



# Amarillo Soccer Association Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations

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# Change History

Date	Affected Sections	Description of Changes
1-May-2008	ALL	This revision represents a major updating of the rules and regulations to consolidate all playing rules and play-related board policies. The Constitution and Bylaws were not revised, but were compiled from various outdated versions into the most current and correct as judged by the collective experience of the ASA Executive Board.
29-May-2008	Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations	<p>Annual Meeting Changes:</p> <p>Constitution: Modified Article V – Officers table by adding Canyon Representative.</p> <p>Bylaws: Added Article I, Section XIII, Canyon Representative, to the Bylaws. Added Article II, Section VII, regarding prohibitions against Executive Board members profiting from their positions.</p> <p>Rules &amp; Regulations: Deleted former Appendix B, Misconduct Rules, by referring specifically to NTSSA Misconduct Rules in Section 7.0.</p>



# CONSTITUTION

## **ARTICLE I – NAME, HEADQUARTERS, AFFILIATION, & BOUNDARIES**

The name of this organization shall be the AMARILLO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, with headquarters in Amarillo, Texas. It will be known as the Association, for all purposes hereinafter set forth. The association is directly affiliated with the NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, and through it, with the UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION. The boundaries of this Association shall be boundaries of the Texas Panhandle, excluding any NTSSA affiliates which exist now or shall be formed in the future.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Association shall be to foster and advance the cause of Soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of said Association and to guard the interests of its members.

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBER**

A member is anyone interested in Soccer. A voting member is a member of the Executive Board, Coach, designated Assistant Coach, standing Committee member, active Referee or Linesman in the Amarillo Soccer Officials Association, and Age Group Commissioners. A voting member's age must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.

## **ARTICLE IV – JURISDICTION**

The Association shall have jurisdiction over all members. It shall be governed by its members. Each member shall adhere to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of the Association and will comply with its authority. The Secretary of the Association shall maintain a list of voting members. Only listed Voting Members shall be entitled to vote and speak at any meeting. Any voting member may introduce a speaker, provided, however, such speaker has been placed on the Agenda of the meeting by notifying the Secretary prior to the commencement of said meeting.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

The Executive Officers, whose duties shall be to transact the business of this Association, shall consist of:

<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>
President	Elected annually
1st Vice President	Elected in odd number years
2nd Vice President	Elected in even number years
3rd Vice President	Elected in odd number years
4th Vice President	Elected in even number years
5th Vice President	Elected in even number years
6th Vice President	Elected in odd number years
Competitive Representative	Elected annually
Over 19 Representative	Elected annually at the November General Meeting
Treasurer	Elected in even number years
Secretary	Elected in odd number years
Chairman of Cups and Games	Elected in odd number Years
Canyon Representative	Elected annually

These Executive Officers shall constitute the Executive Board. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting with the designated officers being elected each year. These Officers may succeed themselves in office. No Officer of the Amarillo Soccer Officials Association may serve concurrently on the Amarillo Soccer Association Board.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

The Association shall meet at times and places as designated by the Association President. The order of business for such meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
3. Unfinished business
4. Report of Officers and Committees
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

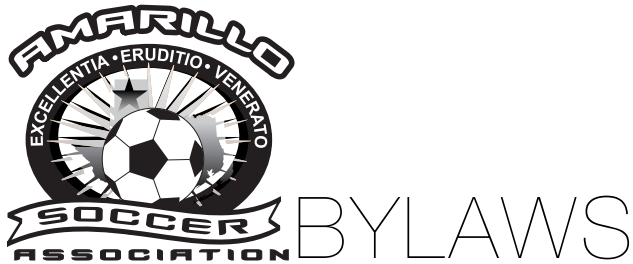
**Section II**

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be called during the month of May and will be held in Amarillo, Texas. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of last meeting
3. Unfinished business
4. Reports of Officers and Committees
5. Amendments to Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations
6. Election of Officers
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

**ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the Association by a majority of the Voting Membership present, provided, a written notice of all proposed changes has been made available at a prior General Meeting. When a change occurs, a new copy of the Constitution will be made available to a voting member upon request prior to the start of the next regular season play. Exception: Constitutional Amendments may be made without written notice to Voting Members at the annual Meeting. Amendments formally presented at the May Meeting will be in written form with copies for voting members.



## ARTICLE I – Duties of Officers

### Section I - President

The President of the Association shall preside at all association meetings. He/She shall appoint all Service Committees. He shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the Annual Meeting and said report to become a part of the Minutes of such meeting.

### Section II – First Vice President

He/She shall serve in the following positions:

- Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee
- Chairman Pro-Tem in the absence of the President
- Parliamentarian using "Roberts Rules of Order Revised" as a guide

### Section III – Second Vice President

The Second Vice-President shall be the direct liaison between the executive board and the following Committees: Fields, Equipment, Officials Review (which shall serve as liaison between the Executive Board and Amarillo Soccer Officials Association), and any future Committees representing non-player affairs. The Second Vice President shall maintain records of expenditures on fields and submit a financial statement (as a part of a combined Budget and Finance Committee Statement) in writing at the Annual Meeting.

### Section IV – Third Vice President

The Third Vice-President shall be the direct liaison between the Executive Board and the following Committees: Scheduling, Coaches, Registrar, and any future Committees representing player affairs.

### Section V – Fourth Vice President

The Fourth Vice-President shall direct public relation matters of the Association.

### Section VI – Secretary

The secretary shall record the Minutes of all meetings and shall be the direct liaison officer of the Executive Board. The Secretary will be charged with the responsibility of maintaining all records (Minutes, correspondence, etc.)

**Section VII – Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall control all the collections of monies and maintain the financial records of this Association. The Treasurer shall submit a Financial Statement, in writing, at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

**Section VIII – Fifth Vice-President**

The Fifth Vice-President will assist the Third Vice-President with the following Committees, Scheduling, Coaches, Registrar, and any future Committees representing player affairs.

**Section IX – Over 19 Representative**

The Over 19 Representative shall be the direct liaison between the ASA Executive Board and the Over 19 Division. The Representative shall assist the Third and Fifth Vice-Presidents with the formation of the league teams and any league affairs, including a liaison to any appeal to any Appeals and Disciplinary Hearing on an Over 19 Division matter.

**Section X – Chairman of Cups and Games**

The Chairman of Cups and Games shall be Chair of the Cups and Games Committee and the Constitution and Rules Study Committee and shall report the activities of this Committee at each regular monthly meeting of this Association. The Chairman of Cups and Games will serve on all tournaments voted by the Board to be sponsored by the Association during each playing year.

**Section XI – Competitive Representative**

The Competitive Representative shall be a direct liaison between the ASA Executive Board and the Competitive Teams. The Representative shall assist any other board members with any league or team affairs that effect ASA, including a liaison to any appeal to any Appeals and Disciplinary Hearing on a Competitive Team Matter.

**Section XII – 6th Vice President**

The Sixth Vice-Presidents shall coordinate all coaching clinics for coaches of the Association.

**Section XIII – Canyon Representative**

The Canyon Representative shall be a direct liaison between the ASA Executive Board and Canyon soccer players. This Executive Board position shall represent ASA in matters regarding soccer in Canyon, Texas as well as facilitate the growth and development of NTSSA/USYSA sanctioned soccer in Canyon, Texas to the benefit of all soccer participants. The Canyon Representative shall assist the 3rd Vice President with all issues regarding Canyon players and/or teams.

**ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE BOARD****Section I**

The Executive Board shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, Rules of the United States Soccer Federation and its respective division, the Rules of the North Texas State Soccer Association, and Constitution and By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of this Association. It shall also hear appeals of decisions of the Amarillo Soccer Association Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Its meetings may be held at the discretion of the President at a time and place appointed by him.

## **Section II**

The President and any two (2) voting members of the Executive Board shall constitute an emergency Executive Board on matters demanding immediate attention where it is impractical or impossible to call an emergency Executive Board meeting and shall report their actions to all Executive Board members.

## **Section III**

Any member of the Executive Board shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his/her ability to remain in office. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the ballots returned from a mailing to all voting members which will be counted by tellers, a minimum of two, appointed by the President with approval by both opposing sides, to be completed within one month.

## **Section IV**

When a member of the Executive Board has a personal involvement in a grievance, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.

## **Section V**

An Executive Board member not active for three (3) consecutive months will have his/her office declared vacant. His office shall then be filled in accordance with Article II, Section VI of these By-Laws.

## **Section VI**

Vacancies on the Executive Board, except the office of President, which is heretofore provided for in Article I, Section VII, of these By-Laws, shall be filled by a special election called by the President within sixty (60) days after said vacancy occurred. The person so chosen in the special election shall serve in such capacity until the next Annual Meeting at which the office is scheduled for election.

## **Section VII**

A currently serving Executive Board member is prohibited from profiting from his or her elected position.

## **ARTICLE III – QUORUM**

Any (unspecified) voting members shall constitute a quorum at Association meetings and a majority of votes represented shall decide all questions to include those involving Amendments to the Constitution or as otherwise specified herein.

## **ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES**

### **Section I – Executive Committees**

#### **1. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**

It shall be composed of the First Vice-President or his Appointee as Chairman and four (4) member appointees. The Chairman shall call all meetings of the Committee and shall cast his vote last. Two (2) members of the 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 of time set by the Rules and Regulations of these By-Laws, 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. The Chairman shall notify the Secretary of this Association immediately, in writing, of the rulings of this Committee. Procedure for filing appeals with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be as follows:

A. All appeals to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee must be submitted, in writing, and received within ten (10) days of the appealed decision. All appeals shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as referenced by NTSSA guidelines according to type of appeal. If the appeal is upheld by the Committee, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of this association. In the case of appeals regarding individual suspensions, the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may waive or request the respective fee.

B. This Committee, at its discretion, may when requested, in writing to do so, waive the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.

C. All appeals to this committee must be made, in writing, to the Chairman of the Committee who will then notify all members of this Committee. In cases of controversy as to timely receipt of appeals, the postmark date (postage meter not acceptable) will govern.

D. Upon receipt of such appeals, properly submitted, the Chairman of this Committee shall set a time and place for a hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Committee but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal at that hearing.

E. Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of this Association. Procedures for filing appeals with the Executive Board shall be exactly the same for filing with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee except that all material shall be submitted to the Secretary of this association, who will notify all concerned parties of the receipt of the appeal and the time and place for hearing as set by the President.

F. Decisions of the Executive Board may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association, in accordance with procedures set forth by said Association. In no event, shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of this association resort to the courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violation of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines, as set forth by the North Texas State Soccer Association and its Officers and members in defending each court action, including but not limited to Court costs, Attorney's fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by Officers and members in responding to discovery and Court appearances, travel expenses, expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.

## **2. Cup and Games Committee**

It shall be composed of the Chairman of Cups and Games or his appointee and four (4) member appointees. The Chairman shall call all meetings of the Committee and in matters requiring a vote, shall cast his/her vote after the other members. The advisor shall not have a vote. This Committee shall plan, establish, approve, and administer all rules and regulations of all tournament play sponsored by and under the sole jurisdiction of this Association.

## **3. Budget and Finance Committee**

It shall be composed of the Treasurer as Chairman, Second Vice-President and two (2) members appointed by the President. It shall submit a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the Annual Meeting each year. It shall report the status of the budget request.

## **4. Registrar Committee**

The Registrar Committee will consist of the Registrar, as the Chairman, Treasurer, and two (2) other voting members to inspect and review all collections of registration fees and registration forms to insure that all players are properly registered. The Chairman will submit a yearly report in writing at the Annual Meeting.

#### **5. Officials Review Committee**

The Amarillo Soccer Officials Association shall manage and maintain a Referee Committee. Its organization will be determined by Amarillo Soccer Officials Association. The Officials Review Committee will be appointed by the ASA President and serve as Co-Chairman. There will be five additional members, two coaches, two referees, and the Second Vice-President. Five members will make a quorum. This Committee's primary responsibility will be to review and inspect any reports which involve Coaches, Players, or Referees which are of a nature not requiring ASA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee action, and offer recommendations to the respective Executive Boards. This Committee may also obtain information from either ASA or Amarillo Soccer Officials Association Executive Boards when necessary to complete an investigation. This Committee may also review regulations and programs of both Associations for compliance with the policies of Amarillo Soccer Association, Amarillo Soccer Officials Association, NTSSA, USSF, and FIFA. The Committee will assist in implementing policies of ASA, e.g., require that game cards have the requested information completed prior to the start of play.

#### **6. Publicity and Publications Committee**

It shall handle all matters pertaining to publicity in the media. It shall publish a newsletter for members of this Association covering all areas of soccer news. It shall be appointed by the President.

#### **7. Coaches Committee**

This Committee shall consist of a Chairman and a maximum number of (4) members who are as follows:

- A. The Chairman and members of this Committee will be appointed by the President of this Association.
- B. Committee's Purpose and Duty. The paramount purpose and duty of this Committee will be to implement and administer the United States Soccer Federation Coaching Systems throughout the Association. It will promote the desire for the highest quality of coaching standards throughout this Association's membership, and assist the members in obtaining quality coaching standards. It shall further administer the programs set forth by the United States Soccer Federation and its respective divisions with regard to Olympic CONCACAF, All Star, National Senior and Youth teams. It will assist in the administration of United States Soccer Federation coaching clinics given in this Association, and will administer the coaching systems to compliment the United States Soccer Federation coaching system. (Section 13 – USSF Handbook)

#### **8. Insurance Committee**

It shall handle all matters pertaining to the insurance program of this Association. It shall be appointed by the President.

#### **9. Constitution and Rules Study Committee**

The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Chairman of Cups and Games. The Committee shall consist of the Chairman and four (4) members appointed by the President of this Association. No other member of this Committee will, at the time of his/her appointment, be a member of the Executive Board. This Committee shall review all revisions and from time to time, the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to make certain that the Constitution, BY-Laws, and Rules and Regulations do not conflict and to point out to the Executive Board where such conflicts exist in order that any problems may be solved in the most expeditious manner possible.

## **Section II Service Committees**

### **1. Nominating Committee**

It shall be appointed by the President, and it shall present a slate of officers to the Executive Board one month prior to the Annual Meeting.

### **2. Long Range Planning Committee**

It shall be composed of the First Vice-President as Chairman and four (4) member appointees. The purpose of this Committee is to study and make recommendations to the Executive Board for needed plans and changes for the future growth and advancement of the Amarillo Soccer Association.

## **ARTICLE V – AGE GROUPINGS**

The age groupings for the Amarillo Soccer Association shall have the player age groups which run concurrently with the NTSSA guidelines which require the age breaks according to the date of birth.

- Under 6
- Under 8
- Under 10
- Under 12
- Under 14
- Under 16
- Under 19
- Youth Coed
- Over 19 Men
- Over 19 Women
- Over 19 Coed

## **ARTICLE VI – RULES OF PLAY**

Except as otherwise specified herein, Rules of Play of the United States Soccer Federation and its respective divisions , senior and youth, will apply in all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Amarillo Soccer Association and its affiliated members.

