

**PLANO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
RECREATIONAL DIVISION -- GENERAL RULES**

1. DIVISIONS

The Recreational Division of the Plano Youth Soccer Association shall be comprised and limited to those teams considered to be recreational in nature and shall exclude teams that contain players obtained in a manner conducive to development of a selective, or partially selective, competitive team. In addition, the Recreational Division also includes the Academy division.

2. LEAGUES

The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Recreational Division further shall be divided into eleven (11) age levels, referred to as leagues. Both boys' and girls' leagues shall be formed in each age group. Eligibility for each league will be based upon age as follows:

LEAGUE	AGE	PLAYERS ON THE FIELD	BALL SIZE	GAME TIME
Under 4*	3	4	3	4X10min
Under 5*	4	4	3	4X10min
Under 6*	5	4	3	4X10min
Under 7*	6	7	3	4X12min
Under 8*	7	7	3	4X12min
Under 9	8	8	4	2X25min
Under 10	9	8	4	2X25min
Under 12	10 and 11	11	4	2X30min
Under 14	12 and 13	11	5	2X35min
Under 15**	14	11	5	2X40min
Under 16	15	11	5	2X40min
Under 19	16, 17, and 18	11	5	2X45min

* NOTE: There are no protests allowed in the Recreational Under 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Leagues. These are for the players' development and enjoyment only.

* NOTE: In order to be eligible to play in the Under 4 League, a player must be three (3) years of age prior to August 1.

PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall provide both boys' and girls' leagues for each age group unless prohibited, or otherwise undesirable based upon the number of available players. Then, at the discretion of the Recreational Committee, with approval of the Board of Directors, coeducational leagues may be formed. The Boys Commissioner shall have overall responsibility for all boys' leagues and the Girls Commissioner shall have overall responsibility for all girls' leagues, with the respective league directors reporting to their commissioners. Coeducational teams must play in a boys' league.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Age of youth as of August 1 determines the league in which a youth will play regardless of age at the start of the season (Note: This is required by the USSF/NTSSA). Players may play up one (1) age group with a written request from the parent(s) and approval from the coach on whose team the player is assigned.
- B. The playing of any youth outside the age limits of the team, as defined above, shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.
- C. No player may be added after the season starts without approval of the VP of Recreation and submittal of the necessary information to the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office.
- D. The playing of any player for whom PLANO YOUTH SOCCER holds no record or who has not been assigned to the applicable roster may result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player

participated and suspension of the coach.

- E. No player or coach registered with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER may participate in unregistered/non-sanctioned play, as stated in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book, Rule 3.2. **Registration with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER will be suspended once a player or coach participates in such play.** Unsanctioned play shall include, but not be limited to:
- Outdoor/indoor league not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
 - Outdoor/indoor tournament not sanctioned by NTSSA or another USSF affiliate.
 - Any game (friendly or scrimmage) with a non-USSF affiliate.
- F. New players may be added at the discretion of the VP of Recreation. It is the responsibility of the coach to verify that any added players are included in the official team roster. Any team found in violation of this rule is subject to forfeiting the games in which the violation occurred and the coach of such team may be suspended.

4. TEAM STRUCTURE

- A. A team (coaches and players) formed by PLANO YOUTH SOCCER and playing in PLANO YOUTH SOCCER 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 team and forming the nucleus for that team, in order to remain as a unit, is six (6) players. However, it is possible that a team with more than six (6) returning players may not form.

At the time of registration, recreational players have the option to request removal from a team and reassignment through the Players' Pool. A recreational player sitting out one season (i.e., not playing soccer in any organization) can return to the player's former team provided space is available. Otherwise that player will be reassigned through the Players' Pool unless decided otherwise by the VP of Recreation. Competitive players returning to the recreational league must be reassigned through the Player's Pool. A player from a Competitive Division team must honor a valid 1-year contract for that team, should one exist, unless the player has been duly released from that team.

Every recreational team must identify its school affiliation and once done cannot be changed without approval from the Recreational Committee unless the new proposed school is in the normal progression from the original school as the players go from Elementary to Middle School to High School to Senior High School.

