

# MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2023/2024

BYLAWS/RULES

P.O. BOX 685

MINEOLA, TX 75773

## 2023/2024 OFFICERS

President –Andrew Gilbreath

Vice President – Lauren Hightower

Secretary/Treasurer – Kristen Klepfer

Commissioner –Victor Tovar

Head Referee- Andrew Gilbreath

Field Maintenance Director - Vacant

Registrar – Andrew Gilbreath

Referee Assignor – Andrew Gilbreath

Director – David Garcia

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**1. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF THE MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one (21) years of age or over, and two (2) of whom are citizens of the State of Texas, acting as incorporators of a corporation under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

**1.1 ARTICLE ONE** The name of the corporation is **MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**.

**1.2 ARTICLE TWO** The corporation is a nonprofit corporation.

**1.3 ARTICLE THREE** The period of its duration is perpetual.

**1.4 ARTICLE FOUR** The purposes for which the corporation (hereinafter called "Association") is organized are:

1. To engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which a corporation may be incorporated under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act and which are consistent with exemption from federal income tax under 501(c)(3);

2. To promote soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association, including outdoor soccer for male and female players. To promote soccer this Association will govern, coordinate, and administer all rules and regulations of all soccer play sponsored by and under this Association, and will provide for continuing development of soccer players, coaches, referees and administrators. This Association will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances.

3. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, member or officer of the Association (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Association affecting one or more of its purposes), and no private individual, member or officer of the Association shall be entitled to a share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Association. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

4. The Association shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

5. The Association shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Sections 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

6. The Association shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

7. The Association shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

8. The Association shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

9. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the Association shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist to as

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they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

**1.5 ARTICLE FIVE-** Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, humanitarian, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Rule or Regulation), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**1.6 ARTICLE SIX** -Membership requirements are to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Association shall provide open and equal opportunities to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, and employees who are not under suspension or other disciplinary action, to participate in amateur soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

**1.7 ARTICLE SEVEN** -The address of the registered office is P.O. BOX 685 MINEOLA.,TX 75773, and the registered agent shall the President of North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. The registered office and the registered agent may be changed from time to time by a majority vote of the by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**1.8 ARTICLE EIGHT** -The number of members constituting the Board of Directors of this Association shall be a maximum of eleven (11) are as follows:

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Commissioner

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

### **1.9 Article Nine - NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EACH INCORPORATOR**

## **CHAPTER 2**

MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
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**MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

*The following abbreviations are used throughout the bylaws and rules:  
MSA-Mineola Soccer Association / NTSSA - North Texas Soccer Association  
FIFA - Federation Internationale de Football / IFAB - International Football Association Board*

**2.1 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION** The Membership of **MSA** shall be comprised of adults and youth that have applied to **MSA** with the approval of the Executive Officers. The Membership shall be comprised of the following types:

**2.1.1 Player** Any boy or girl within the age limits set forth by **MSA** is eligible for membership. A Registration approved by an Executive Officer together with the payment of all required fees is evidence of such membership.

**2.1.2 Associate Member** Any individual who has an interest in aiding the objectives of MSA and agrees to abide by the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of MSA is eligible for membership.

**2.1.3 Coach** Any individual 18 years of age or older, although the Executive Officers may approve exceptions for age, who - subscribes and agrees to uphold Article Four of the Articles of Organization, - abides by MSA Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Code of Ethics - is approved by the Executive Officers is eligible for membership.

1. Each Team is required to have a Team Coach and at least one Assistant Coach.
2. An Assistant Coach must register with the Commissioner prior to the first game of the Playing Season.
3. The Executive Officers requires that each Coach attend a coaches clinic, grassroots clinic, and complete a background check or the Executive Officers may reconsider their position.

**2.3 ARTICLE III – MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION**

**2.3.1 Monthly General Membership and Executive Officer Meetings** **MSA** shall hold a monthly meeting. General Membership Meetings shall be 10 times per year with January and July being Executive Officer Meetings. The President shall designate the time and place of the Meeting.

The order of business of such meeting shall be:

- Roll Call • Minutes of Last Meeting
- Financial Report •
- Unfinished Business •
- New Business •
- Adjournment

**2.3.2 Quorum** Two-thirds of the Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present at a Monthly or Special Meeting, MSA may not vote on any business.

**2.3.3 Majority Vote; Withdrawal of Quorum** When a quorum is present at any meeting, the majority vote of the Voting Membership present at such meeting shall decide any question and may continue to transact business until adjournment, even though enough members withdraw to leave less than a quorum.

1. The Voting Membership shall be composed of the Executive Officers and Board Members who are present at the time of the vote.

- a. The Team Delegate shall be the Team Coach or registered Assistant Coach, who is entitled to cast one (1) vote.
- b. Neither a Player nor an Associate Member shall have a vote.
- c. Voting Membership entitles each individual one (1) vote irrespective of the number of Office positions they may hold, excluding the President.

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2. At any Monthly Meeting of MSA at which a quorum is present and provided twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes or additions, have been submitted to the Membership, these Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present Voting Membership.

**2.4 ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**2.4.1 Executive Officers** The Executive Officers shall transact the business and affairs of MSA and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Bylaws and Rules of the USSF and its National Associations, and NTSSA of which MSA is a member, and the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of MSA.

**2.4.2 Removal** Any member, including an Executive Officer, shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in their ability to remain a member in good standing. Any three (3) Members, simultaneously, may call for a vote of no confidence in another Member whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Voting Membership present.

**2.4.3 Attendance at Meetings** An Executive Officer or Team Delegate not attending three (3) consecutive meetings will have this office declared vacant unless the Executive Officers excuse such absences.

**2.4.4 Vacancies** In the event any Executive Office becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy for the length of the unexpired term.

**2.4.5 Nomination** The Voting Membership will make nomination from the floor prior to the election. Nominees need not be present at the election meeting but must submit a signed and dated letter of acceptance at the time of nominations.

**2.4.6 Election** of the Executive Officers shall be by a show of hands of the Membership present and eligible to vote. The Membership of MSA shall declare as elected the individual receiving the greatest number of votes cast. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote by written ballot will declare the winner.