Except with prior approval by the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department, there shall be no practice upon park fields which have been prepared as game fields, Amarillo Independent School District dedicated game or practice fields, or areas where games or practices have been canceled due to weather. Any ASA-registered team guilty of violating the prohibitions of practicing on any of the listed facilities shall forfeit one league game and pay a fine in the amount of \$50 prior to the next scheduled game.

## **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

Amendments to the By-Laws may be made at any regular meeting of the Association by a vote of a majority of the Voting Members present, provided a written notice of all proposed changes is made available at a prior General Meeting. When a change occurs, a copy of the new By-Laws will be made available to a voting member when requested prior to the start of the next Season play. Exception: By-Laws amendments may be made without prior notice at the May Annual Meeting. Amendments formally presented at the May meeting will be in written form with copies for voting members.



# RULES & REGULATIONS

## 1. DEFINITION OF YOUTH REGISTRANTS

- 1.1. Youth registration of soccer players under these NTSSA rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants under the age of nineteen (19).
- 1.2. Registration
  - A. Recreational: The player is registered to a ASA from the moment the player or the player's agent completes the ASA registration process and pays the appropriate fees. "Rostering" means assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by NTSSA or its member associations.
  - B. Competitive: The player is registered and rostered to that team from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the USYSA registration form and pays a portion of the fee to that team.
  - C. Recreational Plus: For proper age players U-11 and older. NTSSA allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of recreational plus soccer. For a dual registered player, the player's recreational team shall be considered the player's primary team and the recreational plus team shall be considered the players secondary team. Players may be assigned to Recreational Plus teams by any NTSSA recreational team formation method (Section 4). Additionally, ASA may consider requests from Recreational Plus players to play together on a team. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. ASA accepts as participants in the league any and all eligible youths. Recreational Plus teams must play in a Recreational Plus or Open League. Recreational Plus teams may not enter Recreational Tournaments unless the tournament provides a Recreational Plus division.
  - D. Youth Coed: For proper age players U-11 and older. 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 team shall be considered the player's secondary team.
    - i. Recreational Coed: Players may be assigned to teams by any recreational team formation method (Rule 4). Additionally, ASA may consider requests from coed players to play together on a team.
    - ii. Competitive Coed: If a coed team has more than 50 percent of its players also registered as competitive outdoor players, the coed team shall be classified as a competitive coed team.

## 2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competition under the auspices of this Association. A registered player shall be named on the final roster submitted to the ASA Registrar, and be eligible to play in the match (i.e., a player is not eligible due to ASA disciplinary reasons, red card, etc.). A team that uses unregistered player(s) shall automatically forfeit all games in which said player(s) participated; and the coach of said team shall be reported to the A&D Chairman (ASA First Vice-President) for an A&D review of the matter.
- 2.2. Players who use assumed names to participate in unsanctioned league play (other than friendly games) shall be required to request reinstatement prior to participation in registered play. Such requests shall be in writing and directed to the attention of the First Vice-President of ASA.
- 2.3. Registered player may only be on the Active Roster of one team at any given time. However, ASA may form recreational All-Star Teams in U-11 through U-19 divisions from players who continue to be registered on other ASA teams for purposes of participating in tournaments designated for Select or Competitive teams. Recreational All-Star Teams shall be defined as a team composed of players selected from more than one team that participated in any recreational league or association.
- 2.4. ASA will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play for the first time in the Association.
- 2.5. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- 2.6. ASA will keep a copy of proof of age on players.

## 3. TEAM ORGANIZATION

- 3.1. A maximum of one (1) Head Coach, one (1) Assistant Coach, and one (1) Team Manager are authorized per team. Children of a Head Coach may be on the parent's team, as long as the players are assigned to the team in accordance with Section 4 and 5. The Executive Board may assign a player to the parent's team, if the parent agrees to be Head Coach of the team for one calendar year; provided that the transfer of the player be completed seven (7) days prior to the start of league play. This assignment will adhere to Section 4 and 5, and if parent coaches less than one calendar year, the player will go back into the player pool for reassignment.
- 3.2. The Head Coach shall:
  - A. Be responsible for all clerical functions, team rosters, etc., be completed properly within deadlines given by the Age Group Commissioner
  - B. Design and implement the team practices
  - C. Be responsible for conducting approximately 3/4 of the team practices
  - D. Attend and coach a majority of team games

- E. Be responsible for attending ASA meetings in order to relay information to parents and
- F. Be responsible for parents' behavior at all times.
- G. Be responsible for obtaining US Soccer license prior to completion of first season. "F" license required for U-6 Head Coaches and "E" license required for U-9 and above Head Coaches

3.3. The maximum number of players per team will be:

Age Group	Maximum Players on Roster
U-5/6	6
U-7/8	8
U-9/10	12
U-11 Recreational	16
U-12 to U17 Recreational	18
U-11 to U-17 Competitive	18
U-19 Recreational or Competitive	22

3.4. Existing teams may retain all players from the previous season, if age group and registration requirements are met. To be retained, a player must be a registered team member for the previous season. All retained players must be on the Coach's roster at the team formation meeting held by the ASA Commissioner, or the player(s) will be placed in the player pool for assignment to another team should that player(s) decide to play at a later date. Each Coach shall be required to contact all players on existing rosters. A core to continue an existing team is as follows:

Age Group	Minimum Returning Players to Maintain a Team
U-5/6	3
U-7/8	4
U-9/10	5
U-11 Recreational	7
U-12 to U17 Recreational	8
U-11 to U-17 Competitive	9
U-19 Recreational or Competitive	9

3.5. A player who does not play for a single season may return to his/her previous team provided there is room on the roster. Such a returning player must be assigned to his/her previous team's roster prior to team formation. Any player assignments under this rule are subject to the approval of the Age Group Commissioner and the Youth Commissioner or the Executive Board. This rule does not apply to entire teams. A team must exist in order for a player to return to.

- 3.6. The Youth Commissioner may make exceptions to the minimum number requirement on a case-by-case basis to accommodate player numbers and in order to create the best arrangement of teams and players in a given age group. This will typically come into play for the older age groups (U-11 and above) when modified playing formats may be adopted in order to field a league for the age group(s). This may occur in the younger age groups in rare situations.
- 3.7. A Head Coach may request removal of a player from the roster by notifying the Age Group Commissioner in writing. This written request must state the reason for the request. The Commissioner will obtain a statement from the player's parent or legal guardian that agrees to the request or the parent/guardian may appeal the request to the Executive Board. However, 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 Member Association discipline committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching. All such actions must be coordinated and sanctioned by Age Group Commissioners and the Executive Board. Any resulting transfers must be made per Section 5.
- 3.8. A recreational team may practice a maximum of 4-hours in a 7-day period. Scheduled league play is in addition to the 4-hour limit. Team scrimmages or unsanctioned games are included in the 4-hour limit.
- 3.9. Monday evenings are reserved for academy sessions and All-Star training. U-8 to U-19 recreational teams should not practice on Monday nights.
- 3.10. In no event will a coach simultaneously serve as Head Coach or Assistant Coach of two, or more teams of the same gender, playing in the same age group, unless a shortage of coaches in that age group exists, and the ASA Executive Board gives approval to the coach.

