

Lubbock Soccer Association

General Rules

2. Chapter 2: Player Registration and Team Formation

2.1. PLAYER DEFINITION

2.1.1. All youths who are between the ages of three and nineteen may register with the Lubbock Soccer Association.

2.1.1.1. Rostering is the assignment of a registered player to a team.

2.1.1.2. Recreational: A player is registered as a recreational player from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the Lubbock Soccer Association registration form or enrolls on line and pays the appropriate fees to the Association. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by the Association.

2.1.1.3. Competitive: A player is registered as a competitive player and rostered to a competitive team from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the NTSSA team registration form and pays a portion of the fee to that team.

2.1.1.4 Recreational Plus: For proper age level players U11 and older. Players may be assigned to Recreational Plus teams by any NTSSA recreational team formation method (paragraph 2.8). Additionally, the Lubbock Soccer Association 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 a team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. The Lubbock Soccer Association 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.

2.1.1.5. Youth Coed: For Proper age U11 and older. NTSSA and LSA allow 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.

2.1.1.5.1 Recreational Coed: Players may be assigned to teams by any NTSSA recreational team formation method (paragraph 2.8). Additionally, LSA may consider request from coed players to play together on a team.

2.1.1.5.2. Competitive Coed: If a coed team has more than 50% of its players also registered as a competitive outdoor players, the coed team shall be classified as a competitive coed team.

2.1.2. All players must present proof of age when they register to play for the first time in the Association. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, 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.

2.1.3. No youth may play in any league game without having completed the registration process outlined for the class of team on which he is playing. The registration process is not completed until all the necessary registration forms and fees have been turned in to the Registrar or completed on line.

2.1.4. All paperwork and fees for competitive teams must be submitted to the Registrar of the Lubbock Soccer Association before the date set by the Board of Directors. Add / Delete forms, complete with all necessary supporting documentation and all fees, must be submitted to the Registrar no later than any soccer activity which will involve or exclude the players listed on the form.

2.1.5. When players register, they (or their parents/guardians if the player is a minor) sign a Lubbock Soccer Association registration form for each outdoor soccer playing season. Players may also register on line through GotSoccer each outdoor soccer playing season. Completion of the Lubbock Soccer Association registration form allows the player to play outdoor soccer within the LSA programs. The player's assignment to a specific team, by the appropriate team formation rules, is for that entire remaining soccer year. However, the Lubbock Soccer Association may charge each active player a new player fee for each separate and distinct playing season. The United States Soccer Federation has established the soccer year as being from September 1 through August 31. The Lubbock Soccer Association, with the permission of the North Texas State Soccer Association, holds registration for the new soccer year in July and August.

2.1.6. Any team playing in a League operated by the Lubbock Soccer Association will pay the fees set by the Lubbock Soccer Association Board of Directors, will be subject to the playing rules and regulations of the Lubbock Soccer Association, and will be within the jurisdiction of the Discipline and Appeals Committee of the Lubbock Soccer Association for all games played in such a League, whether or not the games are played within Lubbock County.

2.1.7. Youth players not residing in North Texas State Soccer Association are prohibited from registering on a Lubbock Soccer Association team unless the National State Association of such players grants permission (in writing) to North Texas State Soccer Association for the player to be allowed to register on a Lubbock Soccer Association team. Such requests will be considered only under extreme or very unusual circumstances and must be completed once every soccer year. The NTSSA Youth Commissioner may deny the request at will, or may present the request to the NTSSA Executive Committee if the Youth Commissioner thinks the request has merit.

2.1.8. Players may only be registered with one team at any given time during the soccer year, except a players may rostered on a Youth Coed team in addition to the player's regular outdoor team.

2.1.9. Any youth player residing in Lubbock County, Texas, who is registered with a competitive team who decides to return to recreational league play must receive written permission from the NTSSA Youth Commissioner. A recreational player registration form must be completed prior to the player's assignment to a recreational team.

2.2. PLAYER RELEASES AND TRANSFERS

Release: Means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current soccer year.

2.2.1. The Lubbock Soccer Association reserves the right to assign players to recreational teams as necessary when fewer players than required return from a previous team.

2.2.2. Lubbock Soccer Association youth players may only be transferred once during the soccer year. Should the Lubbock Soccer Association desire to transfer a youth player more than once during a soccer year, it may file an appeal directly with the North Texas State Soccer Association Youth Commissioner. Only those circumstances which directly affect the successful completion of the Lubbock Soccer Association program or the welfare of the player will be considered.

2.2.3. Any player rostered to a team is bound to that team for the entire soccer year unless the player requests a release or is released involuntarily. A player release shall be submitted to and approved by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner in writing on the form provided stating the reason for the request for the release.

2.2.4. A player may be released from a team involuntarily only if the player is unable to play for one of the

following reasons:

2.2.4.1. The player has violated rules of the United States Soccer Federation, the United States Youth Soccer Association, the North Texas State Soccer Association, or the Lubbock Soccer Association.

2.2.4.2. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by NTSSA.