**2.4.7 Compensation** The Executive Committee shall serve without salary for their services. Any Executive Officer may be reimbursed for expenses previously approved.

**2.4.8 Minutes** The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The approved minutes, including monthly reports from Officers and Committees, shall be placed in the minute book of the Association and a copy shall be sent to each Member Association and Affiliate. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee are required to attend these meetings in order to transact any business of the Association.

A member of the Executive Committee can be a member or official of a team, club, or Member Association. In the event of any grievance involving such organization, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.

**2.4.7 Emergency Meetings** Subject to the provisions of applicable statutes and these Bylaws, the President and any three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute an emergency Executive Committee on matters demanding immediate attention when it is impractical or impossible to call an Executive Committee meeting and shall report their actions to all Executive Committee members in writing.

**2.4.8 Veto of Executive Officers Action** A majority vote of the Voting Membership present at the meeting following an action of the Executive Officers will veto that action.

**2.5 ARTICLE V – NOTICE**

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**2.5.1 Manner of Giving Notice** Whenever, these Rules and Regulation require notice be given to any member of MSA, the notice will be in writing, either by postage paid mail or electronic mail. MSA shall deem notice given when the notice is deposited in the United States mail or sent by electronic mail to the address appearing in the records of MSA.

**2.5.2 Waiver of Notice** Whenever any notice is required to be given to any MSA Member under the provisions of the statutes, the Articles of Organization or these Bylaws, 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.

### **2.6 ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: Powers and Duties**

**2.6.1 Executive Officers** The Voting Membership shall elect the Executive Officers for a term of two (2) years. An Executive Officer may succeed themselves in office. Any Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the Office held 30 days prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the June Monthly Meeting with one-half of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

- President (Elected odd years)
- Vice President (Elected even years)
- Director Registered USSF Referee (Elected odd years)
- Director of Scheduling/Registrar (Elected even years)
- Director of Concession Stand (Elected odd years)
- Director of Field Maintenance (Elected even years)
- Division Commissioner (Elected even years)
- Secretary (Elected odd years)
- Treasurer (Elected even years)

**2.6.2 President** The President shall serve as the principle executive officer of MSA, liaising with NTSSA, and all other legal entities. The President shall be responsible for:

- seeing that administrative policies and operations of MSA are carried out. assigning duties to all Executive Officers as required.
- appointing all committees as seen necessary to carry out the functions of MSA and serve as an ex-officious member of any committee.
- Presiding at all MSA meetings
- calling discretionary meetings and designating the time and place, presiding at all MSA meetings.
- casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting, or waiving the right to do so.
- taking prudent and reasonable action in any cases not covered by these Bylaws with the approval of the Voting Members.

In the event of the death, permanent incapacity (unable to perform the major duties of his office for a continuous period exceeding three months), or resignation of the President, the Executive Officers shall appoint an individual to serve for the remaining unexpired term of office.

**2.6.3 Vice President** The Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of the President when the President is absence or temporarily incapacitated and when doing so will have the powers of and be subject to the restrictions of the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President, including but not limited to

- responsibility for annually reviewing the MSA articles of organization, bylaws, rules, and regulations and proposing changes, as required, to keep them in alignment with articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of NTSSA.
- maintaining a list of rules and regulations enacted by NTSSA, of which MSA is a member

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### 2.6.4 Commissioner

The Division Commissioner is responsible for:

- registering all coaches and assistant coaches with NTSSA at least once each year, including the issuing of requests for Adult Criminal Background Checks and reviewing responses to notify an individual who is not eligible to participate.
- supervising the formation of Teams at the beginning of each Playing Season, including requests for Player Release, and assigning both coaches and assistant coaches. .
- promoting the desire for the highest quality coaching standards and assisting all Coaches in achieving the highest quality coaching standard.
- maintaining all records pertaining to the play of each game and determining division standings.
- making initial decisions concerning disputes and misconduct; maintaining records of misconduct; and, as required, notifying the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee for a ruling.

### 2.6.5 Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for:

- contacting the Voting Membership about meetings.
- recording and maintaining minutes of all Monthly Meetings and providing copies of the previous meeting minutes at those meetings.
- annually providing to NTSSA the MSA Articles & Rules and submitting changes to those documents to NTSSA and make publicly available.
- all correspondences deemed necessary by MSA.

### 2.6.6 Treasurer

The Treasurer serves as the financial officer of MSA and shall be responsible for:

- receiving, collecting, and maintaining records of all money credited to MSA and depositing such money as approved by the Executive Officers.
- requiring all disbursements to have two authorized signatures, being the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director of Registrar/Scheduling, and that the four signers are not relatives.
- ensuring the person or persons receiving a disbursement is neither of the authorized signatures on the disbursements.
- presenting a complete and up to date balance sheet and income report at all Monthly Meetings.

## 2.7 ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

**2.7.1 Committees** The Executive Officers shall appoint or elect, as the case may be, the following Committees. In case of an emergency, the President shall have the power to fill a Committee by appointment until the Executive Officers can fill such vacancy in accordance with normal procedures. Any Committee empowered to hold disciplinary hearings may investigate and enforce the Codes of Ethics/Conduct. Members of Committees must be in good standing with all Local, State, and National Soccer Associations. Persons under suspension or probation are ineligible for Committee positions.

**2.7.2 Appeals and Disciplinary Committee** The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised of the Chair and other members appointed by the Chair and approved by the Executive Officers. Three members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such event, the President shall approve the interim appointments. Duties of the Committee are to deal with all disagreements, protests, violence, forfeited games, and cards within MSA, to hear all appeals, and to form a just decision in all matters. The Chair shall notify NTSSA and the party or parties immediately, in writing, of the rulings of this Committee.

### 2.8 Team Delegate

- Chairman-Games and Tournaments
- Director of Public Relations and Social Media - Vanessa Hernandez
- Head Referee



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- Field Maintenance Director
- Registration Coordinator
- Coach Director
- Coach Coordinator

### CHAPTER 3

#### BYLAWS

#### MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

*The following abbreviations are used throughout the bylaws and rules:*

*MSA-Mineola Soccer Association / NTSSA - North Texas Soccer Association*

*FIFA - Federation Internationale de Football / IFAB - International Football Association Board*

Playing Year – The MSA Playing Year shall begin on September 1 and end on May31st of the following calendar year. The membership may divide the Playing Year into as many Playing Seasons as desired.

