

WEST TEXAS PREMIERE LEAGUE

Affiliated with the Midland Soccer Association, NTSSA, USSF, FIFA

BY-LAWS

Adopted August 12, 1995 by the WTPL Membership
Approved September 12, 1995 by the Midland Soccer Association Board of Directors
Revised August 15, 2007

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the West Texas Premiere League, hereby known as WTPL, shall be composed of two (2) categories: voting members and non-voting members.

VOTING MEMBERS the Board of Directors

Team representatives in attendance at league meetings upon payment of league fees, to be determined by the board, and proper registration of each team. Each team retains its one (1) adult membership between the fall and spring seasons. Director, Director Elect, Deputy Director, Secretary/Treasurer shall retain one(1) adult membership between the fall and spring season.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Players-upon payment of required fees. Managers and Coaches (unless appointed as their team's representative) – Upon team formation.

ARTICLE II – STANDARDS

The teams admitted to the WTPL shall be those teams, which represent the highest standards of competitive soccer skills and promote integrity of the program. Once a team is admitted, the demand is made of the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship from the participants.

QUALIFICATIONS

The WTPL is an invitational league. Teams must be given an invitation by the WTPL Board of Directors to participate and must provide in writing the team's and coach (es)' qualifications. Head coach must have a minimal of NTSSA E License or equivalent. After review of the WTPL Board, an invitation will be given. Only competitive teams as defined by NTSSA shall be permitted to join the league.

CONDUCT

Any qualified team, coach, player, or team representative, who has allegedly brought disrepute to the game in another league or association, may be admitted on a probation basis with majority vote of the WTPL. Any incident by the admitted team, coach, player, or team representative will be grounds for review by the Appeals & Disciplinary Committee.

UNIFORMS

All players of a WTPL team shall be dressed the same with the exception of the goalkeeper whose uniform shall not conflict with any other participant on the field, including jersey and socks. Other than the goalkeeper, jerseys, shorts and socks of the same team shall match in color.

ARTICLE III – EXPULSION

Any member may be expelled or have his/her membership forfeited for serious violation of League Bylaws or for conduct which brings the league, any of its affiliated, or the sport into disrepute. The willful forfeiture of any match is considered to be conduct, which brings the league and the match into disrepute. Membership forfeiture is a matter for the WTPL A & D Committee.

ARTICLE IV – AUTHORITY

The WTPL is an invitational league sanctioned by and endorsed by the NTSSA and its affiliates. The WTPL will operate under its own by-laws and playing rules, but is subject to the constitution and by-laws of its higher affiliates.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WTPL Board of Directors will consist of one member per ten teams (or less) from each playing association that has active teams playing in the WTPL. Each board member(s) represented by an association will be appointed and/or voted upon by individuals from each playing association represented with voting members being previously addressed in this document.

ARTICLE VI – LEAGUE AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

The WTPL will be affiliated with an association to be appointed by the board and approved by the voting members. The WTPL's affiliation will be reviewed annually and can be moved with approval of the WTPL Board and simple majority vote approval of the voting membership. The affiliated association will provide support to the WTPL and act in the appeal process

before appealing to NTSSA. The WTPL Board of Directors will appoint a representative to act on behalf the WTPL at all affiliated associations' meetings, including representation at the NTSSA Select Soccer Committee meetings

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND TERM OF OFFICE

All Officers shall be elected by the WTPL membership at the Spring Scheduling meeting of the WTPL and serve a one (1) year term commencing March 1st of each year. Vacancies shall be filled with the approval of the WTPL Board of Directors.
DIRECTOR

The WTPL Director is charged with the day to day operations of the WTPL. The Director shall appoint such committees, as he/she deems necessary to carry out such functions. The Director is empowered to take prudent and reasonable actions not covered by these by-laws. The Director will be elected by a majority vote of the WTPL Board of Directions.

DIRECTOR ELECT

The Director Elect will serve two year term with the first year responsibilities including but not limited to actions Director when Director not able, work with NTSSA and the Competitive Committee, work with teams to be represented at State Cup Tournament, and help with setting up of pre-season seating tournament. The Director, Elect will become Director in the second year of term, unless deemed not able or fit by WTPL A & D Committee. The Director elect will be elected by a majority vote of the WTPL Representative.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The WTPL Deputy Director shall assist the Director in the accomplishment of the duties of the Director and shall serve as Director if both and action Director and Director Elect are absent. The Deputy Director shall be Chairman of the following committees. Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and Rules Committee. The Deputy Director will be elected by a majority vote of the WTPL Board of Directors.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

The WTPL Treasurer/Secretary will be responsible for collection fees/bonds, paying bills, regular reporting of finances to the WTPL Board and recording and documenting all meeting of the board and league.

ASSOCIATION COMMISSIONERS

WTPL Association Commissioners are: Members of the WTPL Board of Directors and the primary contact for competitive teams/players for their home association.

Responsible for the overall scheduling process for games played at their home association, coordination fields, time slots, referee assignments, and furnishing a schedule to WTPL Administrator.

Responsible to take under advisement any proposed amendments to the WTPL Rules within their home association as requested by a majority of their members, and will report such proposals to the Deputy Director

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE

The WTPL Club Representative will consist of one member per active Club playing in the WTPL. Each representative will be appointed and/or voted upon by individuals from each club affiliated. Responsible to take under advisement any proposed amendments of the WTPL Rules within their club as requested by a majority of their members, and will report such proposals to Deputy Director.

