



Greater Longview Soccer Association

Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Revised 2025

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Adult League Soccer Procedures

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STATEMENT OF POLICY BY THE GLSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

“The bylaws and rules and regulations of the GLSA were written for the benefit for the association and its players. While the bylaws, Rules and Regulations are intended to be comprehensive and thorough, it should be understood that not all situations, circumstances, and events can be anticipated, and therefore, covered precisely. Further, it is recognized that on occasion conflicting rules or statements occur. Therefore, it shall be the firm policy of this Board in resolving such conflicts to exercise its authority to override and/or interpret these rules, regulations, and bylaws in keeping with the intent and purpose and in the best interest of the association and the spirit of the game.”

Bylaws

Article I: Name, Type, Duration, Purpose Membership, Place of Business

- Section 1 Name and Type of Organization
The name of the organization shall be the Greater Longview Soccer Association, and it is a Texas non-profit corporation.
- Section 2 Duration and Purpose
The duration is perpetual. The purpose shall be to foster, promote and advance the cause of soccer within the Greater Longview area and to guard the interests of its members as more fully stated in the Articles of Incorporation, fully adopted herein by reference.
- Section 3 Team Names
The teams will be recognized by their respective team names. Team names that are ethnically recognized will not be accepted.
- Section 4 Subordinate Associations
Clubs, subordinate associations, and affiliated teams, having so qualified, may be admitted to membership in good standing upon payment of their membership fee and upon agreeing to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this association, and upon submitting their constitution and/or bylaws for approval by the Executive Board.
- Section 5 Charitable Purpose
The association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and regulations (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States federal tax law.)
- Section 6 Membership
Members of the association shall consist of the Executive Board members, Executive Committee members and all teams in good standing, including registered players, parents or legal guardians of players, coaches and managers, with the governing responsibilities and voting rights as provided in the Bylaws of this association.
- Section 7 Place of Business
The principal office of the association will be in Longview, Gregg County, Texas. The mailing address for the association shall be Greater Longview Soccer Association, 3301 W. Marshall Ave. Suite 215 Longview TX. 75604

Article II: Government and Executive Board Duties

- Section 1 Governing Body
The governing body of this organization shall be the Executive Board.
- Section 2 Business Transactions
The Executive Board shall transact all business and manage the affairs of the association. It shall enforce the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules and

Regulations of the Association, the laws of the game, and the rules and regulations of the State and National associations of which this association is a member.

Section 3 Officers and Committees

The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected voting officers:

President
Vice President,
Secretary
Treasurer
Director of Youth Player Personnel
Director of Adult Player Personnel
Director of Rules, Appeals & Discipline
Director of Marketing,
Director of Competitive League
Referee Representative

(1) Member at Large.

The Executive Board shall consist of the following additional persons, who shall act as an advisory to the Executive Board but who are not voting officers, Director of Tournaments, Director of Coaching, Commissioners and the Chairman of each currently existing committee.

The President may create new committees and appoint new chairpersons as deemed necessary. The number of new committees shall be limited to a maximum of three at any given time. The Commissioners and Chairman's shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

Section 4 Board and Committee Meetings

Executive Board meetings may be held at the discretion of the President, with a minimum of one monthly meeting to be set during the soccer season. A majority of five will constitute a quorum.

Executive Committee meetings will be held at the discretion of the Executive Board. A simple majority will constitute a quorum.

Section 5 Absenteeism

Any member of the Executive Board or Executive Committee who is absent from two (2) unexcused board meetings or committee meetings (as determined by the board) per year shall have his or her office declared vacant at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 6 Non-Elected Vacancies

The Executive Board shall appoint a replacement for any non-elected position on the Executive Committee.

Section 7 President

The President shall be the principal officer of the association and shall in general supervise and control all the business and affairs of the association. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board, Executive Committee and general meetings of members. He or she may enter into any and all contracts and agreements authorized by the Executive Board on behalf of the association and may sign all writings evidencing such agreements or as otherwise necessary to the fulfillment of his or her duties as President. He or she shall not be authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of the association for the conveying of association owned real or personal property, personal service contracts: borrowing money, encumbering or in any

manner pledging association property, or expending association money for any single purpose (whether by one or more payments) in an amount exceeding \$500.00, without having first obtained the express written approval of the Executive Board. The President in general shall perform all duties incident to the Office of President in accordance with the association's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and other such duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board from time to time.

Section 8 Vice President

The Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President, preside in his or her absence, and act as chairman of the appeals and discipline committee. He or she will also keep copies of all violations, reports of misconduct, and minutes and decisions of all A&D proceedings. He or she will be responsible for coordinating with the office administrator to ensure that all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and volunteers pass the risk management assessment.

Section 9 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all association meetings and is responsible for league standings. He or she shall be responsible for all correspondence and any other record-keeping duties. He or she will be responsible for preparing the registration packets for each team every season.

Section 10 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of income and expenditures with financial professionals. The Treasurer shall also prepare and submit a financial statement of all the money generated and spent annually at the general meeting, and monthly at all Executive Board meetings. A written handout shall be prepared and distributed at the Annual General Meeting. Two office signatures will be required on checks over \$500.00.

Section 11 Director of Youth Player Personnel

The Director of Youth Player Personnel shall coordinate with the Vice President on Appeals and Discipline. He or she will function as a liaison between the youth, coaches, players, guardians, etc. and the Appeals and Discipline Committee. He or she will be the liaison between the youth and players and the Executive Board. He or she will be responsible for forming and overseeing a team formation committee.

Section 12 Director of Adult Player Personnel

The Director of Adult Player Personnel shall coordinate with the Vice President on Appeals and Discipline. He or she will function as a liaison between the adult players, coaches, managers, etc. and the Appeals and Discipline Committee. He or she will be the liaison between the adult league and the Executive Board. He or she will be responsible for forming and overseeing a team formation committee.

Section 13 Director of Rules, Appeals and Discipline

The Director of Rules, Appeals and Discipline in conjunction with the Rules, Appeals and Discipline Committee (hereinafter referred to as the RA&D committee) has the authority to suspend members from participation for violation of the Rules and Regulations of this association or conduct detrimental to the association. He or she will also keep copies of all violations, reports of misconduct, and minutes and decisions of all RA&D proceedings. The RA&D Committee will have charge of investigating and determining all reported violations of Rules and Regulations of the association and as may be directed by the association President. The RA&D Committee will consist of the following voting members: The Director of RA&D, will act as its chairman, another elected officer and three of the

following: any other appointed Member of the Executive Committee or any other coach of record or referee in good standing with the GLSA. The RA&D Committee members and four alternates will be selected by the Chairman on a soccer year basis (from September 1 through August 31 of the following year). The RA&D Committee will meet on an as needed basis, and a majority vote of all members will decide all matters. Appeals of decisions of the RA&D Committee may be heard by the Executive Board and the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals and Discipline Committee through the Appropriate procedures.

Section 14 Director of Marketing

The Director of Marketing is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing all marketing and communication strategies for the Greater Longview Soccer Association. This role aims to increase awareness, increase registration, enhance community engagement, and promote the positive image of GLSA. He or she should monitor social media for comments, questions, and feedback, responding appropriately and in line with GLSA's social media rules. He or she shall ensure all marketing activities comply with GLSA's policies, including social media rules and community standards.

Section 15 Director of Competitive League

The Director of Competitive League is responsible for the overall management, development, and oversight of GLSA's competitive soccer program. He or she will ensure a high-quality, competitive, and developmentally appropriate experience for advanced players, aligning with GLSA's mission and relevant soccer governing bodies' standards.

Section 16 Referee Representative

The Referee Representative shall function as a liaison between the Referee Association and the Executive Board.

