

TSA Coach's Guide

- Getting the Season Started

Prefix: We're here to help. If you need any assistance, contact us. We salute and thank you for all that you do. Without you none of this would be possible.

Thank you,

- *TSA Executive Committee*

www.texomasoccer.org

www.texomasoccer.org/personnel.aspx

New Coaches

1. Background checks (RMF – Risk Management Forms) - ALL volunteers must perform a background check every fall. Please reference the Quick Guide in the Online Documents. If you are new in the spring you may complete the requirement then. You do NOT need to login to the TSA website to complete this task. This is done on an external vendor site. Assistant coaches and team managers who wish to participate on the coach's sideline during games must do the same. A background check covers a coach for any team they manage. If you pick up a new team in the spring, notify the registrar so your Coach's Pass can be updated with your new team.
 - a. All teams must have at least one coach (18 or older) approved before September 1st in order to collect uniforms and coachID cards at the General Meeting.
2. Notify the TSA Registrar of your team affiliation and provide a photo to be used for a coachID card.
3. Contacting your players – You should contact your players as soon as possible. One of the most frustrating things for a new player (and parent) is not knowing what is going on or which team they are being placed on. You do not have to have everything figured out before you call. Simply let the parent know who will be their child's coach.
4. Team Name – You have the pleasure of naming your team. Email the registrar with your team name as soon as possible. The website will reflect this on the Schedules and Standings, if applicable.
5. General Meetings – There is a general meeting held each season during the week the first game is scheduled to start. Please review the online calendar. Uniforms and coachID cards are distributed to coaches with a valid RMF on file. Board member positions are typically elected in the fall and this is when bylaw changes are voted into affect. You will be responsible for distributing the uniforms to your players.

All Coaches

1. Communication – Although TSA's policy is that the website is the official method of communication, YOU are the BEST line of communication the Association has with its members. Communication is typically distributed to the Area Directors, and on to the Coaches. And from you on to the players. Please keep your players up to date on what is going on and when deadlines need to be met. At the beginning of the season please contact your players as soon as possible. At the very least this should be done 2 weeks prior to the start of games. When games are cancelled due to bad weather you are

typically the first to know. The website banner is updated and emails start flying out... inform your team!

- a. TSA does maintain a Facebook account but this is secondary to the main website.
- b. The new GotSoccer system allows you to input your cell phone information. The Association can send out mass text when games are cancelled due rainout.
2. CoachID Cards – Any adult standing on the coach’s sideline during the game is required to pass a background check and have their coachID card present at each game. Referees will require this pass prior to each game. Failure to present referees with the ID card will result in (1) warning (2) 1-game suspension (3) season suspension. A background check covers a coach for any team they manage. If you pick up a new team in the spring, notify the registrar so your access in GotSoccer can be updated with your new team. Uniforms are NOT distributed to coaches without a valid RMF.
3. GotSoccer – This online system is where most of your team information is located. Login information will be provided as rosters are distributed.
4. Player Release forms: It is each coach’s responsibility to collect medical release forms for his/her players. Instructions are being generated on how to print these from GotSoccer to have signed by your parents at your first team meeting.
5. Uniforms - Team uniform colors need to be selected long before the games begin. There is a uniform link in the coaching section of the website where you can log your requests online. The website will be active within a week or so of registration ending. Uniform colors are first come first served by age group. Depending on the uniform chosen by the Association there may be some overlap but this is avoided if at all possible. The uniform style and type will be listed for you to review online with the current vendor.
6. Schedules - Each coach is allowed to request a bye weekend for his team. Again, there is a Schedule link in the coaching section of the website to facilitate this request. The website will be active within a week or so of registration ending. The Scheduler makes every effort to fulfill requests but makes no promises. Game schedules are then posted as Draft. This allows time for last meant corrections and adjustments before the schedules are then posted as Final. Once they are posted as Final, no further changes will be made unless due to an error by the Scheduler.
 - a. NOTE – Any bye request will most likely result in a weekend with a double header scheduled.
7. Player Safety – TSA follows the philosophy of the National Weather Service. This is for games AND PRACTICE. Use the 30-30 rule: where visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the thunderstorm. When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues for much longer than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky! Coaches found to be violating this policy for practices will be sanctioned accordingly.
8. When to Practice – You get to choose when your team practices. Be respectful of the other parents on the team though. Teams are allowed to play together 3 hours per week. Games count as one hour each. Once games start you are typically reduced to 2 hours of practice time each week.
9. Where to Practice – Things keep changing. Available locations come and go. Each Area tends to have a favorite place to practice. If you need help finding a location contact your Area Director for help. School grounds often provide the best opportunity but you might need to make reservations. For Example Sherman ISD has an Application for Facility Use. The Sherman Area Director has these and can assist you with this approval process.
10. Pictures – A Photo Scheduler is placed online each season in the coaching section of the website. You will need to sign your team up for one of the two weekends made available. This is typically the 2nd and 3rd weekends of the season. Please see the calendar online. Pictures packages are delivered to the coach within the last week or two of the season.
 - a. Teams are not required to use the TSA provided photo vendor.
11. Code of Conduct - There is a detailed Coach’s Code of Conduct section posted in the TSA Bylaws. There is also a link in the coaching section of the website.

