



**Mesquite Soccer Association
Constitution
Bylaws
Rules and Regulations
2017/2018
Soccer Year**

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Mesquite Soccer Association.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The Mesquite Soccer Association's purpose shall be to foster and advance soccer programs, which will promote the ideas of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage through organized athletic competition.

ARTICLE III BOUNDARY LINES

Section 1. Representation

This Association shall represent all members falling within the boundaries of the Mesquite Independent School District Mesquite Soccer Association defines its boundary lines as follows: City limits of Mesquite (zip(s) 75150, 75149 & 75181) and Sunnyvale (zip 75182), a portion of Garland (zip 75043) in which Price Elementary School is located from La Prada to O'Banion, North of Stroud and eastward to Hwy 67/I-30. The Eastern portion of Balch Springs (zip 75180) with the lines running East of Peachtree, North of Elam Road, East of Shepherd, North of Seagoville Road. A portion of Dallas (zip 75253) with the lines running North of Seagoville Road, Ravenview, Fish, Skyfrost & Stark. A portion of Seagoville (zip(s) 75159 & 75126) with the lines running North of Lasater Road past Simonds and along the East Fork Trinity River, South past Malloy Bridge and Eastward to the Dallas County Lines. A member shall be defined as any person: who holds a position on the Board, a rostered team representative, a parent of an MSA rostered player, rostered players, all of whom must be in good standing.

Section 2. Out of Area Teams

Voluntary membership applications of teams from outside the boundary may be accepted if a majority of the coaches in the same age and sex division as the applying team(s), approved by voting either by email, phone or in person.

ARTICLE IV SOCCER YEAR

The Soccer year for the Mesquite Soccer Association shall be September 1 through August 31.

ARTICLE V GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Governing Body

The governing body of the organization shall be the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the following offices:

- a) Voting members shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Sergeant-at-Arms, League Commissioner, Coaches Coordinator, Cups and Games Chairman and Public Relations Director.
- b) Non-voting members shall be all Division Commissioners.
- c) A Division Commissioner who is not a coach will have a vote in the Mesquite Soccer Association coaches' meeting.

Section 2. Voting Privilege

Each of the above voting members may cast one vote, with the exception of the President, who may vote only in case of a tie.

- Section 3. Vacancy of Position
Any voting member of the Board of Directors who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings where a vote is required shall have his/her office declared vacant by the President; or Sergeant-at-Arms if the President is the absentee, unless such absences are excused by the Board of Directors. Coaches meetings are to be included as regularly scheduled meetings.
- If the Board of Directors determine that any Board Member, voting or non-voting, has failed to perform their duties, said Board Member can be removed with a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Executive Board.
- Section 4. Resignations
Resignations are effective only if in writing and submitted to the MSA Board Secretary.
- Section 5. Filling Vacancies
Any vacancy shall be filled by election at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the coaches.
- Section 6. Terms of Office
The terms of office shall be two (2) years, with the President, Secretary, League Commissioner, Registrar and Coaches Coordinator being elected in May on odd numbered years, taking office at the conclusion of that coaches meeting. The Vice-President, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Publicity Director, Cups and Games Chairman will be elected in May on even numbered years, taking office at the conclusion of that coaches meeting.
- Section 7. Election of Board of Directors
Elections: Voting members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at large by the teams present and in good standing.
- Section 8. Quorum for Board of Directors
A majority (6) of the Voting Members serving on the Board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regular Meetings
- a) Regular meetings of the Association will be held on the third Monday of each month. Additional meetings may be held upon call of the President or a majority of the Board of Directors.
 - b) Board meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month. Additional meetings may be held upon the call of the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors.
 - c) Any regular meeting may be canceled by a 2/3s majority of the members present and in good standing at the meeting prior to the one in question.
 - d) Coaches meetings will be held in the months of January, February, May, July, August, and November.
- Section 2. Quorum for Coaches Meetings
Twenty percent of the Association members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.
- Section 3. Voting Privilege
- A. A team representative, provided they are in good standing, shall be allowed one (1) vote on any given issue, regardless of the number of teams he/she may represent.
 1. (Good Standing defined as: any coach, player or team that is not suspended or on probation for a prior ethics or rules violation.)

- B. To be in good standing within the Association, a team's representative must meet all of the following requirements:
 - 1. All current dues, fees, or assessments due to this Association must be paid prior to the beginning of each season.
 - 2. All players and/or teams must be properly registered and must furnish required copies of their roster to their Division Commissioner prior to the commencement of each playing season.

- C. A team may be represented at a regular or called coaches meeting by:
 - 1. It's Head coach.
 - 2. It's Assistant Coach.
 - 3. It's Team Manager.

Section 4. Parliamentary Procedure
Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure at all meetings.

ARTICLE VII DISCIPLINE
The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for the discipline of all teams, coaches, players, and officers under the jurisdiction of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS
Amendments of the Constitution may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting, providing that the proposed amendment has been referred to the Constitutional Review Committee within the prescribed time limit and 2/3's of the coaches present and in good standing approve. All amendments will take effect the following soccer season: Fall –July 1, Spring –January 1.

CHAPTER 2 BY-LAWS

2.1 ARTICLE I DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (VOTING MEMBERS)

2.1.1. PRESIDENT

- A. The President, as chief officer, is charged with the overall administration and executive function of the Association.
- B. He/she shall be the official delegate to the NTSSA meetings.
- C. He/She shall appoint such committees, as he/she deems necessary to carry out such functions.
- D. He/She shall assign duties to all officers as required. Assignment and acceptance or rejection of duties will be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- E. As chief officer, the President is empowered to take prudent and reasonable action in cases not covered by these BY-LAWS, and such authority is implicit in the office.
- F. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.
- G. He/She shall serve as the back-up, replacement, or second as required, for all other Board members.
 - 1. For example, liaison with the city in place of the League Commissioner, or for instance signing guest player releases for the Registrar; whenever that Board member is unable or unavailable to perform his/her duties.

2.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

- A. The Vice President shall succeed to the powers of the President in his/her absence.
- B. He/She shall be responsible for collecting bids for all necessary game materials purchased prior to the start of each season, not to exceed the amount budgeted by the coaches. All bids and discussion for vendors will be presented to the MSA Board for majority approval prior to purchase.
- C. He/She shall maintain an inventory of the Association's equipment and participate in any other inventory that is required by the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- D. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.
- E. Contracted positions will be by application or bid as required. If by bid the Vice President will accept those and present to the Board for majority vote of approval prior to contract acceptance.

2.1.3. SECRETARY

- A. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes and ensuring access during normal business hours or other designated times, to the corporate minutes of the Association and must ensure organized filing and availability for future access. The Board shall determine a destruction date if existing for records and the Secretary will then be responsible for that designated destruction.
- B. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.
- C. In particular, the duties of Secretary are:
 - 1. To take minutes of Executive Board meetings and ensuring printing of those and placement in the Association office within 10 business days following receipt;
 - 2. To keep minutes of the coaches meetings for the membership and ensure printing of those and placement in the Association office within 10 business days following receipt;

3. To keep on file all committee reports and ensure recordkeeping of those reports and placement of those in the Association office within 10 business days follow receipt;
4. To have on hand at each meeting a list of all existing committees and their members;
5. To maintain minute book(s) in which the By-Laws, special rules of order, standing rules, and minutes are entered, with any amendments to these documents properly recorded, and to have current minute book(s) available, if needed, at meetings;
6. To send to the Executive Board, Interest Group Chairs, and Committee Chairs a notice of each meeting. Telephone, fax or other electronic message with documented acceptance may be substituted for a written notice;
7. To handle correspondence addressed to the Association and its officers and group or committee chairs and distribute that mail.

2.1.4. TREASURER

- A. The Treasurer shall collect all money and issue a receipt for same, and shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditures thereof.
- B. He/She shall pay all bills properly passed upon and approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. He/She shall submit a verbal report of all finances at the monthly coaches meeting and shall file a written report at the end of each season.
- D. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.
- E. He/She shall meet individually with the President of the Association (others may be present) at least one time monthly and go over the accounting records. The meeting can be informal or formal with notes kept, but shall be at least one time per month to ensure on-going communication and open understanding of the condition of the Association's financial records.
- F. He/She will maintain the accounting records and shall present to the Executive Board of Directors the financial statements at each regularly scheduled Board Meeting. That accounting record (the books) shall be maintained according to the general standards of the Financial Accounting Standards (FASB) and will be subject to an annual book review.
- G. He/She shall submit the book review report each February.
- H. He/She is responsible for tax preparation and timely submission.

