

MIDLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ADULT LEAGUE RULES

I. Eligibility

All open divisions' players must be eighteen years old. Over 30 division players must be 30 years old or older; over 40 division players must be 40 years old or older; over 50 division players must 50 years or older with the exception of 2 players who can be at least 48. Proof of age will be required for all players. Valid proof of age will be in the form of one of the following:

1. State issued driver's license
2. State issued identification card
3. Passport
4. Government issued citizen identification card
5. Military identification

II. Registration

A. All require fees, online registration for the team and all players, identification cards and other forms or information required to register must be fully completed and submitted to the Association on or before the designated deadline.

1. Rosters must have a minimum of 15 players and a maximum of 20
2. Complete player information must be entered into the online registration program, including name, address, telephone, email address.
3. All fees are due by the designated date
4. Any checks returned by the bank for whatever reason will result in a additional returned check fee of \$25. The team or player issuing the check will not be allowed to play until all monies are recovered.
5. Any player or team not current on their fees/fines will not be eligible to play. their opponent will receive a forfeit win for any games cancelled due to nonpayment.
6. All players' fees must be paid in full before they will be put on the teams official North Texas Roster and be eligible to play.
7. Any team withdrawing to avoid playing in an assigned division will not be allowed to return for a period of one year.

B. Only with good cause and approval of the Adult Commissioner can a team register after the designated registration date.

1. All teams will be registered with U.S.S.F. through North Texas Soccer and this Association
2. In order to maintain a constant and fair level of competition, the Adult Commissioner has the right to place teams into divisions other than requested.
3. For age groups divisions with more than one division, dominant teams, based on their past playing records, may be moved into other divisions to provide a more competitive stature. Younger teams will not be place in older divisions but older teams may be placed in older divisions.

4. For the purposed of maintaining records of discipline, a team shall be considered a returning team if there are a minimum of five players registered from the previous team.
5. Any discipline or monetary assessments shall be the responsibility of the returning team. IN the case of a team splitting to form two or more teams, any discipline assessments shall be assigned to whichever team has the players with the most penalty point total from the previous season.

III. Add/Delete/Transfer

A. After registration and only with good cause and permission from the Registrar can a team add players. No changes will be allowed to a roster after October 1 for the Fall season and April 1st for the Spring season.

B. Any team deleting players after registration must turn in those players I.D. cards before being allowed to drop those players

C. A player is bound to a team for a given season once they have been registered online and the player's registration fee has been received. Only with just cause may a player transfer to any other team during a season and only with written permission of the Adult Commissioner and a written release from his present team, providing they comply with rules A and B above and North Texas Soccer rules.

IV. Payment of Referees

- A. Payment of referees and assistant referees will be done by the teams prior to the start of the games. The amount will be \$50.00 for the referee and \$30.00 for each assistant referee, of which two (2) are assigned to each game.
- B. Both teams will be responsible for paying one half of the referee fees for each game (\$55.00 each team/each game).

V. Coach/Representative Responsibility

- A. Responsible for their teams conduct on and off the field and litter control.
- B. Responsible for spectator conduct
- C. Coaches and spectators must be within 10 yards, either side, of the midfield.
- D. Each team must install one net and two corner flags within fifteen minutes of the game start time
- E. Failure to put up a net and take down will result in a one point deduction from the teams standings.
- F. Both teams must provide a suitable game ball for the referee to use in the game.
- G. Provide a 'league issued' game roster, completely filled out with players first and last names and jersey number
- H. If the opposing team has an illegal player, or if the team wishes to play the game in protest, write it down on your game roster before the game and have the referee initial the notation at the time.
- I. If the game roster is not 'league issued' or not properly completed the team is subject to disciplinary action.

VI. Equipment

- A. A team must wear shirts of the same color. Shorts and socks do not apply. Each shirt must have a different number that matches the players number on the game roster. Numbers must be at least 6" inches high, and sewn, stenciled heat transferred or in some way permanently affixed to the back of the shirt. Taped or non stenciled numbers are not permitted.
- B. Where jerseys of competing teams have a color conflict, as determined by the referee, the HOME team will change to alternate jerseys and number rules will apply. Alternate jerseys may consist of pullover, see-through mesh pennys of contrasting color to both teams.
- C. Team goalie must be assigned a number and must wear that number while playing on the field. However, a number is not necessary while playing in the goal. If a players jersey does not comply to these rules that player is ineligible to play until he has a shirt that applies.
- D. If a shirt becomes unusable the player will be allowed to change shirts at the discretion of the referee.
- E. Players may not exchange shirts with another player except the goalkeeper.
- F. If a team fails to provide an alternate shirt/pennys in the case of color conflict that team will receive an automatic forfeit.