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**3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS** Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.1 allows assessment of a penalty for using unregistered players.

**3.2 UNREGISTERED PLAY** Players or teams who participate with unregistered players shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players.

**3.3 SUSPENSIONS** MSA shall honor any and all orders of suspension of players, coaches, and Referees issued by NTSSA or its affiliates, if the suspension indicates "suspended from all NTSSA activities" and due process has been followed. A team, which uses individuals under suspension, shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated.

**3.4 REFEREES** In compliance with USSF Rules, all Referees serving MSA shall be registered with USSF and NTSSA in accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.

**3.4.1** Referee assignors MSA recommends all Referee Assignors (or schedulers) satisfactorily complete the approved assignor clinic and register with USSF and NTSSA.

### **3.5 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

#### **3.5.1 Scope**

1. Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected to be alone with any registered youth player, must annually provide the necessary information so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, Adult Volunteers agree and consent to having Criminal Background Checks performed. Background Checks must be renewed every fall.
2. At a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, and board members are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

**3.6 PLAYING AGE** Except where prohibited by USSF rules, Players may participate in older divisions but the MSA Executive Officers reserve right of refusal to allow such participation. Players may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the NTSSA State Board of Directors. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.9 establishes forfeiture and allows suspension for noncompliance with this regulation.

### **3.7 RELEASES**

Release: The withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current Playing Year. Any player roster-ed to a team is bound to that team for the entire Playing Year unless the Player is granted a release. The MSA Division Commissioner shall receive for approval a player release submitted in writing stating the reason for the request. Releases will be allowed from 01 December up until they are roster-ed to a Team for the Spring Playing Season. Releases outside of those dates will be considered only as an exception.

**3.7.1 Recruiting:** Actively soliciting a player to break a commitment to his current team in order to join another team. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.10.9-2 establishes sanctions for any person, team, or other organization engaging in recruiting as defined above.

**3.8 DISCIPLINE** MSA shall distribute this rule to every Player, Coach, and Referee. The Player and/or Coach will make known the contents of this rule to their parents and spectators.

#### **3.8.1 Authority**

1. All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of MSA have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of MSA, as well as those of NTSSA and USSF and its National Associations of which MSA is a member. The MSA Articles of Organization and Bylaws provide that MSA has jurisdiction over all Players, Coaches, Team representatives, and Referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in soccer within the jurisdiction of MSA found in violation of the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, Rules and

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Regulations of MSA, or of NTSSA or USSF and its National Associations of which MSA is a member, may be subject to disciplinary action.

2. The MSA Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committees will hold hearings, with the parties having the right to be present, on every player/coach/assistant coach/spectators and/or parents as required for serious misconduct. MSA will furnish the State Office with a maintained up-to-date list of their A&D Chairman and Committee members to include their addresses and phone numbers.

### **3.8.2 Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches The NTSSA Rules and Regulations**

3.11.2 define the system, record keeping, and disciplinary action for misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches, which may include suspension from some or all organized activities but does not include Team practice.

### **3.8.3 Misconduct of Spectators**

Each Team in MSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The Referee has the authority to insist that the Coach deal with the misconduct of the spectators and resolve the problem. Failure to do so may result in the Coach's dismissal from the field and/or termination of the match. Therefore, the Coach is expected to control the Team's spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If the Coach is unable to deal with the spectators, MSA will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator or, if unidentifiable, towards the Team itself. MSA shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.

### **3.8.4 Misconduct of Teams The NTSSA Rules and Regulations**

3.11.5 defines disciplinary action for Teams resulting from accumulated misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches, which may include monetary fines.

### **3.8.5 Misconduct Toward a Referee, Referee Assault, Referee Abuse**

#### **1. Terms and References**

a. Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a Referee, an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant. Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a Referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a Referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a Referee that could inflict injury; damaging the Referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

b. Referee Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact that implies or threatens physical harm to a Referee or the Referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a Referee: using foul or abusive language toward a Referee; spewing any beverage on a Referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the Referee; or verbally threatening a Referee with remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm.

c. Misconduct Towards a Referee means persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a Referee during or after a game, that do not constitute Referee assault or abuse as provided under USSF Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the Referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts. Misconduct Toward a Referee may include the following: excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the Referee; statements that diminish the authority of the Referee; or statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the Referee. Misconduct Toward a Referee applies only if a proceeding is brought against an individual for Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, or both, under USSF Policy 531-9 or if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in misconduct under this policy. 2. NTSSA has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both Referee and assistant Referee, in any competition.

This jurisdiction includes:

a. All USSF registered Referees.

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b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.

c. Any coach, parent, or junior assistant Referee, serving as a game official.

3. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the NTSSA subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman. The subcommittee shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.

4. With a determination of sufficient evidence under the terms, references, and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9 to consider an incident an intentional act upon or towards a game official as Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, the NTSSA subcommittee will hold a formal hearing within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.11.7-3 and 3.11.7-6 define penalties and suspensions for committing Referee Assault or Referee Abuse.

3.8.6 Misconduct of Referees When any Referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another Referee, the NTSSA A&D Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to the incident. 3.8.7 Records The A&D Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend towards numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

**3.9 REFEREE SYSTEM** The only approved Referee system for all competitions shall be the International Three-Referee system (a Referee and two neutral assistant Referees) employing IFAB Laws of the Game (as modified herein), officiating techniques and mechanics.

**3.10 GAME PROTESTS** When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the MSA A&D Committee within three (3) days after the game. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protestor won the match) except by consent of said committee.

**3.10.1 After Play of the Game** The only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after end of play are:

1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player.
2. The Referee admits an obvious error in the application of the Laws of the Game directly affects the outcome of the match.

