

# PLANO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION COMPETITIVE DIVISION -- GENERAL RULES

PLANO YOUTH SOCCER competition shall be divided into two divisions, a Competitive Division and a Recreational Division. Each division will be administered by its own Committee; chaired by the Vice President. The Competitive Division shall be comprised of teams considered to be highly competitive, including classic, select, and invitational teams.

## 1. LEAGUE NAME

The league name of the Competitive Division is the *Plano Premier Invitational League*.

## 2. AGE GROUP LEAGUES AND DIVISIONS

The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Divisions further shall be divided into age levels, referred to as leagues. Each age level of competition shall comprise a league.

The League Director and/or Commissioner have the authority for the final placement of teams into divisions with approval of the VP Competitive. A qualifier may be used to determine who the division one teams will be depending on the total number of teams registering and requesting division one. Teams wishing to play in division two or three are only required to register for the league. The number of teams in each league may be increased with the approval of the VP Competitive.

Bye's for the Premier League are the option of the league and will be setup each year by the Competitive Committee. The Commissioners shall have overall responsibility for all competitive leagues. Coeducational teams must play in a boy's league.

## 3. REGISTRATION

- A. Competitive teams playing in Plano **cannot** play in other leagues concurrently
- B. No refund of **REGISTRATION FEES** will be made once a team has registered to play with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, unless PLANO YOUTH SOCCER is unable to provide a league within which the team can play. This includes the U15 through U19 boys and girls as they pay the full amount for the combined fall and spring seasons. Once they pay for the season, there will be no refund.
- C. No team shall play in a league game without first having submitted all the league fees and all pertinent paperwork to the registrar at Plano Youth Soccer.
- D. The team's head coach or manager will handle all matters of team registration.
- E. Paperwork
  1. For teams using Plano as a Home Association:
    - | Roster
    - | USYSA form for each player
    - | Birth certificates for all players
    - | Team Fact Sheet – Signature Sheet

- 1. Completed RISK MANAGEMENT FOR ALL ROSTERED ADULTS.
- 2. For teams using Plano as a Playing Association:
  - 1. Roster and any Add/Transfer/Delete sheets signed by the team's home association registrar (3 copies)
  - 2. Team Information Application (3 copies)
  - 3. Special Request Form -signed by Coach and/or Manager (3 copies)
  - 4. Registration fee

#### 4. TEAMS

- A. Competitive Teams are those teams playing in the **Plano Premier Invitational League** (Plano Youth Soccer is the **Playing Association**) or teams that register with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER and play outside PLANO YOUTH SOCCER in other invitational or competitive leagues (Plano Youth Soccer is the **Home Association** only). All teams playing under the auspices of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall be subject to the by-laws of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER. All Plano Home Association teams playing in invitational, select, or classic leagues shall be governed by the Playing Rules of the playing Association, and General Rules of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, and shall be governed by the NTSSA Rules for Competitive Play.
- B. Teams' players are selected through tryouts, invitation, or other measures provided it is done in accordance with the applicable rules.
- C. Roster Size
  - 1. The maximum number of players on a team shall be as follows:

<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>AGE</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
Under 11	10	18	18
Under 12	11	18	18
Under 13	12	18	18
Under 14	13	18	18
Under 15	14	18	18
Under 16	15	22	22
Under 17	16	22	22
Under 19	17, 18	22	22

\* Be aware other leagues may require different size rosters to participate in their leagues. The team is responsible for checking with the individual leagues (such as Girls Classic, Boys Classic) in order to meet their qualifications.

However, the coach of the team may limit the number of players on the team to eleven (11), since the determination of the number of players and player selection is the responsibility of the coach.

2. The Game Roster & Misconduct Report will have only 3 Adult Persons listed on it which are normally, One Coach, One Assistant Coach, and One Manager. These three LISTED persons are permitted on the sidelines with the players during the game. The three persons MUST be listed on the official roster or must have proper identification and ID Card at all games to show they have filled out a Risk Management Form for NTSSA.

- 3. In the event a team makes a roster change, an Add/Delete form or an updated

roster, signed by the team's home association, must be submitted to the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office within 48 hours prior to the next scheduled game in order for any added players to be eligible to play.