VII. Playing Rules

Unless otherwise modified by these rules, all competition under the jurisdiction of this Association will be governed by the FIFA Laws of Soccer.

A. Game Suspension

1. If a game should be suspended before the second half begins, for reasons other than misconduct or abandonment, it will be replayed, if possible.
2. If a regular season game should be suspended once the second half begins, for reasons other than misconduct or abandonment, it will be considered complete.
3. All post season games must be complete games. For reasons other than misconduct or abandonment, any game that is stopped prior to the completion of regulation time shall be replayed in its entirety unless The game is past the 67th minute and one team is ahead. Any game that is stopped prior to the completion of any overtime period or kicks from the mark shall recommence at the start of the overtime or kicks from the mark, whichever was occurring at the time of stoppage. At the recommence of overtime or kicks from the mark, only the players eligible and present at the time of game stoppage shall be eligible. If the game is stopped due to misconduct or abandonment, the outcome of the game shall be decided by the League administrator. The team or teams causing the stoppage will be sent to the Associations A&D Committee.

B. Number of Players

1. Number of players on the field will be a maximum of 11 and a minimum of 7 to start 7 to finish. A team will have fifteen minutes after scheduled kickoff time to field at the minimum player or the game will be declared a forfeit. As long as the minimum numbers of players are present with the fifteen minute period, the game will start.
2. If neither team can field a the minimum number of players, the game will be declared a double forfeit with no points award to either teams
3. Each player must submit their own ID card to the referee or assistant referee and be

- registered on that team in order to be eligible to play.
4. The Adult Commissioner or any MSA Board member has the right to conduct a check of any team as to the eligibility of players. Through a random roster check of both teams that could include verification of the validation of player ID cards and verification of player identity at any time during the course of the season. Roster checks may not be conducted by persons playing in the same division as the teams that are being checked.

C. Misconduct

1. All misconduct will be reported, in writing, to the Adult Commissioner. IN addition, all misconduct will be submitted by the referee, in writing, to the MSA office within forty-eight hours of the offense.
2. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee will have the authority to suspend or remove players or team officials guilty of misconduct.
3. Serious misconduct will be reported, if necessary, to the North Texas Soccer Association for further disposition.
4. Should a player or team official be reported to the Association as being involved in misconduct, abuse or assault (verbal and/or physical) of a referee/assistant referee, league official and/or employee, the alleged party will be suspended from all play in this Association pending a decision from the North Texas State Soccer Association and/or the Midland Soccer Association Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
5. Any player or team official found guilty of misconduct/verbal abuse of a referee/assistant referee, league officials and/or employees, as deemed by the North Texas Soccer Association and/or the Midland Soccer Association A&D Committee, will be assessed a \$100 fine. Any player or team official found guilty of assault will be assessed a \$200 fine. Payment is due to the Midland Soccer Association prior to any participation in this Association once the suspension is served. Any persons found guilty of a second assault will receive a permanent expulsion from the league.
6. Any adult player, team manager or spectator ejected from an adult game will be required to sit out one game and pay a \$50 fine. Any player, team manager or spectator receiving a second red card or send off during the season the fine will increase to \$75. A third red card or send-off the fine will increase to \$100 and the offending person will be suspended pending a hearing with the A&D committee. Additional penalties and fines may be assessed at that time.
7. If the red card is issued for violent conduct or fighting the penalty will be 2 games and a \$50 fine. A second violent conduct or fighting penalty the fine will increase to \$75 and the player, manager or spectator will be suspended pending a hearing with North Texas Soccer A&D Committee. North Texas soccer may add additional monetary or game suspension penalties.
8. Any persons receiving a "sendoff" will not be allowed to participate in any manner, except as a spectator, while under suspension. Any violation, while under suspension, will result in continued suspension pending a hearing of the MSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
9. If a player receives a suspension at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next season that the player participates.
10. Suspensions are not carried from one league to another. (i.e. indoor or participation in another outdoor league, such as Odessa) unless the suspension is assessed by the North Texas State Soccer Association.

