

Texoma Soccer Association

BYLAWS & RULES



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CHAPTER 1.
ASSOCIATION STATUS AND GOVERNING FRAMEWORK
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

1.1 Affiliation and Governing Authority

Texoma Soccer Association (“TSA”) is a member association of the North Texas State Soccer Association (“NTSSA”).

TSA shall administer its programs in accordance with applicable law and the governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions of NTSSA, the United States Soccer Federation (“USSF”), and any other governing body with applicable authority.

If a provision of these Bylaws, TSA Rules and Regulations, or a TSA policy conflicts with a controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, or applicable law, the controlling requirement shall govern. TSA shall amend or administer the conflicting provision as necessary to conform.

1.2 Purpose

TSA exists to promote, organize, and develop soccer for youth and adult participants in the Texoma area. TSA’s recreational programs are intended to provide healthy activity, enjoyment, learning, fitness, friendship, and player development, with development and enjoyment taking priority over competition.

TSA shall support the development of players, coaches, referees, administrators, and volunteers. TSA shall promote safety, sportsmanship, education, inclusion, and enjoyment of the game.

1.3 Territory

TSA serves Grayson County, Texas, subject to the territorial authority assigned to TSA by NTSSA. TSA may serve individuals and teams residing or participating within that territory in accordance with NTSSA requirements.

1.4 Equal Opportunity

TSA shall provide equal opportunity for athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, referees, officials, volunteers, and other participants to participate in TSA-sanctioned adult and youth soccer programs.

Individuals serving on the TSA Board of Directors, committees, or in appointed positions shall be selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or other status protected by applicable law.

TSA shall not establish eligibility requirements relating to amateur status that are more restrictive than those imposed by NTSSA or USSF. All participation and appointment decisions shall be consistent with applicable law and the governing requirements of NTSSA and USSF.

CHAPTER 2.
BYLAWS
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2.1 Article 1 – Offices

2.1.1. Principal office

The principal office of Texoma Soccer Association shall be located within Grayson County, Texas, at a location determined by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board may establish or change the Association's principal office by Board action, provided that the change complies with applicable law and NTSSA requirements.

2.2 Article 2 – Membership in the Association

2.2.1. Membership

The following persons shall be members of TSA:

- All rostered head coaches, for the playing season in which they are registered;
- Members of the Board of Directors, for the period of their service; and
- Administrative Positions shall be non-voting members, for the period of their employment.

Membership shall be subject to these Bylaws, the TSA Rules and Regulations, applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements, and any applicable suspension or disciplinary restriction.

2.2.2. Voting Rights

Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the membership.

Unless a greater vote is required by law or these Bylaws, the act of a majority of members in good standing present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute an act of the membership.

2.2.3. Duration of Membership

Membership shall be established on a semi-annual basis:

- The Fall Membership Period shall begin on August 1 and end on January 31; and
- The Spring Membership Period shall begin on February 1 and end on July 31.

A member's voting rights shall exist only during the applicable Membership Period and while the member remains in good standing.

2.2.4. Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the Association shall include:

- Individuals with an established residence within Grayson County, Texas, subject to the territorial authority assigned to TSA by NTSSA; and
- Individuals registered and attending private, public, or home schools physically located within Grayson County, Texas.

The Board shall have authority to establish policies and procedures for granting player releases to, and accepting player releases from, other associations under special and unusual circumstances.

2.3 Article 3 – Meetings of the Association

2.3.1. Fall General Meeting

A Fall General Meeting of the members shall be held during the month of August on a day fixed by the Executive Board, for the purpose of electing officers, reviewing and adopting the annual budget, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. Only those who are members of the Association on August 1, preceding the Annual Meeting, will be eligible to vote. (Newly elected officers will assume office immediately following the vote.) The order of business for such meeting shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call (alternative; have members sign their names in a roster)
3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
4. Reports of Officers and Chairs of standing committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Presentation of Annual Budget, Discussion and Vote.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

Additional meetings of the members may be called by the President or a majority of the members of the Executive Board at any time.

2.3.2. Spring General Meeting

A Spring General Meeting of the members shall be held during the month of February on a day fixed by the Executive Board, for the transaction of such other business as may come before the membership. Only those who are members of the Association on February 1, preceding the Semi-Annual Meeting, will be eligible to vote. The order of business for such meeting shall be:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call (alternative; have members sign their names in a roster).
3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
4. Reports of Officers and Chairs of standing committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Announcements.
8. Adjournment.

Additional meetings of the members may be called by the President or a majority of the members of the Executive Board at any time.

2.3.3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the members may be called by members holding not less than one-fifth (1/5) of the members having voting rights.

Business transacted at all special meetings shall be confined to the purpose stated in the notice of the meeting.

2.3.4. Notice of Meetings

All meetings of the members shall be held within Grayson County, Texas.

Written notice stating the place, date, and time of each meeting shall be delivered to every member entitled to vote not fewer than seven (7) and not more than twenty-one (21) days before the meeting. Notice may be delivered personally, by mail, electronic mail, or another electronic communication method approved by the Executive Board.

For a special meeting, the notice shall state the specific purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. No business outside those stated purposes shall be conducted.

2.3.5. Quorum

Provided that notice has been given in accordance with Notice of Meetings, ten percent (10%) of the members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Only members in good standing with voting rights who are present at the meeting shall be counted in determining whether a quorum exists.

Unless a greater vote is required by law or these Bylaws, a majority vote of the members in good standing who are present at a meeting at which a quorum exists shall constitute an act of the membership.

2.3.6. Absentee and Proxy Voting

TSA shall not permit absentee voting, proxy voting, or voting by mail. A member must be present at the meeting to cast a vote.

2.4 Article 4 – Executive Board

2.4.1. Authority

The affairs of TSA shall be managed by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall have authority to enforce:

- The IFAB Laws of the Game;
- USSF rules and requirements;
- NTSSA's governing documents, rules, and regulations; and
- TSA's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and published policies.

The Executive Board shall exercise its authority subject to applicable law and the controlling authority of NTSSA and USSF.

2.4.2. Composition

The officers of TSA shall constitute the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers identified in Executive Board: Powers and Duties, including the Member-at-Large position.

Each member of the Executive Board shall have the rights and responsibilities established by these Bylaws, except where a specific provision provides otherwise.

2.4.3. Calling Board Meetings

A meeting of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by any two (2) officers.

The person or persons calling the meeting may designate any location within Grayson County, Texas, as the place of the meeting. The Board may also conduct meetings through an electronic or telephonic method permitted by applicable law and approved by the Board.

2.4.4. Notice of Board Meetings

Notice of a Board of Directors meeting shall be provided to each Board member at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting when delivered personally or through electronic communication.

If notice is delivered by mail, it shall be provided at least five (5) days before the meeting and sent to the member's address reflected in TSA's records.

2.4.5. Waiver of Notice

A member of the Executive Board may waive notice of a Board meeting.

Attendance at a meeting constitutes a waiver of notice unless the member attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of business because the meeting was not lawfully called or convened.

The business to be conducted need not be specified in the notice or waiver unless required by law or these Bylaws.

2.4.6. Quorum

A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

If fewer than a majority of the Board members are present, a majority of the Board members present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

2.4.7. Board Action

The act of a majority of the Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum exists shall constitute an act of the Executive Board, unless a greater vote is required by law or these Bylaws.

2.4.8. Compensation and Indemnification

Members of the Board of Directors shall not receive a stated salary for serving on the Board.

By resolution of the Executive Board, a Board member may be reimbursed or indemnified for reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred in connection with a claim arising from the member's service on the Board.

No reimbursement or indemnification shall be provided for matters involving the member's gross negligence or misconduct. Any indemnification shall be subject to applicable law and NTSSA requirements.

2.5 Article 5 – Executive Board: Powers and Duties

2.5.1. Terms of Office

Except for the Member-at-Large, officers shall be elected bi-annually by the membership.

Each officer shall hold office until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

An officer may not serve more than two (2) consecutive elected terms in the same office unless continued service is approved annually by a majority of the Executive Board and the membership.

2.5.2. Attendance

An officer who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without adequate cause, as determined by two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining Board members, shall have the officer's position declared vacant.

2.5.3. Vacancies

A vacancy in any office resulting from death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled by appointment of the President for the unexpired portion of the term, subject to approval by a majority of the Executive Board.

The appointment shall be presented to the membership for ratification at the next membership meeting.

2.5.4. Removal

An officer or director may be removed following a vote of no confidence at a Board of Directors meeting called for that purpose. Removal by the Board shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Board members present.

A special meeting of the membership may be called to consider removal by the President or by members constituting at least twenty percent (20%) of the voting membership. Removal by the membership shall require the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present.

An officer or director whose removal is being considered shall not vote on, or be counted as entitled to vote in, the removal proceeding.

2.5.5. Eligibility for President and Vice President

A nominee for President or Vice President must be a current member of the Executive Board, unless no current Board member seeks the office. If no current Board member seeks the office, nominations may be made from the general membership.

2.5.6. Officers and Their Duties

Each officer shall perform the duties assigned to the office by these Bylaws, the Executive Board, and applicable law. The specific duties of each office are set out below.

The offices of TSA Executive Board shall be:

1. President;

The President shall be the principal executive officer of TSA and shall supervise and manage the Association's affairs.

The President shall preside over meetings of the membership and the Executive Board; appoint committee members and NTSSA representatives; execute contracts and other authorized instruments with the Secretary or another officer authorized by the Board; and perform the duties ordinarily incident to the office.

The President may appoint an auditor to conduct an annual review of TSA's financial records, which shall be reported to the membership.

The President shall vote at meetings of the membership and the Board only in the event of a tie or when the President elects to waive that limitation.

The President is elected on odd numbered years for a term of two years.

2. Vice President;

In the absence, inability, or refusal of the President to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and shall possess the President's authority and limitations while acting in that capacity.

The Vice President shall be a licensed USSF referee and shall chair the Referee Committee. The Vice President shall oversee referee affairs, including assistant-referee training and notification of applicable NTSSA Referee Committee meetings.

The Vice President shall coordinate operational matters, including registration, uniforms, awards, scheduling, referees, and officiating staff.

The Vice-President is elected on even numbered years for a term of two years.

3. Treasurer;

The Treasurer shall have custody of TSA's funds and securities; receive and issue receipts for money due to TSA; and deposit Association funds in financial institutions selected by the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee, coordinate the annual financial audit, provide the auditor with access to TSA's financial records as authorized by the Board, and maintain financial records and procedures necessary to preserve TSA's nonprofit and tax-exempt status under its NTSSA structure.

The Treasurer is elected on even numbered years for a term of two years.

4. Secretary;

The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of meetings of the membership and the Executive Board, provide required notices, and maintain the Association's membership records.

The Secretary shall maintain the mailing addresses and contact information of members and shall make the membership register available to members in good standing at reasonable times.

The Secretary shall provide Board meeting minutes to the Director of Public Relations for publication on the TSA website within one week after each meeting.

The Secretary is elected on odd numbered years for a term of two years.

5. Director of Public Relations;

The Director of Public Relations shall coordinate TSA's public-relations and development activities, including advertising, marketing, sponsorships, and grant writing.

The Director shall respond to parent and member inquiries through TSA's designated communication channels and shall maintain TSA's social-media and public-information platforms.

The Director of Public Relations is elected on even numbered years for a term of two years.

6. Youth League Commissioner;

The Youth League Commissioner shall oversee youth league competition conducted under TSA's authority.

The Youth League Commissioner shall supervise Area Directors and youth coaches; oversee youth registration, transfers, team formation, scheduling, protests, and competition communications; and ensure that coaches receive applicable competition rules and information regarding eligible state and national competitions.

The Youth League Commissioner may take disciplinary action against youth coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives, or teams within the Commissioner's jurisdiction, subject to Board approval and reporting requirements.

The Youth League Commissioner shall chair the Tournament Committee and may appoint Area Directors subject to Board approval.

The Youth Commissioner is elected on even numbered years for a term of two years.

7. Adult League Commissioner;

The Adult League Commissioner shall oversee adult league competition conducted under TSA's authority.

The Adult League Commissioner shall oversee adult registration, transfers, team formation, scheduling, protests, competition communications, and applicable state and national competition information.

The Adult League Commissioner may take disciplinary action against adult coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives, or teams within the Commissioner's jurisdiction, subject to Board approval and reporting requirements.

The Adult Commissioner is elected on odd numbered years for a term of two years.

8. Director of Education and Development; and

The Director of Education and Development shall oversee coaching and player education and development, including coaching clinics, coach resources, coach recruitment support, and recommendations for player-development programs. The Director of Education and Development shall assist the League Commissioners with any discrepancies or protests against coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, team representatives, or teams within the Commissioner's jurisdiction, subject to Board approval and reporting requirements.

The Director shall chair the Rules Committee and shall assist with registration, team formation, scheduling, protests, competition communications, and the dissemination of competition rules.

The Director shall establish and publish required coaching clinics, maintain records of coach-clinic participation, and coordinate with the Registrar regarding risk-management requirements and identification badges.

The Director of Education and Development is elected on odd numbered years for a term of two years.

9. Member-at-Large.

The Member-at-Large shall be the immediate past President or Vice President and shall serve as a voting member of the Executive Board, providing institutional knowledge, guidance, and advice to the Board without primary operational responsibility for a specific department.

The Member-at-Large may represent the Board when authorized but shall not independently make commitments or policy decisions on behalf of TSA.

If the immediate past President or Vice President declines to serve or is not in good standing, the current President may appoint another person to serve as Member-at-Large, subject to approval by a majority of the Board of Directors, until the next President or Vice President assumes office.

2.5.7. Additional Duties

In addition to the duties assigned to their offices, all officers shall perform other duties assigned by the President or the Board of Directors, provided those duties are consistent with these Bylaws and applicable governing-body requirements.

2.6 Article 6 – Directors, Administrative Positions, Employees, and Agents

2.6.1. Area Directors

Area Directors shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws.

An Area Director shall serve as the primary contact for teams within the assigned area and shall assist the Youth League Commissioner and Director of Education and Development with coach recruitment and team administration.

An Area Director shall assist in collecting required risk-management documentation from coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers and shall deliver that documentation to the Youth League Commissioner.

Area Directors shall be required to attend the pre-season draft and a minimum of one (1) meeting per quarter.

An Area Director shall serve as an initial point of contact for member complaints and concerns regarding coaches. Matters that cannot be resolved at the area level shall be referred to in the following order:

- League Commissioners,
- Director of Education and Development,
- Commissioner of Appeals and Discipline.

Area boundaries shall be based on an Independent School District or a combination of school districts. Public, private, and home-school participants shall be assigned in accordance with the following rules:

- A player attending a public or private school shall be assigned to the Area in which the school is located.
- A home-schooled player shall be assigned to the Area in which the player resides.

The Executive Board shall determine the number of Area Directors and establish the geographic areas within the Association's jurisdiction that each Area Director shall serve.

