

Greater Longview Soccer Association  
 Constitution and Bylaws, Rules and Laws of the Game  
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**Chapter 1**  
**Constitution and By-Laws**  
**Greater Longview Soccer Association**

**1. General**

**1.1 Article One**

The name of this organization shall be **Greater Longview Soccer Association, Inc.** hereinafter referred to as the association or the GLSA.

**1.2 Article Two**

This Association is affiliated with the **North Texas State Soccer Association.** Ultimate affiliation is with the **United States Soccer Federation.**

**1.3 Article Three**

**Within the city limits of Longview, Spring Hill, White Oak, and the Hallsville I.S.D. and the adjacent areas as determined by North Texas State Soccer Association, the purpose of the Association will be:**

- A. To advance and promote the game of soccer.**
- B. To provide the opportunity for fun, recreation, skills, and fair play through team competition.**
- C. To develop the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fellowship.**
- D. To provide competent leadership for attainment of a successful soccer program.**

**1.4 Article Four**

No part of the net earnings of the association shall insure to the benefit of, or distribution to it's members, officers, or other private persons except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions for furtherance o the purposes set forth in Article 1.3 hereof. No Substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign or candidate for public office. Not withstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:

- A. By an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- B. By an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (C)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

### **1.5 Article Five**

The Fiscal year for the Association will begin on September 1 and end August 31 of the following year.

### **1.6 Article Six**

The headquarters of the Association shall be any appropriate meeting place approved by the voting membership, in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas.

## **2. Membership**

### **2.1 Article One**

The members of the Association shall consist of the voting members, sustaining members, and associate members.

### **2.2 Article Two**

Voting members shall consist of members of the Executive Committee of the Association and the official delegate from each member team in good standing each of whom shall be entitled to one vote at all General Association Meetings. The official team delegate or the Association President may authorize an alternate delegate for any given meeting by notifying the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting for which the alternate will apply. No delegate or alternate will be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one team.

### **2.3 Article Three**

Sustaining members (non-voting) shall be the parents or legal guardians of those athletes participating in the Association program.

## **2.4 Article Four**

Associate members (non-voting) shall be those institutions, organizations or person not having a child participating in the Association program, but evidencing a continuing interest in advancement of the game of soccer.

## **2.5 Article Five**

The Executive Board shall determine further qualifications and requirements for membership.

## **3. Government**

### **3.1 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee:

- A. Shall consist of the Executive Board and the commissioners
- B. Shall manage the affairs of the Association. A simple majority of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum.
- C. Shall have a term in the office of one year with no limit to the number of consecutive terms allowed. Their term of office is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.
- D. Can be a member or an official of a team.

### **3.2 Executive Board**

The Executive Board:

- A. Shall consist of the Officers of the Association;
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Tournament Director
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Boys' Director of Player Personnel
  - Girls' Director of Player Personnel
  - Rules, Appeals & Discipline Chairperson
  - Referee Representative
  - Immediate Past President, Member at Large & Parliamentarian
  - Adult Director

- B. Shall be members in good standing in the Association and, except for the Adult Director and Referees' Representative, shall be elected by the majority vote of the Voting Members present at the General Meeting. The Referees' Representative shall be nominated by the Longview Soccer Referee Association and approved by the voting membership of the GLSA. The Adult League Team Managers shall elect the Adult Director.
- C. Will transact all business of the organization. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board member shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.
- D. Shall hold three General Meetings during the year.
- E. May cast one vote at Executive Committee meetings. In the event of a grievance involving his team, the said member may act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.
- F. Shall cast, or appoint members to cast, Association votes at meetings of North Texas State Soccer Association.
- G. Will enforce the Constitution and Bylaws, Policies, Rules, and Laws of the Association.
- H. Will have the power to settle all disputes or protests.
- I. Will coordinate with North Texas State Soccer Association to set rules of play and all requirements for registration of players under its jurisdiction.
- J. Will determine which age groupings will be offered for each season.
- K. Will establish player's fees.
- L. Will employ an Independent Public Accountant to conduct an audit:
  - 1. Every three years, unless one has been done within the last 12 months because of a term of office listed below has ended.
    - a. At the end of the Treasurer's term.
    - b. At the end of the President's term.
    - c. At the end of the Administrative Assistant's term.
- M. An Administrative Assistant will be employed. This Assistant will serve as an ex-official member of the Executive Board.
- N. Shall approve any fund-raising efforts by individual Association members. Without prior approval, individual fund-raising efforts are prohibited.

- O. No Executive Members shall be related as spouse, son, daughter, mother, father, aunt, uncle, or cousins.

### **3.3 Commissioners**

The Commissioners:

- A. Shall be as follows:

- 5U Boys
- 5U Girls
- 6U Boys
- 6U Girls
- 7U Boys
- 7U Girls
- 8U Boys
- 8U Girls
- 9U Boys
- 9U Girls
- 10U Boys
- 10U Girls
- 11U/12U Boys
- 11U/12U Girls
- 13U/14U Boys
- 13U/14U Girls
- 15U/16U Boys
- 15U/16U Girls
- 17U/19U Boys
- 17U/19U Girls

- B. Shall be appointed by the Boys/Girls Director of Player Personnel and approved by majority vote of the Executive Board.
- C. Shall be responsible for organizing the teams and managing the affairs of their respective age groups.
- D. Shall report to their respective Director of Player Personnel.

### **3.4 President**

The President shall be charged with the overall administrative and executive functions of the Association, as chief Executive Officer, the President.



- A. Will be chairman of the Executive Committee.
- B. Will preside at the General Meetings.
- C. Will assign duties to all officers as required.
- D. Will appoint such additional committee, as he deems necessary to carry out the function of the association.
- E. Will make the final decision on game cancellations due to weather or other causes.
- F. Will take prudent, reasonable action in cases not covered herein, and such authority is implicit in the office.
- G. Will chair the training committee.
- H. Will be responsible for producing a schedule every season.
- I. Will coordinate all rescheduling of games through the Referee Assignor.

### **3.5 Vice President**

The Vice President:

- A. Will assist the President in performance of his duties.
- B. Will assume and exercise all the powers of the President in his absence.
- C. Shall be chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee.
- D. Will coordinate and supervise all field maintenance.
- E. Shall be responsible for communications between all registered competitive teams to GLSA.
- F. Shall be responsible for coordinating competitive players' registration with the Registrar.
- G. Shall serve on Competitive League Committee shall one exist.
- H. Shall submit names of Competitive coaches for approval of the Executive Board.
- I. Shall chair the committee on coaching education, shall one be appointed.
- J. Shall oversee the Zero Tolerance Program.

### **3.6 Tournament Director**

The Tournament Director:

- A. Will chair the Tournament Committee, which will consist of the following:
  - Tournament Director
  - Office Administrator
  - Scheduler
  - Referee Assignor
- B. Shall plan, establish, approve, and administer all rules and regulation of GLSA tournaments.
- C. Shall be responsible for fulfilling all requirements of the Tournament Director position.

### **3.7 Secretary**

The Secretary:

- A. Will record the minutes of all meetings, attend to all correspondence, and keep the records of the Association.
- B. Shall keep a complete list of all registered players.
- C. Shall keep on file permanent original records of the Association.
- D. Concession- stand activities.
- E. Will chair the Publicity committee.
- F. Will coordinate the ordering and distribution of awards each season.
- G. Shall be responsible for producing a printed copy of the boys' division, girls' division, and adult league standings that will be given to the Office Administrator for them to be placed on the website.
- H. Shall be responsible for decisions for Registration and submitting current rosters to NTSSA.

### **3.8 Treasurer**

The Treasurer will be assisted by the Greater Longview Soccer Association Office Administrator.

The Greater Longview Soccer Association Office Administrator:

- A. Will collect all monies of the Association and keep detailed account of all expenditures thereof.
- B. Will pay bills approved by the Executive Board.
- C. Will sign all checks on the Association bank account; of checks larger than \$599.99 will countersigned by either the President, or one of the two Executive Board members designated on the bank's check-signing card. Any capital expenditure in excess of \$5,000.00 must be approved by the general membership.
- D. Will submit:
  - 1. A written report at the Annual General Meeting.
  - 2. A verbal report at any other General Meeting upon request of any member of the Association.
  - 3. A written quarterly cash flow statement.
  - 4. File a Form 990 to North Texas State Soccer Association.
  - 5. File a Form 990 to the IRS.

