

LEAYSA - SOCCER

Little Elm Area Youth Sports Association - Soccer
Rules and Regulations

RULES & REGULATIONS

OF

LITTLE ELM AREA YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION - SOCCER

(LEASYA-SOCCER)

A MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF
LITTLE ELM AREA YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION
(LEAYSA)

<http://www.leaysa.com>

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To: Coaches, Parents, and Players:

Little Elm Area Youth Sports Association - Soccer (LEAYSA-Soccer) welcomes all new and returning coaches and players for another season of recreational soccer.

Thank you for your participation and all of your efforts.

Please keep in mind that we are here to have fun. In addition to fun, we are here to foster, advance and generally promote the essence of the game and fair play through good sportsmanship, honesty and integrity. The development of ALL players should be your major focus. Your season will be a success if all players are encouraged to reach their own personal potential and at the same time are allowed to be children and enjoy the game of soccer.

LEAYSA-Soccer is a Member Association of Little Elm Area Youth Sports Association (LEAYSA) and as such, we adopt the LEAYSA By-Laws as our own. LEAYSA Member Associations MAY NOT alter, amend, repeal, or adopt new Bylaws, Rules or Regulations without approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the LEAYSA Board of Directors. Motions for amendments to Bylaws, Rules and Regulations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting if said meeting is held in conjunction with the LEAYSA Annual Meeting in May or June without advance notice.

LEAYSA-Soccer is a member of North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and are obligated to follow their rules to continue to be a Member Association in good standing. NTSSA is associated with United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The referees on the field will either be qualified FIFA Referees or Junior Linesmen and will be following the FIFA "Laws of the Game" as modified for small sided games used by youth leagues. Due to annual changes in the FIFA "Laws of the Game", we will not attempt to annually restate the soccer rules, from which all games are based, including youth recreational soccer. It is our recommendation that the readers obtain a copy of the FIFA "Laws of the Game" or refer to the section in question by reference to FIFA and NTSSA through our website, <http://www.leaysa.org>. Only modified rules for youth and any LEAYSA-SOCCER specific rules will be shown in this document. Forms are available on the website. Sections that follow may refer the reader to rules, regulations, or updates made available through the following sources:

North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) www.ntxsoccer.org

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) www.fifa.com

United States Soccer Federation (USSF) www.ussoccer.com

Little Elm Independent School District (LEISD) www.leisd.ws

The Town of Little Elm (Town) www.littleelmtx.us

Little Elm Area Youth Sports Association - Soccer (LEAYSA-Soccer) www.leaysa.com

Little Elm Area Youth Sports Association (LEAYSA) www.leaysa.com

Affiliation with The North Texas State Soccer Association,

This Association shall be directly affiliated with and comply with the authority of, the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and shall represent all its members and respective interests in and before the North Texas State Soccer Association.

Superseding Authority of NTSSA Rules,

The Association recognizes the superseding authority of the rules of the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

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RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE LITTLE ELM AREA YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION – SOCCER

