

LAKE CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
PLAYING RULES  
(REVISED 3/18 - TOC)

**LAKE CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
PLAYING RULES**

All games shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game except as modified by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA), and these Playing Rules of the LAKE CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

**1. FIELD OF PLAY**

**1.1** Locations of game fields as well as field sizes, markings and goal sizes will be as determined by the Fields Director subject to Board approval and conformance to USYSA guidelines.

**2. BALL**

**2.1** Ball sizes for the various age groups will be as follows:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U5 – U8	3
U10 & U12	4
U14, U16 & U19	5

**2.2** To provide uniformity, only stitched balls will be used as game balls.

**2.3** Prior to a game, the referee will select the game ball from balls presented by the home team.

**3. PLAYERS**

**3.1** Maximum and minimum number of players permitted on the field for a team during games in the various age groups will be as follows:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS</u>	<u>MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS</u>
U5	4 (No Goalkeeper)	3 (No Goalkeeper)
U6	4 (No Goalkeeper)	3 (No Goalkeeper)
U8	4 (No Goalkeeper)	3 (No Goalkeeper)
U10	7 **	5 **
U12	9**	6**
U14, U16 & U19	11 **	7 **

\*\*One of which must be a goalkeeper.

- 3.2** SUBSTITUTIONS - Substitutions shall be unlimited and may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times (Exception: see special "quarter substitution" for U6-U8 under Modified Rules):
- A.** By the either team if the team in possession substitutes, prior to a throw-in.
  - B.** By either team, prior to a goal kick.
  - C.** By either team, after a goal is scored.
  - D.** By either team, after an injury when referee stops play.
  - E.** By either team, between quarters or at half-time.
  - F.** When a caution (yellow card) is given, only that player may be substituted for before play is restarted.
  - G.** The referee must be notified of a goalkeeper change.
  - H.** No substitution will be allowed for a player sent off ejected from the field of play (red card) by the referee (i.e. team plays short for remainder of game).
  - I.** No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.
- 3.3** PLAYING TIME - Each team member must have the opportunity to play at least one-half of every game he/she attends. Violation of this rule will subject coach to Board review.
- 3.3.1** Exceptions to Rule 3.3 are limited to:
- A.** Injury to a player whereby he/she cannot play.
  - B.** Illness or injury limiting his/her playing time.
  - C.** Being withheld for disciplinary reasons:
    - 1.** Failure to, without valid reason, meet established practice or game requirements which have been previously communicated to the team either verbally or in writing.
    - 2.** Unsportsmanlike conduct towards another player, a coach or a game official.
- 3.3.2** Disciplinary actions, as outlined in exception C above, must be reported in a meeting with the opposing coach and the referee before the start of the game. A player playing time reduction form should be filled out and given to the referee. The referee will forward the playing time reduction form to the respective Commissioner.

**4. PLAYER'S UNIFORMS**

- 4.1** All players are required to wear proper uniforms, including numbered jerseys, during league games.
- 4.2** If both teams wear similar colors, the designated Home team will be required to change to an alternate color jersey. Tee shirts or mesh bibs without numbers are acceptable provided players have with them their regular numbered jersey.
- 4.3** Goalkeepers will wear a jersey/pinny of contrasting color to both teams.
- 4.4** The referee is the final judge of color conflict.
- 4.5** Shin guards must be worn during all practices and games by all players in all age groups. Socks must cover the shin guards during game play.

**5. REFEREES**

- 5.1** Licensed USSF officials will be assigned to work as center referee for U9 and older games.
- 5.2** If a licensed referee is not present ten minutes after the scheduled game time in the U9 and older age groups, that game may be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.
- 5.3** If the Association receives three written complaints against a referee about three separate incidents within one soccer year, he/she shall be subject review by the Board. Complaints must be submitted to the Board within 48 hours of the incident.

**6. ASSISTANT REFEREES**

- 6.1** Licensed USSF officials will be assigned to work as Assistant Referees for 9U and older age group games.
- 6.2** If no official Assistant Referees are available to work a game, each team shall provide a club Assistant Referees to assist the referee. The club Assistant Referees duties shall be limited to calling ball in or out. Judgment of the referee is always final.

**7. LENGTH OF GAMES**

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>LENGTH OF GAME</u>	<u>HALF-TIME</u>
U5	8 Minute Quarters	5 Minutes
U6	10 Minute Quarters	5 Minutes
U8	10 Minute Quarters	5 Minutes
U10	25 Minute Halves	5 Minutes
U12	30 Minute Halves	10 Minutes
U14	35 Minute Halves	10 Minutes
U16	40 Minute Halves	10 Minutes
U19	45 Minute Halves	10 Minutes

See 18 for Modified Rules that apply or specific league played.

