



# **ROYSE CITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

## **Rules & Regulations**

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## CONTENTS

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|                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. INTRODUCTION & STATEMENT OF POLICY             | 3  |
| 2. SOCCER YEAR                                    | 4  |
| 3. COMMUNICATION                                  | 4  |
| 3.1. General Coaches Meeting                      | 4  |
| 3.2. Team Meetings                                | 4  |
| 4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS                       | 5  |
| 4.1. Player                                       | 5  |
| 4.2. Team                                         | 8  |
| 5. GAME/PRACTICE PARTICIPATION AND ADMINISTRATION | 11 |
| 5.1. Practice Sessions                            | 11 |
| 5.2. Games                                        | 12 |
| 5.3. Postponed Games                              | 14 |
| 5.4. Game Reports                                 | 15 |
| 5.5. Standings                                    | 15 |
| 5.6. Trophies                                     | 16 |
| 5.7. Shoot-Outs                                   | 16 |
| 5.8. League Division                              | 17 |
| 5.9. Facilities                                   | 17 |
| 6. CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS                           | 18 |
| 6.1. Conduct                                      | 18 |
| 6.2. Misconduct                                   | 18 |
| 6.3. Misconduct at a Referee                      | 20 |
| 6.4. Misconduct of Referees.                      | 21 |
| 7. AUTHORITY                                      | 21 |
| 7.1. General                                      | 21 |
| 7.2. Appellate Procedures                         | 22 |
| 7.3. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee           | 22 |
| 7.4. A&D Appellate Procedures:                    | 24 |
| 7.5. Violations                                   | 24 |
| 7.6. Suspension                                   | 25 |
| 7.7. Game Protest                                 | 25 |

# 1. INTRODUCTION & STATEMENT OF POLICY

## 1.1. Purpose

The Royse City Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as “RCSA”) has been formed to create and maintain a soccer program for the residents of Royse City, TX. This program is provided in order to organize a competitive activity to foster and promote good sportsmanship, clean and healthy fun, development of athletic skills, and fellowship among players, coaches and spectators.

## 1.2. Authority

**RCSA** is a member in good standing of the North Texas State Soccer Association (**NTSSA**); which in turn, is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (**USSF**) and Federation Internationale de Football Association (**FIFA**), the official soccer governing bodies of the USA and the world, respectively. As such, RCSA is the official Royse City soccer program recognized by the entire world, and has been given jurisdiction over organized soccer within the prescribed physical boundaries. All teams (coaches and players) and parents, by the act of forming teams, submitting contracts and rosters, and payment of fees, agree to accept and to abide by the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, all decisions of the Board of directors (hereinafter referred to as the “**Board**”) and **NTSSA**.

## 1.3. Code of Ethics/Conduct

All players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports the purpose of **RCSA** on and off the field. In the event of conflict or disagreement, all players, coaches, and parents are advised to pursue any such problems through the established **RCSA** guidelines. Any case of significant or continued activity, which causes disruption to the overall purpose, shall be dealt with by **RCSA** to the extent necessary to remove or eliminate such disruption(s). Any Board members serving in another capacity such as a Coach, Manager, or Referee cannot enact their role or position of authority on the board for any conflict or disagreement directly involving the team(s), player(s), or game(s)/match(es) to which they serve or attend except when no other Board member(s) or Referee official(s) are available to immediately intervene or effectively remedy the situation. In the event of such occurrence the Board must be given a full, detailed report for review and disciplinary action, if warranted. (Note: A Board member is not considered in coach capacity until the whistle is blown to begin the game.) The voting membership of **RCSA** is made up of the coach of each registered Team and the Board of Directors. Only this group may vote on changes to **RCSA** Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and/or for members of the Board.

## 1.4. Application.

The **RCSA** Rules & Regulations are designed specifically for youth play.

## **2. SOCCER YEAR**

- 2.1** The Soccer Year shall begin August 1st and end on the following July 31st. The actual playing year will consist of a Fall and Spring season. Each regular playing season will consist of (8) games.
- 2.2** When weather or scheduling circumstances are out of our control, a reduction of game(s) may be possible, including playoffs. The season playing dates will be set by the Board with consideration of holidays, other organized sports, and weather.

## **3. COMMUNICATION**

**RCSA** requires that all participants not only receive all pertinent information about the program but also have adequate and continuing opportunity to have their inputs to the soccer association. In order to develop and maintain two-way communication, organizational meetings are required to be held each playing season.

### **3.1. General Coaches Meeting**

- 3.1.1.** The Board, before the start of each soccer season, will schedule a General Coaches Meeting and, at its discretion add an additional Coaches Meeting as deemed necessary.
- 3.1.2.** Each team is required to provide a rostered coach in order to receive the team roster.
- 3.1.3.** The Age Group Commissioners will be in attendance.
- 3.1.4.** The agenda of the meeting will be as follows:
- Registration Issues.
  - Rules or Bylaws changes or updates.
  - Administrative procedures or responsibilities.
  - Questions or problems suggested by the team representatives.
  - Distribution of team roster

### **3.2. Team Meetings**

- 3.2.1.** Each team is required to conduct a team meeting with at least one of the parents or guardians of each player in attendance. RCSA recommends that these meetings at your first practice, but no later than the scheduled first game
- 3.2.2.** The agenda of the meeting must cover the following topics:
- **NTSSA/RCSA** participant conduct and regulations.
  - Review the **RCSA** Rules and Regulations for additional understanding of the game.
  - Team rules with emphasis on practice schedules, team support, notification procedures, and required equipment.

