

CHAPTER 5

INDOOR SOCCER

5.1 PLAYING FACILITY

A playing facility must first submit an application to and receive approval from North Texas State Soccer Association.

5.2 REGISTRATIONS

5.2.1 Registered Players

Only registered indoor players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of the affiliated facility. A facility which allows the use of unregistered indoor players in sanctioned play shall be subject to forfeiture of its facility affiliation.

5.2.2 Adult Registrations

1. Each indoor player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued indoor I.D. card.

3. Indoor I. D. Cards

- a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
- b. The I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
- c. Affiliated facilities offering Indoor will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Indoor I.D. Card.
- d. A temporary I.D. Card may be issued by the facility to existing rostered players and shall only be valid for the date of issue. It may be issued to either a youth or adult player. A Temporary I.D. Card may not be used by a youth in an adult game, unless that player's name is already on the roster.

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

4. Indoor Insurance

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at the time of registration. Player's indoor I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

5. Youth Players in Adult Play

Players who have attained the age of 17 may request to play on an adult team. A provisional release must be obtained from the Indoor Commissioner.

A player may register on as many teams as he may choose as long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

5.2.3 Youth Registrations

1. Each indoor player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued indoor I.D. card.

3. **Indoor I. D. Cards**

- a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
- b. The I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
- c. Affiliated facilities offering Indoor will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Indoor I.D. card.
- d. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the immigration and naturalization service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

e. **Coach I.D. Cards**

All affiliated indoor facilities shall require all youth coaches to present a valid photo I.D., a valid coaches I.D. card or shall be required to complete a **NTSSA** Coach/Referee, volunteer/Staff Application prior to the issuance of a Coach I.D. Card.

- f. All affiliated indoor facilities are to submit completed **NTSSA** Applications to the **NTSSA** State Office within fifteen days of completion of the form.

4. **Indoor Insurance**

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at time of registration. Player's indoor I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

5. A player may register on as many teams as he may choose so long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

6. **Age Grouping for Play**

U-19

U-16

U-14

U- 12

U-10

U- 8

U-6 **Age four (4) is the minimum age to play soccer

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be the player's age on July 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year.

Age divisions shall be comprised of players who are, before the first day of August of the immediately preceding seasonal year:

Under 19 years of age

Under 16 years of age

Under 14 years of age

Under 12 years of age

Under 10 years of age

Under 8 years of age

Under 6 years of age

7. Since indoor soccer is a separate sport, players of two (2) or more outdoor teams may combine without affecting their eligibility for State Cup play.
8. Previously registered (outdoor) recreational youth players playing indoor for a specific team or coach may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after the team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.
9. Players need not have releases from member associations to engage in indoor league or tournament play.
10. Soccer camps (clinics), academies, private lessons, etc. hosted or held indoors that include NTSSA registered outdoor players must comply with Rule 3.10.2.

5.2.4 Team Records

Team rosters are to be on file at each facility prior to the first game of each session and must be submitted to NTSSA no later than four (4) weeks after the session starts. Changes to rosters after submission, must be on a NTSSA ADD/DELETE Form and sent to NTSSA within seven (7) days.

5.3 RULES

5.3.1 Laws of the Game

All indoor play shall be played in accordance with the **NTSSA - Rules for Indoor Play**.

1. Two officials will be required for U-16, U-19 and adults.
2. Only one official shall be required for all play below U-16.
3. Indoor facilities may only use registered NTSSA Indoor Referees.

5.3.2 Player I.D. Cards

1. No player may be placed on a roster without a valid NTSSA approved Indoor I.D. card.
2. No player may play in any sanctioned NTSSA play without furnishing a valid state approved Indoor I.D. card to the referee. The I.D. cards and rosters will be verified by the referee/timekeeper each game.
3. The referee shall retain all cards of players who receive a red card. The player I.D. card shall be turned into the NTSSA State Office or its duly designated representative along with the referee misconduct report within seventy-two (72) hours.
4. Failure of any official to file a misconduct report on an ejection and to furnish appropriate player I.D. cards with the report shall result in that official not being allowed to officiate any NTSSA Indoor games for a period of one (1) week.

5.4 MISCONDUCT

All affiliated facilities are charged with the responsibility of seeing that this rule is distributed to every youth and senior player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that each player will make known these contents to his or her parents and spectators.

5.4.1 Ejections and Fines (minimums)

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| 1. First Expulsion | One Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$25 fine. |
| Second Expulsion | Two Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$50 fine. |
| 2. Expulsion for Violent Conduct | Two Week Suspension from indoor soccer only and \$50 fine. |
| 3. Expulsion for Fighting (one on one) | Three Week Suspension from all soccer activities and \$50 fine. |
| 4. Expulsion for Fighting (more than two people involved) | Suspended from all soccer activities pending NTSSA Disciplinary Hearing and \$75 fine. |
| 5. Any player receiving three (3) expulsions during the soccer year will be suspended for a period of not less than <u>three (3) months</u> from the date of the third ejection. A suspension imposed by NTSSA shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. | |

***All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction, to the North Texas State Soccer Association. Any player, coach, assistant coach, or manager failing to remit the appropriate fees will not be allowed to register on any NTSSA team until all fees are paid.*

5.4.2 Authority

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the NTSSA have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, Affiliated Playing Facilities, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member. The NTSSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Playing Facilities, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and referees who choose to affiliate.
2. All affiliated facilities are directed to inform the NTSSA A&D Committee on every player/coach/ assistant coach cautioned or ejected and on referee's reports of serious misconduct by spectators and/or parents as required by subsequent sections of this rule.
3. Matters concerning misconduct and appeals shall rest with the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or its designated authority, at the first level.
4. Any misconduct by a coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment to be taken. The State A&D Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee, unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.
5. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents, and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the NTSSA A&D Committee or its duly-appointed authority.
6. All game suspensions must be reported to the state. The NTSSA A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that already prescribed.

7. The NTSSA A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the official's reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.

8. **Extreme Violent Conduct**

The State A&D Committee will extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct toward any person or property after being ejected while on the premises of the indoor facility.

5.4.3 Misconduct of Spectators

Each team (youth and adult) in NTSSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators. If he is unable to do so, the State will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable unruly spectator, or, if unidentifiable, toward the team itself.

5.4.4 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

1. The NTSSA will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game in disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.
2. The NTSSA does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.

5.4.5 Misconduct Toward Referees

NTSSA Rule 3.11.7 **Misconduct Toward Referee** and Rule 3.11.8 **Misconduct of Referees** shall apply to all Indoor activities.

5.4.6 Appellate Procedures

NTSSA Rule 3.11.9 **Appellate Procedures** shall apply to all Indoor activities.

5.4.7 Records

The A&D Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend toward numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

5.4.8 Facility to Comply

When any affiliated facility fails to send in reports as required by this rule, NTSSA will take any action it considers proper, including a fine, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by the facility can result in such facility being declared not in good standing.

5.4.9 Game Protests

1. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
 - a. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
 - b. 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.

2. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that..."A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as result of the game is concerned". A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the State Referee Committee.