If, due to an illness or some other reason, the Office Administrator is unable to perform the duties of the Treasurer, the Treasurer shall perform them.

The Office Administrator, even though they are performing the treasurers' job, shall not have a board voting privilege.

### **3.9 Boys Director of Player Personnel**

The Boys Director of Player Personnel:

- A. Will chair Boys Player Personnel Committee.
- B. Will be responsible for assigning players to teams according to GLSA By-Laws.
- C. Will supervise the Commissioners of each age division.

### **3.10 Girls Director of Player Personnel**

The Girls Director of Player Personnel:

- A. Will chair Girls Player Personnel Committee.
- B. Will be responsible for assigning players to teams according to GLSA By-Laws.

- C. Will supervise the Commissioners of each age division.

### **3.11 RA&D Chairperson**

The Rules, Appeals, and Discipline Chairperson:

- A. Shall be responsible for presenting RA&D Committee decisions to the Executive Board. This Committee shall be responsible for resolving matters concerning rules, protests, appeals, and discipline for Association play. The Committee shall rule on questions within five days after receipt of the injury.
- B. Shall chair the RA&D Committee. The Committee shall require three members for a quorum and shall serve for one year. The Committee will consist of the Chairperson, Referee Liaison, and five members appointed by the chairperson and approved by Executive Board, one each from the categories below:
  - 1. Coach of Boy's Team.
  - 2. Coach of Girl's Team.
  - 3. Member at Large.
  - 4. Member at Large to act as Secretary.
  - 5. Member at Large who is neither referee nor coach.

### **3.12 Referee Representative**

The Referee Representative:

- A. Shall be a registered Referee.
- B. Greater Longview Soccer Association referees shall elect their representative annually in May. The elected representative shall assume office at the Greater Longview Soccer Association annual August Coaches meeting.
- C. Shall report the activities of the Greater Longview Soccer Association referees.
- D. Shall be responsible for recruiting, retaining and continued education of the Greater Longview Soccer Association referees.

### **3.13 Adult Director**

The Adult Director:

- A. Shall be responsible for communications between all registered adult teams to GLSA.

- B. Shall be responsible for coordination adult registration with the GLSA Registrar and office administrator.
- C. Shall serve on the Adult League Council.
- D. Submit names of adult coaches and managers.
- E. Be elected annually by the adult team managers and ratified by the Executive Council. The GLSA President shall appoint an adult director, if the position is unfilled.

### **3.14 Committees**

#### **A. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Association officers for the upcoming year. The Slate will be presented at the June meeting prior to the August General Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the current Association President, the current Boys Director, the current Girls Director, and a current Boys Coach and Girls Coach approved by the Executive Board. Should any of the above mentioned be unable to serve on this committee, the Executive Board shall appoint a Member at Large to fill the vacancy.

3.14.2 Interested candidates should complete and submit a biography by March 31.

#### **B. Standing Committee**

1. Sponsor Committee
2. Equipment Committee
3. Award Committee
4. Capital Improvement Committee

### **3.15 Appeals of Association Decisions**

Decisions made by the Executive Board or by the General membership of the Association may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association. Appeal of last resort is to the United States Soccer Federation.

### **3.16 Vacancies**

#### **A. Executive Committee**

In the event of a vacancy occurring among the members of the Executive Committee, The President will appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

## B. Presidency

If a vacancy should occur in the Presidency, the Vice President shall succeed to the unexpired term and shall also appoint another member of the Association, with the majority vote of the board, to assume the office and duties of the Vice President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

## C. Other

The President, with majority vote of the Executive Board, shall fill any vacancy not covered elsewhere through appointment until the next Annual General Meeting.

## D. Declared Vacancy

Any member of the Executive Committee who shall be absent for any meetings during their term of office, due to their job, illness or personal matter is excused if they inform the office the reason for missing the meeting. The Executive committee will hold a meeting to discuss declaring a position vacant if a member misses three meetings in a row. All Executive Board Members are required to attend the two General Meetings.

## E. Forced Resignation

Any member of the Executive Committee shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. Any three voting delegates must simultaneously petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee, which shall in turn review the petition and forward copies of the same to all voting members within fourteen days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by majority of voting delegates present at the next meeting, after all member teams have been given fourteen days written notice of such pending petition.

## **4. General Meetings**

### **4.1 General Provisions**

#### A. Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure, as specified by Robert's Rules of Order, shall govern Association Meetings. The President is responsible for order at all meetings.

#### B. Succession Order

The Succession order for Presiding Officer at any Association meeting will be as follows:

Vice President

## Rules, Appeals and Discipline Chairperson

### C. Open Meetings

Association meetings are open to everyone; all affiliated members are invited to attend and discuss any matter. To do so, you shall contact the Association. State what you wish to discuss, and ask to be put on the agenda. You will be notified of the date of the meeting. All delegations should have one spokesperson. The President Officer may place a time limit on discussions.

### D. Closure

Any officer presiding over a meeting may close to the general membership at any portion of the meeting at the officer's discretion.

### E. Binding Resolutions

Resolutions and decisions passed by a majority vote of the members at any General Meeting will be binding upon all affiliated members.

## 4.2 February General Meeting

### A. Meeting Date

This Association shall hold a General Meeting in February in conjunction with team assignments. The General Meeting will be held, followed by team assignments.

### B. Order

The order of business for the February and August meeting shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Communications
4. Unfinished business
5. Reports of Officers and Committees
6. New business
7. Adjournment

## 4.3 August General Meeting

### A. Meeting Date

The August General Meeting shall be in conjunction with team assignments. The General Meeting will be held, followed by team assignments.

### B. Order

The order of business shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Communications
4. Unfinished business

5. Reports by chairperson of Standing Committees
6. Reports of Officers
7. Election of Officers
8. New business
9. Adjournment

#### **4.4 Special Meetings**

A. President Call

Additional General Meetings may be held upon call from the President.

B. Membership Request

One-fifth of the voting membership may request, in writing, that the President call a General Meeting for a specific purpose. The President shall call the meeting within ten days.

#### **5. Amendments**

##### **5.1 Process for Submitting Amendments**

- A. Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Laws of the game must be submitted to the secretary in writing prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow for review by Executive Board before the August General Meeting. The amendment will be discussed, and if needed amended, and voted on at the August General Meeting by the membership.
- B. Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Laws of the game must be submitted to the Secretary in writing prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow for the review by the Executive Board before the February General Meeting. The amendment will be discussed, and if needed amended, and voted on at the February General Meeting by the membership.
- C. The Secretary will post the proposed amendment, etc. on the Web Site after the Executive Board has reviewed. Handouts of the amendment will be available for distribution to the membership before the General Meeting.

##### **5.2 Approval**

Adoption of amendments requires an approval of a two-thirds majority vote by the voting members present.



## **Chapter 2**

### **Rules**

#### **Greater Longview Soccer Association**

#### **2.1 North Texas State Soccer Association**

##### 2.1.1 North Texas State Soccer Association

If any rule is not covered in the Greater Longview Soccer Association Rules, the NTSSA Rules and By-Laws will be followed.

##### 2.1.2 Inadvertent Conflict

NTSSA rules specify minimum requirements. If any Association rule conflicts with a NTSSA Rule, then the NTSSA Rule has Precedence.

#### **2.2 General**

##### 2.2.1 Individual Fund Raisers

All Fundraising efforts by any individual member (s) of the Association is prohibited without prior approval of the Executive Board.

## **2.3 Fields and Equipment**

### **2.3.1 Provisions of Field Equipment**

#### **A. Nets and Flags**

Nets and corner flags are supplied by and are the property of the City of Longview Parks Department

#### **B. Game Balls**

The coaches provide game balls. Each coach will present a ball to the Referee prior to the game. The Referee will judge if the balls are acceptable and, if so, will then select one for the game ball.

### **2.3.2 Preparation of the Fields**

#### **A. Field Marking**

The City of Longview Parks Department is responsible for properly marking the fields of play.

#### **B. Nets and Flags**

The City of Longview Parks Department is responsible for putting up and taking down nets and corner flags.

### **2.3.3 Cleanup**

The Coaches are responsible for helping to keep the fields clean by having their team pick-up around the area after each game.

### **2.3.4 Practice Games on Fields**

Practice and scrimmage games are not allowed on any field at Lear Soccer Complex without written permission from GLSA and Longview PARD.