#### **4. PLAYER ASSIGNMENT**

- 4.1. Coaches must ensure that all those rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on that team. In the event there are not enough players in the player pool, coaches are allowed to actively seek players of the proper age group within ASA territory to be added to the player pool.
- 4.2. New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following three methods:
  - A. U-5 to U-8, (Option 1) U-11 and above: Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group coordinating committee of more than one member on a Home Neighborhood basis.
  - B. U-9 to U-10, (Option 2) U-11 and above: Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a home neighborhood basis.
- 4.3. Players U-11 and above are assigned by the method described in 4.2 above when players are available in the player pool. In the event there are not enough players, coaches may actively seek players of the proper age group within the ASA territory to be added to the player pool provided:
  - A. The player is not presently registered on an existing team.
  - B. The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.
- 4.4. "Buddy Rule": In order to promote soccer participation for young children, an Under 6 player may invite a friend who has never registered in ASA to join his/her existing team with the permission of ASA. New Under 5 players may request to buddy on a single team, subject to the approval of the Age Group Commissioner.

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- 4.5. Player's names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the Head Coach may request their child to be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching.
  - 4.6. If a person becomes the head coach of a new team formed by the Member Association in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. 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 a majority vote of the Executive Board.
  - 4.7. There may only be one recreation team formation process per age group.
  - 4.8. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational.
  - 4.9. Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered non-recreational for recreational league and tournament play.
  - 4.10. All written requests submitted to play soccer from players not on existing teams will be placed in Age Group Player Pools and assigned to teams by ASA. For Pool Player Assignment, all written requests will be organized in groups by Home Neighborhood with the exception of the Transfer Players. The Pool Players from each Home Neighborhood will be assigned in the following order:
    - A. Players from folded teams; teams not returning.
    - B. Group One Transfer players per Section 5.2A (Transfer back to Home Neighborhood)
    - C. Group Two Transfer players Section 5.2.B (Transfer off of team, Home Neighborhood disregarded).
    - D. New player requests.
  - 4.11. A player's Home Neighborhood is defined as:
    - A. The home school attendance area defined for the local public elementary school in which the player's residence is located. (EXCEPTION: Private school students must provide proof of enrollment prior to team assignment or team formation.)
    - B. The United State Postal Service 5-digit Zip Code in which the player's residence is located.
    - C. The home school attendance area defined for the local public middle school in which the player's residence is located.
    - D. The home school attendance area defined for the local public high school in which the player's residence is located.
    - E. School attendance areas are defined by the local Independent School District(s) and agreed to by the ASA Executive Board. Each League may use only one definition of the Home Neighborhood for each playing season.
  - 4.12. If a Home Neighborhood has 2 or more teams, the team with the lowest number of players draws first until it is equal to the next highest Team, and then the Teams alternate. When a Home Neighborhood's Team (or Teams) is full, the remaining pool players from that school will be placed in the next closest alternate Home Neighborhood pool, with the players retaining their priority group for assignment, with the exception that these players are to be assigned after the alternate Home Neighborhood Group 1 players, but before the alternate Home Neighborhood Group 2 players. If there are 2 or more Home Neighborhoods that are equally close, the players are to be placed with the Home Neighborhood needing players. Efforts will be

made to keep the remaining players together in the same alternate location, but if all alternate Home Neighborhoods are equal in player number, a draw will take place.

- 4.13. In the U-16 and U-19 age groups, the coach may contact non-active players to play on his team provided he has vacancies on his roster and will not exceed 18 players (up to U-17) and 22 players (U-19), providing:
  - A. The player attends or will attend the same high school as the majority, if a majority exists, of the existing rostered players.
  - B. The player has not played on any ASA team's roster the previous season, and.
  - C. The Coach has the proper request form submitted to the League Commissioner, the Third Vice-President for consideration.
- 4.14. In all age groups, cutting, tryouts, taxi squads, and injured reserves are prohibited.
- 4.15. If a large player pool exists in an age group, the Commissioner and the Executive Board can attempt to form teams from a Home Neighborhood prior to the team formation meeting.
- 4.16. At the Team Formation Meeting, the Age Group and Youth Commissioners may, if necessary, assign each team roster to the maximum number allowed in Section 3.3, with the coaches to inform the Commissioner of assigned players' status within five (5) days of the meeting.
- 4.17. Players may not play in younger age groupings than their age group would require. Any exceptions to this rule must have a documented medical basis and be approved by NTSSA.
- 4.18. Siblings will be allowed to play on the same team as long as the age and roster requirements are met. Boys cannot play on girls teams
- 4.19. Playing in a higher age group:
  - A. Players may play up one year in age. For example, a U-7 player may play up to U-8.
  - B. To play in the next higher age group:
    - i. A signed play-up form must be submitted by the parent or legal guardian to the Age Group Commissioner along with the player's registration at the beginning of EVERY season prior to team formation.
    - ii. The Age Group Commissioner must discuss a request with the Youth Commissioner or Executive Board for approval to ensure that age groups are not adversely affected by play-ups.
    - iii. Any U-19 or U-16 player desiring to play in the' ASA Adult Division must place a request with the ASA Third Vice-President and NTSSA Youth Commissioner in accordance with NTSSA guidelines.
  - C. When playing in the next higher age group involves a team transfer, the player transfer procedures in Section 5 must be followed by the Age Group Commissioner.
  - D. If an Age Group division fails to form, any player eligible to play in a younger age group may be placed in that pool for assignment as a folded team player, but if his/her older team re-forms the next season, he/she may rejoin the higher age group roster automatically if he/she chooses to do so.
- 4.20. After team formation meetings, all additional players shall be assigned through the Age Group Commissioner with Executive Board approval.

## 5. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- 5.1. In order to change teams between seasons, the following procedures must be completed 2-weeks before team formation:
  - A. The player must submit a written request to ASA with a copy of this request sent to his current coach.
  - B. The player must state in writing the reasons for requesting the transfer.
  - C. A competitive player must complete a new player contract.
- 5.2. The above will be submitted to the player's Age Group Commissioner and the Executive Board for approval and reassignment of the player. Competitive player transfers will be managed by the Competitive representative. The Age Group Commissioner will assign the player into one of two transfer groups:
  - A. Transfer Group One - this is a player requesting a transfer to a team in his home neighborhood. The player may have moved and changed his school and is now desiring a team closer to where he now lives, or the player may have had to be assigned to a team last season that was out of his home neighborhood location. Group One Transfer players will be placed in the pool for his home neighborhood and assigned according to Section 4.10
  - B. Transfer Group Two - this is a player who is currently assigned to a team in his home neighborhood and is requesting a transfer to another team. Group Two Transfer players will be assigned to the team in his age group with the fewest players (if more than one team is in this situation, a draw will be held among these teams). The player's home neighborhood will be disregarded in reassigning the player.
- 5.3. Any written requests for player transfers submitted to the Age Group Commissioner and Executive Board will be checked with the player's parent both verbally and in writing, prior to assignment to discuss the loss of home neighborhood priorities in case the request would like to be withdrawn. If the player assignment is not accepted, whether the player is in Transfer Group One or Group Two, the player will be placed at the bottom of the player pool. If a player is refused by a coach, the coach will be placed at the bottom of the pool draw - except for assigned transfer players.
- 5.4. The provisions of Section 3.1 **cannot** be used to obtain a player transfer.
- 5.5. The assignment of transfer players shall have been completed seven (7) days prior to start of season play.
- 5.6. A coach, parent, team official, or agent of a registered ASA team **may not** contact a player (or his parent or guardian) registered with a different team for any soccer activity unless he first notifies, in writing, the coach of the team to which the player is currently registered. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending coach being suspended from all soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year. The decision rests with the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- 5.7. A player who has been playing up in an Age Group and decides before the next season begins to play down, in his correct age group will be placed in the pool for his age group in Transfer Group One, thus retaining his home neighborhood rights.

