

WEST TEXAS MEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION STANDING RULES
(Proposed May 2005)

Rule 1. Proper Constitution of Teams. A properly constituted team shall **A)** bear a team name; **B)** be represented by a team representative, who shall serve as its official delegate; **C)** carry on its roster no more than twenty-five (25) and no fewer than fifteen (15) players; **D)** carry on its roster only eligible and registered players; **E)** carry no more than 5 players who are rostered to another team in a higher division; **F)** be registered by 6 pm on the designated last-day-to-register; **G)** have paid in full all dues, fees, and assessments due the Association; **H)** otherwise abide by the Association's Standing Rules.

Rule 2. Player Eligibility. **A)** Any person over the age of seventeen (17) years who locates himself within the Association's jurisdiction is eligible to participate in the Association. **B)** Any NTSSA-registered U-18 team may be permitted to participate in the Association as a guest team. **C)** Any person under suspension from this or any other association, league, or group must petition the Executive Board for permission to participate in the Association. **D)** Any person registered as a professional soccer player is ineligible to participate in the Association, except under the following circumstances: **i)** he applies successfully for USSF Amateur Status Reinstatement, **ii)** he is one of no more than two (2) professional players to register on a first-division team, **iii)** he is the only professional player to register on a second-division team, or **iv)** he is at least thirty (30) years old, in which case his professional status shall be disregarded. **E)** All registrants shall be required some form of recognized United States, any individual State, or Territory government issued photo identification evidencing proof of age and residence including by way of example only **i)**, a valid driver's license or identification card, **ii)** a passport, **iii)** a voter registration card, accompanied by a form of photo identification, **iv)** United States Immigration and Naturalization identification, **v)** a birth certificate, accompanied by a form of photo identification.

Rule 3. Player Registration. All players must **A)** complete required registration forms and identification cards before participating in the Association; **B)** sign an Association liability release before participating in the Association; **C)** pay any fee required before participating in the Association; **D)** not register with more than one (1) member team in a particular division; **E)** after week two (2) of any season, complete registration and pay any required fee no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to participating in the Association; **F)** in order to participate in the Association when not properly registered, apply to the Commissioner for a one-game temporary permit, the fee for which shall be no less than 25% of the cost of regular registration.

Rule 4. Roster Modification. **A)** Additions to a team roster during a playing season shall be prohibited after the earlier of week two (2) or the week before the commencement of playoffs. **B)** The identification card belonging to a player who is deleted from a team roster must be surrendered before his deletion may take effect. **C)** A player may transfer to another team during the season, but only if the following conditions are satisfied: **i)** his transfer occurs no later than week five (5) or the week before the commencement of playoffs, **ii)** he demonstrates just and/or extraordinary cause for seeking the transfer, **iii)** he procures a written release from his present team, and **iv)** he procures the written permission of the Commissioner.

Rule 5. Team Responsibilities. Before, during, and after each game, each team shall **A)** be responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches, and supporters, including their disposal of trash and their consumption of alcohol, which shall not be permitted under any circumstance; **B)** keep its players and coaches within ten (10) yards of midfield; **C)** keep its supporters within twenty (20) yards of midfield; **D)** install and remove nets and corner flags, as necessary.

Rule 6. Team Jerseys. **A)** Excepting the goalkeeper, members of a team must wear jerseys of similar color and style. **B)** Excepting the goalkeeper's jersey, each jersey must bear a different number of contrasting color at least six (6) inches high and permanently affixed to its back. **C)** If required by the referee, the home team must change to alternate jerseys, which must be of similar color and style and be appropriately numbered or consist of mesh.

Rule 7. Team Captain Responsibilities. Prior to the start of play, each team shall designate one (1) team captain, who shall **A)** wear an armband identifying him to the referee as his team's captain; **B)** be the only member of his team permitted to address the referee; **C)** be responsible for his team's conduct on and around the field of play; **D)** prior to the start of play, **i)** attend the coin toss in order to identify himself to the referee, **ii)** provide to the referee a suitable game ball, and **iii)** provide to the referee a game sheet correctly pairing his players' names to their jersey numbers.

