

# NEBRASKA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated 1/27/2017



### I. Playing Rules

The rules of the game of soccer as promulgated by the Federation Internationale de Football Association as modified by the United States Soccer Federation and the Youth Division of the United States Soccer Federation shall apply to all affiliated league, club or team games, except that associations, leagues or clubs may implement variations for competition with approval of the Board of Directors of Nebraska State Soccer. The Board of Directors also may make modifications for any games sponsored by Nebraska State Soccer; however, such variations should be at a minimum and only for the betterment of soccer.

A. Each voting member shall furnish the Board of Directors with a complete copy of its constitution, articles of incorporation, bylaws and other rules and regulations.

B. **Welfare and Safety.** The welfare and safety of the players, referees and coaches shall be the primary concern of all persons affiliated with Nebraska State Soccer. The physical and mental wellbeing of the players and the referees shall take precedence over all other matters at all times.

#### Weather Safety Plan:

1. **Lightning Safety** –Before an event, organizers should listen to the latest forecast to determine the likelihood of thunderstorms. If thunderstorms are forecast, organizers should consider canceling or postponing the activity. Once people start to arrive at an activity/event, the guidelines below should be followed.
2. **Stopping Activities/Events** –In general, a significant lightning threat extends outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud about 6 to 10 miles. Therefore, people should be in a safe place when a thunderstorm is 6 to 10 miles away. League Representatives, Site Supervisors and/or Referees can stop the activity/event. Team Staff should get the attention of the Referee if they witness any of the criteria within the Safety Plan. Here are some criteria used to stop activities: If you see lightning or; If you hear thunder
3. **Seeking Safe Shelter** – No place outside is safe in or near a thunderstorm. If an activity/event is stopped get participates, spectators and personnel off the fields and complexes as soon as possible and send them:
  - a) Home if you are cancelling the activity/event
  - b) To a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed. Avoid contact with metal in the vehicle and try to keep away from windows. Await further instructions for resuming activities/events.
  - c) To a substantial building with wiring and plumbing are the safest places. Buildings and schools offer good protection.
  - d) Once inside, stay away from windows and doors and anything that conducts electricity such as corded phones, wiring, plumbing, and anything connected to these. Await further instructions for resuming activities/events.
4. **Resuming Activities/Events** -Because electrical charges can linger in clouds after a thunderstorm has passed, wait at least 30 minutes after the last site of lightning or sound of thunder before resuming activities.

C. Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship of all persons registered with Nebraska State Soccer and all persons assisting in any soccer activity of any member of Nebraska State Soccer shall be stressed at all times and shall take precedence over all rules except physical safety of players, referees and coaches. Sportsmanship shall take precedence over winning.

D. Responsibility for Conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct by any person registered with Nebraska State Soccer or assisting in any soccer activity of any member of Nebraska State Soccer shall be subject to discipline, including fines or suspension, by the Board of Directors of Nebraska State Soccer in such manner as the Board determines.

1. Affiliate Members, their administrators, board members, coaches (paid or unpaid), players, parents/guardians, and/or independent contractors are responsible for full and complete communication between each other. An Affiliate Member administrators, board members, coaches (paid or unpaid), and/or independent contractors desiring to contact a player of another Affiliate Member, must contact the player's existing Affiliate Member/team coach, unless the coach is a parent coach and they then must receive permission from the member's Registrar or designee, prior to contacting the player.

E. Compliance with Rules and Regulations. Compliance with Rules and Regulations.

1. Clubs shall be responsible for informing and insuring that all of their members (players, parents, coaches, assistant coaches, Board Members, Administrators and etc.) have read, understand and adhere to all policies of Nebraska State Soccer and the rules of the leagues their teams will participate in during the season. A plea of ignorance to the policies of Nebraska State Soccer is not sufficient in defending a grievance or grounds for a protest or appeal.

2. All policies will be listed on the Nebraska State Soccer web site under the Policies and Rules link on the front page or by contacting the State Office.

3. Any member of the association who fails to follow the rules and regulations and all policies of Nebraska State Soccer shall be subject to the following:

a) First Offence – up to \$100 fine and up to two years probation.

b) Second Offence – up to \$500 fine and up to two years probation.

c) Any Subsequent Offence – up to \$1,000 fine and up to three years probation.

4. If the second or subsequent offence occurs while serving a current probation the probations will be served consecutively. (January 07)

## II. TEAM FORMATION

At no time shall a player be offered pay or incentive for participation that would violate the Ted Stevens Act.

The soccer year is from August 1 to July 31. Passes for players and coaches are valid through July 31.

A. Member Team Formation Policy: Affiliated members will have a documented and published team formation policy consistent with the following guidelines: At the time of formation of a team, the Affiliate Member must declare if the team will be registered on a yearly registration (soccer year) or seasonal registration (fall season or a spring season) basis.

1. Recreational Teams (10U and younger teams):

a) May register on a yearly registration or seasonal registration basis.