## 6. SOCCER ACADEMIES

- 6.1. Rationale:
- A. The North Texas Soccer Association has made a provision to allow for soccer academies within its area of jurisdiction. The Amarillo Soccer Association needs to be proactive in implementing an academy system to provide advanced training to recreational players. AND to protect the Amarillo Soccer Association from outside agencies establishing soccer academies and siphoning off players.
  - B. By providing advanced training and additional avenues for competition ASA may be able to retain more players beyond the U-10 age groups. ASA needs to build numbers at all age levels and many players are lost due to the attrition of club soccer.
  - C. By providing for soccer academies, ASA will be able to improve the level of play in all age groups and enhance the playing ability of ASA soccer players in order to better prepare them for competitive soccer.
  - D. By implementing a strict set of rules governing the academy structure ASA can insure that the Executive Board will retain final control over the disposition of players within the ASA system.
  - E. By implementing a strict set of standards governing training methods, personnel, fees, and academy structures ASA will be able to insure that the soccer academies are fulfilling their function of higher level training by qualified, educated coaches.
  - F. By implementing the academy system as outlined in this proposal, ASA will be able to offer a league based on the academy structure for players in the U-14 to U-19 age groups who have traditionally been lost to ASA, yet still allow those teams that wish to remain as a viable recreational team the opportunity to compete in league play and/or sanctioned tournaments without violating NTSSA rules.
- 6.2. A soccer academy may be formed for registered members of the Amarillo Soccer Association for the expressed purpose of training and play in addition to recreational leagues.
- 6.3. Any soccer academy formed within the geographic boundaries of the Amarillo Soccer Association must first obtain permission from the Executive Board of the Amarillo Soccer Association before proceeding with any academy training, play or registration of players within the geographic boundaries of the Amarillo Soccer Association.
- 6.4. Any individual, group, club or other organization wishing to create a "soccer academy" must first provide the following information before their academy will be considered by the Executive Board of the Amarillo Soccer Association:
- A. A mission statement, stating the purposes for the academy.
  - B. A written plan for the structure, rules and regulations of the academy which must include and are not limited to: a named director of coaching who will be responsible for the activities of the academy.
  - C. Written verification that the proposed director of the academy holds a minimum of a "B" License from the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).
  - D. Written verification that all coaches who will train players within the academy structure hold a minimum of a "D" license from the USSF, an equivalent from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), or verifiable college/professional soccer playing experience.

- E. Documentation proving the local residence of the academy director within the geographic boundaries of the Amarillo Soccer Association for a period of not less than two (2) years prior to the inception of the Soccer Academy.
  - F. Documentation proving local address for the Academy headquarters, official address, etc.
  - G. A plan for training methods and league play to be utilized by the academy.
  - H. A proposal for location of training sessions, scheduling of training sessions and/or games, and registration of players – including fees to be charged if any
- 6.5. Amarillo Soccer Association will consider Soccer Academies on the following basis:
- A. Academies designed to serve the U-8 through U-10 age groupings as pre-competitive youth players based on small sided games per the USSF guidelines.
  - B. Academies designed to serve the U-11 through U-19 age groupings as post-competitive youth players based on small or full sided games per the USSF guidelines
- 6.6. Once approved, the Soccer Academy will act as an autonomous entity under the guidelines set forth by the Amarillo Soccer Association. The director of the Soccer Academy, or its board, will be solely responsible for the direction, coaching, maintenance, and operations of the academy. The Amarillo Soccer Association will bear no expense or liability for the activities of the Academy.
- 6.7. Amarillo Soccer Association will offer a “High School Academy League” for registered recreational soccer players of the Amarillo Soccer Association. League rules and format will be determined by the Executive Board of the Amarillo Soccer Association.
- 6.8. A “Soccer Academy” may be a group of Under 8 through Under 19 registered NTSSA RECREATIONAL players who desire to participate with other players in and advanced training and game setting. Players must register with Amarillo Soccer Association and MUST be on a recreational team, if one is available in their age group. Academies are to be governed by the Amarillo Soccer Association rules and regulations, by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, and the United States Soccer Federation.
- 6.9. Coaches, trainers, administrators, managers etc., of Soccer Academies must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and information sent to NTSSA.
- 6.10. Soccer Academy play is in addition to recreational play. Players may join any Soccer Academy of their choosing within their age group, and are not required to obtain a release from their NTSSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by the Amarillo Soccer association registrar to participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by the Amarillo Soccer Association. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player’s recreational soccer registration fees.
- 6.11. Soccer Academies may provide league play if they have enough teams, or may coordinate with other Member Associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations. Age division play for pre-competitive age groups will be designated as Under 9 or Under 10. Under 8 teams and/or players must play in the Under 9 division to participate. Scores and standings shall not be kept.
- 6.12. Soccer Academy teams are not considered “registered teams,” and therefore do not have to follow NTSSA recreational team formation rules. Soccer Academy teams may not enter NTSSA sanctioned tournaments

unless the tournament has specified a "Soccer Academy" bracket. In that event, players must declare which Soccer Academy team they will play with in the tournament and may only play for one team in a tournament. Soccer Academy teams may travel out of state as a team to play in tournaments but Academy teams may only participate in tournaments that either have an Academy bracket or have a competitive bracket that allows Academy teams to participate.

- 6.13. Soccer Academy rosters may change from week to week to accommodate players desiring to change Soccer Academies, or to accommodate players who want to play on one team one week and another team the next week.
- 6.14. The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:
  - A. Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
  - B. Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
  - C. Provide recreational players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, which players they would like to play with, and for which coaches they would like to play.
- 6.15. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
- 6.16. For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy must be registered with an Amarillo Soccer Association recreational team, if one is available in their age group, and participate in at least 50% of that team's games and practices in each season. In the event of a conflict, the player, coach, and parent must consider the ASA recreational team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment. Players who fail to comply with this rule may have their eligibility to participate in the soccer academy revoked.
- 6.17. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- 6.18. If the complaint is intra-association, then the complaint will follow the Amarillo Soccer Association rules regarding misconduct.
- 6.19. All academy sessions are to be held on Mondays.

## **7. MISCONDUCT**

ALL ASA MEMBERS ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT NTSSA MISCONDUCT RULES AND THE ASA CODE OF CONDUCT ARE DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY PLAYER, REGARDLESS OF AGE, EVERY COACH, ADMINISTRATOR, AND REFEREE. IT IS INTENDED THAT EVERY COACH WILL MAKE KNOWN THESE CONTENTS TO HIS/HER PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS. ALL MEMBERS OR PARTICIPANTS IN SOCCER WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE AMARILLO SOCCER ASSOCIATION HAVE REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE AGREED TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND CODE OF CONDUCT (APPENDIX A) OF THE AMARILLO SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

### **ASA ENFORCES THE MISCONDUCT RULES (SECTION 3.11) OF THE NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, JANUARY 2008 (OR CURRENT VERSION).**

- 7.1. Punishment of Teams: The Amarillo Soccer Association will not hesitate to deny teams within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses considered to

bring the game into disrepute.

- 7.2. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS WILL BE PERMITTED AT ASA YOUTH FUNCTIONS.