**3.10.2 Based on Referee Decision** No protest committee or board shall entertain a protest based on judgment decisions made by the Referee during play (Laws of the Game, Law V). This is a matter to handle through the local Referee's group or the NTSSA Referee Committee.

**3.10.3 Related to Field of Play** No protest committee or board shall entertain a protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the match unless an objection was lodged with the match Referee before the commencement of the match. The Referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

**3.11 RULES OF COMPETITION** The Rules of Play for MSA shall be the IFAB Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

**3.11.1 Law I - Field of Play**

1. Realizing that MSA plays upon fields furnished by Mineola Civic Center, Mineola, Texas; the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

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Field Sizes:

Division	Width (yds)	Length (yds)	Goal Size (ft)
Adult	80	120	8X24
19U	80	112	8X 24
16U	75	112	8X 24
12U	47	75	6.5 X 18.5
10U	40	60	6.5X 18.5
8U	25	35	4X6

\* 8U may have a crease around the goal with a radius of 8 feet.

**3.11.2 Law II - The Ball** Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Division	Size
14U+	#5
Division	Size
12U	#4
8U	#3

2. Substitution Rule – Youth The Referee will hold up the game for substitution of players at a normal stoppage of the game:

- a. At a throw-in, for either team but only if the team in possession chooses to substitute
- b. At a goal kick, for either team
- c. After a goal is scored, for either team
- d. At an injury when stopping play, for either team
- e. At the period and half, for either team
- f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, substitution may be made for that player

3. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the Team Coach reduces a player's time for medical or disciplinary reasons. The coach must notify the player and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced for a player (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).

4. Substitution Rule - Adults: IFAB rules for substitution will apply 3.11.4 Law IV - Player's Equipment

1. Each Player shall have a number on the back of their jersey not less than four (4) inches high.
2. Shin guards meeting the standards set forth in the IFAB Laws of the Game or subsequent memorandum, shall be mandatory.
3. All Players must wear soft-cleated soccer shoes or tennis shoes, which excludes the wearing of hard sole shoes or "baseball" style, metal, or hard pointed plastic cleats.

**3.11.5 Law V - Referee** \*\*\* No Changes except for 8U and younger; all rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

1. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
2. Only registered Referees and Executive Officers of **MSA** have the power to caution or send off players/coaches/coaches assistants.

**3.11.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee** \*\*\* No Changes except there are no Assistant Referees in 8U and younger.

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**3.11.7 Law VII - Duration of Game** Duration of the Game for various age groups will be as follows: Division Periods  
Minutes Between Overtime

Division	Periods	Minutes	Between	Overtime
19U+	2	45	10	15
16U	2	40	10	15
14U	2	35	5	10
12U	2	30	5	10
10U	2	25	5	10
8U	4	10	2	None
6U	4	8	2	None

**3.11.8 Law VIII - Start of Play** \*\*\* No Changes except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

**3.11.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play** \*\*\* No Changes

**3.11.10 Law X - Method of Scoring** \*\*\* No Changes except for Adult Coed play, where two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player.

**3.11.11 Law XI - Off-Side** \*\*\* No Changes except for 8U and younger there is no off-side and for 10U there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.

**3.11.12 Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED. Possession is defined as “One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground.”
2. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match Referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the Referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. For 10U, no punting is allowed. When the goalie punts the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team on the build out line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. When the goalie has the ball, all opposing players must move behind the build out line, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line.
5. 12U and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.
6. For players in 14U, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.
7. For 10U and below, no slide tackles are allowed as per USYSA recommendation. When a Player performs a fair slide tackle, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

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**3.11.13 Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\*** No Changes except for 8U and younger; all free kicks are indirect free kicks and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball, which will be kicked from the goal line. Meaning:

1. For 8U and younger, all Fouls and Misconduct will result in an indirect free kick.
2. For 8U and younger, a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by second player of either team.

**3.11.14 Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\*** No Changes except for 8U and younger, there are no penalty kicks.

**3.11.15 Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\*** No Changes except for 8U and younger are allowed a re-throw.

**3.11.16 Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\*** No Changes except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

**3.11.17 Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\*** No changes except for 8U and younger, opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the corner arc.

**3.12 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT** If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the A&D Committee, the A&D Committee shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

**3.13 CHANGES** These Rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at a Monthly General Membership Meeting provided twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes or additions, have been submitted to the Membership. Any changes or additions to these rules that are approved by this membership shall immediately become a part of these rules, and all Members shall receive a written or electronic copy of the new rule or amendment of the rule within forty-five (45) days. Where a quorum is present at the above meetings, it will take a majority vote of the members present at the meeting to pass new rules or to change or amend present rules.

**3.14 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS** Only Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of **MSA** may make proposals to amend the rules or add new rules. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed change must be submitted to the Executive Officers for review and distribution to the membership.

## **4. RULES FOR REGISTRATION**

### **4.1 DEFINITION OF REGISTRANTS**

**4.1.1 Coed Youth Recreational Soccer Registration** of soccer players under these rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants under the age of nineteen (19)

#### 1. Registration

a. Recreational: The player is registered to a recreational association from the moment the player or the player's agent

- signs the MSA registration forms
- pays the appropriate fees to MSA subject to Rule 4.2.
- Agrees to MSA Code of Conduct

b. Roster: assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial roster shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by MSA.

c. Coed: NTSSA allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of coed soccer. For a dual-registered player, the player's same-sex team shall be considered the player's primary team and the coed

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team shall be considered the player's secondary team. Additionally, MSA may consider requests from coed players to play together on a team.

**4.1.2 Age Determination and Divisions** The age of a player for purpose of play with MSA shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current Playing Year. The current Playing Year begins on September 1 and ends May 31 of the following year. Exception: MSA permits players who turn four (3) years of age by July 31 will be eligible to play in the Fall Playing Season and players who turn four (3) years of age by December 31 will be eligible to play in the Spring Playing Season.

**4.1.3 Proof of Age** MSA will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play for the first time with MSA. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate of birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency. If a copy of a Player's Birth Certificate is on file with MSA, proof of age will not be necessary for subsequent Registrations.

**4.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS** may only be registered with one NTSSA sanctioned team at any given time during the Playing Year excluding co-ed teams.