(1) Yearly Registration: Once a player registers to the Affiliate Member, they are committed for that upcoming soccer year, except for the reason explained below in Player Participation. If Affiliate Member collects fees for the year they will need to refund any fees for programs that have not started if the player leaves the team or transfers to another Affiliate Member

(2) Seasonal registrations are binding on August 1 until October 31 for fall season and once they register for spring season until their season is complete. Players will be

allowed to transfer between fall and spring playing seasons with submittal of the proper transfer form to the State Office.

- b) Players will not participate with any team from another Affiliate Member until they are registered and transferred to that team or have permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.
- c) Affiliate Members cannot invite or contact non-members for any activities without permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.
- d) 8U and younger teams must be formed on a random basis using school district, zip codes, friend request, or any similar basis.
- e) 9U and older teams can place players by ability as long as there is not a tryout where players are evaluated and then cut, and the Affiliate Member makes a good faith effort to place all players that register. Ideally, Affiliate Members would evaluate players during the previous season of play or during a camp or academy setting.
- f) Penalty: Any Affiliate Member holding a team formation event where players are evaluated and then cut at the 10U and younger age groups will be subject to up to a \$1,000 fine and/or suspension, up to two years' probation and will not be allowed to advertise their team formation events for a minimum of one year with Nebraska State Soccer. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

2. Competitive Teams (11U and older competitive non-select teams): May register on a yearly registration or seasonal registration basis. If registered on a yearly registration basis, fees should be collected at the start of each program (e.g. fall, winter, spring). If Affiliate Member collects fees for the year they will need to refund any fees for programs that have not started if the player leaves the team or transfers to another Affiliate Member.

3. Select Teams (11U and older select teams): Must be registered on a yearly registration basis. A select team is formed on the basis of selection, hereinafter defined as any process (e.g. tryouts, coach select, events to evaluate players), other than a random basis, where players are invited or selected to play on a team and other players are not.

#### B. Player Participation

1. Unregistered players will not play in matches or practice with teams.
2. Participation in activities (e.g. training, practices, camps, clinics & etc.) of another Affiliate:
  - a) The player must have written permission from the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee, except during the Select Team Formation Period to participate in Select Team Formation Events.
3. Guest Player or Secondary Player for another Affiliate Member:
  - a) The player must have written permission from the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee.
  - b) Prior to contacting a player or the parent/legal guardian of the player the requesting coach must contact the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee for permission to talk to the player or parent/legal guardian.
4. Recreational Players: May register and roster to recreational teams with an Affiliate Member prior the Select Team Formation Period when the Affiliate Member Organization has an earlier registration, but no earlier than May 1 of each year. Any player rostered to a recreational team may still explore opportunities with other Affiliate Members for the following seasonal year during the Select Team Formation Period for the respective age group under the provisions of these rules, and may opt to play for a select team without a transfer during that time period.
5. Affiliate Member Policy: Each Affiliate Member needs to communicate with their coaches if they choose not to allow the coach to give permission. If they choose not to allow the coach to give

permission the Affiliate Member must have coach sign a form designating who will be the person to give permission. It is up to the Affiliate Member to police their coaching staff.

6. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member or any of their members that violate this section will be subject to up to a \$500 fine and/or suspension, and up to one-year probation. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

C. Select Team Formation Events

1. Select Team Formation Events are any activity other than sanctioned games.

2. Affiliate Members with select teams desiring to participate in the Nebraska League or Nebraska, Regional, or National run leagues are required follow this policy and complete the "Select Team Age Group Formation Event Form" for each of their intended select Age Groups/Programs for the coming soccer year by May 1. If they do not complete the "Select Team Age Group Formation Event Form" application, they will not be protected from players and coaches transferring.

D. Select Team Formation Period

1. Players do not need permission from their current Affiliate Member to participate in a Select Team Formation Event with another Affiliate Member during this period.

2. Starts on the date(s) set by the Board of Directors and will end for a player once they register with a member. Date will be set no later than the AGM. Affiliate Members may only schedule Select Team Formation Events or hold open training sessions during this period. Sanctioned games are not a Select Team Formation Event.

3. Affiliate Members may contact their current players and parent/legal guardians anytime during the Select Team Formation Period, but cannot contact any player or parent/legal guardian of any other Affiliate Member, by any means (e.g. verbally, electronically) after they leave the Team Formation Event site until the Offer and Acceptance date unless that player or parent/legal guardian has first initiated contact by first contacting them.

4. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject suspension and probation. If a parent/legal guardian violates this section, the player of the parent/legal guardian will also be subject to the same suspension. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

E. Offers and Acceptance

1. Affiliate members can make a written offer to any player(s) or parent/legal guardian after 10:00 a.m. on the date set by the NSS Board of Directors. The date of offers will follow the conclusion of Midwest Regionals and will be set by the NSS Board of Directors during the year preceding the tryouts.

2. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject to up to one-year suspension of the individual, up to \$1,000 fine to the club and/or individual. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

F. Player Commitment

1. Select Team: Once a player registers to the Affiliate Member, they are committed for that upcoming soccer year or until they accept an offer during the next Select Team Formation Period. A player is considered registered to an Affiliate Member the moment the player (or for a player less than 18 years of age, the player's parent/legal guardian or guardian) personally or electronically signs the Affiliate Members registration form and submits a portion of, or the full amount of the fees required by the Affiliate Member. If the player qualifies for a scholarship, once they sign the registration and give written acceptance of the scholarship they are considered registered. Once the player registers to an Affiliate Member they can participate in their activities without permission from their current Affiliate Member.

2. Competitive/Recreational Teams: All players registered to a team, are considered committed to that team. A player is registered to the team until they have been transferred or released (dropped).

3. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section (e.g. player going to another Affiliate Member practice without permission) will be subject to minimum of a 3-month suspension and up to two years' probation. This can apply to both the player and parent/legal guardian, and the coach/club. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### G. Transfers and Releases

1. Select Team Players: Are not allowed to transfer unless released by their current Affiliate Member or until they accept an offer during the Select Team Formation Period. The Dispute Resolution Committee can authorize a transfer if they feel the player has been treated unfairly if parent/guardian presents an appeal letter to the State Office. State staff will review any appeal letter and determine if the committee will hear the appeal.

2. Coaches: Once rostered to a select team a coach cannot coach a team in the same age group at another Affiliate Member without approval of the current Affiliate Member representative.

3. Penalty: An Affiliate Members or individual who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information relevant to a player or coach record or past or present club affiliation in order to register as a player or to affect a player or coach registration or transfer or to otherwise prevent a player or coach transfer shall be subject to the following:

- a) Individual or Individuals responsible shall receive up to a 6-month suspension. If it is a parent/legal guardian, the player of the parent/legal guardian will be suspended for up to 3 months.
- b) An Affiliate Member will not be allowed to transfer any players in from another club for up to a period of one year.
- c) On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### H. Dissemination of Information

1. General Information: At any time in the year, individuals, teams, clubs, leagues or associations may distribute, mail, advertise or otherwise make available, any and all information, provided that such information is not designed to recruit any individual or team, is of a general character and is made available to the general population. General population refers to individuals in one or more zip code areas, schools, school districts, worship places or other natural geographical area.

##### 2. Misrepresentation of Coaching Credentials or Information

a) This would include any advertising of Affiliates Members, their administrators, board members, coaches (paid or unpaid and/or independent contractors).

b) If Nebraska State Soccer receives a complaint of any misrepresentation Nebraska State Soccer will use the following procedure to determine the facts of the complaint:

- (1) The State Staff will contact the coach against whom the complaint has been filed and will request the coach to submit documentation from the relevant organization that has provided the credentials within ten (10) days of the request.
- (2) Once it is proven that an Affiliate Member and/or individual has misrepresented a coaching credential and they have failed to correct the misrepresentation within the ten (10) days of being notified they are subject to the penalties below.

3. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject to up to one-year suspension of the individual, up to \$1,000 fine to the club and/or individual and the club and/or individual will not be allowed to advertise their team

formation events for up to one year with Nebraska State Soccer. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

### III. REGISTRATION

All Players, Staff and Teams must be registered with Nebraska State Soccer each soccer year (August 1 to July 31) and must abide by the rules and regulations of Nebraska State Soccer.

- A. Registration of Players, Staff and Teams will be in accordance with USSF, USASA and US Youth Soccer.
  1. Players, Staff and Teams will be allowed to be registered until July 31 of the current seasonal year.
  2. Players, Staff and Teams will be entered in the registration program by Affiliate Members or Nebraska State Soccer.
- B. Players, Staff and Teams can be entered by Nebraska State Soccer to promote playing soccer for the following reasons:
  1. Youth – no Affiliate Member in a city within a 20-mile radius of the city of the team requesting membership or to simplify the startup of a new Affiliate Members (e.g. clubs, leagues).
  2. Adult – increase participation opportunities in leagues and tournaments at the state, regional and national level, promote transition from youth to adult play, and to simplify the startup of new Affiliate Members (e.g. clubs, leagues).
- C. Date of Registration. Players and Staff will be considered registered once they are approved by the Affiliate Member or Nebraska State Soccer in the registration program.
- D. Proof of Age. Affiliate Members must verify age of any player entered into the registration software the first time the player is registered using the procedures within this rule.
  1. Verify age using one of the following Proof of Age Documents:
    - a) Birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.
    - b) Parents/Guardians should blackout all information on a copy of the document(s) except for legal first and last name, birth date and gender. Affiliate Members need to inform parents/guardians of their right prior to collection of the document.
    - c) Once the age has been verified the document needs to be disposed of properly (such as shredding) or return to the parent/guardian. Affiliate Member shall not keep or store documents in any fashion.
    - d) Collection by Team Staff (e.g. Coach, Team Manager): Team Staff shall not keep or store documents. If required to collect documents for any tournament or event, Team Staff will have parent/guardian retain possession of the document except for check-in at these events. Team Staff shall return the document to the parent/guardian as soon as possible. If a parent/guardian cannot be present they will give the document to a person of their choice. This person shall return the document as soon as possible after the event.
- E. Age Limits and Roster Limitations
  1. Adult- Age groups shall comprise playters who are before the first day or August of the immediately preceding seasonal year:
    - Over 65 years of age
    - Over 60 years of age
    - Over 55 years of age