- D. Plano Home Association Teams - Advertised team tryouts may be held according to the NTSSA and PLANO YOUTH SOCCER rules during the month of July. The scheduling, announcement and reservations of fields for tryouts will be the responsibility of each coach or team manager.

**Note:** Once a player has signed a contract with a team, a Player Release Form will be required in order for another coach, team or club representative to approach the player.

\* "Approach" means any contact with a player, including, but not limited to, inviting the player to practice or tryout, talking to the player about changing teams, or any other recruitment. Also, you are reminded to review the appropriate rules related to tryouts, players' releases, and advertisements.

- E. It shall be the responsibility of the League Director and Competitive Committee to decline an invitation to a team for consistent misconduct.
- F. The number of practices for a team is unlimited. Plano Home Association teams who practice on Plano fields must conform to the policies of Plano Youth Soccer and of the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department.
- G. Any team that participates in the Qualifying Tournament and qualifies for the league, but decides not to participate in the league that season, will not be eligible to participate in the Plano Premier Invitational League for a minimum of one (1) year from the end of the season in which they decided not to participate (this includes teams that play in the fall and decide not to return in the spring).

## 5. COACHES

*The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to, Head Coach, Assistant Coach(es), Manager, Trainer and/or Team Representative.*

**NOTE: IDENTIFICATION CARDS - Each** coach/assistant coach, manager, trainer or team representative whose name appears on the team roster is required to display a valid identification card during all games, practices and other team activities. Only adults listed on the official roster can use their driver's license to confirm ID if there is a question on the Game Roster & Misconduct Report.

- A. Coach's licenses are no longer required but are preferred for adults coaching at this level.
- B. Each Home Association Team Head Coach (one vote) and Manager (one vote) listed on the roster for that team has a vote at any meeting of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER at which they are entitled to vote.
- C. Coaches will be held responsible for any misbehavior on the part of the team's spectators, parents, and players. This includes, but is not limited to, 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, without being shown a card. A Coach/Asst Coach/Manager that receives a card for violent conduct (fighting) will serve a minimum of a two game suspension

and will be required to appear before the Appeals & Disciplinary Committee (A & D), which may assess additional penalties.

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 A & D Committee. These complaints must be made on separate occasions (games, practices) during the season, and may include written complaints from referees, other coaches, and spectators. All complaints must be submitted to the League Director and be signed and dated.

- D. 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 adults appearing on the Game Roster & Misconduct Report will be allowed on the player's side of the field with proper ID cards. Players on the sideline must stay within the ten (10) yards coaching box during play, and all persons, players, and spectators must stay at least five (5) feet back from the sideline (touchline) on each side. Spectators should remain in the area normally designated for spectators, if applicable, and in no case shall be allowed to line up along the sideline such that they interfere with the normal conduct of the game or officiating.
- E. Coaches are subject to the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER, its League Directors, the Competitive Committee and the Board of Directors and all of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER rules and policies.
- F. Guest Coaches are allowed, only if they have a North Texas ID card. Their name must be on the misconduct report.

## 6. PLAYERS

**NOTE: Metal Cleats** are not to be used.

**NOTE: Casts or Splints** (this rule applies to any equipment used to protect or prevent an injury) may be worn during play only at the discretion of the referee.

**NOTE:** If corrective lenses (glasses) are required by any player, they must be approved for sports (i.e. prescription sports glasses, goggles or protective shields) and must not pose a danger to the wearer or other players.

Final decision will be at the discretion of the referee.

- 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) **A player who is *not* 10 years of age on or before July 31 of the current soccer year may not play on a competitive team.**
- B. Any player rostered on a competitive team must be at least a pure under 11 player. Players are not permitted to play down (i.e. an under 12 player may not be rostered on an under 11 team).
- C. The playing of any youth outside the age limits of the team, as previously defined in A and B above, shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which said player participated and may result in suspension for the coach and the player. Please refer to NTSSA rule 3.9.
- D. Any team found to have played an illegal player will result in immediate removal of the team from the league and will place the head coach on suspension from all soccer activities for three (3) years. The offending player may be suspended from

soccer activities. Please refer to NTSSA rule 3.13.4.