- B. New recreational teams and returning recreational teams needing additional players will obtain players in the manner described below. However, before new players are added to a returning recreational team, the head coach must contact each player from the previous season and invite them back, unless the player has moved or requested to be removed from that team.
- (1.) In the Under 4 through Under 12 age groups, players will be assigned by the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office from the Players' Pool, as governed by the Coordinating Committee, from their local elementary school area in which they live whenever possible. If not enough players are available from the team's school; players from neighboring schools that feed into the same next level school should be used first subject to roster space constraints.
 - (2.) New players to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER in the Under 4 through Under 6 age group may request to be placed on a team with a friend. The friend may be a new or existing player in PLANO YOUTH SOCCER. This rule is independent of school boundaries. If four (4) or more players request to play together, they must provide a volunteer coach.
 - (3.) In the Under-14 age group, players will be assigned by the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office from the Players' Pool, as governed by the Coordinating Committee, from their local middle school area in which they live whenever possible. If not enough players are available from the team's school, then players from neighboring schools that feed into the same next school level should be used first.

- (4.) In the Under 16 and Under 19 age groups, players will be assigned by the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office from the Players' Pool, as governed by the Coordinating Committee, to a team independent of school area in which they reside. In addition, the Recreational Board may, on a league by league basis, permit coaches of record to actively recruit and add any player in the age group to his/her team within the boundaries of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER and as long as there are no tryouts, scrimmages, drills, etc. used to assess the ability of the player and:
- (a.) The player is not presently registered on an existing recreational team,
 - (b.) The player did not play for a returning recreational team the previous season,
 - (c.) The player has registered and indicated the desire to be reassigned through the Players' Pool, and
 - (d.) The coach does not violate any USYSA, NTSSA, or PLANO YOUTH SOCCER recruiting rules.

The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Vice President of Recreation must approve a team, which was formed outside of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER requesting to participate in PLANO YOUTH SOCCER recreational league.

- C. No civic or youth groups, other than soccer teams, applying to play as a team in PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall be admitted as a formed team unless it is determined by the Vice President of Recreation that membership to such a group was not in any way based upon athletic ability and that the group was formed in accordance with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER rules and policies in regards to year of birth, school area, etc.
- D. The number of players on a team will be as follows:

	Maximum	Recommended*	Required for Game
Under 4/5/6 League	8	8	3
Under 7 and 8 League	12	11	5
Under 9 and 10 League	14	12	6
Under 12 League	18	15	7
Under 14 League	18	16	7
Under 15 League**	18	17	7
Under 16 League	22	18	7
Under 19 League	22	18	7

*NOTE: Coach's permission does not need to be obtained before exceeding the nominal numbers as provided above. The maximum numbers shall not be exceeded, **Once registration has closed, players may be added to teams via a late registration process. Players are added to teams in order of teams with the lowest number of players.**

** NOTE: The Under 15 teams play within the Under 16 league; however, the maximum roster allowances are lower under the North Texas guidelines.

- E. League Competition – Team Reassignment
 - (1.) PLANO YOUTH SOCCER can reassign teams to various levels of competition within an age group based upon performance and ability (with the exception that teams can be required to play in a higher age group if a request is made by the team's coach and approved by the Commissioner, or unless that team already has requested to play at a higher age level in another association).
 - (2.) PLANO YOUTH SOCCER can promote teams within the recreational levels upward or downward from one division to another, within an age level.

NOTE: Nothing in this policy should be construed to allow girl's league teams to be made to play in the boy's league, at any level, unless it is so requested by the team's coach and duly approved by the Vice President of Recreation. However, any team composed of at least one male player must be required to play in the appropriate boy's league.

- (3.) The League Director and Commissioner shall determine, prior to the beginning of league play, which division and/or conference each team shall be placed. At the option of the Commissioner, placement can be determined by a seeding evaluation. Final placement of teams shall be approved by the Commissioner and is subject to review by the VP of Recreation.
- (4.) In the event a team's level of competition appears to exceed that of the teams in its own division, that team shall be reviewed by its League Director and/or Commissioner in order to determine whether it shall be forced to play in a higher division within its own age group or in the next higher age group for the next season. If such placement of a team is into a higher age group, the team will be placed in the level of competition deemed appropriate by the League Director in that age group, with approval of the Commissioner. Any such placement of a team shall be made prior to the beginning of the next season's play. A season includes any period identified by the fall, winter, spring, and summer play.

