

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

*Revised January 2017*

<b>CHAPTER 1 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION .....	1
<b>CHAPTER 2 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
BYLAWS OF THE EAST TEXAS SOCCER ASSOCIATION	
2.1 ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION .....	4
2.2 ARTICLE II - GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION .....	7
2.3 ARTICLE III - MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION .....	9
2.4 ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS .....	10
2.5 ARTICLE V - NOTICE .....	12
2.6 ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS .....	12
2.7 ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES .....	16
2.8 ARTICLE VIII - SERVICE COMMITTEES .....	21
2.9 ARTICLE IX - RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCEDURES FOR APPEAL.....	21
2.10 ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES .....	22
<b>CHAPTER 3. ....</b>	<b>24</b>
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE EAST TEXAS SOCCER ASSOCIATION	
3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS .....	24 3.2
UNREGISTERED/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY .....	24
3.3 FRIENDLY GAMES .....	24
3.4 SUSPENSIONS .....	25
3.5 REFEREES .....	25
3.6 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS .....	26
3.7 YOUTH PLAY IN ADULT DIVISION .....	26
3.8 ADULT REGISTRATION .....	27
3.9 PLAYING AGE .....	27
3.10 YOUTH CONTRACT AND RELEASES .....	28
3.11 DISCIPLINE .....	33
3.12 REFEREE SYSTEM .....	44
3.13 GAME PROTESTS .....	44
3.14 ETSA RULES OF COMPETITION .....	45
3.15 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT .....	48
3.16 CHANGES .....	48
3.17 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS .....	49
<b>CHAPTER 4. ....</b>	<b>50</b>
RULES FOR REGISTERING YOUTH PLAYERS	
4.1 DEFINITION OF YOUTH REGISTRANTS .....	50
4.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS .....	51
4.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS .....	52

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

4.4 ASSOCIATION’S RESPONSIBILITIES AS TO REGISTRATION WITH THE STATE ASSOCIATION .....	52
4.5 YOUTH TRANSFERS .....	52
4.6 GUEST PLAYERS .....	53
4.7 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES .....	54
4.8 YOUTH COMPETITIVE CLUB DISTINCTION .....	55
4.9 CLUB PASS PLAYERS .....	55
4.10 TRYOUTS.....	56
4.11 COMPETITIVE LEAGUE RESTRICTIONS FOR U-6, U-8, AND U-10 .....	57
4.12 REGISTRATION OF COACHES .....	57
4.13 SANCTION OF COMPETITIVE LEAGUES .....	58
4.14 SUMMER TOURS/TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF USA .....	58
4.15 CHANGES .....	58
4.16 SANCTION FOR VIOLATION OF RULES .....	58
<b>CHAPTER 5. ....</b>	<b>59</b>
INDOOR SOCCER	
5.1 PLAYING FACILITY .....	59
5.2 REGISTRATIONS .....	59
5.3 RULES .....	61
5.4 MISCONDUCT .....	61
<b>CHAPTER 6. ....</b>	<b>64</b>
FUTSAL	
6.1 ASSOCIATIONS AND PLAYING FACILITY .....	64
6.2 REGISTRATION .....	64
6.3 RULES .....	65
6.4 MISCONDUCT .....	66
<b>CHAPTER 7. ....</b>	<b>69</b>
TEAM TRAVEL PROCEDURES	
7.1 UNITED STATES, MEXICO, OR CANADA .....	69
7.2 TRAVEL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES .....	69
7.3 REGULATIONS FOR HOSTING VISITING TEAMS .....	69
<b>CHAPTER 8. ....</b>	<b>70</b>
NTSSA RULES FOR SPONSORED OR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS OR EVENTS	
8.1 TOURNAMENT RULES FOR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS .....	70
8.2 CRITERIA FOR SANCTIONING A SPECIAL EVENT .....	72
8.3 PROCEDURES FOR SANCTIONING A TOURNAMENT OF EVENT .....	72
8.4 POLICY FOR RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS .....	75

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**CHAPTER 1**  
**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
**OF THE**  
**EAST TEXAS SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one (21) years of age or over, and two (2) of whom are citizens of the State of Texas, acting as incorporators of a corporation under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

**1.1 ARTICLE ONE**

The name of the corporation is EAST TEXAS SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

**1.2 ARTICLE TWO**

The corporation is a nonprofit corporation.

**1.3 ARTICLE THREE**

The period of its duration is perpetual.