2.2.4.3. The player is injured to such a degree that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

2.2.4.4 Any competitive (select) coach who releases a player involuntarily for any reason other than listed above may be brought before the NTSSA Competitive Committee to explain his actions. An assertion by the coach or any person with authority or assumed authority on the team, either verbally or by action, that a reasonable person would interpret to mean that the player is no longer welcome on the team may be considered an involuntary release by the coach, even if no formal steps to complete release paperwork have been taken. If the Competitive Committee finds the involuntary release was not justified or could have been avoided in the best interest of the player, the coach is subject to severe sanctions including, but limited to, suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time determined by the Competitive Committee. The coach is responsible for the action of persons in authority, or with assumed authority, on the team.

2.2.5. A competitive (select) player is obligated to his competitive team for the soccer playing year from the time he signs a contract until the end of the subsequent soccer playing year (August 1 of the prior soccer year through June 30 of the current soccer year). Any release to transfer to another NTSSA competitive team will be allowed under the following circumstances.

Transfers that are approved by the player's current coach may be granted at any time on or prior to April 1.

Any request for transfer that is not approved by the player's current coach, as indicated on their release form or transfer form, will be scheduled for a Competitive Soccer Committee hearing which shall be chaired by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or his designee, with all parties being invited to attend. This shall be done between the dates of December 1 and January 31 for U-11 through U-14 and December 1 and March 15 for U-15 through U-19 only. (NOTE: The Competitive Committee may grant transfers prior to the start of the fall season in extremely limited circumstances, and only after receiving input from the coach or club official.) Any appeal of the decision of the Competitive Soccer Committee after the hearing must be made directly to the Executive Committee of NTSSA within 5 days.

A player may leave a competitive team and go into the LSA recreational player pool at any time on or prior April 1 of the current soccer year with the written permission of the NTSSA Youth Commissioner. Players may not be released from their competitive team after April 1, as no recreational pool is available. (Exception: player has moved outside NTSSA territory, current team has disbanded, or medical documentation the player has been injured and is unable to play the remainder of the soccer year.) Any recreational player currently rostered to a recreational team and wishing to be released to join a competitive team may do so only between December 1 and March 15, and may do so only with the written permission of the Lubbock Soccer Association. A competitive player registration form must be completed prior to the player's transfer to a competitive team.

2.2.6. The United State Youth Soccer Association and North Texas State Soccer Association have established the soccer year as being from September 1 through August 31. However, these rules provide that a competitive player is a free agent beginning July 1. That player will continue to be a free agent until the player and/or his parents or guardian have signed a contract with a team. The period from August 1 of the prior soccer year through May 31 of the current soccer year is considered the soccer playing year for competitive players. During the soccer playing year, players are not allowed to tryout, practice, or participate with any other team, unless they are registered as a guest player with another team, in which

case the proper release must be signed by all parties. Practice with a team on which a player is registered as a guest player is permitted only if the practice dates are included on the guest player release. A competitive player may practice with another team if he has received a written permission letter signed by his current coach that sets out the dates and the team with which the player will practice. The player is to give the letter to the coach of the team with which he will be practicing, and must keep a copy for himself. After May 31 (the end of the soccer playing year for competitive players), players may practice with other teams without any required release or other permission, although formal tryouts may not be held until July 1. Players wishing to guest play in tournaments must always obtain a properly signed guest player release. Contracts may be signed beginning July 1, although signing July 1 is not mandatory. After July 1 players who are not or have not been rostered to a team for the current season may sign a contract for the current season at any time. (This does not include indoor soccer.)

2.2.7. Failure to comply constitutes a violation of current NTSSA directives concerning illegal recruitment and shall be punishable by suspension of the guilty parties, i.e., coach, assistant coach, team manager for a minimum of one (1) year. Allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered and punishment periods are at the discretion of the Youth Commissioner committee hearing such allegations.

NOTE: If a player currently registered to a team and/or his parents should contact a coach, assistant coach or team manager to try out for another team, the above stated procedure must be followed.

2.3. PLAYER ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS

2.3.1. Players who have registered in the current soccer year and have participated in the NTSSA Olympic Development Program (ODP) may not transfer or be added to the team that their ODP coach or assistant coach participate with for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year.

2.3.2. A recreational guest player may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's recreational roster for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the Lubbock Soccer Association.

2.3.3. Previously registered (outdoor) recreational youth players, playing indoor for a specific team or coach, may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after the team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the Lubbock Soccer Association Board of Directors. This only applies if the indoor facility is a member of NTSSA.

2.4. LEAGUES

The Lubbock Soccer Association shall be divided into two Groups (Boys and Girls). Each Group will be divided into seven (7) playing ages which will be referred to as LEAGUES. Each age shall comprise one league. Each league will offer play for youths aged as noted below. Each League will offer competition each season unless prohibited or otherwise undesirable based upon the number of available players. Individual League Commissioners will be responsible to the Group Commissioner (as appropriate) for the operation of their league.

2.4.1. Age divisions shall be comprised of players who are, before the first day of August of the immediately preceding soccer year,

- a) Under 19 years of age.
- b) Under 16 years of age.
- c) Under 14 years of age.
- d) Under 12 years of age.
- e) Under 10 years of age.
- f) Under 8 years of age.

g) Under 6 years of age.