2.1.5. SERGEANT-at-ARMS

- A. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall oversee order at all meetings and shall chair the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- B. He/She shall chair the Ethics Committee which will also be comprised of the A&D appointees. He/She shall keep written records of all hearing results.
- C. He/She shall verify the team roll at coaches meetings and ensure printing of that roll call and it's placement in the Association office within 10 business days.
- D. He/she can call the roll or provide the information from the sign-in sheets.
- E. He/She shall maintain current tabulation of eligibility to vote based on meeting attendance and status of good standing.
- F. He/She shall be the Association's parliamentarian.
- G. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.6. LEAGUE COMMISSIONER

- A. The League Commissioner shall be the liaison with the City of Mesquite and the MISD.
- B. He/She shall be responsible for the supervision of all playing schedules.
- C. He/She shall serve as the Chairman of the Scheduling Committee.
- D. He/She keeps all official standings of all teams to be verified by the division commissioners.

- E. He/She shall oversee the use of all Mesquite Soccer Association fields within the guidelines set forth in the City of Mesquite Recreational Athletic Facility Use Policy.
- F. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.7. DIRECTOR OF COACHING

- A. The Coaches Coordinator shall schedule clinics in conjunction with each season as needed.
- B. He/She shall administer and maintain development and education programs for the coaches and players and referees as necessary.
- C. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.8. PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

- A. The Public Relations Director shall be in charge of all publicity of the Association, which shall include social media & the use of any other forms of communication media including radio and television.
- B. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.9. REGISTRAR

- A. The Registrar shall be responsible for the registration of all players (youth and adult).
- B. The Registrar shall be responsible for the registration for all team rosters and player registration forms and will furnish the Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Division Commissioners with copies of the completed rosters.
- C. The Registrar will be the designated individual who will sign all Player and Guest Player Releases on behalf of Mesquite Soccer Association (the Home Association).
- D. The Registrar shall maintain an updated roster of all member teams.
- E. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.10. CUPS AND GAMES CHAIRMAN

- A. The Cups & Games Chairman shall plan, establish, approve and administer all rules and regulations of all tournament play sponsored by and under this Association.
- B. The Chairman is responsible for sanctioning all local tournaments within the boundaries of MSA.
- C. He/She is responsible for collecting bids and making proposals to the Board for the approval of league awards.
- D. He/She shall report to the Executive Board at Regular Meetings and to the President as requested regarding current activities, programs, developments, etc. that affect the association.

2.1.11. DIVISION COMMISSIONERS

- A. The body of coaches shall elect division Commissioners yearly in May.
- B. Division Commissioners will schedule all games with their respective age division, including all make-up games. They will work under the direction of the League Commissioner regarding schedules.
- C. He/she shall be in charge of those pool drawings for his/her respective age groups based on guidelines established by the Registrar and Division Commissioners at the pre-season guidelines meetings (see duties of the Registrar and rules regarding pool draw guidelines).

- D. Division Commissioner will be required to maintain a written journal/record of all player placement information per season. The written journal/record will be submitted to their Registrar at the end of the 5th week of the season. The written journal/records will be placed on file at the MSA office.
- E. They will work under the direction of the Registrar with regards to all areas of registration.
- F. He/she is charged with the responsibility of giving each coach a current copy of the Mesquite Soccer Association CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, and RULES AND REGULATIONS, and any revisions. This is to be signed for by each recipient.
- G. There shall be a Division Commissioner's meeting within five weeks of the first regularly scheduled season game. This meeting shall be chaired by the Registrar and League Commissioner, upon taking office, the Division Commissioner may hold no other office within the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- H. He/she shall keep team standings in his/her division and report these standings to the League Commissioner.
- I. Each Division Commissioner will notify the vice-president as to how many teams they estimate there will be for their respective divisions and exchanges within four days after temporary rosters are turned in.
- J. All league fees shall be collected by him/her and verified with the number of players registered before turning all fees over to the Treasurer.

2.1.12. GRATUITY AND SOLICITATION OF FEES

- A. No elected board member may personally accept or attempt to solicit gratuity or charge a fee to any MSA recreational team, coach, or player for performing their duties as elected. This constitutes an ethics violation and said member would be subject to removal.

2.1.13. BOARD ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS

- A. There will be only one Executive Board office held by a member of the same immediate family (immediate family meaning residing in the same household).

2.2 ARTICLE II POWERS OF THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The voting members of the Board of Directors shall transact all business of the Mesquite Soccer association and shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game, the rules of the NTSSA, and U.S.S.F., and the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of the Association.
- B. It shall have the power to settle all disputes and protests.
- C. Appeals of decisions of Board of Directors may be made to the NTSSA, in which appeal the President and/or his/her representative shall represent this Association.
- D. The Board of Directors shall establish the rules governing the divisions, tournaments, and any special competitions within the Mesquite Soccer Association jurisdiction.

2.3 ARTICLE III STANDING COMMITTEES

2.3.1 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. There may be a Nominating Committee for the Mesquite Soccer Association to insure suitable candidate's names are available on the dates of prescribed elections.
- B. The President and Board of Directors of the Mesquite Soccer Association shall appoint members of the Nominating Committee for a term of one year beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.
- C. There may be one head coach on the Nominating Committee from each age and sex division registered in the Mesquite Soccer Association as of the time of the appointment of the Committee.
- D. The Nominating Committee may propose, before each prescribed election, suitable candidates for each office open in the election.

- E. In the case of resignations within one week of a Coaches Meeting, the Nominating Committee is not required to present a candidate's name.
- F. Nothing in this Section is meant to restrict the Coaches from nominating suitable and willing candidates from the floor on the date of the election.

2.3.2 APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

- A. There shall be an Appeals and Disciplinary and Constitutional Review Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to conduct hearings of misconduct and review all proposed revisions to the CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, and RULES AND REGULATIONS to minimize the possibility of conflict within the body of our governing standards.
- B. The Appeals and Disciplinary and Constitutional Review Committee shall be convened and chaired by the Sergeant-at-Arms. All other members shall be rostered adults (Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, or sitting Division Commissioners), over the age of 18 and in good standing; elected annually by the coaches.
- C. The terms of the Committee members shall coincide as nearly as practical with the constitutional term of the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- D. There shall be ten members who shall not be members of the Board of Directors of the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- E. The Appeals and Disciplinary and Constitutional Review committee shall meet when there is a proposed revision to the CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, or RULES AND REGULATIONS or when a conflict calls for such a meeting pursuant to ARTICLE IV AUTHORITATIVE RULINGS.
- F. There shall be one annual review of the whole of the Standards of the Association to assure ongoing consistency.
- G. The Appeals and Disciplinary and Constitutional Review Committee shall be open to statements from all interested parties.
- H. The Committee is to review proposals with the intent of making recommendations based on potential conflicts and other effects of proposed changes.
- I. The Constitutional Review Committee shall be open to statements from all interested parties. The Committee is to review proposals with the intent of making recommendations based on potential conflicts and other effects of proposed changes.
- J. Proposals must be presented to the Sergeant-at-Arms at least two weeks before the Coaches Meeting at which they are to be presented. This is to give the Committee time to review the proposals.
 - 1. The Appeals and Disciplinary and Constitutional Review Committee may make any recommendations it feels proper, but the Committee has no power of refusal on behalf of the whole Association.
 - 2. If the Committee fails to review the proposals within the allowed two weeks, the proposals may be presented from the floor at the next Coaches Meeting.

2.3.3 SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

- A. There shall be a Sponsorship Committee to administer the Sponsorship Program of the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- B. The Sponsorship Committee chaired by the Registrar of the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- C. The committee members will consist of the entire Executive Board, with at least three (3) Executive Board Members in attendance.
- D. The Committee shall prudently review claims by players for hardship privileges.
- E. The Committee shall dispense, up to the budgeted amount, the hardship funds according to the written guidelines for such action as approved by the Board of Directors of the Mesquite Soccer Association.

2.3.4 SCHEDULING COMMITTEE

- A. The Scheduling Committee shall consist of the Executive Board and the Division Commissioners.
 - 1. The League Commissioner shall be the Chairman of this Committee.

2. This Committee shall approve all schedules prior to the start of each season's play.

2.3.5 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- A. This committee shall plan, establish and administer the rules of all tournament play sponsored by the MSA.
- B. The Cups and Games Committee Chairman shall chair the Tournament Committee.
- C. The committee shall consist of 5 members who shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- D. The Mesquite Soccer Referee Association shall appoint a representative who will serve as an advisor to this committee.