**1.4 ARTICLE FOUR**

The purposes for which the corporation (hereinafter called “Association”) is organized are:

1. To engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which a corporation may be incorporated under the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act and which are consistent with exemption from federal income tax under 501(c)(3);
2. To promote soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association, including outdoor soccer for male and female players. To promote soccer this Association will govern, coordinate, and administer all rules and regulations of all soccer play sponsored by and under this Association, and will provide for continuing development of soccer players, coaches, referees and administrators. This Association will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances.
3. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, member or officer of the Association (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Association affecting one or more of its purposes), and no private individual, member or officer of the Association shall be entitled to a share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Association. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
4. The Association shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
5. The Association shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Sections 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.
6. The Association shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

Revised January 2017 2

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

7. The Association shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

8. The Association shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

9. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the Association shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist to as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

**1.5 ARTICLE FIVE**

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, humanitarian, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Rule or Regulation), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**1.6 ARTICLE SIX**

Membership requirements are to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Association shall provide open and equal opportunities to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, and employees who are not under suspension or other disciplinary action, to participate in amateur soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

**1.7 ARTICLE SEVEN**

The address of the registered office is P.O. BOX 685 MINEOLA.,TX 75773, and the registered agent shall the President of North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc. The registered office and the registered agent may be changed from time to time by a majority vote of the by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**1.8 ARTICLE EIGHT**

The number of members constituting the Executive Committee of this Association is three and the name and addresses of the members are as follows:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- President – Tammy Smith
- Vice President –Jason Smith
- Treasurer – Melissa O’Neal

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**CHAPTER 2**

**2.1 ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION**

**2.1.1 Membership in Association**

All members must complete a registration form, show proof of birth certificate to Executive Officer of ETSA, read and abide by ETSA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, and must pay registration fee to ETSA. Membership is open to any child ages 4 to 14

**2.3 ARTICLE III - MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION**

**2.3.1 Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meetings**

Meeting of the Association shall be held each year during the period from June 1-August 31 and January 1-March 31 at such time and place as designated by the President.

The order of business for such meeting shall be:

- Roll Call and Vote Accreditation
- Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- Communications
- Unfinished Business
- Reports of Officers
- Amendments to Bylaws
- New Business
- Election of Officers
- Good of the Game
- Adjournment

**2.3.2 Notice of Meetings**

Written, printed, or electronic notice stating the place, day, time and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called, shall be delivered not less 10 days before the meetings, either personally, by mail, by electronic version, or at the direction of the President, to each Member Association and Affiliate of record entitled to vote at the meeting unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Member Association at the address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon prepaid. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent to the electronic mail address to the Member Association at the address as it appears on the records of the Association.

needed. In this situation, only the youth or adult member associations present and the Executive Committee shall have a vote on that matter. When a separate vote is necessary, joint member associations shall have the appropriate

**2.3.5 Majority Vote; Withdrawal of Quorum**

When a quorum is present at any meeting, the vote of the majority present at such meeting shall decide any question brought before such meeting, except those involving amendments to the Bylaws, for which a different vote is

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

required (Ref. 2.10.5). In which case, such express provision shall govern and control the decision of such question. The members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

**2.4 ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**2.4.1 Executive Committee**

The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Executive Officers of this Association, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote in accordance with Rule 2.2 hereof. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Bylaws and Rules of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which North Texas State Soccer Association is a member, and the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. It also shall hear appeals of decisions made by the standing committees of the North Texas State Soccer Association.

The President may from time to time designate individuals other than those elected to the Executive Committee to serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. Ex-officio members shall have the right to attend all meetings and participate in all discussions of the Executive Committee but shall have no voting rights therein. The term of office for ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the President.

Monthly written reports from all Officers and Committees are to be sent to all Member Associations.

**1. Athlete Representative**

He shall be an *ex officio* (non-voting) member of the Executive Committee and shall serve as an advisor to the Executive Committee.

**2.4.2 Meetings**

The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the discretion of the President at a time and place appointed by him.

**2.4.3 Removal**

Any member of the Executive Committee shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in his ability to remain in office. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee that, in turn, will review the petition and forward copies of same to all Member Associations within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such petition. The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Member Associations after all Member Associations have been given fourteen (14) days written notice of such pending petition. The Executive Committee may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Committee whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Executive Committee members

so vote. If an officer receives this vote of No Confidence, he is automatically suspended from the board until the next membership meeting. The matter must be submitted in writing to the membership and the member associations must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote for the removal to be effective.

**2.4.4 Grievance Against ETSA Executive Committee Members for Unethical Misconduct**

A member in good standing of a ETSA member association may, if he believes he has just cause, bring a grievance against an Executive Committee Member of ETSA. The following procedure must be followed before ETSA will recognize or act on any grievance brought against any member of the **ETSA** Executive Committee.

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

1. The individual bringing the grievance must submit in writing and bring necessary documentation to support the grievance to the President or Chief Operating Officer of his member association. The President or Chief Operating Officer will then verify in writing that the individual filing the grievance is a member in good standing.

2. The President or Chief Operating Officer of that association will review the grievance with the members of his board of directors, and if approved by a two-third (2/3) majority vote by the board, the grievance may then be submitted to the ETSA Executive Committee for consideration.

**2.4.5 Attendance at Meetings**

An Executive Committee member not attending three (3) consecutive meetings, including regular meetings, of this Association or Executive Committee meetings, will have this office declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the Executive Committee. His office shall then be filled in accordance with Rule 2.4.6 of this Article.