2.4.2. The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Exception: If allowed by the Member Association playing rules, players who turn three (3) years of age during the soccer year will be eligible to play when they turn three (3) if registration is available. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

2.5. CONFERENCES

Leagues may be divided into CONFERENCES whenever the number of teams in a league becomes larger than can be effectively administered by a single League Commissioner. The Board of Directors may direct any other division of the league into conferences that it feels is in the best interest of the players.

If there are too few teams in a particular Conference for effective competition within the Conference, the Youth Commissioner may combine that Conference's teams with those teams from another Conference in the same League. Whenever teams from different Conferences are combined for effective competition, all teams in the combined Conferences will report to the same League Commissioner. However, each team must be formed in accordance with the team formation rules for that team's actual Conference.

2.6. TEAM FORMATION

Lubbock Soccer Association may only form teams in accordance with the current North Texas State Soccer Association team formation rules. There shall be five types or classes of teams within the Lubbock Soccer Association.

2.6.1. RECREATIONAL teams are formed by an impartial Commissioner which assigns players to teams based on the player's residence, closest elementary school or zip code.

2.6.2. RECREATIONAL PLUS teams are formed by any NTSSA recreational team formation method with the addition that LSA may consider requests from players to play together on the same team. Only legal Under 11 players and older may be rostered to RECREATIONAL PLUS teams. RECREATIONAL PLUS teams may NOT play in the same league with RECREATIONAL teams. 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 recreation plus team shall be considered the player's secondary team.

2.6.3. YOUTH COED teams may be formed by the Lubbock Soccer Association. YOUTH COED teams may only be formed with legal Under 11 and older players. All players assigned to YOUTH COED teams must first be rostered to a single sex team registered with Lubbock Soccer Association. YOUTH COED teams may be either RECREATIONAL COED or COMPETITIVE COED teams.

2.6.4. ALL-STAR teams are temporary teams formed by the selection of players from among all the RECREATIONAL teams in a particular league. ALL-STAR teams may be formed only in the Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, and Under-19 Leagues. The formation of an ALL-STAR team requires the approval of the Youth Commissioner.

2.6.5. COMPETITIVE teams are all teams formed in any manner other than those listed above.

2.6.5.1 COMPETITIVE teams forming for play in 11U age competition are restricted to having three (3) underage players on their rosters that are playing up. These players must be 9 years of age per Rule 2.4.1 to be signed. Players 9 years of age per Rule 2.4.1 may not play on teams older than 11U. There shall be no more than three (3) 10U players on any event/official/game day roster.

2.6.6 SOCCER ACADEMIES

a) A "Soccer Academy" is a group of Under 9 through Under 10 registered NTSSA recreational players who desire to participate with other players without following the recreational team formation rules. Players must register with Lubbock Soccer Association and be a rostered recreational player in good standing.

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

c) 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 LSA recreational team to participate on an Academy team. Players must present a form of proof of registration signed by their home association registrar each time they participate with an Academy. Players may join as many Soccer Academies as they like as long as the Soccer Academy is recognized by Lubbock Soccer Association. No formal contract or written commitment may be signed by or on behalf of the player to commit a player to an Academy team. The Academies may charge a fee to cover expenses in addition to the player's recreational soccer registration fees. Academy players are limited to two (2) practices in any two (2) week period with each of their Academy team(s). Academy players may only play in two Academy games in any two (2) week period, except tournaments. Academy players may participate in only one Academy tournament at a time. Violations of this rule shall result in sanctions against the offending party (coach, assistant coach, manager, parent, or other team representative), which could include suspension from all soccer activities for a period of time.

d) Exception: Make up games scheduled due to inclement weather or field closures (outside the control of the participating teams) will be counted as played when originally scheduled and will not be used when calculating the maximum number of games played during any two (2) week period.

e) LSA may provide league play if it has enough teams, or may coordinate with other North Texas State Soccer Association Member Associations to provide a league or games between Soccer Academy teams from different home associations.

f) Age division play will be designated as Under 9 or Under 10. Scores and standings should not be kept. Under 7 and 8 players may participate with Academy teams for one practice only per week and may not compete in any games (league, tournament, or scrimmage games).

g) Academy Teams shall adhere to the Lubbock Soccer Association Modified Playing Rules for the Under 9 and Under 10 age groups as shown in Section 3.3 of the Lubbock Soccer Association Bylaws.

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

i) 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.

j) The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:

k) Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.

l) Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.

m) 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.

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

o) For the purpose of this rule, players participating in a Soccer Academy shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the LSA recreational team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment.

2.7. RECREATIONAL TEAM CONTINUATION

2.7.1. Coaches and players, constituted as a RECREATIONAL team in the previous season, may remain as a unit provided they meet the league eligibility and age requirements. The minimum number of players remaining on a RECREATIONAL team and forming the nucleus for that team, in order to remain as a team, is:

three (3) players for an Under-6 team.

five (5) players for an Under-8 team.

six (6) players for all other teams.