5. PLAYER/TEAM RELEASE AND TRANSFER

Players and teams shall be released and/or transferred only as set forth by stated PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Policy and NTSSA rules (See NTSSA rule 4, RULES FOR REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS). In summary, PLANO YOUTH SOCCER requires that:

- A. Players and teams require a written release from the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Registrar in order to play outside of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, whether or not the player(s) or team(s) previously has been released, during any soccer year.
- B. Players can be released to the Players' Pool at the time of registration by requesting on the application that they be reassigned to the Players' Pool. A player may leave a competitive team and go into his home association recreational player pool at any time prior to April 1st of the current soccer year with the written permission of the Youth Commissioner. 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 1st and March 15th and only with the written permission of the Member Association in which he is currently rostered. NTSSA 3.10.7
- C. Players and coaches should become familiar with existing PLANO YOUTH SOCCER and NTSSA Rules and the latest PLANO YOUTH SOCCER policy if they are anticipating the request for a release for a player or team, especially regarding any request to play outside PLANO YOUTH SOCCER.

6. ACADEMY

- 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 their home association and may or may not be on a recreational team, unless required to be on a recreational team by their home association. Academies are to be governed by NTSSA Youth Associations, and NTSSA Youth Associations may host as many Soccer Academies as they deem desirable. Academy teams are governed by the league in which they participate. (If more than one association is involved in an academy league, an A&D committee should be in place.)
- B. Coaches, Trainers, administrators, etc., must have satisfactorily passed the criminal background check and information sent to NTSSA.
- 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 NTSSA 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 a North Texas Soccer Member Youth 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 one (1) practice per week with each of their Academy team(s). Academy players may only play in one (1) Academy game per week, 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.

Exception 1: Academy players and/or Academy teams that are domiciled outside of a one hundred (100) mile radius of the Dallas/Fort Worth airport and participate in an Academy league within the one hundred (100) mile radius shall be allowed to practice and play up to two (2) Academy games and/or practices per week, with a maximum of two (2) academy games per two (2) week period.

Exception 2: 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 one (1) or two (2) week period.

- D. Member Associations 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 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).
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. The purposes of the Soccer Academies are to:
 - (1.) Provide recreational players who have aspirations of becoming a more accomplished player an avenue to test and enhance his or her skills.
 - (2.) Provide recreational players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
 - (3.) 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.
- H. Recruiting is not allowed on Soccer Academy teams. Soccer Academies are to be used for training, not recruiting.
- I. For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with an NTSSA Member youth association recreational or recreational plus team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the NTSSA recreational team or recreational plus team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment.

7. COACHES

- A. The Head Coach shall have the privilege of having his or her child assigned to their team's roster provided the player meets the age requirements of the league.