Section 17 At Large Member

At Large Member will provide broad representation and contribute to various initiatives as needed, offering flexibility and diverse perspectives to the Executive Board.

Section 18 Commissioners and Chairman Duties

The Commissioners shall be active in player placement within their assigned areas and shall serve on any placement committee within their area. They shall be appointed by the director of player personnel at his or her discretion.

Section 19 Elections and Terms of Office

Elected Officers shall be elected for a term of two years and may succeed in office. Elections shall be held at the August Annual Meeting, or at a Special Meeting called for the specific purpose of elections, if no quorum is present at the Annual Meeting. Any person who has the intent to be elected to the office of President of the GLSA must have served at least one (1) season as an officer on the Executive Board before he or she may seek election.

In even numbered years: The President, Secretary, Director of Youth Player Personnel, Director of Rules Appeals & Discipline, Director of Competitive League, Member at Large, and Director of Tournaments shall be elected.

In odd numbered years: The Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Adult Player Personnel, Director of Marketing, Referee Representative, and Director of Coaching and shall be elected.

An Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the office he/she is holding prior to the election. Spouses may not serve on the Executive Board simultaneously and in conjunction, only one member of any household may serve on the Executive Board at the same time. Terms of office shall run September 1 of the appropriate year to August 31 of the appropriate year. with odd and even terms as stated, based on the year of the annual general meeting. No elected officer shall hold more than one office at a time. In the event of a vacancy occurring in any elected office, other than the office of the President, prior to the end of term, the Executive Board shall appoint a successor to the office. If the Vice President is unable to assume the office of President in the event of vacancy in that office, a successor will be elected at a special meeting. Any officer may be removed by a two-third vote of the executive board. Any officer may resign at any time by written notice of such resignation to the President and/or Secretary.

Article III: General Meetings

- Section 1 Annual Meetings
 The Annual Meeting shall be held at the August coaches meeting. The Bi-Annual meeting shall be held at the February coaches meeting.
- Section 2 Representation & Voting Members
 Each team registered in the current soccer season shall be represented by the coach or appointed delegate to the Annual Meeting, biannual meeting, or special meeting. Members of the Executive Committee who are not the coach of record for a registered team will be allowed one vote. Only team delegates, Executive Board members and applicable Executive Committee members shall be voting members at the general meetings. Roll call will be taken.
- Section 3 Regular Meetings
 Regular meetings may be held on any day and time established by the President or Executive Board.
- Section 4 Special Meetings
 Special meetings may be called by the President, Executive Board or upon request of not less than twenty (20) voting members. The President shall call such meetings.
- Section 5 Quorum
 Twenty Per Cent (20%) of voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. The voting members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.
- Section 6 Place of Meetings
 The Executive Board may designate any place within Longview, Texas, for meetings. If a place for a meeting is not designated, then meetings will be at the **Greater Longview Soccer Association Office at 3301 W. Marshall Ave., Longview TX. 75604**
- Section 7 Notice of Meetings and Agenda
 Written or printed notice, stating the place, day and hour of a general meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, **shall** be delivered electronically not less than ten (ten) or more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting by or at the direction of the President, or the Secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member entitled to

vote at such meeting. Only one notice of any regular meeting shall be required. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given as provided above to each registered team in the current soccer season.

Article IV: Amendments

Section 1 Amendments

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

Article V: Miscellaneous

Section 1 Nonprofit Status

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

Section 2 Dissolution of Association

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

Section 3 Net Earnings

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

Section 4 Political Involvement

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

display or sale of political banners, signs, or other political paraphernalia at GLSA events is prohibited.

Section 5

Fiscal Year

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

Section 6

Affiliations

This association shall be affiliated with, and follow the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the North Texas State Soccer Association, as amended from time to time.

Rules and Regulations

Article I: Eligibility and Registration

Section 1 Eligibility

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

Youth:

4U

5U

6U

7U

8U

9U

10U

11U

12U

13U

14U

15U

16U

17U

19U

Adults: 18 and above (must have graduated high school)

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 August 31 of the following year. A player may not register on more than one team during a soccer year. Players are permitted to register and play up from their official age bracket.

***A player must have been able to have reached the age of three (3) years by December 31 to register for the U4 fall soccer season. ***

The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

All coaches and players are required to follow the GLSA Policy regarding ID Cards. This policy also applies to visiting teams participating in games at GLSA, who must adhere to the same ID Card requirements. Non-compliance may result in disqualification from the match for the coach or player.

Section 2 Releases

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

Section 3 Fees and Registration of Teams

- A. Each player shall pay a registration fee, the amount of which is to be set by the Executive Board.
- B. Each player must complete online registration and submit a copy of their birth certificate (if not already on file) by the date established by the Executive Board for teams and players to be eligible to play. Failure to comply with this rule will result in that team's eligibility to play to be decided by the Executive Board.
- C. Every coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, and other volunteer must complete the NTSSA Safe Sport Certification and Background Check.
- D. Player placement and registration deadlines for each season will be set forth by the Executive Board.
- E. Players who have quit the team, or removed by the Executive Board, may be deleted from the roster with the approval of the Executive Board. In those instances where a player is dropped for disciplinary reasons, the parents or guardians must have been notified by the coach before the player may be deleted from the roster.
- F. No coach of a recreational team will be allowed to refuse players of the appropriate age group.
- G. Team formation (new players and transfers) shall be in accordance with NTSSA Rules for Registration of Youth Players (Recreational Team Formation Rules), which states as follows:
- H. For 4U, 5U, 6U, 7U, and 8U Age Groups
 - A. GLSA permits teams to remain together from season to season, then the player has the right to stay on the team, and the member association must ensure that all those rostered players have been given the opportunity to remain on that team.
 - B. New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following methods:
 1. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group committee that consists of 2 board members and at least 1 commissioner on a territorial basis as defined by the executive board. (Example- neighborhood schools, precincts, zip codes, etc.)
 2. To promote soccer participation for young children, a 4U, 5U, 6U, 7U and 8U player may invite a friend from the same member association who has never registered in any association to join his existing team (roster permitting).
 3. Players' names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the member association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. For any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the member association's Executive Board. A member association may have only one recreational team formation process per age

group. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non recreational.

4. To ensure fairness and promote balanced teams, all players are re-entered into the GLSA player pool for the season they transition from 8U to 9U. New teams will then be formed according to our standard team formation rules.

For 9U, 10U, 11U,12U,13U,14U,15U,16U,17U,18U and 19U

Age Groups

- A. GLSA permits teams to remain together from season to season, then the player has the right to stay on the team, and the member association must ensure that all those rostered players have been given the opportunity to remain on that team.
- B. New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following methods:
 1. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group committee that consists of 2 board members and at least 1 commissioner on a territorial basis as defined by the executive board. (Example- neighborhood schools, precincts, zip codes, etc.)
 2. To promote soccer participation for young children, a 9U– 19U may invite a friend from the same member association who has never registered in any association to join his existing team (roster permitting).
 3. Players' names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the member association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. For any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the member association's Executive Board. A member association may have only one recreational team formation process per age group. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non recreational.

Section 4

Soccer Academies

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

- B. Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc. of Soccer Academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and sent information to NTSSA.
- C. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate in an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may only participate in one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspensions from all soccer activities for a period.
- D. GLSA may provide league play if it has enough teams or may coordinate with other member associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play will be designated as Under 7 through Under 10.
- E. Soccer Academy teams are not considered "registered teams" and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a "Soccer Academy" bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament. Soccer Academy teams may not travel out of NTSSA as a team to play in tournaments.
- F. Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team for one week and another team the next week.
- G. The purpose of the Soccer Academies is to:
 - 1. Provide recreational players who aspire to become a more accomplished player with an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
 - 2. Provide recreational players with an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
 - 3. Provide recreational players with an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.
- H. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.

