

# **Jacksonville Soccer Association By-Laws & Rulebook**

Revised and Adopted  
May 2025

# **Jacksonville Soccer Association Rulebook**

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# **Article I**

## **By-Laws**

### **Chapter 1**

#### **Membership and Elections**

##### **1.1 Membership**

The members of the Jacksonville Soccer Association shall be the parents or legal guardian of the youth registered with the Jacksonville Soccer Association, any person eighteen (18) years of age or older that is a registered player, and any head coach of a team registered with the Jacksonville Soccer Association.

##### **1.2 Voting**

Members are entitled to one (1) vote at the Executive Officer's Election. Those voting will be allowed to vote for any Executive Officer position on the ballot. For example, if a mother and father have two children, the family is entitled to two (2) votes for each Executive Officer contest on the ballot, as well as two (2) votes for each additional Board position on the ballot.

##### **1.3 Executive Officers Elections**

The Executive Officer's Elections shall be held at a location TBD on the third Thursday of May each year. All candidates must declare by written or electronic notice their candidacy a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the election by contacting the Secretary and Registrar and requesting their name be placed on the ballot. If no candidates declare their candidacy, then the office is vacant, and an appointment will be made according to the By-Laws of Jacksonville Soccer Association. Proxies shall NOT be allowed.

### **Chapter 2**

#### **Board of Directors**

##### **2.1 Management**

A Board of Directors shall manage the business and affairs of the Jacksonville Soccer Association. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) officers of the corporation, the commissioner for each age group, Vendor Liaison, and the Director of Community Outreach.

##### **2.2 Removal of Director**

###### **2.2.1 Removal of Director**

###### **2.2.1 Removal by Petition**

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his/her ability to remain in office. Any three (3) Directors, simultaneously, may petition for such a vote. The petition must be submitted in writing or electronic notice to the Executive Board, which, in turn,

will review the petition and forward copies of same to all other Directors within three (3) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Board of Directors members, after all Directors have been given fourteen (14) days written or electronic notice of such pending petition.

#### **2.2.2 Removal by Vote**

The Executive Board may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Board of Directors whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or severe improprieties, or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Executive Board Members so vote. If a Director receives this vote of no confidence, They is automatically suspended from the Board of Directors; at that time the Board of Directors, excluding the Executive Board, must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote removal to be effective.

#### **2.2.3 Removal for Failure to Attend Meetings**

Active participation by all Directors is necessary for the proper functioning of the Jacksonville Soccer Association. Once notice of a Board of Directors meeting is provided to a Director, it shall be the responsibility of that Director to either attend, or prior to the time of the meeting, notify the Director originally providing the notice of his or her inability to attend the meeting. Failure to attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of the called meetings by the Board of Directors for any six-month period will be considered a voluntary resignation unless the Executive Board excuses such absences.

#### **2.2.4 Removal by Resignation**

Any director, committee member, officer or agent may resign if giving written or electronic notice to the President. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or immediately if no time is specified. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### **2.2.5 Ten Year Prohibition**

Any director that has been removed by either petition or vote of no confidence may not run for or be appointed to any office or committee for a period of no less than ten (10) years.

### **2.3 Terms of Executive Officers**

The executive officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may succeed themselves in office. Any executive officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the office They is holding, prior to election. Elections shall be held pursuant to Section 1.3 above with one-half (1/2) of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

President – Even Years

Vice President – Odd Years

Secretary – Even Years

Treasurer – Odd Years

Referee Commissioner – Even Years  
Registrar – Odd Years

The term of office starts on June 1st for two (2) years to end on May 31st of second year. Elections for executive officers will be held in the above-mentioned years except in the event that there is a vacancy to the position. In the event of vacancy, the interested parties must run for election in the year necessary to fill a vacant seat and then repeat the process in the next regularly scheduled election year.

#### **2.4 Vacancies on Board of Directors**

The President shall fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors through appointment. In the event a vacancy in the office of President should occur, the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board of Directors following the occurrence shall elect, by an affirmative vote of a majority of those in attendance, a new President. However, the newly elected President must have, at any time in the past, served at least one (1) full year as a board member of the Jacksonville Soccer Association. Any Director filling a position that has been vacated will serve until the next election. That position will then be up for election no matter if it is odd or even years and will serve until the next regular election year.

#### **2.5 Quorum for Board of Directors Meeting**

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors or a majority of the Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise specifically required by law or by these by-laws.

#### **2.6 Motions and Reports Before the Board**

All motions to change the playing rules will be presented in writing by the presiding officer. A copy must be available for each board member present.

#### **2.7 Budget**

Every fiscal year starting January 1st, and ending December 31st, a balanced budget will be submitted by the Executive Board and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors on or before the regular May board meeting. The budget may only be amended by specific line items by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors.

#### **2.8 Notice**

##### **2.8.1 Manner of Giving Notice**

Whenever, under the provisions of the statutes or these by-laws, notice is required to be given to any member of the Association and no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall be construed to mean personal notice shall be given in writing, either by electronic means or by mail, postage paid, addressed to such Association member at the physical or electronic address appearing on the records of the Association. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at such time when the same is thus deposited in the United States Postal Service mail as aforesaid.

##### **2.8.2 Waiver of Notice**



Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member of the Association under the provisions of the statutes or these by-laws, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated in such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Executive Board**

#### **3.1 Officers of the Corporation**

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any person wishing to run for election of the office of President is required to have at any time in the past served at least one (1) year as a board member on the Jacksonville Soccer Association Board prior to filing as a candidate for the office. Collectively, the officers of the corporation make up the Executive Board.

#### **3.2 President**

The President will be charged with the overall administrative and executive functions of the corporation. marketing, public relations, social media, fundraising, tournaments and publicity of the association. They will be the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. They will preside at all general membership meetings. They will get a vote on all issues. They will also cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting, or They may waive the right to do so. They will assign duties to all officers as required. They will appoint such additional committees as They deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Association, and They will take prudent reasonable action in cases not covered within the by-laws, and such authority is implicit in the office. They will be responsible for verifying all taxes and 1099's are received by the individuals to meet the deadlines of NTSSA and the IRS.

#### **3.3 Vice President**

The Vice President will assist the President in the performance of his duties. They will assume and exercise all the powers of the President in his/her absence. They will chair any committee appointed to recommend changes in the rules and by-laws. They shall have primary responsibility for the fields, equipment for the corporation, awards, and rules and by laws. They will serve as liaison between Jacksonville Soccer Association and the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department.

#### **3.4 Referee Commissioner**

The Referee Commissioner will work with the Referees' Association for the purpose of improving the skill of the referees. They shall coordinate all referee education and clinics. They will accumulate records and monitor the caution and ejection points by player, coach, and team. They will initiate appropriate notification of requisite points by a player, coach, or team. The position will receive a seasonal pay of \$600 per season. This will be paid at the end of the season/or broken down equally over the duration of the season.

### **3.5 Secretary**

The Secretary will record the minutes of any Board of Directors meetings. They will attend to all correspondence of the corporation. They will keep a complete list of all registered players. They will notify the members of the Board of Director meeting times and dates; and will keep a complete schedule for each league which must be turned in the Friday prior to the coach's meeting. They, along with the Registrar, will be in charge of handling ballots in the general election.

### **3.6 Treasurer**

The Treasurer will collect all monies of the corporation and keep detailed accounting of all income and expenditures. They will pay all bills approved by the Board of Directors. They will need to get approval from the President or Vice President prior to making any transaction exceeding \$300. Approval of transactions exceeding \$300 must be in written or electronic mail form; as is notification of completed purchase to the approving officer. They will sign all checks on the corporation bank account, the checks to be countersigned by either the President or Vice President if the amount exceeds \$300. They will submit a written financial report to the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings and will be responsible for forwarding all mail received at the Jacksonville Soccer Association post office box. They will be responsible for submitting all taxes and 1099's to meet the deadlines of NTSSA and the IRS.