**4.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS** Players must register to play soccer with MSA. Upon request, MSA must grant a Player Release to an individual player. Only the receiving Member Association will register the player. MSA may not actively recruit players from outside their defined territory.

### 4.4 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES

**4.4.1 Keeping Players and Teams Together** MSA expects teams to remain together from season to season and for players to stay on the team. Therefore, MSA insures that all players stay roster-ed on the same team as long as they meet age requirements.

**4.4.2 Player Pool** In the event there are not enough players in the player pool, MSA may allow coaches to seek players to add to the pool of the proper age group from within the territory of MSA.

1. Players missing at least two (2) consecutive Playing Seasons will be placed in the Pool. Players missing one (1) Playing Season shall have the option of entering the Pool or returning to their previous Team (if the Team will not exceed Maximum on Roster).

**4.4.3 Random Blind Draw** New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by players being assigned (roster-ed) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a territorial basis as stated above. Player's names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team.

~~4.4.4 Inviting Friends In order to promote soccer participation for young children, 8U players and younger may invite a friend from the MSA territory who has never registered before to join his existing team with the permission of MSA.~~

**4.4.5 Coaches and Their Children** Only the Head Coach may request their child to be roster-ed to their team. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the Member Association in the current Playing Season, the coach may request their child be roster-ed to the new team. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor Playing Seasons or asked to be the head coach of the returning team by majority vote of the Executive Officers.

**4.4.6 Coaches Cannot Drop Players** Any recreational coach who knowingly and/or willingly drops a player from their roster, or advises that player not to play for their team, whether through direct contact or coercion shall be called before the MSA discipline committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching.

**4.5 REGISTRATION OF COACHES** Each coach/assistant coach of a team shall be required to register with NTSSA each soccer year, which includes completion of 3.5 Adult Criminal Background Check.



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## Mineola Soccer Association Recreational Youth Soccer 4v4 U6/U8 Program Official Rules and Policies

*All rules herein are for MSA Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS and NTSSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to NTSSA rules then USYS and then FIFA. For play outside of MSA Closed League NTSSA rules shall apply.*

### **Law I - Field of Play**

- A. Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than thirty (35) yards or less than twenty (25) yards and its width not more than twenty (25) yards nor less than fifteen (15) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. MSA U6 fields are 25x15. MSA U8 Fields are 35x25
- B. Field Markings
1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
  2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  3. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius.
  4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
  5. Goal area: Three (3) yards into the field of play as described as a semi-circle line beginning and ending with the goal line.
  6. Penalty area: none
- C. Goals: The size of hockey goals or approximately 4'x 6'.

### **Law II – Ball** : Size three (3)

### **Law III – Number of Players**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is four (4). There are no goalkeepers. The minimum number of players to start the match is two (2).
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8).
- C. Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited and at the referee's discretion will be permitted during kick-offs, goal kicks, and throw ins if team in possession initiates.
- D. Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be coed.

### **Law IV – Player's Equipment**

- A. Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES.**

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Soccer cleats are defined by having no spike on the leading toe edge. No football or baseball cleats are to be used.

B. Shin guards: **MANDATORY**

C. No jewelry or any metal on/in player's body/hair

**Law V – Referees**

A. Coach or Recreational Referee or higher (Grassroots recommended)

B. All law infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending players.

**Law VI – Assistant Referees** : Not required

**Law VII – Duration of Game**

A. The game shall for U6 be divided into four (4) periods of six (6) minutes each with a one (1) minute break between the first and second and then third and fourth with a five (5) minute break between the second and third period. The game shall for U8 be divided into four (4) periods of eight (8) minutes each with one (1) minute break between the first and second and then third and fourth with a five (5) minute break between the second and third period.

B. Clock runs during the game, stopping only for the end of each designated game period.

**Law VIII – Start of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:**

A. Opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).

B. A goal may not be scored directly from the kick-off.

**Law IX –Ball In and Out of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law X – Method of Scoring Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XI – Offside** : There shall be no offside.

**Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. All fouls and misconduct will result in an indirect kick with the opponent five (5) yards away

B. All infractions must be explained to the offending player.

**Law XIII – Free Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. All free kicks shall be indirect.

B. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

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C. No kicks are to be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal box area.

D. Opponents must be five (5) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV – Penalty Kicks :**

A. No penalty kicks shall be taken during these games.

**Law XV – Throw In**

A. The player selected to throw must keep both feet on the ground while the ball is being thrown. Further, a portion of both feet must be on or behind the line as the ball is being thrown.

B. If there is a foul throw-in, the referee must explain the proper method to the player and allow a re-throw. If the second attempt also results in an infraction, the opposing team shall be awarded the throw-in at the same spot on the field. (Please see "C" for division specifications)

C. U6 may opt to either/or throw in or kick in and if throw in, have as many "do overs" as needed to correctly execute the proper procedure. U8 shall only throw in and may have one (1) "do over" the to correctly execute the proper procedure.

D. A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air.

**A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in:**

- if the ball enters the opponents' goal – a goal kick is awarded
- if the ball enters the thrower's goal – a corner kick is awarded

**Law XVI – Goal Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. Goal kick is taken anywhere within the goal area.

B. Opponents must be on their goal side of half line away from the ball.

C. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

**Law XVII – Corner Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

**Additional MSA U6/U8 Rules**

**Roster Size:**

Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 8 players; the recommended roster size is 6 players. MSA maximum number is 8.

**Uniforms:**

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Team uniforms shall consist of like colored jerseys, shorts and socks. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on their team.

The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey. **No player names on jerseys.**

Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict; subject to the approval of the Referee and are the responsibility of the "Home" team.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from jerseys shall not cover the number on the back of the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the MSA Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team.

Any tape applied must be secured and not contain wording.

**Practices:**

For U6: One practice per week for up to 60 minutes.

For U8: One practice per week for up to 60 minutes is recommended. No more than two (2) practices per week totaling ninety (90) minutes total for the week.

Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday. Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.

Practice times shall be prepared and approved in advance with MSA Board as to not cause conflict for practice space and ensure proper practice duration is observed.