### **2.3.5 Coaching Box**

#### **A. For all 5U thru 8U Fields:**

A line parallel to and one yard from the touchline will be provided. It will extend from the center toward each goal and will stop at the top of the penalty area. Each line will have a vertical line one yard long going away from the touchline. The vertical lines will be connected to form a box. Coaches will be required to stay within this box. Only the Head Coach and one Assistant Coach will be allowed in the coaching box. Players, parents, and other spectators will be required to be behind the Coaches.

#### **B. For 9U thru 19U Fields:**

1. A line parallel to and one yard from the touchline will be provided. It will extend from the center toward each goal and will stop at the top of each

penalty area. Each line will have a vertical line one yard long going away from the touchline. Coaches will be required to stay within this box. Coaches and players will not be allowed to cross the center stripe when entering and leaving the field. Teams will occupy one side of the field. Home team will be on the right of the centerline facing the field. Only the Coach, one Assistant Coach and Team Manager will be allowed to be with players.

2. Parents and spectators will be required to be located on the opposite side of the field behind a line on their side of the field two yards from the touchline. Players, Coaches, Parents, and Spectators arriving at the field prior to their game, and while a game is still being played will abide by the above rule. No coaching will be allowed on the parents and spectators side. Parents and spectators are not allowed in the penalty area on either side of the sideline.

## **2.4 Team Organization**

### **2.4.1 Teams and Coach Assignments**

- A. A team shall consist of one Head Coach, one Assistant Coach, and the Players. The Head Coach will be approved by the Commissioner and assigned a team by the Executive Committee. The Head Coach and Assistant Coach shall sign the Coach's Code of Ethics.
- B. If a team's Head Coach or Assistant Coach quits or retires during or between soccer seasons, then their child must be re-pooled if the new Head Coach or Assistant Coach comes from outside the team and brings their child on that team.
- C. Any Coach who has not fulfilled his coaching requirements will not be allowed to coach until he has satisfied all requirements. If there are not enough players to fill all teams during the formation process, then the team of the coach who has not filled his coaching requirements would be assigned and the players redistributed.

### **2.4.2 Players Eligibility**

No player may participate in a game without first submitting to the Association a properly completed and signed registration form and proof of age. After submitting the registration form and having been assigned to a team, the player is said to be registered with that team. A player may only be registered with one team at any given time.

### **2.4.3 Assignment of Players**

- A. To the best of our ability, 5U through 6U players will be assigned to a team by an age group coordinating committee of more than one member on a neighborhood public school zone basis when numbers allow.

- B. To the best of our ability, 7U through 19U players will be assigned to a team by random draw from a player pool based on the school they attend. If a team cannot be formed by using a single school district, then the boundaries of adjoining school districts can be used to form a playing zone to meet the minimum requirement. If a team cannot be formed by using a single zone, then the boundaries of adjoining zones can be used to form an association-wide sector to meet the minimum requirements. School district boundaries will be used as a guideline for determining playing zones.
- C. Once a player is assigned to a team, he/she will be assigned to same team as long as the player remains a member of the Association and is within the 5U through U9 age divisions, unless a re-pool is requested by the player. All players will be re-pooled when moving into the 9U age division.
- D. A team shall be formed with the Head Coach's children only.
- E. Should it be necessary to add a player to a team roster after team assignments have been completed, first choice would go to a player maintained on a waiting list by the Age Commissioner. Second choice would be to recruit a new player with Age Commissioner and respective Director's approval. Any and all new players added must be reassigned via blind re-pool before subsequent season. The Director and Commissioner shall mark the new player application for such re-pooling.
- F. Players of the same Family may play on the same team if of the same age or age group. A player may also play on a team their parent coaches, provided the team size does not exceed maximum limits.
- G. Playing Up and Playing Down
  - 1. A younger player may play up on an older age division. Players 8U and below will only be allowed to play one year above his/her nominal age division. Players 9U and above will be allowed to play above their own age division. Parents must sign a release for a child to play in an older division. A player participating in an older division may return to a younger division the following season provided the age requirement for the younger age division is satisfied.
  - 2. Only in very unusual circumstances will a player be allowed to play in a younger division than their age dictates. If allowed by the Executive Board, this player is ineligible for any post-season play. The coach must secure written permission from the Executive Board before allowing an older player to play in a younger age division.
- H. Transfer and Re-Pool
  - 1. A player must stay with their assigned team for the entire soccer season. No transfers are allowed during the season. If a player

drops off a team during the soccer season, he will not be allowed to play for any other team that season.

2. Players may request a transfer or re-pool between soccer seasons. A player who chooses to transfer teams will be placed in the citywide draft if there is only one other team within that same zone. This will apply only to the 13U through 19U age groups.
3. If a player misses the Spring Season due to High School Varsity Soccer Play, he will be allowed to rejoin the team he last played on, subject to the Commissioners approval.
4. A team might be subject to re-pool if less than 50% of the eligible players fail to return to the team in a season.

*Example: A team ends a season with 10 players on it. The next season, all 10 are eligible to return to the team. For the team to stay as a team at least 5 players must return. If only 4 return, then the returning players might be re-pooled.*

#### I. Dropped Players

The coach must report players dropping off a team to the appropriate Commissioner within 48 hours, excluding weekends. If a player for any reason of his own does not regularly attend practice and games, he must be reported as dropped from the team.

J. 13U and older players may be assigned to any GLSA recreational team using a draw in addition to considering requests from recreational players to play together on a team. Coaches may not refuse the addition of players from the pool if they are assigned by GLSA. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team based on talent or ability is prohibited

#### 2.4.4 Adult League

Adult teams are allowed to establish their own rosters as allowed by North Texas amateur rules.

### 2.5 Uniforms

Each team is responsible for providing their own uniforms and approved shin guards.

- A. Each team is responsible for providing their own uniforms and approved shin guards.
- B. Teams are not allowed Alcohol or Tobacco Company logos and/or names as advertisement on uniforms. Any team showing up with non-regulation jerseys will forfeit the game. Out of town teams playing in our Tournaments will be exempt from this rule. Out of town teams playing in our league will have to abide by this rule.
- C. No names will be allowed on jerseys in age groups 10U and below. Any team showing up with names on their jerseys will forfeit the game.

### 2.6 Practices and Playing Time

2.6.1 Practice sessions for recreational teams are limited to 1-1½ hours maximum.  
Scrimmage games count as practice.

2.6.2 5U through 12U age divisions may practice twice per week.

2.6.3 13U through 19U age divisions may practice three days per week.

2.6.4 Playing Time per Player

Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play the 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 player's parent(s), and the Age Division Commissioner or Boys/Girls Director at least one business day prior to the scheduled game. The opposing coach and the referee are to be notified prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may cause for disciplinary action.)

## 2.7 Age Groups

2.7.1 Official age

Method of registering players during a season under GLSA Rule 2.7. The divisions are set in one- or two-year increments. Teams/divisions may be formed in a single birth year age group. The age division of a team is determined by the birth date of the oldest player on the team as of December 31 of the current soccer year.

2.7.2 Age Groups

The following age groups will be offered for both Boys and Girls.

- A. 5U
- B. 6U
- C. 7U
- D. 8U
- E. 9U
- F. 10U
- G. 11U
- H. 12U
- I. 13U
- J. 14U
- K. 15U
- L. 16U
- M. 17U
- N. 19U
- O. Adults- age 19 and above

The age of a player for the 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 on August 31. The player is registered from the moment the player or player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

## **2.8 Playing Schedule**

### **2.8.1 Seasons**

The playing schedule will consist of a Fall and a Spring Season. The Referee Assignor shall coordinate field assignments for non-league games.

### **2.8.2 City Championship**

- A. The City Championship shall be decided in the Fall Season. The Teams who are declared first place winner in age groups 9U and above, boys and girls, will be declared City Champions. The City Champion will qualify for the Tournament of Champions.
- B. The Adult League will decide their City Championship each Season.

### **2.8.3 Home/Visiting Team**

The home team is the first team listed on the schedule. The home team has its choice of the side of the field from which to coach (except in 9U through 19U). The home team is responsible for Jersey change in the event of a color conflict.

## **2.9 Foul Weather Procedure**

### **2.9.1 Field Playability**

It is the responsibility of the President to determine playability of the fields. He may cancel games on a half-day basis or for the entire day, as deemed Necessary.

### **2.9.2 Game in Progress**

It is the Referee's responsibility to call off a game in progress whenever he feels conditions are unsafe.

## **2.10 Records of the Game**

Both coaches will be responsible for getting their score sheet from the Referee after each game and deposit them in the score box after each game. The official score sheets will be retained by the Association for season records, publicity, protest, playoffs, referee and linesman pay, and regional or state records.

