



# Hurst United Soccer Association

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS & LEAGUE RULES

Revised February 2018

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## BY-LAWS & LEAGUE RULES

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# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - DEFINITION

The name of this organization shall be HURST UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. hereafter referred to as the Association or HUSA. It is a non-profit Association.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association is to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fellowship by providing fun, recreation and competition by voluntary participation. This Association will do its best to develop skills and fair play. The secondary importance is the winning of the game.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- a. This membership represents recreational youth soccer activities within the City of Hurst.
- b. All properly registered youth shall pay such registration fees as are established by the board of directors (unless waived by the board) and shall complete the registration process. Players must abide by the rules and decisions of this association.
- c. No funds raised for the youth will be used for adult teams.
- d. The Association is affiliated with the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and United States Club Soccer (USCS) with ultimate affiliation with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).
- e. The members of this association shall be board members, referees, coaches, and parents or legal guardians of those children participating in an Association program.
- f. Any persons on the fields who are not members as defined above may be asked to vacate the premises for any reason at any time.
- g. All members of HUSA must adhere to the NTSSA Policy Statement for Qualification of Volunteer/Staff with Criminal Backgrounds.

## ARTICLE IV - ADMINISTRATION

- a. The Association will be governed and administered by a board of directors, hereafter known as the board.
- b. The registered head coaches, registered assistant coaches, team managers and/or designated team appointees shall elect the board of directors. Each registered team shall be entitled to have two votes at the general meeting. If a team desires to send a designated team appointee in place of the head coach, assistant coach and/or team manager, such request must be submitted in writing by the head coach to the board secretary 72 hours prior to convening the general meeting. A designated team appointee must have a child registered on the team they represent. No delegate shall cast more than one vote. No delegate shall represent more than one team.
- c. No more than two voting family members within the same household may serve on the board at a time. No more than three voting individuals from the same team may serve on the board at the same time. Any board member shall abstain from voting if the board determines a conflict of interest exists.
- d. The board of directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association held in February. The newly elected officers will take office immediately. Any officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign in the office he is holding prior to the next election and their resignation will be effective immediately.
- e. In the event any position on the board of directors becomes vacant except for the president's position before the end of the position's term, that position shall be filled as follows:

The executive board shall select and approve a replacement from all interested applicants and/or nominees within forty-five days after the position is declared vacant to serve until the next scheduled election. If the position is not filled within 45 days, the president may appoint a replacement.

f. The board of directors shall be defined as follows:

- ❖ President - Odd years
- ❖ Vice President A&D - Even years
- ❖ Secretary - Even years
- ❖ Treasurer - Odd years
- ❖ Executive Commissioner I - U4 thru U8 - Even years
  - Commissioner U4 – Even years
  - Commissioner U5 – Odd years
  - Commissioner U6 – Even years
  - Commissioner U7 – U8 Girls - Odd years
  - Commissioner U7 – U8 Boys - Even years
- ❖ Executive Commissioner II – U9 thru U19 - Odd years
  - Commissioner U9 – U10 Girls - Odd years
  - Commissioner U9 – U10 Boys - Even years
  - Commissioner U11 – U19 Girls - Odd years
  - Commissioner U11 – U19 Boys - Even years

If either Executive Commissioner role is not filled, the other Executive Commissioner will oversee all age groups.

- g. The executive board shall be defined as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Commissioner I, and Executive Commissioner II.
- h. Each board member present shall cast one vote at each board meeting The President shall vote only in the cases of a tie.
- i. Regular meetings of the board will generally be held on the first Thursday of each month. Majority of the executive board members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business, providing one of those present is the president or vice president A&D. The president may call an emergency meeting of the Board .

#### **ARTICLE V - DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of this Association, all of the assets, after payment in full of all its debts and obligations of whatsoever kind and nature, shall be donated to the Hurst Parks and Recreation Department.

#### **ARTICLE VI - INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Each officer and director of the Association, in consideration of his service and such, shall be indemnified by the Association to the extent permitted by law against expenses and liabilities reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, civil or criminal, to which he may be a party by reason of being or having been director or officer of the Association. The foregoing rights of indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which the director or officer or person may be entitled by law or agreement or vote of the members or otherwise.

## **BYLAWS**

*The Duties of the Board Members of the Association are as follows.*

### **ARTICLE I - PRESIDENT**

- a. He/she shall act as presiding officer who shall have full authority and responsibility for the administration and conduct of the Association within the policies and procedures established. The president's or the vice president's signature shall be the only signatures valid on any contract on behalf of HUSA unless otherwise designated by the president.
- b. He/she shall assign duties to all officers as required.
- c. He/she, as presiding officer, is empowered to take prudent and reasonable actions not covered in the by-laws and such authority is implicit in this office.
- d. In order to ensure continuity, once the president is no longer in office, he/she shall serve as "Past President" advisor for the new president and shall have the duty to turn over all information, documentation, or other pertinent items in his or her possession to the new president.