The Lubbock Soccer Association Board of Directors may approve an exception to these restrictions when they determine that doing so is in the best interests of the Association and its youth players.

2.7.2. A player sitting out one season can return to the player's former RECREATIONAL team provided space is available. Otherwise, that player will be placed on a RECREATIONAL team in the same manner as any other player in the Association not returning to a team.

2.7.3. The Lubbock Soccer Association recognizes that certain teams will play outdoor soccer during only one of the various seasons offered each year. Such teams must return the minimum number of players at least once per year in order to continue as a team. Players from that team who register to play outdoor soccer in a season when the team does not participate will be assigned to a new team in accordance with the applicable team formation rules. League Commissioners will insure that the name of these teams will not be assigned to another team in the same League.

2.7.4. A player signing up after the last scheduled sign up period can return to the player's former RECREATIONAL team provided space is available at the time the League or conference Commissioner receives the player's Lubbock Soccer Association registration form. Otherwise, that player will be placed on a RECREATIONAL team in the same manner as any other player in the Association not returning to a team.

2.8. FORMATION OF RECREATIONAL TEAMS

2.8.1. 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.

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 junior high 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) the Lubbock County Commissioner's Precinct in which the player's residence is located.

School attendance areas are defined by the local Independent School District(s) and agreed to by the LSA Board of Directors. Each League may use only one definition of the HOME NEIGHBORHOOD for each playing season.

2.8.2. A League NEIGHBORHOOD POOL will be formed of all registered players with the same HOME NEIGHBORHOOD. Neighborhood pools will be formed for each home neighborhood in Lubbock County which has enough players registered to form such a pool. Players living in a home neighborhood which does not have enough players to form a neighborhood pool will be placed in the neighborhood pool closest to the player's residence.

2.8.3. Players will be assigned to a specific team by the impartial League commissioner(s). The Group Commissioner shall review and question player assignments to teams. If a player is found to be placed on a team in error or in any manner contrary to team formation guidelines, the league commissioner(s) will be instructed to remove the player and re-assign to another team.

2.8.4. In the Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, and Under-19 Leagues only, if the League Commissioner determines that there are not enough players available in the player pool(s) to place enough players on the roster of each team to have viable teams, the League Commissioner may allow the coaches of record to actively seek players of the proper age to be added to the player pool(s). Players registering under this process who were listed on the roster of a returning recreational team the previous season may choose to return to that team or to be placed in the player pool for assignment to another team in that League. All other players registered by this process will be added to the neighborhood pool(s) and placed on a team roster like all other players in that League. Players presently listed on the roster of an existing Lubbock Soccer Association team may not be added to the player pool through this process.

2.8.5. Parental and/or player requests that a player be removed from a team will be accepted at registration each season. Such requests will be honored. The player will be assigned to a new recreational team according to the neighborhood pool policy.

2.8.6. Parental and/or player request that a player be allowed to PLAY UP in a League for players older than the player may be made on the LSA registration form each season. The Youth Commissioner, the Group Commissioner, and the Commissioner of the League in which the player is requesting to play will consider the request and decide if allowing the player to PLAY UP is in the player's best interest. If such a request is allowed, the player will be placed in the neighborhood pool for that League and assigned to a team according to the neighborhood pool policy. When considering a request for a player to PLAY UP with an older sibling (brother or sister) of the same sex, the Commissioners will consult with the older sibling's team coach. If such a player is allowed to play up, that player will be assigned to the same team as the older sibling.

2.8.7. . A team formed or continued in accordance with these team formation rules in a League may request to PLAY UP in the next older League. The coach of record shall submit a request for the team to PLAY UP to the Commissioner of the League in which the team desires to play. That request must include some form of signed documentation by parents that all players' families have been contacted and that a majority of the players' families support such a request. The two League Commissioners, the Group Commissioner, and the Youth Commissioner will decide if it is in the best interest of the team, the legal League of that team, the proposed League, and the Association for the team to PLAY UP. If a decision is made to allow the team to PLAY UP, individual players (or their parents) may request that they be removed from that team and assigned to another team in accordance with the neighborhood pool policy. If a team is approved to PLAY UP, they must do so for an entire soccer year (Spring and Fall seasons or Fall and Spring seasons). Additional players may only be assigned to that team from the neighborhood pool of the older League.

2.8.8. All newly registered players, all players who leave an existing team, all players returning to recreational league play from competitive teams, and all players who have sat out one or more seasons and cannot return to their previous team will be placed in their neighborhood pool for assignment to a new team.

2.8.9. Players who reside outside Lubbock County will be placed in the neighborhood pool closest to where they live.

2.8.10. If an existing team has the minimum number of returning players but there are not enough new players to add to the recreational team for it to continue as a team, the players will be placed on another team in their neighborhood area or adjacent to it. All the players from the discontinued team will not necessarily be assigned to the same new team, but will be assigned just as any other players in that neighborhood pool are assigned.

2.8.11. If any player is assigned to a team in any manner contrary to this section, the League/Conference Commissioner will remove that player from that team and assign that player to a team in accordance with this section.