- A brief overview of the Laws of the Game. This will add to the enjoyment of the game itself.
- Any questions or problems brought out by the parents for action or consideration by the Board.
- Playing time, 50% of game unless disciplinary reasons.
- Order of Contact would be Commissioner, Vice President, and President. Any Rules of Conduct issue should be directed to the Chairperson of Appeals and Disciplinary.
- Proof of non-attendance and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary actions

## 4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1. Player

#### 4.1.1. Age Parameters

4.1.1.1. The player's age will be determined by the age of the player as of December 31 of the current soccer year.

4.1.1.2. Players must participate in their respective age bracket based on the NTSSA age breakdown as follows:

- |           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| - Under 4 | - Under 7  | - Under 12 |
| - Under 5 | - Under 8  | - Under 14 |
| - Under 6 | - Under 10 | - Under 16 |

4.1.1.3. A player with advanced ability may play in the next age bracket with permission of the receiving and releasing Age Group Directors. Proper procedure for this type of request is in writing, signed by a parent or guardian. Request must be accomplished prior to Coaches receiving Roster.

4.1.1.4. In the event a team's level of competition appears to exceed that of the teams in its own division or is requested by the team's coach, that team shall be reviewed by its current and advancing Commissioners in order to determine whether it may play up one higher division for the next season. If approved, the team will be placed in the next level of competition deemed appropriate by the League Commissioners. Any such placement of a team shall be made prior to close of the current registration.

4.1.1.5. Once a player has moved up, a player may only return down if their birth year falls within the requirements of said division.

#### 4.1.2. Player Registration

4.1.2.1. All player registration documentation must be completed and submitted to the **RCSA** Registrar within 48 hours *prior* to the first regular season game.

- 4.1.2.2. Each player must complete a **RCSA** Player Registration Form either online, or in person.
- 4.1.2.3. A player is registered when the parent signs the registration form, pays the appropriate association fees, meets the age verification requirements, and is compliant with the release statutes of North Texas Soccer if not living in the City of Royse City, Counties of Rockwall, Hunt and Collin, Texas.
- 4.1.2.4.

4.1.3. Age Verification

- 4.1.3.1. A player shall be required to present proof of age when registering for the first time in the association. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Bureau of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the U.S. Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency, hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- 4.1.3.2. 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 board.

4.1.4. Releases

The criteria for releases is outlined in the Rules and Regulations of North Texas Soccer Association. See the NTSA website for more information.

4.1.5. Registration Fees

- 4.1.5.1. Payment of all fees is required at time of registration. In the event that any person pays any fee to **RCSA** with insufficient funds, the replacement funds in the form of cash, money order or cashier's check must be submitted to the **RCSA** Treasurer. Replacement funds must be accompanied with an additional \$35 in order to cover processing expense
- 4.1.5.2. The registration fee is broken down into the following cost centers:
- **NTSSA** registration fees
  - Insurance premiums
  - Security background checks for all volunteers working with the children
  - Referee fees
  - One jersey per soccer year
  - Trophies/Awards
  - City/school district imposed fees
  - Office support expenses
- 4.1.5.3. Each player who is not properly registered will forfeit all games in which the team or player participated. The coach and player(s) shall be required to appear before the A&D Committee. A violation of this rule shall result in the offending Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager or

player being suspended for a minimum of one year from all soccer-related activities.

4.1.5.4. Each player must be registered with only one team at a time. The only exception is for players who may also be members of official school teams.

4.1.5.5. Refunds prior to the start of the season must be requested in writing from the parent/guardian of the player requesting the refund, directed to the RCSA Treasurer. Refunds will be less a \$15.00 administration fee. No refund will be considered if the player requests a refund after jersey order scheduled due date. A full refund will be issued if RCSA is not able to provide a team for the child to play on.

4.1.5.6.

4.1.5.7. RCSA does not accept any late registration unless players are needed to build a team.

4.1.5.8. Non-Rostered Player Registration. This registration is an annual registration and allows all non-rostered players to play as a guest outside RCSA during the entire soccer year. The registration fee is \$20.00.

#### 4.1.6. Team Administration

4.1.6.1. Each **RCSA** volunteer Coach, Assistant Coach, and Team Manager is required to promote and uphold the purpose and goals of the Association as set forth in the Bylaws.

4.1.6.2. A coach's invitation may be withdrawn if he/she does not promote and uphold the rules of **RCSA** or the Laws of the Game. Any three (3) members of the Association may petition the RCSA Board of Directors to review a coach's invitation. The review will be conducted at the monthly board meeting and voted on accordingly.

4.1.6.3. The Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager must be present with and responsible for the team and spectators during any game. Otherwise, the team must forfeit.

4.1.6.4. The Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager should refrain from excessive instructing from the sidelines. This will promote player thinking and communicating during the game.

4.1.6.5. Coaches are responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's spectators, parents, and players. This includes any foul and abusive language and any comments directed toward the referees, opposing players, and coaches. Offenders may be cautioned or ejected from the field by the referee.

4.1.6.6. A coach cannot remove a player from a team roster. A coach must not knowingly and/or willingly drop a player from the roster, or encourage or advise a player not to play for the team, whether through direct or indirect contact or coercion.

4.1.6.7. Paid coaches are not permitted for the purposes of coaching a recreational team.

- 4.1.6.8. All coaches, assistant coaches and managers are required to obtain a **RCSA** ID card. An individual is considered to be personnel when they have completed the required safety protocols and a background check. Only the coach and up to 2 assistant coaches with ID cards will be permitted in the coaches box and allowed to function as coaches of that game. Coaches who have been ejected will surrender their ID cards to the official upon request. Surrendered ID card(s) will be returned, pending the results of an inquiry of the Chairman of Appeals & Discipline. Failure to surrender the ID card upon request will result in suspension until such time the card is surrendered to a **RCSA** official, no less than one game.
- 4.1.6.9. One card, per rostered individual, per team will be issued, upon that person's entry into the association. New cards will be issued by the association at the start of each soccer year (Fall Season). If an ID card is lost or becomes damaged beyond recognition, a replacement fee of \$10 will be assessed to the individual needing the replacement. Replacements needed due to association error will not be assessed a fee.
- 4.1.6.10. ID cards will be issued at registration or other times/dates/sites identified by the Board. Signature and photo id will be required for pickup.
- 4.1.6.11. Temporary ID cards will be available for a fee of \$5 at the concession stand. Temporary cards will only be issued to individuals who have a current NTSSA background check on file, with a picture ID. Temporary cards will be good for one game only on the day of issuance. Referee will take possession of the temporary ID card at the start of said game.
- 4.1.6.12. All coaches must wear and display their ID card on a lanyard (either personal or provided by RCSA) at every game while on the field.