**2.4.6 Vacancies**

In the event any office of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy until the next meeting, at which time a special election shall be held and an officer is elected to fill the vacancy.

**2.4.7 Compensation**

The Executive Committee shall serve without salary for their services. Any Executive Committee member may be reimbursed for expenses previously approved by the budget and/or the Executive Committee.

**2.4.8 Minutes**

The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The approved minutes, including monthly reports from Officers and Committees, shall be placed in the minute book of the Association and a copy shall be sent to each Member Association and Affiliate. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee are required to attend these meetings in order to transact any business of the Association.

**2.4.9 Grievance Involving Executive Committee Members**

A member of the Executive Committee can be a member or official of a team, club, or Member Association. In the event of any grievance involving such organization, he may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.

**2.4.10 Emergency Meetings**

Subject to the provisions of applicable statutes and these Bylaws, the President and any three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute an emergency Executive Committee on matters demanding immediate attention when it is impractical or impossible to call an Executive Committee meeting and shall report their actions to all Executive Committee members in writing.

**2.4.11 Veto of Executive Committee Action**

The Member Associations may veto any Executive Committee action by a majority vote of the Member Associations present and voting at the meeting following the action.

**2.5 ARTICLE V - NOTICE**

**2.5.1 Manner of Giving Notice**

Whenever, under the provisions of the statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any member of the Association, and if no provisions are made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall now be construed to mean personal notice, given in writing, either by mail or electronic mail, postage paid, addressed to such Association member at the address appearing on the records of the Association. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed given at the time when the same is deposited in the United States mail. If electronically mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic version is sent

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

to the electronic mail address of the Member Association at the email address as it appears on the records of the Association.

**2.5.2 Waiver of Notice**

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member of the Association under the provisions of the statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated in such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

**2. 6 ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS: Powers and Duties**

*(Reference to the male gender within the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book with respect to Officers, Employees, Agents, Coaches, Administrators or Players is for simplification and refers to both males and females.)*

**2.6.1 Executive Officers**

The Executive Officers shall be elected for a term of 1 year and may succeed themselves in office. Any Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office, must first resign the Office he is holding 30 days prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the annual June meeting with one-half of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Field Maintenance Supervisor
- Referee Assignor

**2.6.5 President**

The President of the Association shall preside at all Association meetings. He shall appoint all Service Committees. He will serve as an ex-officio member of any committee of the Association. He may vote only when the vote is by ballot, or in all other cases, to affect the results of the vote. He may appoint delegates to any meetings of the Member Associations. He shall submit an annual report in writing at the Annual Meeting and said report shall become a part of the minutes of such meeting. He shall be responsible for insuring that all members with check-signing authority.



**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

He shall be the liaison between the Executive Committee and Staff. He shall be responsible for seeing that an adequate staff is maintained and that administrative policies and operations of the Association are carried out. In the event of the death, permanent incapacity (unable to perform the major duties of his office for a continuous period exceeding three months), or resignation of the President, the Executive Committee shall appoint an individual to serve as President for the remaining unexpired term of office.

**2.6.6 Vice President**

The Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of the President if the President is absent or temporarily incapacitated. He shall be the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and Co-Chairman of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee.

**2.6.7 Vice President - Development**

The Vice President – Development shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of President if both the President and Vice President – Appeals and Disciplinary are absent or temporarily incapacitated. The Vice President - Development shall, after approval of the Executive Committee, appoint such members as he deems necessary to carry out the functions of his office. He shall be responsible for seeing that an Association representative be available for assisting any group interested in affiliating with this Association. He shall have primary responsibility for the marketing, public relations and publicity of the Association.

**2.6.8 Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of President if the President, Vice President, and Vice President – Development are all absent or temporarily incapacitated. He shall serve as the financial officer of the Association and shall be responsible for coordinating budget preparation, complete financial reconciliation and reporting in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to each scheduled membership meeting, a balance sheet and income statement. The reporting will be itemized by category and listed in the following manner:

- Activity during the month
- Accumulative to date
- Approved budget
- Difference (plus or minus).
- He shall chair the financial committee.
- He shall review and initial all contracts that extend over a period of more than 60 days, or that are contracts for goods or services.
- He shall require all check registers have two (2) authorized signatories approval before releasing checks for distribution.

**2.9.2 Rules of Play**

Except as otherwise specified herein, Rules of Play of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which NTSSA is a member, will apply in all competitions under the jurisdiction of the NTSSA and its affiliated members. However, the Executive Committee shall have the right to approve special Rules-of-the-Competition agreed upon by two or more Member Associations conducting a “special” competition.

**2.10 ARTICLE X - MISCELLANEOUS**

**2.10.1 Conduct of Association as Nonprofit Corporation**

# East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association

## 2016/2017

### Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents

This Association shall conduct its business in a manner conforming to the purposes as set forth in Article 1.4 of its Articles of Incorporation, being careful to comply with all rules and regulations as set forth under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so as to maintain its status as a nonprofit corporation.

