Van Soccer Association

Articles of Organization
Bylaws
Rules and Regulations

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1. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF THE VAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

1.1 ARTICLE ONE

The name of the organization is The Van Soccer Association, hereafter referred to as VSA.

1.2 ARTICLE TWO

This organization is a nonprofit association. The Association will conduct its business in a manner conforming to its purpose as set forth in Article 1.4 (Article Four) of its Articles of Organization, being careful to comply with all rules and regulations as set forth under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

1.3 ARTICLE THREE

The period of its duration is perpetual

1.4 ARTICLE FOUR

The purpose of VSA is to promote and advance the game of soccer, to provide the opportunity for fun and recreation, to develop leadership, sportsmanship, physical fitness, and courage through competition and to provide competent leadership for the attainment of a successful soccer program.

1.5 ARTICLE FIVE

The Executive Officers shall determine membership requirements. VSA 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 youth soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

1.6 ARTICLE SIX

VSA will operate under the City of Van, Texas. The headquarters of VSA shall be in the City of Van, Texas.

2. BYLAWS OF THE VAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

The following abbreviations are used throughout the bylaws and rules:
NTSSA – North Texas State Soccer Association
USSF – United States Soccer Federation | **USYSA** – United States Youth Soccer Association
FIFA – Federation Internationale de Football | **IFAB** – International Football Association Board

2.1 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

The Membership of VSA shall be comprised of adults and youth that have applied to VSA with the approval of the Executive Officers. The Membership shall be comprised of the following types:

2.1.1 Player

Any boy or girl within the age limits set forth by VSA is eligible for membership. A Registration approved by an Executive Officer together with the payment of all required fees is evidence of such membership.

2.1.2 Associate Member

Any individual who has an interest in aiding the objectives of VSA and agrees to abide by the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of VSA is eligible for membership.

2.1.3 Coach

Any individual 18 years of age or older, although the Executive Officers may approve exceptions for age, who
- subscribes and agrees to uphold Article Four of the Articles of Organization,
- abides by VSA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, and
- is approved by the Executive Officers is eligible for membership.

1. Each Team is required to have a Team Coach and at least one Assistant Coach.

2. An Assistant Coach must register with the Division Commissioner prior to the first game of the Playing Season.

3. The Executive Officers recommend that each Coach attend a “G” clinic or the Executive Officers may reconsider their position.

4. An Assistant Coach may be under the age of 18 if directly supervised by an adult Head Coach for the purpose of experience and learning.

2.2 ARTICLE II – GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION

2.2.1 Government of Association

The Voting Membership shall govern this Association, which shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Association and the recognized delegate from each Team, each of whom shall be entitled to their Team's vote. The Membership will not accept proxies for voting purposes. No delegate shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Team. Anyone may speak provided he has the permission of the chair.

2.2.2 Affiliations

VSA shall be a direct member of, and comply with the Authority of, NTSSA.

2.2.3 Superseding Authority of the NTSSA Rules

VSA recognized the superseding authority and precedence of the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of NTSSA for those matters that are covered by NTSSA, and VSA and its members will abide by those articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements.

VSA will allow NTSSA to review the documents and procedures of VSA at the request of NTSSA to determine compliance with the NTSSA Bylaws.

2.2.4 Territory of the Association

The jurisdiction of VSA shall be the Van Independent School District and surrounding school districts without a presiding soccer association or if approved by the Executive Officers.

2.3 ARTICLE III – MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION

2.3.1 Monthly General Membership and Executive Officer Meetings

VSA shall hold a monthly meeting. General Membership Meetings shall be 10 times per year with January and July being Executive Officer Meetings.

The President shall designate the time and place of the Meeting. The order of business of such meeting shall be:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Financial Report

- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

2.3.2 Quorum

Two-thirds of the Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present at a Monthly or Special Meeting, VSA may not vote on any business.

2.3.3 Majority Vote; Withdrawal of Quorum

When a quorum is present at any meeting, the majority vote of the Voting Membership present at such meeting shall decide any question and may continue to transact business until adjournment, even though enough members withdraw to leave less than a quorum.