4.1.7. Coach Registration

- 4.1.7.1. Each Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager of a team must register with NTSSA each soccer season. With written request and board approval provisions can be made with RCSA for hearing impaired interpreter(s).
- 4.1.7.2. Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager will be required to download a current picture of themselves onto their team GotSport account. Special arrangements can be made with RCSA if you don't have access to a digital camera/computer.

4.2. Team

- 4.2.1. Team Size. The Age Group Commissioner shall utilize the following Guidelines for team size:

|            |        |        |
|------------|--------|--------|
| Under 4:   | 6 max  | 4 min  |
| Under 5:   | 8 max  | 6 min  |
| Under 6:   | 8 max  | 6 min  |
| Under 7/8: | 8 max  | 6 min  |
| Under 10:  | 12 max | 10 min |
| Under 12:  | 16 max | 11 min |

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Under 14: | 18 max | 13 min |
| Under 16: | 22 max | 13 min |

#### 4.2.2. Formation

- 4.2.2.1. A team from outside **RCSA** applying to play within **RCSA** must follow **RCSA** team formation rules and receive approval of the Board.
- 4.2.2.2. The formation of teams and the solicitation of coaches and new players are the responsibility of **RCSA** Officers and Directors.
- 4.2.2.3. Recruiting is forbidden as stated in the NTSSA Rules. Any coach, assistant coach, or player accused of violating this rule shall be brought before the A & D Committee and may be subject to suspension
- 4.2.2.4. Each player who has played with **RCSA** within the last 365 days is considered a returning player. If a player does not meet this requirement he/she is considered a new player.
- 4.2.2.5. All new or transfer players will be placed in the **RCSA** player pool. Teams will be formed by a team formation committee that will consist of three (3) voting members and one (1) non-voting member. The 4 members shall be: Age group director for the specific division, two (2) board members and the **RCSA** registrar. The voting committee members will not have a household member in the division forming teams. The committee is under the jurisdiction of the **RCSA** Registrar. The team formation committee will use age, gender, and team size as criteria in assigning players to teams. The final determination will be by the team formation committee using a random draw.
- 4.2.2.6. Siblings may play together on the same team. A government issued document linking a shared parent must be provided.
- 4.2.2.7. A returning player can request to play with their previous team in the event they moved up due to age and the previous team stayed behind for the following soccer year.
- 4.2.2.8. The Buddy Draft is available for players eligible for the U4-U16~~9~~ age divisions. A player may only request one (1) "Buddy" per season. The player and his/her buddy must submit a Buddy Draft Request form signed by each parent/guardian. The new player(s) must have never been rostered with RCSA or rostered within three (3) years with any other NTSSA affiliated soccer association. Each request is subject to space availability. Multiple requests from one team will be filled in the order in which it was received. In the event a player cannot be placed on the desired team, the player may elect to not participate by indicating on the form. A player may only be placed through the Buddy Draft system one (1) time. A player may only be on one (1) either as a player or "buddy". If the team a player is placed on disbands in future season, RCSA does not keep said players together when drafting new teams.
- 4.2.2.9. Players who missed up to one (1) year may be eligible to return to their prior team of record provided that there is space on the requested team.

- 4.2.2.10. A new player may refuse the initial team assignment and be placed back in the bottom of the player pool if there are more than three (3) teams in the division. If the player refuses a second time or if there are less than three (3) teams then that player will be disqualified from placement for the rest of the season. The player will be given a refund minus the customary admin fee. A returning player may opt to not return to his team of record if there are more than three (3) teams in that division. If there are more than three (3) teams that player will be placed in the player pool and assigned per team formation procedures (no requesting a new team). If there are less than three (3) teams, this player will not be placed without approval of the team formation committee. A returning player cannot request to be placed back in the player pool more than 1 time in an "age group period" i.e. u8 is 2 seasons and u10 is 4 seasons etc, Unless their parent/guardian becomes the new head coach of a newly formed team
- 4.2.2.11. If an individual becomes the head coach of a new team formed by **RCSA** in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team that he/she is coaching.
- 4.2.2.12. If an individual requests their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record for the previous outdoor playing season, or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the Board.
- 4.2.2.13. -REMOVED
- 4.2.2.14. -REMOVED
- 4.2.2.15. Each Coach must accept all eligible returning players unless he can show ample proof that the player is a disciplinary problem and disruptive to the team. Under no circumstance shall any coach attempt to dismiss a player without RCSA approval.
- 4.2.2.16. Each Coach may approach the Board to remove a player per the following:
- A. The Coach must submit a written request to the A&D Chairperson.
  - B. The A&D Chairman shall investigate/interview all interested parties and decide if the request is to be granted.
  - C. The A&D Chairman decision may be appealed in writing to the A&D Committee.
  - D. The A&D Committee shall address the issue within seven (7) working days.
- 4.2.2.17. "Player dismissal" shall be defined as including the failure or refusal of any coach to invite or notify a prior season player when the team is being reestablished for a new season.
- 4.2.2.18. In the event that a team is going to take a season off from playing and intend to return their entire roster, they must inform their Age Group Director and **RCSA** Registrar of intent to return the following season, in writing, prior to the completion of the current season.