12. Trophies – Trophies are distributed at the end of the season. Participation trophies are distributed to the coaches at Fairview Park within the last week or two of the season. Placement trophies will be handed out as soon as age division placement starts being locked in. See bylaws for more details on trophy types.
13. Game Reports – Coaches are responsible for inputting games report each week through the Coach’s Menu online.
 - a. U8 and below - do not collect score but there is a place for open comments regarding the referee staff, the opposing coach’s level of professionalism, and the facilities.
 - b. U9 and above - Game results are how the Association is able to post standings. If you and the other coach do not complete a game report, the Association cannot assess points for standings and trophies.
14. Game Day Setup – The teams scheduled for the first and last games on each field are responsible for putting up and tearing down the fields each weekend. This means placing the nets, flags, and goals appropriately. The Game Day Setup Requirements are posted online each season with the teams responsible. Penalty for failing to adhere is a forfeit for BOTH teams playing that game.
15. Disciplinary Reports – TSA, under NTSSA, follows all USSF soccer regulations concerning disciplinary action. A sitout verification form is available to those needing it. A full account of the disciplinary guidelines and point system can be found on the NTSSA website under Resources >>> Rules/Bylaws at www.ntxsoccer.org.
16. Player Development –
 - a. A full handbook entitled “Best Practices for Coaching Soccer in the United States” is provided online through USYSF under the Coach’s Menu online.
 - b. 8-week development program – If available, further information will be available in the Documents and Resources menu of the Coach’s Menu online.
17. Rosters – Further instructions will be provided on how to attain your team rosters as the draft is completed.
18. Coach Training –
 - a. There is a link under the Coach’s Menu online to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.
 - b. The association will provide further training opportunities throughout the season. Further material will be communicated as it is made available.
 - i. See the online calendar.
19. Tournaments – Tournaments occur year round. Coaches and players may participate in tournaments during the TSA game season as well as throughout the soccer year. Each player is typically required by the tournament hosting association to complete a Medical Release Form. These and Guest Player Release Forms can be found on the NTSSA website under Resources >>> Forms >> Youth Forms at www.ntxsoccer.org. A signed copy of your roster is customary as well and can be obtained from the Association registrar. Please make your request at least 10 days in advance to avoid any processing fees.
20. Tournament of Champions - Every fall TSA sends the 1st place teams in the U10 through U19 age divisions to compete in the NT Tournament of Champions in Dallas. The Association covers the costs of entry fees and insurance for the teams to participate.
21. Mission Statement – PLEASE remember why we’re here. It’s for the kids not for us. Review the Mission Statement of Texoma Soccer below.

MISSION STATEMENT

Recreational

A developmental program providing healthy activity, emphasizing enjoyment and development over competition.

- A program that allows kids to have fun, make mistakes, and learn
- For the player ages 5-18 who is primarily interested in fun, fitness and friendship
- Able to play within their own community
- The philosophy is striving to give every participant substantial playing time

Competitive

Programs for the more committed player.

- Providing an opportunity to be selected to register on competitive teams through local Member Associations
- Provides the more committed U12-U19 players the opportunity to advance their skills through higher competition