**Team/Spectator Seating:**

Players of both teams are to be designated to one sideline and spectators are to be designated to the opposite sideline. **ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

Each team and their respective spectators shall remain on their designated side of the field throughout the match. There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

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**Sideline Behavior:**

Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff. No referee abuse will be tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the MSA Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines. Once a coach or spectator has been cautioned or sent off by the referee, they shall be subject to an A&D (Appeals and Disciplinary) Board hearing to determine future actions.

**Grounds Clean-Up:**

Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

**Match Officials:**

All matches are to be officiated by a center referee or agreed upon coach.

**Coaching:**

All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play. Underage coaches as exempt from this ruling as determined by North Texas State Soccer Association.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Medical Devices:**

All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee.

**No Sweeper-Keepers:**

Coaches are strongly encouraged to not allow a player to "camp out" in front of the goal to prevent scoring as all players need to be encouraged to be involved in active play. Referees may remind coaches of this policy but no penalty or sanction shall be enforced by the referee during game play. Coaches who willfully do not follow the policy will be subject to disciplinary review.

Players are not to play the ball in the "Goal Area" (designated by the half circle marking in front of the goal) unless they are following the ball in during play and shall not touch the ball. No campers.

**Slide Tackles:**

Slide tackles **shall not be permitted**. Any player engaging in slide tackles should be counseled to not repeat. Repeated infractions may result in the player be cautioned and/or red carded.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:**

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All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line. Parents are encouraged to form tunnels and cheer for players as they return to the side lines.

#### **Scores/Standings:**

U6/U8 games shall not have recorded scores while in Closed League play. U6/U8 division is interpreted to be used as a learning experience and to grow the sport through pure enjoyment with a stress free environment.

#### **Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:**

All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.

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## Mineola Recreational Youth Soccer 7v7 U10 Program Official Rules and Policies

*All rules herein are for MSA Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS and NTSSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to NTSSA rules then USYS and then FIFA. For play outside of MSA Closed League NTSSA rules shall apply.*

### **Law I - Field of Play**

**A.** Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than sixty five (65) yards or less than fifty five (55) yards and its width not more than forty five (45) yards or less than thirty five (35) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. MSA U10 fields are 55x35.

**B.** Field Markings

1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with a six (6) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
5. Goal area: Four (4) yards from the midpoint between each goal post and four (4) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty Area: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, twelve (12) yards from the midpoint between each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of twelve (12) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of six (6) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
7. A Build Out line will be drawn equidistant to divide entire field into thirds parallel between each goal line line and shall extend the width of the field. Fifty five (55) feet from each goal line.

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C. Goals: The size of goals to be a maximum of 18.5 x 6.5

**Law II – Ball Size four (4)**

**Law III – Number of Players**

A. Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is seven (7), one of which is a goalkeeper. The minimum number of players to start the match is five (5).

B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed twelve (12).

C. Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions can be made with the referee's consent prior to a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal, and at half time. Both teams may substitute prior to goal kicks, after a goal, and at half time. As to throw-ins, however, only the team in possession has the initial option of substituting, but if it does, the other team may also substitute. If the game is stopped to allow a substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis. No substitution is allowed prior to a corner kick. Note: no substitution can be made without the referee's consent.

D. Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

E. Teams and games may be coed.

**Law IV – Player's Equipment**

A. Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES.**

Soccer cleats are defined by having no spike on the leading toe edge. No football or baseball cleats are to be used.

B. Shin guards: **MANDATORY**

C. **No jewelry or any metal on/in player's body/hair**

**Law V – Referees**

A. Registered USSF 09 Referee or higher (Grassroots as of 06/2021)

**Law VI – Assistant Referees**

A. Two (2) Assistant Line Referees

**Law VII – Duration of Game**

A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each.

B. There shall be a half time interval of ten (10) minutes.

**Law VIII – Start of Play** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:



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A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).

**Law IX –Ball In and Out of Play** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law X – Method of Scoring** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XI - Offside** There shall be offside indicated at the attacking buildout line.

**Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XIII – Free Kicks** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV – Penalty Kicks** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

A. The penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

**Law XV – Throw In** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XVI – Goal Kick** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XVII – Corner Kick** Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

**Deliberate heading is NOT ALLOWED** in 7v7 games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If a deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

**Build Out Line from USYS**

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play. The keeper does not have to wait until the opposing team

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drops past the build out line. If the goalkeeper chooses to start the play before the opposing team passes the build outline the play will resume as if they had started at the build out line.

If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.

Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

However, the defending team must be moving toward the build out line and not stand in an attempt to “read” the quick restart.

Put into play is at the point at which the ball leaves the goalkeeper’s hands after making a save and possessing ball with the hands. The ball is considered in play for Goal Kicks or free kicks inside the penalty area at the point the ball crosses the penalty area. The opposing team cannot cross the build out line until the ball crosses the penalty area line.

### **Additional MSA U10 Rules**

**Roster Size:** Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 12 players; the recommended roster size is ten (10) players.

**Uniforms:** Team uniforms shall consist of like colored jerseys, shorts and socks. Each player shall have a number on the player’s jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on their team. The official team roster shall include the number of each player’s jersey. No player names on jerseys.

Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from the other field players.

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Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict; subject to the approval of the Referee.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from beneath jerseys must be the same or similar color of the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the MSA Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team. Any tape applied must be consistent with the sock color.

**Practices:** Three team activities per week including games, practices, scrimmages, classroom training, etc. No single activity shall exceed 90 minutes in duration with the exception for a fifteen (15) minute allowance for warm up prior to the start of physical activity. Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday.

*Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.*

**Team/Spectator Seating:** Teams shall be seated on the side of the field having technical area markings and player benches (where installed). Coaches are required to remain within their respective technical areas unless invited onto the field of play by the Referee. Only official team coaches/managers as listed on the game form may be in the technical areas and provide instruction to players. Providing coaching instructions from outside of the technical area is not permitted.

Spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the teams and must remain behind the painted standoff line.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

**Sideline Behavior:** Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff. No referee abuse will be

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tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the MSA Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines.