1. The Voting Membership shall be composed of the Executive Officers and the Team Delegates.

    a. The Team Delegate shall be the Team Coach or registered Assistant Coach, who is entitled to cast one (1) vote.

    b. A Player shall not have a vote.

    c. Voting Membership entitles each individual one (1) vote irrespective of the number of Coach and Office positions they may hold, excluding the President.

2. At any Monthly Meeting of VSA at which a quorum is present and 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, these Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present Voting Membership.

2.4 ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2.4.1 Executive Officers

The Executive Officers shall transact the business and affairs of VSA and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Games, Bylaws and Rules of the USSF and its National Associations, and NTSSA of which VSA is a member, and the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of VSA.

2.4.2 Removal

Any member, including an Executive Officer, shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence in their ability to remain a member in good standing. Any three (3) Members, simultaneously, may call for a vote of no confidence in another Member whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or whose actions constitute severe improprieties or other serious irregularities The vote of no confidence must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Voting Membership present.

2.4.3 Attendance at Meetings

An Executive Officer not attending three (3) consecutive meetings will have this office declared vacant unless the Executive Officers excuse such absences.

2.4.4 Vacancies

In the event any Executive Office becomes vacant, the President shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy for the length of the unexpired term.

2.4.5 Election

Election of the Executive Officers shall be by a show of hands of the Membership present and eligible to vote. The Membership of VSA shall declare as elected the individual receiving the greatest number of votes cast. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote by written ballot will declare the winner.

2.4.7 Compensation

The Executive Officers shall serve without salary for their services, excluding the Director of Concessions. The Director of Concessions may be eligible for compensation as voted on by Executive Officers. Any Executive Officer may be reimbursed for expenses previously approved.

2.4.7 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.

2.4.8 Veto of Executive Officers Action

A majority vote of the Voting Membership present at the meeting following an action of the Executive Officers will veto that action.

2.5 ARTICLE V – NOTICE

2.5.1 Manner of Giving Notice

Whenever, these Rules and Regulation require notice to be given to any member of VSA, such notice will be in writing and may be delivered by electronic mail (e-mail), text message, or other electronic communication, or by telephone call. Notice shall be deemed given when the message is sent to the email address, phone number, or other contact information appearing in the records of VSA.

2.6 ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: Powers and Duties

2.6.1 Executive Officers

The Voting Membership shall elect the Executive Officers for a term of two (2) years. An Executive Officer may succeed themselves in office. Any Executive Officer that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the Office held 30 days prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the June Monthly Meeting with one-half of the Executive Committee being elected each year in the following manner:

- President (Elected odd years)
- Vice President (Elected even years)
- Director Registered USSF Referee (Elected odd years)
- Director of Scheduling/Registrar (Elected even years)
- Director of Concession Stand (Elected odd years)
- Director of Field Maintenance (Elected even years)
- Director of Tournaments (Elected odd years)
- Division Commissioner (Elected even years)
- Secretary (Elected odd years)
- Treasurer (Elected even years)

2.6.2 President

The President shall serve as the principle executive officer of VSA, liaising with NTSSA, the City of Van, Texas and all other legal entities. The President shall be responsible for:

- seeing that administrative policies and operations of VSA are carried out.

- assigning duties to all Executive Officers as required.
- appointing all committees as seen necessary to carry out the functions of VSA and serve as an ex-officio member of any committee.
- calling discretionary meetings and designating the time and place.
- presiding at all VSA meetings.
- casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting, or waiving the right to do so.
- taking prudent and reasonable action in any cases not covered by these Bylaws with the approval of the Voting Members.

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 Officers shall appoint an individual to serve for the remaining unexpired term of office.

2.6.3 Vice President

The Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the office of the President when the President is absent or temporarily incapacitated and when doing so will have the powers of and be subject to the restrictions of the President.

The Vice President shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President, including but not limited to:

- responsibility for annually reviewing the VSA articles of organization, bylaws, rules, and regulations and proposing changes, as required, to keep them in alignment with articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of NTSSA.
- maintaining a list of rules and regulations enacted by NTSSA, of which VSA is a member

2.6.4 Director Registered USSF Referees

The Director Registered USSF Referees shall be a registered USSF Referee and will be appointed by the majority of the registered Referees assigned to VSA. The Director Registered USSF Referee shall be responsible for:

- administration of the registration, instruction, and assessment of USSF Referees to be assigned to VSA games in compliance with the programs

and policies of NTSSA and the USSF National Referee Committee.