4.2.3. Interleague Play for Out of Area Teams and Associations.

4.2.3.1. A team requesting to participate in RCSA recreational league, which was formed outside of RCSA, must be approved by the Board of Directors. Minimum requirements for a team requesting to play in RCSA recreational league are:

- A. The team must join RCSA, be subject to all rules governing RCSA, and pay all costs set forth by the RCSA league for that season.
- B. The team should have played in a similar recreational league for a minimum of two (2) seasons.
- C. The team must furnish a roster signed by an official from the prior association for the last two seasons including a list of players' names, addresses, telephone numbers, and birth date.
- D. The players meet the age requirements for the league in which they wish to play.
- E. The RCSA Board shall on all occasion's vote 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.

## 5. GAME/PRACTICE PARTICIPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

### 5.1. Practice Sessions

- 5.1.1. Regular season games are not counted as training sessions. The number of training sessions per week shall be limited to the following.
  - A. U4 – U8: Training sessions are limited to a maximum of two (2) per week, each not more than one (1) hour long.
  - B. U10 and Older: Training sessions are limited to a maximum of two (2) per week, each not more than 90 minutes long.
- 5.1.2. Coaches, Assistant Coaches, or Team Managers may not engage in any special training sessions with individuals or partial teams in addition to the above specified practice sessions. The only exception shall be in the case of a parent working individually with his own child or the case of special clinics after receiving the Director's permission.
- 5.1.3. Open areas at city parks and RCISD schools are available for team training sessions and friendly scrimmages. Teams or coaches damaging any of the areas or not disposing of their trash properly may be subject to disciplinary action or fines. The game fields are **not** available for training sessions or practice games.

## 5.2. Games

- 5.2.1. Each player has equal opportunity to develop their abilities and skills, learn teamwork and sportsmanship; **RCSA** requires that each **RCSA** Player be played a minimum of 50% in every game, except for illness or injury. In those cases, the coach must notify the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced.
- 5.2.2. Player Discipline: A coach may, for disciplinary reasons, request that the playing time for a player is reduced for one (1) game. The coach shall submit in writing the reasons for proposing such action to the Age Group Commissioner and the players' parent(s) at least 48 hours prior to the game. The coach shall take no action without approval of said Commissioner. Upon approval by said Commissioner, the request along with a description of the disciplinary action taken shall be forwarded by said Commissioner to the A&D Committee. Three (3) disciplinary misconduct reports on one (1) player during the season will require that player to appear for a hearing before the A&D Committee.
- 5.2.3. Each Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager must fill out the Game Report to provide an explanation for any case where a player did not participate according to this rule.
- 5.2.4. **RCSA** strongly supports the minimum playing time as required by the rules of **NTSSA**. Parents of players who are not given minimum playing time and a plausible explanation may contact the Age Group Commissioner. Acceptable contact would be in written form.
- 5.2.5. If the situation is not resolved with the Age Group Commissioner, then the parent needs to notify, in writing, the Board in care of the A&D Chairperson.
- 5.2.6. Failure of a Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager to abide by this rule constitutes grounds for suspension. An A&D hearing must be held prior to revocation of **RCSA**'s invitation to a participating coach in the Association.
- 5.2.7. In youth recreational tournaments, each player is required to play a minimum of 50% of each game, including overtime. All players on a team must be invited to each tournament in which the team participates.
- 5.2.8. In the event of uniform color conflict the Home team will be required to change to an alternate jersey color or wear pennies. In the event the Home team refuses or is unable to comply with this requirement the game will be considered a forfeit with corresponding points awarded to the visiting team. The referee does not have the authority to force the visiting team to use an alternate colored jersey. The Home Association will provide pennies to the field of play.
- 5.2.9. Each Age Group Commissioner and the Scheduler will be responsible for creating team schedules.
  - 5.2.9.1. Game schedules for **RCSA** for all divisions will be obtained via the **RCSA** website ([www.roysecitysoccer.org](http://www.roysecitysoccer.org)). Interleague Division schedules are handled through the home association engaged with **RCSA**. All change requests must be sent to the **RCSA** Age Commissioner and scheduler.

- 5.2.9.2. Action will be taken to prevent schedule conflicts for a team whose Head Coach has multiple teams within **RCSA**. Taking into consideration the time it will take for the coach to change fields in the case of an Interleague away game.
- 5.2.9.3. Once team schedules are published they shall stand without change for the duration of the season, unless the scheduled game meets the requirements to postpone said game as stated in Rules section 5.3.
- 5.2.9.4. **RCSA Reschedule Request Policy.** A team can request a reschedule. A fee of \$50 must be collected prior to RCSA working on the reschedule. The opposing team must agree to the rescheduled game. If the opposing team does not agree, then the reschedule fee will be refunded and the game will stand as scheduled. Please follow the procedure below to submit a request. The procedure for reschedule a game is as follows:
- A. Contact the appropriate Age Group Commissioner to request approval to begin the reschedule process, giving the reason why you are requesting a reschedule. Note: Reschedule requests can not include stipulations on when the rescheduled game will be played.
  - B. Contact the opposing team coach to ask for his/her approval to reschedule the game. Note: If the opposing team coach does not agree to a reschedule, the game will not be rescheduled and no fees will be due. Contact the Age Group Commissioner to let him/her know that the opposing team coach has agreed to a reschedule.
  - C. Fill out the [Reschedule Request form](#) completely and submit it, along with the \$50 reschedule request fee, to the RCSA Scheduler at least ten (10) days before the currently scheduled date. Payment may be made by cash, check or money order.
  - D. Once the Scheduler has rescheduled the game, they will inform both coaches of the new game time and date.
- 5.2.9.5. If a team is unable to play their scheduled game for reasons that do not meet those stated in Rules Section 5.3, the game shall be forfeited.
- 5.2.9.6. All games for U4-U10 will have no more than 2 week night games per team per season.