Section 5

Suspended Players

Any suspended player shall be ineligible for participation in any league competition and shall automatically be reinstated unless further action is taken at the end of the specific period of suspension. Players suspended indefinitely shall not be eligible until reinstated by the A&D committee.

- Section 6 Eligibility Responsibility
Responsibility for player's eligibility shall rest with team officials. Knowingly playing suspended or unregistered players shall result in forfeiture of the game or games in which such infractions occur, and a penalty ranging from probation to suspension for one (1) year or more. This suspension may be from all soccer activities.
- Section 7 Residence
A player must reside in the area governed by this association, except for those in the armed forces.
- Section 8 Amateur Requirements
Players must meet USSF amateur requirements to qualify for registration in this association or have obtained USSF approved amateur reinstatement.
- Section 9 Team Donations
All teams registered with or created under the auspices of this association shall submit a statement of income and expense if such teams receive donations as a result of the association's 501(c)(3) status. The reports shall be presented to the treasurer for safekeeping no later than August 31 of each year. Failure to comply with this rule may cause the suspension of said team from all soccer activities, which shall be at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- Section 10 Adult Teams
GLSA Adult Teams shall follow NTSSA team formation and playing rules. Adult team representatives shall not participate in voting regarding youth playing rules and shall not be considered when calculating a quorum for youth rule changes.

Article II: Association Rules of the Game

Section 1 Playing Rules

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

Law I - Field of Play

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

Age Groups - Field Width - Field Length - Goal Size

Adult

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

Youth

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

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

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

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

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

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

Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Age Groups Ball Size

13U and older Size #5

9U through 12U Size #4

8U and younger Size #3

LAW III - Number of Players and Substitution

- A. 13U and older shall play 11v11.
- B. U11 and 12U shall play 9v9.
- C. 9U and 10U shall play 7v7.
- D. 8U and younger shall play 4v4 with no goalkeeper.
- E. Substitution Rule – Youth 9U and older
 1. At a throw-in by team in possession.
 2. At a throw-in by the team not in possession so long as the team in possession is also making a substitution.
 3. Either team, at a goal-kick; Either team, after a goal is scored.
 4. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play:
 5. At halftime/period
 6. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
 7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** During kick offs, goal kicks, for injured players or your own throw-in, (Both teams may substitute if the team in possession elects to substitute. There are no substitutions on the fly.
- F. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on their roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
 1. Adult – maximum 15 players
 2. 15U and 19U – maximum 22 players
 3. 13U-14U – maximum 18 players
 4. 11U-12U – maximum 16 players
 5. 9U -10U – maximum 12 players
 6. 8U and younger– maximum 8

Law IV - Player's Equipment

- a. Proper soccer equipment should be used in all games and is subject to inspection and rejection by the referee.
- b. Teams must wear a proper uniform during the regular season and in post-season games. The home team shall change uniforms when both teams have similar colors. The first team listed on the game schedule is the home team.
- c. Proper uniform shall be in accordance with the current GLSA Player Uniform Policy. Shin guards and shoes meet the standards set forth in the IFAB Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda. (No toe cleat allowed)
- d. **No jewelry** is allowed (This includes an earring that is taped over). Hair beads are allowed so long as they are secured under head gear or a head wrap. No free-flowing beads are allowed.

- e. Head gear is allowed so long as the referee deems it to be safe.
- f. Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts (no hoodies) may be worn under the uniform.
- g. Pants over shorts may be worn if approved by the referee on the field.
- h. Players may play with a hard cast so long as it is padded with slow recover foam or bubble wrap (with referee approval).

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

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

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

1. Registered Referees
2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
3. Referee's decisions on points connected with the game shall be final.
 - a. All rule infractions may be briefly explained to the offending player.
 - b. Only registered referees have the power to caution or send off players.
 - c. NO REFEREES ARE ASSIGNED TO THE 4U AGE DIVISION.

Law VI - Assistant Referee

Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for 9U and older There are no Assistant Referees in 8U and younger.

Law VII - Duration of Game

Age Groups Length of Periods Length of Overtime

Adult

(2) 30 Min Halves.

Youth

17U - 19U (2) 45 Min Halves
 15U and 16U (2) 40 Min Halves
 13U and 14U (2) 35 Min Halves
 11U and 12U (2) 30 Min Halves
 9U and 10U (2) 25 Min Halves
 7U and 8U (4) 10 Min.
 5U and 6U (4) 8 Min. Quarters
 4U (4) 8 Min Quarters.

Law VIII - Start of Play *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

Law IX - Ball in and out of Play *** Conforms with IFAB.

Law X - Method of Scoring *** U4 through U8 age divisions may not score from their own half of the field. All other age divisions conform with IFAB except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player.

Law XI - Off-Side *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger there are no offside and for 9/10U there is not an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out lines.

Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct

- A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in **NTSSA**. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground." Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per IFAB laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.

- B. It is not intentional “handball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
- C. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
- D. 10U and 9U – no punting or drop kicks are allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line. The goalkeeper may ONLY pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate (no “slamming” or “setting a punt” for a teammate)
- E. 12U and younger should not engage in heading, either in practices or games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

Law XIII - Free Kick *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least 10 feet from the ball.

Law XIV - Penalty Kick *** Conforms with IFAB except for no penalty kicks in 8U and younger.

Law XV - Throw-In *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and below are allowed a re-throw.

Law XVI - Goal Kick *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least ten feet from the ball.

Law XVII - Corner Kick *** Conforms with IFAB except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least ten feet from the ball.

Section 2: Games

- A. Each team will be limited to one (1) rescheduling per soccer season. It will be the responsibility of the team initiating the change to present the necessary proof of conflict to the office administrator, not later than (2) two weeks prior to the date the game was originally scheduled. Abuse of reschedules will be reviewed by the Executive Board.
- B. Games may be postponed if the referee declares the ground unplayable.
- C. Teams failing to provide player cards within (10) ten minutes from official start time shall forfeit the game.
- D. All games shall be played in two equal halves, except for the 4U, 5U, 6U, 7U and 8U age divisions who play with four equal quarters under modified playing rules, and the halves shall be as follows:
 - 4U, 5U, 6U Will play four (4) 8 Minute quarters.
 - 7U/8U Will play four (4) 10 quarters.
 - 9U/10U 25 Minute Halves
 - 11U/12U 30 Minute Halves
 - 13U/14U 35 Minute Halves
 - 15U/16U 40 Minute Halves
 - 17U/18U/19U 45 Minute Halves
- E. No substitution shall be allowed for a player ejected from the game by the referee.

- F. Teams refusing to play or continue after being so ordered by the referee shall forfeit the game.
- G. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - i. 6 points for a win
 - ii. 3 points for a tie
 - iii. 0 points for a loss
 - iv. 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3
 - v. 1 point for a shutout (not allowing opponent to score)
 - vi. Forfeits will be scored 3-0.
- H. The point system is used to determine standings for 9U-19U age divisions. Any games played against non GLSA teams will not be included in the league standings and will be listed as friendlies. If two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the regular season, and neither team has defeated the other during regular season play, GLSA post season tournament tie breaker procedure will be used to determine placement.
- I. Referee duals are not allowed.