2.4 ARTICLE IV AUTHORITATIVE RULING

2.4.1 Authority

- A. All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of the Mesquite Soccer Association have requested to participate in this program. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, and RULES AND REGULATIONS of the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- B. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee is directed to hold hearings, when appropriate. All parties involved shall be notified and have the right to be present.
- C. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall chair the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and shall vote only in case of a tie. The Sergeant-at-Arms, as the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, shall make those parliamentary decisions deemed necessary to maintain order at all hearings. Appeal procedure shall be outlined by the Chairman of the Committee at the reading of the decision of the Committee in any hearing. If the Sergeant-at-Arms is the subject of the hearing, the President of the Mesquite Soccer Association shall chair the hearing. As in all cases, the Vice President of the Mesquite Soccer Association shall act with the power of the President in his absence.
- D. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall consist of ten members, all of whom shall be rostered adults (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, or sitting Division Commissioners) whom the Coaches in good standing shall elect at large. Five members shall be elected in January and five members shall be elected in August. The Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee is the only member who shall be a member of the Mesquite Soccer Association Board of Directors and this committee shall be completely autonomous, not to be influenced by the Board of Directors or other outside party.
- E. Three members of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible to make a ruling in the period of time set by the BY-LAWS, the Chairman or the person presiding shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In this event, the President of the Mesquite Soccer Association shall approve the interim appointment(s). The Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall notify the Secretary of the Mesquite Soccer Association immediately in writing of the rulings of the Committee.
- F. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may deal with game protests by letting the game stand as played, or requiring the game to be replayed. This includes an abandoned game. The Committee may deal with Red cards by overturning, in the case of an invalid report by the Referee, accepting the ejection and suspension as sufficient, or assigning additional

punishment. The Committee may deal with complaints by reprimand, probation, or suspension. The duration of these punishments is to be determined by the Committee's perception of the seriousness of the problem. The effect of a red card by a referee shall be an automatic suspension and that suspension shall be the next game played by the team of the person carded.

- G. A receipt will be issued for all moneys received. No moneys will be refunded without this receipt.

2.4.2 Game Protests

- A. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee within 48 hours after the scheduled start time of the game in question, excluding Sunday. All protests shall be accompanied by a \$25 fee (cash, money order or cashiers check). If the Committee upholds the protest, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of the Mesquite Soccer Association.
- B. Upon receipt of protest, properly submitted, the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall set a time and place for the hearing and will notify all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Committee, but all such hearings must be held within 10 days of receipt of the protest. If not heard, the protest will be held by the Board of Directors within five days.
- C. Coaches Protest: There are only two acceptable causes for a coach to protest a game after it has been played. They are:
 - 1. A team knowingly playing an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player.
 - 2. There has been an obvious error in the laws of the game by the Referee(s) and the Referee(s) admit(s) the error, and that error has a bearing on the outcome of the game.
- D. No protests can even be considered if they are based on judgment decisions made by the Referee(s) during the play. The laws of the game clearly state (Law 5 Referee) "a Referee shall be appointed to officiate each game - his decision on events of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned".
- E. A game cannot be protested because one or the other, or both coaches think the Referee incompetent. That is a matter to handle through the local Referee's group or the State Referee's Committee.
- F. Any protest relating to the grounds or the goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by any protest committee or board unless the coach has lodged an objection with the match referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of objection if this is possible, without duly delaying the process of the match.
- G. When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee of the Mesquite Soccer Association. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by consent of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

2.4.3 Specific Complaints

- A. Any complaint concerning a player, coach, or MSA officer must be submitted in writing to the MSA Sergeant-at-Arms (or President if the Sergeant-at-Arms is the subject of the complaint). All

complaints must be fully documented accompanied by \$25 fee (\$50 for ethics complaints) payable by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The fee is non-refundable.

- B. EXCEPTION: The above fee shall be waived for complaints concerning abuse or the half game rule.
- C. The A&D Committee shall rule on the complaint within 10 days of the receipt of the complaint. If the A&D Committee upholds the complaint, the fee will be returned.

2.4.4 Appeals

- A. Any decision of the A&D Committee may be appealed in writing to the President of MSA (or Vice-President if the president is involved in the appeal) and must be filed within 5 days of the A&D decision. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$25 fee (cash, money order, or cashiers check). If the MSA Board of Directors upholds the appeal, all fees will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the MSA treasury.

* The above fee will be waived for any decision of the A&D Committee that results in a suspension.

* The MSA Board of Directors shall rule on the appeal within 10 days of receipt of the appeal.

2.4.5 Standing to Complain

- A. Specific complaints shall be heard only if the person making the complaint is affected by the action that is the subject of the complaint.

2.4.6 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

A. League Play Card System

1. The Mesquite Soccer Association will operate and keep records on a "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for all players/coaches/assistant coaches. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his or her old and new teams. Reports of the disciplinary suspensions will be immediately forwarded to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee of the North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Yellow Cards A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.
3. Red Cards A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.

- B. The CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary action to be taken the MSA A&D and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents the MSA A&D or Tournament Officials from enacting additional sanctions. Each case shall be judged on its merit and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which shall be dealt with expeditiously and definitively.
- C. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee (NTSSA) as well as to the MSA A&D. MSA shall promptly (within seven (7) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the MSA A&D.

- D. A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators shall be addressed the MSA A&D Committee.
- E. Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled game (including league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) that such individual's team is involved in. MSA shall recognize suspensions imposed by all organizations within NTSSA after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.
- F. All game suspensions must be reported immediately to the NTSSA A&D Committee. MSA or Tournament Officials making the report will forward a copy of any referee's Misconduct Report(s) which underlie the suspension. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the MSA A&D or Tournament Officials, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct.
- G. MSA A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. The MSA A&D Committee will not hold a hearing unless it, of its own volition, elects to convene a hearing.
- H. Extremely Violent Conduct
 - 1. MSA or Tournament Officials shall extend severe punishment to those Players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or improperly after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.
- I. Any player and/or coach wanting to appeal the decision of the NTSSA Committee may do so by filing a written notice of appeal directed to the Secretary of the NTSSA within five (5) days after receipt of the decision of the Committee, along with a fee of \$50.00, of which \$25.00 must be paid by the player and \$25.00 by the Coach. This fee will be refunded if the Committee's decision is overruled. In no event will the \$50.00 fee be waived.
- J. The Mesquite Soccer Association and the NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee are directed to extend severe punishment to those players guilty of extremely violent conduct while participating in a game and/or for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the sidelines, or approaching or leaving the game site.

2.4.7 Misconduct Toward Referees

- A. The North Texas State Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referees and linesmen, in any competition conducted by the Mesquite Soccer Association. This jurisdiction includes:
 - 1. U.S.S.F. licensed officials.
 - 2. Any non-licensed person serving as game official. If any person, including players, makes an assault upon any game official coaches or spectators, all reports of the assault must be sent to the NTSSA office.

2.5 ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments of the BY-LAWS may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting providing that the proposed amendment has been referred to the Constitutional Review Committee within the proscribed time limit and 2/3s of the Coaches present and in good standing approve.
- B. All amendments will take effect the following soccer season: Fall – July 1, Spring – January 1.

CHAPTER 3
PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Member teams of the Mesquite Soccer Association.

All games shall be played in accordance with the Laws of United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) as authorized by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and ratified by North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) for the current soccer year. The only exceptions are those imposed by the Mesquite Soccer Association membership through these RULES AND REGULATIONS and BY-LAWS, articles and amendments. These exceptions being valid only in Mesquite Soccer Association competition and not binding on that competition outside the Mesquite Soccer Association program. The outside competition shall be governed by those by-laws and rules and regulations of the competition's sponsor, be it the NTSSA, the USSF, or those invitational tournaments sponsored by other associations. The purpose of the exception is to better facilitate the game for the younger players of the Mesquite Soccer Association. The spirit and general appearance of the game are not to be altered by these exceptions. This is in cooperation with the Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department.

3.1. ARTICLE I SOCCER YEAR

- A. The soccer year shall start September 1 and run through August 31 each year.
- B. Registration will start near the beginning of each fall semester and again after the beginning of the year, near the beginning of the spring semester. Each registration will last approximately two weeks.

3.2. ARTICLE II AGE LIMITS

3.2.1 Cutoff Date

A player's classification for the season shall be determined by his/her age on July 31 of the current soccer year.

3.2.2. Age Divisions

Division age groupings for boys and girls shall be:

Under-4	Under-7	Under-10	Under-13	Under-19
Under-5	Under-8	Under-11	Under-14	Seniors (Adult)
Under-6	Under-9	Under-12	Under-16	

*If there are Insufficient teams to make U11 and U12 separate divisions, both will play together in the Spring Season only.

*If there are Insufficient teams to make U13 and U14 separate divisions, both will play together in the Spring Season only.

*If there are Insufficient teams to make U16 and U19 separate divisions, both will play together in the Spring Season only.