### **ARTICLE II - VICE PRESIDENT A&D**

- a. He/she shall succeed to the powers of the president in his absence or vacancy of office.
- b. The president's or the vice president's signature shall be the only signatures valid on any contract on behalf of HUSA unless otherwise designated by the president.
- c. He/she shall be responsible for the drafting and subsequent changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, and General Rules and Playing rules. He/she shall chair the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.

He/she shall pickup game reports from the mailboxes at the fields, and report Cautions and Ejections cards according to NMCSL standards within 48 hours of the game.

### **ARTICLE III - SECRETARY**

- a. His/her primary duty is to record and maintain minutes of all meetings, attend to all correspondence and keep records of the Association.
- b. He/she shall keep a complete list of member teams and shall publish and distribute a current directory of Association officers to the NTSSA and Association board members each season.
- c. He/she will maintain a complete list of voting delegates and registered said delegates or their designated team appointee at the AGM and special general meetings.
- d. He/she shall record all votes and serve as Parliamentarian and have on hand at all meetings, *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised*.

### **ARTICLE IV - TREASURER**

- a. He/she shall serve as the financial officer of the Association and be responsible for managing financial responsibilities.
- b. He/she shall prepare and present budget reports.
- c. He/she shall chair the finance committee.
- d. He/she shall collect all money of the Association and will keep detailed records and account of all receipts and expenditures and report any concerns to the executive board.
- e. He/she shall submit and present a financial report at each AGM and board meeting.
- f. He/she shall be the responsible for paying all bills that are passed and approved properly by the board.
- g. He/she shall solicit the services of an accountant to audit and/or compile the books and prepare all tax reports as may be required or deemed necessary and approved by the board.

### **ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONERS I & II**

- a. He/she shall oversee the Commissioners to act as a liaison between the teams and the board.

- b. He/she shall attend regularly scheduled board meetings and will be a voting member of the board.
- c. He/she will be responsible for overseeing the needs of each age group's commissioner.
- d. He/she shall be required to adhere to all the same expectations as commissioners.
- e. He/she may serve as the commissioner in one of the age groups that they oversee.
- f. He/she must have served as a commissioner for a minimum of 2 full seasons before being considered for the position.

#### **ARTICLE VI - COMMISSIONERS**

- a. He/she shall be responsible for recruitment and monitoring of all coaches to maintain the highest possible standards of coaches' conduct.
- b. He/she shall be responsible for working with the scheduler to reschedule all games within HUSA and other playing leagues as applicable.
- c. He/she shall be responsible for contacting coaches within their age brackets to any changes made to the schedules.
- d. He/she should communicate any needs of the teams within their age groups to the directors of commissioners who will in turn act as a liaison to the board.
- e. He/she shall be present at their age group coaches meetings.
- f. He/she shall act as "field monitors" during game days.
- g. He/she shall prepare and submit an alignment of teams by division (e.g. Division A versus Division B) for each age group at the end of each soccer season.
- h. He/she is expected to serve at all HUSA related events and/or tournaments.
- i. He/she is required to attend the AGM.

#### **ARTICLE VII - CONTRACT STAFF**

- a. The executive board of directors shall be authorized to employ such contract staff as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Association.
- b. Contract staff shall not have a vote in any business of the Association.
- c. Family members of contract staff shall abstain from voting on Association business.
- d. The release of any contract staff member shall be voted upon by the executive board of directors.

#### **ARTICLE VIII- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a. They shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game, the Constitution, General Rules, Playing Rules and By-Laws of the Association.
- b. They shall have the power to settle all disputes and protests.
- c. They shall set up rules governing the divisions, tournaments and other competition within the Associations jurisdiction.
- d. They shall have the authority to make final decisions.
- e. They shall serve without compensation for their services except for contract staff who receives compensation as approved by the board .
- f. No board member, including a board member's team and family, may receive directly or indirectly from the Association or parties who deal with the Association (e.g. vendors) any gifts with aggregate values in excess of \$100 per soccer year excluding clinic fees, vendor products or services for evaluation, and registration fee waivers approved by the board .
- g. They shall approve compensation rates for referees and assistant referees before each soccer season.
- h. Their children who play recreational soccer in HUSA shall have the registration fee waived. Active current members are eligible if they have attended at least 3 board meetings prior to the last date of open registration for the upcoming season. This is limited to one child per board member per soccer season.
- i. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to keep accurate records and to turn over all records and HUSA property and/or information when leaving their office.