### **3.7 Registrar**

The Registrar will attend the regular meeting of the North Texas State Soccer Association. They will report to the Board of Directors any actions of the North Texas State Soccer Association. They will oversee all registration of players by the corporation. They will be responsible for forwarding messages with North Texas regarding registration of individuals and teams and will keep a supply of all forms needed to communicate with North Texas, including insurance forms. They will maintain all registration forms and online registration. They will maintain an updated list of all teams, coaches, and players in the association. They will be in charge of having signed, completed official team rosters no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the season. They, along with the Secretary, will be in charge of handling ballots in the general election. They will be allowed to appoint an individual (on as "as needed basis") to help in performance of his/her duties.

### **3.8 Preclusion from Service on Multiple Boards**

No Jacksonville Soccer Association Executive Board Member will serve on any other North Texas Soccer Association board.

## **Chapter 4 Other Board Members**

### **4.1 Tournament Director**

The Tournament Director will be responsible for planning, establishing, administering, and reporting on every tournament JSA conducts. This person will report to the JSA Executive Board and will follow directions provided by the JSA Executive Board. They will be the point of contact

for any third-party companies/individuals. They will also serve as the JSA Executive Board's point of contact about updates for the tournament. They will be responsible for producing a P&L Statement and present the results to the JSA Board at the first JSA Monthly Meeting after the conclusion of the tournament. This will be a paid position. The Tournament Director will receive 10% of net profits from the tournament. Amount will be reviewed and approved by the JSA Board after the P&L presentation.

#### **4.2 Top Soccer Director**

The Tournament Director will be responsible for planning, establishing, administering, and reporting on Jacksonville Top Soccer. This person will report to the JSA Executive Board and will follow directions provided by the JSA Executive Board. They will be the point of contact for any third-party companies/individuals. They will be responsible for producing a P&L Statement and present the results to the JSA Board at the first JSA Monthly Meeting after the conclusion of the season. They will be tasked with ensuring the league is in compliance with NTSA and JSA.

#### **4.3 U4 – U6 Commissioner**

The Commissioner will be responsible for creating the age level schedule for their specific age division(s). They will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. They will be required to have all schedules completed two weeks prior to the beginning of the season. They will maintain open communication with the President regarding any and all schedule changes happening after submission of the season schedule. They will be responsible for entering the schedules into any electronic database and/or website used by the Jacksonville Soccer Association and submitting a copy to the President. They shall have an updated list of age level teams, coaches, and players available in the event information is needed. They will act as liaison between age level members and coaches and the association. They will also assist with finding coaches for teams in need and ensuring all coaches complete all required training/certifications in accordance with NTSSA. Term expires every even year. Commissioners must not coach or manage a team in that division to avoid any conflicts of interest.

#### **4.4 U7 – U8 Commissioner**

The Commissioner will be responsible for creating the age level schedule for their specific age division(s). They will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. They will be required to have all schedules completed two weeks prior to the beginning of the season. They will maintain open communication with the President regarding any and all schedule changes happening after submission of the season schedule. They will be responsible for entering the schedules into any electronic database and/or website used by the Jacksonville Soccer Association and submitting a copy to the President. They shall have an updated list of age level teams, coaches, and players available in the event information is needed. They will act as liaison between age level members and coaches and the association. They will also assist with finding coaches for teams in need and ensuring all coaches complete all required training/certifications in accordance with NTSSA. Term expires every odd year.

Commissioners must not coach or manage a team in that division to avoid any conflicts of interest.

**4.5 U9 – U10 Commissioner**

The Commissioner will be responsible for creating the age level schedule for their specific age division(s). They will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. They will be required to have all schedules completed two weeks prior to the beginning of the season. They will maintain open communication with the President regarding any and all schedule changes happening after submission of the season schedule. They will be responsible for entering the schedules into any electronic database and/or website used by the Jacksonville Soccer Association and submitting a copy to the President. They shall have an updated list of age level teams, coaches, and players available in the event information is needed. They will act as liaison between age level members and coaches and the association. They will also assist with finding coaches for teams in need and ensuring all coaches complete all required training/certifications in accordance with NTSSA. Term expires every even year. Commissioners must not coach or manage a team in that division to avoid any conflicts of interest.

**4.6 U11+ Commissioner**

They will be responsible for gathering any information from coaches concerning special requests. They will be the point of contact for all teams playing in out-of-town leagues and will address any concerns that may arise. They shall have an updated list of age level teams, coaches, and players available in the event information is needed. They will act as liaison between age level members and coaches and the association. They will also assist with finding coaches for teams in need and ensuring all coaches complete all required training/certifications in accordance with NTSSA. Term expires every odd year. Commissioners must not coach or manage a team in that division to avoid any conflicts of interest.

**4.7 Director of Community Outreach**

The Director of Community Outreach will be responsible for representing the association on the Chamber of Commerce and other various relevant boards. The Director will also be responsible for advertising, cultivating, and maintaining sponsorship relationships, brand awareness, and building healthy relationships with community leaders. Term expires every odd year.

**4.8 Community Outreach Coordinator**

The Community Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for working directly with the Director of Community Outreach. They will be responsible for managing sponsorship relationships and sponsorship programs. They will organize sponsorship packages such as team picture with the sponsor, ordering sponsorship award, award presentation, ordering sponsorship sign/banner/etc., creating social media recognition, renewals, and new sponsorship deals. They will be tasked with creating sponsorship ideas and programs, as needed. They will also fill in, as

needed, when the Director of Community Outreach. All activities will be reported and summarized to the JSA Board during monthly meetings.

#### **4.9 Employees/Staff**

The Executive Board shall be authorized to employ such employees, as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Association. Employees shall not have a vote in any business of the Association except in the event that the Referee Assignor also holds a Board of Director position. The terms of employment for all employees shall be at the will of the Executive Committee.

## **Chapter 5 Board Meetings**

### **5.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm. at a place designated by the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors may vote to change the regularly scheduled meeting should the meeting conflict with another event such as, but not limited to, holidays or Spring Break. Notices of meetings and notices of rescheduled meetings shall be posted on social media avenues used by Jacksonville Soccer Association. Board meetings are open to the public; however, any guest requesting to address the Board must notify an Executive Board Member at least 48 hours prior to the next scheduled meeting. All items needing to be added to the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the next scheduled meeting. The regularly scheduled meeting shall be adjourned two (2) hours after the call to order unless a motion is made to extend the time to complete the agenda or to adjourn earlier if all agenda items have been completed. The presiding officer will halt the discussion in progress approximately ten (10) minutes before adjournment time to call for a motion to continue. If no motion is received, a time and place must be set to reconvene the agenda.

### **5.2 Emergency Meetings**

The President may call for an emergency meeting of the Board at a place and time of his/her choosing to conduct business as long as a valid quorum is present.

### **5.3 Executive Board Meeting**

Any Executive Board Member may call for an executive board meeting at the place and time of his/her choosing to conduct business as long as valid quorums of executive board members are present.

## **Chapter 6 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on the first day of January each year and end on the thirty-first day of December each year.

## **Chapter 7 Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the assets shall be distributed to any exempt organization under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Directors are to use their best discretion in making the distribution of assets to such exempt organizations under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and special consideration will be given to organizations promoting youth soccer.

## **Chapter 8 Parliamentary Procedure**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's' Rules of Order (newly revised) shall govern in all cases to which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order.

## **Chapter 9 Amendments to By-Laws**

These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, provided all the directors have been given twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.

## **Article II Amendments to the NTSSA Rules and Regulations**

### **Chapter 10 Governing Rules**

Play in all member leagues of the Jacksonville Soccer Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as JSA) shall be 14 governed by the official laws and decisions authorized by North Texas State Soccer Association, (hereafter referred to as NTSSA) the United States Soccer Federation, and FIFA for the current soccer year. In addition, the following rules are hereby adopted by JSA to better define certain laws and regulations.