- assigning or designating assignment of Referees to games.
- providing a request of funds to the Treasurer and compensating the Referees.
- maintaining all records concerning the Referees.
- providing game card and any card offenses to the Division Commissioner.

2.6.5 Director of Scheduling/Registrar

The Director of Scheduling/Registrar will be responsible for

- setting up the registration for the new Playing Season.
- providing the Division Commissioner with a roster for each team prior to the first game of the Playing Season.
- registering all players and teams with NTSSA at least once each year.
- coordinating with the Treasurer to ensure timely pay of all related dues and fees to NTSSA prior to their specified deadline.
- scheduling and coordinating rescheduling of games.

2.6.6 Director of Concession Stand

The Director of Concession Stand is responsible for maintaining the operation of the concession stand facilities under the direction of the standard operating procedures and the Executive Officers.

2.6.7 Director of Field Maintenance

The Director of Field Maintenance is responsible for scheduling volunteers to maintain the VSA soccer fields and maintaining equipment for field maintenance.

2.6.8 Director of Tournaments

The Director of Tournaments will be responsible to

- plan, establish, approve, and sanction all tournament play sponsored by and under VSA
- administer all rules and regulations of tournament play. However, when such tournament play is conducted for NTSSA, such rules and regulations will be superseded by those of NTSSA.
- coordinate tournament play scheduling with the Division Commissioner; rules and regulations with the Director Registered USSF Referees • hear appeals by concerned Members submitted within seventy-two (72) hours of the formal announcement, but at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the

commencement of the tournament, and render a decision within twenty-four (24) hours

2.6.9 Division Commissioner

The Division Commissioner is responsible for:

- registering all coaches and assistant coaches with NTSSA at least once each year, including the issuing of requests for Adult Criminal Background Checks and reviewing responses to notify an individual who is not eligible to participate.
- supervising the formation of Teams at the beginning of each Playing Season, including requests for Player Release, and assigning both coaches and assistant coaches. .
- promoting the desire for the highest quality coaching standards and assisting all Coaches in achieving the highest quality coaching standard.
- maintaining all records pertaining to the play of each game and determining division standings.
- making initial decisions concerning disputes and misconduct; maintaining records of misconduct; and, as required, notifying the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee for a ruling.
- scheduling and distribution of team and individual pictures as a fund raiser.
- submitting funding request for and ordering of participation awards and trophies.

2.6.10 Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for:

- contacting the Voting Membership about meetings.
- recording and maintaining minutes of all Monthly Meetings and providing copies of the previous meeting minutes at those meetings.
- annually providing to NTSSA copies of the VSA Articles & Rules and submitting changes to those documents to NTSSA for approval no later than ninety (90) days after adoption, and making those documents publicly available.
- all correspondences deemed necessary by VSA.

2.6.11 Treasurer

The Treasurer serves as the financial officer of VSA and shall be responsible for:

- receiving, collecting, and maintaining records of all money credited to VSA

and depositing such money as approved by the Executive Officers.

• requiring all disbursements to have two authorized signatures, being the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director of Registrar/Scheduling, and that the two signers are not relatives.
• ensuring the person or persons receiving a disbursement is neither of the authorized signatures on the disbursements.
• presenting a complete and up to date balance sheet and income report at all Monthly Meetings.
• providing NTSSA the most current annual financial statements within ninety (90) days after the start of the VSA Playing Year.

2.7 ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

2.7.1 Committees

The Executive Officers shall appoint or elect, as the case may be, the following Committees. In case of an emergency, the President shall have the power to fill a Committee by appointment until the Executive Officers can fill such vacancy in accordance with normal procedures. Any Committee empowered to hold disciplinary hearings may investigate and enforce the Codes of Ethics/Conduct. Members of Committees must be in good standing with all Local, State, and National Soccer Associations. Persons under suspension or probation are ineligible for Committee positions.