- 1) SOCCER YEAR: September 1 through August 31
- 2) RECOMMENDED PLAYING SEASONS
 - (1) Fall: September 1 through November 30
 - (2) Spring: February 1 through May 31
- 3) AGE REQUIREMENTS:
 - a) The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on July 31st of the immediately preceding Soccer Year as defined in NTSSA Administrative Rule 4.1.2.
 - b) Players who are four years of age before January 1 of the current Soccer Year will be permitted to participate in the U-5 age division in the Spring Season.
 - c) Those players who desire to play "up" to a higher age bracket will be allowed to "play up" a maximum of one year, provided written permission is submitted to the Coaching Director by the parents or legal guardian of the player.
 - (1) If a team requests to "play up" in the upper division age group, they must understand and agree to the following:
 - (2) Each member shall have written permission as a current member of that team
 - (3) They will continue to move up with the other teams currently in the upper division age group. They will always play at least 1 year above his/her age
 - (4) Under no circumstances will they be allowed to "drop down" or "play down" to their original age division, unless the team is disbanded and all the players on the current roster will be returned to the player pool.
 - (5) Individual consideration will be given to a player wanting to return to his "age pure" age division, with full understanding that the player will be placed in the player pool. The player will be placed on a team based on team space available. The player is not guaranteed a team spot. No "team" requests will be accepted or honored.
- 4) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:
 - a) A properly executed registration for membership (contract) for each player must be submitted to the Association along with the proper fee prior to the start of the Fall Season.
 - b) For the Spring Season, all new players must submit a properly executed contract and fee. Returning players may submit fee only.
 - c) The original of all player contracts will be held by the coach of the team they are assigned to. One copy will be held by the Association and the Registrar.
 - d) Proof of age is required on each new player before they can be registered. The Executive Committee may require re-examination of proof of age in the event of a dispute.
 - e) The coach of each team must submit a legible copy of the Team Roster to the League Scheduler by the team registration date for the Fall Season.
 - f) The coach of each team must submit a legible copy of the Add/Delete sheet to the League Scheduler by the team registration date for the Spring Season.
 - g) In the case of a new team being formed in the Spring Season, the coach must submit a legible copy of the Team Roster to the Registrar and League Scheduler before the team registration date.
 - h) No team will begin play without having submitted properly executed documents.
 - i) Teams residing outside the LEAYSA-SOCCER boundaries that are approved for participation in LEAYSA-SOCCER shall be required to pay any applicable fees before they will be scheduled for any games within the Association.

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- j) Should a player or team withdraw or be expelled from LEAYSA-SOCCER for any reason, no part of the fees that have been paid shall be returned.
 - k) New player contracts for registration may not be signed prior to July 15 for the Fall Season.
 - l) Player registration forms (contracts) shall be valid for one Soccer Year. All players must sign a new contract at the start of the Soccer Year
 - m) A player, upon registering with a team, must stay with that team for the entire Soccer Year. No transfers or releases will be allowed during the Soccer Year except for reasons stated in Rule #6.
 - n) If a player drops off a team during the Soccer Year without a release, he will not be allowed to play for any other team during that Soccer Year.
 - o) Any player on a Team Roster has the option of returning to that team or going into the player pool for assignment to a new team. At no time will any team requests be granted for any reason except for the following reasons during regular registration times.
 - (1) U5 & U6 teams may request teams, teammates and/or as defined in NTSSA Administrative Rule 4.7.6.1.c.
 - (2) U7 & up may not have any requests.
 - (3) All requests are not guaranteed.
 - p) Players not returning to existing teams within one year of leaving said team, shall be placed in the player pool, from which they will be randomly assigned.
 - q) No player may be contracted and added to a Team Roster after the third game of the season has been played by the team, unless the number of players on the roster drops below the minimum set by the Association.
 - r) Contracts and an Add/Delete sheet must be submitted to the Registrar and League Scheduler at least forty-eight hours prior to the first game in which the new player participates. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of all games in which the added player(s) played.
 - s) Allowing a player, for whom LEAYSA-SOCCER holds no contract, to play in any game shall result in forfeiture of all games in which that player participated.
 - t) The player and/or coach may be suspended from participation in LEAYSA-SOCCER for a period of one year for any violation of the above.
- 5) RELEASES:
- a) Any player under contract with any team in the NTSSA who desires to have his contract nullified, must have a release.
 - b) In the event of serious incompatibilities in the player/coach relationship that has been documented with the League President, the player or coach may request such a release through the President. Any resulting action requires approval of the Executive Committee.
 - c) The child of any head coach who desires to play on the parent's team shall request such a release through the Registrar and/or League Scheduler.
 - d) A temporary release may be granted by the President in accordance with NTSSA, for the purpose of playing and practicing as a guest player in any tournament that allows guest players with the permission of the parent of the player, with the understanding that the Coach using the guest player may not in any way offer the player a contract to play on his team in the current or following season.
 - e) Other releases may be granted based on the applicable NTSSA Rules.
- 6) RECRUITING:
- a) There shall be no recruiting.
 - b) It will be assumed that a team has recruited if it can be established that any representative of the team in question has actively solicited a player under contract to another team to join their team by talking to the player or player's parent or having anyone else talk to the team members or their parents.
 - c) For any violation of this rule, the Coach concerned and all offending parties shall appear before the Board of Directors. The Coach and all participating persons may be suspended from participation in LEAYSA-SOCCER for a minimum of one year.