Area Directors shall be appointed by the Youth League Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board. An Area Director may appoint an assistant to assist with assigned duties.

The League Commissioner may relieve an Area Director of their duties with the approval of the Executive Board subject to the Removal powers of the Executive Board.

2.6.2. Operations Coordinator

The Operations Coordinator is an administrative position and shall serve TSA as the Chief of Administrative Staff and shall report to the President and Vice President.

The Operations Coordinator shall coordinate the Association's daily business activities and shall perform duties assigned by the President or Vice President in cooperation with TSA officers, Area Directors, and other league officials.

The Operations Coordinator:

- Shall not have voting rights on the Executive Board;
- Shall not hold a volunteer position on the Board;
- Shall not be the immediate family member of a current Board member;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board; and
- May be removed by a simple majority of (51%) vote of the Executive Board.

The Operations Coordinator's duties shall be described in a written job description approved by the President and Vice President and may be updated as operational needs require.

2.6.3. Registration and Team Formation Coordinator (Registrar)

The Registration and Team Formation Coordinator is an administrative position and shall administer TSA registration for league play.

The Coordinator shall report to the Executive Board. The Operations Coordinator or another administrative position may perform these duties when approved by the Board.

The Coordinator's duties shall include:

- Recruiting registration volunteers;
- Establishing and maintaining the registration system;
- Reviewing registration forms for required information;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board; and
- Serving as chair of the Team Formation Committee.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Coordinator may be required to provide a bond in an amount and with sureties determined by the Board.

The President may appoint an interim role with the approval of the Executive Board in the event this position is not filled.

2.6.4. Field Coordinator

The Field Coordinator is an administrative position and shall report to the Operations Coordinator.

The Field Coordinator shall serve as TSA's Head Field Marshal and shall:

- Inspect field conditions and determine pre-match playability;
- Maintain field nets during the playing season;
- Ensure that fields are marked in a timely manner;
- Coordinate the activities of Field Marshals;
- Work with municipal Parks and Recreation departments, NTSSA, and neighboring soccer associations on field-related matters;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board; and
- Develop recommendations for maintaining and improving existing fields and developing additional playing fields.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Field Coordinator may be required to provide a bond in an amount and with sureties determined by the Board.

The President may appoint an interim role with the approval of the Executive Board in the event this position is not filled.

2.6.5. Field Marshals

The Field Coordinator shall assign at least one Field Marshal to each TSA event. The Field Marshal shall be readily available and identifiable while the event is in progress.

A Field Marshal shall:

- Inspect fields for objects or conditions that may cause injury;
- Assist with field setup before the event;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board;
- Secure and return field equipment after the event; and
- Assist with maintaining safety, order, and compliance with event procedures at the venue.

A Field Marshal shall not officiate matches, overrule a Referee, alter match results, or impose discipline. Safety or misconduct concerns shall be reported to the Field Coordinator or other designated TSA authority.

A Field Marshal may be a Board member or other TSA member. Field Marshals serve at the discretion of TSA and may be removed from the assignment at any time, with or without cause or advance notice, subject to applicable law.

2.6.6. Referee Assignor

TSA shall have a Referee Assignor to schedule and assign referees to TSA matches and to coordinate communications between TSA and match officials.

The Referee Assignor is an administrative position and shall report to the Vice President.

The Referee Assignor shall:

- Assign qualified match officials to TSA matches;
- Verify the licensing, registration, training, and availability of assigned officials;
- Coordinate referee assignments with the Scheduler, League Commissioners, Referee Liaison, and other TSA officials;
- Arrange replacement officials when an assigned official is unavailable;
- Maintain assignment and qualification records;
- Identify referee-training needs and coordinate and schedule new-referee clinics, continuing-education clinics, and related instruction with NTSSA;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board; and
- Perform the additional duties established in Referees and Match Officials.

The Referee Assignor shall satisfy all licensing, registration, training, and qualification requirements established in Referees and Match Officials and applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

The Referee Assignor shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board. The position may be held by a Board member or other TSA member.

If the Referee Assignor is also a Board member or TSA member, any compensation shall relate solely to the individual's contractual duties and shall not be based on the individual's membership or Board status.

If the position becomes vacant, the President shall appoint an interim Referee Assignor, subject to Board approval.

2.6.7. Scheduler

TSA shall have a Scheduler to coordinate the Association's master match schedule.

The Scheduler is an administrative position and shall report to the Operations Coordinator.

The Scheduler shall:

- Prepare and maintain the master match schedule;
- Coordinate scheduling information with Operations Coordinator, Area Directors, the Referee Assignor, teams, and match officials;
- Publish approved schedules and schedule changes;
- Record match results as required by the Rules and Regulations;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board; and
- Perform other scheduling duties assigned by the Executive Board or League Commissioners.

The Scheduler shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board. The position may be held by a Board member or other TSA member.

If the Scheduler is also a Board member or TSA member, any compensation shall relate solely to the individual's contractual duties and shall not be based on the individual's membership or Board status.

If the position becomes vacant, the President shall appoint an interim Scheduler, subject to Board approval.

2.6.8. Referee Liaison

The Referee Liaison shall serve as TSA's primary administrative contact for referees and shall report to the Vice President and the Executive Board. The Referee Liaison shall hold and maintain a current USSF referee license or registration, or other referee qualification recognized by NTSSA.

The Referee Liaison shall:

- Coordinate and facilitate referee meetings, including preseason, seasonal, and meetings addressing match observations, rule changes, expectations, training, and other referee-related matters;
- Assist the Referee Assignor with referee education and training, including coordination with NTSSA, participant communication, venue coordination, and event logistics;
- Monitor the TSA referee communication account and direct inquiries to the appropriate referee, observer, or TSA official;
- Coordinate with the Referee Assignor to identify referee-coverage needs;
- Serve as a primary contact for referees regarding general rules and match-day questions;
- Conduct referee evaluations or ensure that observers complete required evaluations;
- Review match reports for administrative completeness and refer matters requiring further review to the Commissioner of Appeals and Discipline;
- Attend at least three (3) Board of Directors meetings during each playing season, including preseason, midseason, and end-of-season meetings;
- Shall serve as an at-will independent contractor unless otherwise provided by written agreement;
- Shall receive compensation and other benefits determined by the Executive Board;
- Assist TSA with referee-related administration and other duties assigned by the Vice President or Executive Board; and
- Perform other duties established by a written contract approved by the Executive Board.

The Referee Liaison shall not exercise authority reserved to the Referee, Referee Assignor, A&D Committee, NTSSA, or USSF.

The Referee Liaison shall serve under a separate written contract approved by the Executive Board. Compensation, payment periods, contract dates, and other contractual terms shall be governed by that agreement.

If the position becomes vacant, the Vice President shall appoint an interim Referee Liaison, subject to Board approval.

2.6.9. Commissioner of Appeals and Discipline

The Commissioner of Appeals and Discipline shall chair the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

The Commissioner shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board and shall serve as a non-voting member of the Board.

The Commissioner shall oversee:

- Appeals submitted under TSA's appellate process;
- Referee and misconduct reports referred to the Committee;
- Complaints concerning TSA officials, coaches, assistant coaches, players, teams, spectators, or staff; and
- Disciplinary matters recommended for Committee review by the official or administrator responsible for the initial review.

The A&D Committee shall not be required to review every card or routine disciplinary action unless an appeal is filed or the matter is referred to the Committee for review.

If the position is vacant, the Vice President shall chair the A&D Committee until a successor is appointed and approved by the Board.

2.6.10. Equipment Coordinator

The Equipment Coordinator is an administrative position and shall report to the Operations Coordinator.

The Equipment Coordinator shall assist with the acquisition, maintenance, storage, distribution, and issuance of uniforms and equipment necessary or incidental to TSA soccer activities.

The Equipment Coordinator shall perform these duties subject to the direction and approval of the Executive Board.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Equipment Coordinator may be required to provide a bond in an amount and with sureties determined by the Board.

The President may appoint an interim role with the approval of the Executive Board in the event this position is not filled.

2.6.11. Other Employees, Contractors, and Agents

The Executive Board may establish additional employee, contractor, agent, or administrative positions as necessary to conduct TSA business.

The Board shall define each position's duties, authority, reporting relationship, compensation, and term by written appointment, contract, job description, or Board action.

Unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws or a written agreement, an employee, contractor, agent, or administrative position shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board.

2.7 Article 7 – Committees

2.7.1. Standing Committees

1. Appeals and Discipline Committee

The Appeals and Discipline Committee shall consist of the Commissioner of Appeals and Discipline, who shall serve as Chair, and at least two (2) additional members.

The President shall appoint Committee members with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board. The President or Chair may make temporary appointments when necessary to maintain a quorum or conduct Committee business.

The Committee shall hear appeals arising from TSA soccer competition, except appeals of referee judgment calls when no IFAB Law, TSA rule, NTSSA requirement, or USSF requirement has been violated.

A quorum of three (3) members shall be required to conduct an appeal hearing. Committee action shall be governed by the general committee procedures in Committee Authority and Procedures.

A Committee member shall recuse himself or herself from any matter in which the member may be affected by the decision or has a bias for or against a party.

An appeal from a Committee decision shall first be submitted to the Executive Board before an appeal is submitted to NTSSA. The right of appeal and applicable procedures shall be communicated to affected parties with each Committee decision.

2. Rules Committee

The Rules Committee shall consist of the Director of Education and Development, who shall serve as Chair, and at least two (2) additional members.

The President shall appoint Committee members with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

The Committee shall:

- Review the TSA Rules and Regulations and any published extracts at least annually;
- Recommend necessary rule changes to the Executive Board;
- Review proposed amendments to these Bylaws;
- Prepare recommendations for consideration before the Annual or Spring Annual Meeting, as applicable; and
- Oversee publication of the TSA Rules and Regulations at least once each year.

The Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Executive Board for consideration and adoption. If the Board does not adopt the Committee's recommendation, the disputed proposal and the Committee's recommendation shall be presented to the membership when required by these Bylaws.

The Committee shall operate under the general quorum, voting, vacancy, membership, and procedure provisions stated in Committee Authority and Procedures.

3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who shall serve as Chair, and two (2) additional members appointed by the President with approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

The Committee shall prepare and submit an annual budget to the Executive Board for approval.

Any non-budgeted expenditure exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200), including contracts or agreements exceeding that amount, shall require Finance Committee review and Board approval, unless the expenditure is an emergency.

Any emergency non-budgeted expenditure exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) but less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall require approval by the Finance Committee and the Executive Board and shall be reported to the membership at the next general membership meeting.

For purposes of this Section, an emergency expenditure is a non-budgeted expenditure that, if delayed, would materially impair TSA's operations.

The Committee shall operate under the general quorum, voting, vacancy, membership, and procedure provisions stated in Committee Authority and Procedures.

4. Referee Committee

The Referee Committee shall consist of the Vice President, who shall serve as Chair, and two (2) additional members appointed by the President with approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

The Committee shall work with referees and assistant referees regarding referee development, training, communication, and other referee matters affecting TSA.

The Committee shall coordinate with the Referee Assignor, Referee Liaison, and applicable NTSSA and USSF referee organizations as necessary.

The Committee shall operate under the general quorum, voting, vacancy, membership, and procedure provisions stated in Committee Authority and Procedures.

5. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members appointed by the President with approval of a majority of the Executive Board. No more than one (1) officer of TSA may serve on the Committee.

The Committee shall nominate and present a slate of candidates for office at the Annual Meeting of the members.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting or at the meeting at which the Committee presents its report.

The Committee's report shall be included with the notice of the Annual Meeting.

The Committee shall operate under the general quorum, voting, vacancy, membership, and procedure provisions stated in Committee Authority and Procedures.

2.7.2. Special and Ad Hoc Committees

The President may appoint special-purpose or ad hoc committees with the approval of the Executive Board.

The President shall define each committee's purpose, membership, authority, and reporting responsibilities, subject to Board approval.

A special or ad hoc committee shall cease to exist when dissolved by the President or no later than the next Annual Meeting, unless the Executive Board extends its existence.

Such committees shall operate under the general quorum, voting, vacancy, membership, and procedure provisions stated in Committee Authority and Procedures.

2.7.3. Committee Authority and Procedures

1. Committee Vacancies

A vacancy on a Committee shall be filled by appointment of the President, subject to approval by a majority of the Executive Board.

The President or Committee Chair may make a temporary appointment when necessary to maintain a quorum or conduct Committee business. A temporary appointment shall remain effective until a permanent appointment is approved or the Committee's business is completed.

2. Committee Quorum

Unless these Bylaws provide otherwise, a Committee shall have a quorum when a majority of its appointed members are present.

Committee action shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum exists.

A Committee member shall not be counted for quorum or voting purposes on any matter from which the member is required to recuse himself or herself.

3. Committee Procedures

Each Committee shall conduct its business in accordance with these Bylaws, applicable TSA rules and policies, and any directives issued by the Executive Board.

The Committee Chair shall establish meeting dates, provide reasonable notice to Committee members, preside over meetings, and report Committee actions and recommendations to the Executive Board.

A Committee may adopt procedures for the orderly conduct of its work, provided those procedures are consistent with these Bylaws and approved by the Executive Board when required.

Committee actions shall be recorded and retained in accordance with TSA's recordkeeping requirements.

4. Committee Membership

Committee members shall be appointed in accordance with these Bylaws and shall remain subject to approval by the Executive Board.

Unless otherwise provided, a Committee member must be a member in good standing of TSA.

Committee members shall serve until a successor is appointed, the Committee is dissolved, or the member is removed or resigns.

The President, with the approval of a majority of the Executive, may remove a Committee member at any time. A Committee member may resign by providing written notice to the President or Committee Chair.

2.8 Article 8 – Amendments

2.8.1. Amendment of the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or replaced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members entitled to vote and present at a properly noticed meeting at which a quorum exists.

Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for review before being presented to the membership.

The notice of the meeting shall state that an amendment to the Bylaws will be considered and shall include, or make available, the proposed amendment.

2.8.2. Notice and Approval

The Executive Board shall provide the membership with reasonable notice of fourteen (14) calendar days before of any proposed amendment before the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

An amendment approved by the membership shall become effective upon approval unless the amendment specifies a later effective date or applicable NTSSA requirements require additional approval.

No amendment may conflict with applicable law, NTSSA governing documents or requirements, or USSF requirements.

2.9 Article 9 – Dissolution

2.9.1. Distribution of assets

Upon dissolution of TSA, and after payment or provision for payment of all debts and obligations, the remaining assets shall be transferred to NTSSA or to another nonprofit organization designated by the Executive Board that serves a substantially similar soccer-related charitable or educational purpose.

No remaining asset shall be distributed to any individual member, officer, director, employee, contractor, or agent of TSA, except as permitted by applicable law.

2.10 Article 10 – Adoption

2.10.1. Effective Date

These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the required vote of the membership and any additional approval required by NTSSA or applicable law.