2.7.2 Appeals and Disciplinary Committee

The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of the Chair and other members appointed by the Chair and approved by the Executive Officers. Three members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Should it be impossible for a quorum to be had in order for the Committee to make a ruling within the period
set by the Rule of these Bylaws, then the Chairman or any other member, if the Chairman is unavailable, shall appoint any impartial person(s) to serve temporarily on the Committee. In such an event, the President shall approve the interim appointments. Duties of the Committee are to deal with all disagreements, protests, violence, forfeited games, and cards within VSA, to hear all appeals, and to form a just decision in all matters. The Chair shall notify NTSSA and the party or parties immediately, in writing, of the rulings of this Committee.

3. RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE VAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Playing Year – The VSA Playing Year shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following calendar year. The membership may divide the Playing Year into as many Playing Seasons as desired.

3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.1 allows assessment of a penalty for using unregistered players.

3.2 UNREGISTERED PLAY

Players or teams who participate with unregistered players shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players.

3.3 SUSPENSIONS

VSA shall honor any and all orders of suspension of players, coaches, and Referees issued by NTSSA or its affiliates, if the suspension indicates “suspended from all NTSSA activities” and due process has been followed. A team, which uses individuals under suspension, shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated.

3.4 REFEREES

In compliance with USSF Rules, all Referees serving VSA shall be registered with USSF and NTSSA in accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.

3.4.1 Referee assignors

VSA recommends all Referee Assignors (or schedulers) satisfactorily complete the approved assignor clinic and register with USSF and NTSSA.

3.5 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

3.5.1 Scope

1. Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected to be alone with any registered youth player, must annually provide the necessary information so that a Criminal Background Check may be obtained. By their participation, Adult Volunteers agree and consent to having

Criminal Background Checks performed.

2. At a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, and board members are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

3.6 PLAYING AGE

Except where prohibited by USSF rules, Players may participate in older divisions but the VSA Executive Officers reserve the right of refusal to allow such participation. Players may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the NTSSA State Board of Directors. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.9 establishes forfeiture and allows suspension for noncompliance with this regulation.

3.7 RELEASES

Release: The withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current Playing Year.

Any player rostered to a team is bound to that team for the entire Playing Year unless the Player is granted a release. The VSA Division Commissioner shall receive for approval a player release submitted in writing stating the reason for the request. Releases will be allowed upon Division Commissioner approval up until they are rostered to a Team for the Playing Season. Releases outside of those dates will be considered only as an exception.

3.7.1 Recruiting

Recruiting: Actively soliciting a player to break a commitment to his current team in order to join another team.

The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.10.9-2 establishes sanctions for any person, team, or other organization engaging in recruiting as defined above.

3.8 DISCIPLINE

VSA shall distribute this rule to every Player, Coach, and Referee. The Player and/or Coach will make known the contents of this rule to their parents and spectators.

3.8.1 Authority

1. All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of VSA have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of VSA, as well as those of NTSSA and USSF and its National

Associations of which VSA is a member. The VSA Articles of Organization and Bylaws provide that VSA has jurisdiction over all Players, Coaches, Team representatives, and Referees who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant in soccer within the jurisdiction of VSA found in violation of the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of VSA, or of NTSSA or USSF and its National Associations of which VSA is a member, may be subject to disciplinary action.

2. The VSA Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committees will hold hearings, with the parties having the right to be present, on every player/coach/assistant coach/spectators and/or parents as required for serious misconduct. VSA will furnish the State Office with a maintained up-to-date list of their A&D Chairman and Committee members to include their addresses and phone numbers.

3.8.2 Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.11.2 define the system, record keeping, and disciplinary action for misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches, which may include suspension from some or all organized activities including Team practice. Misconduct of any kind (physical or verbal) is subject to a probationary period and/or suspension as decided by the Executive Officers. Coaches can be removed at any point in the season due to misconduct when voted on by Executive Officers.

3.8.3 Misconduct of Spectators

Each Team in VSA is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The Referee has the authority to insist that the 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 is expected to control the Team’s spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If the Coach is unable to deal with the spectators, VSA will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator or, if unidentifiable, towards the Team itself. VSA shall report spectator misconduct to the State A&D Committee for review and further action if warranted.