## 8. REFEREES

- 8.1. All referees must be registered with USSF, NTSSA, and be approved by the ASOA as knowledgeable of the game. The only approved referee system for ASA competitions shall be the International 3-Referee System (a Referee and two Assistant Referees) employing FIFA Laws of the Game (as modified herein).
- 8.2. The use of unregistered referees is approved only in emergency situations and only with the approval of an ASA Executive Board member who reports the decision to the rest of the Executive Board within 24 hours of the match. An "emergency" would generally mean that all efforts to contact qualified and certified referees have failed and that the rescheduling of a match would place undue hardships on one or both of the teams. If the two competing teams agree on an individual to referee their match, the decisions of the "Emergency Referee" are just as binding as if he/she were a Registered Referee approved by ASA.
- 8.3. Youth referees can officiate in games with assessment and approval of the ASOA.

## 9. CANCELLATIONS, FORFEITS, STANDINGS, RESCHEDULING & FRIENDLIES

- 9.1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED GAMES (schedule prepared by the ASA Schedule Committee) may be cancelled and rescheduled at the discretion of the Age Group Commissioner when requested in writing by either team's Head Coach within seven (7) days of distribution of the **initial** schedule to the Head Coaches, provided notification verbal/written is given to both Coaches and the Referee Assignor within 24 hours.
- 9.2. Any other changes involving a single cancellation, reschedule of an existing game, or changing a team involved in the prepared schedule will have to be submitted in writing 2-weeks prior to the scheduled game, accompanied by a \$25 fee, and approved by the Executive Board (or designee). The written request will be signed by both coaches and will provide mutually agreed upon alternative dates for the scheduling of the game.
- 9.3. Coaches cannot decide between themselves to cancel or reschedule a scheduled game. Any such occurrences will result in a dual forfeit and subject the coaches to Code of Conduct violations.
- 9.4. Weather Policy: Unless ASA or the City of Amarillo declares that a particular day is not playable, due the adverse weather conditions:
- A. The scheduled Game Referee is responsible for canceling the game at the field.
  - B. The failure of a team to be present results in a forfeit. Both teams should show up at the field prepared to play as usual. The referee will check both teams for enough players to start play. Failure of a team to show will result in a forfeit being awarded by ASA.
  - C. Failure of both teams to be present results in a forfeit of both teams, and a penalty of 0 points will be awarded to each team. No make-up games are allowed.
  - D. Coaches will be notified by phone and/or the ASA website when adverse weather conditions prevent scheduled league play.

- 9.5. Prior to scheduled game time, the Field Committee Chairman (2nd VP) may declare a field not playable and cancel the game or move it to another field. If the game is moved, a fifteen (15) minute transit time will be added to the scheduled game time. Forfeit time will remain regulated by Section 9.6.
- 9.6. Forfeits:
- A. All forfeits will be scored 3-0.
  - B. Events requiring a game to be forfeited are as follows:
    - i. Playing unregistered players.
    - ii. Permitting either suspended players or coaches to play or coach.
    - iii. Failure to have the minimum required players to begin a game no later than fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled time.
    - iv. Failure of one or both teams to show no later than fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled time.
    - v. A coach pulls his team off the field during a game. In addition, said coach will be suspended for the following two games and will be on probation for the remainder of the playing season.
- 9.7. Standings:
- A. Standings for U-5 to U-8 Age Groups are not kept.
  - B. Standings for all other age groups are as follows:
    - WIN: 3 points
    - TIE: 1 point
    - LOSS: 0 points
- 9.8. Tie Break System
- A. If after using the above point system a tie results, then the winner of the head-to-head match(es) will be considered the winner of the tie.
  - B. If after using the above step a tie still results, or no head-to-head matches were played, each team affected by the tie will receive one (1) point for each goal scored up to three (3) points per game.
  - C. If after using the above two steps a tie still results, then each team affected by the tie will have one point deducted for each goal scored against them with no limit per game.
  - D. If after using the above three steps a tie still results, then teams tied for first or second place will receive awards at the end of the soccer season.

- 9.9. "Friendly" games are generally used in the U-9 and U-10 age divisions to allow teams to play eight (8) games in a season, while having an equal number of games played that determine the standings in a division. For example, in an 8-team division, each team will play a single friendly game; in a 6-team division, each team will play three friendly games in a season. All friendly matches are scheduled at the beginning of each season. Designated friendly games keep any such designations if they are subject to any rescheduling (once a "friendly", always a "friendly"). Friendly games are generally defined as:
- A. Games played or to be played that do not lead to any championship.
  - B. Games that do not lead to a trophy or any other type of award.
- 9.10. End of Season Awards: Awards are given at the end of each season in the age divisions where standings are kept to the 1st and 2nd place teams.

## **10.GAME PROTESTS**

- 10.1. There are only two acceptable causes for protesting a game after it has been played:
- A. A team plays an unregistered or suspended player or allows a suspended coach to coach.
  - B. There has been an error in the application of the Laws of the Game, as modified by ASA.
- 10.2. No protest can be entertained if based on judgment decisions made by the Referee during play.
- 10.3. No video tapes or any other photographic reproduction will be allowed as evidence or grounds for protest.

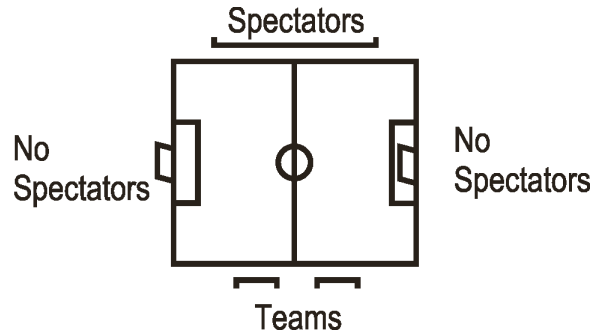
## **11.PLAYING RULES**

The Rules of Play for the Amarillo Soccer Association shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as follows:

- 11.1. Each recreational player is to play no less than 50% of each game unless for reasons of discipline or injury. Any deviations from 50% play time will be reported to the game official and opposing coach prior to the end of the match and recorded on the coach's game card and turned in to ASA.
- 11.2. Modified Playing Rules for U-5 to U-10
- A. Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
  - B. U-5 to U-8: Do not record league standings.
  - C. U-5 to U-8: Do not record final score.
  - D. U-5 to U-8: Coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than 3-yards from outside the touchline.
  - E. U-9 to U-10: Coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than 6-yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty 10-yards to the goal line.
  - F. U-11 and above: Coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than 6-yards from outside the touchline, nor should they be closer than twenty 20-yards to the goal line.
  - G. NO individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
  - H. Parents should not coach or instruct players during the game.

11.3. LAW I:

- A. Field of Play — as furnished and authorized by ASA with field dimensions conforming to USYSA recommendations.
- B. Technical Area — a clearly defined area for rostered team officials and substitutes.
- C. Spectator Area — a clearly defined area for all spectators



11.4. LAW II: The Ball — alternate size #4 for U-9 to U-12; alternate size #3 for U-5 to U-8.

11.5. LAW III: Number of Players —

- A. A team must start with the following number of players:

Age Group	USYSA Playing Format	Minimum Players to Start or Continue
U-5/6	3v3	2
U-7/8	4v4	3
U-9/10	6v6	4
U-11 Rec	8v8*	5
U-12 Rec	9v9*	6
U-11/12 Comp. & All U-13 & Above	11v11	7

\*As player numbers allow; optional playing formats may be adopted by the Youth Commissioner, but the minimum player numbers will be bound by the playing formats listed above.

- B. Forfeit time is fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time. (see Section 9.6)
- C. A game will be abandoned if one team's total players are reduced in number to less than the minimum number shown in the table above. The Referee will make a report to the Appeal and Disciplinary Committee, which will decide the final outcome of the game, which could result in a replay.