## **2.11 Team Standings**

### 2.11.1 Point System

League standings will be determined by a point system to be kept current during a playing season. The point system will be:

- A. Win=6 Points
- B. Tie=3 Points
- C. Loss=0 Points
- D. 1 point per goal scored per game (Maximum of 3)
- E. 1 point for shutout
- F. A forfeit will be scored 3-0

### 2.11.2 Tiebreakers

At the end of a playing season, should a tie exist that must be broken, then the following tiebreaker for all teams will be applied in order:

- 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 the highest goal differential against their opponent will advance (maximum of five (5) goal differential. (Ex. A 7-0 game = 5-0 in calculating advancement; an 11-5 game = 10-5 in calculating advancement.).
- d. Fewest goals allowed- team with the fewest goals allowed will advance.
- e. Fewest accumulation of caution points in league games- 1 point per yellow card and 2 points per red card.
- f. Kicks from the mark.

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

## 2.12 Game Forfeits

### 2.12.1 Forfeits

The Executive Board will make decisions as to forfeits. Any of the following violations may result.

#### A. Illegal Player

An illegal player is one not properly registered or ineligible, for example, *a player outside the age limit, a player for whom the GLSA holds no release or proof of birth, or a suspended player*. Playing an illegal player will result in forfeiture of all games in which the offending player participated.

#### B. Suspended Coach

A suspended coach appearing at the game will result in forfeiture.



C. No Team

Failure to field a team with a minimum of seven players at game time will result in a forfeit. If both teams fail to show up for a scheduled game, both teams shall forfeit, not tie. The minimum number changes to three players for 5U-8U and five players for 9U-10U. The Adult League will play 7 v 7; therefore, the minimum number of players at game time will be five, one of which must be a female.

D. Playing Time

Failure to play an eligible player the minimum time will result in forfeiture.

E. Refusing to Play

A team refusing to continue a game after being instructed to do so by the Referee will forfeit the game. The team should continue play “under protest” and should so inform the Referee.

2.12.2 Forfeit Score

If a team forfeits a game, the official score will be 3-0 against the forfeiting team.

## **2.13 Protest and Appeal Procedure**

2.13.1 Time and Fee

All protests and appeals must be filed in writing with the GLSA office within 48 hours of the incident, excluding Sunday. The written protest should clearly state the incident involved and the actions of each Coach and team Referee to the extent that they are involved in the protest. A fee of \$25.00 must accompany all protests and appeals. If the R&D Committee upholds the protest or appeal, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the Association Treasurer.

2.13.2 Time Limit Waiver for Appeals

The RA&D Committee at its discretion may when requested in writing to do so, extend the time limit for filing appeals for up to ten days. In case a question as to time or receipt, the postmark shall determine the date; postage meter is not acceptable.

2.13.3 RA&D Committee Review

The RA&D Committee will meet to hear the protest as soon as practicable following its receipt of the protest. The Committee Secretary shall notify all involved parties of the protest and hearing and shall be requested to be present.

2.13.4 Appeal of RA&D

Decisions of the RA&D Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of the Association. Procedure for filing shall be the same with the President

accepting the appeal. The Executive Board has the authority to confirm or veto the decisions of the RA&D Committee.

## **2.14 Penalties for Coach's Misconduct**

### 2.14.1 Ejection

A coach receiving an ejection from a Referee during a regular, playoff, Tournament, or Championship game will be suspended from being within sight or sound or from participating in his team's next regular, playoff, Tournament, or Championship games.

### 2.14.2 Rule Violations

Violation of the following Association Rules and By-Laws by coaches or teams will result in assessment of the described penalties by the RA&D Committee.

#### A. Illegal Player

Any coach who knowingly allowing an unregistered or ineligible player to participate with his team, in a game of any type, will result in the coach's suspension from coaching for one year in the Association.

#### B. Illegal Recruiting

Any coach found guilty of illegally recruiting players as defined in the GLSA Coaching Code of Ethics will be suspended for one year from coaching in the Association.

#### C. Practice Games on GLSA and Lear Park Fields

Violation is a coach of Rule 2.3.4, practice games on Soccer Complex, will result in the Coach being suspended from the next game following an RA&D determination.

#### D. Practice Time Limit

Violation by a Coach of Rule 2.6.1, Practice Time, will result in that coach receiving a formal caution from the Association. Subsequent violations will result in suspensions from the next game following the Association decision.

#### E. Playing Time per Player

Playing time per player violation by a coach of NTSSA Rules will result in the coach being fined \$50 cash and the coach's suspension from the next game following an RA&D decision based on a review. The second violation will result in a one-year suspension from coaching in the Association.

### 2.14.3 Amendments to Penalties

These penalties for misconduct may be amended only by Executive Board action based on findings and decisions involving extenuating circumstances.

## 2.15 [Reserved]

## 2.16 The Rescheduling of Games

2.16.1 The rescheduling of any game must be done two (2) weeks (fourteen days) prior to the scheduled game date. The following procedure must be made to reschedule a game:

- A. The Coach desiring to reschedule a game must email the Office Administrator. If attending a tournament, the email must include the name and date of the tournament. *Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.*

2.16.2 The Office Administrator forward the email to the Referee Assignor and the scheduler to reschedule the game.

- A. Rescheduling will be limited to teams being in soccer Tournament play. *Only two (2) games per season will be allowed.*
- B. All team-initiated rescheduled games must be played on the next available date.

## 2.17 Adult Criminal Background Checks

2.17.1 Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must provide the necessary information required by NTSSA annually in the manner prescribed by current NTSSA procedures so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, adult volunteers agree and consent to having criminal background checks performed as deemed necessary by NTSSA.

2.17.2 For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

**NOTE:** Procedures for Adult Criminal background checks can be found in NTSSA Rules and Regulations, section 3.6.2.

**Chapter Three  
Laws of the Game  
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:

- 13U and older can play with a minimum of seven players.
  - 9U-12U can play with a minimum of five players.
  - 8U and younger can play with a minimum of three players.
5. Substitution Rule- Youth Under 8 and older
- At a throw-in by team in possession only.
    - At a throw-in by the team not in possession so long as the team in possession is also making a substitution.
  - Either team, at a goal kick.
  - Either team, after a goal is scored.
  - Either team at an injury, when Referee stops play.
  - At half time or period.
  - When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.
  - 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 player's parent(s), and the Age Division commissioner or the Boys/Girls Director at least one business day prior to the scheduled game. The opposing coach and the referee are to be notified 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

GLSA Exceptions:

- A. 15U-19U- recommend 17, maximum 18
- B. 13U-14U- recommend 15, maximum 17
- C. 11U-12U- recommend 13, maximum 15
- D. 9U-10U- recommend 11, maximum 12

### **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.

**Chapter Four**  
**North Texas State Soccer Association Rule 3.11 Discipline**  
**Greater Longview Soccer Association**

- 4.1 The Greater Longview Soccer Association will conform to North Texas State Soccer Association Rule 3.11 concerning discipline of players and coaches and concerning appeals of disciplinary actions.
- 4.2 Every coach, player, team managers, league administrator and referee should make themselves familiar with the contents of this rule. It is intended that the coach and/or the player will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators.
- 4.3 The rule can be found at [www.ntxsoccer.org](http://www.ntxsoccer.org).

## Rules of Adult League

### **5.1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Adult League is to promote and develop the game of soccer for the adults of the Greater Longview area. The Adult League will operate as a joint member of with the Greater Longview Soccer Association (GLSA) with membership in North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

The Adult League is provided these rules for the administration of the Adult League within the framework of GLSA. These rules and procedures, adopted by the membership of the Adult League, shall be presented and ratified by the GLSA membership. Once the rules and procedures are adopted, changes to these rules and procedures will be presented to the GLSA Executive Council for approval.

The Adult League reserves the right to petition NTSSA to become a separate entity. The Adult League coincidentally with the petition to reflect the requirements of an independent organization

shall modify these rules and procedures.

### **5.1.2 Organization and Administration**

The Adult League represents all adult members falling within the boundary lines of the Greater Longview Soccer Association and may accept voluntary membership from the outside area. All Adult League rules and procedures shall adhere to the rules of NTSSA and any applicable adult rules and procedures adopted by GLSA. If a rule exists at the State or GLSA level (exact or similar), and if there is a conflict with higher-level rule, the more stringent rule shall be the rule. If the Adult League does not have the rule, the next higher level that has a rule shall be followed.