Upon their effective date, these Bylaws shall supersede all prior TSA bylaws and inconsistent governing provisions, except that previously adopted rules, policies, appointments, contracts, and actions shall remain effective to the extent they do not conflict with these Bylaws.

2.10.2. Certification and Record

The Secretary shall certify the adoption of these Bylaws and maintain the official copy in TSA's permanent records.

The certified Bylaws shall be made available to TSA members and submitted to NTSSA when required.

2.10.3. Approval Date

These Chapter 2: Bylaws were voted and approved by membership on August 27th, 2026.

CHAPTER 3.
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

3.1 Registered Players

Only players who are properly registered with TSA, listed on the applicable team roster, and eligible under TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements may participate in TSA-sanctioned matches or competitions. A player who is suspended, ineligible, or otherwise barred from participation shall not participate until the applicable restriction has expired or been removed by the proper authority.

A coach, assistant coach, manager, team official, or other team representative who knowingly permits an ineligible or suspended player to participate may be subject to discipline under Discipline and any other sanction authorized by TSA, NTSSA, or USSF requirements.

3.2 Unregistered / Non-Sanctioned Play

Only registered and eligible players may participate in TSA-sanctioned competition.

Players and teams that participate with unregistered players or in non-sanctioned competition outside an approved TSA event do so outside the protections and benefits of TSA and NTSSA membership and shall comply with any reporting or clearance requirements imposed by TSA or NTSSA before returning to sanctioned play.

TSA may sponsor, partner with, or provide personnel or services for a charity, tournament, or other special event only with prior Board approval and any sanctioning, authorization, insurance, or reporting required by NTSSA, USSF, or applicable law. TSA shall not represent an event as NTSSA-sanctioned unless NTSSA has granted the required approval.

Participation in school, church, or informal neighborhood activities is not prohibited unless otherwise restricted by applicable rules.

3.3 Friendly Matches

A friendly match is a match that:

- Is not part of a league, tournament, championship, or other competition;
- Does not determine standings, advancement, qualification, or a champion;
- Does not award a trophy, title, or competitive prize;
- Is not conducted for the purpose of generating team or player fees; and
- Uses only players who are properly registered and eligible under applicable TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements, unless otherwise authorized by those requirements.

Friendly matches shall not be used to circumvent TSA, NTSSA, or USSF registration, eligibility, sanctioning, insurance, or disciplinary requirements.

3.4 Suspensions

TSA shall honor any suspension issued by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or an affiliated organization when the suspension applies to TSA activities and was imposed in accordance with applicable disciplinary and due-process requirements.

A suspended player, coach, referee, administrator, or other participant shall not participate in any TSA activity during the period of suspension.

A team or member organization that knowingly permits a suspended person to participate may forfeit each affected match and may be subject to additional disciplinary action, including suspension or loss of membership privileges.

3.5 Referees

3.5.1. Governing Requirements

All match officials shall perform their duties in accordance with the current IFAB Laws of the Game and all applicable NTSSA, USSF, and TSA rules, and policies. If a conflict exists, the controlling rule or requirement of NTSSA or USSF shall govern.

3.5.2. Referees

A Referee assigned to a TSA match shall be properly trained and shall hold the USSF license or registration required for the applicable age group and competition, unless NTSSA expressly permits otherwise.

The Referee shall have the authority and responsibilities assigned by the current IFAB Laws of the Game and applicable governing-body rules. The Referee's decisions on matters of fact arising during the match shall be final, subject to applicable protest and appeal procedures.

3.5.3. Assistant Referees

An Assistant Referee shall be properly trained and shall hold the USSF license or registration required for the applicable age group and competition.

Assistant Referees may be assigned to U9 and older matches.

Assistant Referees shall not be assigned to U8 and younger matches unless expressly permitted by NTSSA.

3.5.4. Junior Associate Referees (Timekeepers)

A Junior Associate Referee is a TSA-approved youth official who has completed the training prescribed by TSA but is not serving as a USSF-licensed or registered Referee or Assistant Referee.

A Junior Associate Referee may serve only in U8 and younger matches and only in the capacity permitted by TSA and NTSSA. Unless otherwise authorized by NTSSA, the duties of a Junior Associate Referee shall be limited to:

- Signaling when the ball has wholly left the field of play;
- Indicating which team is entitled to a throw-in, kick-in, goal kick, or corner kick;
- Reporting safety concerns or other match incidents to the Referee or match administrator; and
- Performing other limited duties specifically authorized by TSA.

A Junior Associate Referee shall not make offside decisions, issue cautions or send-offs, or exercise any authority reserved to a registered Referee.

3.5.5. Club Linesmen

A Club Linesman is an untrained or uncertified volunteer, typically a spectator or parent affiliated with one of the participating teams, who may be appointed by the Referee, Referee Assignor, or Referee Liaison when a neutral Assistant Referee is unavailable.

A Club Linesman shall perform only the following duty:

- Signal when the ball has completely crossed the touchline or goal line.

A Club Linesman shall not:

- Indicate which team is entitled to the restart;
- Signal offside;
- Signal or call fouls or misconduct; or
- Direct, challenge, or otherwise attempt to overrule the Referee.

The Club Linesman shall act only under the direction of the Referee. The Referee may dismiss and replace a Club Linesman who interferes with the match, disputes decisions, fails to remain neutral, or otherwise fails to follow the Referee's instructions. A Club Linesman is not an official Assistant Referee and shall not exercise the authority of a Referee or Assistant Referee.

3.5.6. Referee Assignor

The TSA Referee Assignor shall be appointed or approved by TSA and shall satisfy all licensing, registration, training, and qualification requirements imposed by NTSSA and USSF.

3.6 Referee System

3.6.1. Three-Referee System

TSA shall use a three-referee system consisting of one Referee and two Assistant Referees for U9 and older matches whenever qualified officials are available.

TSA shall not use a dual-referee system for any match for which NTSSA or USSF requires a three-referee system.

3.6.2. Assignment of Officials

All match officials shall be assigned through the TSA Referee Assignor in accordance with Section 3.5 and applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

When the full three-referee crew is unavailable, the Referee Assignor may assign available qualified officials in the following order:

5. One Referee and two Assistant Referees;
6. One Referee, one Assistant Referee, and one Club Linesman;
7. One Referee and two Club Linesmen; or
8. One Referee.

A Club Linesman may be used only as provided in Section 3.5.6.

3.6.3. U8 and Younger Matches

U8 and younger matches shall be officiated in accordance with applicable NTSSA requirements. Assistant Referees shall not be assigned to these matches unless expressly permitted by NTSSA. TSA may assign a USSF-licensed Referee, Junior Associate Referee, or other permitted match official consistent with Section 3.5.

3.6.4. Stand-by Officials and Fourth Officials

The Referee Assignor may assign a Stand-by Official or Fourth Official when deemed necessary or appropriate. The duties of such official shall be limited to those assigned by TSA or the Referee.

3.6.5. Referee Compensation

The TSA Board shall establish and approve the compensation structure for TSA match officials by vote. The approved structure shall identify compensation for each position and level used by TSA, including:

- Referee;
- Assistant Referee;
- Junior Associate Referee;
- Stand-by Official; and
- Fourth Official.

The approved compensation schedule shall be published or otherwise made available before the applicable playing season.

3.7 Discipline

3.7.1. Authority

TSA shall investigate and discipline players, coaches, referees, team officials, administrators, and other participants for violations of these Bylaws, TSA regulations, applicable competition rules, or controlling NTSSA or USSF requirements.

Disciplinary authority shall be exercised through the TSA A&D Committee or another body designated by the TSA Board.

3.7.2. Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. Yellow Cards

Yellow cards shall be recorded and may accumulate toward discipline under TSA's cumulative card system. A yellow card is otherwise governed by the IFAB Laws of the Game and applicable competition rules.

2. Red Cards

A person receiving a red card shall leave the match area as directed by the referee and shall be suspended for at least the next TSA-sanctioned match, unless a longer suspension is required by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or applicable competition rules. Additional discipline may be imposed based on the referee's report.

3. Cumulative Card System

TSA adopts the Cumulative Card System described in the NTSSA Guidelines for Misconduct. The system shall apply to players, coaches, and assistant coaches participating in TSA league and tournament competition.

TSA shall maintain records of misconduct cards issued during TSA competition. A card may not be appealed unless the issuing Referee acknowledges that the card was issued in error. Unless otherwise required by NTSSA, sanctions shall be served in the competition in which the misconduct occurred.

a. **Yellow Cards**

A player, coach, or assistant coach who receives a second yellow card in the same match shall be removed for the remainder of the match and suspended from the next match in that competition. The two yellow cards shall not be added to the individual's cumulative yellow-card total. The resulting red card shall be recorded as a red card.

For league play:

- i. A third cumulative yellow card shall result in a one-match suspension;
- ii. A fifth cumulative yellow card shall result in a two-match suspension; and
- iii. A sixth cumulative yellow card shall result in a one-match suspension.

For tournament play, the same suspension schedule shall apply using the individual's cumulative yellow cards received during that tournament. Cards from league play will reset at the start of tournament play or playoffs.

b. **Red Cards**

A player receiving a red card, or a coach or assistant coach who is sent off, shall be suspended for the remainder of the match and the next match in that competition.

- i. A first red card during league or tournament play shall result in a one-match suspension.
 - 1. For Adults League, straight Red cards will also be subject to a minimum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00)
- ii. A second red card shall result in suspension pending a hearing by the TSA A&D Committee and referral to NTSSA when required.

NOTE:

- A red card issued solely because of a second yellow card in the same match shall be recorded as provided above and shall not be treated as a straight red card.
- When an individual receives a yellow card followed by a straight red card in the same match, both cards shall be recorded and sanctioned.

c. **Seventh Card**

Any individual who receives a seventh card during league or tournament play, consisting of any combination of yellow and red cards, shall be immediately suspended pending review by the TSA A&D Committee and any further action required by NTSSA.

d. **Service of Suspensions**

A suspension shall be served at the next scheduled match actually played in the applicable competition in which the individual's team participates. A forfeit will qualify as an individual team's participation. A suspension imposed under this section shall be recognized by TSA and its affiliated programs after proper notice.

If a violation occurs during the final match of a competition TSA shall require sanctions to be served in the end of season tournament or the first game of the following season.

The absence of a hearing or referee report shall not delay an automatic suspension required by this section.

e. **Serious Misconduct**

Nothing in this section limits TSA's authority to impose a more severe sanction or refer conduct to NTSSA when the misconduct involves violence, abuse, threats, property damage, or other serious conduct.

In Adult League, any player, coach, or assistant coach found guilty of fighting will be subject to a fine of no less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and a minimum three game suspension.

If a violation is sufficiently serious to warrant additional action, TSA may refer the matter to the NTSSA A&D Committee.

3.7.3. Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

TSA shall maintain a misconduct system for adult players, coaches, and assistant coaches. Sanctions shall ordinarily remain within the competition in which the misconduct occurred, unless TSA determines that the matter warrants additional discipline or referral to NTSSA.

- A participant who receives a second yellow card in the same match shall be removed for the remainder of the match and suspended from the next match in that competition.
- A participant who receives a red card, or who is sent off by the referee, shall be removed for the remainder of the match and suspended from at least the next match in that competition.
- A card may be reviewed only if the issuing referee acknowledges that the card was issued in error.
- Any red card issued to a coach will carry a \$50 fine in addition to any suspension.
- All reports of red cards for Coaches / Assistant Coaches will be submitted to NTSSA for review.
- If the TSA A&D Committee determines that a red card was issued for conduct that does not constitute an expulsion offense under the IFAB Laws of the Game, the Committee may reduce the red card to a yellow card and impose the applicable yellow-card sanction. The Committee shall not vacate the card entirely.
- If misconduct occurs during the final match of a competition, or is sufficiently serious to warrant further action, TSA may impose additional sanctions or refer the matter to NTSSA for review.

3.7.4. Misconduct of Spectators

Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The coach, assistant coach, or team manager shall take appropriate action to address spectator misconduct when directed by the referee or a TSA official.

TSA may impose sanctions against an identifiable spectator or, when the spectator cannot be identified, against the associated team. Sanctions may include removal or suspension of the spectator, restrictions on attendance, forfeiture, fines, additional security requirements, or referral to NTSSA.

Serious or repeated spectator misconduct shall be reported to the TSA A&D Committee and, when required, to NTSSA.

3.7.5. Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

1. League Play

TSA may monitor team-level misconduct, including repeated cards, send-offs, or other disciplinary incidents involving players, coaches, or team officials. Team-level review may be initiated when the pattern of misconduct threatens safety, sportsmanship, or orderly competition. After notice and an opportunity to respond, TSA may impose team-related sanctions authorized by these governing documents, including a warning, required corrective action, forfeiture, suspension, or referral to the TSA A&D Committee or NTSSA.

2. All Association Teams

A team and its coach shall be jointly responsible for the conduct of the team's players, coaches, parents, and spectators.

A coach or team official whose conduct, or whose failure to control team participants, materially contributes to misconduct may be disciplined separately from the team. TSA may impose additional sanctions when a team demonstrates a pattern of misconduct or fails to comply with disciplinary requirements.

3.7.6. Misconduct Toward a Referee

1. NTSSA retains exclusive jurisdiction under applicable NTSSA rules 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 match official.
- c. Any coach, parent, or junior referee serving as a match official.

2. TSA shall promptly report to NTSSA all alleged referee assault, abuse, or gross mistreatment occurring within TSA's jurisdiction. TSA may take immediate protective or interim administrative action, including removing a person from the match area or restricting participation, pending review by NTSSA or the TSA A&D Committee.

3. Terms and References

The definitions, examples, penalties, and suspension requirements contained in the applicable NTSSA referee-assault and abuse policy are incorporated into this Section by reference.

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 USSF policies are in addition to the local, state, and Federal laws.

- a. **Referee Assault** is any deliberate physical action against the 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:

- i. Imposing physical harm upon a Referee or a Protected Party, including by use of objects or equipment.
- ii. Any act that endangers the Referee's physical well-being, whether deliberate or merely reckless.
- iii. Any form of unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to pushing, hitting, striking, kicking, choking, or spitting at the Referee.
- iv. Any behavior that constitutes a criminal offense under any applicable law.
- v. Threatening, either directly or in insinuation, physical harm, including by use of objects or equipment, to a Referee or a Protected Party or property.
- vi. Threatening is defined as any statement or action that instills reasonable fear of acts of violence to a person's safety or property.
- vii. Threats of harm or any retaliatory action against the Referee or their Protected Parties, including threat of exclusion from assignment or future participation opportunity.
- viii. 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:
 - ix. 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.
 - x. Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
 - xi. Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g., intimidation).
 - xii. 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.
 - xiii. Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
 - xiv. Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
 - xv. 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:

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

4. Penalties and Suspensions

TSA will support and uphold any and all decisions by NTSSA regarding Referee Assault, Abuse, or Gross Mistreatment and the penalties and suspensions thereof.