Over 50 years of age  
Over 45 years of age  
Over 30 years of age  
Under 23 years of age  
Under 22 years of age

2. Youth- All member organizations, unless otherwise sanctioned by the board of directors, shall divide play among teams listed as below. Age divisions shall consist of all players who on the first day of January preceding the current seasonal year, are:

19 years of age and under  
18 years of age and under  
17 years of age and under  
16 years of age and under  
15 years of age and under  
14 years of age and under  
13 years of age and under  
12 years of age and under  
11 years of age and under  
10 years of age and under  
9 years of age and under  
8 years of age and under  
7 years of age and under  
6 years of age and under  
5 years of age and under  
4 years of age and under

a) Age group restrictions:

(1) Gender – Girls can play on boy's (coed) teams, but boys cannot play on girl's teams.

(2) Teams Rosters – Recreational and In-house must be rostered to the oldest player on the team.

b) Grade level restrictions

(1) Gender – Girls can play on boy's (coed) teams, but boys cannot play on girl's teams.

(2) Teams Rosters – Rostered to the oldest grade level.

F. Maximum Roster

1. Youth- Program Roster Format

a) 6U through 12U age groups will be allowed to use the Program format to roster players. The roster size will be unlimited and players will be allowed to be transferred to teams for events using the Team Roster Format (i.e. Sanctioned Tournaments, Non-Academy Events). Program Roster Format will be allowed for competitions between Academies allowing players to be interchanged.

2. Youth- Team Roster Format

a) 12 and Under and below age groups the roster size will be limited to not more than double the number of players on the field as prescribed by the USYSA small sided play games recommendations.

b) 13 and Under and above age groups leagues may fix the maximum roster size for teams participating within the league's competitions; provided, however, that no team shall be allowed more than twenty-two (22) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year

G. Player Transfer. A youth player may transfer between Affiliate Members, clubs and teams with the approval of the member's Registrar or designee. They must use the required form or procedure.

H. Player Release (Drop) Voluntary release (Drop) from a team is at the written request of the parent/legal guardian. Once released, the player can only be added to another team in accordance with Player Transfer section of these rules.

I. Youth Participation in Adult Games. A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of Adult games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the State Youth Association where they reside. The youth coach or other authorized team official must, in writing or by form, request permission of the State Adult Commissioner. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Adult Commissioner has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play Adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which this will be implemented. In the event of a conflict between an Adult trial game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. (January 91)

J. Multiple Rostering (Secondary) Players Registration. Players may register to a second team, provided they receive consent from the coach of the primary team and written consent from the Affiliate Member's Registrar or designee

K. Guest Players. Players shall be allowed to play as a guest on teams for tournament or league play, if allowed by the league as long as they fill out the required Guest Player Form. Forms must be turned in to the Tournament Director or League Director. Guest Player forms are not required for 3v3 or 4v4 tournament play in the State of Nebraska

#### IV. COMPETITION WITH AFFILIATED AND NON-AFFILIATED SOCCER TEAMS

A. Affiliated Teams. Competition with teams registered with this Corporation and with teams affiliated with the USSF is permitted without approval from this Corporation.

B. Non-affiliated Teams. Any competition with teams not registered with Nebraska State Soccer or affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF)/US Youth Soccer must be approved by the State Office. A written or on-line request for participation in any game with such a team or teams must be made and approved by the State Office prior to the scheduled playing date. Failure to request and obtain such approval shall void all insurance offered by Nebraska State Soccer for the match against the non-affiliated team(s). (August 06)

C. Benefit Games. This Association may participate in games with teams from other state associations and with visiting foreign teams providing that the correct procedures are observed as laid down by the USSF. The Board shall have the power to set dates in every season to stage matches for the benefit of this Association and/or some worthy cause. On such dates, all associations, leagues, clubs and players under its jurisdiction shall be permitted to maintain their current schedule unless expressly prohibited by the Board of Directors at that time.

D. Travel- 7U and below teams shall not be issued permission to travel out of state to USSF/USYSA sanctioned events. (June 03)

E. NSSA Sponsored Activities and Sanctioned Tournaments. NSSA sponsored activities and/or sanctioned tournaments holding 8U and below competitions must be "friendly" in nature with no championship game played or championship award presented. All participants must receive awards if any are presented.