2.8.12. Any misrepresentation by an individual player, parents, coaches, relatives, or league commissioner as to a player's birthday, address, home school attendance area or other information that might be interpreted as trying to circumvent this policy will subject that player to being removed from that team, and may subject those individuals to action by the Disciplinary Committee.

2.8.13. In order to promote soccer participation for young children, an Under 6 or U8 player may invite a friend from the same Member Association who has never registered in any Member Association to join his existing team with the permission of the Member Association.

2.9. FORMATION OF ALL-STAR TEAMS

2.9.1. ALL-STAR teams are formed to enter and compete in open or competitive tournaments or in open or competitive divisions of tournaments.

2.9.2. The head coach, assistant coach, and team manager of an ALL-STAR team will be selected by the Coaches' Representative the Group Commissioner, the League Commissioner, and the Youth Commissioner. Selection criteria shall include, but is not limited to, the coaching license earned by the coach, his demonstrated skills in teaching individual and team soccer skills, his ability and willingness to comply with and teach the Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game, and his ability to work with diverse personalities who may be associated with the ALL-STAR team. The coaching staffs of all RECREATIONAL teams in a League are expected to participate in ALL-STAR team practices and assist the ALL-STAR team coaching staff in the selection of players for the team.

2.9.3. All registered RECREATIONAL team players in any League will be entitled and encouraged to attend all practices for that League's ALL-STAR team(s). The unconditional right to attend practices will allow all RECREATIONAL players the opportunity to improve their individual and team skills so that they may have a better chance to be selected to future ALL-STAR teams. A player who was not at least 10 years old on or before July 31 of the previous soccer year (i.e., is not a legal Under-12 player) may not participate in ALL-STAR team practices and may not be selected to participate with an ALL-STAR team even though that same player may be playing up in the Under-12 League. A RECREATIONAL player who is at least 10 years old on or before July 31 of the previous soccer year may participate in ALL-STAR team practices and be selected to an ALL-STAR team in the League where that player is a legal player OR to an ALL-STAR team in the League where the player usually plays if the player is playing up with an older age group.

2.9.4. The ALL-STAR team head coach will select the players to be listed on the ALL-STAR team roster for each tournament in which the ALL-STAR team is entered. The coach will consider the individual player's performance in ALL-STAR team practices, the player's attendance at ALL-STAR team practices, the player's demonstrated individual skills, and the player's dedication and dependability. The ALL-STAR team head coach will also be expected to consult with the coaches of the individual player's RECREATIONAL team. Each individual RECREATIONAL player in a League shall have an equal chance to be selected to that League's ALL-STAR team(s). All RECREATIONAL team players in any League will be considered for a place on the League's ALL-STAR team roster.

2.9.5. Each player selected for an LSA ALL-STAR team must be listed on the current roster of one of the recreational teams within the League which the ALL-STAR team represents, or must be a legal player in

that League listed on the roster of an LSA recreational team in an older age League.

2.9.6. When enough players can be selected to an ALL-STAR team in any League to make two or more teams, that League may form additional ALL-STAR teams. These additional team(s) can participate in the same tournament as the original ALL-STAR team or may participate in other tournaments scheduled for the same time period. If a particular tournament offers competition in specific age groups (i.e., U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17 and/or U-19), a League may form an ALL-STAR team limited to players legally eligible to participate in such age groups. [EXAMPLE: The Under-12 League could form either or both an Under-11 and an Under-12 ALL-STAR team with younger players on the Under-11 team and older players on the Under-12 team.]

2.9.7. The Lubbock Soccer Association does not intend to promote ALL-STAR teams at the expense of the RECREATIONAL teams in any League. Each registered player is expected to participate in scheduled League games and tournaments with that player's RECREATIONAL team rather than with the League's ALL-STAR team(s) whenever there is a scheduling conflict between the RECREATIONAL team and the ALL-STAR team. The Association may re-schedule League games in order to eliminate conflicts with possible ALL-STAR team tournaments.

2.9.8. There will be no minimum playing time requirements with respect to players on an ALL-STAR team. An ALL-STAR team roster may have a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 18 players.

2.9.9. A recreational All-Star team formed during the current soccer year may not form as a competitive team until the following soccer year.

2.10. GUEST PLAYERS

2.10.1. When traveling out of the Lubbock Soccer Association for friendly or tournament games, Lubbock Soccer Association shall allow the use of the number of guest players that is allowed by the tournament or hosting organization, providing the tournament or hosting organization allows their use. The use of guest players shall be in accordance with the following procedures:

2.10.1.1. NTSSA Guest Player form must be filled out and signed by the local Registrar.

2.10.1.2. The recreational guest player may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's roster for the remainder of the current soccer year, and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the Lubbock Soccer Association.

2.10.1.3. A guest player's current team membership pass signed by the NTSSA Youth Commissioner will be used in activities necessitating the use of USYSA travel I.D.cards.

2.10.1.4. Guest players may practice with the team on which they are a guest only if the dates for the practices are included on the guest player release signed by the guest player's registered coach. Violators of this rule are subject to discipline under the rules governing use of ineligible players.