3.7.7. Misconduct of Referees

When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another referee, the NTSSA A&D Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to his activities. TSA will promptly report any such allegations to NTSSA and uphold and support any decisions may by the NTSSA A&D Committee.

3.7.8. Appellate Procedures

- All members under the jurisdiction of TSA shall have access to TSA appellate procedures for decisions arising under TSA rules, policies, or competition rules and regulations, subject to the jurisdiction and mandatory requirements of NTSSA, USSF, and other applicable governing bodies.
- TSA may establish reasonable hearing procedures and may limit the number of witnesses, documents, and the time allotted to each party, provided that all parties receive reasonable notice and a fair opportunity to be heard. TSA may determine whether hearings are open or closed, subject to applicable law and governing-body requirements.
- TSA may decline to hear an appeal that is outside its jurisdiction, untimely, incomplete, or has not exhausted the required lower-level procedures. If another forum has jurisdiction, TSA may refer the matter to that forum. No appeal shall be denied solely because a party has stated an intention to seek judicial relief.
- TSA may regulate or prohibit the use of audio or video recording devices, court reporters, and attorneys at hearings, subject to applicable law and the requirements of a fair hearing. Any such restriction shall be communicated to the parties before the hearing.
- A party must exhaust all applicable TSA appellate procedures before seeking review by NTSSA, unless NTSSA rules provide otherwise. Failure to exhaust TSA appellate procedures may result in dismissal of an NTSSA appeal or other action authorized by NTSSA rules.
- Appeals of decisions made by a TSA officer, commissioner, Area Director, committee, or other initial decision-maker shall be submitted first to the TSA A&D Committee in accordance with these published TSA Rules and Regulations.
- An appeal to the TSA A&D Committee must be:
 - In writing;
 - Submitted to the TSA office within five (5) days after receipt of written notice of the decision being appealed;
 - Accompanied by the required filing fee; and
 - Based on an alleged procedural error, misapplication of a TSA, NTSSA, or USSF rule, lack of authority, or other material issue affecting the decision.
- The TSA A&D Committee may affirm, modify, reverse, or remand the decision being appealed. The Committee may also impose any additional sanction authorized by TSA, NTSSA, or USSF rules.

- A decision of the TSA A&D Committee shall constitute the final level of appeal within TSA, unless these Rules expressly provide otherwise. After TSA appellate procedures have been exhausted, an eligible party may appeal to the NTSSA A&D Committee in accordance with current NTSSA rules.
- TSA shall provide the appellant with written notice of the date on which TSA appellate procedures are exhausted. An appeal to NTSSA must be filed within the time and in the manner required by NTSSA rules.
- An appeal shall not automatically stay the decision being appealed. The TSA A&D Committee may grant a stay while the matter is pending before TSA. Once NTSSA has accepted jurisdiction, any request for a stay shall be governed by NTSSA procedures.
- The TSA Board shall establish and publish the filing fee for TSA appeals. The fee shall not be waived except as expressly permitted by TSA policy. The fee may be refunded when the appeal is sustained, as provided by the published TSA fee schedule.
 - All Player Appeals- \$100 - (\$50 paid by the player and \$50 paid by the coach)
 - All Coach Appeals & Referee Appeals - \$100
 - All Team Appeals - \$100
- The TSA A&D Committee shall provide reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard to all parties whose interests may be affected by an appeal. The Committee may limit witnesses, documents, and hearing time when the limits are reasonable and do not prevent a fair hearing.
- The TSA A&D Committee shall maintain a record of each appeal, including the notice of appeal, submitted materials, hearing record, if any, and written decision.
- Nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction, authority, mandatory procedures, minimum sanctions, or appellate rights of NTSSA, USSF, or any other governing body with jurisdiction over the matter.

3.7.9. Records

The TSA A&D Committee shall maintain records of all misconduct reports, disciplinary actions, appeals, hearings, and decisions. When a person, team, coach, or other participant demonstrates a pattern of repeated misconduct, the Committee may issue a warning or require that person or team to appear before it. Records shall be maintained and disclosed in accordance with applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, privacy, and legal requirements.

3.7.10. Compliance

All required misconduct reports and records shall be submitted timely to TSA, NTSSA, or USSF. Failure to comply may result in discipline or other action under applicable rules.

3.8 Match Protests

3.8.1. Permitted Grounds

A completed match may be protested only on one or more of the following grounds:

- A team knowingly used an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or
- An obvious error occurred in the application of the Laws of the Game, directly affecting the outcome of the match, and the Referee admits the error.

3.8.2. Non-Protestable Decisions

A protest shall not be accepted when based solely on a Referee's judgment, interpretation, or decision on a matter of fact during play. A match may not be protested solely because a coach, player, team, or other participant believes that the Referee was incompetent or made an incorrect judgment.

3.8.3. Field and Equipment Objections

An objection concerning the field, goal posts, crossbars, markings, or other match equipment must be made to the Referee before the match begins. If the objection is not resolved, the protesting party must submit the protest in writing in accordance with this section. An objection not made before the match begins shall not be accepted as a ground for protest.

3.8.4. U8 and Younger Matches

No protest seeking to change or invalidate the outcome of a match in the U8-and-younger divisions shall be accepted because TSA does not maintain scores, standings, or declared winners for those divisions.

This limitation does not prevent TSA from investigating player eligibility, safety, misconduct, or other matters requiring action under TSA, NTSSA, or USSF rules.

3.8.5. Filing Requirements

A coach or authorized team representative may file a protest by submitting written notice to the TSA office within seventy-two (72) hours after the conclusion of the match.

The protest shall:

- Identify the match, teams, date, and division;
- State the specific rule or Law allegedly violated;
- State the facts supporting the protest;
- Identify the relief requested; and
- Include the required \$50.00 filing fee.

A protest that is not timely filed, does not state a permitted ground, or is not accompanied by the required fee shall not be accepted.

3.8.6. Review and Hearing

Upon receiving a protest, the designated TSA reviewing authority shall determine whether the protest states a permissible ground and satisfies the filing requirements.

If further review is warranted, TSA shall provide reasonable notice to the affected parties and may conduct a hearing. Each affected party shall have a reasonable opportunity to submit evidence and be heard. A party's refusal to participate shall not prevent TSA from deciding the matter based on the information available.

TSA may consider roster records, match reports, written statements, video evidence, and other relevant information. Video or other evidence shall not convert a Referee's judgment decision into a protestable matter.

3.8.7. Decision

The reviewing authority shall issue a written decision affirming, denying, or otherwise resolving the protest. If the protest concerns an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player, TSA may impose the forfeiture, discipline, or other remedy required by applicable TSA, NTSSA, or USSF rules.

3.8.8. Appeal

A party entitled to appeal the decision may do so in accordance with Section 3.11.8, Appellate Procedures. A protest decision shall remain in effect unless stayed by the authority having jurisdiction over the appeal.

3.9 TSA Rules of Competition

TSA-sanctioned competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the current IFAB Laws of the Game, applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements, the TSA Bylaws, and the TSA Rules of Competition established under this Chapter.

3.9.1. Law 1 — The Field of Play

Law 1 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

1. Field Dimensions

Division	Preferred Field Size	Maximum Field Size	Goal Size
Adult 11v11	110 × 75 yards	120 × 80 yards	24 × 8 feet
Adult 7v7	75 × 50 yards	80 × 55 yards	18.5 × 6.5 feet
U13 and above	110 × 75 yards	120 × 80 yards	24 × 8 feet
U11/U12	70 × 45 yards	80 × 55 yards	18.5 × 6.5 feet
U9/U10	60 × 40 yards	65 × 45 yards	18.5 × 6.5 feet
U7/U8	35 × 25 yards	35 × 25 yards	6 × 4 feet
U6 and below	25 × 20 yards	35 × 25 yards	3-foot mini goals

2. Field Markings

Division	Goal Area	Penalty Area	Center Circle Radius	Corner Arc Radius
U13 and above	6 × 20 yards	18 × 44 yards	10 yards	1 yard
U12 and above	5 × 16 yards	14 × 36 yards	8 yards	1 yard
U9/U10	4 × 8 yards	12 × 24 yards	8 yards	1 yard
U8 and below	10 ft arch	None	10 feet	1 yard

For U9/U10 competition, the build-out line shall be marked equidistant between the penalty-area line and the halfway line.

3. Technical and Spectator Areas

The technical area shall extend ten (10) yards in each direction from the halfway line and shall be located one (1) yard from the touchline. On U8 and younger fields, the technical area shall extend eight (8) yards in each direction from the halfway line and shall not extend closer than ten (10) yards to the goal line.

A spectator line shall be marked along the touchline opposite the technical areas. The spectator line shall be located five (5) yards from the touchline and shall not extend within ten (10) yards of either corner of the field.

4. Field Exceptions and Safety

The League Commissioner, designated TSA official, or applicable municipal or facility authority may approve reasonable deviations from field dimensions or markings or may close a field before a match when conditions are unsafe or unsuitable.

TSA officials or the applicable facility authority may inspect, restrict, or close a field when conditions are unsafe or unsuitable for play. Once a field is made available for a match, the referee shall have final authority to determine whether the field and surrounding conditions are safe for play.

3.9.2. Law 2 — The Ball

Law 2 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except that the ball used in TSA competition shall be the following size:

Division	Ball Size
Adult Open & Adult 7v7	Size 5
U13 and older	Size 5
U9/U10 through U12	Size 4
U4 through U8	Size 3

Both teams shall provide at least one match ball that complies with the applicable size and condition requirements. The referee shall determine whether the ball is fit for play.

3.9.3. Law 3 — The Players

Law 3 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

1. Number of Players

Division	Maximum Players on Field	Minimum Players to Start	Goalkeeper Required
Adult Open and U13–U19	11	7	Yes
Adult 7v7 and U9/U10	7	6	Yes
U11/U12	9	6	Yes
U4–U8	4	3	No

A team shall not begin or continue a match with fewer than the applicable minimum number of players.

2. Substitutions

- a. In Adult Divisions, Substitutions shall be permitted in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- b. In U9 and older youth divisions, substitutions may be made at the referee's discretion during the following moments:
 - i. At a throw-in by the team in possession. If that team substitutes, the opposing team may also substitute during the same stoppage.
 - ii. At a goal kick, by either team.
 - iii. After a goal is scored, by either team.
 - iv. When play is stopped for an injury, by either team.
 - v. At halftime, by either team.
 - vi. When a player receives a caution (yellow card), that player may be substituted.
- c. In U8 and below division, the quarter substitution system shall be used. Substitutions may only be made at the following times:
 - i. Between Quarters
 - ii. Halftime
 - iii. Injury: A substitution may be made for an injured player when play is stopped for the injury.
 - iv. Caution: When a player commits an offense that would otherwise result in a caution, the player shall be substituted. No yellow card shall be shown; the referee shall explain the infraction to the coach.
- d. A substituted player may return to the match unless prohibited by applicable NTSSA, USSF, or competition rules.

3.9.4. Law 4 — The Players' Equipment

Law 4 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

1. Uniform Colors

When the teams' uniforms are not sufficiently distinguishable, the designated home team shall provide and wear a contrasting color.

2. Jersey Numbers

Each player shall wear a unique jersey number measuring at least four (4) inches in height. The number shall correspond with the number listed for the player on the official team roster.

A goalkeeper is not required to have a number on their jersey. However, they must still have a unique number on the roster.

3. Jewelry and Accessories

Consistent with current IFAB Law 4 and USSF guidance, players may wear accessories only when the item is not dangerous and is safely and securely covered. The referee shall determine whether an item presents a danger to the player or any other participant.

The following guidance shall apply:

- a. Earrings, studs, gauges, and other pierced jewelry are prohibited, including when covered with tape. Watches, fitness trackers, smart devices, necklaces, chains, and bracelets are prohibited unless the referee determines that the item is medically necessary and it is safely secured or fully covered.
- b. Rings containing stones, prongs, sharp edges, protrusions, or other hard or dangerous components are prohibited. A smooth ring without stones, prongs, or dangerous features may be permitted when safely and securely covered.
- c. Medical-alert jewelry, medically necessary equipment, and religious or cultural items may be permitted when they cannot reasonably be removed, are safely secured or covered, and do not create a danger.
- d. Soft fabric or rubber wristbands, hair ties, soft headbands, and similar accessories may be permitted when they contain no hard or dangerous components and are safely secured.
- e. Any item determined by the referee to be dangerous shall be removed before the player may participate. The referee's determination shall be final for that match.

3.9.5. Law 5 — The Referee

Law 5 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply without modification.

The referee shall have the authority and responsibilities established by the IFAB Laws of the Game, including authority over the match, the field and surrounding conditions, player and team conduct, match equipment, substitutions, timekeeping, match reports, and the decision to suspend, abandon, or terminate a match.

The referee's decisions on matters of fact connected with play shall be final, subject only to the limited review and appeal rights expressly provided in these Rules and Regulations or applicable NTSSA rules.

3.9.6. Law 6 — The Other Match Officials

Law 6 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply.

Assistant Referees may be assigned to TSA matches in accordance with Referees and Match Officials and 3.6 Referee System. TSA shall not be required to assign Assistant Referees to U8 and younger matches.

A Fourth Official, Stand-by Official, Junior Associate Referee, or Club Linesman may be assigned or used when authorized under those Sections. Each match official shall perform only the duties assigned by the applicable TSA rules and the referee, consistent with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

A Club Linesman shall have only the limited duties expressly stated in Club Linesmen and shall not be treated as a licensed Assistant Referee.

3.9.7. Law 7 — The Duration of the Match

Law 7 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

1. Match Duration

Division	Match Format	Period Length
Adult 11v11	2 halves	45 minutes
Adult 7v7	2 halves	25 minutes
U17/U18/U19	2 halves	45 minutes
U15/U16	2 halves	40 minutes
U13/U14	2 halves	35 minutes
U11/U12	2 halves	30 minutes
U9/U10	2 halves	25 minutes
U7/U8	4 quarters	10 minutes
U6 and below	4 quarters	8 minutes

2. Intervals

- a. In U9 and older divisions, including adult divisions, the halftime interval shall be ten (10) minutes.
- b. In U8 and younger divisions, there shall be a two (2) minute interval between the first and second quarters and between the third and fourth quarters. The halftime interval between the second and third quarters shall be five (5) minutes.

3.9.8. Law 8 — The Start and Restart of Play

Law 8 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- In U8 and below divisions
 - The first and third quarters shall begin with a kick-off in accordance with Law 8.
 - The second and fourth quarters shall begin with a kick-off by the team that did not take the kick-off at the beginning of the preceding quarter.
 - Teams shall change ends at halftime only. The referee shall determine the appropriate restart when play is stopped for any reason.
 - Opponents must remain at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

3.9.9. Law 9 — The Ball In and Out of Play

Law 9 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply without modification.

The ball shall be considered in or out of play only as provided by Law 9. No TSA rule shall alter the requirements governing when the ball is in or out of play.