## 5.3. Postponed Games

### 5.3.1. Weather

5.3.1.1. The Association has the responsibility to determine the availability of the fields on game days when there is inclement weather. Coaches and their teams have the responsibility to check the status of the fields before their game. Damage to fields and the safety of players is considered when evaluating field conditions. Cancellation information can be accessed through the Association's website – [www.roysecitysoccer.org](http://www.roysecitysoccer.org). Coaches or team designate should create a team telephone tree to notify the parents on the team in the event of inclement weather. Please do NOT call commissioners or Board Members. The Chairman of Fields and/or Referee Assignor will determine field availability at the start of the soccer day and has set a goal to determine field availability one (1) hours before the start of the first game of the day. However, you can run into a scenario where the fields are open at the start of the day, but it starts raining sometime later during the day. The Association, in communication and agreement of referees, has the discretion to cancel games at any age category based on field and weather conditions. If the Association cancels games part way through the day, the information sites will be updated as quickly as possible. Any parent has the right to remove their child from a game due to weather issues. For U8 and below, if the Association has not called the game and the removal causes play to stop due to a shortage of players, the game may not be rescheduled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule games officially canceled by the Association. For U10 and above, if before the start of the second half, the Association officially cancels a game, the game will be called a "NO GAME" and rescheduled. Once the second half kickoff occurs, it becomes an official game of record. If the Association officially cancels the game in the second half, the team with the most goals will determine the winner of the game.

### 5.3.1.2. Weather Guidelines:

- A. **Rain:** RCSA will not cancel or postpone games unless the rain causes the fields to become unsafe or unplayable. If the game is in progress, it is the referee's or league official's call to determine if play will continue, be halted, or temporarily postponed.
- B. **Lightning:** RCSA will use one of two policies:
  - a. The Lightning Detector alerts there is lightning within ten (10) miles. The field(s) are to be evacuated, and the lightning detector monitored for when lightning is no longer detected.
  - b. If a lightning Detector is not on the playing field(s), the 30/30 rule for judgment of lightning safety. If a lightning flash is seen, and a subsequent thunder is heard within 30 seconds, play may be suspended for 30 minutes to assess the situation. League officials and referees will confer on

whether play will continue, be halted, or temporarily postponed.

- C. **Cold Weather:** RCSA uses wind chill factors for determining cancellations and postponements. Wind chill at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, at game time, is cause for cancellation or postponement. Hot Weather: RCSA will monitor the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) to determine if games can start and/or continue in hot weather.

5.3.1.3. Championship playoffs and game(s) will be replayed regardless of elapsed time (except as noted). If circumstances dictate that a championship playoff or final game cannot be rescheduled; the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin.

5.3.2. Referee “No-Show”

5.3.2.1. A game shall be considered postponed if the referee is not at the field within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled game time unless it is known that he/she is held up by an earlier game still in progress. The home team shall notify the RCSA Scheduler who reschedules the game.

5.3.2.2. Abandonment by Referee - Final disposition and score shall be decided by an A&D Committee.

## 5.4. Game Reports

5.4.1. Game reports are required of all u9-16 games and considered the official record of the game(s) played, as such, shall constitute the information of record in any game appeal or A&D hearing. Once the game card has been signed by both coaches and referees, the score cannot be contested.

The only approved game report is that downloaded from the team’s official GotSport account showing completed jersey numbers and coaches.

5.4.2. Game reports shall include the following:

- A. Game particulars (teams, score, date, time, etc.).
- B. A realistic referee appraisal.
- C. A referee(s) signature

5.4.3. Before the season starts all coaches are required to update each player’s number in the team’s GotSport account. Each player’s jersey number must be correct before each game.

5.4.4. The game report must be printed before each game and given to the referee crew before the game can start. Games will not start until a game report has been received by each coach. Failure to bring a game report may result in a forfeit.

5.4.5. Game reports for U9 and up are to be reported after each game by the home team coach in accordance with the appropriate procedures. If scores are not entered within 72 hours after a game is played, RCSA has the right to deduct one (1) point per day up to three (3) points total from the team’s point total. Interleague teams will report scores in accordance with the governing association’s procedures.

- 5.4.6. Any coach, assistant coach, or team manager having serious objections to the performance of a referee may register a formal complaint with the Board. The online Referee Evaluation form must be completed stating all game particulars (teams, field, day, time, etc.) and report specific instances of referee performance or impropriety. Anyone without online access may obtain a paper version from any Board member. Generalization or personality conflict will not be addressed. Such complaints must be submitted within 72 hours of the game in question.

## 5.5. Standings

- 5.5.1. League standings will not be kept for the U4, U5, U6, and U8.
- 5.5.2. The standings of all games will be based on game results that have been posted via GotSport.
- 5.5.3. **RCSA** will utilize the following method in determining the League standings:  
Game Points: **RCSA** will use a three (3) point scoring system. A team receives three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. If two (2) teams are tied at the end of the regular season, the first tie breaker is head to head competition. If a tie still remains, then we will use the following to break the tie: 1. Fewest goals against with no cap, 2. Goal differential with cap of 3 per game, 3. Coin toss.
- 5.5.4. If a team forfeits a game, it shall be recorded as a 3-0 "win" for the other team.
- 5.5.5. If a team drops from the division during a season, all remaining games for that team will be recorded as forfeits. Referee fees may be waived if 24 hours notice is given to their commissioner.
- 5.5.6. A team that forfeits three (3) or more games in a soccer year may be disbanded at **RCSA** discretion. A team that forfeits without notifying their Age Group Commissioner, verbally, 24 hours prior to that scheduled game of their intent to forfeit, will be fined \$25.00 prior to their next scheduled game. If a team intentionally forfeits a game, that team (team personnel and/or other responsible party) may be required to appear before a A & D hearing to present the reason for the forfeit. A team found guilty of intentionally forfeiting a game may:
- Be prevented from participating in any further games during the season;
  - Be ineligible for any awards.
  - Be prevented from participation in any playoff games.
  - Be subject to a penalty or other discipline determined in a disciplinary hearing.