2.10.1.5. If a coach refuses to sign a guest player release for tournament play occurring during the month of June (or a tournament that includes any part of June), the guest player release may be presented to NTSSA for approval by the youth Commissioner. If the player's current team is not playing in any US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournament or other US Youth Soccer sanctioned event during the time specified on the guest player release, permission to guest play will be granted. (The above does not include indoor soccer.)

2.10.1.6. Only recreational players rostered to a recreational team are eligible to participate as a guest player on any other recreational team. Academy players who are not rostered to a recreation team are not eligible to participate as a guest player on any recreation team.

2.10.2 On a team traveling outside of NTSSA and using guest players, the coach must follow NTSSA guidelines.

2.10.3 For travel within the United States, Mexico or Canada, any team going outside NTSSA boundaries, (including South Texas) must have a Travel Application approved by the State Youth Commissioner.

Permission to travel cannot be granted if the host is unaffiliated or in bad standing with his Association.

Appropriate action will be taken against teams who travel to play teams out-of-state or in Mexico or Canada without permission!!

A team wishing to travel outside NTSSA must obtain a Travel Application and US Youth Soccer I.D. cards signed by the Youth commissioner of NTSSA. A Travel Application may be obtained from the NTSSA web site or picked up at the NTSSA office. Travel Application, I.D. Cards, Official Roster (from Lubbock Soccer Association) and tournament hosting agreement must be at the NTSSA office 30 days prior to the tournament.

Tournament or trip information must accompany permit. Roster will coincide with the latest (fall or spring) official team registration roster on file with the State Office. This roster must reflect any additions or deletions submitted on official Add/Delete sheets, which also must be on file and approved by Lubbock Soccer Association official's signature.

USYS Player Pass (I.D. card with player photo) must be carried when playing out-of-state. Teams must carry written medical releases from parents in case emergency care is required. Travel I.D. cards (USYS player passes) cost \$0.25 per player with current photo attached. \$4.00 per player if NTSSA makes photo. Make reservations for team photos and I.D.'s by calling State Office

Travel forms are not necessary for USYS National or Regional Championship games. They are mandatory for all other tournaments or friendly (exhibition) games outside the NTSSA boundaries.

All traveling teams shall be under the primary jurisdiction of the North Texas State Soccer Association and under the secondary jurisdiction of the Association in whose territory the games are to be played. Traveling teams shall remain subject to the Rules and Regulations of NTSSA as far as disciplinary matters are concerned.

2.10.4 Under no conditions can a player on a competitive team participate as a guest player for a recreational team unless that team is playing in an open or competitive tournament.

2.10.5 Tournaments that allow Guest Players (Full-sided and Small-sided) in accordance with NTSSA must have Guest Player release forms approved by NTSSA. All players on a team must be invited to the tournament prior to a team adding guest players. The number of guest players may not exceed 50% of the roster.

2.11. TRYOUTS

Tryouts may be held by competitive teams from July 1 until the first day of recreational team sign-ups for the fall outdoor season. **Tryouts are not allowed for 6U through 9U players.** Those teams holding tryouts may advertise their tryouts. Their advertisements may contain only the following:

1. Team name, age group, and club affiliation.
2. Geographic area served by the team.
3. Season of tryout, dates, and times.
4. Location of tryouts, with directions if necessary.
5. Coach's complete name and telephone number and/or the contact person's name and telephone number.
6. Coach's USSF, USYS, NTSSA, and/or NSCAA badge level, if desired.
7. Notes regarding seasonal need for a release, if necessary.
8. What to bring such as water, ball, etc.
9. Recruiting may be defined as - Committing to or on behalf of a team, a club, a player, or a coach for the upcoming soccer year prior to July 1, whether in writing or otherwise, or requesting or requiring a

commitment to or by a team, club, player, or coach for the upcoming soccer year prior to July 1 whether in writing or otherwise. (Note: A coach requesting a returning player to state his intention concerning returning the following soccer year, or a player inquiring about his status on the team for the following year is permissible prior to July 1, but the commitment is not binding on either the player or coach.)

NOTE: Advertisement is defined as 'any notification of tryouts on television, radio, the Internet, periodicals, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, flyers, circulars, e-mail, or direct mailing.' The distribution of any team fact sheet, club information brochures, coaches' resumes, or the like, at tryouts shall not constitute advertising.

2.12. COACHES

2.12.1. The Coach of Record or Head Coach is to be an active coach for the team and not a coach in name only.

2.12.2. In the event a team loses its coach, the appropriate Commissioner will select the successor coach. If the team is sponsored by an organized club, or if the parents of the team are well organized, the club or parents organization may propose a new coach for the team.

2.12.3. Each coach must sign a Coach's Contract with the Lubbock Soccer Association each year before any team function may be held.

2.12.4. Each coach / assistant coach / manager of a team shall be required to register each soccer year and will be issued an identification card. Every coach / assistant coach / manager shall include a copy of a valid photographic identification and a completed North Texas State Soccer Association coach/referee/volunteer/staff application, along with the appropriate coach's fee, if any, with the team paperwork at the time of team registration.