Article III: Conduct

Section 1: Conduct on the Field

- A. Any case of misconduct in the field of play, which is reported, shall be reviewed by the RA&D Committee. These reports shall be written within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident. The RA&D Committee shall impose appropriate disciplinary measures to prevent any recurrence of each misconduct.
- B. Referees shall report to the Director of RA&D any violations of the rules and regulations by players, team officials, or fans. These reports must be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident.
- C. Youth Cumulative Card System (Includes Coaches and Assistant Coaches) and is in effect for the entire soccer year, September 1st to August 31st. GLSA shall operate the NTSSA Cumulative Card System as fully stated in the NTSSA administrative rule book, such System being summarized as follows:
- D. CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM in league play will be operated as follows:
 - 1. **Yellow Cards**
 - a. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card.
 - b. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card.
 - c. Three game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

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

2. Red Cards

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

NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely because of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. The coach may appeal a red card that was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, an appeal must be filed by the coach so that a hearing can take place. The outcome of the hearing will determine if the red card is reduced to a yellow card. The Playing League may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to NTSSA.*

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

E. **CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM**" for each tournament will be operated as follows:

1. Yellow Cards

- a. One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card.
- b. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament.
- c. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

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

2. Red Cards

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

NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely because of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. The*

coach may appeal a red card that was issued for an infraction that was not an “expulsion” offense in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, an appeal must be filed by the coach so that a hearing can take place. The outcome of the hearing will determine if the red card is reduced to a yellow card. The Playing League may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to NTSSA.

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

The “CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM” prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by GLSA, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials.

Nothing herein prevents GLSA, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

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

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

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

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

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

F. Extreme Violent Conduct

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

SEND-OFF

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

- b. Second Send-off - Two Game Suspension
- c. Third Send-off - Suspension pending A&D - Committee Inquiry

5. FINES

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

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

- 6. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as the GLSA. GLSA shall promptly (within ten (10) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the GLSA.
- 7. The State A&D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one.
- 8. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the A&D Committee of both the GLSA and the **NTSSA**.
- 9. Game suspensions for caution points and/or expulsions:
- 10. The suspension is to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach/manager/or team representative at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, playoff, championship, cup games, local or state tournament game) that the team for which the player was playing when the red card was given is involved in. A suspension imposed by GLSA shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify his suspension (to sit out) the next game.
- 11. All game suspensions must be reported to the State. When an ejection or game suspension under the caution point system is issued to a player, the GLSA will forward a copy of the referee's Misconduct Report of the ejection or a copy of the league's Disciplinary Committee report on suspension due to the excessive Caution Points directly to the **NTSSA State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**, together with the action taken by the GLSA. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the GLSA, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct. Each additional caution and/or ejection of said player during the remainder of the soccer year will also be forwarded to the RA&D committee for review and possible further action.
- 11. The **NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee** will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.
- 12. Extreme Violent Conduct:
 - a. The GLSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee is directed to extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

Section 2 – Conduct off the Field.

- A. Any case of misconduct off the field which affects this association shall be reported to the GLSA office and RA&D Chairperson for review. These reports shall be in writing or submitted via email within 72 hours of such incidents.
- B. Any actions by the members, including coaches, players and parents, which are considered detrimental to the association, or its members, shall be subject to suspensions, fines, or expulsion from the association.

Article IV: Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

B. Youth Association Teams

- 1. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to **NTSSA** within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the GLSA A&D Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. If desired, GLSA may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. Failure of GLSA to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.
- 2. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) Tournament Officials shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to **NTSSA** within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth send-off. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. Failure of Tournament Officials to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's fourth will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during league play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

C. Adult Association Teams

- 1. When the players/coaches/team representatives/spectators of a given team have accumulated a combined point limit for that team, based on five (5) points per scheduled league game, per season, as described in the **"CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM"**, the Adult Member Association will notify the North Texas State Soccer Association Appeals & Disciplinary Committee. (Example: For a ten (10) game season, the combined point limit will be fifty (50) points.) The team will be required to appear before the **NTSSA** Appeals & Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct.
- 2. The GLSA will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction, the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses

considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.

Article V: Game Protests

Section 1 Protests

- A. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game. They are as follows:
 - 1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
 - 2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the rules of the game that directly affects the outcome of the game, and the referee admits it.
 - 3. No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgmental decisions made by the referee during play. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the GLSA referee staff.
 - 4. All protests must be presented in writing, accompanied by a cashier's check or money order in the amount of Fifty (\$50) dollars to the Vice President of the association by mail, postmarked, or in person, within forty-eight hours after the game in question. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld, or if it is not an acceptable cause as defined in subsection A (1) and (2), the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of the association.
 - 5. The A&D Committee will conduct a hearing on all protests. It shall be at the discretion of the committee to consult with the coach filing the protest, coach of the opposing team of the game in which the objection occurred, and the referee. It will be the responsibility of the A&D Committee Chairman to notify all applicable parties including the Association Secretary and Chairman of Referees of the decision, which will be final.

Article VI: Procedure for Filing Appeals

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

- A. Decisions of the Appeals and Discipline Committee, any other existing committee, or the action of a particular officer, commissioner, committee chairman or area coordinator, are appealed to the Executive Board of this association. This appeal must be made and concluded prior to appealing such decisions or actions to NTSSA or USSF.
- B. All appeals to the Executive Board must be submitted in writing and received within five (5) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by a \$100.00 fee (cash, cashier's check or money order). If the appeal is upheld by the Board, the fee will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of GLSA. In the case of appeals regarding individual suspensions.
- C. The Board, at its discretion, may, when requested in writing to do so, extend the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.
- D. All appeals to the Board must be made in writing to the President, via email, who will then notify the Secretary of the Board and all the members of the Board.
- E. Upon receipt of appeal, properly submitted, the President shall set a time and place for the hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Board, but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal, and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal at the hearing.
- F. Decisions of the Executive Board may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association and thereafter the United States Soccer Federation. In no event shall any person

- or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of this Association resort to the Courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations to this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines as set forth by the United States Soccer Federation, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by defending each court action, including but not limited to court costs, attorney fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by the GLSA and the NTSSA officers and members in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.
- G. All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

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

- A. 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.
- B. Coaches shall instruct players to always play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game.
- C. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- D. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Coaches must never encourage players to violate NTSSA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies. 45 Revised 9/9/2022
- H. 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.
- I. 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.
- J. 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 acquire 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

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate GLSA, NTSSA Commissioner or Association Official immediately.
- D. The 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

- A. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the Greater Longview Soccer Association by emailing the office at office@longviewsoccer.com

ARTICLE V - RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING

- A. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
- B. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
- C. All NTSSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
- D. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. **If you feel a coach has violated any of the above bylaws, please submit your report in writing to Greater Longview Soccer Association at office@longviewsoccer.com**

ARTICLE VI - RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

- A. 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.
- B. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all if no less than three referrals are given to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
- C. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all if no less than three referrals are given to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
- D. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, GLSA, and **NTSSA**.
- E. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
- F. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
- G. 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.
- H. 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

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. The coach's foremost responsibility is his/her team.
- F. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
- G. Coaches must always act in a professional manner when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrates 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:
 - 1. Lewd gestures or remarks
 - 2. Overly critical remarks
 - 3. Ranting and raving
 - 4. Snide or demeaning remarks
 - 5. Threatening behavior or remarks
 - 6. Physical confrontation
 - 7. Temper outbursts

Article VIII: Misconduct of Spectators

- 1. Each youth and adult team participating in GLSA is accountable for the behavior of its spectators. Referees are empowered to caution or remove the coach or acting coach from the field in response to misconduct by spectators affiliated with the team. Accordingly, the coach, assistant coach, or team manager is expected to maintain control over team spectators, particularly on non-enclosed fields. Should they be unable to do so, GLSA will take appropriate action against any identifiable disruptive spectator, or, if the individual cannot be identified, against the team as a whole. Instances of spectator misconduct will be reported by GLSA to the State A&D Committee for review and potential further measures. GLSA holds both the team and the coach jointly responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, and spectators.
- 2. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the RA&D Committee of both the GLSA and the **NTSSA**.
- 3. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:

- a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
- b. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.) Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
- c. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
- d. Spectators removed from the sidelines will be fined \$50.
- e. If a spectator is removed from a game for misconduct, any related player—including their child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or other family member—will be ineligible to participate in future games until the \$50 fine has been paid.