Rule 8. The Referee Fee. **A)** Unless otherwise stipulated by the Executive Board, the referee fee shall **i)** be due at the coin toss; **ii)** be \$40 for the referee and \$20 for each of the two (2) assistant referees; **iii)** be paid in equal amounts by each team participating; **iv)** be payable in cash only. **B)** If, for any reason, a game is forfeited by **i)** one team participating, that team must pay the entire \$80 referee fee prior to its next game; **ii)** both teams participating, each team must pay its \$40 share of the referee fee prior to its next game. **C)** In order to avoid payment of the referee fee, a team delegate must give notice to the Commissioner of his team's forfeit no less than forth-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

Rule 9. Game Forfeits. **A)** The Commissioner shall declare a forfeit or double-forfeit, as appropriate, in case of the failure of one or both teams to **i)** execute its Team Responsibilities and/or Team Captain Responsibilities, **ii)** pay its share of the referee fee, **iii)** present a player card or one-day pass for each player participating in the game, **iv)** comply with Rule 6 concerning Team Jerseys, or **v)** comply with any applicable Standing Rule. **B)** A team which accumulates two (2) forfeits in a season shall be required to post a \$50 performance bond for each of its remaining scheduled games. **C)** A team which accumulates three (3) forfeits in a season shall be dropped from the league. **D)** If a team is dropped from the league, every game involving that team, whether played or yet-to-be-played, shall be declared a forfeit win for the opponent. **D)** A forfeit win shall be scored as three (3) points in the division standings and 1-0 in the goal count.

Rule 10. Insufficient Number of Players. **A)** If a team fails to field seven (7) players before fifteen (15) minutes past the scheduled kick-off time, that team must forfeit the game. **B)** If neither team can field seven (7) players before fifteen (15) minutes past the scheduled kick-off time, the game shall be declared a double forfeit. **C)** As soon as each team has fielded at least seven (7) players, the game shall begin.

Rule 11. Unless otherwise stated within the Standing Rules, all competition under jurisdiction of the Association shall be governed by the Laws of the Game.

Rule 12. Substitution. **A)** The referee consenting, either team may substitute at any stoppage of play. **B)** The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. **C)** Once substituted, players shall not be restricted from further participation in the game.

Rule 13. Abandoned Games. **A)** A game abandoned before the second half begins, if for reason other than misconduct, shall be replayed, if possible. **B)** A game abandoned after the second half begins, if for reason other than misconduct, shall be complete. **C)** The Representatives of teams involved in a game abandoned for reason of misconduct shall be heard by the Appeals & Discipline Board prior to their next scheduled games. In disposing of an abandoned game, the Appeals & Discipline Board may declare a forfeit, declare a double forfeit, order the game replayed, or declare the game complete. **D)** Appeal of the Appeals & Discipline Board's decision shall be directed to the Executive Board.

Rule 14. Player Misconduct. **A)** Issuance of cautions (yellow cards) and expulsions (red cards) shall be scored by the Appeals & Discipline Chair according to a twelve (12) point system, for NTSSA tracking purposes, as follows: **i)** an expulsion (red card) shall garner twelve (12) points; **ii)** a caution (yellow card) shall garner one (1) to four (4) points, according to the scale provided under Rule 3.11.3 of the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book. **B)** A player's point total shall be cumulative over the course of a fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) and shall be punished as follows: **i)** any player who accumulates twelve (12) points shall be suspended from the next game played; **ii)** any player who accumulates eighteen (18) points shall be suspended from the next two (2) games played; **iii)** any player who accumulates twenty-four (24) points shall be suspended indefinitely, pending inquiry by the Appeals & Discipline Board. **C)** Two (2) cautions (yellow cards) resulting in an expulsion (red card) shall be scored as no more than eight (8) points, the red card having been shown merely as a matter of course. **D)** One caution (yellow card) followed directly by an expulsion (red card) shall be scored as no less than thirteen (13) points. **E.** An expulsion shall carry a minimum \$25 fine for first occurrence, minimum \$50 fine for second occurrence, minimum \$100 fine for third occurrence, which must be paid before the expelled player may resume participation in the Association. **F)** Any player who during the course of a league game is ejected for physically assaulting or for directing extreme foul language at any teammate, opponent, referee, league official, or spectator shall be suspended indefinitely, but for no less than three (3) games, pending inquiry by the Appeals & Discipline Board. **G)** Any player, other than those disciplined under the preceding subsection F, who during the course of a league game or during the time immediately preceding a league game or immediately after a league game who physically assaults or directs extreme foul language at any teammate, opponent, referee, league official, or spectator shall be suspended indefinitely, pending inquiry by the Appeals & Discipline Board, **H)** Any referee abuse or assault shall be reported to NTSSA for further action. **I)** All other discipline issues will be dealt with by the Appeals & Discipline Board.