2.12.5. By signing the official team roster on the NTSSA required form, the coach is certifying the accuracy of all information on the roster, especially the birth dates of the players. [Even though the Registrar may prepare rosters for the coaches, each individual coach is responsible for the accuracy of the roster.]

2.12.6. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative may practice any soccer related activity with any LSA registered player who does not appear on his current LSA roster or is not considered to be a free agent by current NTSSA Rules and Regulations except for a coach, who at the request of another team's coach, substitutes for that coach at practices or games for the convenience of the requesting coach. Any substitute coach must adhere to all LSA Bylaws, General Rules and Policies (as referenced in 6.8 of LSA Bylaws and General Rules). A free agent is a player in the U-11 through U-19 age division who desires to participate on a competitive team and is not rostered to any team. A competitive player may practice with another team if he has received a written permission letter signed by his current coach that sets out the dates and the team with which the player will practice. The player is to give the letter to the coach of the team with which he is practicing, and must keep a copy for himself.

2.12.7. Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association. A team which uses unregistered players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said players have participated. A coach, assistant coach, or administrator found to have knowingly allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) shall be suspended from all soccer activities for a minimum of one (1) year.

2.12.8. A person who has a child playing in the League in which the person is the head coach of record of a team shall have the privilege of having his child assigned to his team. In order for any person to request that their child be transferred to a returning team which they are coaching, they must have been the head coach of record of the team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons, or they must have been asked to become the head coach of record of the returning team by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

2.12.9. Each coach of a team within the Lubbock Soccer Association is expected to participate in the

Association Coaches' Development Program. The soccer programs offered by the Association are for the good of the youth playing within those programs. For that reason the coaches are expected to improve their personal coaching skills and techniques in order to offer their players the best instruction possible. Minimum standards for remaining as the coach of a Lubbock Soccer Association team are:

Under 6 and Under 8 teams - if not USYSA licensed, coaches must attend a 'G' coaching course prior to or during the next season they coach these age groups.

Other Recreational Teams - attainment of or evidence of progress toward a State 'F' Coach's License or the local equivalent.

Competitive Teams - attainment of or evidence of progress toward a State 'D' Coach's License or the local equivalent.

2.12.10. Those coaches who are currently coaching teams but do not have the appropriate training will contract with the Association, through the Coaches' Representative, to attain the appropriate training within a stated time. These standards will be applied to ALL coaches, whether head coaches or assistant coaches.

2.12.11. 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 Lubbock Soccer Association Discipline Committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching.

2.13. CLINICS, CAMPS, PRIVATE LESSONS, etc.

2.13.1. Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, LSA registered players may attend soccer camps (clinics), private lessons, etc. hosted and/or coached by individuals, teams, clubs and/or organizations other than the player's current coach, team and/or organization as long as the soccer camps meet the following criteria:

2.13.1.1. The clinic or camp must be available to all interested persons for each age group offered through an open invitation.

2.13.1.2. Each individual, team, club and/or organization hosting any soccer clinic or camp must require written registrations of each participant that includes the following information:

1. Player's name
2. Name, address and phone number of individual(s), team(s), club(s) and/or organization(s) affiliated with and/or hosting the clinic
3. Name(s) of coach (es) at clinic
4. Name & date(s) of clinic
5. Name of player's current team and home association
6. A statement signed by the player's current coach/manager stating that he is aware that the player is attending the camp or clinic.
7. The following disclaimer: 'The recruiting of players for the benefit of any individual, team, club and/or organization is strictly prohibited. Any person having knowledge of any player recruitment at or through this soccer clinic, camp, private lesson, etc. should report same, in writing, to the Youth Commissioner of NTSSA. The NTSSA Youth Commissioner shall deal with the alleged violations in accordance with NTSSA Rule 3.9. [Recruiting is any action or statement, made by anyone, either verbally or in writing, that encourages or entices a player to register with a particular coach, team, club, and/or organization.]'
8. Parent signature acknowledging that he/she has read and understands the disclaimer. Date of signature. If player is 18 years or older, the player should sign also.

2.13.1.3. The host of the clinic or camp must keep all registration forms for one (1) year from the date of the camp or clinic so that they will be able to produce on demand from LSA and/or NTSSA a copy of the

registration form to verify compliance with this rule in the event charges of rule violations are alleged against the hosting individual, team, club and/or organization as stated above.

2.13.1.4. This rule does not apply to any clinic or camp sponsored by the Lubbock Soccer Association for the Association players where the registration publicity is conducted by LSA. Any publicity must indicate that this camp or clinic is sponsored by the Association. LSA must monitor the program to assure that no recruiting activities occur.

2.13.1.5. Between August 1 of the prior soccer year and May 31 of the current soccer year, players requesting private lessons from any person must obtain a written statement from their current coach stating their knowledge of the private lessons. The person giving the private lessons must retain the acknowledgment slip and be able to present same when requested by LSA or NTSSA.