## 8. TEAMS AND SPECTATORS

- 8.1 Team players, coaches, assistant coaches, and/or team managers will occupy the **INSIDE** side of the field. The parents, families, and other spectators will occupy the **OUTSIDE** side of the field, unless the field layout prevents that placement
- 8.2 No coaching will be allowed on the opposite side of the field by either team.
- 8.3 Coaches must remain on the sidelines within 10 yards of the midfield line of their end of the field during game play.
- 8.4 Non-playing team members and spectators shall stay at least 5 feet outside of the touchline and no closer than 20 yards to the goal line.
- 8.5 No individual shall be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
- 8.6 Coaches in all age groups shall carry with them at all games a copy of his/her team's player roster, including any current add/delete sheets. These forms shall be presented to the game referee or opposing coach upon request to verify the eligibility of players registered to said team.
- 8.7 Coaches must also carry with them at all practices and games their NTSSA approved photo ID. Those ID's are ONLY issued to Coaches clearing the NTSSA background check and have completed the CDC "Heads Up" Concussion Course.
- 8.8 No alcoholic beverages will be permitted near the playing area. The use of tobacco products or artificial smoking devices is not permitted near the playing area.
- 8.9 Each coach/assistant coach/team manager of a team shall have a current, valid NTSSA Photo ID at all practices, games, and other team activities. Any coach/assistant coach/team manager not in possession of their NTSSA Photo ID during a game may only participate in their team role if they are able to produce a valid state issued form of identification (e.g., driver's license) that matches their name on the game roster. Any coach/assistant coach/team manager unable to produce a NTSSA Photo ID or valid state issued form of identification that matches their name on the game roster, must remain on the spectator side of the field for the duration of the game.
- 8.10 Any coach who fails to produce and display a current, valid NTSSA Photo ID at his/her team's game will be required to sit out their team's next game.

## 9. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

- 9.1 Games will not be postponed/rescheduled except for reasons of inclement weather or unplayable field conditions.
- 9.2 Exceptions to this policy may be made only by the respective Commissioner and only under extraordinary circumstances.
- 9.3 Commissioners must coordinate with the Fields Director and the Officials Assignor regarding all changes in times and dates of games.

## 10. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES

- 10.1** The Association President, Fields Director or their designee shall have sole authority to postpone any game prior to its start due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions.
- 10.2** The following guidelines shall be applied to determine playable weather conditions:
  - For leagues U8 and younger, dry weather above 40 F (windchill above 30 F) and wet weather above 55 F shall be considered playable.
  - For leagues U9 and older, weather conditions that do not constitute a hazard to health or safety shall be considered playable.
- 10.3** Teams must report to the playing field as scheduled and ready to play unless their coaches are instructed not to do so by their respective Commissioner or his/her designee.
- 10.4** It is the responsibility of the coach of a team that is traveling to play an “away” game to review field status by whatever means the away association provides and to notify his/her team if their game is postponed.
- 10.5** From the time the referee enters the field of play for a game, he/she becomes the final authority to postpone or suspend that game based on field conditions and/or prevailing weather conditions.
- 10.6** If a game is suspended prior to the start of the second half, it shall be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety.
- 10.7** A game suspended after the start of the second half of play will be considered a complete game and the score at the time of suspension will stand.
- 10.8** The referee shall promptly notify the Officials Director of any games he/she postpones.
- 10.9** Rescheduling authority rests with the respective Commissioner, in coordination with the Fields Director and the Officials Assignor. The Commissioner will in turn notify the coaches of the teams involved.

## **11. FORFEITS**

- 11.1** If a team cannot field the minimum number of players for a game within ten minutes after the referee has ordered play to begin, or if during the game a team has sufficient players sent off, injured or leave to fall below the minimum, then the game shall be declared a forfeit in favor of the opposing team.
- 11.2** A team will proceed to play a game as long as it is able to field the minimum number of players as listed in Rule 3.1.
- 11.3** One team having to play short does not require the opposing team to also play short (i.e., they may field a full team), however the coach is encouraged to observe the spirit of the game rule (13.3) and show good sportsmanship.
- 11.4** Players and/or coaches refusing to play, or continue to play, after having been ordered to do so by the referee, thereby bringing the game into dispute, shall automatically forfeit said game and will be subject to suspension pending a hearing by an A&D committee.
- 11.5** A team that has no team official (i.e., coach or assistant coach or team manager) with a current, valid NTSSA ID or valid state issued form of

identification (e.g. driver's license) that matches their name on the game roster, will immediately forfeit the game.