3.2.3 Minimum Age

For the current soccer year, a player must be 3 years old on or before July 31 for Fall or December 31 for the Spring season in order to register and play in the Under-4 Division for the current season.

3.2.4 Players in Older Divisions

A younger player may play in the next higher age group with parents' and coaches' consent. The coach retains the right to carry that player on the next season's roster or to release the player to

return to his/her own age group as a pool player. This rule does not supersede the age restrictions in Article II Section 3.

3.2.5 Players Outside Age Limit

The playing of any player out of his/her age limit as defined above shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which such player participated.

3.3 ARTICLE III FIELD OF PLAY

3.3.1 As defined by NTSSA (Rule 3.14.1)

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Field Width</u>	<u>Field Length</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
<u>Youth</u>			
Under 19	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 16	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 14	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 12	44 - 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	Recommend 6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.
Under 10	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds.	Max. 6.5 ft. x 12 ft.
Under 8 & younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 - 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

3.3.2 Technical Area

- A. A distinctive line will be marked five (5) feet back from the side line, extending ten (10) yards on both sides of the half line.
- B. Coaches and spectators are to remain on their respective side of the field a minimum of 5 feet from the sideline.
- C. No one is allowed from edge of penalty area to the corner flag or behind end lines.

3.3.3 Home Team

- A. The home team is the team listed first on the schedule.
- B. The home team will furnish the game ball at the discretion of the referee and occupy the west or north touch line (side) of all fields at all complexes.

3.4 ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

3.4.1 Registration and Proof of Age requirements

- A. No player may play in a league game without being properly registered. Proper registration being, the coach first turning in to his Division Commissioner the registration form, league fees, proof of age, and release (if required) on the date voted on by the coaches for commencement of that season. Add on players must be properly registered with the Registrar 24 hours prior to league play.

- B. Proof of age: Each player shall furnish proof of age at the time of initial registration with the Association. Thereafter, no further proof of age shall be required so long as a continuous season-to-season registered status is maintained, unless proof of age is again required by the Mesquite Soccer Association Board.
 - 1. Acceptable proof of age shall be an official birth certificate or any record for which an official proof of birth was required in the first place. Where none of these are appropriate, the individual case shall be referred to the Association for resolution.

3.4.2 Playing of Unregistered Players

- A. The playing of any player for whom the Division Commissioner holds no record, as required by ARTICLE IV Section 1 may result in the forfeiture of all games in which such player participated and shall result in an A&D Hearing of the coach.

3.4.3 Interleague Play for Out of Area Teams and Associations

- A. Associations wishing to participate in Interleague Play with MSA shall indicate their desire to do so to the Executive Board of Directors for MSA. Divisions or teams within a guest association may request Interleague Play, however, teams will not be considered on an individual basis. The MSA coaches of these specific age divisions shall on all occasion's vote, in their specific age division, to approve by simple majority the inclusion of the guest association; and shall reserve the option to terminate the agreement at the end of each season.
- B. The following fees are required from all guest teams outside MSA requesting Interleague Play. A team fee will be charged.
 - 1. A team fee of \$150.00, which includes patches and pins, Trophies or Awards (placement and participation), Equipment, Security, and Trash Collection, and Referee Assignor Fees, will be charged for each Team
 - 2. Non-resident Field Usage Fee of \$10.00 per player per season will be charged if ALL games are played in Mesquite. This fee does not apply to home-on-home play.
 - 3. Referee Fees – different associations have different policies regarding payment to referees. The pay policy shall be:
 - i. Guest teams who have scheduled home games in Mesquite shall follow MSA guidelines for payment of referees, and payment will occur prior to kick-off.
 - ii. Mesquite teams playing in guest associations will adhere to the policy of the hosting association.
 - iii. Guest associations shall provide fee structures to MSA, and shall receive fee structures from MSA regarding payment of referees before the first scheduled Interleague game.
- C. No teams outside MSA are eligible for MSA City Playoffs. A team must register in Mesquite as a MSA team, and at least half of the roster must reside in Mesquite, Balch Springs, Sunnyvale, or the parts of Garland or Dallas that attend Mesquite schools to be eligible for Mesquite playoffs. MSA teams will move up in the playoff eligibility standings if a team engaged in Interleague play finishes eligible for City Playoffs.
- D. Home-on-Home Interleague Play will be governed by the following guidelines:
 - 1. No MSA team will play more than two (2) games outside Mesquite unless the MSA team has requested travel and there are at least six (6) teams in the age/sex division.
 - 2. If a MSA coach requests all games in Mesquite, that request will be honored.
 - 3. If there are fewer than six (6) Mesquite teams, play will be true home on home.

4. Schedule requests of traveling MSA teams will be receive priority during scheduling.
- E. Scheduling of games for each association and division shall be performed by the MSA Scheduling Committee (including Division Commissioners from guest associations). Division commissioners participating in Interleague Play from each association shall be afforded a seat on the committee. If games will be played outside Mesquite, the guest association shall provide the League Commissioner with available dates/times/fields by the date requested.

3.4.4 Roster Addition Deadline

- A. No player may be added after the weekend prior to start of the season. (Defined as “five o’clock pm of the Saturday of age division). This rule does not supersede the age restrictions in Article II Section 3.
- B. In the event that a team falls below the minimum number of players, that team may be heard by the Board of Directors and may be granted permission to add player(s) available in the player pool. No player(s) may be added for any reason after the second scheduled week of games.
- C. Brothers and/or sisters may request to be placed on the same team, and the request will be honored as long as age requirements are fulfilled, if the coach agrees.

3.4.5 Non-Rostered MSA Recreational Team Player – For Guest Player Purposes ONLY

- A. Any player wishing to register through Mesquite Soccer Association for the purpose of Guest Playing ONLY with other teams and not registered on or inactive from a Recreational MSA team in the current season must meet the following criteria:
 1. All required paperwork along with required fees must be submitted no less than five (5) days prior to the published tournament deadline date.
 2. Required paperwork being:
 3. Original USYSA Recreational Membership Forms. Form must be completely filled out and all required parent signatures
 4. Legible copy of player birth certificate
 5. Complete and signed player release (if applicable) if the player registering does not reside within MSA boundary lines and is not registered with another NTSSA Recreational team.
 6. If the player registers in the fall season, the fee will be \$60.00 in which the fee is good for the entire soccer year (fall and spring). If the player registers in the spring, the fee will be \$50.00 and good for only the current season.
 7. An Original completed Guest Player Release form with parent’s signature per player per tournament is required.

3.4.6 Recreational MSA (currently registered player) Guest Player ONLY

- A. All players/coaches requesting the signature of the MSA Registrar must submit ALL Guest Player Releases no less than 72 hours prior to the published tournament deadline dates.
- B. The Guest Player Release form MUST have the parent’s signature and the Releasing Coach’s signature before the MSA Registrar is allowed to sign. Nor will the MSA Registrar sign a Guest Player Release form that is blank or incomplete.
- C. Coaches and parents must be more pro-active in getting the required guest player releases to the MSA Registrar in the event that he/she is not available to sign after the 72 hour cut-off time.

3.4.7 Non-Rostered Academy Players

- A. All required paperwork along with required fees must be submitted no less than five (5) days prior to either academy club registration deadline or the tournament deadline date.
- B. Required paperwork being:
 - 1. Original USYSA Recreational Membership Forms. Form must be completely filled out and have all required parent signatures.
 - 2. Legible copy of player birth certificate
 - 3. Complete and signed player release (if applicable) if player registering does not reside within MSA boundary lines.
- C. No player that resides within the boundary lines of MSA will be released to register in another local association as a non-rostered academy player.
- D. The fee will be \$60 per player per soccer year (if registered in the Fall season) or \$45 per player per season.
- E. An original completed Academy Form with parent's signature per player per Academy team is required.
- F. Payment of required fees and paperwork must be received in its entirety before the Academy form will be signed by the MSA Registrar.

3.4.8 Other Academy Teams

- A. Recreational MSA players wishing to participate in Academy teams outside of MSA would be required to submit the Academy or PAL form per player per Academy team per season.
- B. In addition to MSA registration fees per player per season, the cost would be \$10.00 per player per season.

3.5 ARTICLE V DIVISION REGISTRATION

- A. All Division Commissioners must submit rosters and moneys for all teams in their divisions to the Registrar prior to or on the date voted by the coaches.
- B. All Add and Delete Rosters (purple sheets) for added and deleted and transferred players must be submitted to the Registrar prior to the second scheduled weekend of the season. (Defined as "five o'clock pm of the second Saturday of that age division.").
- C. All Division Commissioners will accept checks or certified bank checks for team registration. The Division Commissioner and the Treasurer will collect all checks returned for non-sufficient funds. Teams who have returned registration checks will pay in addition to the registration monies, a \$25.00 fee.