- E. Any player or coach registered with PLANO YOUTH SOCCER who participates in unregistered/non-sanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, as stated in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book, Rule 3.2.
- F. Player/Team Add, Release and Transfer

For the purpose of league play, any addition of new players to a team must be accomplished with documentation turned into the office/league director **forty-eight (48) hours** prior to the next scheduled game in order for said player to be eligible to play.

An Addition is a player who is new, meaning the player has not participated in recreational or competitive soccer in NTSSA during the current soccer year. A transfer is any player who has been on another NTSSA roster, either a Recreational team or another Competitive team, during the current soccer year. Transfers that are approved by the player's current coach may be granted any time on or prior to April 1. Any request to transfer that is not approved by the player's current coach must be filed in writing with the NTSSA Youth Commissioner or her designee. This shall be done between the dates of Dec.1-Jan.31 for U11 through U14, and Dec.1-Mar 15 for U15-U19. **ALL** releases from one competitive team to another competitive team **MUST** go through the NTSSA Competitive Committee for approval. Recreational players may only transfer to a competitive team from December 1 through March 15; the release form only needs to be signed by the player, parent, and Home Association registrar.

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)

When a player transfers from one competitive team to another, the following is required in addition to the Add/Transfer/Delete sheet:

1. A player Release form signed by the releasing coach, receiving coach, parent, player, home association, and NTSSA.
  2. A statement from the previous playing association (if not **Plano Premier Invitational League**) as to the number of cards (yellow and red cards) the player has accumulated during the current soccer year (league play only.).
- G. GUEST PLAYERS - The use of guest players is sanctioned by NTSSA and PLANO YOUTH SOCCER under the following restrictions: Refer to 4.7 NTSSA rule. Rule 4.7.1.4 – "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. **No guest players are allowed in league play.**
  - H. Any player wishing to return to the Recreational Division will be allowed to do so at any time on or prior to April 1 of the current soccer year with an approved release from NTSSA.
  - I. All players sitting on the bench are required to wear bibs. During substitutions the player going on the field needs to give their bib to the player coming off the field.

- J. No teams are allowed to warm-up behind the goals because it creates interference with the game in progress. Teams/players may stay outside an extension of the 18 yard box.

## 7. SPECTATORS & PARENTS

- A. Parents and spectators are subject to the same general rules and conditions of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER which apply to coaches and players. They should also comply with the rules and regulations of the Plano Parks & Recreation Department governing the use of the playing facilities.

PLANO YOUTH SOCCER'S enforcement of its rules is limited to its respective jurisdiction of teams, players, spectators, officials, etc. within its program scope and not the general public. However, if a citizen chooses not to comply with a request by PYSA regarding a league regulation, then the citizen may be in violation of City ordinance 15-3(3) which prohibit the disturbance or interference with scheduled park activity.

*\*Each sports association approved to utilize the City of Plano's sports fields may adopt and enforce rules for its membership that are more restrictive than Plano's Code of Ordinances, but not less restrictive.*

These regulations include, but are not limited to:

- | Golfing is prohibited.
- | Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- | No Dogs are allowed.
- | Children need to be kept away from the sidelines to prevent injury to them.
- | Smoking is permitted in the parking area only.
- | No climbing on the fences.
- | Noisemakers are prohibited (including, but not limited to, cowbells, rattlers, blow-horns, fog horns, drums, portable stereos, gongs, and voice amplifiers).
- | Running up and down the sideline addressing the players and the referee is not permitted.
- | No parents or spectators are permitted to cross the middle of the field before, during halftime or after the games. This includes children playing on the field during halftime.
- | At the finish of the game, the coaches and players should quickly clear the bench and move to another area for team discussions and cool down. This enables the incoming team a chance to warm up before their game.

**Teams found to have violated any of the rules may be subject to a fine per infraction.**

- B. **5-feet Safe Play Rule:** All parents and spectators must stay at least 5 feet away from the touchline during game play. Observance of the 5-feet Safe Play Rule will reduce the likelihood of collisions between spectators and players, and spectators and referees.
- C. **TRASH** – It is your team's responsibility to pick it up – that includes "tape". If you notice trash when you get to your bench, please notify a league official immediately and it would be appreciated if your team could then pick up the trash and dispose of it in a trash can. Teams may be fined for leaving trash on the field. It is the player's responsibility to pick up the trash on their side and the same for the parents.