## **ARTICLE IX- BOARD ABSENCES**

- a. Any board member who is absent from three regularly scheduled meetings per term of office may have his/her office declared vacant at the discretion of the board.
- b. The vacancy will be filled in accordance with Article II Section e.1 of the General Rules.
- c. If the incumbent is ill, a person recommended by the president and approved by the board will fill the vacancy temporarily until the incumbent resigns or returns.

## **ARTICLE X - GENERAL MEETING - DELEGATES**

- a. The president shall call an Annual General Meeting (AGM) during February and semi-AGM in August.
- b. Voting delegates at these meetings shall be registered head coaches, registered assistant coaches, team managers, board members and/or designated team appointees.
- c. Each registered team shall be entitled to have two votes at the AGM.
- d. If a team desires to send a designated team appointee in place of the head coach, assistant coach and/or team manager, such request must be submitted in writing by the head coach to the board secretary at least 24 hours prior to convening of the AGM.
- e. The designated team appointee must have a child registered on the team they represent.
- f. No delegate shall cast more than one vote.
- g. No delegate shall represent more than one team.

## **ARTICLE XI – CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS CHANGES**

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at the AGM or semi-AGM of the Association in February and in August. Any proposed amendments must be submitted to the Association in writing by the preceding month's board meeting and posted on the website no later than fifteen days before voting. Twenty-five percent of the total voting delegates must be present for a quorum. Two-third of those voting delegates in attendance at an AGM must approve any proposed changes for such change to be incorporated into the Constitution or Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XII- BOARD VACANCY**

Any board vacancy NOT covered elsewhere by these By-Laws shall be filled in accordance with Article IV Section e.1 of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XIII- BOARD NO CONFIDENCE VOTE**

- a. Any member of the board shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in their ability to remain in their office.
- b. Five board members may initiate in writing a request for a vote in a Special General Meeting to remove a board member by presenting their case to the total delegates.
- c. A negative response against a member from 2/3 of voting members in attendance is sufficient to force a resignation.
- d. All delegates must receive notice for a Special General Meeting to remove a board member fourteen days in advance of a no confidence vote.
- e. Member in question has seven days to appeal, if so desired, with a Special General Meeting of all delegates to hear the ousted member's point of view.
- f. A member removed for no confidence would be disqualified from serving on the board for a period of three years.

## **ARTICLE XIV- PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Parliamentary Procedures published in the *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised*, shall govern all General and Regular board meetings.

## **ARTICLE XV - DISCIPLINE**

- a. Vice-President of Action and Discipline (A&D) and his/her appointed committee shall be responsible for all discipline of all teams, coaches, team managers, and players.
- b. APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (A&D): The members of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will be chaired by the vice president of A&D or his appointee. The committee will investigate all appeals and serious infractions of the Association's Constitution, By-Laws or rules. The committee's decision may be appealed to the board by filing a written request with the president. The board has the authority to confirm or veto the decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Decisions of the board may be appealed to the NTSSA.
- c. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: A member of the board or the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may be a member of any team, but in the event of any grievance involving said team, he/she may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.
- d. CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS: The Official shall submit written reports to the Vice President of A&D within 48 hours in all cautions and ejections.
- e. DISCIPLINE: All HUSA members and participants in HUSA activities must comply with NTSSA Rule XI which is posted on the NTSSA website.

## **ARTICLE XVI - COMMITTEES**

There will be the following standing Committees:

- a. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as outlined under Discipline.
- b. Constitution, By-Laws and Rules Revision Committee chaired by the Vice President of A&D, consisting of four other Association members as appointed by the Vice President of A&D with the approval of the Board .
- c. Team Formation Committee chaired by the Registrar.
- d. The executive board shall be authorized to form committees as necessary to carry out the functions of the Association.

## **GENERAL RULES**

### **ARTICLE I - FIELD AND EQUIPMENT**

- a. HUSA will secure fields of play by coordinating with applicable cities or applicable governing bodies.
- b. HUSA shall line the fields, if necessary.
- c. HUSA shall furnish nets and corner flags.
- d. HUSA shall be in charge of concession stands.

