

Lubbock Soccer Association General Rules

4. Chapter 4: Lubbock Soccer Association Playing Rules

4.1. SOCCER ACTIVITIES

Soccer activities for recreational teams shall be limited to:

3 activities of 1 hour duration each week for Under-6 and Under-8 teams.

3 activities of 1-1/2 hour duration each week for Under-10 and all recreational teams in the Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, and Under-19 Leagues.

These activities will usually be two/three practices and one game.

4.2. SPORTSMANSHIP

Each team's coaches and players should shake hands with the other team after each game.

4.3. COACHING DURING GAME

Parent/coaches shall not coach or instruct players during game time.

4.4. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

4.5. TOUCH LINE ASSIGNMENTS

The HOME team (the team listed first on the official schedule) and the VISITING team will occupy opposite touch lines. All coaches, substitute players, parents, and spectators will be expected to remain on their team's assigned touch line and not on the other team's touch line.

4.6. PRACTICES

RECREATIONAL teams may not practice until after the head coach has signed and dated the team roster, and has received his official copy of that roster. The RECREATIONAL team may hold regularly scheduled practices each week until the team has played its last game for that season, including all tournaments in which the team participates.

4.7. FORFEITURE

4.7.1. A team will forfeit any game in which:

4.7.1.1. it fields an ineligible player or a player under suspension.

4.7.1.2. it has a suspended coach appearing at a game to coach.

4.7.1.3. it fails to field a team with at least:

two (2) players [3v3 teams]

three (3) players [4v4 teams]

four (4) players [6v6 teams]

five (5) players [7v7 teams]

six (6) players [8v8 teams]

seven (7) players [11v11 teams]

within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time according to the Referee's watch. If neither team can field the minimum number of players, the game shall be recorded as a loss for each team.

4.7.1.4. it violates the minimum playing time requirements for any player on the team.

4.7.2. When a game is forfeited, the score will be recorded as 1 - 0. Since any forfeiture may affect the final standings of that league, the League/Conference Commissioner will make a complete inquiry concerning the forfeit.

4.7.3. A team playing in a US Youth Soccer/North Texas Soccer sanctioned tournament during scheduled league play may have their regularly scheduled Lubbock Soccer Association game rescheduled in accordance with the current LSA Reschedule Policy. The coach of a team planning to play in a tournament which will conflict with a regularly scheduled Association game must notify the League Commissioner as soon as plans are started for travel to a tournament.

4.8. LEAGUE STANDINGS

4.8.1. Points to determine division standings shall be assigned as follows:

Win = 3 points
Draw = 1 point
Loss = 0 points

4.8.2 Positional play may be required to complete the seasonal game count. After teams have played each team in the division an equal number of games, positional seeding will be used to complete the seasonal game count. Seeding positions at the beginning of the positional play will remain constant throughout the remainder of the season. If two or more teams are tied in points for any positional seeding, the following tie breaking procedure will be used to determine seeding.

- a) Head-to-head game results – winner will be higher seed
- b) Fewest goals allowed – team with fewest goal allowed will be higher seed
- c) Most number of shut-outs – team with most shut-outs will be higher seed
- d) Goal differential – goals scored (maximum of 5 goal per game) minus goals allowed (maximum of 5 goals per game) – team with highest differential will be higher seed
- e) Coin flip – winner will be higher seed

4.8.3 Teams that are tied in points for first place at the end of the season shall play each other to determine first place.

4.8.4 A championship game (a game between two teams tied for first place after all regularly scheduled league games are completed) may not end in a draw. If both teams have scored an equal number of goals at the end of regulation time, they shall (after no more than a 5 minute break) play two overtime periods of 10 minutes each for Under-10, Under-12, and Under-14 Leagues or 15 minutes each for Under-16 and Under-19 Leagues. The two overtime periods may be separated by another 5 minute break. If the match is still a draw after two overtime periods, the match shall be decided by the taking of FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

4.8.5 Individual trophies will be presented to the members of the championship team in each division. In those cases where two or more teams tie in points for first place in a division, members of each first place team (except the championship team) will receive individual medallions.

4.9. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURE

4.9.1. Unless otherwise notified by the League/Conference Commissioner, all teams must report to the playing field for their assigned games. Any team failing to have the minimum number of players available will forfeit the game. The Referee will be the sole judge of whether the game may begin.

4.9.2. If a game is suspended because of field or weather conditions before the second half of play has begun, that game will be replayed in its entirety. If the second half of play has begun, that game will be considered a full, complete game. Any game scheduled and not played, due to field or weather

conditions, will be rescheduled by the League/Conference Commissioner. In the event a team refuses to play because of questionable field or weather conditions, the coach shall protest the situation to the Referee. The Referee's decision may be appealed to the League/Conference Commissioner, then to the Youth Commissioner, then to the Board of Directors.

4.10. PLAYER DISCIPLINE

A player may be withheld from a game for disciplinary reasons when the action has been approved and reported to the player's parents by the Group Commissioner at least forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled game time.

4.11. GAME PROTESTS

4.11.1. All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to the League/Conference Commissioner (or the next higher level in his absence) within 48 hours of the game, accompanied by a protest deposit of \$ 30.00. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is denied, the deposit will be forfeited to the Lubbock Soccer Association.

4.11.2. The League/Conference Commissioner shall review the protest with the protestor to determine the situation and validity. A game may only be protested if:

4.11.2.1. a team knowingly playing an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or,

4.11.2.2. a team's suspended coach is present and coaches the team; or,

4.11.2.3. there is a violation of the minimum playing requirements for any player as outlined in these Rules; or,

4.11.2.4. there has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.

4.11.3. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the Referee during play. See Law V.

4.11.4. If the protest is judged valid for hearing, the League/Conference Commissioner shall accept the protest and the deposit and forward them to the Chairman of the Discipline and Appeals Committee within 24 hours of receiving them.

4.11.5. The Discipline and Appeals Committee shall receive a protest through its Chairman and shall meet to consider the protest within 5 days of its receipt. All parties, coaches, players, and Referees shall be notified of the protest hearing and shall be requested to be present. Failure to attend after being requested to do so may cause default of the protest or require other action to be taken.

4.11.6. The Discipline and Appeals Committee shall not assume that a game result protest should be upheld strictly on the basis of a protest being valid because a Law of the Game has been broken or for any other valid reason. Game protests and the entire circumstances surrounding the game, including the determination that said outcome of the game was or was not affected by the protested events of the game, shall be considered.

4.11.7. Decisions of the Discipline and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Lubbock Soccer Association Board of Directors. See Chapter 5 of these Rules for the proper procedures for filing appeals.

4.11.8. There will be no protests of games played in the Under-6 and Under-8 Leagues. If a team violates minimum playing time requirements for any player, the matter will be handled as a complaint against the coach.

4.12. TRAVEL PERMITS

Any Lubbock Soccer Association youth team wishing to travel outside the boundaries of the North Texas State Soccer Association must have permission and travel papers from the North Texas State Soccer Association office. The North Texas State Soccer Association Administrative Rule Book contains the procedures, time frames, and fees necessary to obtain these travel papers in Chapter 7. The team administrator should consult the NTSSA Rule Book for the current requirements. CAUTION: Travel into New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Texas (south of San Angelo) is travel outside the NTSSA area.

4.13. HOSTING FOREIGN TEAMS

Before inviting any foreign teams to any local competition, permission must be obtained from North Texas State Soccer Association and from the United States Soccer Federation. Procedures, time frames, and fees are explained in Chapter 7 of the North Texas State Soccer Association Administrative Rule Book. Consult the current copy of the Rule Book for up-to-date information.