## **12. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

- 12.1** Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is not allowed in any youth play in NTSSA. Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground,"
- 12.2** The goalkeeper shall be allowed to punt or throw the ball unmolested after he/she gains possession. Possession is defined as having one or two hands on the ball in the judgment of the referee.
- 12.3** Once the goalkeeper has gained possession of the ball and has regained control of his/her body, he/she will put the ball back into play within 6 seconds
- 12.4** It is not an intentional "hand ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his/her body (i.e., chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
- 12.5** A referee may call a foul whenever a coach, player or spectator enters onto the field of play without the referee's consent.
- 12.6** A player sent off (red card) from a game by the referee shall forfeit his/her right to participate in his/her team's next game.
- 12.7** Any player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) during one game shall be suspended their next scheduled league game in accordance with NTSSA rules 3.11.2.
- 12.8** Any coach/assistant sent off (red card) by the referee shall immediately leave the area of the field of play and shall not interfere with nor take part in the further process of the game. The coach/assistant receiving the red card shall also be suspended from taking part in or be present on the field during his/her team's next game.
- 12.9** The coach and/or assistant coach is responsible for the conduct and control of their sideline (players and spectators).
- 12.10** Spectators can be dismissed from the field of play by the referee for unruly behavior and disruption of the game. This would include, but not be limited to, continued dissent. In the event a spectator is so dismissed and refuses to leave, the game may be abandoned by the referee and referred to the Board.
- 12.11** All referee reports concerning misconduct and send offs shall be submitted in writing (email is acceptable) to the Association First Vice-President within 48 hours of the incident.
- 12.12** All disciplinary actions shall be administered to in accordance with North Texas State Soccer Association, Rule 3.11. It is the responsibility of each LCSA coach to make the contents of Rule 3.11 known to every player and parent on his/her team.

### **13. STANDINGS**

- 13.1** Division standings during the regular season, in those age groups where such records are kept, shall be calculated using the point system for the league in which they play.
- 13.2** LCSA teams playing in another league shall have their standings determined based upon the playing rules and/or point policies of that league.
- 13.3** Keeping with the Spirit of the Game, if a team is ahead by 8 goals or more, they are strongly recommended to stop scoring and change the attention of the team to passing, using the opposite (weaker) foot, removing players from the field etc. If a team continues to “run up” the score past a differential of 8, the coach will be referred to their home association.
- 13.4** The coach of a LCSA team that achieves a goal differential of more than 8 against an opponent during a match may be subject to review by the LCSA A & D Committee and may receive a minimum one game suspension.
- 13.5** All games played during the regular season shall count toward division standings except those which may be designated before the start of the season as non-conference games or scrimmage games.
- 13.6** For the purpose of which teams the Association sends to the year-end Tournament of Champions (TOC) see separate TOC section for rules governing the tournament.

### **14. SCORES**

- 14.1** For those teams playing within their league, the standings are kept by a statistician, not the LCSA Commissioner. The coach must comply with that league's requirements for submitting their reports. To view your online schedules and standings (and to get your game numbers) click on the online schedules link at [www.lcsasoccer.org](http://www.lcsasoccer.org). If you have a scoring error, contact your Commissioner

### **15. PRACTICES**

- 15.1** During the regular season, the following weekly (Sunday morning through Saturday evening) practice limitations shall apply:
  - A.** Three practices with no games.
  - B.** Two practices with one game.
  - C.** One practice with two games.
  - D.** No practices with three games.
- 15.2** A scrimmage game constitutes one practice.
- 15.3** No practice session may exceed two hours in length.
- 15.4** ALL GAME FIELDS ARE CLOSED TO PRACTICES AND SCRIMMAGES. Coaches will receive a list each season specifically stating which fields will be available to LCSA teams for practice. Use of these fields will be monitored.

**15.5** Violation of any of these practice rules will subject the coach of record to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors up to and including suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season.

**16. FIELD EQUIPMENT**

**16.1** If two LCSA teams are to play the first (or only) game of the day on a LCSA field, each team will be responsible for obtaining two corner flags on said field in time so as to not delay the scheduled start of the game, if Referee is not present.

**16.2** If two LCSA teams are to play the last (or only) game of the day on a LCSA field, each team will be responsible for taking down two corner flags and returning them to the proper storage facility.

**16.3** If a LCSA team is designated as the Home team on a LCSA field to a visiting traveling team, the LCSA team will be responsible for obtaining and installing and/or taking down and returning ALL four corner flags.

**16.4** Coaches who fail on a repeated basis to perform the duties as outlined above will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

**17. CLEAN-UP**

**17.1** It shall be the responsibility of all teams, whether at home on a LCSA field or as visitors on an away field, to pick-up its trash after every game.

This Association recognizes that the U8 age groups are special groups of players and, in order to promote safe recreational fun while learning soccer with the pressures of competition removed, the following special rules have been established.

**18. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR AGE GROUPS U6-U12**

See SEPARATE Modified Rules for the Specific Age Group that may supersede these rules.