## 5.6. Trophies

- 5.6.1. **RCSA** will provide participation awards to each player in Divisions U4 through U8 to recognize the player.
- 5.6.2. Fall season shall be medals and Spring season shall be trophies. **RCSA** shall provide playoff trophies for first and second place only in the Divisions U10 and above.
- 5.6.3. Standings prior to the playoffs will determine TOC eligibility. All winning teams (u10 and above) for Fall Season will be invited to participate at the Tournament

of Champions (TOC). If the winning team does not accept the invite the next place home association team will be invited. Any teams that drop out of TOC after acceptance, will be charged fees and/or lost cost to association.

## **5.7. Shoot-Outs**

- 5.7.1. All RCSA tournament or Division Play-off games that end in a tie will go directly into a shoot-out.
- 5.7.2. Tie-Breaker: Consists of penalty kicks taken with a set of 5 players from each team, these players must have been on the field at the end of regulation. The team who scores the most out of these 5 players will be determined to be the winner.
- 5.7.3. A coin toss determines which team takes the first kick.
- 5.7.4. The referee will provide one goal at which all kicks will be taken. The coaches shall have no voice in this choice.
- 5.7.5. The kicker has one kick with which to score (cannot re-kick in case of rebound). The team scoring the most goals shall be the winner.
- 5.7.6. If after the first set of 5 (as described in 5.7.1) the score is still tied, "Sudden Death" shall begin. Each team will choose 5 additional players (players are not guaranteed to shoot) and kicks will alternate until one team scores and the other misses.
- 5.7.7. All players that were on the field at the end of game (including goalie) must take a shot before a person can take a second shot.
- 5.7.8. A goalkeeper may stay near the goal while his team is kicking so long as he makes no effort to interfere with the other goalkeeper.
- 5.7.9. If a team has ten (10) players and the opposing team has eleven (11), then only ten (10) players from the eleven (11) can participate.

## **5.8. League Division**

Any age group division consisting of a large number of teams may choose to form subdivisions for ease of scheduling, separating teams of widely divergent skill levels, etc. Such a practice is strictly at the option of the Board.

## **5.9. Facilities**

- 1. **RCSA** has an agreement with the Royse City Independent School District and the City of Royse City owned fields.
- 2. Practice sessions are not allowed at Fox Fields, Bobby Summers Middle School, and Ouida Bailey Middle School fields without the expressed authorization of the Board. Violation of this rule is subject to a \$50 fine, which must be paid prior to the team's next scheduled game.

3. Only *rostered* players and coaches are allowed on the team side of the field. Spectators will sit on the opposite side of the field directly across from their team. This limits distractions for both players and coaches. Exception: interleague stadium seating.
4. All spectators must remain on their side of the field and one (1) yard behind the touchline during the game. For U11 and above spectators must remain three (3) yards behind the touch line.
5. Everyone must park in designated parking spaces at all field locations. Tailgating behind Fox Field Goals is not permitted and spectators will be asked to move.
6. Each Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager is responsible for the proper disposition of trash on his or her side of the field at the end of the game.

## **6. CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

### **6.1. Conduct**

- 6.1.2. Conduct of the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team Managers, players, parents or spectators is required to be of high caliber when such individuals are participating in **NTSSA** or **RCSA** sponsored events, either directly or indirectly. The following actions by the coaching staff and/or parents are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN**:

- A. Foul or abusive language
- B. Harassment of players
- C. Harassment of league officials, referees or spectators
- D. Acts of aggression to players, league officials, referees or spectators
- E. Conduct contrary to the rules or procedures of NTSSA, RCSA or the Parent/Coaches Code of Conduct
- F. Violations of City/RCISD Ordinances
- G. Failure to comply with any disciplinary action of RCSA or NTSSA
- H. Air-horns are not allowed at any field in Royse City or Fate

- 6.1.3. Any misconduct including, but not limited to profanity, abusive language, and/or obscene gestures shall be dealt with in a decisive manner in accordance with **RCSA** regulations, **NTSSA** Rules and Regulations 3.11 Rule XI "Discipline" and/or the City of Royse City, as may be appropriate.

### **6.2. Misconduct**

- 6.2.1. **RCSA** Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, players, and spectators are expected to act and teach in a sportsmanlike and ethical manner.

- 6.2.2. Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, (registered or not), parents or spectators if determined to be disruptive, may be ejected from the fields by a member of the Board. (refer to section 1.1) In addition, in the absence of a member of the **RCSA** board, the head referee may insist on the removal of the disruptive party prior to resuming the game. If the request for removal from the field by the head referee is not honored, or if the ejected person returns to the field while the referee is still in the vicinity, the referee may abandon the game, complete a misconduct report, and the offending team will forfeit the game and it will result in a 3 – 0 loss. It's strongly recommended that opinions are exclaimed from the sideline.
- 6.2.3. Any Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, player, or spectator suspected of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct must appear before the **RCSA** A&D Committee. If found guilty, the individual(s) may be reprimanded, restricted from coaching, or suspended for some specified period or number of games, depending on the severity of the incident.
- 6.2.4. Cautions to, or ejections of, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, players, or spectators issued by the referee shall be dealt with in the following manner as a minimum:
  - A. Cautions (Yellow Card): The accumulation of three (3) cautions in any year shall require a one game suspension; that being the next scheduled game actually played by the team. Suspensions will be carried forward to the next season if necessary. No appeal shall be allowed under this system.
  - B. Ejection (Red Card): Automatic one (1) game suspension, that being the next scheduled game actually played by the team. Suspensions will be carried forward to the next playing season if necessary. No appeal shall be allowed under this system.

Pursuant to 2019 IFAB rules, referees are allowed to Yellow/Red card team staff. If the offender cannot be identified, the senior team official (usually the main coach) in the technical area will receive the YC/RC (as the person responsible for the other team officials). This new rule is intended to reduce confrontations of team staff towards referees. However, referees may not card spectators.