**Grounds Clean-Up:** Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

**Match Officials:** All matches are to be officiated by a center referee, and 2 other match officials as ARs.

**Coaching:** All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Medical Devices:** All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee.

**Slide Tackles:** Slide tackles shall be permitted.

**Mercy Rule:** There will be a 10 goal mercy rule if the losing coach requests it. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended. The losing coach must notify the referee at half time if invoking mercy rule.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:** All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line. Parents are encouraged to form tunnels and cheer for players as they return to the side lines.

**Scores/Standings:** All scores are to be recorded on the game form by the referee and verified by each coach at the conclusion of the match (if a result or score is to be protested the coach should note such on the game forms and must file a protest in writing to MSA within 72 hours). The referee will give the completed forms to the winning team or home team, in case of a tie, at the conclusion of the match.

After each game, the coach in possession of the Game Forms is to phone in the score to the president of the MSA Board. Coaches must maintain the game forms, in their possession, until 30 days after the season is over. Coaches must provide, to MSA, any game form requested.

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**Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:** All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.

Unlimited substitutions can be made with the referee's consent prior to a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal, and at half time. Both teams may substitute prior to goal kicks, after a goal, and at half time. As to throw-ins, however, only the team in possession has the initial option of substituting, but if it does, the other team may also substitute. If the game is stopped to allow a substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis. No substitution is allowed prior to a corner kick. Note: no substitution can be made without the referee's consent.

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**Mineola Soccer Association Recreational Youth Soccer  
9v9 U12 Program Official Rules and Policies  
(FIFA/USYS/NTSSA Laws and Policies as amended by MSA  
02/2023)**

*All rules herein are for MSA Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS and NTSSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to NTSSA rules then USYS and then FIFA. For play outside of MSA Closed League NTSSA rules shall apply.*

**Law I - Field of Play**

**A.** Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than eighty yards (80) yards nor less than seventy (70) yards and its width not more than fifty five (55) yards nor less than forty-five (45) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

MSA U12 fields are a maximum of 55x80.

**B.** Field Markings

1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with an seven (7) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
5. Goal area: four ( 4) yards from each goal post and four ( 4) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty Area: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, eight (8) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of twelve (12) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of seven (7) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**C.** Goals: The size of goals to be a maximum of 18.5' x 6.5'.

**Law II-Ball** Size four (4)

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**Law III-Number of Players**

**A.** Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is nine (9), one of which is a goalkeeper. The minimum number of players to start or continue the match is six (6).

**B.** Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed sixteen (16)

**C.** Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions can be made with the referee's consent prior to a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal, and at half time. Both teams may substitute prior to goal kicks, after a goal, and at half time. As to throw-ins, however, only the team in possession has the initial option of substituting, but if it does, the other team may also substitute. If the game is stopped to allow a substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis. No substitution is allowed prior to a corner kick. Note: no substitution can be made without the referee's consent

**D.** Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

**E.** Teams and games may be coed.

**Law IV -Player's Equipment**

**A.** Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES.**

Soccer cleats are defined by having no spike on the leading toe edge. No football or baseball cleats are to be used.

**B.** Shin guards: **MANDATORY**

**C.** No jewelry or any metal on/in player's body/hair

**Law V -Referees**

**A.** Registered USSF 09 Referee or higher (Grassroots)

**Law VI - Assistant Referees**

**A.** Registered USSF Referee

**Law VII - Duration of Game**

**A.** The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.

**B.** There shall be a half time interval of ten (10) minutes.

**Law VIII - Start of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:**

**A.** Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).

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**Law IX -Ball In and Out of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law X - Method of Scoring Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XI - Offside Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XIII- Free Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

**A.** Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV - Penalty Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

**A .**The penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

**B.** Players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark outside the penalty box and arc.

**Law XV - Throw In Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XVI - Goal Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XVII - Corner Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

**A.** Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

## **Additional MSA U12 Rules**

**Deliberate heading** is not allowed in the 9v9 games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

**Roster Size:**



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Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 16 players; the recommended roster size is 12 players, the MSA maximum is 16.

**Uniforms:**

Team uniforms shall consist of like colored jerseys, shorts and socks.

Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on their team. The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.

No player names on jerseys.

Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from the other field players.

Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict subject to the approval of the Referee.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from beneath jerseys must be the same or similar color of the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the MSA Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team. Any tape applied must be consistent with the sock color.

**Practices:**

Three team activities per week including games, practices, scrimmages, classroom training, etc. No single activity shall exceed 90 minutes in duration with the exception for a fifteen ( 15) minute allowance for warm up prior to the start of physical activity. Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday. Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.

**Team/Spectator Seating:**

Teams shall be seated on the side of the field having technical area markings and player benches (where installed). Coaches are required to remain within their respective technical areas unless invited onto the field of play by the Referee. Only official team coaches/managers as listed on the game form may be in the technical areas and provide instruction to players. Providing coaching instructions from outside of the technical area is not permitted.

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**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

Spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the teams and must remain behind the painted standoff line.

There shall be NO ACTIVITY in the PENALTY AREA (large box in front of the goal) of the U10-UI9 fields pre-game, during halftime or post-game.

There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

**Sideline Behavior:**

Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff. No referee abuse will be tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the MSA Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines.

**Grounds Clean-Up:**

Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

Match Officials: All matches are to be officiated by a center referee and two assistant referees.

**Coaching:**

All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check and completed required SafeSport. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Medical Devices:**

All medical devices ( casts, supports, braces, etc) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee prior to the match for approval.

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**Slide Tackles:**

Slide tackles are permitted within the Laws of the Game.

**Mercy Rule:**

There will be a 10 goal mercy rule if the losing coach requests it. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended. The losing coach must notify the referee at half time if invoking mercy rule.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:**

All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line.

**Scores/Standings:**

All scores are to be recorded on the game form by the referee and verified by each coach at the conclusion of the match (if a result or score is to be protested the coach should note such on the game forms and must file a protest in writing to MSA within 72 hours). The referee will give the completed forms to the winning team or home team, in case of a tie, at the conclusion of the match.

After each game, the coach in possession of the Game Forms is to phone in the score to MSA Board. Coaches must maintain the game forms, in their possession, until 30 days after the season is over. Coaches must provide, to MSA, any game form requested.

**Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:**

All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Organized rotations are very important and coaches should maintain documentation of rotations for each game. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.

Unlimited substitutions can be made with the referee's consent prior to a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal, and at half time. Both teams may substitute prior to goal kicks, after a goal, and at half time. As to throw-ins, however, only the team in possession has the initial option of substituting, but if it does, the other team may also substitute. If the game is stopped to allow a substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis. No substitution is allowed prior to a corner kick. Note: no substitution can be made without the referee's consent.

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## Mineola Recreational Youth Soccer 11v11 U14-U19 Program Official Rules and Policies

*All rules herein are for MSA Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS and NTSSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to NTSSA rules then USYS and then FIFA. For play outside of MSA Closed League NTSSA rules shall apply.*

### **Law I - Field of Play**

**A.** Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than one hundred and thirty (130) yards nor less than one hundred (100) yards and its width not more than one hundred (100) yards nor less than fifty (50) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. MSA U14-U19 fields are a 100-115 x 70-80.

Field has been set and marked in accordance with UIL regulations and as such is set and marked in Mineola Meredith Memorial Stadium.

#### **B.** Field Markings

1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with a ten (10) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
5. Goal area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty Area: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, eighteen (18) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of eighteen (18) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made twelve (12) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of ten (10) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**C.** Goals: The size of goals to be a maximum of 24' x 8'.

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**Law II – Ball:** Size five (5)

**Law III – Number of Players**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is eleven (11), one of which is a goalkeeper. The minimum number of players to start the match is seven (7).
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eighteen (18) for U14 or twenty-two (22) for U16 and older. A maximum of eighteen (18) players may be in uniform and/or participate in a single match.
- C. Substitutions:
  - 1. Unlimited.
  - 2. Taken at the following times:
    - a. Prior to a throw-in by either team.
    - b. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
    - c. Following a goal by either team.
    - d. After an injury by either team, if the injured player is substituted.
    - e. After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only. (The opposing team may substitute an equal number of players)
    - f. At half time.
  - 3. Players shall enter the field at the half way line with the permission of the Referee.
- D. Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be coed.

**Law IV – Player’s Equipment**

- A. Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES.** Soccer cleats are defined by having no spike on the leading toe edge. No football or baseball cleats are to be used.
- B. Shin guards: **MANDATORY**
- C. No jewelry or any metal on/in player's body/hair

**Law V – Referees**

- A. Registered USSF 08 Referee or higher (Grassroots as of 01/2021)

**Law VI – Assistant Referees Registered USSF Referee**

**Law VII – Duration of Game**

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each for U14, forty (40) minutes each for U16 or forty-five (45) minutes each for U17+.

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**B.** There shall be a half time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law VIII** – Start of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law IX** – Ball In and Out of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law X** – Method of Scoring Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XI** - Offside Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XII** – Fouls and Misconduct Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XIII** – Free Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XIV** – Penalty Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XV** – Throw In Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XVI** – Goal Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

**Law XVII** – Corner Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

## **Additional MSA U14 to U19 Rules**

### **Roster Size:**

U14 teams are to be formed with a maximum of 18 players; the recommended roster size is 16 players. U16 and older teams are to be formed with a maximum of 22 players; the recommended roster size is 18 players. No more than 18 players may be in uniform and/or participate in a single game.

### **Uniforms:**

Team uniforms shall consist of like colored jerseys, shorts and socks. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on their team.

The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.

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Players may have player names on jerseys.

Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict; subject to the approval of the Referee.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from beneath jerseys should be the same or similar color of the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the MSA Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team.

Any tape applied must be consistent with the sock color.

**Practices:**

Three team activities per week including games, practices, scrimmages, classroom training, etc. No single activity shall exceed 120 minutes in duration with the exception for a fifteen (15) minute allowance for warm up prior to the start of physical activity. Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday.

*Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.*

**Team/Spectator Seating:**

Teams shall be seated on the side of the field having technical area markings and player benches (where installed). Coaches are required to remain within their respective technical areas unless invited onto the field of play by the Referee. Only official team coaches/managers as listed on the game form may be in the technical areas and provide instruction to players. Providing coaching instructions from outside of the technical area is not permitted.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

Spectators shall be seated in the stands on either side of the field from the teams (in the bleachers that are installed on the large field) and must remain off of stadium ground level during game time.

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There shall be NO ACTIVITY in the PENALTY AREA (large box in front of the goal) of the U10-U19 fields pre-game, during halftime or post-game. Teams may be fined \$75 for any such activity by their coaches, players or spectators (this includes children).

There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

**Sideline Behavior:**

Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff.

No referee abuse will be tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the MSA Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Grounds Clean-Up:**

Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

**Match Officials:**

All matches are to be officiated by a center referee and two assistant referees.

**Coaching:**

All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check as well as completed SafeSport certification. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Medical Devices:**

All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee prior to the match for approval.



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**Slide Tackles:**

Slide tackles are permitted within the Laws of the Game.

**Mercy Rule:**

There will be a 10 goal mercy rule if the losing coach requests it. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended. The losing coach must notify the referee at half time if invoking mercy rule.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:**

All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line.

**Scores/Standings:**

All scores are to be recorded on the game form by the referee and verified by each coach at the conclusion of the match (if a result or score is to be protested the coach should note such on the game forms and must file a protest in writing to MSA within 72 hours). The referee will give the completed forms to the winning team or home team, in case of a tie, at the conclusion of the match.

After each game, the coach in possession of the Game Forms is to phone in the score to MSA Board. Coaches must maintain the game forms, in their possession, until 30 days after the season is over. Coaches must provide, to MSA, any game form requested.

**Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:**

All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Organized rotations are very important and coaches should maintain documentation of rotations for each game. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.

Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play as listed in Law III with the permission of the referee and are unlimited.

Players shall enter the field at the halfway line as the exiting player steps off the field or as otherwise permitted by the referee.

In the event a substitution is requested just as play is to restart or when the substitute is not ready; the referee has the discretion to order play to be restarted despite the request so long as the coach is afforded a substitution at the next opportunity.

The referee may also add time to the match for substitutions made in an effort to waste time.