GLSA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Children have more needs, for example, than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily influenced by outside factors.

Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.

Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.

Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.

Remember your child participates in organized sports for their enjoyment, **NOT YOURS!**

Encourage your child to always play by the rules.

Encourage children to recognize that making an effort can be as meaningful as winning, helping them accept the outcome of each game calmly.

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.

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.

NTSSA Rule 3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee

Misconduct Toward Referee

1. NTSSA has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee, in any competition by the State or Member Associations. This jurisdiction includes:
 - a. All USSF registered referees (adult and youth).
 - b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
 - c. Any coach, parent, or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.
2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers, or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman, the appropriate State Commissioner (Adult Men's, Adult Women's, Youth or Indoor), the Olympic Development Program chairman and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairperson, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.
3. Should the majority of the members of the subcommittee listed above in Paragraph 3.11.7.2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault or referee abuse, a formal hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act upon or towards a game official as defined in Paragraph 3.11.7.1 above shall be deemed "referee assault" or "referee abuse" in the NTSSA under the terms, If the subcommittee determines there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault, the committee, at its discretion, may suspend the individual involved until the hearing on the alleged assault. Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.11.7-2 above, determine the action committed to be Gross Mistreatment Towards a Referee rather than Referee Assault or Referee Abuse; it shall impose an administrative punishment of a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the suspended party. Should a formal hearing be requested and held, it shall be an NTSSA Board of Directors hearing as described in Paragraph 3.11.7.4.
4. NTSSA Board of Directors Hearing

Assault hearings shall be conducted by the State Board of Directors in the following manner:

- a. The alleged offending party should be present at such hearings; however, if he is not present, the NTSSA Board of Directors will act upon the matter with the information before it.
 - b. The game official(s) are required to be present at the hearings. However, if they are present, the NTSSA Board of Directors will act upon the matter with the information before it.
 - c. It is intended that the officials' reports be clear and that no explanations are required at the hearing. Only the NTSSA Board of Directors will question the official(s). If the offending party or any other party or any other person(s) need explanation, such queries will be addressed through the Chair.
5. Terms and References

A Referee is protected by U.S. Soccer policy from the time they arrive at the venue (which shall include the parking area), until their departure from the venue. For the purposes of this policy, "Protected Party" means a member of the Referee's family or household or a guest of the Referee at the match or match venue. All U.S. Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state, and Federal laws.

- a. Referee assault is any deliberate physical action against a Referee. Referee abuse is extreme, deliberate, and non-contact behavior that causes a Referee or Protected Party significant harm. Actions in this category may be subject to an immediate suspension, meaning that the perpetrator cannot appear at the next sanctioned match. Assault and abuse include, but are not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:
 1. Imposing physical harm upon a Referee or a Protected Party, including by use of objects or equipment.
 2. Any act that endangers the Referee's physical well-being, whether deliberate or merely reckless.
 3. Any form of unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to pushing, hitting, striking, kicking, choking, or spitting at the Referee.
 4. Any behavior that constitutes a criminal offense under any applicable law.
 5. Threatening, either directly or in insinuation, physical harm, including by use of objects or equipment, to a Referee or a Protected Party or property. Threatening is defined as any statement or action that instills reasonable fear of acts of violence to a person's safety or property.
 6. Threats of harm or any retaliatory action against the Referee or their Protected Parties, including threat of exclusion from assignment or future participation opportunity.
- b. Actions that do not meet the above assault or abuse definitions, but cause a Referee or Protected Party harm, may be subject to U.S. Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, noncontact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:
 1. Severe or repeated harassment, including hate speech or discriminatory remarks based on race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other legally protected characteristic.
 2. Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
 3. Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g., intimidation).
 4. Any form of cyberbullying, including spreading false information about the Referee, sharing the Referee's personal information (aka <doxing>), or publicly posting content that ridicules or mocks the Referee or uses hate speech.
 5. Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
 6. Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
 7. Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee's authority or is intended to cast doubt on the Referee.

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

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

6. Penalties and Suspensions

A. Referee Assault and Abuse

1. The person committing the Referee assault must be suspended as follows:
 - a. for a minor or slight touching of the Referee or the Referee's uniform or personal property, at least three months from the time of the assault.
 - b. except as provided in clause (i) or (ii), for any other assault, at least six months from the time of the assault:
 - i. for an assault committed by an adult and the Referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least three years; or
 - ii. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five years.
2. For actions categorized as abuse, the person must be suspended for the next three affiliated matches, at minimum.

*** (Any misconduct against a minor-aged referee that rises to the level of child abuse under federal law must also be reported to law enforcement and the U.S. Center for SafeSport.) ***

3. A Member Organization adjudicating the matter may not provide shorter period of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

7. Any party found to have committed the act of referee assault, referee abuse, or gross mistreatment towards a referee shall have the right to appeal, within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision, to the USSF Appeals Board, following USSF Bylaw 705.

8. Assault On Officials by An Adult Player

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

Greater Longview Soccer Association (GLSA) Adult League Rules

I. Purpose

- A. 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 with the Greater Longview Soccer Association (GLSA) and hold membership in North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).
- B. These rules are provided for the administration of the Adult League within the framework of GLSA.
- C. These rules and procedures, adopted by the membership of the Adult League, shall be presented and ratified by the GLSA membership.
- D. Once adopted, changes to these rules and procedures will be presented to the GLSA Executive for approval.
- E. The Adult League reserves the right to petition NTSSA to become a separate entity.
- F. Coincidentally with the petition, the Adult League shall modify these rules and procedures to reflect the requirements of an independent organization.

II. Organization and Administration

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

III. Membership

A. Officers

- 1. Adult League Officers shall consist of a Director.
- 2. The Director shall be a member of the GLSA Executive Board.
- 3. The Adult Director shall represent the Adult League at all GLSA Board Meetings
- 4. The Adult Director shall not be the manager of any Adult League Team.
- 5. Ideally, the Adult Director should not be involved with any Adult League team to avoid potential conflict issues, but this is not required.
- 6. The Adult League reserves the right to add additional officers to assist the Adult Director as needed.
- 7. Any additional officers shall require a change to these rules to specify duties and responsibilities.

B. Players

- 1. 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.

2. Any person requesting permission to play in the Association may do so provided all State and National requirements have been met.
3. Any person under suspension from any other association, league, or group must petition the Executive Board for permission to play in this association.
4. Divisions will be set with the first goal being competitiveness within the bracket.
 - a. The Association will make its best efforts to have each division balanced.
 - b. All factors that may affect the competitiveness of a team may be considered.
 - c. It is the responsibility of each team manager to inform the association of any factor that might impact their team's competitiveness.
 - d. Promotion and Relegation has always been the practice of this league.
 - e. If a team comes in first, they will move up a division.
 - f. If a team comes in last, for the sake of the team and its players, they will move down a division.
 - g. If a manager makes changes to their roster which will affect the team going on (only), the League Director needs to be notified of these changes before any teams are placed in brackets, and the schedule is completed.