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7) DISBANDMENTS:

- a) Any registered team is considered under contract with LEAYSA-SOCCER and shall not be disbanded without prior consideration of the Directors.
- b) The coach and/or manager, prior to resigning, will inform the Directors of their intentions.
- c) If the coach and/or manager cannot find a successor, the President and/or Coaches Director will “adopt” the team temporarily and assist the players’ parents in selecting and securing new leadership.
- d) If, after all possible efforts by the President, Coaches Director and team, a new coach and/or manager cannot be found, the President and/or Coaches Director will declare each player a free agent and will make every effort to place each player on a team.

8) TEAM FORMATION:

- a) Team formation will be handled under the direction of the League Scheduler with assistance from the Board of Directors if requested.
- b) Teams will be formed using a “blind draw” format, so that no coach has advanced knowledge of the child they are selecting to the team.
- c) The blind draw must occur so that no team has an advantage over another.
- d) A suggested format is:
 - (1) Teams draw for order of the actual blind draw
 - (2) The team with the least number of players draws first, regardless of order within the draw. That team continues drawing until they have the same number of players as the team with the next fewest players.
 - (3) Based on the draw order, the teams with fewer players will draw until the number of players on each team is equal.
 - (4) This process will continue until all of the players in the pool are chosen.
 - (5) To ensure fairness amongst the teams, the team that drew first in one round, will draw last in the next round. This will allow all teams to draw first through the course of the draw.

9) UNIFORMS:

- a) LEAYSA will provide uniforms for all teams. Uniforms will be supplied for the soccer year (fall and spring). Additional uniforms will be supplied for new teams and new players that sign up in the spring.
- b) Teams may provide their own uniforms, if they agree, in writing, to the following:
 - (1) Teams acknowledge that LEAYSA will not provide a uniform during the entire soccer year (fall and spring).
 - (2) A sponsor must be obtained to cover the cost of the uniform.
 - (3) An individual player, or their family, will never be required to cover any of the cost (except for replacement necessary because of the players use of the uniform, including, but not limited to loss of the uniform and out growing the uniform). Additional players added to a team during the soccer year are not considered a replacement.
 - (4) A sponsor must specify in writing if they are sponsoring the team, or the players. If the team is sponsored, the team may request the uniforms back, to be used by new players the following season. If the sponsorship is for the players, the players will not be required to return any items to the team (including uniforms).
- c) A violation of the above will result in removal of the coach. If the same team violates these rules again, the team may be disbanded.

10) LEAGUE STRUCTURE:

- a) The President and/or Coaches Director or a designated committee will determine competitive strength and skill level of all teams within a league. The Board or Committee members may solicit assistance for this responsibility, but the final decision is that of the President.