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- D. Technical Area
- i. Consistent with NTSSA requirements, ASA requires the use of technical areas for team officials and substitutes. The technical area is described in Law 3, International F.A. Board Decision No. 2.
  - ii. The ASA technical area is generally 10 yards wide and 3 to 6 yards from the touch line.
  - iii. Only **rostered** team officials and rostered substitutes are permitted to occupy the technical area during the match.
  - iv. The occupants of the technical area are identified before the beginning of the match by the game referee through a review of the certified team roster.
  - v. Only one team official at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions and he/she must return to his/her position after giving these instructions.
  - vi. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
  - vii. The coach and other occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner.
- E. Substitution for U-5 to U-8 will be on the quarter. U-5/6 games have four 8-minute quarters. U-7/8 games have 10-minute quarters.
- F. Substitution is unlimited in the U-9 to U-19 Age Groups. Substitutions may be made as follows:
- i. Goal kick - either team
  - ii. Throw-in with possession only
  - iii. After a goal is scored - either team
  - iv. At an injury (after play stops) - either team
  - v. When a caution (yellow card) is given, **that** player may be substituted for.
  - vi. Half-time - either team
  - vii. **No** substitutions on corner kicks.
- G. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play the minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action). In the U-6 and U-8 Age Groups, coaches are required to substitute so that every player plays during the first half and then again in the second half. A player cannot sit out for the entire first or second half. Players who are injured, develop health problems or have discipline problems may be substituted at the discretion of the coach.
- 11.6. LAW IV — Players Equipment
- A. Player equipment must conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
- i. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
  - ii. Shinguards are mandatory in all Age Groups and players shall wear an age-appropriate size.

Shinguards are covered **entirely** by the stockings, made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substances), and provide a reasonable degree of protection.

iii. ASA player must wear uniforms issued by ASA.

11.7. LAW V — Referees. Approved by ASA.

11.8. LAW VI — Assistant Referees. For Age Divisions U-9 and above and as approved by ASA.

11.9. LAW VII — Duration of Game: As shown below. Half-time should not exceed five (5) minutes, except by the consent of the Referee.

Age Group	Duration (Periods & Times)
U-5/6	Four 8-Minute Quarters
U-7/8	Four 10-Minute Quarters
U-9/10	Two 25-Minute Halves
U-11/12	Two 30-Minute Halves
U-13/14	Two 35-Minute Halves
U-15/16	Two 40-Minute Halves
U-19	Two 45-Minute Halves
Adult	Two 45-Minute Halves

11.10. LAW VIII — Start of Play. No change

11.11. LAW IX — Ball In and Out of Play. No change

11.12. LAW X — Method of Scoring. No change

11.13. LAW XI — Off-side. No change

11.14. LAW XII — Fouls and Misconduct

- A. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is not allowed.
- B. Coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the Referee as are the players, i.e. caution and/or ejection.
- C. U-6 and U-8 Age Groups - all fouls result in an indirect kick.

11.15. LAW XIII — Free Kicks. No change

11.16. LAW XIV — Penalty Kicks. No change

11.17. LAW XV — Throw-Ins for U-6 and U-8 Age Groups

When throw-in is judged to be in error, the offending player will be instructed as to why the error was made, and then will be given a second chance to place the ball into play with a throw-in. If the second chance is judged to be illegal, then the opposing team will be awarded a throw-in at the spot of the previous infraction.

11.18. LAW XVI — Goal Kicks - No change

11.19. LAW XVII — Corner kicks - No change

## **12.PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Amendments to the Rules and Regulations may be made at any meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the Voting Members present, provided a written notice of all proposed changes have been made at a prior General Meeting. When a change occurs, a new copy of the Rule Changes will be made available to all Voting Members prior to the start of the next season.

# Appendix A. Code of Conduct

## **STATED POLICY**

The Amarillo Soccer Association Executive Board wishes to provide a wholesome playing environment for players, coaches, spectators, and officials. To provide this environment, the Executive Board will not condone actions by team officials, players, or spectators that are detrimental to the conduct of the game. Team officials, spectators, and players responsible for such actions will be subject to disciplinary actions.

## **SPECIFIC ACTIONS PROHIBITED BY POLICY:**

- I. Foul or abusive language by team officials, spectators or players on the bench.
- II. Harassment of opponent's players (belittle, derogatory comments) by team officials, spectators, referees, assistant referees, or players on the bench.
- III. Harassment of league officials, referees, assistant referees, or spectators by coaches, spectators, referees, assistant referees, or players on the bench.
- IV. Acts of aggression, threats of, or actual physical violence to players, league officials, referees, assistant referees, or spectators by coaches, spectators, players, referees, or assistant referees.
- V. Accepting any form of assistance from any persons officially suspended from all soccer activities by the Amarillo Soccer Association and/or the North Texas Soccer Association.
- VI. Coaching outside of the team technical area by any team official.
- VII. Location of spectators outside of the restraint lines (or their extensions) or within 25 yards of the goal line.
- VIII. Conduct contrary to the goals of the Amarillo Soccer Association.

## **ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED BY POLICY:**

Enforcement of this policy will be by the ASA Executive Board, designated Committees and League Officials. These Officials are authorized to observe the conduct of team officials, spectators and bench players and speak to such persons while the game is in progress for actions specified in this policy or conduct contrary to the goals of ASA. This action is (1) to serve as a deterrent to the offender and (2) to serve as the one warning the offender will receive. If this action continues during the game, or the person will not cooperate during the course of the season, the offender will be required to make an appearance before the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will make a decision on the information presented and, if a violation is determined to have occurred, the discipline invoked may range from probation to permanent suspension from ASA sponsored activities.

The offender must appear before the A&D Committee if requested to do so. The offender will be automatically suspended from participation for the remainder of the season until the appearance before the Committee, when a mutually agreed upon time is made.

Note: Prior to the beginning of each season, a parent or guardian of each player is required to sign a code of conduct (typically during the registration process) that includes the following condition:

*By my signature, I indicate that I have received, read, understand and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct. I further agree that I am responsible for ensuring that all of my family members attending ASA events to watch my child participate understand their behavior expectations regarding the Code of Conduct*

# Appendix B. Adult Coed Rules

All rules within comply with North Texas State Soccer Association, Amarillo Soccer Association, and the United States Soccer Federation.

## 1. Eligibility

Any person meeting all age requirements is eligible to play in the Amarillo Soccer Association, providing they are in good standing with all other Associations, including NTSSA and USSF.

## 2. Age Divisions

- 2.1. High School: Players must be exiting 9th, 10th or 11th grade in the school year prior to the playing season.
- 2.2. Over 19: Players must be 18 years old or graduated from high school prior to the start of the season. Players not 19 years old but out of high school will be required to file a youth to adult provisional play-up form along with an additional cost of \$3.00. No one under the age of 17 as of January 1st of the current year will be allowed to play in the Over 19 Division.
- 2.3. Over 35: Players must be 35 years old prior to June 1st of the current year.

## 3. Proof of age

- 3.1. Proof of age will be required by all players. The following are valid forms of ID:
  - A. Birth certificate (along with a photo ID)
  - B. Valid State Driver's License
  - C. Valid State Identification Card
  - D. Valid Passport
  - E. School ID card (for high school only)

## 4. Registration

- 4.1. All required fees, registration forms, liability releases, identification cards and other forms of information must be fully completed and submitted to the Association on the designated dates for each season.
- 4.2. Each player must have a signed liability release on file with this Association for the current season before being allowed to play.