3.6 ARTICLE VI TEAM FORMATION

- A. All teams registered to compete in Mesquite Soccer Association will comply with the Team Formation Rules.
- B. The intent is to promote soccer by forming teams to demonstrate the true spirit of soccer through fun and fair play.

3.6.1 Competitive Division

- A. A competitive division may be formed with teams participating in a higher level league program. Registration and playing guidelines will be set by the Registrar, League Commissioner and the respective Division Commissioner in the Under-11 and up age group with the approval of a 2/3 majority approval of the Board.

3.6.2 Recreational Division

- A. A recreational division emphasizes the mass participation aspects of soccer mostly on a neighborhood or community basis, with a common set of rules.
- B. Tryouts will not be tolerated in the Recreation Divisions.
- C. When a player is registered in the Fall Season outside of Mesquite Soccer Association, the player is required to have written permission from that association in order to register within MSA. Mesquite Soccer is not permitted to deny a release to an individual player. No fee may be associated with an Approved Player Release unless such player is being released outside of NTSSA. Only the receiving Member Association will register the player.
- D. A registered player is a player that is listed on an official roster for another team during the prior soccer season, except disbanded teams.
- E. Number of players:
 - 1. An Under-4 team shall consist of no less than 6 players and no more than 8.
 - 2. An Under-5 team shall consist of no less than 6 players and no more than 8.
 - 3. An Under-6 team shall consist of no less than 6 players and no more than 8.
 - 4. An Under-7 team shall consist of no less than 6 players and no more than 8.
 - 5. An Under-8 team shall consist of no less than 6 players and no more than 8.
 - 6. An Under-9 team shall consist of no less than 8 players and no more than 12.
 - 7. An Under-10 team shall consist of no less than 8 players and no more than 12.
 - 8. An Under-11 team shall consist of no less than 10 players and no more than 16.
 - 9. An Under-12 team shall consist of no less than 10 players and no more than 16.
 - 10. An Under-13 team shall consist of no less than 12 players and no more than 18.
 - 11. An Under-14 team shall consist of no less than 12 players and no more than 18.
 - 12. An Under-16 through Under-19 team shall consist of no less than 12 players and no more than 22.
- F. In the event of extra players in any one-boundary area where there are not enough players to form a new team, all established teams will be assigned players from the Player Pool. That will be completed in accordance with ARTICLE IX. Section 1, until the team has

reached the maximum number of players for its age group/division. A coach cannot be forced to take a player from a younger age group to fill out his or her roster.

- G. In order to promote soccer participation for younger children, an Under-4, Under-5, Under-6, Under-7 and Under-8 player may invite a friend, from the same association, who has never registered in any association, to join his/her exiting team with the permission of the Board of Directors.
- H. Teams shall be free from recruiting by another coach. Any coach found guilty of recruiting by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be suspended from coaching for one year. If a coach is found guilty of continuing to coach after suspension, he/she shall cause his team to be declared ineligible for any play-off or Championship games or other appropriate action for those teams who do not have play-off or Championship games. Decisions will be based upon evidence presented to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- I. Any coach who is determined by the Appeals and Disciplinary to have knowingly violated any of these team formation rules by playing an illegal player shall have his team declared ineligible for any play-off and Championship games or other appropriate action for teams who do not have play-off or Championship games by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

3.6.3 Club Team Formation

- A. Clubbing Request letters must be filed with the MSA Registrar by the approved Temporary Roster due date which is approved by the coaches prior to the start of both the Fall and Spring seasons along with a copy to the MSA Secretary and Division Commissioner.
- B. Club letters must include each team name and the signature of each head coach wishing to participate in the club.
- C. A copy of the club letter must be attached to the temporary roster of each participating team.
- D. Each team listed on the club letter shall be from either the same middle school area or the next closest Middle School. (I.E. one team pools from Vanston so that team can either club with a Vanston team or McDonald or Kimbrough team.) Middle school area will be determined by the majority of the players on the teams previous season's roster.
- E. Teams which are combined to form club teams must accept all eligible players from each teams previous season's roster. Teams failing to do so will be folded into the pool. Players may not be transferred from team to team within the club organization except in accordance with MSA rules and regulations.
- F. Teams will not be allowed to club until the Registrar verifies all the clubbing information. Once all of the information is verified to be accurate, clubbing will be granted.

3.7 ARTICLE VII COACHING PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.7.1 Recognized Roster Positions

- A. The Mesquite Soccer Association will recognize only one Head Coach, one Assistant Coach, and one Team Manager, for each team.

- B. Head coach must be 18 years old prior to the recognized temporary roster due date.
- C. If, in the current season, a person becomes the coach of a newly formed team, by the Association, the coach may request his/her child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching that season only.
- D. In order for any coach to request his/her child be assigned to a returning team that he/she is coaching, he/she must:
 - 1. Have been listed as Head Coach for the same team roster for the previous two outdoor playing seasons;
 - 2. Be listed on the temporary roster as Head Coach;
 - 3. Be listed on the final roster as Head Coach;
 - 4. Be listed on the playing schedule as Head Coach;
 - 5. Have successfully completed the G Coaching License or higher and presented verification of the license prior to the recognized roster due date;
- E. All returning teams shall be limited to one player assignment (by coaching privilege) per soccer year.
- F. All removal of coaches, managers, assistants of MSA teams must be removed under allowable and written guidelines for the current rules and ethics of the Mesquite Soccer Association and may be appealed through the normal and consistent process.

3.7.2 New Coach for Returning Team

- A. If a new coach is taking on a returning team, he/she must:
 - 1. Be asked to coach by the returning team and approved by a majority vote of the MSA Board of Directors;
 - 2. Must have successfully completed the; G Coaching License or higher and presented verification of the license prior to the recognized due date.
 - 3. Be listed on the temporary roster as Head Coach;
 - 4. Be listed on the final roster as Head Coach;
 - 5. Be listed on the playing schedule as Head Coach;

3.7.3 Required Coaching Certification

- A. Any person(s) listed on the roster as “coach” or “assistant coach” or "manager" must have successfully completed a coaching course administered by North Texas State Soccer Association or United States Soccer Federation prior to his/her second season.
- B. All previous NTSSA clinics with letter designations (G, F & E) will be accepted as meeting the minimum requirement as long as the coach provides a copy of the coaching license to Mesquite Soccer.
- C. The Association recommends that the Head Coach of teams attain a minimum of the following NTSSA coaching license for the appropriate age group being coached:
 - 1. NTSSA U6/U8 Youth Module for U-5 through U-8
 - 2. NTSSA U9/U10 Youth Module for U-9 through U-10
 - 3. NTSSA U11/U12 Youth Module for U-11 through U19
 - 4. NTSSA State “E” for U-12 through U-19
 - 5. Other Coaches Clinic offered by Mesquite Soccer Association

- 3.7.4 Minimum Playing Time
- A. Each coach is expected to play each player one half of each game, if the player meets coaches practice requirements; play-off and championship games included.
 - B. Token playing times are not acceptable.
 - C. If the coach has practice requirements, he/she shall give all players and Division Commissioner a written copy of those requirements before any season games, subject to approval by the MSA Board.
- 3.7.5 Reimbursement of Coaching Certification Fees
- A. Upon completion of a North Texas State Soccer Association clinic, a coach will be eligible for reimbursement of full tuition for such clinics. Upon completion of the U.S.S.F. National "C" clinic, a coach will be eligible for reimbursement of the "commuter tuition fee" provided:
 1. The maximum amount budgeted for reimbursement has not been exhausted.
 2. Must be listed as a coach of a Mesquite team and in good standing immediately prior to the scheduled clinic.
 3. Written approval of the Coaches Coordinator has been granted at least two weeks prior to the scheduled clinic.
 4. Receipt of coaches license for which clinic pertains.
 - B. Should the number of coaches requesting reimbursement exceed the amount budgeted for such expenses, a waiting list shall be made and a "FIFO" (first in first out) method shall be used.
 - C. Although priority will be given to coaches enrolled in a coaching clinic, as described above, a waiver allowed by NTSSA and paid for by the coach may also be covered for reimbursement.
- 3.7.6 Game Day Responsibilities
- A. Each team of the first game scheduled on a field will be responsible for one net and placing two corner flags. The last two teams scheduled on a field are responsible for returning the equipment.
 - B. The team head coach assigned to return the nets and corner flags will be responsible for the replacement cost of any equipment not turned in. For all nets left up after game (if last of day and/or on that field), a \$20.00 fine is imposed upon the head coach and/or team, collected by and payable to the MSA Treasurer, before their next scheduled game. If the fine is not paid prior to their next scheduled game it will result in a 3-0 forfeit.
 - C. No hearing by either the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or the Board of Directors is necessary on restrictions for failure to pay for nets and corner flags. The restrictions are automatic. The Division Commissioner shall notify the League Commissioner of the Mesquite Soccer Association of any suspended coaches or teams in their age group.
 - D. If the Mesquite Soccer Association has not contracted a Facilities Manager, the Division Commissioners are responsible for the distribution and collection of the equipment, for their division.