F. All leagues must be sanctioned by Nebraska State Soccer.

#### V. RULES OF PLAY



Except as provided herein, FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to each and every game played within the jurisdiction of this Association to the extent that these rules are inconsistent with the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships competition.

A. Substitutions

1. Age Group 13U – 19U. Substitutions shall be unlimited, except where specified otherwise in the Rules for a special competition. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- a) Prior to a throw-in awarded to the substituting team
- b) Prior to a goal kick
- c) After a goal
- d) After an injury that is attended to on the field of play

2. Age Group 11U-12U. Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play

B. Length of Games, Overtime Periods and Ball Specifications. The length of games, ball size, ball weight, ball dimensions and tie-breaking rules for each age group shall be as follows:

| Group     | Game Length            | Overtime Periods (Cup & Tournament) |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 19U – 17U | Two 45 minute halves   | Two 15 minute halves                |
| 16U-15U   | Two 40 minute halves   | Two 15 minute halves                |
| 14U – 13U | Two 35 minute halves   | Two 10 minute halves                |
| 12U – 11U | Two 30 minute halves   | Two 10 minute halves                |
| 10U-9U    | Two 25 minute halves   | Two 10 minute halves                |
| 8U-7U     | Four 10 min halves     | Two 05 minute halves                |
| 6U        | Four 8 minute quarters | Two 05 minute halves                |

| Group      | Ball Size | Dimension | Weight         |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 19U – 17U  | #5        | 27" - 28" | 14 - 16 ounces |
| 16U – 15U  | #5        | 27" - 28" | 14 - 16 ounces |
| 14U – 13U  | #5        | 27" - 28" | 14 - 16 ounces |
| 12U – 11U  | #4        | 25" - 26" | 11 - 13 ounces |
| 10U – 9U   | #4        | 25" - 26" | 11 - 13 ounces |
| 8U – under | #3        | 25" - 26" | 11 - 13 ounces |

In Cup or tournament play, if the game is still tied after overtime periods, FIFA penalty kick rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

C. Modifications

1. Member organizations may make modifications of the USSF playing rules, so long as they are confined to competition within that member organization league.

2. On or before July 15th of each playing season, member organizations shall present rules modifications to the NSSA Rules Committee Chairperson, and upon approval, will be bound by them for the upcoming seasonal year. Failure to do so shall put that club, league or association in poor standing and shall not participate in NSSA, USYSA, USASA or USSF events and activities until this requirement is fulfilled.

3. When a team enters into any competition outside its league, NSSA/USSF rules will apply.

4. The Grievance Committee shall not hear appeals arising from modifications of NSSA/USSF rules.

D. Identification Passes

1. All players and coaches registered to a youth or Adult team shall carry a Nebraska State Soccer/US Youth Soccer approved identification player/coach pass. A player/coach pass will be required to be on the sideline at any Nebraska State Soccer sanctioned league or tournament match.
  2. Identification player/coach passes shall be furnished to the referee prior to each Nebraska State Soccer sanctioned league or tournament match.
  3. Identification player/coach passes remain the property of the Nebraska State Soccer Association and must be produced and/or surrendered upon request of the State Referee Administrator, State Registrar, Vice president, Youth Commissioner (Competitive / Recreational); or by a USSF registered referee in the course of officiating a Nebraska State Soccer sanctioned league or tournament match.
  4. Referees shall note on the game card the name of any individual unable to produce an identification player/coach pass prior to a Nebraska State Soccer sanctioned league or tournament match.
  5. Identification player/coach passes shall have a picture of the individual attached and then laminated.
- E. Dangerous Equipment. A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player. The referee has the final determination if the equipment is safe to the player or another player on the field of play.

#### VI. REFEREES

Referees must be registered in accordance with USSF Rule 3033. Referees participating in games with this Corporation shall be subject to supervision and discipline by the Board of Directors of the NSSA.

- A. Referee Committee
1. Membership. The Referee Committee shall have up to 10, one of which shall reside outside of districts 1, 2, and 3, in addition to the SRA as chair. These members shall be made up as follows: up to 7 duly and properly USSF registered referees, 1 member who shall be an officer of one of the member organizations of NSSA, and one member who shall be an actively involved member of the soccer community and not an officer of the member organizations of the NSSA. The Referee Committee shall be reappointed annually at the meeting immediately following the election of officers or at any duly constituted meeting where a quorum is present if one or more members of the Referee Committee has become disqualified or can no longer serve in the capacity of Referee Committee member for whatever reason. No referee under the age of 21 shall be appointed to the Referee Committee.
  2. Meetings. The Referee Committee shall meet at the call of the SRA and shall not have regularly scheduled meetings as such.
  3. Duties and Powers. The Referee Committee as chaired by the SRA shall have review upon appeal of disciplinary action taken by the SRA authority. The Referee Committee shall make recommendations as required to NSSA on matters of referee utilization and referee compensation/remuneration.
- B. Discipline
1. Referees shall not be subject to discipline by any lower authority than the SRA or NSSA Board. The SRA shall represent the referee in all actions involving referees or referee conduct or conduct by any other affecting referees. The SRA may determine that the best interest of the referee can best be served by attendance at meetings for these purposes. In such hearings, meetings, etc., the Referees Report submitted in accordance with USSF guidelines shall represent the referee as his/her testimony and shall be concerned factual and accurate following such certification and investigation by the SRA.
  2. Appeals. The referee right of appeal of disciplinary action is recognized in the following manner. The appeal route shall be first to the Referee Committee, second to the NSSA Board of Directors and third to the NSSA members as convened to specifically hear such an appeal.
- C. Precedence of Affiliated Games. USSF certified referees will, on receipt of notice (72 hours prior); accept games of affiliated teams, clubs or leagues, in lieu of previous games of non-affiliated teams, clubs or leagues.