3.8.4 Misconduct of Teams

The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.11.5 defines disciplinary action for Teams resulting from accumulated misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches, which may include monetary fines.

3.8.5 Misconduct Toward a Referee, Referee Assault, Referee Abuse 1.

Terms and References

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 that 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 with remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm.

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 USSF Policy 531-9, but that mistreat the Referee or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts. Misconduct Toward a Referee may include the following: excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the Referee; statements that diminish the authority of the Referee; or statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the Referee.

Misconduct Toward a Referee applies only if a proceeding is brought against an individual for Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, or both, under USSF Policy 531-9 or if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in misconduct under this policy.

2. NTSSA has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both Referee and assistant Referee, in any competition. This jurisdiction includes:

a. All USSF registered Referees.

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.

3. If there is an assault/abuse of any game official by any person, including players, coaches, or spectators; a report of the alleged assault/abuse will be submitted immediately to the NTSSA subcommittee, chaired by the NTSSA A&D Committee Chairman. The subcommittee 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.

4. With a determination of sufficient evidence under the terms, references, and conditions of USSF Policy 531-9 to consider an incident an intentional act upon or towards a game official as Referee Assault or Referee Abuse, the NTSSA subcommittee will hold a formal hearing within thirty (30) days of verification of the incident. The NTSSA Rules and Regulations 3.11.7-3 and 3.11.7-6 define penalties and suspensions for committing Referee Assault or Referee Abuse.

3.8.6 Misconduct of Referees

When any Referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another Referee, the NTSSA A&D Committee will hear such allegations and assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to the incident.

3.8.7 Records

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

3.9 REFEREE SYSTEM

The only approved Referee system for all competitions shall be the International Three-Referee system (a Referee and two neutral assistant Referees) employing IFAB Laws of the Game (as modified herein), officiating techniques and mechanics.

3.10 GAME PROTESTS

When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the VSA A&D Committee within three (3) days after the game. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protestor won the match) except by consent of said committee.

3.10.1 After Play of the Game

The only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after the end of play are:

1. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player.
2. The Referee admits an obvious error in the application of the Laws of the Game directly affects the outcome of the match.

3.10.2 Based on Referee Decision

No protest committee or board shall entertain a protest based on judgment decisions made by the Referee during play (Laws of the Game, Law V). This is a matter to handle through the local Referee's group or the NTSSA Referee Committee.

3.10.3 Related to Field of Play

No protest committee or board shall entertain a protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the match unless an objection was 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.

3.11 RULES OF COMPETITION

The Rules of Play for VSA shall be the **IFAB** Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game below:

3.11.1 Law I - Field of Play

1. Realizing that VSA plays upon fields furnished by the City of Van, Texas; the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

Field sizes:

Division	Width (yds)	Length (yds)	Goal Size (ft)	
	Max	Max	Height	Width
Adult	80	120	8	24
19U	80	112	8	24
16U	75	112	8	24
12U	47	75	7	21
10U	40	60	6.6	18.6
8U	20	30	4	6

Field markings (in yards):

Division	Circle	Goal Area		Penalty Area		Spot	Arc
	Center Radius	From Post	From Line	From Post	From Line	From Center	From Spot
19U	10	6	6	18	18	12	10
12U	7	4	4	12	12	8	7
10U	7	4	4	10	10	7	None
8U	3	None	None	None	None	None	None

* 8U may have a crease around the goal with a radius of 8 feet.

3.11.2 Law II - The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Division	Size
14U+	#5
12U	#4
8U	#3

3.11.3 Law III - Number and Substitution of Players

1. Number of Players for various age groups will be as follows allowing for Maximum on Roster to be higher as deemed necessary by VSA and with consent of the Team Coach:

Division	Maximum on Field	Goalie	Recommend on Roster	Maximum on Roster
Adults	11	Yes		25
19U	11	Yes		22
14U	11	Yes		18
12U	9	Yes		16
10U	7	Yes		12
8U	4	No	6	8

2. **Substitution Rule – Youth**

The Referee will hold up the game for substitution of players at a normal stoppage of the game:

a. At a throw-in, for either team but only if the team in possession chooses to substitute
b. At a goal kick, for either team
c. After a goal is scored, for either team
d. At an injury when stopping play, for either team

e. At the period and half, for either team

f. When a caution (yellow card) is given, substitution may be made for that player

3. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the Team Coach reduces a player's time for medical or disciplinary reasons. The coach must notify the player and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced for a player (non-attendance at practice may be cause for disciplinary action).
4. In the case of a sick child, a child must be fever free for a minimum of 24hrs with no visible symptoms before returning to practice or games.