### **ARTICLE II - UNIFORMS**

- a. HUSA will provide uniforms for registered players at the beginning of every other fall season. If a registered player joins in the spring season or changes teams, that player will be provided a uniform. A uniform consists of shirt, shorts and socks.
- b. All recreational teams shall wear the shirts, shorts, and socks provided by HUSA under Article II Section a to all games
- c. Athletic shoes with non-metal cleats shall be used if determined safe by the referee.
- d. Baseball and/or football cleats will not be allowed.
- e. The goalkeeper shirt must be clearly distinguishable from his team and the opposing team's colors but not black.
- f. If at any time there is a color conflict between two playing teams, the home team changes colors to the satisfaction of the referee.



- g. A player shall not wear jewelry unless it is for medical reasons and even then it must be taped and deemed not harmful to the player or any other players. This shall be at the referee's discretion.
- h. It will be the responsibility of the Coach to distribute uniforms each season in accordance with Board procedures.
- i. All players must wear Shin guards.
- j. Socks must be worn which completely cover the shin guards.
- k. Socks must match those of each person's on the team. A player may not wear socks different than those of their teammates.
- l. Jersey must be tucked in at the beginning of each half.
- m. Each player must have a number on the back of his jersey no less than four inches high.
- n. No outside sponsors advertisements allowed on uniform.

### **ARTICLE III - ELIGIBILITY**

- a. No player may be assigned to a team roster without completing the registration process and submitting the appropriate registration fee as specified by the board.
- b. New players shall provide a birth certificate or equivalent to the registrar for birth date verification. The board may require reexamination of the proof of age in the event of a dispute.
- c. At the discretion of the president or vice-president, late sign-ups may be accepted. There will be a \$25.00 charge for late registration applications.
- d. No player may play for a team other than the one with which he is assigned, and only with one organization per season.
- e. Players U11 and up who play on a competitive team may not play recreational soccer.
- f. Only USYSA registered players may practice with an Association team.

### **ARTICLE IV - ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYERS TO TEAMS**

- a. Teams will be formed prior to the beginning of each soccer season under the supervision of the Association Registrar with the aid of the Team Formation Committee. No person may be involved in the assignment of players in the division in which he/she coaches or has a child playing. They may serve on the Team Formation Committee to help form teams in other divisions.
- b. Note: The Hurst United Soccer Association defines its geographical area as being within the city limits of Hurst, Texas.
- c. The criteria for the formation of teams will be as follows:
  - 1. Returning players within the same age group as the previous season will remain with the same team, unless player/parent requests to be placed in the open draw.
  - 2. In order to promote soccer participation, a player may invite a friend from the same Member Association who was not registered in any Member Association during the last two seasons to join his existing team with the permission of the Member Association.
  - 3. Prior to the beginning of the draw, which will be conducted by age group, all returning and prior identified players will be listed under each team. Each team will be assigned a drawing sequence on the basis of the number of players listed. Teams with fewer players will be assigned players first on a rotational basis; when all teams have the same number of players, then all teams will draw on a rotational basis until all players have been assigned.
  - 4. Players whose parents or guardian have requested to be removed from a team, the player will be subject to a blind draw.
  - 5. Each head coach has the right to have their own child or children on their team. These players must be identified prior to the draw.
  - 6. A player may play up one age group but may not play in younger age groups than the player's age dictates. Requests to participate in older age groups must be clearly detailed by the parents.
  - 7. A player may request off a team but not on a specific team.

## **ARTICLE V - PLAYING TIME**

- a. All players on recreational teams will play at least one-half of each game.
- b. Playing time may be reduced for medical reasons.

## **ARTICLE VI - PRACTICES**

- a. Practices during the soccer year are subject to the following weekly (Sunday AM. through Saturday P.M. limitations. Games as used below exclude tournament games.
  1. Three practices with no game.
  2. Two practices with one game.
  3. One practice with two games.
  4. No practices with three or more games.
- b. Scrimmage or friendly games shall constitute a practice.
- c. No practice shall exceed two hours in length.

## **ARTICLE VII - TEAMS**

- a. In general, teams will be complete as specified below but may vary at the discretion of the HUSA board not to exceed maximum roster size designated by North Texas Soccer.

	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
U4 – U8	6 players	8 players
U9 - U10	10 players	12 players
U11 – U12	14 players	16 players
U13 – U14	14 players	18 players
U15 and UP	14 players	22 players

- b. In the event that a team fields the minimum number of players, the other team is not required to play short.