### **Chapter 11 Inclement Weather**

The JSA has adopted the weather policy and procedure found in Appendix One of these Rules. In the event of inclement weather or other exceptional circumstances making the playing of any scheduled game on an assigned field at the time specified impossible or impractical as determined by the Vice President, the coordinators shall attempt to notify the coach of each team of game cancellations. In the absence of such express notification, it shall be assumed that the game will be played as scheduled. The playing rules related to the declaring of loss by forfeit for failure to field the required number of players shall be in full force and effect. The referee may, at his discretion, declare a field dangerous or unplayable and postpone the game.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Playing Time**

Each player must play approximately one-half (1/2) of each game. A player arriving late or having a penalty resulting from prior play may alter a player's ability to play at least one-half (1/2) of the game. A coach may reduce a player's playing time for disciplinary reasons, provided the Commissioner and the player (if 18 or over) or the player's parents or guardian (if player is under 18) is notified in writing of the action to be taken prior to the start of the game. The Age-Level Commissioner must then turn the written notification in to the league Secretary who will then submit the notification to the President. In the case of U-6 and U-8 Leagues, playing time may not be reduced for disciplinary reasons, following the procedures found above, to less than one-quarter (1/4) of the game.

## **Chapter 13**

### **General Rules**

#### **13.1 Practice Time**

U-4 through U-10 Leagues shall limit their practice to four (4) hours per week. All other leagues shall limit their practices to six (6) hours per week.

#### **13.2 Casts, Braces, & Splints**

The referee for any game may deny a player if They is wearing a brace or splint. HARD CASTS WILL BE ALLOWED IF PROPERLY WRAPPED WITH A SOFT COVER AND NOT USED AS A WEAPON. The referee is to decide whether a hard cast meets properly wrapped standards. The referee also determines if/when the wrapped cast becomes a weapon used by the injured player against another. No jewelry of any kind shall be permitted (this includes bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc.). The decision of the referee will be final.

#### **13.3 Roster Players**

Roster players are players currently on a team roster. A player may be removed from the roster during the season if They or his/her parents sign a statement that They no longer intends to play. If/When the removed player registers to play within JSA again; their application must be submitted into the draft.

#### **13.4 Guest Players**

A recreational guest player may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's recreational roster for the remainder of the current soccer year. If the guest player registers in the hosting team's association the following year, or any subsequent year, their application must be submitted into the draft (following by-law rule 18.14 outlining draft requests).

#### **13.5 Background Checks**

Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc., must have satisfactorily passed a criminal background check.

#### **13.6 Wins, Losses, Forfeits, and Postponements**

In addition to forfeits by other means provided in NTSSA, a forfeit will be declared fifteen (15) minutes after a schedule start unless a team is able to field at least seven (7) players for U-12 through U-19; five (5) players for U-9 through U-10; and three (3) players for U-4 through U-8.

#### **13.7 League Standings**

Points for league standings will be calculated and applied for age levels U-9 and up. League standings will be determined by total points accumulated as follows: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. League or Division ties shall be decided by the following tiebreakers, in order: Head-to-Head, Total Goal Difference (friendlies not included), and PK Shootout in accordance with NTSSA guidelines.

#### **13.8 Game Duration, Soccer Ball Size, Goal Size, and Number of Players**

The JSA has adopted the standards found in Appendix Two for game duration, goal size, number of players on the field, soccer ball size, and offside.

#### **13.9 Non-Rostered Players**

Non-Rostered players are U-7 through U-10 players not assigned to a recreational team roster and as defined by North Texas age-based definition. A non-rostered player can only participate in an academy league or as a guest player for either a recreational or academy tournament. A player may not be added to a recreational team roster during the season. If/When the non-rostered player registers to play within JSA again, his/her application must be submitted into the draft. U11 through U19 players are not eligible for non-roster registration.

#### **13.10 U8 and Below Substitutions**

All u8 and below games will not allow substitutions during quarters (unless due to injury or some unforeseen circumstances within the referee's discretion). All substitutions must be made during quarter breaks.

#### **13.11 U8 Build-Up Line**

A Build-Up Line will be implemented in the U8 and below divisions proportionate to the U9/U10 field dimensions. This is in place to encourage all players on the field to participate in the build-up of attacks and prevent pseudo goalies in these age divisions. The rules that apply to these lines are as follows:

- All defensive players must be behind the Build-Up Line during all goal kicks (mirroring what happens in U9/U10)



- All defensive players must transition above the Build-Up Line once the ball crosses midfield into their attacking half. No player should be stationary behind that line while their team is in the attack phase.
- Players may transition behind that line once the opposing team enters their defensive half.

## **Chapter 14**

### **Game Protocol**

#### **14.1 Behavior of Coach**

Prior to the start of a game, each coach shall introduce himself to the referee and introduce or indicate his respective assistant coach, if any. Coaches may issue positive verbal instructions to their players on the field of play, but only to the point of not being disruptive to the game. This does not mean that the coaches in the younger age groups cannot position their players and issue tactical instructions. The older age players will require fewer instructions as their knowledge of the game increases. The referee will be sole judge of when a coach uses negative or derogatory statements, which in his judgment will bring the game into disrepute, and only positive or supportive comments will be allowed. Coaches must not allow any parent or spectator to do any coaching during the game and will be responsible for their conduct.

#### **14.2 Behavior of Parents and Spectators**

Coaches shall be responsible for the behavior of the spectators and be advised to refrain from using abusive or offensive language, contesting referee decisions, or otherwise displaying displeasure with respect to actions on the field and to caution spectators regarding such behavior. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in penalties and possible abandonment of the game. Coaches are subject to be cautioned or ejected by the referee. When a coach is ejected for any reason, he must leave the vicinity of the game and will not be allowed at his/her team's next game.

#### **14.3 Choice of Sidelines & Color Conflict**

Spectators and fans of both teams will occupy one sideline with players on the other. With the exception of a parent tending to an injured child, spectators, fans, and siblings are not allowed on the players' sideline nor are they allowed to sit behind either end line. The home team is listed first on the schedule and must change jerseys in case of color conflict.

#### **14.4 Five (5) Foot Touchline Rule**

All persons attending a game, including coaches, shall remain at least five (5) from the respective touchline. All persons not on the field of play shall remain in the area extending, in case of U-6 through U-10 league play, twenty-five (25) yards on either side of the midfield line.

#### **14.5 Goal Difference Rule**

U9/U10 Games Only: Max goal difference allowable for standing is 7 goals. Any goal difference higher will not be recorded, nor count towards standings.

## **Chapter 15**

### **Protests**

#### **15.1 General Protest Rules**

All protests must be filed in writing within forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Sundays, after the incident, with the Registrar. A \$50.00 protest fee must be made at the time the protest is filed. The protesting coach must clearly indicate in writing that They is protesting, not merely making a complaint or suggestion to bring about some rule changes. Should the protest be upheld, the disputed game will be replayed in a fashion prescribed by the A&D Committee. And the protest fee shall be returned by the Registrar.

#### **15.2 Protesting a Judgement Call**

Protests based on judgment calls made by the referee will not be entertained, as judgment calls cannot be reversed. The only two acceptable reasons for protesting a game after it has been played are:

1. A team knowingly played an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or
2. There were obvious errors made in the application of the Laws of the game that directly affected the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.

A game cannot be protested because a player, team, coach, parent, or fan thinks the referee was incompetent. Complaints should be directed to the Jacksonville Referees' Association or the State Referee Committee.

#### **15.3 Conflicts of Interest**

##### **15.3.1 Definition**

A conflict of interest exists when a referee or linesman (or their spouse) is related to the coach, assistant coach or player on a team participating in a game he/she is to officiate.

##### **15.3.2 Procedure When Conflict Exists**

The referee assignor should maintain a current list of all conflicts of officials. However, an occasional conflict of interest may arise due to an oversight, an incomplete list or scheduling of games. If after arriving at a game an official or coach realizes that a conflict of interest exists, they should notify the referee who will call both coaches together to inform them of the conflict. If both coaches agree to play the game using the official(s) assigned, or using a fewer number of officials, then the outcome will be final. If one of the coaches cannot accept the official because of a conflict of interest, then an attempt should be made to substitute that official with another official of equal or similar qualifications, if one is available in the immediate area. If no alternate official is available, then the game will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date. Both coaches will sign the official's card on which has been noted "Abandoned; Conflict of Interest."

### **15.3.3 Procedure When Conflict Discovered Post-Game**

Should a conflict of interest involving an official become known within seven (7) days of the completion of the game, either coach or assistant coach of the opposing teams may petition the A&D Committee to replay the game. The petition must be delivered to the Registrar within seven (7) days, exclusive to Sunday, of the date the game was played. No fee will be required to accompany the petition.