D. Non-affiliated Games. Referees duly registered and deemed qualified by the SRA and under the jurisdiction of this Corporation will not wear the USSF Referee badge/patch/insignia while officiating matches/competitions not under the jurisdiction of this Corporation.

E. Interpretation of the Laws. The SRA shall be the interpreter of all aspects of FIFA, USSF, USYSA and USASA applications of the Laws of the Game within NSSA. (January 91)

F. Non-registered Officiating. No person shall officiate as a referee in any game involving any team registered with this Corporation who is not registered as a referee with this Corporation except in the case of an emergency or where otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors.

G. Referee Schedulers. All referee schedulers for NSSA approved tournaments must be certified. (April 99)

## VII. ASSAULTS ON REFEREES

In all cases, this section shall conform to USSF Rule 3042.

### A. Offense

1. Any physical contact between any person and a referee or official linesperson shall constitute an assault if such referee or linesperson considered such contact as unfriendly or intimidating. Spitting at, throwing at or otherwise propelling any object at a referee shall constitute an assault.

2. Verbal harassment or verbal intimidation of any referee under the age of 18 by any person over the age of 17 shall constitute an assault

B. Penalty. Any person registered with this Corporation who assaults a referee or official linesperson prior to, during or after a game shall be automatically suspended from participating in soccer in any capacity for a period of not less than one year from the date of such assault. A longer suspension and other discipline may be imposed by the Board of Directors.

C. Related Penalties. Assaults on referees are unsportsmanlike conduct, and any person, team, club, league or association having responsibility for the sportsmanship of the person committing the assault shall be subject to discipline, including fines and suspensions, determined by the Board of Directors.

## VIII. EXPULSIONS FROM GAMES AND SUSPENSIONS

A. Penalties automatically incurred. A player or team official who has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines by the referee shall automatically incur the penalty or penalties for the given offense or offenses as stipulated in these rules. The referee's game report automatically initiates the action against the ejected individual.

1. Documents forwarded to SRA. Leagues and tournament hosting organizations shall forward photocopies of any records (e.g., game reports, supplements, penalty determinations) documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines to the State Referee Administrator within 10 days of the final determination of the penalty to be imposed.

2. Record-keeping. Leagues and tournament hosting organizations shall retain the original records documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines for a period of one year.

3. Availability. At the request of the SRA or the NSSA Grievance Committee, leagues or tournament hosting organizations shall furnish the originals of any records documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines.

### B. Serving Suspensions

1. Suspensions for ejections or red cards at sanctioned events will be served using the following criteria depending on the type of event:

- a) Nebraska Championships - If received during the Nebraska Championships the suspension must be served during the National Championship Series as required by national rules. Any suspension that is not served during the current competition will be returned to the State Office. The State Office will make a copy of the pass and game report or ejection report. The State Office will be responsible for tracking of the suspension to make sure it is served in the

next competition of the National Championship Series. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served or the report has been logged.

b) League Play - If received during league play the suspension must be served in the next league event. The pass and game report or ejection report will be sent to the league administrator. The league administrator will be responsible for determining when the team will play its next sanctioned event. The league administrator will be responsible for tracking the suspension to make sure it is served. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served.

c) Tournament Play - If received during tournament play the suspension must be served in the next US Soccer sanctioned event unless that event is part of the National Championship Series, then it will be served at the next league or tournament event. Any suspension that is not served during the tournament the tournament director will forward the pass and game report or ejection report to the State Office. The State Office will be responsible for determining when the team will play its next sanctioned event and will notify the event of the suspension. The State Office will be responsible for tracking of the suspension to make sure it is served. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served.

C. Referee Assignors, League Administrators and Tournament Directors – All Referee Assignors, League Administrators and Tournament Directors must make sure that all ejection or red cards are reported on the Nebraska State Soccer's designated form. Leagues receive a copy of Nebraska State Soccer's designated form from the state, so if they have an ejection or red card and they have not received a copy of the report from the state they must contact the referee and make sure they fill out the report.