#### **2.10.2 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from September 1 to August 31

#### **2.10.3 Books and Records**

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of all meetings at its registered office.

#### **2.10.4 Resignation**

Any director, committee member, officer or agent may resign by giving written notice to the President. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or immediately if no time is specified. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### **2.10.5 Amendments to Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any meeting of the Association at which a quorum is present by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present Revised January

#### **2.10.6 Who May Propose Bylaw Changes and Amendments**

Any proposal to amend the Bylaws or add new Bylaws may be made only by Executive Officers of Member Associations, NTSSA Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of NTSSA. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed changes must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation Committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time required in Rule 2.10.5.

#### **2.10.7 Lawsuits Against the Association**

Any person who files a lawsuit or invokes the aid of the courts on their own behalf or as the representative for another person against NTSSA, or its officers, employees, or members or representatives of any of its officers, employees, or members, shall be subject to the sanction of immediate suspension from membership and from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of NTSSA and its affiliates. NTSSA may also elect to subject a person who threatens to file a lawsuit or who threatens to invoke the aid of the courts to the same sanctions of suspension. NTSSA adopts the policy that it is allowed to take full advantage of rights permitted to it by the laws of the State of Texas for “Not-for-Profit” organizations.

#### **2.10.8 Philosophical Statement**

NTSSA adopts a philosophy and policies which meet or exceed the minimum criteria established by USSF that prohibits physical or sexual abuse of or by players, coaches, referees, administrators and spectators, and will take steps necessary to remove from further soccer activities any person found guilty of such.

#### **2.10.9 Indemnification**

NTSSA shall indemnify each of its present or former directors, officers, employees, or official representatives or any person who is or was serving in any capacity at the request of NTSSA against all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person (including, but not limited to, judgments, costs, and counsel fees) in connection with the defense of any pending or threatened litigation to which that person is, or is threatened to be made, partly because that person is or was serving in such a capacity. This right of indemnification may also apply to expenses of litigation, which is compromised or settled, including amounts paid in settlement, if NTSSA approves such settlement. Such an individual shall be indemnified if the individual acted in good faith and in a manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of NTSSA. The termination of any litigation by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the individual did not act in good faith or in the manner the individual reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of NTSSA.

# East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association

2016/2017

## Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents

Any amount payable as indemnification under this bylaw may be paid by NTSSA upon a determination by the Executive Committee, not including those members who have incurred expenses in connection with the litigation for which indemnification is sought, that the individual in question need the standard set forth in this bylaw. If no disinterested Executive Committee members are available, the required determination shall be made by a majority vote of the members of NTSSA.

The Executive Committee may authorize the purchase of insurance on behalf of any persons potentially identifiable under this bylaw. Revised January 2017 24

### CHAPTER 3

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE EAST TEXAS SOCCER ASSOCIATION

General Rules and Regulations of the East Texas Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “ETSA” or Mineola Soccer Association) and its affiliated Members Associations and Leagues:

The seasonal year of this Association shall begin on August 1 and end on August 31 of the following calendar year.

#### 3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this Association or its affiliated members. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have knowingly allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) may be assessed a penalty ranging from probation to a suspension for one (1) year or more, this penalty may be from all soccer activities. The team may be required to forfeit all games in which the unregistered player(s) participated.

#### 3.2 UNREGISTERED/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play. Such players and teams must certify in writing to the appropriate ETSA the nature of any disciplinary actions or injuries sustained while playing unsanctioned play before resuming play in sanctioned activities.

#### 3.3 FRIENDLY GAMES

Friendly games shall be defined as games which:

##### 3.3.1

Are not associated with any other games either played or to be played, and they do not lead to any championship;

##### 3.3.2

Do not lead to any trophy or award;

##### 3.3.3

Do not require a fee to be paid by any player to sponsor;

##### 3.3.4

Are organized

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**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**3.4 SUSPENSIONS**

The **ETSA** and its affiliated members shall honor any and all orders of suspension of players, coaches and referees issued by **ETSA** or its affiliates, if the suspension indicates “suspended from all **ETSA** activities” and due process has been followed. A team which knowingly uses individuals under suspension shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated. Member Associations which knowingly uses individuals (Players, Coaches or Referees) under suspension shall be subject to a formal hearing before **ETSA** and may be subject to sanctions.

**3.5 REFEREES**

In compliance with **USSF** Rules, all referees serving **ETSA** and its affiliated Member Associations shall be in accordance with current rules and regulations of the **USSF** National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.

**3.5.1**

The use of unregistered referees is approved by **ETSA** only if the unregistered referee has attended the required referee training offered by **ETSA**.

**3.5.2**

All **USSF** referee training for certification will be under the direct supervision and direction of the State Referee Committee and State Director of Referee Instruction. No referee instructors other than those specifically trained and certified by **USSF** or the State Director of Referee Instruction are approved as instructors for basic referee clinics.