- B. It is recommended that all head coaches complete the F certification course (G certification for U4-U6) within the first year of becoming the head coach.
- C. The Coach and Assistant Coach of record are to be active coaches for the team and not in name only.
- D. In the event a team loses its Head Coach, the League Director will offer the team to the Assistant Coach and the parents of the team before selecting a Head Coach from the outside.
- E. Each coach has one (1) vote at any meeting of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER at which they are entitled to vote, as does the Parent Representative, listed as Manager of the roster, for that team.
- F. Coaches will be held responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's spectators, parents, and players. This includes any foul and abusive language and any comments directed toward the referees, opposing players, and coaches. Offenders may be cautioned or ejected from the field by the referee. If any coach or team receives three (3) written complaints against the coach, or any member of the team, or spectators, or one (1) written complaint from a league official, the coach must go before the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee for judgment of fitness to continue participation in the league and appropriate punishment (if any). These complaints must be made on separate occasions (games, practices, etc.) during the season, and may include written complaints from referees, other coaches, and spectators. All complaints must be submitted to Plano Youth Soccer and be signed.
- G. All coaching will be confined to an area ten (10) yards on either side of the midfield line and to their own side of the field, unless existing PLANO YOUTH SOCCER policy disallows coaching from the sidelines. **Only coaches and managers rostered to the team may be on the team's sideline. If the rostered coach or manager is not available, a parent may substitute for the coach. The coaching substitute must obtain a temporary identification card prior to the game.** Players on the sideline must stay within the ten (10) yard coaching box during play, and all persons, players, and spectators must stay at least five (5) feet back from the sideline (touch line) on each side. Spectators should remain in the area normally designated for spectators, when applicable, and in no case shall be allowed to line up along the sideline or enter the field of play without referee permission.
- H. Coaches are responsible for verifying the eligibility of their players by confirming to the official roster. Only registered player(s) shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this association and affiliated members. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) shall be brought before the Appeals and Discipline Committee. Penalties are at the discretion of the Appeals and Discipline Committee and may include suspension of the coach; and forfeiture of games in which the violation occurred.
- I. Coaches are subject to the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, its League Directors, the Recreational Committee and the Board of Directors and all PLANO YOUTH SOCCER rules and policies. The League Directors shall approve all coaches in their league. Returning coaches and teams in good standing are permitted and welcomed.
- J. 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.(NTSSA rule 4.7.6.1 & 4.7.6.2)
- K. Every coach is the coach with the permission of the parents of the players. If a majority of the parents of the players agree, they have the right to remove the head coach from the team. The vote of the parents shall be at one vote per child on the team.
- L. All coaches must **visibly display** the Coaches Badge during all team meetings.

8. PRACTICES

A team shall have no more than three (3) meetings per week, which include organized practices, scheduled

and rescheduled games after the beginning of league play except under unusual circumstances with the approval of the Recreational Committee. Under-5 through Under-7 Leagues may practice one (1) hour per session; Under-8 and Under-10 Leagues may practice one and one half (1.5) hours per session; Under-12 and older Leagues may practice two (2) hours per session. Teams who practice on Plano fields must conform to the policies of the City of Plano's Park and Recreational Department, which may vary from time to time.

9. GAMES

A. Forfeiture

The score for forfeiture is 3-0. The following constitutes a game forfeiture:

- (1) Fielding an ineligible player or a player under suspension.
- (2) A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game;
- (3) Failure to field a team with the minimum number of players, within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, according to the Referee's watch.
- (4) Violation of the minimum-playing requirement for any player, as outlined in the Playing Rules.
- (5) If a team intentionally forfeits a game, that team (coaches, managers, and/or other responsible parties) may be required to appear before the divisional Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, to present its reason for the forfeit. A team found guilty of intentionally forfeiting a game may:
 - a. Be prevented from participating in any further games during the season;
 - b. Be ineligible for any awards;
 - c. Be prevented from participation in any playoff games;
 - d. Have the coach suspended for up to a year;
 - e. Any penalty deemed appropriate by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- (6) A team knowing that it will not be able to field a team should notify the league office and the applicable League Director at least 48 hours prior to the game.
- (7) Any adult, spectator, coach, assistant coach, or manager that has been ejected by a referee from a game, must leave in a timely manner (within 3 minutes) and not be in the immediate area around the field and may not be within the line of sight of the field. If the ejected individual does not comply, thus causing the game official to abandon the game, then the game is a mandatory forfeit with a win and maximum points to be awarded to the opposing team. It is the referee's discretion to have the player go to the parking lot or remain at the field. If the referee allows the player to remain on the sideline, that player must put on their alternate jersey.

B. Foul Weather Procedure

Unless officially notified by PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, in a manner determined by PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, teams must report to the playing fields for assigned games. Only a referee or a League Official can cancel the games at any field should it be so warranted.