## **ARTICLE VIII - POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES**

- a. Teams must report to the playing fields ready to play unless the applicable commissioner or his designee has previously notified coaches that a game has been canceled or if the website states that the fields have been closed due to inclement weather.
- b. If a team does not field the minimum number of players within 10 minutes following the scheduled kick off time, a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing team. If neither team can field the minimum number of players, the game shall show as a loss for both teams.
- c. The referee has the final authority to postpone a game due to field and/or weather conditions.
- d. If a game is suspended because of foul weather before half-time, that game shall be replayed. If suspended half-time, the score at that time will stand as a final score.
- e. Coaches shall be notified 72 hours in advance of make-up games. Shorter notice is acceptable if agreed to by the two coaches involved.
- f. Games, excluding tournaments, shall not be scheduled to start on Sunday before one-thirty P.M. or after five-thirty P.M.

## **ARTICLE IX - FRIENDLY GAMES**

Friendly or scrimmage games shall be defined as games which:

- a. Are not associated with any other game, either played or to be played, and thus do not lead to a championship.
- b. Do not lead to a trophy or award.

- c. Do not require a fee to be paid.
- d. Are organized in a spontaneous fashion.

## **ARTICLE X - COACHES**

- a. All coaches must complete and agree to the background check administered by NTSSA.
- b. Coaching within HUSA is considered a privilege and not a right. That privilege may be revoked at any time if deemed necessary by the board. Coaches are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association. All coaches must be registered by completing a USYSA membership form maintained by the Association Registrar.
- c. A manager from each team ages U9 and Up will provide the referee a completed game report prior to each game. A team manager for U9 and higher age groups will be responsible for calling in game scores.
- d. If the Association receives three complaints against a coach about three separate incidents, that coach shall be reviewed by the Vice President of A&D who will present to the board any disciplinary action needed on behalf of the Association.

## **ARTICLE XI- REFERREES**

- a. All referee applicants shall complete such clinics as required by the USSF Commissioner of Officials.
- b. The director of officials shall assign referees to games.
- c. Referees must clearly indicate to the players involved all infractions of the game that have been committed.
- d. Official linesmen/assistant referees should be provided for Under 9 age groups and above.
- e. If the Association receives three written complaints against a referee about three separate incidents he shall be reviewed by the NTSSA Disciplinary Committee. Complaints must be sent within 48 hours (Sunday not included) of the incident. Complaints must be submitted to the director of officials.

## **ARTICLE XII - PROTEST AND APPEALS**

- a. All protests must be filed in writing with the appropriate commissioner of said age group within 48 hours (Sunday not included) by the head coach. The appropriate fee must accompany all protests.
- b. The commissioner will review the protest with the protester to determine situation and validity. A GAME CAN BE PROTESTED ONLY ON:
  - 1. A referee(s) misapplying a law of the game that directly affects the outcome of the game. JUDGMENT CALLS by the referee are not justified protests and replaying such games will be out of the question.
  - 2. A coach knowingly playing an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player. A player is ineligible if he has not paid his fees or not turned in a completed registration form and been placed on that team's official roster.
  - 3. Suspended coach coaching a team.
- c. If judged valid of hearing, the commissioner will accept the written protest and fee and forward to the Vice President of A&D within 48 hour of accepting.
- d. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will respond to all involved parties with proposed meeting dates to hear the protest within five days of its receipt. All involved parties shall be given reasonable notice of the protest and hearing and shall be requested to be present.
- e. Fee will be as follows:
  - 1. Regular seasons or playoff games \$100.00
  - 2. Championship or Tournament games \$150.00
- f. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, at its discretion, may when requested in writing to do so, waive the time limit for filing protests, but in no case will an extension of more than ten days be granted.
- g. Grievances and appeals will be handled in a manner similar to protests.

- h. Decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the board. Such appeals should be in writing to the president within five days of notification by the Committee. The board has the authority to confirm or veto the decisions of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- i. Decisions of the board may be appealed to the NTSSA and through USSF under their respective appeal and protest policies and procedures.

### **ARTICLE XIII - CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**

- a. All spectators and coaches shall, during warm-ups, games and post-game soccer field activities, conduct themselves in accordance with the NTSSA Code of Conduct as well as Hurst United Soccer Associations Zero Tolerance Policy.
- b. Complaints alleging any violations must be delivered in writing (or post-marked) to the vice-president of A&D within 48 hours of the alleged violation, excluding Sundays.
- c. The vice president of A&D will review the allegation and will decide whether an A&D Committee hearing is warranted.
- d. A&D Committee hearings if warranted must be held within ten days of the vice president of A&D's notification of the allegation unless the vice president of A&D determines there is good cause for an extension.
- e. Decisions of the A&D Committee may be appealed to the board of directors. Such appeal must be in writing to the president within five business days of notification by the Committee. The board has the authority to confirm or veto the decisions of the A&D Committee.
- f. Decisions of the board may be appealed to the NTSSA and through the USSF under their respective appeal and protest policies and procedures.
- g. Board members, excluding the appropriate commissioner and the vice president of A&D acting as the A&D Committee chairman, shall avoid all discussion of all alleged violations of paragraph "a" until the time limit of appeal of any A&D Committee decision had expired or the appeal has been heard.
- h. If a board member or previous board member is involved in an A&D issue, A&D chairs from other NMSCL associations may be called in to serve on the committee.