**3.5.3**

Member Associations that desire to free registered referees for higher level competition may require coaches or adults of their Under 6, Under 8, and Under 10 teams to each officiate one-half of their own games.

**3.5.5**

In accordance with current rules and regulations of the **USSF** National Referee Committee and the **NTSSA** State Referee Committee all referee assignors (or schedulers) must have satisfactorily completed the approved assignor clinic and be registered with **USSF** and **ETSA**. The use of unregistered referee assignors is approved by **ETSA** Officers.

**3.9 PLAYING AGE**

Except where prohibited by **USSF** rules, youth players may participate in older divisions but may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the **ETSA** Executive Committee.

Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player participated. Also, the coach, assistant coach and/or manager of the offending team may be suspended for a period of not less than one year.

**3.11 DISCIPLINE**

All Member Associations are directed to distribute this rule to every youth and adult player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators.

**3.11.1 Authority**

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the East Texas Soccer Association have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **ETSA**, their local playing association, as well as those

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

of the United States Soccer Federation. The ETSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Playing Associations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, team  
Revised January 2017 34

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

representatives and referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of **ETSA** found in violation of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of **ETSA**.

2. All Member Associations and /or Playing Leagues are directed to form their own Appeals and Disciplinary Committees and to hold hearings--**WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT**

As guidance, if the issue at hand was as a result of play, the Playing League will handle the disciplinary matter. All other matters shall be directed to coach/individual/teams home Association.

**3.11.2 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches**

1. All Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials are directed to operate and keep records on a “CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM” for all players/coaches/assistant coaches. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his or her old and new teams. Player suspensions mentioned in this section, including automatic suspensions “from all **ETSA**-sanctioned activities,” include all games (including indoor), organized scrimmages, friendly games, and the like, but do not include team practices.

2. A “CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM” in league play will be operated as follows:

a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual’s third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual’s sixth league play yellow card.

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

b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual’s first league play red card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all **NTSSA**-sanctioned activities following such individual’s second league play red card. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual’s league play red card total.

***NOTE:** In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a “straight red card” (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual’s* Revised January 2017 35

# East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association

2016/2017

## Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents

*respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. If a Member Association's and/or Playing League's A & D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, such A & D Committee may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly. The Member Association or Playing League may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to NTSSA.*

c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all ETSA sanctioned activities.

d. **Exception** When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standings and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or national body that has been charged with the operation of said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games of that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

3. A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for each tournament will be operated as follows:

- a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament.
- b. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

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

b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all ETSA-sanctioned activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

*NOTE: In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. If Tournament Officials determine a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, such officials may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly. The Tournament Officials may not, however, do away with the card altogether.*

c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in tournament play shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with ETSA Committee (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven)

d. **Exceptions**

*For misconduct cards issued during State Cup, Regionals, or National competitions (US Youth Soccer), the misconduct will be handled within that competition.*

The "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by all Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials. Nothing herein prevents Member Associations, Playing Leagues or Tournament Officials from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case Revised  
January 2017 36

# East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association

## 2016/2017

### Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents

should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association. 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.

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the Member Association or Playing League involved and the State A & D Committee. Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach at the next scheduled game (including league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) that such individual's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

All game suspensions must be reported immediately to the State A&D Committee. The Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials making the report will forward a copy of any referee's Misconduct Report(s) which underlie the suspension. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, Playing League or Tournament Officials, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct.

The State A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the State A&D Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

#### Extreme Violent Conduct

a. Member Associations, Playing Leagues and/or Tournament Officials are directed to extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

#### 3.11.3 Misconduct of Adult Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. All Member Associations are directed to operate and keep records on a twelve (12) point “**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**” for all player/coaches/assistant coaches. Offenses resulting in the cautioning of a player/coach/assistant coach by the referee (yellow card) are allowed points according to their seriousness ranging from one (1) to four (4) points. Appeals of cautions (yellow cards) are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the caution. Points are cumulative during each soccer season. When a given player/coach/assistant coach accumulates twelve (12) points sanctions are applied as described in Rule 3.11.3 (3). A player transferring to another team will carry over his or her accumulated points to his or her new team. Reports of these disciplinary actions are to be sent to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee at North Texas State Soccer Association Office.

2. The points of the “**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**” will be allocated as follows:

a. **12 points** Sent off from game due to Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting at Opponent.



**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**3.6 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

**3.6.1 Scope**

1. Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must in the manner prescribed by current ETSA procedures, annually provide the necessary information required by **NTSSA** so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, Adult Volunteers agree and consent to having Criminal Background Checks performed as deemed necessary by **ETSA**

2. For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

**3.6.2 Procedures**

1. Member Associations and Affiliates shall direct volunteers identified in 3.6.1.2 to the **ETSA** Risk Management portal where volunteers shall annually input or update their Volunteer Online Registration / Risk Management Disclosure Form. Member Associations/Affiliates will appoint/elect a Risk Management Coordinator to ensure that every volunteer apply for clearance from **ETSA** prior to the first season/session in which the adult participates.