3.9.10. Law 10 — Determining the Outcome of a Match

Law 10 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- Regular-Season Matches
- Regular season matches may end in a draw. Extra time and penalty shootouts shall not be used to determine a winner in regular-season competition.
- In U8 and younger regular-season competition, TSA shall not declare a winner or publish match scores.
- End-of-Season Tournament
- End-of-Season Tournament matches shall produce a winner.
- If a non-championship tournament match is tied at the end of regulation, the winner shall be determined by a penalty shootout.
- If a championship match is tied at the end of regulation, the teams shall play two (2) ten-minute extra-time periods. Golden-goal shall not be used. If the match remains tied after extra time, the winner shall be determined by a penalty shootout.
- A five (5) minute interval shall occur between regulation and extra time. Teams shall change ends after the first extra-time period. No scheduled interval shall occur between extra-time periods except for the time necessary to change ends and permit substitutions.
- Penalty shootouts shall be conducted in accordance with Law 10 of the IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.9.11. Law 11 — Offside

Law 11 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- In U11 and older, including adult divisions, shall apply Law 11 without modification
- In U9/U10 competition, a player shall not be penalized for an offside position while positioned between the halfway line and the build-out line. Offside shall otherwise be enforced in accordance with Law 11.
- In U8 and younger divisions, offside shall not be enforced.

3.9.12. Law 12 — Fouls and Misconduct

Law 12 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- Charging the Goalkeeper in Youth Divisions
 - Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any YOUTH play in NTSSA. Possession is defined by the IFAB laws.
- Deliberate Handling Consideration
 - It is not considered a deliberate handling the ball offence 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 Referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.

- Deliberate Heading
 - Deliberate heading is prohibited in U12 and younger competition in accordance with applicable USSF requirements.
 - If a player deliberately heads the ball in violation of this rule, the referee shall stop play and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the place where the heading occurred, subject to the IFAB Laws of the Game. No disciplinary card is required solely for the heading infraction. The Referee may apply advantage.
- Punting in U9/U10/Adult 7v7
 - Punting/Drop kicks are not allowed in U10 & Below or Adult 7v7.
 - If a goalkeeper is in violation of this rule, the Referee shall stop play and award an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction, subject to the IFAB Laws of the Game. No disciplinary card is required solely for the punting/drop kick infraction.
- Slide Tackles
 - Slide Tackles are not allowed in any age division.
 - A slide tackle is defined as challenging an opponent for the ball while sliding.
 - A slide that does not challenge an opponent for the ball should not be considered a slide tackle.
 - TSA shall treat a slide tackle as playing in a dangerous manner at a minimum.
 - A slide tackle that does not make contact with the ball or an opposing player shall result in an indirect free kick.
 - A slide tackle that makes contact with the ball or an opposing player shall result in at least a caution for unsporting behavior, unless a more serious sanction is required by Law 12.
 - A slide tackle that constitutes serious foul play shall result in a sending-off.
 - The restart shall be determined by the offense committed under the IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.9.13. Law 13 — Free Kicks

Law 13 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

1. U9 and above divisions

- a. Free kicks in U9 and older competition shall be taken in accordance with Law 13 of the IFAB Laws of the Game.

2. U8 and below divisions

- a. All free kicks in U8 and younger competition shall be indirect free kicks.
- b. The opposing team shall remain at least ten (10) feet from the ball until it is in play, unless the free kick is taken from the defending team's goal area.
- c. If a kick taker touches the ball more than once before another player:
 - i. U5-U8: Retake
 - ii. U4: Play on

3.9.14. Law 14 — The Penalty Kick

Law 14 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- Penalty kicks shall not be awarded in U8 and younger competition. An offense that would otherwise result in a penalty kick shall instead result in an indirect free kick from the location of the offense, subject to the applicable IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.9.15. Law 15 — The Throw-In

Law 15 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- U7/U8 Divisions
 - Will utilize throw-ins
 - A player who improperly takes a throw-in shall be permitted one retake after receiving instruction from the referee.
 - If the second attempt is also improper, the throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- U6 and Below Divisions
 - Will utilize kick-ins
 - A player who improperly takes a kick-in shall be permitted one retake after receiving instruction from the referee.
 - If the second attempt is also improper, the kick-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.
 - Opposing players shall remain at least ten (10) feet from the point of the kick-in until the ball is in play.
 - If a kick taker touches the ball more than once before another player:
 - U5-U8: Retake
 - U4: Play on

3.9.16. Law 16 — The Goal Kick

Law 16 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- In U8 and younger competition, opposing players shall remain at least ten (10) feet from the ball until the ball is in play.

3.9.17. Law 17 — The Corner Kick

Law 17 of the current IFAB Laws of the Game shall apply, except as modified below.

- In U8 and younger competition, opposing players shall remain at least ten (10) feet from the ball until the ball is in play.

3.10 League Structure and Administration

3.10.1. Divisions

TSA shall organize league competition by age, gender, playing level, and competition format in accordance with NTSSA and USSF requirements.

TSA shall establish the divisions offered for each playing season based on player registration, team availability, field availability, and operational needs. TSA may combine, divide, or discontinue divisions when necessary to provide appropriate competition.

Age divisions shall be based on the applicable NTSSA playing-year standards. TSA may establish additional age divisions within an NTSSA-recognized age group when player registration or league operations warrant.

A player shall participate only in the division for which the player is eligible under TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements, subject to the Playing Age provisions of these Rules and Regulations.

3.10.2. Recreational Levels

TSA shall organize recreational competition into levels appropriate to the age, experience, and competitive objectives of the participating players.

TSA may establish ranked divisions for age groups in which standings are maintained and team placement is determined by match results, standings points, and the tiebreakers stated in Ranked Competition.

TSA may establish sportsmanship divisions for younger age groups in which standings, scores, champions, or rankings are not maintained. Players participating in those divisions may receive participation recognition established by TSA.

The TSA Executive may modify the recreational levels offered for a playing season based on registration, team availability, player development, and league operations.

3.10.3. Ranked Divisions

TSA may designate divisions as ranked divisions when standings are maintained and teams are placed based on match results.

Ranked divisions shall use the standings-point system and tiebreakers stated in Ranked Competition.

TSA shall identify the ranked divisions offered for each playing season based on registration, team availability, and league operations. A division shall not be treated as ranked unless TSA has officially designated it as such before the season begins.

3.10.4. Sportsmanship Divisions

TSA may designate younger or developmental divisions as sportsmanship divisions.

In a sportsmanship division, TSA shall not maintain standings, publish match scores, declare champions, or otherwise rank teams. Matches may be recorded for scheduling, eligibility, safety, or administrative purposes only.

TSA may provide participation awards or other non-competitive recognition consistent with its recreational philosophy.

TSA shall establish and publish the following requirements before each playing season:

- Registration opening: Minimum of 90 days Opening Day
- Closing dates: 30 days before Opening Day
- Roster-freeze date: Opening Day
- These requirements shall be consistent with NTSSA and USSF rules. No registration, roster, transfer, or release requirement shall be enforceable unless published before the applicable season or competition begins.

3.10.5. Team Formation and Placement

TSA shall form and place teams in accordance with its recreational philosophy, the registration and roster requirements stated in these Rules and Regulations, and applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

Team formation and placement may consider player age, gender, geographic area, roster capacity, returning-player status, sibling or coach requests, and other criteria expressly stated in these Rules and Regulations.

TSA shall not conduct tryouts or select recreational players based on skill, athletic ability, competitive ranking, or prior team affiliation.

TSA may combine, divide, reassign, or realign teams when necessary to maintain appropriate roster sizes, balanced participation, or orderly league operations.

No player is guaranteed placement on a particular team, area, or division unless these Rules and Regulations expressly provide otherwise.

3.10.6. Scheduling

The TSA Scheduler shall prepare and publish the schedule for each league, division, and competition, subject to the oversight of the Operations Coordinator and applicable TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements.

The initial schedule shall be published no later than 10 days before the applicable season or competition begins.

Teams shall participate at the dates, times, and locations designated by TSA unless the match is postponed, canceled, or rescheduled.

The Scheduler shall provide notice of an approved schedule or schedule change to affected teams through the authorized software and match officials through the Referee Assignor.

Except in an emergency or when otherwise approved by the President, at least 10 days' notice shall be provided for a schedule change.

No team may independently change, cancel, or reschedule a scheduled match. A team requesting a schedule change shall submit the request to the Scheduler in the manner established by TSA.

3.10.7. Postponements and Cancellations

A match may be postponed or canceled because of weather, unsafe field conditions, facility closure, emergency circumstances, an approved scheduling conflict, or another reason approved by the League Commissioner or designated TSA official.

The League Commissioner, designated TSA official, or applicable municipal or facility authority may inspect, restrict, suspend, or close a field before a match when conditions are unsafe or unsuitable for play.

The Scheduler shall communicate postponements, cancellations, and field closures to affected League Commissioners, Area Directors, and Referee Assignor.

Teams shall comply with all TSA notice and rescheduling requirements. A team may not independently postpone or cancel a scheduled match.

A rescheduled match shall be played on a date approved by the Scheduler and the city contracts/agreement and field availability based on other games.

Once a match has commenced, the referee shall retain final authority to determine whether the field and surrounding conditions are safe for play in accordance with Law 1 of the IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.10.8. Forfeitures

A team may forfeit a match by failing to appear, refusing to play, independently canceling or postponing a scheduled match, failing to field the minimum number of eligible players, or violating an applicable TSA, NTSSA, or USSF participation requirement.

A team that uses an ineligible, unregistered, or suspended player shall forfeit each match in which that player participated and may be subject to additional discipline under Registered Players and Discipline.

A forfeited match shall be recorded as a loss for the forfeiting team and a win for the non-forfeiting team. The default score used for standings and tiebreaker purposes shall be 3-0.

Adult-team forfeiture fees, notice requirements, payment deadlines, and additional adult-league consequences shall be governed by the TSA Adult League Rules, which shall remain publicly available and consistent with these Rules and Regulations, NTSSA, and USSF requirements.

The League Commissioner shall determine and record forfeitures and notify the affected teams. TSA may impose additional sanctions, including loss of standings points, suspension, removal from competition, or referral to the A&D Committee.

3.10.9. Match Reports and Results

The referee shall submit the official match report to TSA within 48 hours after the match. If the assigned referee is unable to submit the report, the Referee Assignor or designated TSA official shall submit it.

The match report shall identify the teams, date, location, match status, final score when applicable, cards, misconduct, injuries, and any other incident requiring review.

Team officials shall promptly provide information reasonably requested by TSA to complete or verify the match report.

For ranked divisions, TSA shall record results and standings in accordance with Ranked Competition. For U8 and younger sportsmanship divisions, TSA shall not publish scores, maintain standings, or declare winners.

The official method for submitting match reports shall be electronically through the approved platform, and the person responsible for reviewing reports shall be the Assignor or Referee Liaison. The Scheduler is responsible for recording all results.

3.10.10. Minimum Participation Requirements

Each rostered recreational youth player who is present and eligible for a match shall participate in at least fifty percent (50%) of the match.

A player may receive less than the required playing time only because of injury, illness, late arrival, early departure, safety concerns, disciplinary removal under Discipline, or abandonment/termination of the match.

Coaches and team officials shall administer playing time in good faith and may not intentionally deny required participation based on skill, ability, competitive preference, or disagreement with a player or parent.

This requirement applies only to TSA recreational youth competition. Adult participation requirements, if any, shall be stated in the publicly available TSA Adult League Rules.

3.11 Ranked Competition

The provisions of this Section apply only to divisions designated as ranked under Ranked Divisions. They do not apply to sportsmanship divisions.

3.11.1 Regular-Season Standings

TSA shall maintain standings for each ranked division based on the results of completed league matches.

3.11.2 Match Points

For regular-season ranked competition, standings points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win — three (3) points;
- Draw — one (1) point; and
- Loss — zero (0) points.

A forfeited match shall be recorded and scored under Forfeitures.

The default score used for standings and tiebreaker purposes shall be 3-0.

Tournament standings or advancement shall be determined by the applicable tournament rules, provided those rules comply with NTSSA, USSF, and TSA requirements.

3.11.3 Tiebreakers

When two or more teams finish a ranked competition with equal standings points, final placement shall be determined in the following order:

1. Head-to-Head
2. Goal Differential (maximum of 5 goals per match)
3. Goals Against (maximum of 10 goals per match)
4. Goals Scored (maximum of 10 goals per match)
5. Fewest Red Cards
6. Fewest Yellow Cards
7. Coin Toss

The tiebreaking criteria shall be applied uniformly to all teams in the affected division. TSA shall publish the tiebreaking order before the beginning of the applicable season or competition.

3.11.4 Standings Adjustments

TSA may adjust standings when required because of a forfeiture, use of an ineligible or suspended player, an abandoned or incomplete match, a disciplinary sanction, or an administrative error.

Any adjustment shall be based on these Rules and Regulations, applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements, or a written decision of the TSA A&D Committee.

TSA shall notify affected teams of any standings adjustment and shall apply the adjustment uniformly to all teams in the affected division.

3.11.5 Publication of Results

TSA shall publish ranked-division standings in accordance with Match Reports and Results.

3.12 Tournament Play

This Section applies only to ranked divisions and teams that satisfy the applicable qualification requirements. Tournament matches shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules and Regulations, the IFAB Laws of the Game, applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements, and any tournament-specific rules published before registration.

3.12.1. NTSSA Tournament of Champions

TSA shall select and register its representative for the NTSSA Tournament of Champions in accordance with applicable NTSSA eligibility and registration requirements.

TSA is not obligated to pay the registration fees on behalf of a team that will be the representative for the NTSSA Tournament of Champions.

The TSA representative shall be selected from the eligible ranked division designated by TSA and shall satisfy all NTSSA roster, player-card, coaching, and registration requirements.

3.12.2. TSA End-of-Season Playoffs

TSA may conduct an end-of-season tournament for eligible teams from designated ranked divisions.

TSA shall publish the tournament format, eligibility requirements, qualification method, match procedures, and tie-breaking rules prior to the end of league play.

3.12.3. Other Tournaments

TSA teams participating in tournaments outside TSA shall comply with the host tournament's rules and all applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements, including roster, guest-player, release, travel, and sanctioning requirements.

TSA shall not represent an outside tournament as TSA-sanctioned or NTSSA-sanctioned unless the required authorization has been granted.

3.13 Incomplete Match Because of Misconduct

If a match is not completed because of misconduct clearly attributable to a team, its players, coaches, officials, spectators, or other supporters, the TSA A&D Committee shall determine the disposition of the match.

The Committee may order the match to be:

- Recorded as completed with the existing result;
- Declared a forfeit;
- Rescheduled or replayed in whole or in part; or
- Declared no contest.

The Committee may impose additional discipline under 3.12 Discipline, including sanctions against the responsible individuals or team. Any determination shall comply with applicable NTSSA, USSF, IFAB, and TSA requirements.