### **ARTICLE XIV - GENERAL GAMES RULES**

All games shall be played in accordance with the Rules of United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) except where amended by the By-Laws or Rules of Hurst United Soccer Association, Inc.

### **ARTICLE XV - REFUND**

No refund on registration fees will be made after the first game has been played at the beginning of each soccer season or if the uniform has been altered.

### **ARTICLE XVI - GENERAL RULES CHANGES**

The General Rules may be amended by a simple majority vote of those voting delegates present at the February AGM, providing written notice has been given at the November Board meeting and to the head coaches and team managers of the proposed changes, fifteen days before the voting. Any changes mandated by NTSSA that would affect these General Rules will automatically become effective without being voted on by the delegates. Any changes to the rules shall become effective immediately.

## PLAYING RULES

### ARTICLE I - FIELD OF PLAY

Unless specified below, the rules of FIFA, USSF, USYSA and NTSSA shall govern Association play and field of play. Due to certain conditions such as weather, availability of lighting, scheduling or any other reason the below recommended field sizes may be different than those actually used.

Age Groups	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
Under 19	Max 80 yards	Max 112 yards	8x24
Under 16	Max 75 yards	Max 112 yards	8x24
Under 14	Max 75 yards	Max 112 yards	8x24
Under 12	44-55 yards	70-80	6.5 x 18.5
Under 10	35-45 yards	55-65	6.5 x 18.5
Under 8 and younger	15-25 yards	25-35	4x6

Fields shall be generally marked as indicated below:

1. Under 6 markings:
  - ◆ Halfway line.
  - ◆ Center circle with 5-yard radius.
  - ◆ Corner arcs, 2-foot radius.
  - ◆ Goal area 3 yards from goal line and 3 yards either side of goal posts
2. Under 8 markings:
  - ◆ Halfway line.
  - ◆ Center circle with 6-yard radius.
  - ◆ Corner arcs, 2-foot radius.
  - ◆ Goal area 6 yards from goal line and 6 yards wither side of goal posts
3. Under 10 markings:
  - ◆ Halfway line.
  - ◆ Center circle with 8-yard radius.
  - ◆ Corner arcs, 1-yard radius.
  - ◆ Goal area 6 yards from goal line and 6 yards either side of goal posts.
  - ◆ Penalty area 14 yards from goal line and 14 yards either side of goal posts.
  - ◆ Build-Out line halfway between center line and penalty area
  - ◆ Penalty mark 10 yards from goal line and penalty arcs with 8-yard radius.
4. Under 12 markings:
  - ◆ Halfway line
  - ◆ Center circle with 10-yard radius
  - ◆ Corner arcs, 1 yard radius
  - ◆ Goal area 6 yards from goal line and 6 yards either side of goal posts.
  - ◆ Penalty area 16 yards from goal line and 14 yards wither side of goal posts
  - ◆ Penalty mark 12 yards from goal line and penalty arc with 10-yard radius
5. Under 14 and above:
  - ◆ FIFA regulation markings

**ARTICLE II - DURATION OF GAME**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Half Time</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U4 – U6	4 - 8 Minutes	5 Minutes (2 Minutes between quarters)	3
U7 & U8	4 - 10 Minutes	5 Minutes (2 Minutes between quarters)	3
U9 & U10	2 - 25 Minutes 4 - 12 Minutes	5 Minutes 5 Minutes (2 Minutes between quarters)	4
U11 & U12	2 - 30 Minutes 2 - 25 Minutes	10 Minutes 5 Minutes	4
U13 & U14	2 - 35 Minutes 2 - 30 Minutes	10 Minutes 10 Minutes	5
U154 & U16	2 - 40 Minutes 2 - 35 Minutes	10 Minutes 10 Minutes	5
U17, U18 & U19	2 - 45 Minutes 2 - 40 Minutes	10 Minutes 10 Minutes	5
U17, U18 & U19 Adults	2 - 45 Minutes	10 Minutes	5

