

**Chapter Three  
Laws of the Game  
Of the  
Greater Longview Soccer Association**

**3.1 General**

FIFA Laws of the Game as Modified (recommended 2016/2017, mandatory 2017/2018).

The Rules of play for Adult and Youth competition of NTSSA and the Association shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game. This summary is for general information and should not be used as a document of the fact to resolve disputes.

**3.2 Law 1- The Field of Play**

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the City of Longview Parks Department, the following are recommended field sizes:

Age Groups	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
<u>Adult</u>			
All Ages	Max. 80 yards	Max. 120 yards	8 ft x 24 ft
<u>Youth</u>			
17U-19U	Max. 80 yards	Max. 112 yards	8 ft x 24 ft
15U-16U	Max. 75 yards	Max. 112 yards	8 ft x 24 ft
13U-14U	Max. 75 yards	Max. 112 yards	8 ft x 24 ft
11U-12U	Max. 47 yards	Max. 75 yards	6.5 ft x 18 ft
9U-10U	Max. 30 yards	Max. 47 yards	6.5 ft x 18 ft
8U and younger	Max. 20 yards	Max. 30 yards	4 ft x 6 ft

GLSA Exceptions:

A. Goal Line

No one is allowed behind the goal line.

B. Sideline Coaching

Teams shall coach from only the coaching box. Anyone on the sideline giving instructions will be considered coaching, whether or not they are a coach.

**3.3 Law 2- The Ball**

Ball sizes for various groups will be as follows:

Age Groups	Ball Sizes
13U and older	Size #5
9U through 12U	Size #4
8U and younger	Size #3

**3.4 Law 3- Number of Players and Substitutions**

1. 13U and older shall play 11 v 11.
2. 11U-12U shall play 9 v 9.
3. 9U-10U shall play 7 v 7.
4. 8U and younger shall play 4 v 4, with no goalkeeper.

GLSA Exceptions:

A. 13U and older can play with a minimum of seven players.

B. 9U-12U can play with a minimum of five players.

C. 8U and younger can play with a minimum of three players.

5. Substitution Rule- Youth Under 8 and older
  - A. At a throw-in by team in possession only.
    - a. At a throw-in by the team not in possession so long as the team in possession is also making a substitution.
  - B. Either team, at a goal kick.
  - C. Either team, after a goal is scored.
  - D. Either team at an injury, when Referee stops play.
  - E. At half time or period.
  - F. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.
  - G. In 5U through 8U, the Quarter Substitution System will be allowed.
  - H. The Referee will hold up the game for substitution 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.
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, the referee, 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 a cause for disciplinary action.
7. Substitution rule for Adults- FIFA rules for substitution will apply.
8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year:
  - A. Adult- maximum 15 players
  - B. 15U-19U- maximum 22 players
  - C. 13U-14U- maximum 18 players
  - D. 11U-12U- maximum 16 players
  - E. 9U-10U- maximum 12 players
  - F. 8U and younger- recommend 6, maximum 8 players

### **3.5 Law 4- Players Equipment**

Each player shall have a unique number on the back of his jersey, not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards meeting the standards set forth in the FIFA Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda shall be mandatory.

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. Players on each team must wear shirts of the same color, which distinguish them from the other team.
- B. The goalkeeper must wear colors, which distinguish them from the other players and the Referee.
- C. If both teams have similar uniform colors, then the home team is responsible for resolving color conflicts.
- D. Players must wear matching socks. Tape used on socks must be the same color of the socks.
- E. If tights (sliding shorts) or cold weather gear is worn, then the whole team must match (either all white or all black).

### **3.6 Law 5- Referees**

One referee will be appointed for each game and his judgmental decisions are final. The Referee's authority begins when he enters the field of play and extends until he leaves the area. The Referee shall enforce the Laws of the Game, but shall refrain

from stopping the game advantage to the offending team. The Referee is responsible for the game and can suspend or terminate a game whenever he deems necessary, for example, foul weather or spectator interference. The Referee keeps a record of the game and is the official timekeeper. The Referee can caution or eject a player for violation of the rules. The Referee is required to file a Misconduct Report with the Association on any violation of rules by either team or team official for which a caution was administered; a player, coach, or spectator was sent off the field; or a game was forfeited.