3.8 ARTICLE VIII FACILITIES

3.8.1 Facilities Manager

- A. The Mesquite Soccer Association Board of Directors shall be authorized to contract a Facilities Manager. The Facilities Manager shall be responsible for maintenance and storage of all equipment, dispensing and retrieving equipment for all scheduled games.
- B. The Facilities Manager shall have no voting rights beyond those extended to any Coach (if he/she is a coach).
- C. The Facilities Manager shall be paid per agreed contract not in excess of the amount budgeted for such purpose by the Coaches.
- D. Responsible for Trash at all MSA Facilities.

3.8.2 Concessions

- A. The Mesquite Soccer Association Board of Directors shall be authorized to contract a Concession Manager. The Concession Manager shall be responsible for maintenance and operation of all concession areas, purchasing of supplies, and supervision of teams working the concession stand. The following guidelines shall be followed in order to maintain accurate accounting records.
- B. Reconciliation of the Eastfield concession stand shall be done weekly. Reconciliation shall be completed at the concessions stand with the concession manager, Treasurer and one other board member. The reconciliation documentation shall be signed off on by ALL parties present.
- C. Concessions are to have operational registers. Tapes are to be included with reconciliation paperwork. Daily readings are required, per City of Mesquite's mandatory book review.
- D. All inventories will be received into the Eastfield Concession Stand location. A weekly inventory will be conducted at close of concession on Sunday. Any spoilage or donation is to be listed separate for write off purposes.
- E. During tournaments, the Treasurer and one board member will do cash pick-ups in intervals. These pick-ups will be signed by both board members and concession manager and immediately removed from property for security purposes.
- F. The Concession Manager shall have no voting rights beyond those extended to any coach (if he/she is a coach).
- G. The terms of the contract of the Concession Manager shall be decided by the Vice-President.
- H. The Concession Manager must comply with Mesquite Health codes and must have passed the course offered by the City in food service management.

3.9 ARTICLE IX PLAYER POOL

3.9.1 Pool Draw

- A. In preparation for the Player Pool, the Registrar, League Commissioner, and all Division Commissioners shall meet as called for in ARTICLE I in the BY-LAWS. The Registrar shall

present a set of Pool Draw Guidelines, which must be reviewed by the A&D Constitution Committee and voted on by a majority of the Division Commissioners present.

- B. Any Division Commissioner may challenge the approved guidelines on the basis of a conflict with the CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, or RULES AND REGULATIONS. Such an appeal must be filed within 72 hours of adoption by filing a letter with the Sergeant-at-Arms stating the grounds for challenge. The guidelines, as modified or allowed to stand by interpretation, shall become the final guidelines for that soccer season.
- C. Players left in the pool after the draw shall be given to the Registrar. The Registrar will issue the player's information back to the division commissioner for proper placement on a team. If any additional players enter into the player pool after the draw, then the player's information must first go through the Registrar. The Registrar will then provide the player information to the Division commissioner for placement. For tracking purposes, the Division commissioner must provide a weekly status report to the Registrar as how and where the players have been placed.

3.9.2 Rostered Players

- A. All players, rostered to a team the previous season, have the right to stay on the team and must be contacted and given the opportunity to play with the team the current season. It is the coach's responsibility to contact every player and offer them the opportunity to return, prior to deleting that player from the temporary or final roster.
- B. Any player listed on a team's final roster from the previous season but does not appear on the team's current season's temporary roster shall be contacted by that age group commissioner, prior to pool draw, to confirm they had been contacted to play for the team during the current soccer season. Any player who chooses not to return to the team, which he/she played the previous season, will be returned to the Player Pool, but cannot be drawn to a previous team.

3.9.3 Inactive Team

- A. Teams who choose to register as inactive may do so if they meet the following guidelines:
 - 1. A MSA inactive player form must be filled out and signed by the parent of each player listed on the roster as inactive.
 - 2. A minimum of 75% of the players from the previous season's roster must be listed on the roster as inactive.
 - 3. Any player who chooses to not register as inactive shall be placed in player's pool for reassignment.
 - 4. The team roster, player forms and fees must be submitted to the Division Commissioner on or before the due date that Temporary rosters are due.
 - 5. The team must be registered as an active team for the previous soccer season.
 - 6. A \$15.00 administrative fee will be assessed to any team registering as inactive. The team will not be considered in good standing until reactivated and registered as an active team.

3.9.4 Inactive Player

- A. A player who chooses to register inactive with a team may do so for one (1) season only, providing:
 - 1. The player was rostered as an active player on the team's previous season's final roster.
 - 2. A USYSA registration form must be filled out and signed by the player's parent and turned in with the final roster to the age group Division Commissioner.

- B. A player who chooses to be registered inactive is not guaranteed a position on the team's next season's roster, as this decision will be left to the discretion of the coach depending of the number of returning players the team has at that time. A team will not be allowed to draw new players from the player pool until all eligible inactive players are listed on the team's temporary roster.

3.9.5 Competitive returning to recreational

- A. MSA recreational players who leaves to join a competitive association may request to return to the original recreational team under the following conditions:

1. The player is no longer registered with any another association or has obtained a release according to North Texas rules and regulations.
2. The player has played outside MSA for no more than one soccer year.

3.9.6 Established Teams

- A. Teams with 50% of par on their temporary roster which is submitted to the Division Commissioner on the date voted on by the coaches, constitutes an Established Team.

1. Unassigned players forms will be tabulated to determine if there are enough players to fill established teams and unestablished teams (unestablished teams being teams with less than 50% of par).
2. If there are not enough unassigned players to fill both established and unestablished teams to par, those players of unestablished teams then registered on the temporary roster become pool players.
3. Unestablished teams with the least seniority will be folded first to fill the Pool.
4. Teams from neighboring North Texas sanctioned associations can register a established complete team with the previous seasons North Texas roster. The team will consider Mesquite Soccer Association as their home association.

3.9.7 Order of Team Formation

- A. Established teams and unestablished teams will be filled before new teams are formed. Order of drawing will be determined by a draw among coaches present at the beginning of pool draw. No team may pull players out of their middle school area until all teams are up to an equal number of players. An existing middle school must be depleted of all available players before moving into the next nearest middle school.

3.9.8 Method of Pool Draw

- A. Methods for selecting team players will be determined by current guidelines of the Registrar after the approval of the Board of Directors and the Division Commissioners.

3.9.9 Temporary Roster

- A. Each coach is required to submit copies of his temporary roster to his Division Commissioner on or before the date as voted by the Board.
- B. Returning teams who are below minimum and have not requested players from the pool will be brought to minimum and will not be eligible for further player selection during the current soccer season.

3.9.10 Players with Physical or Mental Disabilities

- A. No team may be forced to take more than two players with physical or mental disabilities.

- 3.9.11 Competitive Divisions
 - A. The Competitive Divisions shall be allowed to delete pool and one-half game rule. Procedure for acquiring players for this Division is outlined in NTSSA RULES AND REGULATIONS of Youth Players.
- 3.9.12 Stratification
 - A. U5 – U14, Each team may, before the Pool Drawing, elect to stratify by age and/or elementary or middle school. The school from which a team draws is determined by the majority of players on the previous season’s final roster.
 - B. For U16 and ABOVE, each team may, before the Pool Drawing, elect to stratify by age and/or high school. The school from which a team draws is determined by the majority of players on the temporary roster.
- 3.9.13 Compliance
 - A. All teams registering to compete in the current soccer season and subsequent soccer seasons are to comply with team formation rules as outlined by Mesquite Soccer Association RULES AND REGULATIONS.
- 3.9.14 Player Placement
 - A. The Division Commissioner shall first contact those teams that drew from the pool of the school boundary in which the remaining players reside. The players shall be placed on the team with the least players on their roster if that team has less than par. If all teams have par players the player shall be offered to the team within that school boundary with the next least players until all teams have been offered that player. This procedure will be followed with the next closest school until the players are placed (U14 and above see section 9).
- 3.9.15 Recreational Team Formation
 - A. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational. Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered select/competitive for league and tournament play.
- 3.9.16 Final Registration Date
 - A. Final Registration date must be at least seven days before first season scheduled game.