### **5.1.3 Membership**

#### **5.1.3.1 Officers**

Adult League Officers shall consist of at least a Director. The Director shall be a member of the GLSA Executive Council (EC). The Adult Director shall represent the Adult League at all GLSA EC Meetings. The Adult Director shall not be a manager of any Adult League Team. Ideally, the Adult Director should not be involved with any Adult League team to avoid potential conflict issues, but that is not required. The Adult League reserves the right to add additional officers to assist the Adult Director as needed. Any additional officers shall require a change to the rules to specify duties and responsibilities.

#### **5.1.3.2 Players**

a. In accordance with the United States Amateur Soccer Federation and NTSSA rules, players may reside anywhere and the Adult League shall recognize their right to participate with recognized teams and divisions of the adult league.

b. Any person requesting permission to play in the Association may do so provided all State and National requirements have been met.

c. Any person under suspension from any other association, league, or group must petition the Executive Board for permission to play in this association.

d. Divisions will be set with the first goal being competitiveness within the bracket. This is an inexact science, but the Association will make its best efforts to have each division relatively balance. All factors that may affect competitiveness of a team may be considered. It is the responsibility of each team manager to inform the association of any factor that might impact their team's competitiveness. Promotion and Relegation has always been the practice of this league. If a team comes in first, it will go up. If a team comes in last, for the sake of the team and its players, it will go down. Accordingly, if a manager makes changes to their roster which will affect the team going down(only), the League Director needs to be notified of these changes before any teams are placed in brackets and the schedule is completed.

#### **5.1.3.3 Managers**

Managers are individuals designated to represent a specific team during the play of the game, practice, GLSA meetings and Adult League meetings. The teams are solely responsible for selection of their managers.

### **5.1.4 Adult Council**

The Adult Council shall consist of the Director and the Managers of the active teams for the current season. The Adult League Council shall serve the Adult League teams in the capacity

of decision-making consistent with the intent of the spirit of the rules governing the Adult League. All members of the Adult League Council have exactly one vote per managed team. The Adult Director shall have a vote for breaking tied votes. The Adult League Council shall establish the annual budget and set fees necessary to meet the Adult League budget. The Adult League Council shall establish common fees for all divisions.

#### 5.1.4.1 Adult League Director

The Adult League Director is charged with the overall Administration of the Adult League and shall act as a general manager. The Adult League Director or alternate designee shall serve on the GLSA EC. The Adult League Director shall maintain the rules and procedures of the league. The Adult League Director shall create and maintain minutes of all formal league meetings. The Adult League Director shall serve as head of the division managers when they must meet and decide procedures and budgets for the specific divisions.

A. The Assistant Adult League Director will assist the Adult League Director as needed.

#### 5.1.4.2 Adult League Appeals and Discipline

The Adult League shall use GLSA Rules, Appeals, and Discipline Chairperson as required.

#### 5.1.4.3 Adult League Registration

a. The Adult League Director shall be responsible for registration and fee collection. The Adult League Director shall provide GLSA the files required for registration. The Adult League Director shall deliver fees to the GLSA Treasurer or the GLSA Office Administrator and maintain an accounting of the money collected. The GLSA Office Administrator shall see that the required fees for NTSSA are paid. The Adult League Director shall provide an accounting of funds to the Adult League Council after each season.

b. All required fees, registration forms, liability releases, identification card pictures and other forms of information must be fully completed, typed and submitted on the designated Association date(s) for each season. A maximum team roster shall be 15 players (no less than 10 players). A minimum team roster shall consist of 6 male players, 4 female players and a keeper.

c. All fees and fines must be paid by the end of the season registration. Any team that is not current on their fees (i.e.; bad check, fines, etc.) will not be allowed to continue in League play until all fees and fines have been paid. GLSA shall charge and collect a bank charge at current bank rates for all returned checks, in addition but not limited to, an additional fee payable to GLSA of \$25 per NSF check presented to the League.

d. Any team requesting to withdraw from registration two weeks before the season starts, shall be allowed to do so with a full refund of all fees paid, less a \$75 administration fee. Any team requesting to withdraw from registration after schedules have been completed, shall be allowed to do so with a penalty of \$200, plus a \$75 administration fee. No team will be allowed to withdraw after the first game of the season has been played. No refunds, with or without penalty, after the first game of the season has been played.

e. Only with good cause and approval of the League Director can a team register after the designated registration date(s) each season.

f. A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player shall forfeit all the games in which the player participated. The Team Manager of the team playing such a player shall be suspended two games and fined \$80.

g. An add or delete of a player may take place after registration with permission of the League Director. A registration form must be completed (if a new player) and submitted to the

League along with a \$5.00 per player fee payable plus applicable late fee to GLSA no later than 72 hours prior to game time for which the player was added. Any team deleting a player after registration must return the player's registration form and player card. A \$5.00 fee will be charged.

h. GLSA reserves the right to refuse the registration of any player who has not paid their team fees or fine. GLSA reserves the right to not allow someone to play who has caused trouble in the past.

#### 5.1.4.4 Adult League Referees

The Adult League shall use Greater Longview Soccer Referee Association (GLSRA) and agree to fees contracted by GLSA. All Adult League games, regardless of division, shall have a standard fee, meaning all officials shall be paid the same fee for all divisions with the same parameters of players and time.

#### 5.1.4.5 Adult League Schedules

The Adult League shall use the GLSA Scheduler and GLSA Assignor for all games and coordination of field usage. The GLSA Scheduler will create the schedules within the constraints of GLSA. The Adult League recognizes the scheduling of GLSA youth games shall take precedence and the Adult League schedules shall be adjusted as required. The Adult League Director has the authority to cancel games in accordance with the GLSA current policies.

### 5.1.5 Meetings

#### 5.1.5.1 GLSA General Membership

The Adult League shall participate in GLSA general membership meetings. The Adult League quorum for the Adult-Only issues shall be 50% of the managers based on current season teams. The Adult League Director shall be part of the GLSA EC relative to quorum determination. The Adult League managers shall represent their teams with one vote for all GLSA issues that are deemed to represent their teams and with one vote for all GLSA issues that are deemed ALL VOTE or ADULT ONLY VOTE issues.

#### 5.1.5.2 Adult League Council

Meeting of the Adult League Council will be held at times necessary for conducting normal business. If the Council meets, then the meeting shall be open and announced to teams two weeks prior to the meeting. Announcements of any meeting shall be made on the GLSA website by the GLSA Office Administrator.

#### 5.1.5.3 Adult League Rule Changes

Changes to these rules shall require a formal meeting of the Adult League Council. The Adult League Director shall make any arrangements necessary for the meeting. All rule change proposals shall be announced to the managers at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The managers are responsible for announcements to their team members. The GLSA President or other appointed GLSA Board Member might observe the activity regarding rule changes. The Adult League Director shall report the rule changes to the GLSA EC for final approval. A quorum for Adult League rule changes consists of the Adult League Director and 50% of all Adult League Council Members.

#### 5.1.5.4 Adult League Procedure Changes

The Adult League Council members specific to a division shall approve the procedures used by the Adult League division in day-to-day operations with each division having

independent ratification of their specific game day procedures. The Adult Director shall publish the approved procedures separately to the Adult League rules.

#### 5.1.5.5 Adult League Calendar

The Adult League Council shall coincide with the GLSA Youth soccer year.

#### 5.1.5.6 Adult League Elections

The Adult League Council shall elect the Adult Director and the Assistant Adult Director annually in February. The Elected Adult Director shall assume office at the GLSA May General Meeting and shall have, if necessary and desired, thirty (30) days of transition between the old and the new officer. A meeting of the Adult League Council within 30 days of a vacancy shall fill vacancy by a 60% vote of the Adult League Council. The Adult League Council electing a new Adult Director shall immediately follow removal of the Adult Director.

#### 5.1.5.7 Adult League Procedures

The Adult League Council establishes procedures for each division affiliated with Adult League. The procedures shall be specific to the league to include special game day rules. The Adult League Council consisting of the specific managers for the division shall approve the procedures. The Procedures may be changed at any time with changes in effect with the next season unless otherwise specified.

## Adult League Soccer Procedures

### **6.2.1 Administrative Issues**

6.2.1.1 -The league shall be the Adult League of Greater Longview Soccer Association. The league may be comprised of one or more divisions of teams.