### **15.3.4 Replaying Game While Coach Suspended**

Should the game be replayed before game suspension resulting from caution points or ejections received by a coach has been served, the A&D Committee must decide if the coach can attend the game. The facts and circumstances surrounding the suspension should be weighed and reviewed to make the determination. The suspension cannot be abated; only postponed to the next scheduled game. In no event will a player's suspension be postponed.

### **15.3.5 Conflict of Interest with Coordinator**

Should a scheduler need to schedule a game which is a makeup game for a scheduled season game or a postseason game for a play-off challenge, or regulation and a conflict of interest exists with regard to the coordinator, the scheduler will notify both coaches that a conflict of interest exists before a game is scheduled. If both coaches agree to play the game as scheduled, the outcome of the game will be final. If either coach or assistant coach cannot accept the proposed schedule because of conflict of interest, the coordinator will schedule the game for the earliest possible time for which officials will be available.

### **15.3.6 Procedure When Conflict Discovered Post-Game**

Should a conflict of interest involving the coordinator, or an alternate, become known within seven (7) days of the completion of the game, either coach of the opposing teams may petition the A&D Committee to replay the game. The petition must be delivered to the Registrar within seven (7) days, exclusive to Sundays, of the date of the game. No fee will be required to accompany the petition. Should the game be replayed before game suspension resulting from caution points or ejections received by a coach has been served, the A&D Committee must decide if the coach can attend the game. The facts and circumstances surrounding the suspension should be weighed and reviewed to make the determination. The suspension cannot be abated; only postponed to the next scheduled game. In no event will a player's suspension be postponed.

## **15.4 General Issue/Concern Meeting**

Any issues pertaining to a complaint by a coach, parent, or other recognized JSA member will be permitted to formally request a meeting with the JSA board. They will need to be provided via written request or email. The written request must be given to a current JSA board member and include the following information: grievance or reason for the meeting, any/all by-laws relating to the issue, all parties involved in said issue, and any additional information that is relevant to the request. This must be provided within 7 days of said incident via the methods listed above. The JSA Board will have 14 days to review the request and respond to the submitting party. If the board deems a meeting is necessary, the meeting will be set within 21 days of the initial

submission. All decisions made, in regards to the issue, at that board meeting will be final as permitted by JSA by-laws.

## **Chapter 16**

### **Registration**

#### **16.1 Schedule**

Registration will run a minimum of four (4) consecutive weeks for each season ending the Saturday prior to the beginning of the drafts. The drafts will be held one (1) week following the close of registration and end at least three (3) weeks prior to the first scheduled regular season games. After registration ends, all late registrants will be placed on the waiting list by the Registrar with his/her registration date and time noted. Unless unforeseen circumstances impact the ability to fulfill these expectations within said timeframe. The board would then do their best to adhere to the schedule described above within reason.

#### **16.2 Placement of Players Registering After Draft**

The first player to be placed on a team from the waiting list shall be the player of the earliest date and time and so on. Age level availability and waitlist date and time will be the only determining factors for placement. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DRAFT UNLESS EXCEPT IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THE NEED TO FILL A ROSTER SPOT FOR TEAM FORMATION. A late fee will be assessed to all late registrants unless first approved by the Board of Directors to be waived due to aiding the association in filling a roster spot for team formation.

#### **16.3 Registration Rate**

The board shall set or re-adopt the registration rate based on the previous year's budget to meet the needs of JSA. A late fee of \$100 will be assessed to all late registrants unless approved by the Board of Directors to be waived due to aiding the association in filling a roster spot for team formation. Returned checks will suspend the player's registration status. Players will not be allowed to practice or play until appropriate fees are paid. Financial assistance will be approved according to the amount budgeted per calendar year and will not be accepted after the end of late registration. Players receiving financial assistance may be required to meet predetermined requirements.

## **Chapter 17**

### **Draft**

#### **17.1 Assignment to Prior Team**

Players registering prior to the end of registration, who played on a team in the previous soccer season, will be assigned to that team UNLESS they have registered as a free agent under the rules provided herein. ALL PLAYERS REGISTERING AFTER REGISTRATION ENDS will be placed on the waiting list. All players on a team which participated in the preceding season and remains

together as a team for the next season must play on that same team or be placed in the player pool. A player may sit out one season but must pay full registration fee for that season to remain on the roster of the team. Any player not registered will not be carried on the team roster and may not return 20 directly to the team the next season but will be placed in the draft.

**17.2 U4 through U8 Draft**

Players in age group U-4 through U-8 will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players when a team fields four (4) players. A team may be required to take up to eight (8) players. It is recommended to have six players per team roster. Roster sizes may fluctuate based on situation/needs interpreted by the Registrar and the JSA Board.

**17.3 U9/U10 Draft**

Players in age group U-9 through U-10 will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players when a team fields seven (7) players. A team may be required to take up to twelve (12) players. It is recommended to have ten players per team roster. Roster sizes may fluctuate based on situation/needs interpreted by the Registrar and the JSA Board.

**17.4 U12 Draft**

Players in age group U-12 will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fourteen (14) players when a team fields nine (9) players. A team may be required to take up to fourteen (14) players. It is recommended to have twelve players per team roster. Roster sizes may fluctuate based on situation/needs interpreted by the Registrar and the JSA Board.

**17.5 U14 Draft**

Players in age group U-14 will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of eighteen (18) players when a team fields eleven (11) players. A team may be required to take up to eighteen (18) players. It is recommended to have fifteen players per team roster. Roster sizes may fluctuate based on situation/needs interpreted by the Registrar and the JSA Board.

**17.6 U16 through U19 Draft**

Players in age group U-16 through U-19 will be drafted (including the formation of new teams) until such a time as each team has a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of twenty (20) players when a team fields eleven (11) players. A team may be required to take up to twenty (20) players. It is recommended to have eighteen players per team roster. Roster sizes may fluctuate based on situation/needs interpreted by the Registrar and the JSA Board.

**17.7 Formation of New Teams**

Players in the draft pool will be subject to draft by existing teams and newly formed teams so long as players are required to fill the rosters on those teams. If there are no coaches for these new teams at the time of the draft, a league representative will draft players in their absence in order to form these new teams. Parents of players on these new teams will be notified of the assignment and may be asked to participate in coaching temporarily or in finding a new coach.

**17.8 Assignment by Registration Date**

The waitlist players are to be assigned to the draft according to their registration date and time. If players register on the same day, lot will determine assignment order.

**17.9 Player Required Approval**

No player shall be allowed to play or practice until the registration form is submitted to the Registrar and the player is approved by the Registrar as being within all required rules regarding placement of the player on the team.

**17.10 Draft Order**

Each player application will receive a number that will be drawn by the coach during the draft, all drafts will be blind. Coaches shall draft new players for their respective teams from the player pool. The team with the fewest players will begin drafting players until they reach the same number of players as the next lowest populated team. When more than one team is drawing a player, the coaches will take turns drawing one at a time. The draft will continue in this manner until all players have been selected or team size has reached its maximum population. No names of players will be released until the draft in that age group is completed. JSA Registrar will oversee all numbering of player forms and distributing of player names after the drafting process has completed.

**17.11 Carpool Rule in Drafting**

Up to three (3) players may be drafted as a group to accommodate carpooling in the U-4 through U-10 age groups ONLY. If a carpool group is drafted, that coach must pass in the draft number of rounds equivalent to the number of players in that carpool. Carpool request may only be made for carpooling with other players in the draft. A request for a carpool with a player already on a team will not be accepted.

**17.12 Brother/Sister Rule**

Sisters and brothers of a player already on a team may play on the same team at the parents' request and with prior approval by JSA executive board. (as roster size will allow).

**17.13 Parent Allowed to Take Child to New Team Only**

Any parent wishing to start a new team shall be allowed to take their child to that team without being required to draft this child to be placed on the team. This applies to the HEAD COACH of the new team ONLY.