Rule 15. Team Sanctions. **A)** Any team whose players' misconduct at any point in the course of a fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) garners points in excess of three (3) times the number of that team's games scheduled for that year shall be required to appear before the Appeals &

Discipline Board to explain the team's misconduct. **B)** Any team whose players' misconduct warrants an audience of the Appeals & Discipline Board may be required to pay a team fine to be determined by the Appeals & Discipline Board. **C)** Any team whose players' misconduct at any point in the course of a fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) garners points in excess of five (5) times the number of that team's games scheduled for that year **i)** shall be required to appear before the NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's misconduct, and **ii)** shall be ineligible to further participate in the Association, pending action by the NTSSA. **D)** Should a team field a player who is unregistered, registered under another member team, or suspended, **i)** that team shall forfeit the game in question, **ii)** the team captain or team representative shall be suspended from the next game played, **iii)** the team captain or team representative shall appear before the Appeals and Discipline Committee, and if found guilty of knowingly fielding an illegal player, shall be subject to further sanction.

Rule 16. Referee Conduct. **A)** A referee shall **i)** submit in writing to the Appeals & Discipline Chair a report of all cautions (yellow cards) and expulsions (red cards) issued during a game and do so within forty-eight (48) hours of that game; **ii)** conduct a careful inspection of each player, his identification card, and his equipment, prior to the commencement of a game; **iii)** issue cautions (yellow cards) deliberately and only for offenses listed by the Laws of the Game as cautionable; **iv)** issue expulsions (red cards) deliberately and only for offenses listed by the Laws of the Game as sending-off offenses. **B)** A referee and/or his assistant referee(s) shall **i)** refrain from the use profane language; **ii)** avoid stoking the emotions of players involved in a game under his/their supervision; **iii)** otherwise conduct himself/themselves in a manner becoming (a) game official(s). **C)** Referee misconduct shall be referred by the President to the NTSSA for dispensation.

Rule 17. The Playing Seasons. **A)** The Association shall sponsor three (3) playing seasons each fiscal year (September 1 to August 31). **B)** Whenever possible, no game shall be scheduled except between the first and last day of class of any term as defined by the Texas Tech University Calendar. **C)** Whenever possible, no game shall be scheduled after Thanksgiving, over Memorial Day weekend, over Easter weekend, or over the weekend before Spring Break.

Rule 18. League Competition. **A)** Prior to the first game of any season, but following the deadline for registering a team, the President shall convene a meeting of team delegates to **i)** establish divisions or lack thereof, **ii)** fill these divisions, if established, in accordance with the relative strength of teams, **iii)** adopt a competition scheme for each division, in accordance with the Association calendar, and **iv)** conduct (a) draw(s) to establish opponent pairings. **B)** The Commissioner, in conjunction with the Referee Representative, shall establish all league games, in accordance with the adopted competition scheme and draw(s). **C)** Should a league competition require a double, triple, or quadruple round, the second, third, and/or fourth round(s) shall be identical to the first.

Rule 19. The League (or Division) Table(s). **A)** Each season, the Commissioner shall keep (a) league (or division) table(s) according to the following points system: three (3) points for each win; one (1) point for each tie; zero (0) points for each loss. **B)** The final standings and league (or division) champion(s) shall be decided either by playoffs or in accordance with the league (or division) table(s) following the completion of all league games. **C)** Should a tie occur in the final

standings, the Commissioner shall tabulate the goals-scored-to-goals-allowed ratio of each party to the tie and establish the final standings accordingly. **D)** Should these ratios be equivalent, the Commissioner shall compare the number of goals scored by each party to the tie and establish the final standings accordingly. **E)** Should these numbers be equivalent, the Commissioner shall consider the result(s) of head-to-head competition of each party to the tie and establish the final standings accordingly. **F)** Should consideration of the result(s) of head-to-head competition fail to resolve the tie, the Commissioner, considering only head-to-head competition, shall tabulate the goals-scored-to-goals-allowed ratio of each party to the tie and establish the final standings accordingly. **G)** Should these ratios be equivalent, the Commissioner, considering only head-to-head competition, shall compare the number of goals scored by each party to the tie and establish the final standings accordingly. **H)** Should these numbers be equivalent, the Commissioner shall arrange a decisive game. **I)** Should a decisive game be impossible to arrange, the Commissioner shall declare the contest for that rank in the final standings a draw. **J)** If required for tournament seeding or for some other purpose, such a draw shall be decided by a coin toss.