## 8. GAMES

All games will be played in accordance with the Laws of Association Football as authorized by FIFA, USYSA, NTSSA, and PLANO YOUTH SOCCER for the soccer year.

### A. Special Request

*Games are scheduled for every Saturday or Sunday. Weeknight games will be played on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. We do not reschedule for Fall or Spring Break and will not reschedule for Tournaments.* Please provide the tournament your league schedule as they may be able to accommodate and work around any conflicts. All special requests must be turned in at registration. The Premier League will allow a (U19) team to attend one (1) Showcase Tournament in the Fall or Spring Season. The team must present a receipt of payment & acceptance to this Showcase Tournament to the league director **in ample time to work their league game around the date.** This will allow the players to have an opportunity to be viewed by college coaches.

### B. Reschedules

**Reschedules are prohibited, except under certain special circumstances where the Competitive Committee deems that a reschedule is appropriate.** Therefore, if you ask for and are granted a reschedule more than 72 hours (3 days) prior to a game, you will be required to pay a \$120 fee. If you ask for and are granted a reschedule less than 72 hours prior to a game, you will be required to pay a \$175 fee. No special circumstance reschedule will be accepted or granted less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled game. Plano Youth Soccer must also receive the money before the game is rescheduled. If you don't pay the fee, the game will not be rescheduled and your team will forfeit the game. Teams who forfeit games during the season are subject to the rules for forfeiture. A rescheduled game is a game that has been posted.

### C. Forfeiture

Forfeiting a game, at any time, is unacceptable. But if a game is forfeited, then the forfeiting team is responsible for the total referees fees (Both Visitor and Home referee fees). The fee must be paid by the next scheduled game or within 72 hours. Payment is to be received at the Plano Youth Soccer Offices.

The score for a forfeit is 3-0 against the team that forfeits.

The following constitutes an ***unintentional*** game forfeiture:

1. Failure to field a team with less than seven (7) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time according to the Referee's watch.

The following constitutes an ***intentional*** game forfeiture:

1. Not showing up for a scheduled game and not notifying your league director or PLANO YOUTH SOCCER that you would not be showing up for the game.
2. Fielding an ineligible player(s) or player(s) under suspension.
3. A suspended coach appearing at a game to coach the game.
4. If a team ***intentionally*** forfeits a game, that team (**coaches, manager, and/or other**

**responsible parties) will:**

- a. Be fined \$200 per game (the Intentional Forfeit Fee) to be paid to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER prior to the next scheduled league game or the next season's registration, whichever occurs first;
  - b. Be ineligible for any awards;
  - c. May have the coach suspended for up to a year;
  - e. Be given any penalty deemed appropriate by the A & D Committee.
5. Failure to provide two (2) corner flags within 15 minutes of the original start time may result in forfeiture of the game. Flags are available at the main concession stand for \$5 each, there is a limited supply.
  6. Failure to pay the referee fees at the beginning of 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 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.

**D. 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 warranted.

If a game starts and the referees are paid and the game is then cancelled due to inclement weather before the second half has begun, PYSA will pay the referees for the rescheduled game.

**Note:** During foul weather, you can call PLANO YOUTH SOCCER (972-422-7972 x12) or consult the Internet site, for "Field Conditions".

If a game is suspended because of field or weather conditions before the beginning of the second half of play, that game will be replayed in its entirety. If the second half of play has begun, that game will be considered a complete game. Any games scheduled and not played, due to field or weather conditions, will be rescheduled by the League Director 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 Competitive Committee. A coach can further protest or appeal the decision by filing a protest to the A & D Committee.

Scheduled and rescheduled games have priority for use of fields over practices scheduled by PLANO YOUTH SOCCER. In the event Plano Parks and Recreation and/or PLANO YOUTH SOCCER have closed a field for games, that field is also closed for practices. Any fines imposed upon PLANO YOUTH SOCCER by the city for improper field usage will be passed on to the offending team.

- E. Teams will have free substitutions in all age groups.
- F. Home team must wear jerseys that are predominately (more than 50%) white or light

in color. Visiting team wears contrasting color. If the home team and visiting team wear white the visiting team changes, any other conflict will result in the home team changing. No two players may have the same jersey number. Jersey numbers may not exceed two digits.