**17.14 No Request for Specific Team (Buddy Rule)**

In order to promote soccer participation a player may invite a friend, who has not registered in JSA for the last two seasons, to join his/her existing team with the permission of Jacksonville Soccer Association provided there is space available on the team. This is a one-to-one system, and both of their registration forms must list only the agreed upon friend. If the names do not match up, both players will be placed in the draft. In the event that a team has limited space and multiple players on the same existing team are requesting to invite a friend, the available space will be filled by the appropriate Board of Director members, not the coach. If roster limits preclude accepting all players designated within this rule, then the earliest registration time and date will be accepted.

**17.15 Drafting Attendance**

ABSOLUTELY NO ONE OTHER THAN THE COACH AND HIS/HER ASSISTANT OR REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE DRAFT. Draft will not begin without the Registrar or in his/her absence, an Executive Officer being present.

**17.16 Refusal to Play on a Team After Draft**

Once players have been placed on teams through the draft procedure, said players must play on those teams and may not place themselves back on the waiting list. If the player chooses not to play on his/her assigned team and does not attend any practices, the player must sit out the season. NO PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OF THEIR REGISTRATION FEES FOR THE REASON OF REFUSING TO PLAY ON THEIR DRAFTED TEAM. If a player decides to sit out the season the parents must give verbal or written declaration of intentions to the coach or Registrar so that no jersey will be ordered.

**17.17 Players Not Assigned in Draft**

Players who are not assigned to a team in the draft when there are not enough to form a new team shall be offered to all interested teams. If no coach takes the player/players, the player/players will be assigned to the team with the least number of players in that age group as room allows as outlined in Sections 18.2 – 18.6. If more than one (1) team is tied with the least number of players, numbers will be drawn between those teams to see who will receive the first, second, third, etc... player.

**17.18 Age Division/Group**

JSA will make a reasonable attempt to form teams/divisions in single birth year age groups (age pure). The age division of the team is determined by the birth date of the oldest player on the team of the current soccer year (refer to North Texas youth age chart). For players moving up divisions, they will be placed in the same pool as the division they are entering, hence, age pure designation will not apply. Playing divisions may be made of two-year increments if needed, however, only games played against age-level teams will count toward standings.

**17.19 Age Division Declaration**

All players must declare their intention to move up age divisions at the time of registration. JSA will not accept any changes in this designation unless special approval is made by the JSA Board.

**17.20 JSA Teams Playing in Other Associations**

Teams U11 and above register with JSA and play in the Tyler Soccer Association in accordance with our agreement with that association. Teams u10 and below have the option to play in Tyler, but must pay for it separately through JSA. All JSA games must take priority. JSA will work with other associations to prevent scheduling conflicts within reason. Any JSA games that are forfeited will result in a 2-game suspension which will apply to all North Texas sanctioned games.

## **Chapter 18**

### **Recreational Teams**

**18.1 Age Division**

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be the player's age on January 1st of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins January 1st and ends December 31st of the following year. Players who turn three (3) years of age during the soccer year will be eligible to play when they turn three (3) if registration is available.

**18.2 Requirements for a Team**

Each team, once formed, may stay together as a team from season to season as long as there continues to be a core of players and a coach in all age groups. Any team may move up to the next league (age group) as a team as long as these conditions are met.

**18.3 New Coach Who Forms a Team**

If there is a coach who wishes to form a team in any division but who does not currently have a team, they shall be allowed to form a team by drafting from the pool with other teams in the division in which the new team is formed. The coach of the new team shall draft last in the division or by draw for the position if there is more than one new team. The coordinator shall place the new teams in the lowest division in the league.

**18.4 Team Attending Tournament**

A coach will give the scheduler and coordinator two-week advance notice if they are going to attend a tournament and cannot make a season game. If the scheduler and coordinator are notified in less than two weeks in advance, the game will be a forfeit. A recreational team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) rescheduled weeks per season to attend a tournament.

**18.5 Teams Not Originated in JISD**

Players not in JISD and registered to play in their own district (Rusk, Alto, etc...) must be drafted first by the coach of a team originating within these school district boundaries. Before drafting begins, the coach must indicate if he plans to draft any of these players in his school district. If more than one team originating in the same age bracket is in this school district, the coach must only indicate that he plans to draft those players requesting his school district. If a coach passes over and does not draft those players first, then any coach may draft them, providing a phone call is made to the player's parents for approval. Once a coach passes over these players and drafts a player from JISD, the requesting players are free to be drafted.

**18.6 Number of Players to Field U4 through U8**

Teams in age group U-4 through U-8 will field four (4) players with no goalkeeper. No player shall be allowed to enter the semi-circle surrounding the goal.

**18.7 Number of Players to Field U9 through U10**

Teams in age group U-10 will field seven (7) players.

**18.8 Number of Players to Field U12**

Teams in age group U-12 will field nine (9) players.

**18.9 Number of Players to Field U14 through U19**

Teams in age group U-14 through U-19 will field eleven (11) players.

**18.10 Same Name Rule**



No team may have the same name as any other team in the same age division. In the event a team disregards this rule, the team entered first in the computer will remain the name and the new team shall be changed in the computer to the head coach's last name until the team complies with this rule.

#### **18.11 Concession Stand Rule**

The Concession Stand will be placed under the supervision of a vendor that will be presented by the Vendor Liaison and voted on by the JSA Board. JSA will reserve the right to assume control of the concession if/when all contracts with the approved vendor(s) have been fulfilled. The contract will be subject to a commission-based return for JSA unless otherwise designated by the JSA Board.

#### **18.12 Field Monitor Rule**

When a team is scheduled to monitor their age group fields and does not show up or contact the Vice President to reschedule at least one week prior to their scheduled time; that team's coach will be suspended from scheduled play for two (2) consecutive league/tournament games. At least one (1) Board Member will be assigned to be a complex monitor each weekend. If any issue should arise please contact any Board Member available at the fields.

#### **18.13 Approved Jersey**

An approved JSA jersey will be assigned to each team and must be worn during JSA regular season at the JSA complex. For age divisions up to U-10, the jersey will be provided each fall season. New jerseys will be provided in the spring for the following reasons: new player, new team, or for specific situations that are presented to the board at their discretion. The jerseys will be provided by the designated vendor and the cost will be included in the seasonal registration fee. Each coach will have to follow the steps provided by the designated vendor to choose colors, designs, etc. by the date set by the vendor. If the jersey is not worn, the player will not be able to play designated JSA regular game; exception being the goalkeeper. If a jersey replacement is required, the jersey fee and its shipping costs will be parent/guardian's responsibility; an approved, like-colored shirt may be worn if player is waiting for jersey shipment. Jersey orders will not be placed after the fourth weekend of the soccer season. However, JSA will provide jersey distributor information to coaches/parents in the event of a lost or damaged jersey so that they may order a new jersey at their own expense. Player names are not permitted on the back of player jerseys for safety reasons. All age divisions above U-10 will be responsible for their own jerseys. The cost of jerseys will not be assessed within their registration fee. They will have the ability to reach out to JSA to order jerseys if needed. Those requests will have to adhere to the same guidelines as the other jerseys being ordered by JSA.

JSA will allow teams in all divisions to provide their own jersey, outside of the one that is provided by JSA, provided they meet the following criteria:

- JSA Badge (located on the top left corner on the front of the jersey)
- No player names
- Sponsors may only be located on the back of the jersey, above the player number
- Sponsors must be approved by JSA (only family-friendly sponsors, no alcohol or inappropriate businesses, etc.)
- JSA must approve jerseys before they are used for JSA-sanctioned activities

#### **18.14 Coaching with the same Age Division**

Coaches will not be permitted to coach teams within the same age division. This applies to Assistant Coaches and Managers. For example, a coach/assistant/manager may not be rostered on a team that play each other during the season (regular or friendly). The JSA Board reserves the right to review and discuss any situation that may fall under these guidelines.

#### **18.15 Reschedules**

Any reschedule request needs to be sent to be presented to the JSA Board at least 2 weeks before the scheduled game. This will allow time to review field and referee availability. Any request made within that timeframe will be declined unless the JSA Board reviews and makes an exception based on extenuating circumstances.

## **Chapter 19 Soccer Academies**

### **19.1 Definition**

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

#### **19.1.1 Players Must be on a Recreational Team**

Players registered with Jacksonville Soccer Association are required to be on a recreational roster and participate on a recreational team.