NOTE: Any organization wishing to use the soccer fields at Berl Huffman Athletic Complex must have prior permission from the owner, the City of Lubbock through the City Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation requires a 60 day notice in writing of such intended use. Lubbock Soccer Association's Use Agreement with the City gives Lubbock Soccer Association first option to use the soccer fields on all dates; therefore, the City Parks and Recreation Department requires a written release from Lubbock Soccer Association for any other organization wishing to use the soccer fields.

2.13.2. Failure to comply with these rules 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.

2.14. ILLEGAL RECRUITING

2.14.1. Illegal recruiting occurs when any coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team representative who is associated in any way with any United States Youth Soccer Association affiliated youth outdoor team discusses, or attempts to discuss, the chances, probabilities, possibilities, or benefits of a player whose name appears on the official roster of another Lubbock Soccer Association team becoming a member of that individual's associated team.

2.14.2. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player, parent or advertisement may offer any kind of inducement to recruit a player to play on his/her respective team. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all of the above listed participants on their team. Forms of inducement include, but are not limited to, free T-shirts, free uniforms, college scholarships, free or discounted travel costs and/or negative statements which could affect the decision of a player regarding his choice of team. This rule applies to any type of communication, including but not limited to: verbal discussions, letters, brochures, printed or broadcast advertisements, and the use of the Internet and/or E-mail.

Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending party being suspended from all soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year, except allegations against registered youth players are subject to review before punishments are considered. Complaints against those affiliated with LSA will be handled as outlined in 2.14.3. Complaints against those not affiliated with LSA will be handled as outlined in 2.14.4.

2.14.3. Any allegation of illegal recruiting must be made in writing and submitted to the League Commissioner. The League Commissioner will present the allegation of illegal recruiting to the Committee of Commissioners. The Committee of Commissioners will investigate the allegations and decide whether a hearing is needed. If the Committee of Commissioners determines that a hearing is needed, they will submit a written report to the Chairman of Appeals and Discipline Committee. The Appeals and Discipline Committee is directed to deal severely with any individual found to be guilty of illegal recruiting. The Appeals and Discipline Committee is also directed to deal severely with any person who attempts to interfere with the Committee's investigations of allegations of illegal recruiting.

The Committee of Commissioners consists of the Youth Commissioner, all of the Group Commissioners, and all of the League and Conference Commissioners. The Youth Commissioner is the chairman of the Committee.

2.14.4. Should the complaint be against some individual, team, club, and/or organization not affiliated with the LSA, then the complainant will file his complaint directly with the NTSSA Youth Commissioner who shall render a decision. Either party may then file an appeal with the State Executive Committee according to the Bylaws of the North Texas State Soccer Association.

2.15. UNREGISTERED / NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership in both the Lubbock Soccer Association and the North Texas State Soccer Association, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play. Such players and teams must certify in writing to the NTSSA Youth Commissioner the nature of any disciplinary actions or injuries sustained while playing unsanctioned play before resuming play in sanctioned activities.

Unsanctioned play shall include, but not be limited to playing with other members of a player's LSA team in outdoor / indoor leagues, tournaments, and games not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate. This shall not be construed to prevent any individual player from participating with school or church teams, or neighborhood unsupervised games.

2.16. YOUTH COMPETITIVE CLUB DISTINCTION [North Texas Soccer Rule 4.9]

2.16.1. Youth Competitive Club

A competitive club is any group of two or more competitive teams that have a common administrative group and play under the same name. Competitive Clubs are recognized by NTSSA on a team-by-team basis.

2.16.2. Registered Youth Competitive Club

2.16.2.1. A Competitive Club that has at least six (6) competitive teams playing in a competitive league(s) may register for recognition as a Registered Competitive Club.

2.16.2.2. A club will be recognized as a Registered Competitive Club once properly completed registration forms, together with any required supporting documentation, have been submitted to NTSSA. The Competitive Soccer Committee as directed by the Youth Commissioner will review all submissions for compliance.

2.16.2.3. A Competitive Club may register for recognition as a Registered Competitive Club at any time during the soccer year. Unless timely renewed, recognition as a Registered Competitive Club expires on August 1st. A Registered Competitive Club may renew its recognition as a Registered Competitive Club by the proper submission of any required renewal forms between July 10th and July 31st.

2.16.2.4. A Registered Competitive Club may be held accountable to NTSSA for the acts or omissions of its members, coaches, trainers, managers, players, parents, officers, directors, officials, agents and/or other representative, provided that such acts or omissions constitute violations of rules, laws, codes and/or regulations which are within NTSSA's enforcement jurisdiction. Provided, further, such accountability shall lie only if:

2.16.2.4.1. The common administrative group had prior actual knowledge of such acts or omissions and consented to them or failed to take reasonable steps to prevent them;

or

2.16.2.4.2. Following written notice from NTSSA that such violations have occurred, the Registered Club

fails to take reasonable, timely, and appropriate remedial measures.

2.16.2.5. The accountability provided for in this section may include monetary sanctions not to exceed \$500 per incident, or other sanctions, and/or revocation of such club's status as a Registered Competitive Club.