CHAPTER 4.
REGISTRATION AND PLAYER ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

4.1 Scope and Authority

This Chapter establishes TSA's registration and player-administration requirements for youth and adult programs. These requirements shall be administered in accordance with applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements and shall apply to TSA-sanctioned programs unless a provision expressly states otherwise.

The Executive Board may establish registration forms, deadlines, and administrative requirements necessary to implement this Chapter, provided those requirements are consistent with these Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations, and controlling NTSSA and USSF requirements.

4.2 General Registration Requirements

4.2.1. Registration periods

TSA shall establish and publish registration periods and deadlines for each program and playing season before registration opens.

4.2.2. Registration opening and closing dates

TSA shall publish registration dates before registration opens. The published information shall identify the applicable program, age division, playing season, registration fee, late-registration deadline, and any applicable roster-freeze date.

TSA may extend or reopen registration when necessary to form teams, correct an administrative problem, or meet league-operational needs, provided the extension is applied consistently and does not conflict with NTSSA or USSF requirements.

4.2.3. Required forms and documentation

A registration shall not be considered complete until the player or the player's parent or legal guardian, when applicable, has submitted:

- The applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, USYS, or other governing-body registration form;
- Proof of age and identity;
- A passport style photo, subject to approval;
- Required medical, emergency-contact, consent, and waiver forms;
- Any required release, transfer, guest-player, or eligibility documentation; and
- Any additional documentation required by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, USYS, or the applicable competition.

4.2.4. Proof of age and identity

Acceptable proof of age and identity shall include a government-issued birth certificate, birth-registration record, passport, government-issued identification document, alien-registration document, military identification document, or other document accepted by NTSSA, USSF, or USYS.

TSA may require an original, certified copy, or clear electronic copy of the document and may require additional documentation when the information submitted is incomplete, inconsistent, or insufficient to verify eligibility.

4.2.5. Registration fees

Registration fees shall be established by the Executive Board and published before the applicable registration period begins. The published fee information shall identify the applicable program, division, playing season, standard fee, late fee, administrative fee, and refund or credit terms, if applicable.

4.2.6. Registration with TSA and NTSSA

A player shall register through TSA in the manner established for the applicable program. TSA shall submit registration information, fees, and required documentation to NTSSA when required.

Registration shall not be complete until the required forms, documentation, fees, and approvals have been received and the player has been accepted into the applicable registration system.

4.2.7. Roster-freeze dates

TSA shall publish roster-freeze dates through its official website, registration portal, email communication, or other official communication method reasonably calculated to notify affected teams and participants.

A roster-freeze notice shall identify the applicable program, division, competition, effective date, and any exceptions authorized by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or the applicable competition rules.

4.2.8. Registration corrections

TSA may correct or require correction of a registration, roster, or related record when an error, omission, duplicate registration, inaccurate document, or eligibility issue is identified.

A correction shall not be used to avoid an applicable registration deadline, roster-freeze date, transfer restriction, release requirement, or competition rule.

TSA shall document material corrections and administer them consistently with applicable TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements.

4.3 Youth Registration

4.3.1. Youth age classifications

Youth players shall be registered in the age classification established by the applicable NTSSA and USSF playing-year requirements. TSA may offer additional divisions within an approved age classification when necessary to administer its programs.

4.3.2. Youth registration eligibility

A youth player shall satisfy all applicable age, proof-of-age, identification, residency, eligibility, and risk-management requirements before being registered or placed on a team roster.

TSA may deny, suspend, correct, or revoke a youth registration when the player does not satisfy an applicable requirement or when registration information is inaccurate or incomplete.

4.3.3. Youth registration in multiple programs when permitted

TSA shall not register or roster a youth player in more than one TSA division during the same playing season unless expressly authorized by TSA and permitted by applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

A TSA-registered youth player may participate in a program outside TSA only when the activity is permitted by applicable NTSSA, USSF, and host-organization rules, including any required registration, release, proof-of-registration, or other authorization.

Participation outside TSA shall not authorize the player to participate for another TSA team or division without the required TSA registration, roster placement, release, transfer, or other approval.

4.3.4. Youth Participation in Adult Competition

A youth player who is eligible for Under-19 competition may participate in adult competition only when permitted by applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements and after completing all required TSA registration and approval requirements.

A youth player under eighteen (18) years of age may not participate in adult competition unless expressly permitted by NTSSA or USSF and approved by the appropriate governing authorities.

When required, a youth player participating in adult competition shall be listed and registered in the manner required by NTSSA, USSF, and the applicable competition.

A team that knowingly permits an unapproved or ineligible youth player to participate may forfeit affected matches and may be subject to discipline.

4.4 Adult Registration

4.4.1. Adult registration eligibility

An adult player shall satisfy all applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, and competition-specific registration and eligibility requirements before participating in TSA adult competition.

4.4.2. Adult registration periods and fees

TSA shall publish the registration period, registration deadline, required documentation, and applicable registration fee for each adult playing season before registration opens.

4.4.3. Adult roster registration

An adult player shall be properly registered and listed on the applicable official team roster before participating in a TSA adult competition.

Adult roster limits and roster-change requirements are governed by Rosters and Roster Changes.

4.4.4. Multiple-team registration

An adult player may register with more than one TSA adult team, provided that the teams do not compete against one another in the same competition.

An adult player registered with multiple teams shall comply with all applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, league, roster, and competition requirements.

4.4.5. Adult Player Movement

An adult player may transfer between TSA adult teams or be added to or removed from an adult roster, only after completing the registration, roster, and approval requirements established by TSA and the applicable adult competition.

Adult leagues may establish additional player-movement or roster requirements in their published league rules, provided those requirements are consistent with these governing documents and applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

4.5 Rosters and Roster Changes

4.5.1. Age brackets and playing formats

TSA shall establish age brackets and playing formats for each division in accordance with applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements. TSA may modify the divisions or formats offered for a playing season based on registration, team availability, field availability, and league administration.

4.5.2. Minimum and maximum roster sizes

Each TSA team shall maintain a roster within the minimum and maximum limits established for its division.

NTSSA Division	TSA Division	Minimum Roster	Maximum Roster
Adult	Adult 11v11	14	25
Adult	Adult 7v7	10	25
U19	U17/U18/U19	14	22
U16	U15/U16	14	22
U14	U13/U14	14	18
U12	U11/U12	14	16
U10	U9/U10	10	12
U8	U7/U8	6	8
U6	U4/U5/U6	6	8

TSA may approve an exception when authorized by applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements or when necessary to administer a TSA program.

4.5.3. Official rosters

Each team shall maintain an official roster identifying the players authorized to participate for that team. A player may participate only after being properly registered and listed on the applicable official roster.

4.5.4. Adding, deleting, or replacing players

A player may be added to, deleted from, or replaced on a roster only through the procedure established by TSA and after any required NTSSA, USSF, release, transfer, or competition approval has been obtained.

4.5.5. Roster corrections

TSA may correct an official roster when an error, omission, duplicate entry, or eligibility issue is identified. A correction shall not be used to avoid an applicable registration deadline, roster-freeze date, transfer restriction, release requirement, or competition rule.

4.5.6. Roster freezes

TSA may establish roster-freeze dates for each program or competition. After a roster-freeze date, changes may be made only when authorized by TSA and any applicable NTSSA, USSF, or competition requirements.

4.5.7. Player-card or identification requirements

A player shall present any player card, identification, or other proof of registration required by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or the applicable competition before participating.

4.5.8. Roster records maintained by TSA

TSA shall maintain official roster records for teams participating in TSA-sanctioned competition and shall provide roster information to NTSSA or another governing authority when required.

4.6 Youth Transfers and Releases

4.6.1. Transfers and Releases

A youth player may transfer to another TSA team or request release from a team roster only in accordance with TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements. The transfer or release shall not be effective until all required forms, approvals, and roster changes have been completed.

4.6.2. Midseason Transfers and Interseason Redrafting

A midseason transfer shall be permitted only under special circumstances approved by TSA and permitted by applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements.

A player may submit a written request before the next playing season to be considered for release, reassignment, or redrafting. A request does not guarantee placement on a particular team.

4.6.3. Required Approvals

TSA shall review and process each request within its jurisdiction and shall obtain NTSSA or USSF approval when required. Any approved change shall be recorded in the player's registration and official roster.

4.7 Recreational Team Formation and Placement

4.7.1. Formation and Assignment

TSA shall form recreational teams from the eligible player pool using a random draw, unbiased assignment process, or other method consistent with TSA's recreational philosophy and applicable NTSSA requirements.

4.7.2. Placement Considerations

TSA may consider geographic area, school or community, age, gender, roster capacity, returning-player status, sibling requests, coach requests, and other published placement criteria. No placement decision may be based on skill, athletic ability, competitive ranking, or anticipated performance.

4.7.3. Returning Teams and Reassignment

TSA may permit a team to remain together between seasons when consistent with applicable requirements. TSA may combine, divide, reassign, or realign teams or players when necessary to maintain appropriate roster sizes, balanced participation, safety, or orderly league administration.

4.7.4. Team-Formation Requirements

All recreational team formation and placement shall comply with Tryouts and Recruiting, applicable TSA requirements, and applicable NTSSA recreational team-formation rules. A player assignment or team formation made in error shall be corrected by TSA.

4.8 Play-Up and Play-Down Procedures

4.8.1 Play-Up Requests

A player may play in an older division only with TSA approval and any approval required by NTSSA or USSF. A written request from the player's parent or legal guardian must be submitted before team placement.

Parent-requested play-up requests are permitted only for U7 and older.

A first-season player shall remain in their assigned age division. After completing one season, the player may request placement in an older division beginning the following season.

TSA may assign a player to the next older division without parental approval when the player remains within the same youth division. TSA may assign a player to an older youth division only when no team is available in the player's proper division and any required NTSSA approval has been obtained.

4.8.2 Play-Down Requests

A player shall not participate in a younger division unless the exception is approved by NTSSA in accordance with applicable requirements.

4.8.3 Documentation and Corrections

An approved play-up or play-down shall be recorded in the player's registration and official roster. A player who plays up during the fall season shall not return to the proper age division during the spring season unless TSA approves an exception consistent with applicable NTSSA and USSF requirements.

If an unauthorized placement occurs, TSA shall correct the registration or roster. Any forfeiture or discipline shall be imposed only on the person, team, or administrator who caused, authorized, or knowingly permitted the violation. An administrative error made during registration or team formation shall not, by itself, result in discipline against the player, coach, or team.

4.9 Tryouts and Recruiting

4.9.1 Recreational Team Selection

TSA shall not conduct tryouts or select, assign, retain, or remove recreational players based on skill, athletic ability, competitive ranking, prior team affiliation, or anticipated performance. Recreational players shall be assigned in accordance with Recreational Team Formation and Placement.

4.9.2 Recruiting restrictions

No person, team, club, or organization acting within TSA's jurisdiction may knowingly induce a player to violate a team commitment, registration requirement, release, transfer requirement, or applicable TSA, NTSSA, or USSF rule.

4.9.3 Training and Outside Activities

A recreational player may participate in an open clinic, camp, training activity, or outside competition when the activity is permitted by applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, and competition rules. Participation shall not authorize the player to compete for another team unless the required registration, roster placement, release, transfer, guest-player authorization, or other approval has been completed.

4.10 Guest Players

Guest players shall not be permitted in TSA regular-season competition or TSA end-of-season playoffs.

TSA may permit guest players for a specific special event only when approved in advance by the Executive Board and permitted by applicable NTSSA, USSF, and event requirements. All required releases, forms, roster documentation, and approvals must be completed before participation.

4.11 Coach and Team-Official Registration

All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers, referees, administrators, Board members, employees, and volunteers who may reasonably be expected to have unsupervised access to youth players shall complete all TSA, NTSSA, USSF, background-check, risk-management, and identification requirements applicable to their positions.

These requirements shall be completed before the individual participates in TSA activities involving youth players and shall be renewed as required by NTSSA or TSA. TSA may require additional individuals to complete the same requirements.

The head coach of record shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

A person who is denied required clearance may not participate in TSA activities involving youth players and may appeal the determination through the procedure established by NTSSA or another governing authority. Background-check and risk-management information shall be handled confidentially and in accordance with applicable law.

Coaching and serving as a team official is a privilege, not a right. TSA may deny, suspend, or revoke that privilege at any time when permitted by these governing documents or applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements, including for failure to satisfy registration, background-check, eligibility, conduct, or other participation requirements.

4.12 Registration With NTSSA

TSA shall submit required registration information, fees, rosters, and reports to NTSSA within the applicable deadlines.

4.13 Registration Violations and Referrals

TSA shall correct or refer registration violations in accordance with applicable TSA, NTSSA, and USSF requirements. A violation may result in correction or removal from a roster, ineligibility, forfeiture, suspension, or other discipline authorized under Discipline. An administrative error made by TSA during registration or team formation shall be corrected promptly and shall not, by itself, result in discipline against a player, coach, or team.

CHAPTER 5.
TEAM TRAVEL AND OUTSIDE COMPETITION
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

5.1 Travel and Outside Competition

TSA teams traveling outside TSA or NTSSA territory, participating in outside tournaments, or playing outside competitions shall comply with all applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, host-organization, and national-association requirements.

5.2 Required Documentation and Approval

Teams shall obtain and submit any required travel notifications, permits, rosters, player releases, medical releases, insurance documentation, and other approvals before participating in the applicable event.

5.3 Team Responsibility

The team, coach, manager, and responsible team officials shall be responsible for timely submission of required documents and compliance with applicable travel and event requirements. Violations may be referred under Discipline and may result in forfeiture, suspension, or other authorized sanctions.

CHAPTER 6.
TOURNAMENTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

6.1 TSA-Sponsored or Sanctioned Events

TSA may sponsor or sanction tournaments, special events, showcases, or similar competitions upon approval by the Executive Board and authorization by NTSSA or USSF when required.

6.2 Event Approval and Administration

Each TSA-sponsored or sanctioned event shall have approved:

- Event rules;
- Registration and roster requirements;
- Referee and facility arrangements;
- Safety, insurance, and emergency procedures; and
- Weather, cancellation, and refund procedures.

6.3 Special and Charity Events

TSA may participate in or support a charity or special event only with prior approval of the Executive Board and in compliance with applicable NTSSA, USSF, insurance, and legal requirements. TSA's participation shall not cause the event to be represented as TSA-sanctioned or NTSSA-sanctioned unless the required authorization has been granted.

6.4 Event Compliance

Teams, players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and event administrators shall comply with the approved event rules and all applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, and host-organization requirements. Violations may be referred under Discipline.

CHAPTER 7.
DEFINITIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

7.1 Abbreviations and Governing-Body References

For purposes of these governing documents:

A&D means Appeals and Discipline.

FIFA means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

IFAB means the International Football Association Board.

NTSSA means the North Texas State Soccer Association.

TSA means the Texoma Soccer Association.