1. In any situation where a coach, team official or spectator is requested to leave the sidelines that individual will be suspended for the minimum penalty prescribed in Article X.

2. A player, while under suspension, shall not be released by a club until the completion of the teams playing season or the end of the seasonal year.

3. A team official, while under suspension, shall not change a club affiliation.

D. Non-match-related Ejections. In all hearings that come before the NSSA, suspensions FOR OTHER THAN MATCH-RELATED EJECTIONS may only be levied after a formal hearing, attended by the defendant, game officials (referees, linesmen), or others, and all witnesses. If any individual invited to such hearing does not attend, that person forfeit any rights and the hearing may continue

THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN THESE BY-LAWS FOR EJECTIONS SHALL BE THE MINIMUM PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR THE RESPECTIVE DESIGNATED OFFENSES. MEMBER OR ASSOCIATED LEAGUES MAY IMPOSE ANY SUCH OTHER OR FURTHER PENALTIES AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE THAT ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

## IX. PENALTIES

All players will be subject to the below stated penalties in accordance with the age group they are registered or involved with rather than their chronological age.

A. Use of Illegal Player. Any club or coach which fields a player ineligible or illegal because of improper registration or deception will be subject to the following:

1. Coach-

a) First Offense – forfeiture of game, a five game suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation.

b) Second and Subsequent Offense – forfeiture of game, up to a year suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation served consecutively.

2. Club - Any club whose coach has a second or subsequent offense will be subject to up to a \$500 fine.
3. If the second or subsequent Offense occurs while serving a current probation the probations will be served consecutively.

B. Use of a player without a pass will result in the following penalties. Offenses are tracked per player per Seasonal Year (August 1 – July 31). The State Office will notify the league of any violations and assess the league a fine equivalent to 10% of penalties listed below. The league sanctioning play will assess penalties to the Affiliate Member of the player.

1. First offense, all penalties will be waived. Should the offending team play another game within 72 hours, penalties for that game will also be waived.
2. Second offense for a team, there shall be a \$10.00 fine for the first player and a \$5.00 fine for each additional player up to a maximum fine of \$75.00.
3. Third offense for a team, there shall be a \$25.00 fine for the first player and a \$20.00 fine for each additional player up to a maximum fine of \$200.00, and up to a two game suspension for the coach.
4. Subsequent offense for a team, there shall be a \$100.00 fine for the first player and a \$50.00 fine for each additional player up to a maximum fine of \$250.00, and up to a five game suspension for the coach.

C. Use of a non-registered player the offending team shall forfeit that game, be fined according to league rules for forfeit, and fined according the penalties listed above in Section 2 – Use of a player without a pass. The coach of the offending team shall be subject to penalty and suspension. If the offending player is registered to Affiliate Member other than the one played for, that member shall be notified of that player’s offense.

D. A player who, during a given registration year, registers to play for a second club without having obtained a release from the first club shall be suspended for four (4) games.

E. Ejections for Violent Conduct

|                                       | First Offense | Second Offense | Subsequent Offense |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Striking and Kicking (and attempting) | 2             | 4              | 4                  |
| Other than Striking or Kicking        | 1             | 2              | 4                  |

F. Ejections for Serious Foul Play

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Play likely to result in injury/physical harm   | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Play unlikely to result in injury/physical harm | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Ejection’s for Foul and Abusive Language        | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ejection’s for Persistent Misconduct            | 1 | 2 | 3 |

G. Misconduct by coaches, team officials and spectators

|                           |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Foul and Abusive Language | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Persistent Misconduct     | 1 | 2 | 4 |

H. Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare. Any player, team official or club officer whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer shall be suspended for one (1) game for the first offense and for a minimum of two (2) games for the second offense or more within a two-year period. Such

misconduct shall include but shall not be limited to misbehavior while a spectator; the frequenting, while in uniform or warm-up suit, of an area or a club house where alcoholic beverages are being served; and the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the vicinity of the playing field before, during or after a soccer game.

I. Player Transfers. An individual A club or individual who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information relevant to a player record or past or present club affiliated in order to register as a player or to effect a player registration or transfer or to otherwise prevent a player transfer shall be subject to the following:

1. Individual or Individuals responsible shall receive a four game suspension.
2. A club will not be allowed to transfer any players in from another club for up to a period of one year.

J. Misconduct and Tournament Rules Violations During Privately Sponsored Play.

1. Incidents of misconduct or tournament rules violations occurring during the playing of any privately sponsored competition shall be penalized as the articles of these rules provide for such misconduct or rules infractions
2. Where misconduct or rules violations have been displayed by a club official, coach or player not under the jurisdiction of the NSSA but during a tournament sanctioned by the NSSA a full account of the misconduct or rules infraction shall be forwarded in writing to the association having jurisdiction over the offending party. Such correspondence shall be forwarded via the Secretary.