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- b) Under-5 through Under-9 play is noncompetitive. Standings will not be kept and champions will not be named. An award will be presented to each player.
 - c) Standings will be kept and champions named to each Division in each age group for Under-10 and up. For age divisions that play inter-association, standings will be kept in accordance with inter-association rules. For age divisions that play only within LEAYSA-SOCCER, standings and champions will be determined as follows:
 - (1) Three points will be given for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss.
 - (2) Trophies will be awarded as follows:
 - (a) Two (2) or three (3) team leagues - 1st Place
 - (b) Four (4) or five (5) team leagues - 1st, 2nd Place
 - (c) Six (6) through eight (8) team leagues - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place
 - (d) Nine (9) or more teams - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place
 - d) In the event of a tie in season standings for First and Second place in a league, the champion will be determined by the 10-point tournament rule system, as stated in NTSSA Tournament Rule 5.a (which can be found in NTSSA Administrative Rules Chapter 8).
 - e) In the event of a tie in the three-point system, and a tie in the 10-point system, the champion will be determined by a play-off game. This game will be a full-length game as determined by that age group.
 - f) Overtime periods will be utilized and, if necessary, kicks from the penalty spot in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game will be used to determine the winner if a championship game ends in a tie.
 - (1) OVERTIME PERIODS:
 - (a) U10 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - (b) U12 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - (c) U14 Two (2) ten (10) minute halves
 - (d) U16 Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves
 - (e) U19 Two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves
- 11) GAME PROCEDURES:
- a) Teams must remain within the technical area (coaches box) designated by the Association. Parents and spectators must remain in the spectator area as designated by the Association. Only players and team personnel listed on the roster, who have completed an NTSSA background check, may occupy the technical area. A maximum of three registered team personnel may occupy the technical area with the team, as long as they are in possession of a NTSSA coach identification card.
 - b) The Home team of the first game at each field is responsible for chalking the field and placing corner flags on the field. If the field is not chalked within the Forfeit grace period, as defined in League Rule #16 below, the referee can call the game an abandonment against the home team.
 - c) The Home team of the last game at each field is responsible for returning the corner flags to the storage area.
 - d) The Visiting team is requested to assist the Home team with chalking the fields.
- 12) SCRIMMAGES:
- a) All scrimmages will be in full uniform with a referee.
 - b) All scrimmages will be scheduled through the League Scheduler.
 - c) The teams involved are responsible for finding and paying the referee and for any equipment needed.
- 13) FOUL WEATHER:
- a) The referee or League Scheduler has the authority to postpone a game because of weather conditions.
 - b) Teams must report to the playing fields ready to play unless previously officially notified. Information regarding cancellations will be posted on the Association answering machine and/or web site. Coaches must not assume that a game has been postponed or canceled.
 - c) The Referee Assignor will notify the respective Directors of all games postponed or suspended by referees. Notification of postponement must be made to the Directors within twelve hours.

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- d) If a game is suspended because of foul weather before the second half has started, that game shall be replayed from the start. If a game is suspended after the second half has begun, the game shall be considered a full game.

14) RESCHEDULING GAMES:

- a) The League Scheduler will be responsible for all age groups relating to rescheduled games, when necessary including for adverse field or weather conditions. The reschedule request will only be honored if the function prohibits the team from fielding enough players to play. Requests for reschedule must be submitted in writing to the League Scheduler at least 14 days before the scheduled game. The Board of Directors will decide on the request after consulting with the League Scheduler. The Board of Directors or a designated committee will notify both teams (Coach or Manager) and of their decision, on the request for the rescheduled game.
- b) Rescheduling games because of adverse field or weather conditions will be the sole responsibility of the Association. The decision to delete or reschedule games due to adverse field or weather conditions will be the responsibility of the President, League Scheduler and Referee Assignor or a designated committee. The League Scheduler may notify teams of schedule changes.
- c) A team may request one weekend bye per season. The request must be submitted in writing to the League Scheduler at least three (3) weeks prior to the beginning of scheduled play. The Association will make every effort to grant the request. But field limitations, inter-association scheduling, etc. may make it impossible for the Association to grant the request. The League Scheduler will notify the requesting team of the decision before the beginning of scheduled play.

15) FORFEITS:

- a) A fifteen-minute grace period will be allowed after the starting time. A forfeit for the team not in attendance will be declared after fifteen minutes. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team arrives within fifteen minutes of game time.
- b) A forfeit is equivalent to a loss.
- c) Failure of a team representative to complete documentation may result in a forfeiture of said game.
- d) The Coaches Director will notify both coaches upon forfeiture of a game.
- e) The results of a forfeit will not be official until forty-eight hours after the coaches have been notified and all appeals have been exhausted.