GLSA Exceptions:

A. No Referee

If the assigned Referee fails to appear within 10 minutes after the scheduled game time, or if he becomes incapacitated during the game, any other qualified individual agreeable to both coaches may conduct the game to its conclusion, making note of his substitution on the official report to the Association. If the coaches cannot agree on an individual to conduct the game, then the game shall be abandoned and tried to be rescheduled.

B. Coaches as Referees

In 8U and younger, each coach or his representative may be required to referee one half of the game.

C. Rule Infractions Explained

In 8U and younger, the Referee will briefly explain rule infractions to the offending player.

**3.7 Law 6- Assistant Referee**

Properly trained and registered Referee will be used for 9U and older. There are no Assistant Referees in 8U and younger.

GLSA Exceptions: If there are no assigned linesmen at the Referee's option, then each team shall supply a club linesman.

**3.8 Law 7- Duration of the Game**

Age Group	Length of Periods	Length of Overtime
Adult	two 30-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
17U-19U	two 45-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
15U-16U	two 40-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
13U-14U	two 35-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
11U-12U	two 30-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
9U-10U	two 25-minute halves	two 10-minute halves
7U-8U	four 10-minute quarters	None
5U-6U	four eight-minute quarters	None

GLSA Exceptions:

A. The game will have equal time minutes. Time will be extended only to permit a penalty kick to be taken at or after the expiration of time. The half time interval will not exceed five minutes. There are no timeouts, except stoppage ordered by the Referee.

B. During playoff and championship games, if these games end in a tied score, then the game shall be extended with two 10-minute halves. The Referee shall toss a coin to determine choice of goals to start the overtime period. At the end of the first period, without a halftime break, the teams change ends and kickoff is by the team opposite to that of the first half. If the game is still

tied after overtime, then FIFA “kicks from the penalty spot” will be used to determine the winner.

- C. If a game is suspended because of foul weather before the second half has begun, then the game shall be replayed. If a game is suspended after the second half has been started, then the game shall be considered a full game, and the existing score shall be the final and official score.

### **3.9 Law 8- Start of Play**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.
- B. The visiting team shall call the coin toss.

### **3.10 Law 9- Ball In and Out of Play**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: None

### **3.11 Law 10- Method of Scoring**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. Game scores and league standings will not be recorded in 8U and younger.
- B. In Adult Coed play, a female player may be awarded two (2) points for a goal.

### **3.12 Law 11- Offside**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. There will be no offside in 8U and younger.
- B. There will be no offside in the Adult league.

### **3.13 Law 12- Fouls and Misconduct**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in GLSA. Possession is defined as “one or two hands on the ball, holding it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground.” This applies to goalkeepers in the Adult League.
- B. It is not an intentional handball offense for any player to attempt to protect vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them. The match Referee shall be the sole judge of whether or not the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
- C. Coaches and Assistant Coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the Referee as are the Players; i.e., cautions and ejections.
- D. 9U-10U- no punting is allowed by the goalkeeper. All attacking players must move behind the buildout line.

- E. The first ejection during the soccer year results in suspension from the following game for the ejected player. The second ejection results in a two-game suspension. The third ejection results in NTSSA action.
- F. For the protection of the players, slide tackling in 10U and younger and in the Adult League is not allowed. An indirect free kick will be taken from where the offense occurred.

### **3.14 Law 13- Free Kicks**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: All free kicks are indirect kicks in 8U and younger and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

### **3.15 Law 14- Penalty Kick**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: There will be no penalty kicks in 8U and younger.

### **3.16 Law 15- Throw In**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: 8U and younger, if the first throw-in is incorrectly taken, then the Referee must explain the infraction to the player, and a second throw-in will be allowed.

### **3.17 Law 16- Goal Kick**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

### **3.18 Law 17- Corner Kick**

FIFA: Conform to FIFA

GLSA Exceptions: 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.