11. Any participant receiving a “sendoff” during a league sponsored event must leave the Complex immediately. This includes standing outside the fence line to the fields. The game will on continue until the referee determines the player has left the area.
12. Suspensions received in outside tournaments or events shall be served during further participation in those events and shall not affect any play in this league except in the case of serious misconduct which shall be reviewed by the A&D Committee before further participation is allowed in this league.
13. In the event of a game being abandoned the teams involved will be heard by the A&D Committee as soon possible. If the game is abandoned due to violent conduct the team(s) may be suspended pending a hearing. Action could take the form of forfeit of one or both teams, declaring that the game be replayed, or that the game stands with the score at the time of the abandonment. Fines or additional players suspension may also be assessed.
14. Player misconduct will be allotted points through the North Texas Soccer cumulative twelve point system. See North Texas Soccer misconduct rules 3.11.3.
15. Multiple ejection offenses:
 - a. Any involvement in fighting or use of extreme foul language directed at an opponent, game official, league official and/or spectator will be a minimum three game suspension. (plus the fine as mentioned in #6 above)
 - b. Any involvement in a fracas or joining into a fight will be a minimum four game suspension. (plus the fine as mentioned in #6 above)
 - c. Any player issued a second “Sendoff” for serious foul play, violent conduct or foul or abusive language during the course of one playing season, an automatic 3 game suspension will be assessed in addition to the normal game assessment and fine.
16. Excess penalty points
 - a. Any team that accumulates thirty or more penalty points in one season will have three points deducted from the team standings at the time the thirty points are reached.
 - b. Any team that accumulates forty or more penalty points in one season, the Coach/captain shall come before the MSA A&D Committee to discuss their teams ‘conduct and disciplinary action.
 - c. Any team that meets or exceeds the penalty point limits as described in North Texas Soccer rules 3.11.5, will be required to appear before the North Texas Soccer A&D Committee and will not be eligible for post season play (play off or championship games).
 - d. Any team that accumulates the regular season penalty point limit plus an additional twelve points will not be eligible for further play until action by the North Texas Soccer Association.
17. Any team found to have knowingly played unregistered, ineligible or suspended player(s) shall forfeit the games in which the player(s) participated and the Team Captain/coach and/or the involved player(s) will be suspended for a minimum of one year from the date of the infraction. The involved player(s) may be suspended from all soccer activities.

D. Valid Identification

1. A valid I.D. is hereby defined as a valid player I.D.

VIII. Forfeits

- A. The Adult Commissioner shall declare a forfeit for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. No nets within fifteen minutes of game time
 - 2. Illegal players
 - 3. No ID cards within fifteen of game time
 - 4. Not enough players
 - 5. Failure to pay game officials prior to the start of the game
- B. If a team has two forfeits in a season, they will be required to post a \$50 performance bond for each remaining game of the season.
- C. A declared forfeit win will result in a total of three points toward division standings.
- D. A team must notify the MSA office at least 48 hours (notification must be made BEFORE 4:00 on Friday for Sunday games) prior to the regular scheduled game of any cancellations (forfeitures) or they will be required to pay the entire referee fees for the game forfeited.
- E. Other penalties may apply as written in these rules

IX. Team Standings

- A. The following point system will be used to determine a team's division standings:
 - 1. Three points for a win
 - 2. One point for a tie
 - 3. Zero points for a loss
 - 4. **-2 points per forfeit** "in accordance with Adult rule VIII part D.

B. In the case of a tie in points at the end of the season, the following tie breakers will be applied:

- (a) Head to head competition**
- (b) Goal differential - up to three goals**
- (c) Fewest number of cards**
 - 1 point per yellow**
 - 2 points per red**
- (d) Playoff game**

X. Protests and Appeals

- A. All protests/appeals at all levels shall be made, in writing, within five days to the MSA A&D Committee who shall rule on such protest. All appeals at all levels, must be accompanied by a \$25 appeal fee. (cash or cashier check). If the appeal is ruled in favor of the person/team making the appeal the appeal fee will be refunded. If the appeal is ruled against the person making the appeal the fee will not be refunded.
- B. Appeals from the Adult Commissioner Ruling shall be made within five days to the MSA A&D Committee. The appeal fee applies.
- C. Appeals of a A&D Committee decision will be appealed to the MSA Executive Board. The appeal fee applies
- D. All decisions at all levels of the appeals process shall stand in full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

XI. Special Circumstances

The Association reserves the right to act on the Playing Rules and Regulations or any event or circumstances not covered by these rules and regulations where an unexpected or foreseen event occurs that may cause undue hardship if strict interpretation of these playing rules and regulations are applied, however, it will require an official Executive Board action to implement such a change or reference to the NTX Premier Soccer Association Rules. The Midland Soccer Association Bylaws apply to all Leagues playing in the Association.