**ARTICLE III - START OF PLAY**

- a. At the beginning of the game, choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of the coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of which end of the field to defend, loser of the coin toss will kick off first.
- b. After the referee signals for the beginning of the game, a player on the kicking side shall kick the ball, which is stationary at the center of the field.
- c. Every player on the opposing team shall stay outside the center circle (10 yard circle) until the ball has moved forward.
- d. The kicker must not touch the ball again until someone else has played it.
- e. The game starts with the kickoff, not the referee's whistle.
- f. After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted in the manner as above by a player from the team losing the goal.
- g. When restarting after half time, ends shall be changed and a player of the opposite team shall take the kickoff to that of the player who started the game.
- h. In all divisions the coach must coach from one side of the playing field within ten yards either side of the halfway line.
- i. The home team has their choice of which side they want and all players, parents and spectators of both teams must keep to their respective sides.
- j. Coaches and parents are requested to assist the referee and linesmen in keeping the touchline clear by five feet.

## **ARTICLE IV - BALL IN OR OUT OF PLAY**

- a. The ball is out of play when:
  1. It has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.
  2. When the game has been stopped by the referee.
- b. The ball is in play at all other times including:
  1. If it rebounds from a goalpost, cross bar or corner flag into the field of play.
  2. If it rebounds off a referee when he is in the field of play.
  3. In the event of a supposed infringement of the rules until a referee's decision is given.

## **ARTICLE V - SUBSTITUTIONS**

- a. After having the referee's permission, there will be unlimited substitutions in the following situations:
  1. On a throw-in in your favor
  2. On a goal kick
  3. Half Time
  4. Injury
  5. After a goal
  6. 2, 3, and 5 - Both teams may substitute.
- b. The referee must be notified of a goalkeeper change.

## **ARTICLE VI - FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS**

- a. A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offenses shall be penalized by the awarding of a free kick to be taken by the opposing side, at the place where the offense occurred:
  1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
  2. Trips an opponent.
  3. Jumps at an opponent.
  4. Charges an opponent from behind unless the latter is obstructing.
  5. Charges an opponent in a violent and dangerous manner.
  6. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
  7. Pushes an opponent.
  8. Holds an opponent.
  9. Handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hands or arms. This does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area. At the taking of a free kick, all opposing players should be ten yards away from the ball.
- b. Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the above (1-9) offenses within the penalty area, a penalty kick shall be awarded to the other team. A penalty kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play at the time an offense within the penalty area is committed.
- c. In all divisions, when playing as a goalkeeper and within his own penalty area, from the moment that the ball comes under his control, the goalkeeper must not take more than four steps with releasing the ball into play. Having released the ball, if the goalkeeper touches the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player, he shall be penalized by the awarding of an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred unless the offense is committed in the goal area in which case the free kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offense occurred.
- d. A player or coach shall be sent off the field of play:
  1. If he is guilty of violent conduct or a serious foul play.
  2. Uses foul or abusive language.
  3. Persists in misconduct after having received a caution.
- e. The referee may call a foul whenever a coach or player enters the playing field without the referee's authorization.

## **ARTICLE VII - PENALTY KICK**

- a. A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark and, when it is being taken, all players with the exception of the player kicking the ball and the opposing goalkeeper shall be within the field of play but not outside the penalty area and at least ten yards from the penalty mark.
- b. The opposing goalkeeper must stand (without moving his feet) on his own goal line between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.
- c. The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward. He shall not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.
- d. The ball shall be in play directly when it is kicked, i.e. moved forward and a goal may be scored directly from such a kick.
- e. If a ball touches the goalkeeper before passing between the posts when a penalty kick is taken at or after the expiration of half or full time, it does not nullify a goal.

## **ARTICLE VIII - OFF-SIDE**

- a. The off-side law shall apply to all games in Under 10 and above Age Groups. A player is off-side if he is nearer to the opponent's goal-line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:
  1. He is in his own half of the field.
  2. There are two of his opponents nearer to their goal-line than he is, one of which may be the goalkeeper. Even is on-side.
  3. He received the ball direct from a goal kick, corner kick or throw-in or when the referee dropped it.
- b. A player in an off-side position shall not be penalized unless in the opinion of the referee he is interfering with the play or with an opponent or is seeking to gain an advantage.

## **ARTICLE IX - FREE KICK**

There are two types of free kicks.

1. A Direct Kick - from which a goal can be scored directly.
2. An Indirect Kick - from which a goal cannot be scored until another player touches the ball. The referee should indicate an indirect free kick by raising one arm above his head until the ball has been touched by the second person.

## **ARTICLE X - THROW-IN**

When the ball completely crosses the touch line, it shall be thrown in from the point it crossed the line by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. The ball must come behind and over the head with both the player's feet on the touch-line or on the ground behind the touch-line. In an improper throw-in, the ball is awarded to the other team except Under 6 and Under 8 age groups as provided in Articles XVIII and XIX.