### **19.2 Background Checks**

Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc., of Soccer Academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and information sent to NTSSA.

### **19.3 General Rules**

Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association Registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by a North Texas Soccer Member Youth Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a

time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.

#### **19.4 League Play**

Member Associations may provide league play if they have enough teams or may coordinate with other Member Associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play will be designated as Under 7 through Under 10. Scores and standings should not be kept.

#### **19.5 Formation & Tournament Play**

Soccer Academy teams are not considered “registered teams,” and therefore do not have to follow recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments unless the tournament has specified a “Soccer Academy” bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament. Soccer Academy teams may not travel out of NTSSA as a team to play in tournaments.

#### **19.6 Rosters**

Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.

#### **19.7 Purpose**

The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:

1. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills;
2. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches; and
3. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.

#### **19.8 Recruiting**

Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.

#### **19.9 Priority of Teams**

For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with an NTSSA Member youth association recreational or recreational plus team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the NTSSA recreational team or recreational plus team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment during the recreational season, except on Sundays.

## **Chapter 20**

### **Competitive/Club Players**

A competitive (club) player is obligated to his/her competitive team for the soccer playing year for competitive players from the time They signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer-playing year (August 1st of the prior soccer year through May 31st of the current soccer year) and any release to transfer to another NTSSA competitive team will be allowed only in limited circumstances. A written request for a release with the purpose of being able to transfer to another competitive team must be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee. This shall be done between the date of December 1st and January 31st for U-11 through U-14 and December 1st and March 15th for U-15 through U-19 only. The parent/player making the appeal will be required to attend a Competitive Soccer Committee hearing to consider the request. Any appeal of the decision of the Competitive Soccer Committee must be made directly to the Executive Committee of NTSSA within five (5) days. A player may leave a competitive team to go into his home Member Association recreational player pool at any time during the soccer year. Any recreational player currently rostered to a recreational team and wishing to be released to join a competitive team may do so only between December 1st and January 31st for U-11 through U-14 and December 1st through March 15th for U-15 through U-19 and may do so only with the written permission of the Member Association in which They is currently rostered. A competitive registration form must be completed prior to the player's transfer to a competitive team.

## **Chapter 21**

### **Schedulers and Commissioners**

#### **21.1 Priority Schedule**

The age level commissioners should request officials based upon the following priority schedule. The referee assignor will use the same priority schedule to assign referees to games. When requesting an official, the coordinator should notify the assignor why the game is being scheduled or rescheduled. The following priority list should be used:

1. Season Games listed on copy of season furnished to assignor whether game is scheduled on Saturday or any other day.
2. Games on season schedule not played due to lack of an official.
3. Games on season schedule not played due to rain or other uncontrollable events.
4. Play-off games required deciding a team's standing to receive an award.
5. Regulation games (Fall season only).
6. Games rescheduled due to teams participating in a tournament.

#### **21.2 Fields**

The age level commissioner shall schedule all games at JSA Complex for teams that register through JSA or NTSSA. All games played will be scheduled through the age level commissioner and approved by the Vice President. The following procedures should be followed in order to obtain usage of a field:

1. The proper commissioner should be contacted. The age level commissioner must then get approval from Vice President for all game changes at JSA Complex.
2. Only games may be scheduled for playing fields at JSA Complex.
3. All games at JSA Complex require two (2) separate registered teams in uniform and a licensed referee in uniform assigned through the Jacksonville Soccer Association Assignor.
4. Assignors and age level commissioners will report any abuse of this privilege to the Board of JSA immediately

## **Chapter 22**

### **Coaches**

#### **22.1 Coaching Changes**

Coaching changes involving players on an existing team must go before and be approved by a panel consisting of Vice President (or designee), Registrar and appropriate age Coordinator.

#### **22.2 Approval of Coaches Required**

The JSA Board, prior to each Spring and Fall Season, must approve team coaches, assistant coaches, and managers. A new team coach, assistant coach, or manager that is designated at draft or for any other reason by the Vice President (or designee), Registrar, and appropriate age coordinator is considered in a temporary status until approved by the JSA Board. If the JSA Board does not approve a particular coach, that coach must relinquish all coaching responsibilities immediately.

#### **22.3 Background Checks**

Every person over the age of 17, who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must have on file with NTSSA a completed "NTSSA Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check" (NTSSA Adult Application). For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

## **Chapter 23**

### **Discipline**

#### **23.1 Governing Rules**

The official laws shall govern play in all member leagues of JSA and decisions authorized NTSSA, The United States Soccer Association, The United States Soccer Federation and FIFA as amended by JSA. The following disciplines are hereby adopted by JSA for failure to comply with the rules and regulations. All coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the following disciplines if he or she:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Improperly dismisses a player from a team:  | <b>TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION</b>  |
| Falsifies the number of players on a team:  | <b>TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION</b>  |
| Holds practice in excess of the limits established:   | <b>TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION</b>  |
| In any way holds tryouts to establish membership:   | <b>TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEAR SUSPENSION</b>   |
| Refuses to accept players to a maximum required by League Committee to enable a registered player to be assigned to a team: | <b>TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION</b>  |
| Allows an unregistered player to play with a team:  | <b>SUSPENSION FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR</b>  |
| Fails to comply with the rule pertaining to playing time for any game played under the direction of JSA:                    | <b>FIRST OFFENSE – FORFEIT THE GAME PLAYED</b><br><b>SECOND OFFENSE – FORFEIT THE GAME PLAYED AND A TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION</b> |

## **23.2 Practicing at JSA Complex**

Teams will be allowed to practice at the JSA Complex on the fields designed by the JSA Board. This ability is a privilege that will be extended to all JSA Teams. The JSA Board will communicate the dates the fields will be open for practice during the season. Practice for Tournament of Champions will be allowed at JSA Complex on the lighted fields but must be approved and coordinated with Vice President prior to practice date and time. The first violation will result in a verbal warning. The second violation will result in a 2-game suspension to be served by the head coach. A third violation will result in a 2-year suspension to be served by the head coach. Violations must be witnessed by a JSA Board Member or a person who has visual evidence that has been submitted to JSA. These penalties also apply to any teams using the game fields without written permission from the Vice President.

## **23.3 Misconduct of Players/Coaches**

### **23.3.1 Misconduct**

A coach or assistant coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators and/or are issued a 4-point caution by the referees, resulting from said behavior, then that coach or assistant coach or their representatives are required to appear before the JSA A&D Committee which will assess the team involved forty (40) points under the caution-point system. All players/assistant coaches receiving red cards will have their names listed in the minutes of the next JSA Board of Directors meeting minutes.

### **23.3.2 Misconduct of Coach Who is Also Official**

A coach or assistant coach who is also a JSA Referee or JSA Board of Director member, and as such representative of the standards of exemplary behavior of JSA, and whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators resulting from said behavior, that coach or assistant coach is required to appear before the JSA Executive Committee. If the coach or assistant coach fails or refuses to appear

before the JSA Executive Committee at the given time, JSA Executive Committee will assess the team involved forty (40) points under the caution-point system.

### **23.3.3 Red Cards and Suspension**

All players, coaches, assistant coaches receiving red cards will have their names listed in the next JSA BOD meeting minutes. Game suspensions for caution points and/or ejections will result in mandatory presence at the next JSA A&D Committee hearing. The suspension is to be served by the player, coach, or assistant coach at the next regular scheduled JSA league game that counts toward team standings in their league/division (excluding U-6 and U-8 league play whose suspension will be served at the next scheduled game). This includes regular scheduled JSA league games for standings and playoff or championship games for JSA league standings. This does not include local and/or State tournaments or any other games that the team is involved in that do not count toward team standings in their respective JSA division/league. The suspended player/coach/ assistant coach cannot be on the “playing area” during his or her suspension, as defined by NTSSA playing rules. A team official shall provide the referee with the appropriate sit-out form(s) and, at the conclusion of the game, the team official is responsible for turning in the signed form to JSA. If the player/coach/assistant coach is observed on or near the playing area and/or verbally coaching his or her team, he or she will be required to appear before the JSA A&D Committee and be assessed a two (2) game suspension. The JSA League Coordinator will be responsible for enforcing this rule and reporting any infractions to the JSA A&D Committee. The Referee Coordinator will keep a Fall/Spring soccer playing season record of all players/coaches/assistant coaches receiving a four (4) point caution. The referee Coordinator will submit to JSA Board of Directors a list of all chronic repeaters of said for the purpose of further scrutiny or action.