- 6.2.5. Violent conduct by a coach, assistant coach (registered or not) or team manager may result in additional penalties up to and including lifetime suspension.
- 6.2.6. Each **RCSA** Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager is responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off (Yellow Card/Red Card) the coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. If he/she is unable to do so, he/she is to immediately notify the **RCSA** Officer(s) in Charge of the fields so that appropriate action can be taken toward the identifiable player or spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself, **RCSA** will forward a report to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if, it is warranted.
- 6.2.7. Misconduct involving any participant (player, coach, and parent/spectator) of State sponsored games, as opposed to **RCSA** league play, will be reported to the Tournament officials of the State Cup and Games Committee and will be

forwarded to the State A&D Committee immediately after the occurrence for appropriate disciplinary action.

- 6.2.8. **NTSSA** has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and linesmen, in any competition by the State or **RCSA**. This jurisdiction includes:
- A. All USSF registered referees (adult and youth).
  - B. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
  - C. Any coach, parent or junior linesman serving as a game official.
- 6.2.9. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted to the appropriate State Commissioner and the Executive Vice President, A&D Committee Chairman, Olympic Development Program Chairman and the Chairman of the State Referee Committee. This subcommittee, chaired by the appropriate commissioner, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.
- 6.2.10. Referee assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing bodily, running into the referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
- 6.2.11. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act that implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee; using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece", shall be deemed referee abuse.

### **6.3. Misconduct at a Referee**

- 6.3.1. Should the North Texas subcommittee, as noted in paragraph 3.11.7-2 of the **NTSSA** Rules and Regulations, determine the action as misconduct at a referee but less than abuse or assault, it shall impose not less than a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested.
- 6.3.2. Misconduct at a referee means persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or abuse as provided under Federation Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:
- A. Excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;
  - B. Statements that diminish the authority of the referee;

- C. Statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.
  - D. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:
    - Confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;
    - Spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;
    - Throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;
    - Re-entering the field.
- 6.3.3. These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:
- A. If a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
  - B. If the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.
- 6.3.4. If the individual is found to have committed misconduct under this policy, he shall be suspended at least the next three (3) scheduled games. This suspension is in addition to any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league.
- 6.3.5. Misconduct of Referees. When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant or spectator of a match, the State Executive Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the referee in regard to his activities.

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## **7. AUTHORITY**

### **7.1. General**

- 7.1.1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the **NTSSA** have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **NTSSA**, **RCSA**, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its respective Youth and Senior Divisions. The **NTSSA** Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Associations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators and referees who choose to affiliate.

- 7.1.2. **RCSA** has been directed to form their own Appeals and Disciplinary Committees and to hold hearings - with the parties having the right to be present. The A&D Committee will review all card reports and misconduct by players, coaches, assistant coaches, parents and spectators. The A&D Committee will call hearings at its discretion. Hearings will normally be held for the ejection of a player, the caution or ejection of a coach/assistant coach and any misconduct by a parent or spectator. All Member Playing Associations are required to furnish the **NTSSA** State Office with a maintained up-to-date list of their A&D Chairman and Committee members and to include their addresses and phone numbers.
- 7.1.3. **RCSA** will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game into disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.
- 7.1.4. **RCSA** does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents and spectators.

## **7.2. Appellate Procedures**

- 7.2.1. All those under the jurisdiction of **NTSSA** are reminded that they must exhaust all appellate procedures of **RCSA** on all matters not covered by these Rules before the State Association can acquire jurisdiction to hear the appeal under its rules.
- 7.2.2. **RCSA** may set rules of hearings and may restrict the number of witnesses, and time allotted to each, so long as fair hearings are held. It may also determine whether it wants to allow closed or open hearings.
- 7.2.3. **RCSA** and its committees will refuse to hear any appeal when any person is threatening a lawsuit. The appeal will be passed to the next higher forum, which would hear it. This is a sport to which we are giving freely of our time, and none of us needs to take the trouble and expense to appear in court.
- 7.2.4. Should any aggrieved party resort to the courts without exhausting all avenues of appeal including through to the **USSF**, the State Association may, at its discretion, suspend such person or refuse to accept further registration in soccer activities within its jurisdiction.
- 7.2.5. An appeal of decisions, pursuant to 3.11 (Rule XI), made by **RCSA**, after **RCSA** appeal procedures have been exhausted, will be made to the State A&D Committee in accordance with procedures established by this section.
- 7.2.6. An appeal of decisions made by the State A&D Committee will be made to the State Executive Committee in accordance with procedures established in this section.
- 7.2.7. An appeal of decisions presented to the **NTSSA** will be in writing and made to the General Manager of **NTSSA** within five (5) days of receipt of written notice of the lower level authority's decision(s). Fees, as specified, will be in cash or certified check and will accompany the written notice of appeal.

- 7.2.8. Filing fees for appeals will, under no circumstances, be waived. Fees will be refunded to the appealing party only if the previous decision is overruled.