IV. Managers

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

V. Adult Council

- A. The Adult shall consist of the Director and the Managers of the active teams for the current season.
- B. The Adult League shall serve the Adult League teams in the capacity of decision-making consistent with the intent and spirit of the rules governing the Adult League.
- C. All members of the Adult League have exactly one vote per managed team.
- D. The Adult Director shall have a vote for breaking tied votes.
- E. The Adult League should establish the annual budget and set fees necessary to meet the Adult League budget.
- F. The Adult League shall establish common fees for all divisions.

VI. Adult League Director

- A. The Adult League Director is charged with the overall administration of the Adult League and shall act as a general manager.
- B. The Adult League Director or an alternate designee shall serve on the GLSA EC.
- C. The Adult League Director shall maintain the rules and procedures of the league.
- D. The Adult League Director shall create and maintain minutes of all formal league meetings.
- E. 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.

VII. Adult League Appeals and Discipline

- A. The Adult League shall use the GLSA Rules, Appeals, and Discipline Chairperson as required.
- VIII. Adult League Registration
- A. The Adult League Director shall be responsible for registration and fee collection.
 - B. The Adult League Director shall provide GLSA with the files required for registration.
 - C. The Adult League Director shall deliver fees to the GLSA Treasurer or the GLSA Office Administrator and maintain an accounting of the money collected.
 - D. The GLSA Office Administrator shall see that the required fees for NTSSA are paid.
 - E. The Adult League Director shall provide an accounting of funds to the Adult League after each season.
 - F. 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.
 - G. A maximum team roster shall be 15 players (no less than 10 players).
 - H. A minimum team roster shall consist of 6 male players, 4 female players, and a keeper.
 - I. All fees and fines must be paid by the end of the season.
 - J. Any team that is not current on their fees (e.g., bad checks, fines) will not be allowed to continue in League play until all fees and fines have been paid.
 - K. GLSA shall charge and collect a bank charge at current bank rates for all returned checks, in addition to, but not limited to, an additional fee payable to GLSA of \$25 per NSF check presented to the League.
 - L. 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 than a \$75 administration fee.
 - M. 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.
 - N. No team will be allowed to withdraw after the first game of the season has been played. No refunds, with or without penalty, will be issued after the first game of the season has been played.
 - O. Only with good cause and approval of the League Director can a team register after the designated registration date(s) each season.
 - P. A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all the games in which the player participated.
 - Q. The Team Manager of the team playing such a player shall be suspended for two games and fined \$80.
 - R. An add or delete of a player may take place after registration with permission of the League Director.
 - S. A registration form must be completed (if a new player) and submitted to the League along with a \$5.00 per player payable plus applicable late fee to GLSA no later than 72 hours prior to game time for which the player was added.
 - T. Any team deleting a player after registration must return the player's registration form and player card. A \$5.00 fee will be charged.
 - U. GLSA reserves the right to refuse the registration of any player who has not paid their team fees or fines.

- V. GLSA reserves the right to not allow someone to play who has caused trouble in the past.
- IX. Adult League Referees
 - A. The Adult League shall use the Greater Longview Soccer Association (GLSA) and agree to fees contracted by GLSA.
 - B. 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.
- X. Adult League Schedules
 - A. The Adult League shall use the GLSA Scheduler and GLSA Assignor for all games and coordination of field usage.
 - B. The GLSA Scheduler will create the schedules within the constraints of GLSA.
 - C. The Adult League recognizes that the scheduling of GLSA youth games shall take precedence, and the Adult League schedules shall be adjusted as required.
 - D. The Adult League Director has the authority to cancel games in accordance with the GLSA current policies.
- XI. Meetings GLSA General Membership
 - A. The Adult League shall participate in GLSA general membership meetings.
 - 1. The Adult League quorum for Adult-Only issues shall be 50% of the managers based on current season teams.
 - 2. The Adult League Director shall be part of the GLSA EC relative to quorum determination.
 - 3. 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.
- XII. Adult League Rule Changes
 - A. Changes to these rules should require a formal meeting of the Adult League. The Adult League Director shall make any arrangements necessary for the meeting.
 - 1. All rule change proposals shall be announced to the managers at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - 2. The managers are responsible for announcements to their team members.
 - 3. The GLSA President or other appointed GLSA Board Member might observe the activity regarding rule changes.
 - 4. The Adult League Director shall report on the rule changes to the GLSA EC for final approval.
 - 5. A quorum for Adult League rule changes consists of the Adult League Director and 50% of all Adult League Members.
- XIII. Adult League Procedure Changes
 - A. The Adult League 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.
- XIV. Adult League Calendar
 - A. The Adult League shall coincide with the GLSA Youth soccer year.
- XV. Adult League Elections

- A. The Adult League shall elect the Adult Director and the Assistant Adult Director annually in February.
 - 1. 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
 - 2. A meeting of the Adult League within 30 days of a vacancy shall fill the vacancy by a 60% vote of the Adult League.
 - 3. The Adult League electing a new Adult Director shall immediately follow the removal of the Adult Director.
- XVI. **Adult League Procedures**
- A. The Adult League establishes procedures for each division affiliated with the Adult League.
 - 1. The procedures shall be specific to the League to include special game day rules.
 - 2. The Adult League consisting of the specific managers for the division shall approve the procedures.
 - 3. The Procedures may be changed at any time, with changes in effect with the next season unless otherwise specified.

Adult League Soccer Procedures

- I. **Administrative Issues**
 - A. The league shall be the Adult League of Greater Longview Soccer Association.
 - B. The league may be comprised of one or more divisions of teams.
- II. **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.
 - C. Failure to do so by both teams will result in a double forfeit.
 - D. 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.
- III. **Adult Director**
 - A. Chosen by the adult managers each year.
- IV. **Referees**
 - A. Referees must be a Grassroots Referee, at least 18 years old, to officiate adult league games.
 - B. Each adult league team must provide at least one certified referee each season.
 - C. Each referee must referee a minimum of 4 (four) games for the team to remain eligible.
 - D. A new adult Grassroots 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.
 - E. Grassroots Referee adult league team referees must officiate at least four (4) adult league games per season.
 - F. Referees for adult teams must be rostered to the team they represent.
 - G. Referees must be certified by the referee clinic date or must attend the referee clinic, if new.
 - H. Referee assignor should verify those that attend the referee clinic.
- V. **Referees - Emphasis on Competitive Soccer**

- A. Emphasis on competitive soccer with strong enforcement of fouls or attempted fouls to cause injury.
 - B. Use of cards is desired to prevent serious situations and maintain control.
- VI. Seasonal Dates
 - A. The season will start the same weekend as the Youth League starts.
 - B. The Adult League shall establish the seasonal calendar to include registration dates, start dates, etc.
 - C. The number of games shall be determined by a balanced schedule where practical.
- VII. Team Manager/Captain/Representative Responsibilities
 - A. Responsible for their team's conduct on and off the field of play.
 - B. This includes litter control and alcoholic beverage consumption, which is not allowed at Lear Park.
 - C. Animals are not allowed at Lear Park during GLSA activities.
 - D. Responsible for their team's spectator conduct
 - E. Keep all team personnel and spectators within their team's sidelines.
 - F. Players with the wrong number or no player card photo will not be allowed to participate in the game.
 - G. Score sheets will be brought to and taken from the field by the referee. The referee will be responsible for them.
 - H. 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.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. Fees
 - 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.
- X. Managers
 - 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.
 - C. The Adult League shall establish common fees to meet the budgets for the Adult League, to include charges established by GLSA as necessary.
 - D. The Adult League may include additional fees specific to the league.
 - E. GLSA shall charge for registration, field usage (city fee), Administrative, and Referee costs, Assignor costs with fees established by GLSA, etc.
 - F. The GLSA Treasurer shall maintain a separate accounting of the money but may use a single bank account for deposits.