2. The Risk Management committee will reserves the right to perform Criminal Background Checks annually on each registered adult volunteer.

3. A background check response from the Texas Department of Public Safety or other agency/vendor that is deemed unacceptable by the Risk Management Committee will cause a written notice to be sent to the individual stating that the individual is not eligible to participate and what appeal rights the person has.

4. Should any individual who has received a negative response wish to appeal the finding, an appeal may be filed with the ETSA Risk Management Committee according to the ETSA Procedure for Filing Appeals.

5. At such time as the Risk Management Committee has heard an appeal and rules an individual ineligible, or when the appeal time has elapsed, a letter of notification will be sent to all administrative organizations within ETSA notifying them of the individual's suspension, but not the cause of the suspension.

6. All responses shall be kept in strict confidence.

For ejection from a game due to misconduct after receiving a caution, except for twelve (12) point offenses as stated above, points will be based on two (2) cautions.

***NOTE:** If the Member Association A&D Committee determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the **FIFA** Laws of the Game, the Member Association may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess points for the yellow card. The Member Association may not, however, do away with the card altogether. A full report of this action must be sent to **NTSSA**.*

The **CAUTION** points are to be allocated as follows:

**a. FOUR POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate tripping, tripping and other "tactical", deliberate, physical fouls.
- 2) Foul tackle from behind.
- 3) Interference by other players when the referee is speaking to a player after an offense has been committed.
- 4) Continued dissent of a decision in an attempt to unsettle the referee.

**b. THREE POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate, tactical obstruction.

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

- 2) Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game.
- 3) Shirt pulling and other similar tactics.
- 4) Deliberate encroachment at free-kicks.

c. TWO POINTS

- 1) Deliberate handball designed to break up attack.
- 2) Time wasting, including that by the goalkeeper.
- 3) Moving arms up and down to obstruct an opponent.
- 4) Gesticulating in front of a player taking a free-kick or thrown-in.
- 5) Fails to respect required distance or unsporting behavior at a penalty kick.
- 6) Other unsporting behavior.

d. ONE POINT

- 1) Entering or leaving the field without the referee's permission.
- 2) Player leaning on a teammate to gain an extra height.
- 3) Pulling oneself up by the goal post or crossbar to gain an advantage.

3. ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS

a. Twelve

(12) Accumulated Caution Points - One Game Suspension

b. Six (6) More Points - Two Game Suspension

c. Six (6) More Points - Suspension pending A&D - Committee Inquiry  
Revised January 2017 38

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

*Note: If a player receives two Cautions in a single game, they will be treated as a Send-Off and will not be counted towards the Accumulated Caution Points total.*

**4. SEND-OFF**

- a. One Send-off - One Game Suspension
- b. Second Send-off - Two Game Suspension
- c. Third Send-off - Suspension pending A&D - Committee Inquiry

*NOTE: This is the **minimum** disciplinary punishment taken by all Member Associations on ejections. Nothing herein prevents a Member Association from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.*

6. Any misconduct by a Coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as well as the Member Association with which the coach is affiliated. The Member Association shall promptly (within five (5) days after receipt of the report) rule on the report and send its decision to the State A&D Committee. The Committee will determine the extent of the punishment, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Association.

7. 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, of its own volition, chooses to call one.

8. 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 A&D Committee of both the Member Association involved and the ETSA.

9. Game suspensions for caution points and/or expulsions:

The suspension is to be served by the player/coach/assistant coach/manager/or team representative at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, playoff, championship, cup games, local or state tournament game) that the player's team is involved in. A suspension imposed by **NTSSA** shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify his suspension (to sit out) the next game.

10. All game suspensions must be reported to the State. When an ejection or game suspension under the caution point system is issued to a player, the Member Association or league to which the player is affiliated will forward a copy of the referee's Misconduct Report of the ejection or a copy of the league's Disciplinary Committee report on suspension due to the excessive Caution Points directly to the **NTSSA State Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**, together with the action taken by the Member Association. The State A&D Committee will determine the extent of punishment, if any, in addition to that prescribed by the Member Association, taking into consideration the severity of the misconduct. Each additional caution and/or ejection of said player during the remainder of the soccer year will also be forwarded to the Committee for review and possible further action.

11. The **NTSSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee** will issue its decision based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

12. Extreme Violent Conduct:

The State Member Association's Appeals and Disciplinary Committees are directed to extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

**3.11.4 Misconduct of Spectators**

1. Each team (youth and adult) in ETSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee has the authority to insist that the coach or acting coach deal with the misconduct of the spectators and resolve the problem. Failure to do so may result in the coach's dismissal from the field and/or termination of the match. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he is unable to do so, Member Associations, Playing Leagues and/or Tournament Officials are directed to take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator, or if unidentifiable, towards the team itself. Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.

2. Suggested action for misconduct of spectators is:

- a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
- b. Report spectator to authorities.
- c. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline (cannot keep them off public street or out of parking lot.)
- d. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
- e. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.
- f. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal "peace bond".