### **7.3. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**

- 7.3.1. **NTSSA** has urged all member associations and their committees to REFUSE to hear any protest or appeal when any person is threatening a lawsuit. The matter will be directed to **NTSSA**. The use of tape recorders, court reporters and the presence of an attorney at **RCSA** and **NTSSA** will not be permitted.
- 7.3.2. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee is responsible for investigating, hearing and disposing of in an equitable manner, all matters that are contrary to the Bylaws and Rules of the Association. All players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, parents, spectators, administrators, and others who are registered in **RCSA** and/or participate in soccer activities within the jurisdiction of Royse City Soccer Association shall abide by the Bylaws and Rules of Royse City Soccer Association, and will be subject to the decisions made by the **RCSA A&D** Committee.
- 7.3.3. Upon receipt of written notification, the A&D Committee shall conduct a confidential investigation of questioning any person with first-hand knowledge of the facts. The investigation must include an interview with the accused unless it can be determined no further action, including the preferring of the charge(s) is necessary or warranted. For the protection of parties who may be innocent, the investigation will avoid revealing details as much as possible.
- 7.3.4. If necessary, the A&D Committee will prepare the charge(s) that will be brought against the accused and the specifications(s) that will be addressed by the Committee.
- 7.1.1.1. The charge(s) sets forth the "offense" of which the accused is alleged to be guilty.
- 7.1.1.2. The specification(s) states "what" the accused is alleged to have done.
- 7.1.1.3. Notification of the Charge(s).
- 7.3.5. The accused is to be notified by mail with a letter notifying them of the date, hour, and place of the A&D hearing, containing an exact copy of the charge(s) and specification(s) and the statement "And is hereby cited to appear" at this meeting. The A&D Committee Chairman shall retain a copy of this notification. A copy of this notification shall be mailed to the Age Group Commissioner.
- 7.3.6. The Procedure of the A&D hearing will be as follows:
- A. The hearing will be called to order by the Chairman.
  - B. The Chairman will read the charge(s) and specification(s).
  - C. The Chairman will provide copies of all documents to all participants.
  - D. The Chairman will advise all participants of the decorum of the hearing and it shall be maintained.
  - E. The Chairman will inform the participants of the time allotted for each phase of the hearing and will call upon.

- F. The Appellant's, making charge, opening statement.
  - G. The Appellee's, being charged, opening statement.
  - H. The Appellant for presentation of argument, calling of witnesses and cross examination of Appellee through the Chairman.
  - I. The Appellee for presentation of argument, calling of witnesses and cross examination of Appellant through the Chairman.
  - J. The Committee members for cross-examination of the Appellee and Appellant.
  - K. The Appellant for a closing statement.
  - L. The Appellee for a closing statement.
- 7.3.7. The Chairman then states the question on the findings as to the guilt of the Appellee as prescribed in the charge(s) and specification(s) as preferred against the Appellee.
- 7.3.8. The charge(s) and specifications(s) can be amended to conform to facts brought out in the hearing, but not in such a way as to find the Appellee guilty of a charge(s) for which he has not been tried.
- 7.3.9. Each of the Specifications, and then the charge, is read, opened to debate, and voted on separately. If the Appellee is found guilty of one or more of the specifications but not of the charge, a lesser charge should be moved and voted on.
- 7.3.10. If the Appellee is found guilty, the Chairman announces that the next item of business is the determination of the penalty.
- 7.3.11. A Committee member shall make the determination of the penalty in the form of a motion. This motion is debatable and amendable by other Committee members. The Committee members shall take a Vote on this motion for penalty and the Chairman shall record the results of the vote.
- 7.3.12. If the Appellee is found guilty of a violation that states a specific penalty to be imposed, the Committee may enforce the prescribed penalty and/or additional penalties that the Committee feels are warranted based upon the severity of the violation as revealed in the Committee hearing.
- 7.3.13. If the Appellee is found not guilty, the Chairman shall record the findings and the Appellee shall be declared so.

#### **7.4. A&D Appellate Procedures:**

- 7.2.1. Any coach or player may appeal an A&D Committee finding to the Board by the following:
- A. File a written notice with the **RCSA** registrar within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of written notification of the A&D Committee ruling.
  - B. Include a \$50.00 deposit which will be refunded only if the Board overturns the ruling by the A&D Committee.

- 7.2.2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the board shall schedule the time and place of the hearing for the appeal of the A&D ruling. The Board shall immediately notify the following:
  - A. The coach of the team or individual(s) against or for whom the appeal is filed.
  - B. The Chairman and members of the A& D Committee, none of which will have a vote in the appellate procedure or be present during closed deliberation.
- 7.2.3. Any coach or player may appeal a finding of the Board to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee of **NTSSA** as prescribed by **NTSSA** Rules.

## **7.5. Violations**

- 7.5.1. Upon written receipt of an alleged violation of the Bylaws and/or rules the A&D Committee procedures shall be followed.
- 7.5.2. A coach, player, spectator, Board Member, or any other member of the Association that is found guilty of violating the rules and/or Bylaws of **NTSSA** or **RCSA** shall be penalized the prescribed penalty, if stated, and/or any additional penalty imposed by the A&D Committee.

## **7.6. Suspension**

- 7.6.1. Suspension must be served even if carried over to the next season. A player or coach under suspension who chooses to not participate in a season must fulfill that suspension in the season in which he returns to active participation.
- 7.6.2. **RCSA** requires that a suspended coach may not appear at the soccer complex while under suspension.
- 7.6.3. Players: **RCSA** requires that a suspended player may appear at the soccer complex only so long as he is not wearing any part of his uniform.
- 7.6.4. Team: A team must forfeit any game that a coach or player participates in if the coach or player is under suspension. The violation of the suspension will be submitted to the A&D Committee for further action.

## **7.7. Game Protest**

- 7.7.1. The following are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played.
  - A. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
  - B. There has been an obvious error made in the Laws of the Game by the referee, and the referee admits it.
- 7.7.2. No protests are allowed which are based on referee judgment decisions (**NTSSA** and **USSF** rules).
- 7.7.3. A protest may be lodged with the referee regarding the grounds, goal post or other appurtenances of the game provided such protest is lodged before the game begins.
- 7.7.4. The referee may require the home team to remove the cause of the objection.
- 7.7.5. If the objection remains, the coach may write a brief protest and submit it to the referee prior to fielding his team.

- 7.7.6. At the conclusion of the game, the referee shall note the fact of the pre-game protest on the game report; sign the written protest, returning it to the coach.
- 7.7.7. The coach must formally submit the protest in writing to **RCSA** even if his team won the match.
- 7.7.8. A coach may remove his team from the field of play before time has expired by informing the referee of his intention during a stoppage in the game. A coach who does remove his team from the field automatically forfeits the game and must submit a written report of reason for abandoning the game to the A&D Committee within seven (7) business days.