3.10 ARTICLE X DIVISION ALIGNMENT (FALL SEASON ONLY)

- A. All sections of Article X shall be in effect for the spring season scheduling that are not in conflict with this Article.
- 3.10.1 Subdivision Formation
 - A. The Subdivision, within an age group, will be done on the basis of an age-experience index plus a promotion and relegation system.
- 3.10.2 Age/Experience Index Formula
 - A. The index for each team is calculated by the following formula:

Team Index Calculation
$I = (A + AF + S + DE) / N$
I = Team index
A = Age group of the player (i.e., Under 8 player is considered 7 years old)
AF = Age factor based on month of birth (see table below)
S = Total number of seasons played

Team Index Calculation			
DE = Total number of seasons played in age group			
N = Number of active players on roster			
The age factors are as follows:			
	August	=	1.00
	September	=	.92
	October	=	.83
	November	=	.75
	December	=	.67
	January	=	.58
	February	=	.50
	March	=	.42
	April	=	.33
	May	=	.25
	June	=	.17
	July	=	.08

3.10.3 Creation of Subdivision(s)

- A. Once the index ratings have been calculated for each team, and the seeding tournament has been completed, the sub-division will be determined by the League Commissioner and Division Commissioner for that age division.

3.10.4 Protest of Team Placement in Subdivision

- A. After the sub-divisions have been made and prior to the setting of the schedules, any coach may protest his placement in a sub-division to the Division Commissioner. Such "protest" may be made only on the basis of miscalculation and he/she must present his version of the calculation to the Division Commissioner. A coach may request his team be moved on approval of the League Commissioner and Division Commissioner.
- B. The League Commissioner and the Division Commissioner from Under-7 and up are authorized to establish, in the fall season, a seeding tournament to place teams more equitably once the index has been computed.
- C. Division Commissioners shall inform coaches of the probable division alignment at least 7 days before the start of the season or before schedules are drawn, whichever comes first. Any coach may then request to be included in the seeding tournament but the commissioners will determine final participation in the tournament.
- D. No team may be placed in a division different from its index determined division unless it has participated in the tournament and the results suggest such different placement to the commissioners.
- E. It is the responsibility of the Division Commissioner to provide the index ratings for all teams in his age division to any coach requesting a review of such ratings.

3.10.5 Finalization of Schedules

- A. Once schedules have been approved by the scheduling committee, they cannot be changed without the approval of the League Commissioner.

3.10.6 Reschedules

- A. Reschedule policies will be prepared by the League Commissioner and approved by the Board each soccer season. If a policy is not approved, the previous season's policy, with appropriate date changes, shall be in effect.

3.11 ARTICLE XI SPRING SEASON ALIGNMENT

3.11.1 Standings and Indexing

- A. Division alignment for the spring season shall be based on the fall season's final standings. Team indexes shall be computed for the following teams:
 - 1. Any newly formed team.
 - 2. Any team from another association playing in MSA.
 - 3. All Under-5 and Under-6 teams will be computed each soccer season.
 - 4. Any returning team which has dropped half (or more) of the players listed on the fall season's roster.

- B. When this index is computed, the Division Commissioner will refer to the previous season's division indexes (with the exception of the Under-5 and Under-6 age group) and place the team in the sub division that it's team index indicates.

3.11.2 Promotion and Relegation

- A. Promotion and relegation will apply only to a team that has played in the previous fall season. There shall be a meeting of the Division Commissioners and their coaches prior to the spring pool draw to decide, by a majority vote, the number or teams to be relegated from each subdivision.

3.12 ARTICLE XII FUND RAISING

3.12.1 No player can be forced to participate in fund-raising activities.

3.12.2 Vendors

- A. Vendors wishing to sell merchandise at any MSA Facility during game days shall comply with the following:
 - 1. Vendor must be MSA Board approved
 - 2. MSA Board shall select site for vendor to set up.
 - 3. Board will set a flat fee for vendor access.
 - 4. Vendor must complete risk management forms.
 - 5. Vendor cannot sell items, which compete with concession stand.
 - 6. MSA assumes no responsibility
 - 7. Vendor is responsible for cleanup of area.
 - 8. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in loss of future privileges.

3.12.3 Fundraisers at MSA Facilities

- A. Team fundraising at the soccer complex is permitted under the following guidelines:
Open to MSA registered teams only.
 - 1. Area to be used is the North Side of the sidewalk leading up to the concession area.
 - 2. Space available per team is to be no larger than 6'x4'.
 - 3. Teams must register with a Board Member in the equipment room and obtain a permit, which will include the team name, date and age division.

4. There must be a rostered Coach or rostered child's parent present at all times.
5. Products must not compete with the Concession Stand.
6. MSA assumes no liability or responsibility for lost or stolen items.
7. Teams are responsible for clean up
8. Failure to comply may result in loss of privilege.

3.12.4 Photographers at MSA Facilities

- A. All photographers at any soccer complex used by MSA must receive a permit from the Executive Board of Directors before taking pictures of any MSA players.
- B. Applications for photography permits are available at the MSA office.
- C. The only exception to this rule is for a parent or family member that is photographing their own child. If the relative is videotaping he/she must have the coach's permission to video tape.

3.13 ARTICLE XIII GENERAL PLAYING RULES

3.13.1 DURATION OF GAME:

Game Duration		
Under-4	four 8 minute quarters	5 minute half
Under-5	four 8 minute quarters	5 minute half
Under-6	four 8 minute quarters	5 minute half
Under-7	four 8 minute quarters	5 minute half
Under-8	three 15 minute quarters	N/A
Under-9	two 25 minute periods	5 minute half
Under-10	two 25 minute periods	5 minute half
Under-11	two 25 minute periods	10 minute half
Under-12	two 30 minute periods	10 minute half
Under-13	two 35 minute periods	10 minute half
Under-14	two 35 minute periods	10 minute half
Under-16	two 40 minute periods	10 minute half
Under-19	two 45 minute periods	10 minute half

Except there will be a two minute break between the first and second and third and fourth quarters in the Under-4 through Under-8 divisions.

OVERTIME PERIODS: During playoff/championship games only.

Under-9	two 10 minute periods
Under-10	two 10 minute periods
Under-11	two 10 minute periods
Under-12	two 10 minute periods
Under-14	two 10 minute periods
Under-16	two 15 minute periods
Under-19	two 15 minute periods

3.13.2 Players Uniforms

- A. A player shall not wear anything, which is dangerous to another player.
- B. When the primary colors of the teams playing each other match, the team listed on the schedule as the home team will wear their colors.
- C. The visiting team will provide jerseys of different colors within fifteen minutes after the scheduled time for the game, or a forfeit will be awarded the home team.
- D. The referee will be the sole determiner of jersey color conflict.
- E. When jeans are worn, the shorts must go over the jeans.
- F. Shin guards are mandatory for all players.

3.13.3 Size of Ball

- A. Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
Under 13 and older	Size #5
Under 12 through Under 9	Size #4
Under 8 and younger	Size #3

3.13.4 Number of Players

- A. Under 13 and older shall play 11v11.
- B. Under 12 shall play 9v9
- C. Under 10 shall play 7v7
- D. Under 8 and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.
- E. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
 - 1. Under 16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players
 - 2. Under 14 – maximum 18 players
 - 3. Under 12 – maximum 16 players
 - 4. Under 10 – maximum 12 players
 - 5. Under 8 and younger – recommend 6, maximum 8 players

3.13.5 Substitution Rule

- A. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
- B. Either team, at a goal-kick;
- C. Either team, after a goal is scored;
- D. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
- E. At halftime or quarter /period for Under 8 and younger;
- F. When a caution (yellow card) is given in Under 9 and older, that player may be substituted for.
 - 1. NTSSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 8 and younger age groups only.
 - 2. The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.

3.13.6 Specific Playing Rules

- A. There will be no slide tackling in the U8 and below age groups. The result of a slide tackle would be an indirect free kick.
- B. Any team forfeiting the final game of the regular season will not be eligible for post season play.
- C. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player’s time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the

coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).

3.13.7 Referee

- A. Conforms with FIFA- Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:
 1. Registered Referees
 2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach.
 3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
 4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
 5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players.

3.13.8 Assisant Referee

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

3.13.9 Start of Play

- A. Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten(10) feet from the ball.

3.13.10 Ball in and out of Play

- A. Conforms with FIFA

3.13.11 Method of Scoring

- A. Conforms with FIFA

3.13.12 Off-Side

- A. Conforms with FIFA except for the following:
 1. Under 8 and younger there is no offside.
 2. Under 10 there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out line.