#### 6.2.1.2 Team Responsibility

- a. Provide a suitable game ball (Size 5 and conform to FIFA standards).
- b. Teams must be responsible for being ready before the start of the game. Failure to do so by both teams will result in a double forfeit. If the game is forfeited for any reason prior to game time, it will be ruled as a no-show forfeit. Any game that is forfeited will not be rescheduled.

6.2.1.3 Adult Director- Chosen by the adult managers each year.

#### 6.2.1.4 Referees

a. Referees must be a Grade 7, at least 18 years old, to officiate adult league games. Each adult league team must provide at least one certified referee each season. A new adult

Grade 8 referee must officiate at least six (6) weekends for the GLSA youth recreational league to gain field experience and then obtain a Grade 7 upgrade online by the following season. Grade 7 adult league team referees must officiate at least four (4) adult league games per season.

b. Referees for adult teams must be rostered to the team they represent.

c. Referees must be certified by the referee clinic date or must attend the referee clinic, if new. Referee assignor shall verify those that attend the referee clinic.

6.2.1.5 Referees- Emphasis on competitive soccer with strong enforcement of fouls or attempted fouls to cause injury. Use of cards desired to prevent serious situations and maintain control.

6.2.1.6 Seasonal Dates- The season will start the same weekend as the Youth League starts. The Adult League Council shall establish the seasonal calendar to include registration dates, start dates, etc. The number of games shall be determined by a balanced schedule where practical.

6.2.1.7 Team Manager/Captain/Representative shall be responsible for the following:

a. Responsible for their teams conduct on and off the field of play. This includes litter control and alcoholic beverage consumption, which is not allowed at Lear Park. Animals are not allowed at Lear Park during GLSA activities.

b. Responsible for their team's spectator conduct.

c. Keep all team personnel and spectators within their team's sidelines.

d. Responsible for filling out GLSA score sheets. The sheets must be filled out complete or points will be deducted (see score sheet guidelines). Included information needed is opposing team name, time and field number game is being played on, players first and last name and jersey number. This is for filling out misconduct reports.

e. If the opposing team plays with an illegal jersey number or an illegal jersey, the game may be played under protest. Write all the information on the score sheet and have the referee sign it.

f. Score sheets must be deposited in the score sheet box located at the large concession stand at Lear Park before you leave the complex. If they are not deposited at the fields, then they must be emailed or delivered to the GLSA office no later than Monday, 12:00(noon) following each game.

g. Any red carded player refusing to leave the field of play, can be immediately dropped from the team roster by the team Manager/Captain and said player will also be subject to an A&D Committee review to be reinstated. Any Manager or Captain that does not enforce the rule of getting the player away from the field will also be sent to A&D. They may also be subject to a one game suspension and a \$40.00 fine.

6.2.1.8 Schedule

a. The Adult League shall use the GLSA Scheduler and Referee Assignor for scheduling all games.

b. The GLSA Scheduler and GLSA Assignor shall reschedule cancelled games as necessary and in accordance with seasonal constraints.

6.2.1.9 Fees- Adult League Council shall establish common fees to meet the budgets for the Adult League to include charges established by GLSA as necessary. The Adult League may include additional fees specific to the league. GLSA shall charge for registration, field usage (city fee), Administrative, and Referee costs, Assignor costs with fees established by the GLSA, etc. The GLSA Treasurer shall maintain a separate accounting of the money, but may use a single bank account for deposits.



6.2.1.10 Managers shall have player registration forms with them at all games.

### **6.2.2 Prior to Start of the Game.**

6.2.2.1 Adult League Photo ID: Every player shall have an Adult League issued laminated photo ID. The Adult Director, thru GLSA, shall provide completed identification cards to the managers. Each card is to have a head picture of the player and the player jersey number below the picture before it is laminated. GLSA may laminate or the Adult League teams may be responsible for the lamination. The ID cards will be valid for the season printed on the card only.

6.2.2.2 Adult League Player Photo ID at Game- Each player shall have a laminated photo ID. Referee(s) shall collect the Photo ID Cards prior to the player participating. Managers may provide the participant players' identification cards in a single packet to the Referee. DO NOT give ID cards of players who are not present. Referees shall check players using the cards. The ID Cards of late arrivals can be given to the Referee when they enter the game.

6.2.2.3 Each Adult team shall have at least one speaking captain. Each adult team shall provide a captain's armband to facilitate any necessary discussions between the Referee and the team captain.

6.2.2.4 All team players must wear matching shirts and color with a minimum 6" numerals (unique and different with no duplications). The numbers must be permanently affixed to the back for a player to be eligible for league games. Numbers must be sewn, stenciled by heat process or heat transferred. All numbers worn must match the number on the score sheet and player card for that specific player. A goalkeeper is not required to have a number unless that player plays on the field as a field player, then a proper uniform with a number not listed to another player is required. No taped or hand-written numbers shall be allowed. Any player in violation of this rule shall be considered ineligible and shall not play the game.

a. If there is a color conflict, the Home team must change jerseys (pennies are allowed) and the number rule does not apply (numbers on jerseys must be visible through the pennies). The first team listed on the schedule is the home team. If your team color is changed after the schedule is published and causes an unplanned color conflict, the team making the jersey color must switch to another color. In the case of both teams changing color causing a conflict – it falls back on the home team to switch to another color.

b. Shin guards are mandatory and socks must be pulled up over them. Shin guards must be those manufactured for specific use as shin guards and approved by FIFA.

c. A player will be allowed to wear slider shorts; however, the color of the sliders must match the predominant color of the player's shorts and may not go below the knee.

d. Playing shoes must meet FIFA standards and be in safe repair.

### **6.2.3 During the Game**

6.2.3.1 Unless otherwise modified by these rules, all competition under the jurisdiction of this Association shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of Soccer.

#### **6.2.3.2 Game Suspension**

a. If a game should be suspended before the second half begins, it shall be replayed if a date and field are available. If a date and field are not available, the game will be scored as a 3-3 tie.

b. If a game should be suspended once the second half begins, it shall be considered a full game.

c. If a game is rained out, it shall be re-scheduled if a date and field are available. If a date or field are not available, the game will be scored as a 3-3 tie.

#### **6.2.3.3 Number of Players**

a. A team shall consist of male and female field players. A keeper may be either male or female. There shall never be more than five male field players on the field. There may be up to seven (7) female field players provided the keeper is a male.

b. In the event a male field player is sent off (fouled or second yellow), the offending team will be limited to a maximum of four (4) male field players (a total of six field players). Should a second male field player be sent off (red carded or second yellow), the offending team shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) male field players, and so on, including a keeper being suspended from the game.

c. A minimum of five (5) players is required to play a game (maximum of three (3) male, one (1) female field players and one (1) keeper). If a team has only five (5) players at the scheduled game time, they must start the game with those five players or forfeit. If for any reason a team falls below the five (5) player minimum, that team will forfeit the game. The game will be abandoned and a forfeit win will be awarded to the opposing team.

#### **6.2.4 Substitution**

a. Free substitution shall be allowed for either team at any stoppage of play at the discretion and consent of the referee.

b. Any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field and get permission from the referee before returning to the field of play.

#### **6.2.5 Eligible Players**

a. Players of any gender reaching the age of 19 as of December 31.

b. If a player is 18 years old and has graduated from high school, then the player may apply for a release from GLSA to play in the Adult League. Proof of graduation must be furnished to obtain a release.

c. A player who is 18 years old and still in high school is ineligible to play in the Adult League.

#### **6.2.6 Misconduct/Discipline**

6.2.6.1 All misconduct shall be reported in writing and deposited in score sheet box or emailed to the GLSA R&D person within 48 hours. The referee will also pull the playing card of the player being written up. The player card will be deposited with the misconduct write up. The GLSA Adult League Director shall have the authority to remove players, team officials or team spectators guilty of misconduct.

6.2.6.2 An ejection (being sent-off) during a game is an automatic suspension for the next scheduled game. Any red card (ejection) issued shall be a one game minimum suspension and a \$100.00 fine. Any card (red or yellow) issued during the last game of the season, the suspension and/or fine, will be carried over to the first game of the next season.

6.2.6.3 The Referee shall use the GLSA approved method to verify the sit-out. A player serving a sit-out shall not be verified if during the game the player who was sitting out, acted in a manner as a spectator that would have been cautioned by the Referee as provided by these rules. A coach that is serving a sit-out verification may not be at the field or parking lot.

6.2.6.4 Sit Out Verification Notification- The GLSA R&D chairperson shall inform the player how many games the player must sit-out. The player will not be able to return to their team until they pay the fine assessed with the sit-out requirement.