## **23.4 Ejections of Player/Coaches**

### **23.4.1 One Ejection**

One game suspension. The name of player/coach/assistant coach will be listed in the minutes of the next JSA Board of Directors meeting.

### **23.4.2 Two Ejections**

Two game suspension. In addition, a coach or assistant coach receiving two ejections must take the next scheduled Referee Clinic within 100-mile radius of Jacksonville and referee a minimum of three (3) games upon completion of Referee Clinic.

Player/coach/assistant coach must follow the rules governing suspension and cannot participate in involved team's games pending completion of Referee Clinic. Name of player/coach/assistant coach under suspension will be listed in the minutes of the next JSA BOD meeting.

### **23.4.3 Three Ejections**

Suspension pending A & D Committee inquiry. Name player/coach/ assistant coach under suspension will be listed in the minutes of the next JSA BOD meeting.

### **23.4.4 Additional Penalties**

The Executive JSA Board may, at their discretion, assess additional penalties to the player/coach/assistant coach and/or spectator.

**23.5 Misconduct of Spectators/Parents**

If a coach/assistant coach or team manager is unable to control the chronic misconduct of an identifiable spectator/parent, he or she should submit a written complaint outlining the repeated offenses' of said spectator/parent to the JSA Board of Directors who will deal firmly with the matter.

**23.6 Player Discipline**

Players who receive a red card for striking another player on the field will receive an automatic two (2) game suspension. For the second red card for striking a player, the punishment is suspension from Jacksonville Soccer for the remainder of the season.

**23.7 Common Sense**

All rules and regulations should be judged using common sense and on its own set of circumstances. Not all situations concerning a rule merit the same attention and punishment, thus allowing either more or less punishment on a given rule or regulation.

**23.8 Competitive Team Tryouts**

Any select team try-outs must be declared a week in advance with the coordinator of the age group involved and will be open to any coaches who want to attend. The Commissioner of that age group must notify their coaches of these tryouts. Any alleged violation shall be ruled on by the A & D Committee of JSA. Appeals may be made to the Board of Directors of JSA.

**23.9 No Punting**

U4 through U10 – no punting or drop kicks by the goalie are allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line.

**23.10 No Heading**

To improve concussion awareness and education among the youth coaches, referees, parents and players, the Jacksonville Soccer Association in junction with North Texas Soccer & USYSA will prohibit heading the ball for U-10 and under during practice and games. This mandate will instill uniform concussion management and return-to-play protocols for youth players. In addition, JSA will modify substitution rules to allow players who may have suffered a concussion during games to be evaluated without penalty.

## **Chapter 24**

### **Clinics**

**24.1 Referee Clinics**

Any referee clinic fee shall be paid by the registrant but will be reimbursed after the certified referee officiates at eight (8) JSA games. Failure to referee eight (8) games, within 2 consecutive seasons, will require the referee to forfeit the reimbursement offered by the association. 1 Referee Jersey (shirt) will be provided to all first-time certified referees. All referees will be paid



on the Saturday following the officiated games and will begin accumulating pay at the beginning of the season. Referees seeking recertification of referee license will be reimbursed for full designated fee after officiating eight (8) JSA games.

#### **24.2 Coaching Clinics**

Any NTSSA coaching clinic fee will be paid by the registrant but will be reimbursed by JSA after the certified person has coached his/her designated team at eight games. Failure to coach eight (8) games, within 2 consecutive seasons, will require the coach to forfeit the reimbursement offered by the association. Any coach wishing to attend clinics outside NTSSA must go before JSA board for reimbursement approval.

## **Chapter 25 Tournament of Champions (TOC)**

The first-place team in the first division will go to the Tournament of Champions (TOC) as long as no challenges are presented. If there is only one division in a league, no challenges will be permitted. If a challenge is requested and the teams involved played head-to-head during the season, the results of that game will count for the challenge game. If they did not play head-to-head during the season, the challenge game time and date will be set by the designated age commissioner. The challenge game must be requested no longer than three (3) days after the end of the season. After league/division standings have been determined for the Fall Season, the first-place team of the lowest division may challenge the first-place team of the next higher division until Division I is reached. At the end of regulation time if any game is tied, two ten (10) minute overtime periods will be played. If the game is still tied, FIFA penalty kicks will determine the winner.

ALL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT "CHAPTER 3 – DISCIPLINE" OF NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION PLAYER RULES IS DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY YOUTH AND SENIOR PLAYER, EVERY COACH, TEAM MANAGER, LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR AND REFEREE. IT IS INTENDED THAT EACH PLAYER WILL MAKE KNOWN THESE CONTENTS TO HIS OR HER PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.

In the event a team registered with two different associations (i.e. Jacksonville Soccer Association and their home association) qualifies for the TOC representing both associations, the qualifying team shall represent their home association in the TOC and the team registered with the JSA and placing second in their division will represent JSA in the TOC. All fees are due in accordance with NTSSA deadlines.

Once TOC eligibility has been met, the team will have two weeks to submit both tournament application and bond fees to the Registrar. Eligibility will be denied if fees are not paid in a timely manner. Qualifying teams will be reimbursed for application and bond fees after the team has returned from attending the TOC event. The reimbursement would come from 1 designated vendor sales for the Fall Season. These funds will be divided up equally between all qualifying teams. The remaining balance must be covered by each team. If a team fails to attend TOC, JSA will deny reimbursement of fees to the team (if exception applies, it must be approved by JSA Executive Board).

### **Article III Appeals and Disciplinary Committee Rules**

- A. A committee shall be appointed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors of Jacksonville Soccer Association, Inc. at a regularly called meeting. The committee shall consist of six (6) members appointed by the Board of Directors and the Referee President, or a qualified JSA referee appointed by the Referee, President and approved by the Board. Members of the committee shall not be Executive Officers in JSA. The six (6) appointed members shall choose a chairman from among themselves and shall serve two (2) years from the date of their appointment. The Chairman shall oversee the meetings of the A&D Committee. The Secretary shall take minutes of said meetings. The committee shall be known as the Jacksonville Soccer Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Communications shall be addressed to: PO Box 315, Jacksonville TX 75766
- B. Removal of an appointed Committee member may be accomplished at any regular or special Board meeting by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board.
- C. The Jacksonville Soccer A&D Committee shall hear cases involving alleged violations of Jacksonville Soccer Association rules, shall work with the Vice President in regards to changes in the rules or their disciplines, and shall be empowered to hear complaints involving Section Seven of the NTSSA rules and regulations. All complaints to the A&D Committee must be in writing and be presented to the Registrar.
- D. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee must accompany every complaint. A copy of the complaint must be sent to the President of JSA and the Registrar. JSA Board members are exempt from filing fees.
- E. All complaints must be made within two (2) weeks of the alleged violations, or such complaint will be deemed waived, with the exception of recruiting violations, which can be filed within six (6) months of alleged violations.
- F. Upon receiving a complaint, the Committee Chairman shall have ten (10) business days to notify both parties and hold a hearing.
- G. The hearing shall be run as follows: Except for the parties involved and their witnesses, the hearing shall be closed. The chairman shall allow equal time for each party to speak. Each party shall have a brief period for rebuttal.
- H. The Chairman shall appoint the Secretary to take minutes of the hearing. After hearing all the evidence, the A&D Committee shall decide whether the alleged violation did occur and if so, what the punishment should be.
- I. The Chairman shall have one (1) week from the date of the hearing to send written copies of their report to both parties and the President of JSA.
- J. The aggrieved party shall have seven (7) days from the date They received the A&D Committee's ruling to appeal the decision to the Executive Board of JSA. The appeal must be made in writing to the President of JSA. The President shall notify both parties as to the time and place of the

next hearing in writing. An appeal from the Executive Board of JSA can be made to the NTSSA regional A&D Committee.