3.13.13 Fouls and Misconduct

- A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground." Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per FIFA laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.
- B. It is not intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
- C. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
- D. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

3.13.14 Free Kick

- A. Conforms with FIFA except that all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

3.13.15 Penalty Kick

- A. Conforms with FIFA except that there are no penalty kicks in Under 8 and younger.

3.13.16 Throw-In

- A. Conforms with FIFA except for the following:
 1. Under 8 and younger are allowed a re-throw.
 2. Under 8 and younger may use a kick-in.

3.13.17 Goal Kick

- A. Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

3.13.18 Corner Kick

- A. Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

3.13.19 Game Rosters

- A. Ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game, a completed game roster will be available for and presented to the game official.
- B. Sit-Out Verifications - In order for a player/team representative to receive credit for sitting out a game for disciplinary actions, a Sit-Out Verification Form must be presented to the game official prior to the game. At the completion of the game, the player/team representative will receive the signed Sit-Out Verification Form from the game official. The signed form should be submitted to the MSA office or turned in with other game reports. No credit for sitting out the game will be given for failure to return a signed Sit-Out Verification Form to MSA.

3.13.20 Foul Weather Procedure

- A. The Referee has the final authority to postpone a game because of weather or conditions of the playing field, if the League Commissioner has not previously declared the fields unplayable.
- B. Teams must report to the playing field ready to play unless coaches are previously notified otherwise by the Division Commissioner or his representative. The penalty for failure to follow this rule is forfeiture of the game.
- C. Coaches shall not assume a game has been postponed unless they have been specifically advised by the Division Commissioner.
- D. The League Commissioner shall notify the Referee Assignor and Treasurer of all games postponed.
- E. If a game is suspended because of foul weather, including lack of adequate lighting before the SECOND half has begun, that game shall be replayed. A game will be considered COMPLETED once it has attained half time plus 5 minutes.
- F. The League Commissioner or his previously designated representative shall notify all Division Commissioners of postponed games. The Division Commissioners or their representatives, as noted on the schedule, shall notify all coaches in their Division.

- G. Commissioners and coaches shall be notified 24 hours in advance of make-up games and changes. Shorter notice is acceptable if agreed to by the two coaches. In Play-off situations, advance notice may be shortened to as little as twelve (12) hours.
- H. If the American flag or the green flag is flying at the playing fields, games are to be played as scheduled.
- I. If the yellow flag is flying games have been postponed for 20 minutes. Yellow flags supersede all referee and coaches authority with regard to safety issues, all games are immediately suspended. After a yellow flag is raised go to your cars for safety reasons and wait for a green, blue or red flag.
- J. If a green flag is raised all games are to resume, if a blue flag is raised all games are cancelled until 12 noon, then all regularly scheduled games beginning after 12 noon will commence.
- K. Should a red flag be raised all games are cancelled for the day.

3.14 ARTICLE XIV CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLAY-OFF GAMES

3.14.1 City Championship.

- A. Under-9 and above:
 - 1. City Championship will be decided by games between the sub-division winners and wild cards. If division to be decided by tie breaker procedures, they shall abide by Mesquite Soccer Association point system in Article XV, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The Under-5 through Under-8 Divisions shall keep no standings and have no Play-off games.

3.14.2 Play-off Format

- A. Play-off format for each sub-division will be complete and due to the Division Commissioners, by the League Commissioner, at the latter of the scheduling meeting or the pre-season commissioners meeting. The Play-off format cannot be changed unless approved by the coaches of that age group.

3.14.3 Tournament of Champions

- A. Mesquite Soccer Association shall be represented by the city champion teams of each age group.

3.14.4 Play-off Games

- A. In the event that the game is still tied at the end of overtime play, each team shall be awarded five (5) penalty kicks to decide the score. The kicks shall be taken by five (5) different players and alternate team to team. (Prior to the beginning of kicks, each coach shall furnish the Referee with a list of kickers in the order that each will kick, by name and number.
- B. If the score is still tied at the end of five (5) penalty kicks, extra kicks shall be taken by different players and alternate kicks from team to team until there is a difference in scores. The difference in score shall be after each team has taken the same number of kicks.
- C. Each player on the team shall take a turn at kicking before any one player repeats a turn at kicking.
- D. Goalkeepers may be changed. The Referee shall be notified prior to changing goalkeepers.
- E. Only the players on the field of play at the end of the overtime shall be allowed to take penalty kicks.
- F. All players other than the kicker and the opposing goalkeeper shall remain in a separate area designated by the Referee.

- G. If a game is suspended because of foul weather or lack of adequate lighting before the game has been concluded, then the game shall be re-played in its entirety.

3.15 ARTICLE XV POINT SYSTEM - STANDINGS COMPUTATION

3.15.1 Game Points

- A. A team receives three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. Teams are ranked according to the total number of points received during the regular season from greatest to least. If two or more teams are tied at the end of regular season the division commissioner will apply the tie breaking criteria below until:
 - 1. A two way tie is broken and there is a clear placement
 - 2. A three way tie is broken, leaving a two way tie, in which case the tie breakers are reapplied from the beginning to define a clear placement

3.15.2 First Tie Breaker

- A. If two (2) teams are tied at the end of the regular season, then the first tie breaker is head to head competition. If there are more than two teams tied go directly to section 3.

3.15.3 Second Tie Breaker

- A. Total goals against are computed. The team with the fewest goals scored on them for the entire season shall be declared the winner.

3.15.4 Third Tie Breaker

- A. Goal differential is calculated with a cap at three (3) goals. The team with the highest goal differential for the entire season shall be declared the winner. Each game will be calculated individually, then the totals added together to get a final total.

3.15.5 Fourth Tie Breaker

- A. Team with fewest card accumulation points per season (1point for yellow and 2 points for red) is declared winner.

3.15.6 Fifth and Final Tie Breaker

- A. The final tie breaker shall be a penalty shootout, if three or more teams are tied at this point the League Commissioner shall setup a round robin style shootout with all teams involved. The shootout should occur at least but not limited to, 24 hours prior to any playoff games. Rosters will be verified prior to the shootout beginning.

3.16 ARTICLE XVI FORFEITURES

- A. A game is forfeited when one team fails to field the minimum number of players required by that age group at game time dressed and ready to play.
- B. Game time is forfeit time.
- C. The team winning that forfeiture earns 3-0.

3.17 ARTICLE XVII AWARDS

3.17.1 Award Selection

- A. Awards will be selected by the Board of Directors based on the budget approved by the coaches.

3.17.2 Honor Award Recipients

- A. Each Under-9 and older team will receive awards for each honor won equal to the number of registered players on its current active roster.

3.17.3. Engravings

- A. Awards will be designed to indicate age division and position won.

3.17.4. Additional Trophies

- A. Additional trophies may be purchased, at the same price paid by the Association during the time specified by the Cups & Games.

3.17.5. U8 and Below Recognition Awards

- A. Under-5 through Under-8 awards shall be a trophy, plaque, or medallion, or other award to be determined by the budget.

3.18 ARTICLE XVIII LIMITATIONS OF THE SOCCER YEAR

- A. Once a soccer year is open, the previous soccer year cannot be reopened.

CHAPTER 4 ETHICS

4.19 ARTICLE XIX CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

- A. This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

4.19.1 RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS

1. The coaches must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or being forced to play while injured.
8. A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.

4.19.2 RESPONSIBILITY TO MSA, NTSSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. Adherence to all MSA, NTSSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate Division Commissioner, League Commissioner or Sgt-at-Arms immediately.
4. A coach's dealings with MSA, NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to MSA, NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).

4.19.3 RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.

3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, MSA, NTSSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

4.19.4 RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr. /Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

4.19.5 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
2. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting are unethical.
3. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
4. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

4.19.6 RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, MSA, and NTSSA.
4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, MSA or NTSSA to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

4.19.7 GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.
5. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
7. Coaches must act in a professional manner at all times when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following: lewd gestures or remarks, overly critical remarks, ranting and raving, snide or demeaning remarks, threatening behavior or remarks, physical confrontations and temper outbursts.

4.20 ARTICLE XX MSA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
2. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
3. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
4. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
5. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
6. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
7. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
8. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
9. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
10. Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.
11. Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.

4.21 ARTICLE XXI VIOLATIONS

Knowingly violating any of these RULES AND REGULATIONS, CONSTITUTION, and BY-LAWS shall result in a hearing by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

4.22 ARTICLE XXII AMENDMENTS

The RULES AND REGULATIONS may be amended at any regularly scheduled coaches meeting, providing the proposed amendment has first been referred to the Constitution Review Committee within the prescribed

time limit and it is approved by the majority of the coaches present and in good standing. Such amendments take effect immediately. Coaches must have prior written notice of the proposed changes that have been submitted to the committee.