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 completed game. The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office will reschedule any games scheduled and not played, due to field or weather conditions, as soon as possible. In the event a team refuses to play because of questionable field or weather conditions, the coach shall protest the situation to the Referee and any subsequent decision will be decided by the League Director subject to the approval of the Recreational Committee. A coach can further protest or appeal the decision by filing a protest to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

Any playoff game suspended due to field or weather conditions will be replayed in its entirety. Scheduled and rescheduled games have priority usage of fields over practices. In the event Plano Parks and Recreation and/or PLANO YOUTH SOCCER have closed a field for game usage, that field is also closed for practice usage. Any fines imposed upon PLANO YOUTH SOCCER by the city for

improper field usage will be passed on to the offending team. In addition, the offending team will be required to forfeit the next scheduled game.

C. Method of Scoring for League or Division Standings:

- (1.) Win-Loss Points. Three (3) points are given for a win, one (1) for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. The team with the greater number of win-loss points is the winner.
- (2.) Head-to-Head competition. If two teams are tied in Win-Loss Points, the winner of head-to-head competition wins. In the event that three or more teams are tied in Win-Loss Points, then Head-to-Head will not apply.
- (3.) NASL Points (10 point scoring system). Six (6) points are given for a win, three (3) for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. One (1) additional point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three (3) per game. One (1) additional point is awarded for a shutout. A forfeit win is recorded as a 3-0 win and therefore earns 10 points. The team with the greater number of NASL Points wins.

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- (4.) Goals Against System: Establish total ten (10) NASL points score, then decrease total by one (1) point per goal scored against a team up to a maximum of three (3) points per game. The team with the greater number of GAS points wins.
 - (5.) Penalty Points. Each yellow card issued to a player in a League game counts for one (1) point and each red card issued to a player, send off for a coach, or send off for a parent in a League game count for two (2) points. A second yellow card issued to a player in a game that results in a red card (or a second warning to a coach in a game that leads to a send off) will count as two yellow cards. The team with the fewest Penalty Points wins.
 6. Kicks from the Mark. If still tied after applying 1 through 5, the winner is determined by Kicks from the Mark.

D. All teams must report scores to your League Director within 24 hours after the game finishes.

E. Standings are not kept in the U 4 through U 6 leagues. In U 7 and U 8, standings are not published. The teams are requested to turn in scores so that the strength of teams may be used when creating conferences for subsequent seasons. Standings will be kept in the U 9 and above leagues.

All games will be played in accordance with FIFA laws as modified by NTSSA and PLANO YOUTH SOCCER.

10. PLAYOFFS

- A. Playoff structure will be determined by the League Director and approved by the Commissioner and the VP of Recreation.
- B. The Under 4 through Under 8 Leagues will not have playoff games.
- C. Wildcards for playoffs will be determined first by the highest points in the ten (10) point scoring system and then by the Goals Against System.
- D. Ties in playoff or Championship games must be played off. If at the end of regulation time, the game is tied, two (2) overtime halves will be played (NOTE: Overtime halves shall not be used for Playoff mini-games - the Kicks from the Penalty Mark follow the end of a tied mini-game.)

The overtime halves shall be structured as follows: **Two (2) ten (10) minutes halves. Both halves must be played in their entirety.** If at the end of the overtime, the game is still tied, Kicks from the Penalty Mark will be applied to determine the winner. Appendix A explains the Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

- E. The 50% playing time rule should be adhered to in overtime play which shall be considered the cumulative 20 minute overtime period.
- F. No protest will be allowed during playoff and/or championship games, except for fielding an ineligible player.

11. AWARDS

- A. Awards will be presented on the basis of one (1) set per division unless otherwise specified. In addition, awards will be provided to the first and second place playoff teams. If there is only one (1) division, two sets of awards will be presented for first and second place. In no event shall the number of awards exceed the average of one set of awards for every three (3) teams considering the total of all awards and all teams. The only exception to the above will be by majority vote of the Recreational Committee.
- B. All players in the U 10 and below divisions will receive a participation trophy. The only exception is the teams in the U 9 and U 10 league winning a division or first and second playoff trophy. These teams will receive the division winner or playoff trophy.

12. DISCIPLINE

Discipline will be rendered as set forth in Appendix B and NTSSA Rule 3.11.