16) GAME PROTESTS:

- a) Game protests shall be made in writing to the Coaches Director or appropriate Committee. All protests must be accompanied with a \$25.00 check made payable to LEAYSA-SOCCER. If their protest is upheld, the fee will be returned.
- b) Protests filed involving the referee must be made within forty-eight hours of the game being protested. Judgment calls by the referee shall not be protested.
- c) Protests of any other type shall be made within five days to the Coaches Director or the appropriate Committee, who will take the required action within five days.

17) APPEALS:

- a) Refer to LEAYSA Bylaws Article IX, Rules, Regulations, Procedures for Appeal

18) NTSSA RULE #3.11:

- a) All members are charged with the responsibility of seeing that this rule is distributed to every coach, administrator, and referee. It is intended that each coach will make known these contents to their parents and spectators.

19) COACHES / PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES:

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- a) Coaches and parents are reminded that there is a responsibility, which must be met, not only to their players, but also to LEAYSA-SOCCER. The following actions by the coaching staff and/or parents is strictly forbidden in all related soccer activities:
 - (1) Foul or abusive language
 - (2) Harassment or acts of aggression toward players, league officials, referees or spectators
 - (3) Accepting any form of assistance from any person officially suspended from all soccer activities by NTSSA or LEAYSA-SOCCER
 - (4) Any other conduct contrary to the rules and/or spirit of the rules of NTSSA or LEAYSA-SOCCER
 - (5) Any violation of the above may result in a warning, and/or suspension from all LEAYSA-SOCCER related activities for an indefinite period of time.
- 20) COACHES LICENSES:
- a) Coaches are required to have a coaching license. The license level requirements are:
 - (1) U5-U8: G or higher or equivalent National coaching license
 - (2) U9-U12: F or higher or equivalent National coaching license
 - (3) U13-U19: E or higher or equivalent National coaching license
 - b) A coach may coach the first season without the required license, but the license must be obtained by the end of that first season. For example, when a team moves to U9, the coach has until the end of the team's first season to obtain an F license.
 - c) If the license is not obtained by the end of that season, the coach may not coach the next season.
- 21) PAID COACHING:
- a) Recreational teams registered in LEAYSA-SOCCER shall be allowed no more than five private practices conducted by a paid coach within any single Soccer Season. This shall not apply to individual players who seek the private tutoring of a soccer coach or to participation in organized soccer clinics.
 - b) Paid coaches shall not have a role in coaching a recreational team while that team is playing a game sanctioned by NTSSA.
- 22) COMPETITIVE (SELECT) TEAMS:
- a) Competitive teams must have the Executive Committee's approval of their operating rules, prior to being considered operational within LEAYSA-SOCCER.
 - b) Teams registering with LEAYSA-SOCCER and wishing to play outside LEAYSA-SOCCER shall be required to pay any applicable fees before they will be given a Team Release.
 - c) Protests relating to the club requirements will be heard only when they apply to violations of the LEAYSA-SOCCER Constitution, By-Laws, or League Rules or NTSSA Rules.
- 23) REQUIRED SUBSTITUTIONS:
- a) Players must be substituted for and may not re-enter the game until the next appropriate substitution time in these situations:
 - (1) A player whose injury required the stoppage of play.
 - (2) A player who received a caution.
 - b) A player that is bleeding must be substituted for and may not re-enter the game until the next appropriate substitution time after the bleeding has been attended to.
- 24) PLAYING TIME:
- a) All players must play a minimum of 50% of each game at which they are present.
 - b) If a player is injured and must come out of the game, that player may be substituted back in at the first available time to allow the player to play their 50% requirement.
 - c) A player, whose coach has documentation for disciplinary action, must still play a minimum of 25% of the game.