G. Method of Determining Team Standings for League Play:

1. **Win-Loss Record.** Three (3) points are given for a win, one (1) for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. The team with the better point record is the winner.
2. If teams are tied in (1), then **Head-to-Head** competition is used to decide the team's position in the standings. If more than two teams are tied only the first meeting between the teams will count toward the Head-to-Head tiebreaker.
3. If still tied after applying (1) and (2), the winner will be determined by **Goal Differential**, the number of goals scored minus the number of goals allowed during league play. The team with the highest goal differential is the winner.
4. If still tied after applying (1), (2), and (3), the winner will be determined by **Most Goals Scored** during league play.
5. If still tied after applying (1), (2), (3), and (4), the team with the **Fewest Penalty Card Points** in league games during the current season (fall/spring) is the winner. The card points will be figured using one (1) point for each yellow card and (2) points for each red card.
6. As a last resort, FIFA kicks from the penalty spot will be the final tiebreaker.

H. The results of each game must be called into the League Director within 24 hours after the game. **The League Director has the option of modifying the deadlines.**

In addition to calling in the score, a copy of the game report must be sent to the office and to the League Director within 24 hours after the game. Failure to comply with these rules may result in fines at the discretion of League Director.

## 9. AWARDS

Awards in the boys division will be presented on the basis of one (1) set (set will include 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place with team award for 1<sup>st</sup> place team) per division unless otherwise specified and will be given only in the spring to the teams with the highest combined standings from the fall and spring. Awards in the girls division will be presented on the basis of one (1) set (set will include 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place with team award for 1<sup>st</sup> place team) per division unless otherwise specified and will be given only in the spring to the teams with the highest points in the spring. The only exception to the above will be by majority vote of the Competitive Committee. This requires approval of the Board of Directors.

## 10. DISCIPLINE

**Note:** The Sit-Out Verification Form (used for any player, coach, manager, or spectator, sitting out a game due to disciplinary action) must be signed by the referee. If the opposing team forfeits, the sit-out verification is considered valid. This rule applies to all teams in the Plano Premier Invitational League. A sit-out verification form must be filled out and signed by the referee for every suspension. If a team forgets to fill this form out, the suspended party may be

required to sit-out again. For players to complete their sit-out, they **MUST attend the game** so that the referee can acknowledge the sit-out and sign the Sit-Out Verification form. If a player does not attend the game he/she should be sitting out then they must sit-out the next game they attend.

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

Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team, his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his/her old and new teams.

A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:

1. Yellow Cards

- One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card.
- Two game automatic suspensions for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card.
- One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

NOTE: A player/coach/assistant coach/manager receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and those two yellow cards are then added to such individual's previous total of league play yellow cards to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game (soft red) will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.

2. Red Cards

- One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card.
- Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA-sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play red card.

Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card (soft red) in a single game will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.

NOTE: In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow), both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER A & D Committee may elect to reduce a red card to a yellow card if it determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Plano Youth Soccer may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report must be sent to NTSSA.

3. Seventh Card

Any individual receiving 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). Hearings for offensive language and violent conduct for players will not be held by the

committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.

#### B. Misconduct of Spectators

1. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the respective team. Spectators being ejected from games may not be shown a red card.

2. Unruly spectators may be or cause:
- a. Suspended from attending future matches.
  - b. Reported to the Plano Parks & Recreation Department.
  - c. The offending team to forfeit any games at which the spectator is present on the touchline.
  - d. The offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
  - e. The offending team's registration to be revoked and/or be refused registration in the future.
  - f. Placed under a municipal "peace bond".

If a parent or spectator is asked to leave the sidelines by the referee a rostered adult from that team must accompany them to the parking lot and remain there for the duration of the game. If the team only has one (1) rostered adult then a team representative will be used.

Spectators who are ejected from the game will be fined \$50 and be required to appear before the A & D Committee, which may assess additional penalties. The fine is to be paid at the scheduled hearing and needs to be cash, cashier's check or money order.