**3.11.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams**

1. Youth Association Teams

a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to **NTSSA** within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Member Association and/or Playing League Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. If desired, the Member Association and/or Playing League may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. Failure of the Member Association or Playing League to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's seventh send-off or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

b. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) Tournament Officials shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The parents, coaches, will be required to appear before the committee to explain the team's behavior.

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

3. All Association Teams

- a. The ETSA holds the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.
- b. 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 ETSA committee.

**3.11.7 Misconduct Toward Referee**

1. East Texas Soccer Association has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee, in any competition by the State or Member Associations. This jurisdiction includes:

- a. All **USSF** registered referees (adult and youth).
- b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
- c. Any coach, parent or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.

2. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, managers or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the ETSA Committee. This committee, shall review and investigate the report(s) as submitted, and upon proper investigation shall determine the seriousness of the alleged assault/abuse report(s) in a timely manner.

Should the majority of the members of the subcommittee listed above in Paragraph 3.11.7.2 determine there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault or referee abuse, a formal hearing will be held within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. An intentional act upon or towards a game official as defined in Paragraph 3.11.7.1 above shall be deemed “referee assault” or “referee abuse” in the **NTSSA** under the terms, references, and conditions of **USSF** Policy 531-9.

If the subcommittee determines there is sufficient evidence to consider the incident referee assault, the committee, at its discretion, may suspend the individual involved until the hearing on the alleged assault.

Should the subcommittee, as noted in Paragraph 3.11.7-2 above, determine the action committed to be Misconduct Towards a Referee rather than Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, it shall impose an administrative punishment of a three (3) game suspension. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the suspended party. Should a formal hearing be requested and held, it shall be an **NTSSA** Executive Committee hearing as described in Paragraph

3.11.7.4.

4. State Executive Committee Hearing

Assault hearings shall be conducted by the ETSA Committee in the following manner:

- a. The alleged offending party should be present at such hearings, however, if he is not present, an Executive Committee member will act upon the matter with the information before it.
- b. The game official(s) are required to be present at the hearings. However, if they are not present, the Executive Committee member will act upon the matter with the information before it.
- c. It is intended that the officials’ reports be clear and that no explanations are required at the hearing. Only the Committee member will question the official(s). If the offending party or any other party or any other person(s) need explanation, such queries will be addressed through the committee member.

5. Terms and References

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

a. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.). Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

b. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as, "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece", shall be deemed referee abuse.

c. Misconduct towards a referee means persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or abuse as provided under Federation Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:

i. excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee;

ii. statements that diminish the authority of the referee;

iii. statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee.

iv. Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:

1. confronting the referee without physically threatening the referee;

2. spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee;

3. throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee;

4. re-entering the field.

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, but apply only in the following situations:

i. if a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or

ii. if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.

## 6. Penalties and Suspensions

### a. Referee Assault

The person committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

1. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least three (3) months from the time of the assault;

2. except as provided in clause one (1) or two (2), for any other assault, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;

3. for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or

4. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

### b. Referee Abuse

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

The person committing the referee abuse shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.  
c. Misconduct Towards a Referee

The person committing the misconduct towards a referee shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games.

d. Any suspension assessed against an individual under this section does not effect any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league for a violation that is not referee assault or abuse.

7. Any party found to have committed the act of referee assault, referee abuse, or misconduct towards a referee shall have the right to appeal, within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, to the **USSF Appeals Board**, following **USSF Bylaw 705**.

8. Assault On Officials By An Adult Player

If committee finds fault in offending party, this person will be subject to a fine made payable to East Texas Soccer Association. In the amount of \$100.00. Maybe be subject to criminal charges.

**3.11.8 Misconduct of Referees**

When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another referee, the ETSA Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to his activities.

**3.13 GAME PROTESTS**

**3.13.1**

There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:

1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or
2. 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.

**3.13.2**

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 decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the *Revised January 2017 45*

referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the local referee’s group or the State Referee Committee.

**3.13.3**

Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the match shall not be entertained by any protest committee or board unless an objection has been lodged with the match referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match.

When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the protest committee of the Member Association under whose direct jurisdiction the match was played. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protestor won the match) except by consent of said protest committee.

**3.13.4**

# East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association

## 2016/2017

### Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents

A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all of the games in which the player participated. A coach, assistant coach, and/or manager of the team playing such player shall be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The offending player may be suspended from soccer

#### 3.14 NTSSA RULES OF COMPETITION

*Please see Rule 3.14-3.17 at the end of this rulebook if the Member Association is not adopting 3.14 below until 09-01-2017.*

**FIFA** Laws of the Game as Modified (recommended 2016/2017; mandated 2017/2018)

The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of **NTSSA** and its affiliated members shall be the **FIFA** Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

##### 3.14.1 Law I - Field of Play

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes: **Age**

##### **Groups**

##### **Adult**

	<b>Field Width</b>	<b>Field Length</b>	<b>Goal Size</b>
All Ages	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 120 yds.	8ft. x24 ft.

