the field as their team, as this is the way our bleachers are normally set up. Where both coaches agree, particularly in Academy and Tournament play, it shall be acceptable for all players to occupy one side of the field and all parents/spectators to occupy the opposite side of the field.

d. No alcohol, glass containers, or pets are allowed at any FWYSA soccer complex or event under the auspices of FWYSA.

e. All FWYSA Fields are reserved for scheduled games only. Practices are strictly prohibited on FWYSA Fields.

f. Smoking is prohibited inside the perimeter fence of any FWYSA complex.

g. Pets/animals of any kind are prohibited inside the perimeter fence of any FWYSA complex.

18. **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

a. Tournament of Champions. At the end of the Fall Season, North Texas State Soccer sponsors the "Tournament of Champions" in which all associations registered in North Texas send one team in each age and gender division from U10 on up (U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19--boys and girls). FWYSA will send the first-place team in Division I of each of these age and gender divisions. If a FWYSA team is not playing in the FWYSA League, that team may petition the Playing Committee for a Challenge Match(es) against the first-place team. The challenging team will have to pay all referee and field expenses of the match(es). The Playing Committee has complete authority to either accept or deny the petition and, and if accepting the petition, to determine the place and time of the challenge match. Rosters for TOC teams are closed typically as of October 1, and no guest players are allowed. FWYSA will pay initially the entry fees and performance bonds for all divisions with FWYSA teams. However, the FWYSA representative team will have to reimburse FWYSA for the entry fee. The FWYSA representative team will also have to reimburse FWYSA for the performance bond if that team fails to show for the Tournament. The Tournament of Champions is scheduled at fields across the greater Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

b. Uniform Policy

c. Sponsorship. An individual, parents, group, company, or other entity may sponsor a team. Such sponsorship would entail purchasing uniforms and other equipment as agreed upon by the team and the sponsor. Any recognition of such sponsorship on uniforms should be tactful and minimalist. Recognition of sponsorship by any entities related to alcohol, cigarettes, or other products not appropriate for youth sports is prohibited.

d. Field Coverage by Board Members and Field Marshals. FWYSA attempts to have League representatives (Field Marshals) present during the majority of every playing day to answer questions, enforce FWYSA facility policies, hear your concerns, spread good will and encourage good sportsmanship, etc. Field Marshals typically have identifiable clothing. Field Marshals have the backing and authority of the FWYSA Board of Directors to remove disruptive individuals from the FWYSA premises. Field Marshals relay all positive or negative feedback from parents/coaches/players to the FWYSA Board of Directors for due consideration.

e. Scheduling Games. All coaches by a specified date must submit any scheduling preferences for the upcoming season. FWYSA will do its best to accommodate as many of these as possible. Once the schedule is set, the

rescheduling of games on Ft. Worth fields will be done only for reasons of weather-related cancellations. Any team requests for scheduling accommodations must be done by the specified date before the start of the season. FWYSA has concluded that it is an unmanageable, inefficient, confusing, and counter-productive situation to reschedule games once the schedule has been distributed, unless absolutely necessary due to weather cancellations.

f. Coaches Committee. May be established by the Board of Directors to deal with grievances and complaints regarding coaches. In the absenceof such committee, these matters will be dealt with by FWYSA's A&D Committee.

g. Coaches' Training. All U4-6, U7-8, and U9-10 coaches are strongly encouraged to have the requisite Coaches' License ("G" for U4 through U8 and "F" for U9-10) before they begin their third season of coaching.

h. Referee Assignor. Contract awarded by the Board of Directors.

i. Procedures for Applying for Sanction of Tournament. Conform with all NTSSA Rules, Policies, and Procedures. Any agreements with an entity other than FWYSA to sanction a tournament under the auspices of FWYSA must be made by the Board of Directors of FWYSA.