6.2.6.5 A violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy during a game is an automatic suspension for the next game and will carry a \$50 fine. The Zero Tolerance Policy can be issued to players on the bench and spectators.

6.2.6.6 A fight between two people shall be a three-game suspension and a \$100 fine each. Any other players joining in to a fight shall be a four-game suspension and a \$125 fine each.

6.2.6.7 The use of offensive, insulting, or abusive language not directed at an opponent, official, and/or spectator shall be a one-game suspension and a \$80 fine. The use of offensive, insulting, or abusive language directed at an opponent, official and/or spectator shall be a two-game suspension and an \$80 fine.

6.2.6.8 All cautions will carry a \$40 fine. A send-off (second caution) will carry a one (1) game suspension and a \$80.00 fine.

6.2.6.9 Any team that accumulates seven (7) cards shall be suspended from the remainder of their games and those games be declared a forfeit. Said team will then have to appear before the GLSA Adult A&D committee. A forfeited game by an opponent does not count toward game suspensions for discipline.

a. All fines must be paid in cash within seven (7) days of the infraction to the GLSA office. Nothing herein prevents the Association from enacting more severe sanctions. If a fine is not paid within the allotted time, then that player will be suspended until the fine is paid.

b. If a team abandons a game, then the following procedures will apply:

- The game will be ruled a forfeit.
- Each player who abandons a game will be fined \$20.
- The referee will list the names of the players who do not abandon the game on the score sheet.

c. A red card may be issued on or off the field, before or after the game.

d. All referee calls are final and shall not be protested (unless the referee makes a mistake in applying the laws of the game and admits to it).

e. Money collected from fines will be placed in the Youth Hardship Scholarship fund.

### **6.2.7 Slide Tackling**

a. Slide tackling is defined as a play where any player intentionally tackles an opponent who has control of the ball and meets the playing surface with any part of their body other than the soles of their feet. Slide tackling without any contact with either the opponent or the ball is a foul. Any person that is called for this infraction shall be issued a caution (yellow card). Slide tackling where contact is made on the opponent or the ball will be considered unsporting behavior and a caution (yellow card) will be issued to the offender. Any slide tackle that the referee feels is made using excessive force will be considered as a serious foul and will result in the offending player being shown a red card and that player will be dismissed from the field. The restart for all slide tackling offenses except where serious foul play was determined is an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team. A direct free kick will be awarded to the opposing team on all offenses that were deemed by the referee as serious foul play.

- b. Sliding to control a free ball, with no other player in the vicinity is not considered a slide tackle. The goalkeeper may slide tackle if the slide begins within the penalty area and that, in the opinion of the referee, the slide tackle does not put an opponent in danger of being injured.
- c. All cautions (yellow cards) will carry a \$40 fine.

### **6.2.8 Forfeits**

a. A team may request a forfeit, but must notify the Adult Director at least 72 hours prior to the regular scheduled game in which they are forfeiting. The team forfeiting the game shall lose one (1) point in their point standings while the other team is awarded a three (3) goal win, without the bonus point for the shut-out. A team that does not timely advise the league or show at the field at the scheduled game time, will be considered a “no show” forfeit.

b. If a team has two (2) forfeits or one (1) no show forfeit within a season, they will be required to complete an explanation letter prior to participating in any future events.

c. The League Director will declare a game a forfeit for any of the following reasons:

- Not showing up at the published game start time unless a grace period has been approved by the referee.

- Use of illegal or ineligible player.

- ID cards were not presented to the referee for inspection before the published game start time and before the end of the 10-minute grace period.

- Lack of the minimum required number of players (as set forth in section 6.2.3.3.c) unless the referee allows a grace period.

- Non-compliance with league uniform standards. This includes, but is not limited to, improper numbering or if the home team is unable to provide alternate jerseys.

d. For this rule, a “team” shall be defined as any team registered by the same offending team manager or team captain or team consisting of any five (5) or more players from the prior team who register together as members of the same team, regardless of any change in name or roster. The only exception to this definition is when five (5) or more players join an existing team that has no negative forfeit history with prior approval from the Adult director.

### **6.2.9 Probation**

Probation can be established by the GLSA Adult R&D Committee.

a. Any player, coach, or team may be placed on probation for violations of bylaws and ethics.

b. Any team that has been placed on probation or suspension by the Association shall still be considered on probation if that team registers with five (5) or more players from the probated or suspended team, regardless of team name change, etc.

c. Any team whose conduct results in the loss of a field available to the Association, shall be ejected from the Association immediately and will forfeit the right to play any future games in the Association.

### **6.2.10 Duration of the Game**

a. Games shall be two 30-minute halves. In the event of extreme heat, the referee may wish to give a water break.

b. All games must start on time. If a team not present with a minimum of five players as described (maximum of three (3) male, one (1) female players plus the keeper) the game shall be declared a forfeit and a 3-0 score shall be awarded to the opposing team. A maximum 10-minute

grace period may be allowed when a team has five (5) players, at referee desecration. No shutout bonus will be awarded for any game declared a forfeit. If neither team has a minimum of five (5) players at the scheduled game time, the game will be declared a double forfeit team and no points shall be awarded and each team shall lose one (1) point in their total standings.

c. The clock must start at scheduled game time. The referee, at his/her discretion, may allow a 10-minute grace period. If the game does not start within the 10-minute allotted grace period, then the game will be listed as a forfeit by the team.

#### **6.2.11 Regular Season Game Standings**

A Division champion shall be established by using the following point system:

- 6 points for a win
- 1 point for each goal up to 3
- 3 points for a tie and 1 point for each goal up to 3
- 0 points for a loss and 1 point for each goal up to 3
- 1 point for a shutout (not awarded for a forfeit)

#### **6.2.12 Scoring**

- a. A woman's goal shall count as two (2) goals.
- b. A man's goal will always count as one (1) goal.
- c. In the event of a deflection by the defense, the last offensive player touching the ball will determine the number of points awarded.
- d. Any goal scored directly by a defender shall count as one goal.
- e. Penalty kicks shall be taken by a female, but a penalty kick shall always count as one (1) goal.

#### **6.2.13 Play-off Format**

- a. In the event of a tie at the end of regular season play, tiebreakers shall be:
  1. Head-to-head competition (if applicable)
  2. Fewest number of goals allowed.
  3. The greatest number of goals scored.
  4. An arranged meeting for FIFA penalty kicks.
  5. A coin toss, if both teams prefer.
- b. Each Division will go into a semi-final (4-team division). 1<sup>st</sup> will play 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will play 3<sup>rd</sup>, with two winners going to the finals. Semi-finals must have a winner. Semi-finals games shall consist of 2-25-minute halves. If the score is tied, then one (1) 5-minute overtime period will be played (No Golden Goal Rule). If still tied, then kicks from the mark will decide the winner. The setup of the kickers shall be as stated in rule 6.2.14.c.
- c. In the event the game is suspended due to weather or any other unforeseen event, regardless of the score, the game will be replayed in its entirety by reverting to a 0-0 at the start of the rescheduled game. If the game is into overtime or kicks from the mark, then only the overtime and kicks from the mark will be replayed. If there is no available date or field, then the winner will be decided by a coin toss.
- d. The championship games shall determine the final position of first and second.
- e. Any team that forfeits a semi-final game shall receive a forfeit loss, will be eliminated from the final game, and will lose all points received during the current season.

#### **6.2.14 Championship Games**

- a. A champion game cannot end in a tie.
- b. Over-time shall be fifteen (15) minutes, divided into two (2) periods of seven and one-half minutes each. Over-time periods will be played in their entirety (No Golden Goal).
- c. If the game is still tied after the over-time, the game will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks. A total of six (6) players (three (3) male and three (3) females) are to be lined up in the order they will take their shots. The kickers must rotate in the following manner: male, female, male, female, male, if five kicks are necessary. If sudden death (more than five (5) kickers) is necessary, the sixth kicker must be female. If still tied after six (6) kicks, then the kickers will revert to the original order and rotate male, female until the tie is broken. If a team does not use a female kicker when one is due to kick, then the kick will be scored as a no goal.
- d. In the event of pending field conditions (darkness, weather, etc.), both captains, prior to overtime, may elect to modify the length of the overtime or go directly to FIFA kicks. (Must be noted on both score sheets).
- e. In the event the game is suspended due to weather or any other unforeseen event, regardless of the score, the game will be replayed in its entirety by reverting to a 0-0 at the start of the rescheduled game. If the game is into overtime or kicks from the mark, then only the overtime and kicks from the mark will be replayed. If there is no available date or field, then the winner will be decided by a coin toss.
- f. Any team that forfeits a championship game, regardless of point standings going into the final game, will be replaced by the team with the next greatest point total prior to the final. No awards will be issued to the team being replaced.