- A. A Recreational player may be withheld from a game for disciplinary reasons, by the coach, when it has been reported to the League Director and the child's parents at least twelve (12) hours prior to the game. Each disciplinary action by the coach serves as a written complaint of misconduct, with three disciplinary actions during the season requiring review of the player by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- B. Complaints against Coaches, Players, Spectators, etc.
Coaches, players, and/or spectators receiving three (3) written complaints against them or (1) written complaint from a PLANO YOUTH SOCCER league official shall be required to go before the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee after the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee has reviewed the complaint. These complaints may come from referees, other coaches, or spectators. These complaints must come from separate occasions. Only signed written complaints will be considered. It will be the prerogative of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee to take whatever action they deem appropriate - probation, suspension, etc.
- C. Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with NTSSA A&D Committee (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven).

13. PROCEDURE FOR FILING PROTESTS, APPEALS, GRIEVANCES, ETC.

- A. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, and the like. The Recreation Division shall operate its own system including an Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee to hear and review all game related protests and grievances. The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors is the first level of appeal for both appeals from the Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee and the Recreational Committee. In addition, the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors shall provide the first level of appeal for any other organization under the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, e.g., the Plano Referees Association, the Metro League, etc.

These committees, at their discretion and when requested in writing to do so, may waive the time limit for filing matters before them, but in no case will grant an extension of more than ten (10) days. A request for an extension is not a valid reason for not meeting the original requirement for filing matters to these committees.

- B. All protests, appeals, grievances, and the like shall be submitted in writing to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER within forty-eight (48) hours of the matter concerned. The written document must have either PROTEST, GRIEVANCE, or APPEAL boldly written or typed across the top. Protests and appeals shall be accompanied by a \$50 fee (cash, money order, or cashier's check).

If the committee upholds the protest or appeal, the fee shall be returned. If it is denied, the fee shall be forfeited to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER. Once a fee has been forfeited to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, it shall not be returned.

- C. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall refuse to hear any protest, grievance, appeal or the like where legal action is threatened or has been initiated. Recording devices, stenographers and attorneys representing either party will not be permitted at hearings. The minutes of the hearing may be recorded, by the secretary of the committee, for purpose of recording the minutes only.

In no event shall any person or organization, under the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER resort to the Courts, at any government level, until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanction of suspensions and fines as set forth by PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, NTSSA, USYSA, USSF and FIFA and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by these organizations in defending related Court action, including but not limited to Court costs, attorney's fees, compensation for persons defending such allegations, travel expenses, and expenses for holding meetings related to the Court action.

- D. The Board of Directors of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER or the Recreational Committee may bring any protest, appeal, grievance, or the like directly before that body for a hearing when that body feels it is necessary in order to render a decision and to speed the normal process for matters of the utmost importance.

- E. Protests, grievances, and the like against the performance or conduct of referees must be filed with the Referee Committee and are not heard by the Recreational Division. It is the responsibility of the Referee Committee to determine the validity of such actions and to handle this within that association. Persons filing such charges should direct them to the Referee Committee through the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office who shall forward them to the referee committee through their representative on the Recreational Committee or through the Board of Directors, Referee Vice President.

- F. Protests

(1.) There shall be no protests in Under 5, 6, 7 & 8 league play.

(2.) All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, accompanied by a \$50 fee.

(3.) The A&D Committee Chairman shall review the protest to determine the situation and *the* validity *of the protest*. A game may be protested only if:

- a. 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.**

NOTE: The Laws of the Game are the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by NTSSA/ PLANO YOUTH SOCCER).

- b. A team has played an ineligible or suspended player.
c. A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team: and/or
d. There has been a violation of the minimum playing requirements for any player, as outlined in the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Playing Rules.

(4.) The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall receive protests and grievances through its Chairperson and shall meet to consider them within seven (7) days of their receipt. All involved parties, coaches, and players shall be notified of the 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.

- (5.) The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall not assume that a game result should be changed 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 should be upheld on the basis of the merits of the protest and the entire circumstances surrounding the game, including the determination that the outcome of the game was or was not affected by the events referred to in the protest of the game.