## **Article IV NTSSA Code of Ethics/Conduct**

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(es), Manager/Trainer, and/or Team Representative)

### **Section 1 Responsibilities to Players**

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

## **Section 2**

### **Responsibility to NTSSA and Member Associations**

- A. Adherence to all 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.
- B. Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
- C. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate NTSSA Commissioner, Member Association, or League Commissioner immediately.
- D. A coach's dealings with NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues) must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to NTSSA and Member Associations (including playing leagues).

## **Section 3**

### **Responsibility to the Laws of the Game**

- A. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
- B. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
- C. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
- D. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, NTSSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

## **Section 4**

### **Responsibility to Officials**

- A. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.

- B. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
- C. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as “Referee” or “Mr./Ms. Referee” and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between officials, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
- D. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

## **Section 5**

### **Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting**

- A. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games. The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent’s regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
- B. All NTSSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
- C. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
- D. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent, or team representative.
- E. When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.
- F. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
- G. 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.

## **Section 6**

## **Responsibility of Public Relations**

- A. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial, or inflammatory.
- B. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach, or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
- C. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association, and NTSSA.
- D. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
- E. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
- F. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, Member Associations 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.
- G. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

## **Section 7 Game Day and Other Responsibilities**

- A. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
- B. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
- C. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
- D. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.
- E. The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.

- F. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
- G. Coaches must always act in a professional manner when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming an adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Lewd gestures or remarks
  - 2. Overly critical remarks
  - 3. Ranting and raving
  - 4. Snide or demeaning remarks
  - 5. Threatening behavior or remarks
  - 6. Physical confrontations
  - 7. Temper outbursts

## **Section 8 Ethics Committee**

All Member Associations are directed to form their own ethics committee and to hold hearings--WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT--on alleged violations of the Code of Ethics when properly submitted.

## **Section 9 NTSSA Parent's Code of Conduct**

- A. Children have more need for example than for criticism.
- B. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
- C. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
- D. The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
- E. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- F. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship.

- G. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
- H. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
- I. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- J. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.

## **Section 10**

### **Code of Conduct for USSF/NTSSA Registered Referees and Assignors**

- A. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
- B. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and have my training refreshed.
- C. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
- D. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.
- E. If I am a State or National USSF referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or USSF-assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.
- F. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during or after a match.



- G. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches or spectators.
- H. As a registered USSF/NTSSA referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
- I. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.
- J. I understand that I should wear only the approved USSF referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
- K. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat, or drink while actually officiating.
- L. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee registered with the North Texas State Soccer Association; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the local NTSSA- affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for, the NTSSA and USSF, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered USSF referee.
- M. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

## **Section 11**

### **USSF Code of Ethics for Referees (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)**

- A. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
- B. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
- C. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
- D. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
- E. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.

- F. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
- G. I will be in good physical condition.
- H. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- I. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- J. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- K. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- L. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

## **Section 12**

### **USSF Code of Ethics for Assignors (established per USSF 531-11)**

- A. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game, and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
- B. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
- C. As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.
- D. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
- E. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
- F. I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees, and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive and for their benefit.
- G. I will offer equal opportunity to all qualify referees, and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- H. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.
- I. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

## **Section 13**

### **NTSSA Code of Ethics for Executive Committee, State Committee Members, and Member Association Administrators**

- A. None of us arrives at any administrative level, volunteer or not, without spending some “grass roots” time somewhere. We are appointed or elected to our positions because enough people had confidence in us, appreciation for what we had done in the past and assurance that we could lead them in a positive, productive future. This responsibility of accepting such a challenge, especially in a volunteer capacity, must have some guidelines.
- B. It is important to remember that as board members we are very high profile. It is equally important that we remember that we are primarily a service organization and that we treat fellow volunteers as partners with a common goal-- the organization, development and promotion of soccer. We should maintain high standards and serve by example.
- C. Have respect for the game, players, officials, parents, coaches, member association volunteers and fellow board members and deal with them in a patient, courteous and consistent manner.
- D. Criticism channeled through the proper quarter should be educational, constructive, balanced and positive. Under no circumstances should it be demeaning or detrimental to the self-respect of the individuals involved.
- E. Administrators should be informed and available. As facilitators they should know the right questions, have the ability to elicit the right answers and foster creativity with accountability within their committee or area.
- F. Regarding committeemen and other volunteers: they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done; their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.
- G. Above all: courtesy, self-control and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.

## **Appendix One**

### **JSA Weather and Lightning Policy**

The safety of the players, parents, coaches, and referees is the number one priority for JSA and shall be the main reason for making decisions about suspension of play. The board member on duty is responsible for monitoring weather conditions while working their shift. The board member on duty should monitor lightning and extreme weather to make a judgment call of what actions should be taken. Field conditions shall be monitored by the Vice President (fields). He or she shall make a judgment call to allow play, suspend, or cancel games based on the City of Jacksonville’s recommendations and field conditions. If field or weather conditions are determined to be unsuitable or too dangerous for play, it is the responsibility of the board member on duty and/or the Vice President to cancel or delay games and to notify the participants at the fields of what actions they should take. Notification shall take place by sounding the air horns. He or she will then contact the President (web site) to update social media and

the commissioners to notify the teams. The following guidelines should be used to determine if play should be cancelled or delayed:

#### Field Conditions

The Vice President of fields shall assess the field conditions for standing water or mud. Judgment should be made taking into consideration the field conditions, time of season, and field grass conditions (seeding/time of year) regardless of current weather conditions.

#### Dangerous Weather

The use of a lightning detector, phone apps, and any other weather monitoring devices should be used along with monitoring the actual visual and sound conditions at location to determine distance of lightning and other extreme weather.

- a. Generally accepted protocol for suspension of play is any lightning within 10 miles. Thunder is audible to about 10 miles. If using flash to bang; anything under 30 seconds requires immediate evacuation (flash to bang distance is 1 mile for every 5 seconds. 30 seconds would only be 6 miles). If lightning is within five miles, with or without hearing thunder, the game(s) should be suspended, and shelter sought.
- b. In the event of evacuation, all participants should retreat to their vehicles until notified of an all clear.
- c. Generally accepted protocol is to wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike that is accompanied by thunder.
- d. The referee will have priority to call/postpone games based on field conditions while a game is in progress.
- e. If the referee calls the game based on field conditions, AFTER the first half, the game shall be considered a complete game and will count towards standings.

#### Notice

These are only guidelines and some exceptions to them will occur. The Vice President and/or the board member on duty shall make the final decision on game play. Protecting the safety of all participants should be the number one priority.

## Appendix Two Cheat Sheet

| Age Group | Field (FT)   | Goal Size (FT) | Ball Size | # of Players |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| U4        | 20 x 30 Max  | 4 x 6          | 3         | 4v4 - No GK  |
| U5-U6     | 20 x 30 Max  | 4 x 6          | 3         | 4v4 - No GK  |
| U7        | 20 x 30 Max  | 4 x 6          | 3         | 4v4 - No GK  |
| U8        | 20 x 30 Max  | 4 x 6          | 3         | 4v4 - No GK  |
| U9-U10    | 30 X 47 Max  | 6.5 x 18.5     | 4         | 7v7          |
| U12       | 47 x 75 Max  | 6.5 x 18.5     | 4         | 9v9          |
| U14       | 75 x 112 Max | 8 x 24         | 5         | 11v11        |
| U16-U19   | 75 x 112 Max | 8 x 24         | 5         | 11v11        |

| Game Length          | Offside | Free Kick    | Recommended Roster | Max Roster |
|----------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| Four 6 Min Quarters  | No      | All Indirect | 6                  | 8          |
| Four 8 Min Quarters  | No      | All Indirect | 6                  | 8          |
| Three 15 Min Periods | No      | All Indirect | 6                  | 8          |
| Three 15 Min Periods | No      | All Indirect | 6                  | 8          |
| 25 Min Halves        | Yes     | Both         | 10                 | 12         |
| 30 Min Halves        | Yes     | Both         | 12                 | 14         |
| 35 Min Halves        | Yes     | Both         | 16                 | 18         |
| 35 Min Halves        | Yes     | Both         | 18                 | 20         |