Rule 20. Cup Competition. **A)** When league competition is segregated by division, the Association, at the discretion of its members, shall sponsor an intra-league, inter- or intra-divisional cup competition. **B)** When league competition is not segregated by division, the Association, at the discretion of its members, may sponsor an intra-league cup competition. **C)** A cup game shall be scheduled during a playing season, but shall not be scheduled on the same day as a league game. **D)** Whenever possible, a cup competition shall be double elimination. **E)** The Commissioner shall determine cup seeding with respect to the relative strength of teams. **F)** A cup game shall be distinct from a league game and shall have no bearing on any league competition. **G)** A cup championship shall be distinct from a league championship.

Rule 21. Pre-Season or End-of-Season Intra-league Tournament. **A)** Prior to the first game of any season, the Association, preferably, or the Commissioner may reserve the first or last date(s) in the playing season for a pre-season or end-of-season intra-league tournament. **B)** Whenever possible, such a tournament shall be double elimination. **C)** Such a tournament shall be seeded by the Commissioner with respect to the relative strength of teams. **D)** A pre-season or end-of-season tournament game shall be distinct both from a league game and from a cup game. **E)** A pre-season or end-of-season tournament championship shall be distinct both from a league championship and from a cup championship.

Rule 22. End-of-Season Inter-league Champions Tournament. **A)** Prior to the first game of any season, the Association, preferably, or the Executive Board may reserve the last date(s) in the playing season for an end-of-season, inter-league champions tournament. **B)** If so decided, the Executive Board shall attempt to arrange in cooperation with (an)other league(s) end-of-season games opposing at least its top team(s) in the final league (or top division) table to the corresponding team(s) of (an) area league(s).

Rule 23. Overtime. **A)** If a cup game, a tournament game, or a play-off game other than the first game of a two-game competition should end in a tie, two (2) ten-minute (10m) overtime halves shall be played. **B)** If this period should end in a tie, the winner of the game shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

Rule 24. No player shall be restricted from participation in a friendly as defined under Rule 3.3 of the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book.

Rule 25. Protests and Appeals. **A)** Any game may be protested by any team. **B)** An expulsion (red card) may be protested, but a player issued a red card shall be suspended from the next game played, notwithstanding protest. **C)** A caution (yellow card) may not be protested. **D)** A protest must be submitted in writing to the Appeals & Discipline Chair within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, caution, or expulsion in question, and must be accompanied by payment of \$25, which shall be refunded if the protest is upheld. **E)** The Appeals & Discipline Chair must convey his ruling to all parties to a protest within a timely manner of his receipt of such a protest. **F)** An appeal of a ruling of the Appeals & Discipline Chair must be submitted in writing to the President within forty-eight (48) hours of that ruling, and must be accompanied by an additional payment of \$25, which shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld. **I)** The President must convey his ruling to all parties to an appeal within a timely manner. **J)** An appeal of a ruling of the President shall be referred to the NTSSA for dispensation.

Rule 26. Conflict of Interest. **A)** A governing official of the Association, or a member of the Appeals and Discipline Committee, if affiliated whatsoever with any team, as player, as coach, as supporter, or in some other capacity, shall be permitted a voice, but not a vote, in a matter which pertains directly and specifically to that team or to any of its players. **B)** A referee, if affiliated whatsoever with any team, as player, as coach, as supporter, or in some other capacity, shall not be permitted to officiate in any capacity at a game sponsored by the Association, except when league competition is segregated by division, under which circumstance, but only in case of hardship, a referee registered as a player for a member team may officiate at a league game in a division other than the division in which his team competes. **C)** If some other conflict of interest exists, it shall be referred to the Executive Board for review.

Rule 27. Special Circumstances. **A)** The Executive Board reserves the right to relax or to suspend a Standing Rule in the event of any circumstance, foreseen or unforeseen, which under strict interpretation of the Standing Rules might result in undue hardship. **B)** Such relaxation or suspension a Standing Rule shall require an official action of the Executive Board and shall be reported at the next Association Meeting.

Rule 28. Amendments to the Standing Rules may be made at any Association meeting by majority vote of the voting membership present.