G. Appeals

- (1.) Decisions from the Recreational Division Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, Recreational Committee, and other organizations under the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, may be appealed to the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors with the President receiving the appeal directly. The appeal must be received by the President within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision. The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors shall be the only level of appeal prior to the Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee of NTSSA.

The procedure for filing an appeal is the same as for protests. All involved parties, coaches, and players shall be notified of the hearing and shall be requested to be present. Failure to attend after being requested to do so may cause default of the appeal or require other action to be taken.

- (2.) Decisions of the Board of Directors may be appealed to the NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee through the State Office and, then, to their Executive Committee and on to the USYSA/USSF and FIFA through their appeals and protest policies and procedures, upon payment of such fees and filing of such forms as required through these organizations at that time.

H. Grievances*

These shall be handled in the same manner as protests with the Registrar or League Official accepting the grievance. A fee is not required. Grievance must be considered automatically by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, which shall determine whether a formal hearing should be called, and a fee is required.

* Definition of Grievances: A wrong, real or fancied, considered as grounds for complaint against an unjust act.

14. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER POLICIES

All PLANO YOUTH SOCCER policies, duly approved by the Competitive or Recreational Committee automatically become part of the General Rules of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER. Policies that affect both the Recreational and Competitive Divisions require the approval of the Board of Directors. Policy information is available through the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office.

15. REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEES

- A. Refund Policy: No refunds will be given to a player after the second scheduled league game by any team.

All refunds will be given minus a \$20 administrative processing fee.

In the Under 5 and Under 6 age groups, if the player has received a PLANO YOUTH SOCCER provided uniform, the refund is also subject to a \$20 uniform fee unless, the uniform is returned to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER in usable condition.

- B. Procedure for Paying Refunds:

- (1.) If PLANO YOUTH SOCCER is unable to provide a team for a registrant, the VP of Recreation will submit the application form for that player to the Treasurer, who will send a refund check to

the registrant. In this situation, the \$20 administrative processing fee will not be imposed.

- (2.) All other requests for refunds must be initiated by the parent or player and submitted to the Plano Youth Soccer office with the word "REFUND" marked across the top. The Treasurer will send a refund check (with the administrative fee subtracted) to the individual who signed the application.

16. AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL AND PLAYING RULES

Amendments to the General and Playing Rules may be proposed at any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Recreational Committee, and at any general membership meeting. The Recreational League Board of Directors must approve all rule changes.

Proposed changes may be made from the floor at any general membership meeting as long as they are in writing, presented by an authorized voting member and are seconded by an authorized voting member.

The Recreational and Competitive Committees have authorized the Board of Directors to make any necessary changes to the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Playing and General Rules if such changes are dictated by NTSSA, based upon changes in the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules or NTSSA Rules and Regulations. Any such changes shall be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Immediately upon making any such changes, the Board of Directors shall advise the Recreational and Competitive Committees in writing of the nature and extent of such changes, at the next meeting of the Committees.

The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Committees, Board of Directors, and General Membership are not authorized to make any changes in the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Playing and General Rules that are contrary or not allowed by the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules, or NTSSA Rules and Regulations.

17. IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Each coach/assistant coach and manager whose name appears on the team roster is required to display a valid PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Identification card during all games, practices and other team activities. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER issues ID cards for rostered coach/assistant coach and manager upon completing and submitting required **Risk Management** forms as required by NTSSA. Only coach/assistant coach and managers rostered with the team and displaying valid IDs are allowed on the player's side of the field during games.

18. FACILITIES

Generally games are played on fields owned by the City of Plano. Some games may be scheduled in neighboring communities. All the participants, -- players, coaches, parents and fans -- are to respect the facilities. The participants are to obey the rules and regulations of the facility. In addition,

- A. Players are only allowed within the penalty area during game time. No warm-ups in the penalty area are allowed.
- B. Smoking is prohibited in the area of the playing fields.
- C. Dogs are not allowed at the fields while games are in progress.
- D. Players are to pick up and dispose of all trash at the end of the game.
- E. While waiting for the playing field to become available, teams are not to interfere with any game. At the conclusion of the game, the teams must quickly depart from the fields to allow the next game to begin.
- F. Noisemakers are prohibited.