#### C. Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (including red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling 25, PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100.00 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh (7th) send-off or any combination of cards totaling 25. The coach and the players of said team may also be notified to appear before the committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

#### D. Game Suspension

Game suspensions for yellow and red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled league game that such individual's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

A coach, manager, or spectator who is serving a sit-out may not watch those games from any area of the complex. This includes the parking lot and neighboring streets. The coach may not have any contact with the players, including the use of any electronic device (cell phone, computer, etc). A coach found to be in violation of the sit-out will result in their receiving additional suspension time. A coach who is serving a sit-out for one team may be at the complex to coach a different team they are rostered on.

Any report from a referee stating a player used profanity will be an automatic two (2) game suspension for the offending player.

Any report of violent conduct from a referee where a player punches, slaps, kicks or spits at another player or referee will be an automatic a two (2) game suspension for the offending player. If excessive violence is used a hearing will be scheduled to determine if additional penalties will be assessed.

All other red cards are only a one game suspension.

Coaches - Coaches who are ejected from the game will be fined \$50 and be required to appear before the A & D Committee, which may assess additional penalties. The fine is to be paid at the scheduled hearing and needs to be cash, cashiers check or money order. All red cards received by a coach require a Member Association A & D Committee hearing. A report of this hearing must be sent to NTSSA. The NTSSA A & D Committee may assess additional punishment if it deems necessary.

Ejection: All coaches ejected from a game have a minimum one game suspension. Coaches may not be shown a red card when being ejected.

E. Complaints against Coaches, Players, and/or Spectators:

Coaches, players, and/or spectators receiving three (3) written complaints against them or (1) written complaint from a PLANO YOUTH SOCCER league official may be required to go before the A & D Committee or the Ethics 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 A & D Committee to take whatever action they deem appropriate.

## **11. PROCEDURE FOR FILING PROTESTS, APPEALS, AND GRIEVANCES**

PLANO YOUTH SOCCER shall operate a system for filing protests, appeals, grievances, and the like. The PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors is the first level of appeal for both appeals from the A & D Committee and the Competitive Committee. In addition, the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER Board of Directors shall provide the first level of appeal for any other committee under the jurisdiction of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER

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.

- A. 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), and delivered to the Plano Youth Soccer Office. A copy shall be delivered to the VP of Competitive and appropriate League Director.

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.

- B. 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 secretary of the committee, for the purpose of recording the minutes only, may record the minutes of the hearing.

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.

- C. The Board of Directors of PLANO YOUTH SOCCER or the Competitive Committee may bring any protest, appeal, grievance, or the like directly before the body for a hearing when the body feels it is necessary in order to render a decision and to speed the normal process for matters of the utmost importance.
- D. 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 Competitive Division. It is the responsibility of the Referee Committee to determine the validity of such actions and to handle this within that committee. Persons filing such charges should direct them to the Referee Committee through the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office who shall forward them to the Referee's Committee through their representative on the Competitive Committee or through the Board of Directors Referee Vice President.

E. Protests

1. All protests of game matters shall be submitted in writing to PLANO YOUTH SOCCER within forty-eight (48) hours after the game accompanied by a \$50 fee and delivered to the Plano Youth Soccer office. A copy shall be delivered to the VP of Competitive and appropriate League Director.

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 in writing.** (Note: The Laws of the Game are the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by NTSSA/PYSA)

b. A team has played an ineligible or suspended player.

c. A team's suspended coach was present and coaching the team.

2. The Disciplinary and Protest 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.

3. The Disciplinary and Protest Committee shall not assume that a game result's protest 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 merits of the protest 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.

F. Appeals

1. Decisions from the Disciplinary and Protest Committee, Competitive 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 submitted to 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. A copy will be given to the VP of Competitive Soccer and the appropriate league director.

2. Decisions of the Board of Directors may be appealed to the NTSSA A & D Committee through the State Official. 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 are required through these organizations and as are in effect at that time.

G. Grievances\*

These shall be handled in the same manner as protests with the PLANO YOUTH SOCCER office accepting the grievance. A fee is not required. Grievances automatically must be considered by the Disciplinary and Protest Committee, which shall determine whether a formal hearing should be called. cc: VP of Competitive and appropriate League Director.

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

## **12. PLANO YOUTH SOCCER POLICIES**

All PLANO YOUTH SOCCER policies, duly approved by the Competitive 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.

## **13. 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 or Competitive Committees, and at any general membership meetings.

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.