##### **Youth**

Under 19	Max. 80 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 16	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 14	Max. 75 yds.	Max. 112 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
Under 12	44 - 55 yds.	70 – 80 yds.	6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.
Under 10	35 – 45 yds.	55 – 65 yds..	6.5 ft. x 18.5 ft.
Under 8 and younger	15 – 25 yds.	25 – 35 yds.	4 ft. x 6 ft.

##### 3.14.2 Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:



**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**Groups Ball Size**

Over 40, Over 35, Over 30, Under 23,  
Adult, Under 19, Under 16 and Under 14 Size #5  
Under 12 and Under 10 Size #4  
Under 8 and Under 6 Size #3

**3.14.3 Law III - Number of Players and Substitution**

1. Under 13 and older shall play 11v11.
2. Under 12 shall play 9v9
3. Under 10 shall play 7v7
4. Under 8 and younger shall play 4v4 with no goal keeper.
5. Substitution Rule – Youth under 8 and older
  - a. At a throw-in, by team in possession only;
  - b. Either team, at a goal-kick;
  - c. Either team, after a goal is scored;
  - d. Either team at an injury, when the referee stops the play;
  - e. At halftime/period
  - f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.

\*\*\* ETSA allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for those Youth Member Associations who want to use it in the Under 7 and younger age groups only.

The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period.

6. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player’s time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).

7. **Substitution Rule - Adults:** FIFA rules for substitution will apply.

8. Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

- Adult – maximum 25 players
- Under 16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players
- Under 14 – maximum 18 players
- Under 12 – maximum 16 players
- Under 10 – maximum 12 players
- Under 8 and younger– recommend 6, maximum 8 players

**3.14.4 Law IV - Player’s Equipment**

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

Each player shall have a number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the **FIFA** Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

**3.14.5 Law V - Referee \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA** -Except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. Registered Referees
2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach
3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
  
5. Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players

**3.14.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee**

Properly trained and registered referees may be used by Member Associations for Under 9 and older There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

**3.14.7 Law VII - Duration of Game**

**Age Groups Length of Periods Length of Overtime**

**Adult**

Adult Two 45 min. Two 15 min.

**Youth**

Under 19 Two 45 min. Two 15 min.

Under 16 Two 40 min. Two 15 min.

Under 14 Two 35 min. Two 10 min.

Under 12 Two 30 min. Two 10 min.

Under 10 Two 25 min. Two 10 min.

Under 8 Three 15 min. None

Under 7 and younger Four 8 min. None

**3.14.8 Law VIII - Start of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.**

**3.14.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA**

**3.14.10 Law X - Method of Scoring \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Adult Coed play, two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player if local playing rules so provide.**

**3.14.11 Law XI - Off-Side \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger there is no offside.**

**3.14.12 Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED** in any youth play in ETSA. 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." Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per **FIFA** laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved.

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

2. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.
4. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line.
5. \*U12 and younger recreational play shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. 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.  
\*In competitive and international play, U11 and younger is highly recommended
6. For players in U12 and U13, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

**3.14.13 Law XIII - Free Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.**

**3.14.14 Law XIV - Penalty Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for no penalty kicks in Under 8 and younger.**

**3.14.15 Law XV - Throw-In \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and Under 7 are allowed a re-throw. Under 6 and younger may use kick-in.**

**3.14.16 Law XVI - Goal Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.**

**3.14.17 Law XVII - Corner Kick \*\*\* Conforms with FIFA except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.**

*NOTE: Adult and/or youth teams which travel out of the U.S.A., for competition, especially tournaments, should be prepared to play pure FIFA Laws of the Game, including two to five maximum substitutions, in a match (with no re-entry after substitution), legal charging of goalkeeper in possession, etc.)*

**3.15 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT**

If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the respective authority, the respective authority shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

**3.16 CHANGES**

These Rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at either the Semi-Annual or Annual General Meeting provided twenty-one (21) days written or electronic notice of the meeting, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes or additions, have been submitted to the membership. Any changes or additions to these rules that are approved by this membership shall immediately become a part of these rules, and all Member Associations shall receive a written or electronic copy of the new rule or amendment of the rule within forty-five (45) days.

Where a quorum is present at the above meetings, it will take a majority vote of the members present at the meeting to pass new rules or to change or amend present rules. Revised January 2017 49

**East Texas Soccer Association – Mineola Soccer Association**  
**2016/2017**  
**Bylaws and Rules Table of Contents**

**3.17 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

Any proposal to amend the rules or add new rules may be made only by Executive Officers of Member Associations, **ETSA** Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of **MINEOLA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**. Changes submitted by a member of a properly constituted committee must pertain to the duties and scope of that committee. Any proposed change must be submitted to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulation committee on the proper form ninety (90) days prior to the next meeting of this Association for review and distribution to the membership within the allotted time frame required in Rule 3.19.