K. Payment of Fines and the Reposting of Forfeiture Bonds.

1. Barring cause under appeal, fines not paid and forfeit bonds not reposted within the time limits stipulated shall cause the delinquent organization to be declared in poor standing.
2. Organizations in poor standing shall be ineligible to participate in further competition until the proper financial obligation has been fulfilled.
3. The NSSA time limit for the payment of fines or the reposting of forfeit bonds shall be thirty (30) days from the date a fine is imposed or a bond is declared forfeited.

L. NSSA Rules have precedence over league rules where a conflict exists.

M. Second Offense. Except where stated otherwise, shall be understood to mean the recurrence of a stated offense for the second or more times during a registration year. This definition shall not apply to offenses against a referee or linesperson, which shall remain a permanent part of a player or coaches' record.

N. Player and Coach Passes

1. Printing
  - a) Any Affiliate Member and/or any person found to have intentionally created an illegal pass or been involved in the creation of an illegal pass in any matter will be subjected to a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or up to three years probation or a permanent suspension from all association activities.
  - b) If there is a complaint and/or investigation of a possible violation the State Office, with permission of Nebraska State Soccer Association's President, may revoke the member's privilege to print passes and will print their passes until the matter is resolved.
2. Use of an Illegal Pass. Any Affiliate Member and/or any person found to have used an illegal pass or been involved in the creation of an illegal pass in any matter will be subjected to a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or up to three years probation or a permanent suspension from all association activities.

X. GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

A. Grievance and Appeals Committee. The Grievance and Appeals Committee shall consist of the Vice-President, who shall be the chairperson of the Committee, the SRA or his delegate and four other members to be selected by the membership (clubs, leagues and associations). No member shall serve if his organization is involved in the hearing. The President shall then appoint a new member for that case only.

B. Grievance Procedure

1. Filing

- a) Non-game related type grievances and appeals must be filed within sixty (60) days of the event giving rise to the grievance or appeal
- b) Except as provided above, all grievances filed with this Corporation shall be in writing, signed by the person filing such grievance and shall be delivered or mailed to the Vice-President not less than seven days after the event giving rise to the grievance. A fee in the amount of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) shall accompany such appeal and shall be retained by this Corporation unless the appeal is fully sustained, in which case the fee shall be returned. The person filing the grievance of the Committee that participated in the decision shall have had ample opportunity to review the written report and correct any errors or omissions. After Committee members have reviewed the report, the chairman shall deliver the report to the Board of Directors. Only the President or his designate shall be responsible for forwarding copies of Committee decisions beyond the jurisdiction of the State Association.

2. Decisions. Unless otherwise provided herein, all grievances and appeals filed with this Corporation shall be filed with the Chairperson and shall be considered by the Committee. All decisions by the Committee shall be reported to the Board of Directors and shall constitute the decision of the Board unless such decision is modified by the Board.

C. Appeals

1. Decisions of Grievance Committee. The decision of the Committee shall not be subject to debate or revision unless the Board of Directors, by a majority votes of the members of the Board otherwise orders. A decision of the Committee may be modified by the Board by a majority vote of the members of the Board.

2. Decisions of Affiliated Leagues/Associations. The Board of Directors shall entertain appeals from the decision of affiliated associations or leagues only after such decisions have been reconsidered or an application for reconsideration has been refused and only in cases of interpretation of rules

D. Appeals Beyond NSSA. Any club, league or association not wholly satisfied with any decision made by this Corporation has the right of appeal by following the procedure laid down by USSF Rule 2.6.4.

E. Exclusive Jurisdiction

1. Referees. All grievances concerning the conduct of referees, the decisions of referees and assaults on referees shall be filed with this Corporation which shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such grievances; provided, however, the Board may delegate, on such terms and conditions as it determines, jurisdiction of particular grievances to a member of this Corporation. Grievances regarding referee judgment shall not be subject to hearing.

2. NSSA Officers, Directors, Board. All grievances concerning any activity of this Corporation, it's Board or Board members, its officers or its committees shall be filed with this Corporation which shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such grievances.

F. NSSA Sponsored Games. Any grievance concerning any games sponsored by this Corporation shall be filed with the person designated by the Board as the game or tournament director or with the individual designated by such director as grievance assistant. If for purposes of continuing tournament or other games a decision on such grievance is necessary within forty-eight hours of the event creating the grievance, such director or grievance assistant shall be authorized to hear such grievance using such procedure as deemed best and to make a decision thereon. Grievances requiring a decision within forty-eight hours of the event causing the grievance may be presented orally to a game or tournament director or assistant and the decision of such director or assistant may be made orally. A report of all such oral grievances and decisions shall be made by the director or assistant to the Board.

XI. AMENDMENTS

These Rules and Regulations may be altered, amended or repealed and new Rules may be adopted by the Board of Directors by a majority vote provided that written notice of such intent to amend or repeal and a draft copy of the

proposed amendment or repeal shall be presented to the various members of the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which action on a proposed amendment or repeal is to take place.