#### **6.2.15 Protests and Appeals**

- a. The Adult League Rules and Discipline board shall consist of the GLSA Vice-President, the GLSA Rules and Discipline Person and the Adult League Director.
- b. A protest or appeal shall be in writing and delivered to the GLSA office within three calendar days of the game being protested. Any protest or appeal must be accompanied by the appropriate cash fee and shall be heard within the following week.
- c. The fees are:
  - Regular season games - \$75.00.
  - All other matters, including play-off and championship game - \$100.00.
- d. There will be no appeals of the decision made by the Adult Rules and Discipline board. No money will be returned if a case is not reversed.

#### **6.2.16 Conflict of Interest**

If a conflict of interest exists on any playing rule, that situation must be referred to the GLSA Executive Board for review.

#### **6.2.17 Special Circumstances**

- a. The Association reserves the right to act on these Rules and Regulations or any event of circumstances not covered by these Rules and Regulations where an unexpected or unforeseen event occurs that may cause undue hardship. If strict interpretation of these Rules and Regulations are applied, however, it will require an official Executive Board action to implement the change.

- b. All drop balls must be taken by two (2) female players.

**CHAPTER 7  
CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**

**7.1 GLSA 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.
9. Coaches shall not engage in or attempt to initiate a consensual relationship with an 18U or 19U player when the coach is in a "position of authority" with respect to the player. Should a consensual relationship develop or appear likely to develop, the coach should step down from his/her position with the player's team. This will avoid any perception of pressure on the player to acquiesce to unwanted advances to maintain his/her position on the team or any perception of preferential treatment from the coach due to a consensual relationship with the player.

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

1. Adherence to all **GLSA** and **NTSSA** rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It's 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 **GLSA**, **NTSSA** Commissioner or Association Official immediately.
4. A coach's dealings with **GLSA** and **NTSSA** (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to **GLSA** and **NTSSA** (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, **GLSA**, **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 Greater Longview Referee Soccer Association.

#### **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 **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 a 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, **GLSA**, 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, **GLSA**, 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

##### **7.1.1**

All Member Associations are directed to form their own ethics committee and to hold hearings--WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT--on alleged violations of the Code of Ethics when properly submitted.

#### **7.2 GLSA 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.
3. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
4. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
5. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
6. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
7. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, **NOT YOURS!**
8. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
9. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. A parent must never misrepresent to their team their child's eligibility to play on that team, and must be honest in dealings with NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).
13. A parent must never be verbally or physically violent or threatening with any coach, parent, player, or representative of GLSA or NTSSA.
14. GLSA asks that every adult respect the authority of the officials, all players and coaches. To this GLSA has adopted the following **Zero Tolerance** policy: If you as a spectator or coach are asked to leave the field by a Commissioner, Board Member or Head Official because of YOUR conduct, then your player will be suspended for the next scheduled game.

### **7.3 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USSF/NTSSA REGISTERED REFEREES AND ASSIGNORS**

1. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
2. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and have my training refreshed.
3. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
4. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.
5. If I am a State or National **USFF** referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or **USFF** assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.
6. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties before, during or after a match.
7. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches or spectators.
8. As a registered **USFF/NTSSA** referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
9. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.
10. I understand that I should wear only the approved **USFF** referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
11. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment and that I should never smoke, eat or drink while actually officiating.
12. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a **USFF** referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the local **NTSSA**- affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the **NTSSA** and **USFF**, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered **USFF** referee.
13. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

#### **7.3.1 CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)**

1. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
3. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
4. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
5. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.
6. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
7. I will be in good physical condition.
8. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
9. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
10. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
11. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
12. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

#### **7.3.2 CODE OF ETHICS FOR ASSIGNORS (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)**

### **7.4 CODE OF ETHICS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATORS**

None of us arrives at any administrative level, volunteer or not, without spending some "grass roots" time somewhere. We are appointed or elected to our positions because enough people had confidence in us, appreciation for what we had done in the past, and assurance that we could lead them in a positive, productive future. This responsibility of accepting such a challenge, especially in a volunteer capacity, must have some guidelines.

It is important to remember that as board members we are very high profile. It is equally important that we remember that we are primarily a service organization and that we treat fellow volunteers as partners with a common goal--the organization, development, and promotion of soccer. We should maintain high standards and serve by example.

1. Have respect for the game, players, officials, parents, coaches, member association volunteers, and fellow board members and deal with them in a patient, courteous, and consistent manner.
2. Criticism channeled through the proper quarter should be educational, constructive, balanced, and positive. Under no circumstances should it be demeaning or detrimental to the self-respect of the individuals involved.
3. Administrators should be informed and available. As facilitators they should know the right questions, have the ability to elicit the right answers, and foster creativity with accountability within their committee or area.
4. Regarding committeemen and other volunteers: they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done; their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.
5. Above all: courtesy, self-control, and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.
6. Administrators shall not engage in or attempt to initiate a consensual relationship with an 18U or 19U player when the administrator is in a "position of authority" with respect to the player. Should a consensual relationship develop or appear likely to develop, the administrator should step down from his/her position with the player's association. This will avoid any perception of pressure on the player to acquiesce to unwanted advances to maintain his/her position or any perception of preferential treatment from the administrator due to a consensual relationship with the player.

#### **7.5 GLSA CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

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 "Member Association" shall include, but is not limited to Officers, Commissioners, Volunteers, and/or Employees.)

#### **ARTICLE I - RESPONSIBILITIES TO TEAMS AND/OR PLAYERS**

1. GLSA must never place money or operation over the safety and welfare of its teams and/or players. Services should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. GLSA shall instruct teams and/or players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. GLSA shall not seek unfair advantage for certain teams through scheduling or administrative operations.
4. GLSA should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from teams and/or players regardless of the situation.
5. GLSA must never encourage players to violate NTSSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
6. GLSA should under no circumstances 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.
7. GLSA's dealings with teams, players, and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to teams, players, and parents.

#### **ARTICLE II - RESPONSIBILITY TO NTSSA AND OTHER MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Adherence to all NTSSA 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 Member Association to know and understand these rules as it applies to their area of play (youth, adult, recreational, competitive, etc.).
2. The Member Association 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 Member Associations should be referred to the NTSSA Vice-President - Development immediately.
4. Member Association's dealings with NTSSA and other Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright.
5. The Member Association must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to NTSSA and other Member Associations (including playing leagues).
6. The Member Association will refrain from accepting, soliciting, copying, or using information on operations, financial data, teams, and/or players from other Member Associations for any purpose unless approved in writing by the other Member Association's Board of Directors for a specific use. Information offered by someone of another Member Association or other organization for solicitation, recruitment, or other purposes should be rejected and the person(s) reported to the NTSSA Vice-President - Development.

#### **ARTICLE III - RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS OFFICERS, COMMISSIONERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES ("ADMINISTRATORS")**

1. Administrators must have the support of the Member Association. Criticism of Administrators undermines their purpose in the Association.
2. Member Association's Administrators must always refrain from criticizing other Administrators in the presence of others.
3. The Member Association should strive to develop a line of communication with its Administrators, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area.
4. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between Administrators. The Member Association must not incite its Administrators or attempt to disrupt their specific duties.
5. Comments regarding an Administrator should be made in writing to the appropriate official within the Member Association.

#### **ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RECRUITING**

1. It is unethical for a Member Association to recruit teams to leave another Member Association.

2. When discussing the advantages of their Association, the Member Association has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other Member Associations, their Administrators, teams, facilities and/or organizational makeup.
3. It is unethical for any Member Association to make a statement to a prospective team and/or player which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
4. 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 V - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. GLSA has a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, other Member Associations, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. GLSA has a responsibility to assist their Administrators, teams, and/or players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing **GLSA** and **NTSSA**.
3. It is unethical for **GLSA** to solicit alumni or members to pressure organizations, other Member Associations, or **NTSSA** to operate outside established rules. The **GLSA** must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
4. The media should be allowed access to the **GLSA** for comment. **GLSA** does have the right to appoint and limit who will represent them to the media. Administrators should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.