- G. All coaches and players are required to follow the GLSA Policy regarding ID Cards. This policy also applies to visiting teams participating in games at GLSA, who must adhere to the same ID Card requirements. Non-compliance may result in disqualification from the match for the coach or player.
- H. Team Captains:
 - 1. Each Adult team shall have at least one speaking captain.
 - 2. Each adult team shall provide a captain's armband to facilitate any necessary discussions between the Referee and the team captain.
- I. Uniforms:
 - 1. All team players must wear matching shirts and color with a minimum 6" numerals (unique and different with no duplications).
 - 2. The numbers must be permanently affixed to the back for a player to be eligible for league games.
 - 3. Numbers must be sewn, stenciled by heat process or heat transferred.
 - 4. All numbers worn must match the number on the score sheet and player card for that specific player.
 - 5. 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.
 - 6. No taped or hand-written numbers shall be allowed.
 - 7. Any player in violation of this rule shall be considered ineligible and shall not play the game.
 - 8. 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).
 - 9. The first team listed on the schedule is the home team.
 - 10. 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.
 - 11. In the case of both teams changing color causing a conflict – it falls back on the home team to switch to another color.
 - 12. Shin guards are mandatory, and socks must be pulled up over them.
 - 13. Shin guards must be those manufactured for specific use as shin guards and approved by FIFA.
 - 14. 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.
 - 15. Playing shoes must meet FIFA standards and be in safe repair.
- XI. Game Governance
 - A. Unless otherwise modified by these rules, all competition under the jurisdiction of this Association shall be governed by IFAB Laws of the Game.
- XII. 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.
 - B. If a date and field are not available, the game will be scored as a 3-3 tie.
 - C. If a game should be suspended once the second half begins, it shall be considered a full game.



REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

PENALTY SUMMARY

POLICY 531-9/YOUTH & AMATEUR SOCCER

RESPECT THE CALL



RESPECT THE CALL

PROTECTING OUR REFEREES

With referee abuse on the rise for youth and amateur matches, it's time to take a stand.

Referees are essential to soccer, but far too often risk their emotional and physical well-being in service to the game.

Win, lose, or draw, we're in this together.

When you take your anger out on the referee, everybody loses, and the call on the field still stands.

Referee abuse is damaging for everyone involved – and for the future of soccer.

Thank you for doing your part.

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PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **“minor multiplier” resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure – updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

Here are steps you can take to make sure you're ready and know what to expect when the updated policy takes effect in March 2025:

1. CAREFULLY READ THIS PENALTY OVERVIEW

By the end of this guide, you will fully understand the updated policy and the consequences for abuse.

2. VISIT [USSOCCER.COM/RAP](https://ussoccer.com/rp) FOR MORE POLICY DETAILS AND UPDATES

Additional information about the policy is available on our website – and we'll be continuing to share more information.

3. SHARE POLICY INFORMATION WITH YOUR U.S. SOCCER COMMUNITY

Support our referees by sharing policy information with your players, coaches, teams, and leagues. We need your help to raise awareness!

4. ONCE THE POLICY TAKES EFFECT, DO YOUR PART BY REPORTING REFEREE ABUSE

The penalty framework in the new policy only takes effect after abuse is reported. Do your part to protect referees by reporting abuse and encouraging your community to do the same. U.S. Soccer will be providing updated reporting procedure – but for now please follow your current reporting structure.

Thank you for your support!



NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

Contact doesn't have to be made for damage to occur. Non-physical abuse – hurtful language and aggressive behavior – has no place in our game. It disrupts matches, interferes with the referee's ability to do their job, and it hurts the game for everyone. Left unchecked, non-physical abuse takes an emotional toll and has the potential to escalate into physically dangerous situations. The updated policy is designed to eliminate this behavior.

NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 1: VERBAL TAUNTING

Speech or gestures intended to belittle the referee, damage their credibility, and undermine their ability to effectively officiate the game.

DEFINITION

Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior
Undermining Referee Authority.

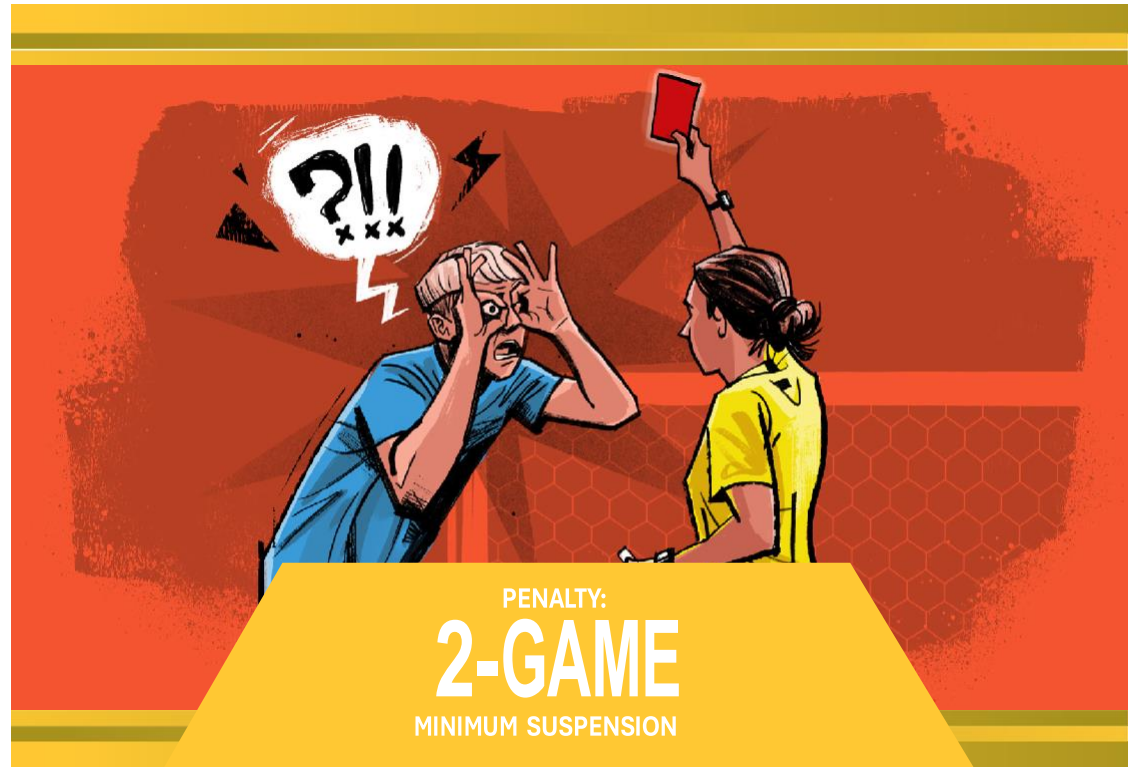
EXAMPLES

- **Questioning Competence:**
“Do you even know the rules?”
- **Mocking Appearance or Abilities:**
“Did you forget your glasses?”
- **Accusations of Bias:**
“What’s the other team paying you?”
- **Dismissive Language:**
“You suck.”
- **Aggressive Tone:**
“You’re the worst ref we’ve ever had.”

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

If you have concerns about a call, respectfully ask the referee for clarification. Share your perspective calmly, avoiding yelling, insults, or offensive gestures.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 2: HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION

Occurs when language or body language is intended to make a referee feel unsafe but where the threat of violence remains unspoken.

DEFINITION

Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive or Threatening (Non-Physical) Language.