USSF means the United States Soccer Federation.

USYS means United States Youth Soccer.

References to **NTSSA**, **USSF**, **USYS**, **IFAB**, or **FIFA** include their applicable governing documents, rules, policies, procedures, and officially issued amendments.

7.2 Definitions

The following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

A&D Committee means the **TSA** Appeals and Discipline Committee.

Age Group means a player classification based on the player's age under the applicable NTSSA and USSF playing-year requirements.

Age-Group Designator means the "U" designation followed by the applicable age number, such as U4, U6, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, or U19. The designator identifies the maximum age classification for the applicable playing year.

Area Director means a **TSA** administrative representative assigned to assist with team administration and league operations within a designated geographic area.

Association means **TSA**, unless the context refers to **NTSSA**, **USSF**, **USYS**, or another governing organization.

Board of Directors means all board membership including the Executive Board and Area Directors.

Club Linesman means an untrained or uncertified volunteer appointed to signal only when the ball has completely crossed the touchline or goal line, subject to the Referee's direction.

Club Team means a team formed and administered by a club or common organizational group rather than through TSA's recreational team-formation process.

Coach means a head coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, or other person authorized to direct or supervise a team.

Competitive League means a league in which teams are formed or selected through a process other than TSA's recreational team-formation process and in which competitive standings, advancement, or selection may be maintained.

Executive Board means voting members of the Board of Directors.

Forfeit means the official loss of a match imposed or recorded under applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or competition rules.

Friendly Match means a match that is not part of a league, tournament, championship, or other competition and does not determine standings, advancement, qualification, or a champion.

Good Standing means a member who is eligible to participate and vote in TSA affairs and who is not suspended, disqualified, or otherwise ineligible under these Bylaws, TSA Rules and Regulations, applicable NTSSA or USSF requirements, or applicable law.

Guest Player means a registered player who participates in a competition for a team other than the team for which the player is rostered, as permitted by applicable rules.

Gross Mistreatment means deliberate; non-contact conduct directed at a Referee or Protected Party that is reasonably expected to cause harm and does not constitute Referee Assault or Referee Abuse.

IFAB Laws of the Game means the official Laws of the Game published by the International Football Association Board, as adopted or modified by applicable USSF, NTSSA, or TSA competition rules.

Junior Associate Referee means a TSA-approved youth match official who has completed required training but is not serving as a USSF-licensed or registered Referee or Assistant Referee.

League means an organized competition involving teams participating under a common schedule and set of competition rules.

Member means a person or organization recognized as a member of TSA under Membership in Association.

Player means an individual registered or seeking registration to participate in soccer.

Playing Down means participating in a younger age division than the player's assigned age division.

Playing Up means participating in an older age division than the player's assigned age division.

Protected Party means a member of a Referee's family or household or a guest of the Referee present at the match or match venue.

Ranked Division means a division in which TSA maintains standings and determines team placement using match results, standings points, and applicable tiebreakers.

Recreational League means a league organized primarily to provide community-based participation, development, and enjoyment of soccer, without selective player placement based on skill or athletic ability.

Referee Abuse means extreme, deliberate, non-contact conduct that causes significant harm to a Referee or Protected Party.

Referee Assault means a deliberate physical action against a Referee or Protected Party.

Registered Player means a player whose registration has been accepted by TSA or the applicable governing body for the current playing season.

Release means the authorized removal of a player from a team roster.

Rostered Player means a registered player listed on the official roster of a particular team.

Sanctioned Competition means a competition approved or recognized by TSA, NTSSA, USSF, or another authorized governing body.

Slide Tackle means challenging an opponent for the ball while sliding.

Sportsmanship Division means a division in which TSA does not maintain standings, publish scores, declare champions, or rank teams.

Special Event means a tournament, competition, or soccer event conducted under rules that differ from the ordinary league format and that requires separate approval or authorization.

Team means a group of players, coaches, and team officials registered or participating together in a TSA competition.

Team Roster means the official list of players authorized to participate for a team in a specified competition.

Transfer means the addition of a currently registered player to another team or the movement of a player between teams during the applicable playing season.

Transfer means the authorized movement of a registered player from one team or association to another.

Tryout means a structured evaluation or selection process used to assess a player's performance, skill, or ability for purposes of assigning or selecting the player to a team.

USSF-Licensed or Registered Official means a match official who holds the license, registration, or qualification required by USSF, NTSSA, or the applicable competition rules.

Definitions established by **NTSSA**, **USSF**, **IFAB**, or **FIFA** shall control when a governing-body rule uses a term differently from this Chapter.

7.3 Records and Documents

TSA shall maintain accurate and complete records necessary to conduct its affairs and administer its programs, including:

- Governing documents and approved rules;
- Membership and Board of Directors records;
- Registration, roster, transfer, and release records;
- Financial records and reports;
- Meeting minutes;
- Match reports and competition records;
- Disciplinary, protest, and appeal records; and
- Other records required by applicable law, NTSSA, or USSF requirements.

TSA shall retain, protect, and disclose records in accordance with applicable law and governing-body requirements. Confidential personal, medical, disciplinary, and background-check information shall be handled in a manner that protects the privacy of the affected person.

7.4 Severability

If any provision of these governing documents is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, that provision shall be severed to the extent necessary, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

7.5 Transition

Upon the effective date of these governing documents, they shall supersede all prior TSA bylaws, rules, regulations, and procedures to the extent of any conflict.

Existing appointments, contracts, staff agreements, tournament rules, and Adult League Rules shall remain effective to the extent they are consistent with these governing documents, NTSSA requirements, and USSF requirements.

Any prior procedure that is not incorporated into these governing documents shall cease to operate as an independent source of enforceable TSA requirements upon the effective date of these governing documents.

CHAPTER 8.
CODES OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT
OF THE
TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

8.1 Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct

Coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and other team officials who participate in Texoma Soccer Association (“TSA”) activities shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes player safety, sportsmanship, respect, professionalism, player development, and enjoyment of the game.

8.1.1. Compliance with Governing Requirements

Coaches and team officials shall comply with:

1. The TSA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations;
2. Applicable NTSSA governing documents, rules, regulations, and policies;
3. Applicable U.S. Soccer Federation (“USSF”) rules and policies; and
4. The IFAB Laws of the Game.

Nothing in this Code creates a separate rule governing matters already addressed elsewhere in the TSA Bylaws and Rules, including registration, eligibility, playing time, competition administration, disciplinary sanctions, reporting obligations, or the duties of TSA officers and administrators.

8.1.2. Respectful and Sportsmanlike Conduct

Coaches and team officials shall:

1. Treat players, opponents, referees, spectators, coaches, team officials, and TSA representatives with respect and professionalism;
2. Refrain from abusive, threatening, intimidating, discriminatory, harassing, or profane conduct;
3. Respect the authority and decisions of the referee crew; and
4. Avoid conduct that disrupts the match, threatens safety, or brings TSA activities into disrepute.

Referee judgment calls made under the IFAB Laws of the Game shall not be challenged through confrontation with the referee crew.

8.1.3. Conduct Toward Referees

A coach, team official, or player who follows a referee away from the field or toward the referee’s vehicle for the purpose of continuing a confrontation, argument, or unwanted discussion may be subject to discipline under the applicable TSA misconduct provisions.

Coaches and team officials shall recognize that TSA referees may be minors. Conduct directed toward a minor referee that is subject to enhanced punishment under applicable NTSSA or USSF rules or policies shall be handled in accordance with those requirements.

8.1.4. Referee Concerns and Feedback

When immediate assistance is needed during a match, a coach or team official should contact an available Field Marshal or the appropriate TSA league representative.

Formal concerns or feedback regarding referees shall be submitted through the reporting process authorized by TSA. Coaches and team officials shall not attempt to resolve referee concerns through post-match confrontation or other unauthorized means.

8.1.5. Team and Spectator Conduct

Coaches and team officials shall take reasonable steps to address inappropriate conduct by their team's players, spectators, and other associated participants when directed by the referee or an authorized TSA representative.

Team and spectator locations, access to technical areas, field access, and removal of disruptive persons shall be governed by the applicable TSA competition and facility rules. Coaches and team officials shall cooperate with reasonable instructions concerning the management or removal of disruptive participants or spectators.

8.1.6. Player Safety

Coaches and team officials shall place the safety and welfare of players above competitive considerations and shall comply with all applicable TSA, NTSSA, USSF, legal, and facility requirements concerning player safety, injuries, concussions, and return to play.

8.1.7. Misconduct and Discipline

Misconduct involving a coach or team official may be documented in the official game report or reported through another process authorized by TSA.

Coach and team-official misconduct, including red cards, referee abuse, spectator-related misconduct, fines, suspensions, mandatory reporting, hearings, appeals, and referrals to NTSSA or USSF, shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the TSA Bylaws and Rules and controlling NTSSA or USSF requirements.

Participation as a coach or team official is subject to compliance with those requirements. Any disciplinary action shall be imposed only by an authority and through a procedure authorized by the applicable governing documents.

8.1.8. Governing Authority

This Code supplements the TSA Bylaws and Rules and shall be interpreted consistently with applicable NTSSA and USSF governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions. If a conflict exists, the controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, applicable law, or another governing body with applicable authority shall govern. Nothing in this Code supersedes, reduces, or replaces any mandatory sanction, reporting requirement, disciplinary procedure, safeguarding requirement, or jurisdiction established by those authorities.

8.2 Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents, guardians, spectators, and guests who attend TSA matches, activities, or events shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes player safety, sportsmanship, respect, positive support, and enjoyment of the game.

Parents and spectators shall:

1. Support the players in a positive manner.
Encouragement and appropriate cheering are permitted. Parents and spectators shall refrain from comments or conduct that ridicule, demean, embarrass, intimidate, or harass any player.
2. Respect the authority and decisions of the referee crew.
Parents and spectators shall not argue with, criticize, confront, threaten, intimidate, or direct abusive comments toward a referee or assistant referee before, during, or after a match.
3. Refrain from questioning or challenging referee decisions from the spectator area.
Concerns regarding referee performance or conduct shall be addressed through the appropriate TSA reporting process and not directly with the referee crew.
4. Provide additional consideration and respect to youth referees.
TSA has zero tolerance for abusive, threatening, intimidating, or demeaning conduct directed toward youth referees. The age or experience level of a referee shall never be used as justification for inappropriate spectator behavior.
5. Allow coaches and team officials to coach.
Parents and spectators shall refrain from excessive or disruptive coaching or tactical instruction from the spectator area.
6. Treat opposing teams and spectators with respect.
Taunting, harassment, threats, obscene gestures, fighting, or abusive, discriminatory, or profane language directed toward players, coaches, team officials, referees, or spectators is prohibited.
7. Remain within designated spectator areas.
Parents and spectators shall not enter the field of play or a team technical area without permission from the referee or an authorized TSA official, except when necessary to respond to an immediate medical emergency.
8. Comply with instructions from match and association officials.
Parents and spectators shall promptly comply with reasonable instructions issued by a referee, coach, team official, field marshal, TSA officer, or other authorized TSA representative regarding behavior, safety, or removal from the field or facility.
9. Refrain from conduct that creates an unsafe or hostile environment.
Fighting, physical intimidation, threatening gestures, throwing objects, entering the field to confront a participant or match official, or other conduct that threatens the safety of any person is prohibited.

10. Accept responsibility for their guests.

Parents and guardians are expected to ensure that family members and guests attending TSA matches or events with them comply with this Code of Conduct.

8.2.1. Responsibility for Spectator Conduct

Each team is responsible for the conduct of its parents, spectators, and guests.

The referee may require a coach or team official to address inappropriate spectator behavior. When directed by the referee, the responsible coach or team official shall take reasonable steps to stop the misconduct or have the offending spectator removed from the vicinity of the field.

A referee is not required to directly confront or remove a spectator.

8.2.2. Removal of Spectators

A parent or spectator whose conduct violates this Code of Conduct may be directed to leave the field or facility by an authorized TSA representative or through the responsible team official at the direction of the referee.

A spectator who has been directed to leave shall leave promptly and shall remain sufficiently removed from the field and spectator areas so as not to communicate with, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with the match, subject to applicable facility rules and lawful access to public areas.

Failure or refusal to leave may result in suspension or termination of the match and may be referred to TSA for additional disciplinary action.

8.2.3. Match Suspension or Termination

The referee may suspend or terminate a match when spectator misconduct:

- Creates a threat to the safety of players, referees, coaches, team officials, or spectators;
- Prevents the referee crew from properly administering the match;
- Continues after the responsible team has been instructed to address the behavior; or
- Otherwise creates conditions under which the match cannot reasonably continue.

8.2.4. Disciplinary Action

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by TSA. Depending upon the nature, severity, or frequency of the misconduct, disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:

- Warning or reprimand;
- Removal from a match or facility;
- Suspension from attending one or more TSA matches or events;
- Suspension for the remainder of a season;
- Conditions placed upon future attendance at TSA activities;
- Referral to the appropriate governing organization or facility authority; or
- Any additional sanction permitted under the TSA Bylaws and Rules.

Serious misconduct, including threats, physical violence, discriminatory abuse, or conduct that endangers another person, may result in immediate suspension pending review by TSA and may be referred to law enforcement when appropriate.

Conduct involving alleged referee assault, referee abuse, or gross mistreatment of a referee shall be reported and handled in accordance with applicable NTSSA rules and U.S. Soccer policy. Nothing in this Code limits or replaces any reporting requirement, disciplinary process, or mandatory sanction established by NTSSA or U.S. Soccer.

This Code supplements the TSA Bylaws and Rules and shall be interpreted consistently with applicable NTSSA and USSF governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions. If a conflict exists, the controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, applicable law, or another governing body with applicable authority shall govern. Nothing in this Code supersedes, reduces, or replaces any mandatory sanction, reporting requirement, disciplinary procedure, safeguarding requirement, or jurisdiction established by those authorities.

8.3 Player Code of Conduct

Players who participate in TSA Youth or Adult League activities shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes safety, sportsmanship, respect for teammates and opponents, fair play, and enjoyment of the game.

Players shall:

1. Demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Players shall compete fairly, respect the spirit of the game, and conduct themselves appropriately regardless of the score, result, or circumstances of the match.

2. Respect referees and their decisions.

Players shall comply with the decisions and instructions of the referee crew and shall not engage in dissent, intimidation, threats, abusive language, or other inappropriate conduct toward a match official before, during, or after a match.

3. Treat opponents and teammates with respect.

Players shall not taunt, ridicule, threaten, harass, intimidate, or deliberately provoke another player.

4. Respect coaches, team officials, and association representatives.

Players shall comply with reasonable instructions issued by coaches, team officials, referees, field marshals, TSA officers, or other authorized TSA representatives.

5. Refrain from abusive or discriminatory conduct.

Abusive, insulting, offensive, threatening, discriminatory, or profane language or gestures directed toward any player, referee, coach, team official, spectator, or TSA representative are prohibited.