## **ARTICLE XI - GOAL KICK**

A goal kick is awarded the defending team when the ball passes over the goal-line, outside the goal post, if last touched by an attacking player. The kick shall be taken from anywhere within the goal area. The ball must exit the penalty area before it can be played and all attacking players must stay outside the penalty area while the kick is being taken. A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick.



## **ARTICLE XII - CORNER KICK**

A corner kick is awarded the attacking team when the ball passes over the goal-line, outside the goal post, if last touched by a defending player.

1. The ball is placed within the corner arc.
2. The corner flags must remain in place.
3. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.

## **ARTICLE XIII - DROP BALL**

A referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when play was stopped for any cause not previously mentioned.

## **ARTICLE XIV - SCORING**

- a. A goal is scored when the ball has completely crossed the lines between the goal posts.
- b. Division standings shall be kept for the Under 10 and higher Age groups only and shall be based solely on the number of points each team accumulates during the soccer season excluding championship games.
- c. Points to determine division standing shall be computed as follows except when the organizing body for out-of-town leagues involving HUSA team stipulates otherwise.
  - ◆ WIN – 3 points
  - ◆ TIE – 1 points
  - ◆ LOSS - 0 points
  - ◆ WIN BY FORFEIT - 3 points

## **ARTICLE XV - Tournament of Champions Eligibility Determiner**

- a. Each age bracket U9 and above is eligible for the Tournament of Champions (TOC) held annually in December and hosted by North Texas Soccer Association.
- b. The team in the highest division with the highest possible points is the first considered eligible (ex: Div. A U10 max points.)
- c. First challenge games are between divisions within age group, (ex: Div B U10 challenged by Div C U10), your team can ONLY challenge if, as a lower division team your points are the same or above the higher division.
- d. After each “Champion” of each age group is determined, the lower age group can challenge the older age group (ex: U9 winner can challenge the U10, this winner advances to TOC).
- e. A winner is sent from each age group of U10/U12/U14/U16 etc.

## **ARTICLE XVI - PLAYING RULE CHANGES**

- a. The playing rules can be amended by a simple majority of those voting delegates present at the AGM or at a Special Meeting call by the president providing notice has been given of the change at the previous board meeting.
- b. Any change of the rules shall become effective immediately.
- c. Any rule changes mandated by NTSSA will automatically become effective immediately without voting from the delegates.

## **ARTICLE XVII – UNDER 4- UNDER 8 SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. U4-U8 rosters should normally not exceed eight members maximum and four shall play.
2. Substitutions shall be made at the quarter breaks or by either team at stage of play for an injury, or by Article V. of the playing rules.

3. Referees can be referees, linesmen, parents, or coaches. All infractions of the rules shall be explained to players.
4. Offside – There shall be no offside but if a player positions himself on the offensive end of the field in an obvious attempt to gain an advantage, a foul of ungentlemanly conduct will be called.
5. Fouls and Misconduct – All fouls will result in an indirect free kick.
6. Penalty Kicks – No penalty kicks are to be taken.
7. One coach per team for U4 and U5 will be allowed on the playing field during games.
8. Throw-ins will conform to FIFA, but a second throw-in will be allowed for U4-U6 if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt.
9. Goal Kicks – Goal kicks may be taken at any point within the goal area and opposing players must be five yards from the ball.
10. All other rules of FIFA and the Association shall govern play.
11. No scores or standings shall be kept in this Age Group.
12. Slide tackling is prohibited.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – UNDER 9- UNDER 10 SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. The BUILD OUT LINE is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in a no pressure setting.
2. There is NO OFFSIDE between the half way line and the buildout line.
3. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. Defending team players do not have to move behind the build out line
  - 3.1. The goalkeeper may then pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate (no punting).
  - 3.2. Once the ball is in play, the opposing team may cross the build out line and play resumes.
  - 3.3. The ball is in play when it is released by the goalkeeper and leaves the penalty area.
  - 3.4. If opposing team encroaches the build out line before the ball is in play, the goalkeeper distribution will be retaken.
4. Restarts for deliberate heading U12 Recreational and Below:
  - 4.1. U12 and below players who deliberately head commit a technical foul, the restart will be an indirect free kick from the point of the foul.
  - 4.2. *“When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.”*
  - 4.3. A goal scored from a deliberately headed ball by a U12 and below player will result in a no goal. The restart will be per item “b” above
  - 4.4. A deliberate header by a defender that saves a goal from being scored will result in an indirect free kick from the point of the infraction, and will be per “b” above.