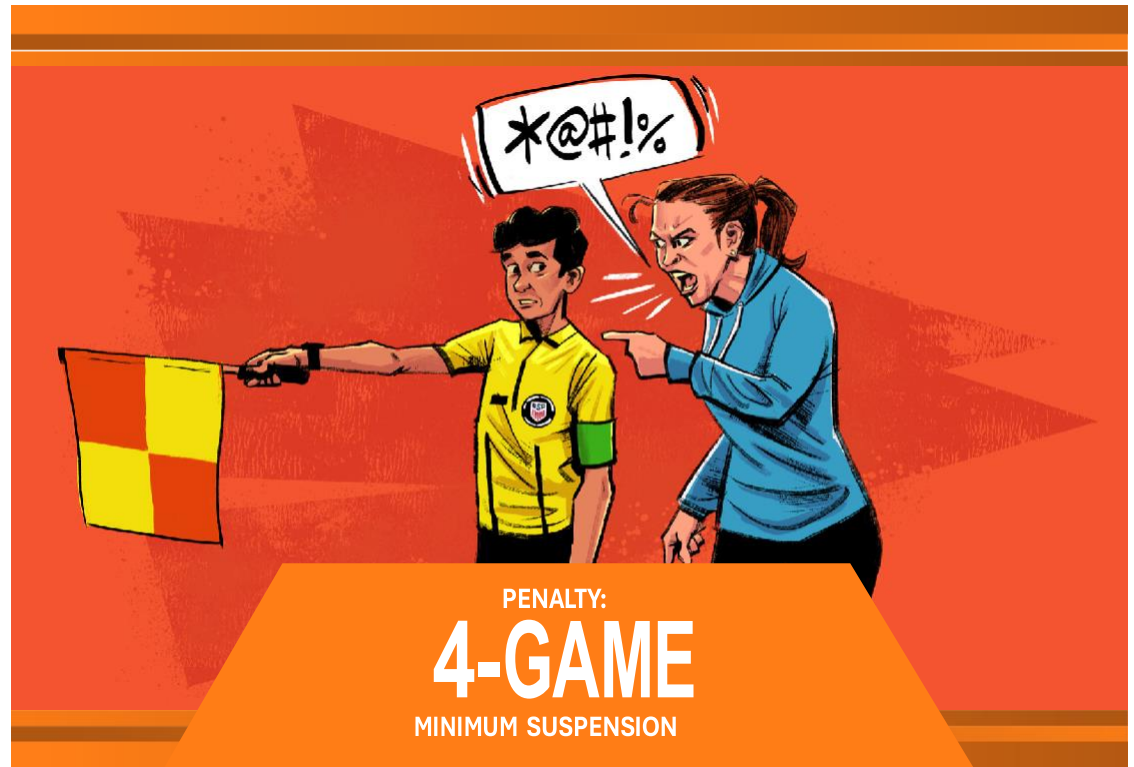
EXAMPLES

- **Using Expletives:**
“That call was complete \$H*t!”
- **Personal Attacks:**
“You’re a F-ing joke!”
- **Escalating Intensity:**
“You can’t make a single good f***** call!”
- **Getting In The Referee’s Face.**

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Take a moment to gather yourself before you speak to the referee. Ask for clarification calmly, aiming for constructive communication rather than causing conflict.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 3: THREATS/DEROGATORY LANGUAGE

When aggressive language or threats of violence enter the mix – or when abuse spills online.



DEFINITION

Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing, or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language.

EXAMPLES

- **Threatening To Inflict Harm On A Referee:**
 - “You’re gonna pay for that!”
 - “I’ll see you in the parking lot”
 - “I’m going to shove that card down your throat!”
 - “You better watch your back!”
- **Public Attacks Online** such as uploading a post to social media attacking the referee.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

When you feel frustrated by a referee’s call, take a moment to pause and breathe. Reflect on how your reaction impacts your experience and the overall atmosphere of the game for everyone involved.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 4: OFFENSIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY ACT

U.S. Soccer is inclusive of everyone. Discrimination – attacking referees for who they are, or offending their dignity – will not be tolerated.



DEFINITION

Discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin color, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, or religion.

EXAMPLES

- Racial or ethnic slurs.
- Offensive gestures.
- Homophobic language.
- Using harmful or sexist stereotypes.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Remember that soccer is for everyone. We're all human, and everybody deserves the opportunity to enjoy the game without being made to feel bad about who they are.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.





PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse makes the game unsafe for everyone. It's also easy to avoid. Outside of friendly handshakes, there's never a reason to touch the referee. Any unwanted physical contact is considered physical abuse. Physical violence can also result in criminal charges, lawsuits, or medical liability.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 1: MINOR OR SLIGHT TOUCHING

Even minor deliberate touches can be unwanted and make referees feel unsafe and are considered physical abuse.



DEFINITION

Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching.

EXAMPLES

- Tapping the referee's shoulder to get their attention.
- Touching the referee's chest with your finger.
- Grabbing the referee's jersey to get their attention.
- Intentionally bumping lightly into the referee.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Respectfully get the referee's attention without touching them – and, even in the heat of the moment, make a conscious effort to keep your hands to yourself.

***Disclaimer:** These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.*



PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 2: INTENTIONAL CONFRONTATION

Escalation of using contact to intimidate or provoke a physical confrontation – or causing damage to property – without the intent to cause bodily harm.



DEFINITION

Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non-Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage

EXAMPLES

- Shoving the referee.
- Forcefully grabbing the referee's arm.
- Throwing a water bottle at the ground in front of the referee.
- Dumping the referee's bag into a trashcan.
- Aggressively grabbing the referee's jersey.
- Following the referee to the parking lot or to their car.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Understand that this behavior not only won't change the outcome on the field, it will keep you out of the game for a long time. Channel that energy to drive better on-field performance. Remove yourself from the situation if you need to calm down.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



PHYSICAL ABUSE

LEVEL 3: VIOLENT CONTACT

Malicious, violent contact intended to cause bodily harm — this is considered assault and can result in criminal punishment, legal suits, and medical liability.



DEFINITION

Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner

EXAMPLES

- Kicking the referee's shin.
- Throwing a punch at the referee.
- Placing hands on the neck to choke the referee.
- Throwing a water bottle with intent to hit the referee.
- Intentionally kicking the ball at the referee.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Before physical abuse ever escalates to this level, there are plenty of opportunities to choose another course of action. Remove yourself from the situation and give yourself time for your anger to defuse before doing something with serious long-term consequences.

Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse — other actions or statements may also fall into this category.





REPORTING ABUSE

We understand the vast majority of players, coaches, and spectators already do the right thing. A small minority hurts the game for the rest of us – but it's up to all of us to uphold the integrity of the game. **With the updated policy, players, coaches, and spectators are encouraged to report abuse. The penalty framework only take effect if abuse is reported. We're asking you to do your part to support referees by reporting any instance of referee abuse.**

REPORTING ABUSE



GUIDELINES

- **Understand what does and doesn't constitute abuse – as well as the definitions for the different categories of abuse.**
- **Submit written reports of the abuse within 48 hours of the incident if possible. Include the following:**
 - Match details, including team information, age group, score, and date.
 - Detailed description of the incident and the behavior that constitutes abuse.
 - Unedited audio or video clips if available.
- **We will be providing details on the appropriate designee to submit reports to, as well as more in-depth procedure for reporting abuse as part of Phase 3 of the policy update. For now follow your current reporting structure.**
- **The Competition Authority will review all documents and submit the following to the Member Organization:**
 - All documents, exhibits, and other evidence in the case.
 - Copies of all rules, procedures, and bylaws used to support the charges and conduct the hearing.
 - The notice of charges and/or hearing provided the defendant/appellant.
 - The decision of the hearing body and any appeals decisions.
- **Athletes reported for abuse will have an opportunity to appeal.**

For more information, visit:
USSOCER.COM/RAP



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