5. **Substitution Rule - Adults: IFAB** rules for substitution will apply

3.11.4 Law IV - Player's Equipment

1. Each Player shall have a number on the back of their jersey not less than four (4) inches high.

2. Shin guards meeting the standards set forth in the **IFAB** Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

3. All Players must wear soft-cleated soccer shoes, which excludes the wearing of hard sole shoes or "baseball" style, metal, or hard pointed plastic cleats.

3.11.5 Law V - Referee * No Changes** except for 8U and younger; all rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

1. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.

2. Only registered Referees and Executive Officers of VSA have the power to caution or send off players/coaches/coaches assistants.

3.11.6 Law VI - Assistant Referee * No Changes** except there are no Assistant Referees in 8U and younger.

3.11.7 Law VII - Duration of Game

Duration of the Game for various age groups will be as follows:

Division	Periods	Minutes	Between	Overtime	
			Periods	Periods	Minutes
19U+	2	45	10	2	15
16U	2	40	10	2	15
14U	2	35	5	2	10
12U	2	30	5	2	10
10U	2	25	5	2	10
8U	4	10	2	None	
6U	4	8	2	None	

- This excludes the duration of game and playing time changes for tournaments as approved by the Executive Officers.

3.11.8 Law VIII - Start of Play * No Changes** except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball.

3.11.9 Law IX - Ball in and out of Play * No Changes**

3.11.10 Law X - Method of Scoring * No Changes** except for Adult Coed play, where two (2) points may be awarded for a goal by a female player.

3.11.11 Law XI - Off-Side * No Changes** except for 8U and younger there is no off-side and for 10U there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.

3.11.12 Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is **NOT ALLOWED**. 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.”

2. It is not an 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 protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match Referee shall be 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. For 10U, no punting is allowed. When the goalie punts the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team on the build out line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. When the goalie has the ball, all opposing players must move behind the build out line, which should be equal distance between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

5. 12U and younger 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 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.

6. For players in 14U, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

7. For 10U and below, no slide tackles are allowed as per USYSA recommendation. When a player performs a fair slide tackle, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

3.11.13 Law XIII - Free Kick * No Changes** except for 8U and younger; all free kicks are indirect free kicks and opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball, where the foul or misconduct occurred. Meaning:

1. For 8U and younger, all Fouls and Misconduct will result in an indirect free kick.

2. For 8U and younger, a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by second player of either team.

3.11.14 Law XIV - Penalty Kick * No Changes** except for 8U and younger, there are no penalty kicks.

3.11.15 Law XV - Throw-In * No Changes** except for 8U and younger are allowed a re-throw. For U8, after the second attempt the ball is transferred to the opposing team. U6 is permitted unlimited re-throws to promote learning and growth.

3.11.16 Law XVI - Goal Kick * No Changes** except for 8U and younger opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the ball. The ball must be placed anywhere along the line of the side where the ball was taken out of

play.

3.11.17 Law XVII - Corner Kick * No changes** except for 8U and younger, opponents must be at least three (3) yards from the corner arc.

3.12 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 A&D Committee, the A&D Committee shall decide as to the disposition of the game or possibility of rescheduling.

3.13 CHANGES

These Rules and Regulations may be changed or new Rules and Regulations may be added at a Monthly General Membership 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 Members 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.

3.14 WHO MAY PROPOSE RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Only Executive Officers and properly constituted committees of VSA may make proposals to amend the rules or add new rules. 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 Executive Officers for review and distribution to the membership.

3.15 GAME CANCELLATIONS AND RESCHEDULES

If a game is cancelled due to bad weather, the teams are guaranteed one reschedule. Misconduct no reschedule. Lack of players or coach one reschedule.