## 5. Team Manager Responsibility

- 5.1. He/she is responsible for the teams' conduct on and off of the field of play, including but not limited to litter control and alcoholic beverage consumption.
- 5.2. Any player caught with alcohol will be immediately removed from the team and will forfeit all monies put forth.
- 5.3. He/she is responsible for all spectator conduct.
- 5.4. Home team must provide referee with game card prior to the game.
- 5.5. Winning team must return game card to the ASA office within 72 hours.
- 5.6. He/she is responsible for removing any red-carded player from the field area. Any player that refuses to leave can be dropped from the team roster by the team manager and by doing so the team manager is released from all responsibility, and said player will be subject to and A&D Committee review in order to be reinstated. Reinstatement is up to the A&D, league representative, and team manager. Any manager that does not enforce the rule of getting a player to leave the area, or chooses to drop the player will also be sent to the A&D. The manager may also be subject to suspension and/or fine.

## 6. Team Formation

- 6.1. High school: Players must register at the ASA office with a parent or guardian present to sign required release form (medical release form must be notarized. A notary is available at the office.) At this time, player may designate the team he/she wishes to play with. If the player does not have a team preference he/she will be placed by league representative onto a team needing players.
- 6.2. Over 19 and Over 35 Co-Ed: Any team manager may register any player (including themselves) to their team core provided they meet all age requirements.
- 6.3. All other players must register through the ASA office at designated times and will be placed on existing team cores.
- 6.4. Couples may request to play on the same team.
- 6.5. Siblings may request to play on the same team.
- 6.6. No more than 5 male players under the age of 25 will be allowed to be rostered on one team.

## 7. Equipment

- 7.1. All teams must wear matching shirts with numbers permanently affixed to the back in order to play.
- 7.2. Players without correct shirt will not be allowed to play under any circumstances.
- 7.3. Shin guards are mandatory and socks must be pulled up to cover entire shin guard. Shin guards must meet FIFA standards.
- 7.4. Playing shoes must meet FIFA standards and be in safe repair.
- 7.5. Game ball shall be size 5 and conform to FIFA standards.

- 7.6. The Association will supply shirts of varying colors with numbers affixed to each player. Any team that chooses to wear a uniform not provided by the Association must have said uniforms approved by league representative and are subject to additional fees if a league sponsor is present.

## **8. Playing Rules**

Unless otherwise modified by these rules, all competition under jurisdiction of this Association shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of Soccer.

## **9. Suspended & Canceled Games**

- 9.1. If a game should be suspended before the second half beings, it shall be replayed.
- 9.2. If a game should be suspended once the second half beings, it shall be considered a full game.
- 9.3. For a game to be canceled and rescheduled, for any reason after final schedules are provided, the canceling team must give written notice to the league representative or ASA office seven days prior to the scheduled game date.
- 9.4. All games canceled within 24 hours of scheduled game time, not due to weather or extenuating circumstances (death, accident, etc.), will be handled as a forfeit and the canceling team will be responsible for all forfeit fees

## **10.Number of Players**

- 10.1. Adult Co-Ed: A team shall consist of 11 players including a keeper. A team shall consist of male and female players. A keeper may be either male or female, but will not be allowed to play the ball outside the penalty area at any time. Infractions will result in a direct free kick for the opposing team from the point of infraction. There shall never be more than five male players on the field at one time excluding the keeper. There may be up to ten female field players providing the keeper is a male. Seven players constitutes a team and if at least seven players (no more than six males) at game time, they must begin the game or forfeit and be responsible for all forfeit fees. In the event a male player is ejected from the game the offending team must continue the game with a maximum of four male field players, and so on.
- 10.2. Adult 6v6: A team shall consist of six players including a keeper. A team will consist of either male or female players. Four players constitutes a team and if at least five players are present at game time, they must begin the game or forfeit and be responsible for all forfeit fees.
- 10.3. High School 6v6: A team may be either males, females or any combination. A team shall consist of six players including a keeper. Four players constitutes a team and if at least five players are present at game time, they must begin the game or forfeit and be responsible for all forfeit fees.
- 10.4. Substitutions:
- A. Free substitution shall be allowed at the discretion and consent of the referee.
  - B. Any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field and get permission to return from the referee.

## 11.Misconduct

- 11.1. All misconduct shall be reported, in writing, to the league representative, by the game official within twenty-four hours. Any red card issued must have the corresponding player ID card attached to the misconduct report.
- 11.2. The league representative, appeals and disciplinary committee, and/or the executive board shall have the authority to suspend or remove any player at any time for any reason deemed necessary.
- 11.3. Serious misconduct will be reported if necessary to the North Texas State Soccer Association for further investigation.
- 11.4. Any ejection during a game is an automatic suspension for the next played game; accordingly any red card issued shall carry a minimum of one game suspension. Any card can be carried over into another division if said player is active in multiple divisions. Any card issued in the final game of a season shall be carried to the next season.
- 11.5. Any involvement in fighting shall be a minimum three game suspension and a \$50 fine.
- 11.6. The use of offensive, insulting or abusive language directed at an opponent, official, and/or spectator shall be a minimum three game suspension and a \$30 fine.
- 11.7. Foul language not directed at a person will be left up to the discretion of the referee.
- 11.8. Slide tackles are prohibited in the adult co-ed league and will result in an automatic yellow card. No warnings are necessary.

## 12.Identification

Each player is required to have a current player's card from Amarillo Soccer Association. Each player must present his or her card to the game official prior to the beginning of the game in order to play. Team managers are responsible for retrieving ID cards from the game official at the end of the match. Players that lose their cards during the season will be charged \$5 to have the card replaced.

## 13.Length of Game

- 13.1. Adult Co-Ed: Games will consist of two 40-minute halves. In the event of extreme heat, the referee may break the game into four periods.
- 13.2. All 6 v 6: Games will consist of two 25-minute halves.
- 13.3. All games will start at scheduled game time. If a team does not present the minimum number of players (co-ed seven, 6v6 four) the game shall be considered a forfeit and a 3-0 score will be awarded to the opposing team. The team responsible for the forfeit shall be held accountable for all fees incurred by the association for the forfeited game (referee, assistant referee, referee assignor, and field usage fees. A total of \$70). A maximum of 10 minutes grace period deducted from the game minutes (equally from both halves) may be allowed, however, a team must start when the required number of players have arrived.

## **14.Forfeits**

- 14.1. The appropriate league representative or referee may declare a forfeit for any of the following reasons:
  - A. Illegal or ineligible players
  - B. No ID cards
  - C. No game card
  - D. Not enough players
- 14.2. If a team has two forfeits within one season, they may be required to post a \$70 performance bond to finish the remainder of the season.

## **15.Scoring**

- 15.1. Adult co-ed: A woman's goal will count as two points. A man's goal will count as one goal. In the event of a defensive deflection, the last offensive player to touch the ball will determine the number of points awarded. Any goal scored directly by a defensive player will count as one point. Penalty kicks may be taken by any player but will always count as one point.
- 15.2. 6v6: All goals will count as one point.

## **16.Protests and Appeals**

A protest or appeal shall be accepted in writing within five days of the game only, and must be accompanied by a processing fee of \$25 (cash or money order) delivered to the Amarillo Soccer Association office, and will be addressed within seven days.

## **17.Fines**

Any player or team receiving fines for any reason given herein shall be suspended from all play until all fines are paid by cash or money order to the Amarillo Soccer Association office.

## **18.Procedures for changing Adult Coed Rules**

Revisions to Adult Rules may be made at any ASA meeting by a majority vote of the membership. Given that ASA does not have an official adult association, adult rules are managed as Executive Board policy.