6. Refrain from violent or threatening behavior.

Fighting, violent conduct, physical intimidation, retaliation, threatening gestures, or other behavior that creates an unsafe environment is prohibited.

7. Protect the safety of others.

Players shall not intentionally engage in conduct that places another participant, match official, or spectator at unreasonable risk of injury.

8. Respect the field, facility, and equipment.

Players shall not intentionally damage fields, goals, benches, buildings, equipment, or other property used during TSA activities.

9. Comply with applicable rules and policies.

Players shall comply with the Laws of the Game and all applicable TSA, North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA), and U.S. Soccer rules, policies, and competition requirements.

10. Accept responsibility for their conduct.

Players are responsible for their own actions and shall accept disciplinary consequences resulting from misconduct or violations of this Code of Conduct.

8.3.1. Conduct Before and After Matches

The standards established by this Code of Conduct apply before, during, and after TSA matches and activities.

Players shall not confront, threaten, harass, or pursue referees, opponents, coaches, team officials, or spectators following the conclusion of a match.

Misconduct occurring outside the field of play, including in team areas, spectator areas, parking areas, or other portions of the facility associated with a TSA activity, may be subject to disciplinary review.

8.3.2. Misconduct and Match Reports

Player misconduct may be documented by the referee crew in the official game report or reported through any other reporting process authorized by TSA.

Conduct does not have to result in a card being shown during the match for the conduct itself to be subject to disciplinary review when otherwise permitted under applicable TSA, NTSSA, or U.S. Soccer rules.

TSA A&D Committee may review reported conduct and impose sanctions within its authority in accordance with applicable TSA, NTSSA, and U.S. Soccer rules and procedures.

Nothing in this Code authorizes the TSA A&D Committee to disregard, remove, or modify a card or mandatory sanction except as expressly permitted by applicable NTSSA or U.S. Soccer rules.

8.3.3. Disciplinary Action

Discipline imposed under this Code shall be administered in accordance with applicable TSA, NTSSA, and U.S. Soccer rules. Any mandatory suspension or other sanction required by those rules shall remain in effect.

In addition to any mandatory sanction, violations of this Code of Conduct may result in additional disciplinary action by TSA when authorized under applicable rules.

Depending upon the nature, severity, or frequency of the conduct, disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:

- Warning or reprimand;
- Suspension from one or more TSA matches or activities;
- Suspension for the remainder of a season;
- Additional conditions placed upon participation;
- Removal from TSA competition when authorized under applicable rules; or
- Referral to NTSSA or another appropriate governing authority.

Serious misconduct, including violent conduct, threats, discriminatory abuse, or conduct that endangers another person, may be referred to the TSA A&D Committee for disciplinary review and may result in additional sanctions as permitted under applicable TSA, NTSSA, and U.S. Soccer rules.

Any disciplinary action imposed under this Code is in addition to, and does not replace, any sanction required under TSA, NTSSA, or U.S. Soccer rules.

Nothing in this Code of Conduct limits the authority of TSA to impose discipline under any other provision of its Bylaws and Rules.

This Code supplements the TSA Bylaws and Rules and shall be interpreted consistently with applicable NTSSA and USSF governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions. If a conflict exists, the controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, applicable law, or another governing body with applicable authority shall govern. Nothing in this Code supersedes, reduces, or replaces any mandatory sanction, reporting requirement, disciplinary procedure, safeguarding requirement, or jurisdiction established by those authorities.

8.4 Referee Program Code of Conduct

Referees, Jr. Associate Referees, Referee Assignors, Referee Liaisons, and other individuals serving within the TSA Referee Program shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes safety, sportsmanship, professionalism, impartiality, integrity, respect, and confidence in the officiating program.

These standards apply not only while an individual is serving in an officiating capacity, but also when participating in or attending TSA Youth or Adult League matches as a coach, player, team official, or spectator.

Members of the TSA Referee Program shall:

- 1. Conduct themselves professionally and impartially.**

Referees shall perform their duties fairly, honestly, and without bias or favoritism toward any player, team, coach, or other participant.

- 2. Treat all participants with respect.**

Referees shall communicate with players, coaches, team officials, fellow referees, spectators, and TSA representatives in a professional and respectful manner. Abusive, threatening, discriminatory, demeaning, or otherwise inappropriate conduct is prohibited.

- 3. Demonstrate appropriate behavior while officiating.**

Referees shall maintain self-control and shall not engage in unnecessary arguments, retaliation, intimidation, or other conduct inconsistent with the responsibilities of a match official.

- 4. Support and respect fellow match officials.**

Referees shall work cooperatively with other members of the referee crew and shall not publicly ridicule, undermine, or demean another match official.

- 5. Fulfill accepted assignments responsibly.**

Referees are expected to arrive prepared and on time for accepted assignments and to promptly notify the Referee Assignor when circumstances prevent them from fulfilling an assignment.

6. Complete required match documentation accurately and timely.

Referees shall submit required game reports, misconduct reports, incident reports, and other documentation in accordance with TSA, NTSSA, and U.S. Soccer requirements.

7. Maintain appropriate standards when serving in another role.

Referees and Jr. Associate Referees remain representatives of the TSA Referee Program when participating in TSA activities as players, coaches, team officials, or spectators and are expected to demonstrate the same sportsmanship, professionalism, and respect required while officiating.

8. Comply with applicable governing policies.

All members of the TSA Referee Program are subject to the applicable policies, rules, and requirements of TSA, the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) Referee Policy Manual, and U.S. Soccer. Nothing in this Code of Conduct shall supersede or limit disciplinary action that may be imposed under NTSSA or U.S. Soccer policy.

8.4.1. Misconduct While Participating as a Coach or Player

Any Referee or Jr. Associate Referee who commits one of the following offenses while participating as a coach, team official, or player shall be subject to the corresponding TSA Referee Program suspension:

- **DT – Dissent:** One-week suspension from all Referee and/or Jr. Associate Referee assignments.
- **VC – Violent Conduct:** Two-week suspension from all Referee and/or Jr. Associate Referee assignments.
- **AL – Abusive Language:** Removal from the TSA Referee Program for the remainder of the current season.

If an AL offense occurs on the final game day of the current season, the individual shall instead be suspended from the TSA Referee Program for the entire following season.

These suspensions are in addition to any other disciplinary action imposed by TSA, NTSSA, or another governing authority in the individual's capacity as a coach, team official, or player.

8.4.2. Misconduct Not Carded During the Match

A card does not have to be physically shown during the match for the Referee Program suspensions established by this policy to apply.

If misconduct involving a Referee or Jr. Associate Referee participating as a coach, team official, or player is documented in the official game report or otherwise formally reported to TSA, the incident may be reviewed by the TSA A&D Committee.

If the appropriate disciplinary authority determines that the documented conduct constitutes DT, VC, or AL under the applicable U.S. Soccer misconduct code, the individual shall be subject to the corresponding TSA Referee Program suspension established above.

8.4.3. Conduct While Attending as a Spectator

Referees and Jr. Associate Referees are expected to uphold the same standards of sportsmanship, professionalism, respect, and conduct when attending TSA matches as spectators.

If an individual participating in the TSA Referee Program engages in conduct that, if committed by a player or team official, would constitute DT, VC, or AL under the applicable U.S. Soccer misconduct code, the absence of a physical card shall not prevent disciplinary action.

When such conduct is documented in the official game report or otherwise formally reported to TSA, the incident may be reviewed by the TSA A&D Committee. If the TSA A&D Committee determines that the conduct meets the criteria for DT, VC, or AL, the individual shall be subject to the corresponding TSA Referee Program suspension established by this policy.

These suspensions are in addition to any other disciplinary action imposed by TSA, NTSSA, or another governing authority in the individual's capacity as a spectator.

8.4.4. Misconduct While Serving as a Match Official

Allegations of misconduct committed by a Referee or Jr. Associate Referee while serving in an officiating capacity shall be reported and handled in accordance with applicable NTSSA and U.S. Soccer policies and procedures.

Nothing in this Code of Conduct shall be interpreted to replace, limit, or interfere with the jurisdiction or disciplinary authority of NTSSA or U.S. Soccer concerning misconduct committed by a match official.

8.4.5. Disciplinary Action

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by TSA. Depending upon the nature, severity, or frequency of the conduct, disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:

- Warning or reprimand;
- Removal from one or more referee assignments;
- Suspension from Referee and/or Jr. Associate Referee assignments;
- Suspension from the TSA Referee Program;
- Removal from the TSA Referee Program; or
- Referral to NTSSA or another appropriate governing authority.

The specific suspensions established in this Code for DT, VC, and AL shall apply when the applicable offense has been determined by the TSA A&D Committee.

Any TSA Referee Program discipline imposed under this Code is in addition to, and does not replace, any sanction imposed upon the individual in another capacity or by NTSSA, U.S. Soccer, or another governing authority.

Nothing in this Code of Conduct limits the authority of TSA to impose discipline under any other provision of its Bylaws and Rules.

This Code supplements the TSA Bylaws and Rules and shall be interpreted consistently with applicable NTSSA and USSF governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions. If a conflict exists, the controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, applicable law, or another governing body with applicable authority shall govern. Nothing in this Code supersedes, reduces, or replaces any mandatory sanction, reporting requirement, disciplinary procedure, safeguarding requirement, or jurisdiction established by those authorities.

8.5 Board Member, Staff, and Volunteer Code of Conduct

Board members, officers, commissioners, staff members, committee members, appointed administrators, and volunteers serving TSA shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes integrity, impartiality, accountability, professionalism, respect, and the best interests of the Association and its participants.

For purposes of this Code, these individuals may collectively be referred to as **TSA Representatives**.

TSA Representatives shall:

1. Act in the best interests of the Association.

TSA Representatives shall perform their duties in good faith and shall place the legitimate interests, safety, and welfare of TSA participants and the Association ahead of personal interests, relationships, or improper outside influence.

2. Treat all individuals with respect.

TSA Representatives shall treat players, parents, spectators, coaches, team officials, referees, fellow volunteers, staff members, and other Association representatives in a patient, courteous, professional, and consistent manner.

3. Exercise authority fairly and impartially.

TSA Representatives shall not use their position to provide an improper advantage or disadvantage to any player, team, coach, referee, member, or other individual. Decisions shall be based upon applicable rules, policies, facts, and the legitimate interests of TSA.

4. Avoid conflicts of interest and improper influence.

TSA Representatives shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest as required by TSA policy and shall refrain from participating in decisions when recusal is required. No individual shall use a TSA position for improper personal, professional, financial, or competitive benefit.

5. Use Association authority appropriately.

Positions within TSA shall not be used to intimidate, threaten, retaliate against, harass, or improperly influence another person. TSA Representatives shall not interfere with the legitimate duties or authority of another TSA official, committee, referee, coach, or governing body.

6. Protect confidential and sensitive information.

TSA Representatives shall maintain the confidentiality of information that is required to remain confidential by law, TSA policy, NTSSA or U.S. Soccer policy, or the nature of the individual's duties. Confidential information shall not be used for personal advantage or disclosed to unauthorized individuals.

7. Protect Association property, funds, and resources.

TSA funds, equipment, records, systems, credentials, facilities, and other resources shall be used only for legitimate Association purposes and in accordance with applicable TSA policies and authorization.

8. Maintain accurate and honest records and communications.

TSA Representatives shall not knowingly falsify, alter, conceal, or misrepresent Association records, reports, financial information, disciplinary information, meeting records, or other official communications.

9. Handle disagreements professionally.

Differences of opinion, criticism, and disagreement are expected within a healthy organization and shall be addressed through appropriate channels in a respectful and constructive manner. Criticism shall not become personal, demeaning, threatening, or retaliatory.

10. Respect established decisions and governing processes.

TSA Representatives shall respect the authority and processes established by the TSA Bylaws and Rules. No individual shall knowingly misrepresent an official action, decision, or position of TSA.

11. Refrain from harassment, discrimination, abuse, and retaliation.

Harassment, discriminatory conduct, abusive behavior, threats, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation against an individual for making a good-faith report, participating in a disciplinary or investigative process, or raising a legitimate concern is prohibited.

12. Maintain appropriate conduct when representing TSA.

TSA Representatives shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the responsibilities of their position when attending TSA matches, meetings, activities, or events or when otherwise acting or communicating on behalf of TSA.

13. Comply with safeguarding and participant-safety requirements.

TSA Representatives shall comply with all applicable safeguarding, risk-management, background-screening, reporting, and participant-safety requirements established by TSA, NTSSA, U.S. Soccer, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, or applicable law.

14. Comply with applicable governing rules and policies.

TSA Representatives shall comply with the TSA Bylaws and Rules and all applicable NTSSA and U.S. Soccer rules, policies, procedures, and requirements.

8.5.1. Service in Multiple Roles

A TSA Representative who also participates in TSA activities as a player, coach, team official, referee, Referee Program member, parent, or spectator remains subject to the applicable Code of Conduct governing that role.

Serving in more than one capacity does not exempt an individual from the requirements or disciplinary processes applicable to any role in which the individual participates.

8.5.2. Reporting and Cooperation

Suspected violations of this Code may be reported through the appropriate TSA reporting or disciplinary process.

TSA Representatives shall cooperate in good faith with properly authorized investigations, hearings, reviews, audits, or other Association proceedings and shall not knowingly obstruct, conceal material information from, or retaliate against any person participating in such a process.

Nothing in this section requires an individual to waive any right provided under the TSA Bylaws and Rules, NTSSA or U.S. Soccer policy, or applicable law.

8.5.3. Disciplinary Action

Violations of this Code of Conduct may be referred to the appropriate TSA authority for review and action in accordance with the TSA Bylaws and Rules.

Depending upon the individual's position and the nature, severity, or frequency of the conduct, action may include, when authorized by the TSA Bylaws and Rules or other applicable policy:

- Warning or reprimand;
- Removal from an appointed position, committee, assignment, or volunteer duty;
- Restriction or suspension of duties or privileges;
- Employment-related action for paid staff;
- Referral to the TSA A&D Committee, when within its jurisdiction;
- Referral to NTSSA, U.S. Soccer, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, law enforcement, or another appropriate authority when required or warranted; or
- Any other action authorized under the TSA Bylaws and Rules.

Nothing in this Code independently creates authority to remove an elected officer or Board member, terminate an employee, or impose a disciplinary sanction where such authority or procedure is otherwise governed by the TSA Bylaws and Rules, applicable law, or a governing-body policy.

8.5.4. Governing Authority

This Code supplements the TSA Bylaws and Rules and shall be interpreted consistently with applicable NTSSA and USSF governing documents, rules, regulations, policies, and decisions. If a conflict exists, the controlling requirement of NTSSA, USSF, applicable law, or another governing body with applicable authority shall govern. Nothing in this Code supersedes, reduces, or replaces any mandatory sanction, reporting requirement, disciplinary procedure, safeguarding requirement, or jurisdiction established by those authorities.