4. RULES FOR REGISTRATION

4.1 DEFINITION OF REGISTRANTS

4.1.1 Coed Youth Recreational Soccer

Registration of soccer players under these rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants under the age of nineteen (19)

1. Registration

a. Recreational: The player is registered to a recreational association from the moment the player or the player's agent

• signs the VSA registration form and

• pays the appropriate fees to VSA subject to Rule 4.2.

b. Rostering: assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by VSA.

c. Coed: For proper age players 11U and older, NTSSA allows dual registration of youth players for the purpose of coed soccer. For a dual-registered player, the player's same-sex team shall be considered the player's primary team and the coed team shall be considered the player's secondary team. Additionally, VSA may consider requests from coed players to play together on a team.

4.1.2 Age Determination and Divisions

The age of a player for purpose of play with VSA shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current Playing Year. The current Playing Year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Exception: VSA permits players who turn four (4) years of age by July 31 will be eligible to play in the Fall Playing Season and players who turn four (4) years of age by December 31 will be eligible to play in the Spring Playing Season.

4U Learner's League: There will be no active played games and one practice per week for one hour.

Age divisions shall be comprised of players who are, on December 31 of the current Playing Year:

Division	Minimum Age	Maximum Age
4U Learners League	3	4
6 and Under (6U)	4	6
8 and Under (8U)	6	8
10 and Under (10U)	8	10
12 and Under (12U)	10	12
14 and Under (14U)	12	14
16 and Under (16U)	14	16
19 and Under (19U)	16	19

4.1.3 Proof of Age

VSA will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play for the first time with VSA. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency. If a copy of a Player's Birth Certificate is on file with VSA, proof of age will not be necessary for subsequent Registrations. In special circumstances, official adoption documents will be permitted in place of a birth certificate.

4.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Players may only be registered with one NTSSA sanctioned team at any given time during the Playing Year excluding co-ed teams.

4.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Players must register to play soccer with VSA. Upon request, VSA must grant a Player Release to an individual player. Only the receiving Member Association will register the player. VSA may not actively recruit players from outside their defined territory.

4.4 RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION RULES

4.4.1 Keeping Players and Teams Together

VSA expects teams to remain together from season to season and for players to stay on the team. Therefore, VSA insures that all players stay rostered on the same team as long as they meet age requirements.

4.4.2 Player Pool

In the event there are not enough players in the player pool, VSA may allow coaches to seek players to add to the pool of the proper age group from within the territory of VSA.

4.4.3 Random Blind Draw

New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by players being assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a territorial basis as stated above.

Player's names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Coach may not do a blind draw for their current team, this will be done by other coaches or Executive Officers.

4.4.4 Inviting Friends

In order to promote soccer participation for young children, 8U players and younger may invite a friend from the VSA territory who has never registered before to join his existing team with the permission of VSA. This can not make up the entirety of a team.

4.4.5 Placement of Coaches and Their Children

a. **Eligibility for Request:** Only a Head Coach or Assistant Coach shall be permitted to request that their child be rostered to a team under their supervision.
b. **Newly Formed Teams:** Any individual appointed as Head Coach or Assistant Coach of a newly formed team during the current Playing Season may request that their child be rostered to that team.
c. **Returning Teams:** A Head Coach or Assistant Coach requesting that their child be rostered to a returning team must satisfy at least one of the following conditions:

i. The individual served as the Head Coach of record for that team for the two

(2) immediately preceding outdoor Playing Seasons; OR

ii. The individual has been appointed as Head Coach of the returning team by a majority vote of the Executive Officers.

d. Authority and Compliance : All requests submitted under this Section shall be subject to review and approval in accordance with Association policies and procedures.

4.4.6 Coaches Cannot Drop Players

Any recreational coach who knowingly and/or willingly drops a player from their roster, or advises that player not to play for their team, whether through direct contact or coercion shall be called before the VSA discipline committee, and if found to be in violation of the offense, may be suspended from coaching.

4.5 REGISTRATION OF COACHES

Each coach/assistant coach of a team shall be required to register with NTSSA each soccer year, which includes completion of 3.5 Adult Criminal Background Check. If you register to be the Head Coach of a team, and your child is unable/unwilling to play, you are still obligated to finish the season as the Head Coach of your current team.