IMMEDIATE PAST DIRECTORS

The immediate past director may serve as an ex-office, non-voting director and must serve for up to two (2) years, instant the term has expired.

OFFICIALS LIASON

One individual selected from the various officials associations shall serve as a non-voting member of the board.

OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers will be elected at each WTPL Spring Scheduling meeting and serve one year term or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE VIII – REGISTRATION

All teams must be members in good standings of their home associations and must have the permission of their home associations to participate in the WTPL. All teams must follow the proper registration procedures of NTSSA. Teams must register with and pay state fees through their home associations. All teams must register on the approved roster as provided by NTSSA. Team roster, team releases, player releases, add/transfer/delete sheets and registration fee receipt copies from the home association and the WTPL must be in

the hands of the WTPL Administrator before a team or player will be permitted to play. All teams must provide the necessary release forms and disclaimers required by the WTPL and its higher affiliates. Teams wishing to join the WTPL that do not want to play a full WTPL season against all division members may not schedule matches with division members until all league matches have been set. Matches with recreational teams will not be scheduled through the WTPL.

ARTICLE IX – ROSTERS AND ROSTER CHANGES

All teams and rosters are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. See League Playing Rules for further interpretation of rosters/adds/transfers and deletes. Rosters and roster changes (add/transfer/deletes) shall be executed through the team's home associations, and/or NTSSA, when applicable. All teams must submit to the WTPL administrator a copy of roster and add/transfer/delete sheets and properly executed release. These must be in the Possession of the administrator prior to match time. No phone calls are acceptable. An official of the team's home association and/or NTSSA must sign rosters and add/transfer/delete sheet, when applicable. The above must be accomplished before a player is eligible to engage in any competition.

ARTICLE X – FIELDS

Fields must be of a size recommended by USYSA, properly marked and maintained, and conducive to competitive play, i.e., they cannot inhibit a player from properly demonstrating his/her skills with safety, equality and enjoyment.

ARTICLE XI – PLAY OF THE GAME

The WTPL shall maintain a set of playing rules by which all participants must abide.

ARTICLE XII – APPEALS & DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. A & D issues shall be forwarded from the association where the game was played to the WTPL Administrator. Paperwork is to be completed and forwarded within three working days of assessment.
- II. The WTPL A & D Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members which will be appointed and directed by the WTPL Board of Directors.

The A & D Committee shall hold hearings as needed. The WTPL endorses and abides by the policy regarding violence, misconduct, and appeals of NTSSA.

1. A player sent off and a coach officially cautioned or sent off has the right to appear before the A & D Committee. The Committee shall base its decisions primarily upon the official's written report to the committee.
2. Only the coach and/or manager of record may represent an entire team and all of its members at a disciplinary hearing. The coach is responsible for the behavior of the spectators and players, individually and collectively. The disciplinary committee may, at its discretion, hear other interested parties.
3. Any party requested to appear before a disciplinary committee hearing and who fails to do so, shall be suspended from all WTPL activities until such time as he/she does appear.
4. The A & D Committee shall make every effort to hold a hearing on any matter coming to its attention within five (5) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT BY THE Deputy Director or the delegated authority of and /or by the office. However, failure to hold such hearing within that time does not negate its right to act on the matter.
5. Referee sent off of a coach or player requires automatic suspension for the next match actually played in the WTPL.
6. The home team coach is totally and completely responsible for the safety and well being of the referees before, during and after the match.
7. FIFA rules state that "the referee shall report to the appropriate authority misconduct or any misdemeanor on the part of spectators, officials, players, substitutes or other person which take place either on the field of play or in its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the match in question so that appropriate action can be taken by the authority concerns." State and National rules stipulate that any instances of alleged referee assault by refereed directly to the State Association authority (NTSSA).
8. NTSSA Rule 3.11 Discipline shall be enforced a followed in all matters.
9. MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT OF TEAMS: Enforcing NTSSA Rule, 3.11. This league will not hesitate to deny teams the privilege of further participation in all nor selected soccer activities with the league for repeated offenses and/or serious offenses considered bringing the game or league unto disrepute. Such offenses include, but are not limited to: forfeit and cancellation of matches. Coaches or a team representative pulling their team off the field of play before the end of a half or match.

Any team affiliated individual who displays a threatening bodily harm attitude and/or an article, which in its form, is dangerous to a person or persons.

ARTICLE XIII – APPEALS AND PROTEST PROCEDURE

The WTPL Appeals & Disciplinary Committee and the WTPL Board of Directors have jurisdiction over any and all matters pertaining the operation of the WTPL with the right of appeal to the next higher affiliate, etc.

FILING AN APPEAL OR MATCH PROTEST

When a person wishes to file a match protest, such protest shall be made in writing to the WTPL Administrator accompanied by the appropriate filing fee.

\$50 APPEAL FEE
\$50 PROTEST FEE

All filing fees are to be made payable to the "West Texas Premiere League" and are nonrefundable.

PROTESTS

Written protest must be received by the WTPL Administrator within five (5) days, postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours, of the conclusion of the match. It shall be emphasized that any disagreement with the referee can only take the form of a written protest filed in the proper manner. Upon receipt of the above, the Deputy Director will schedule a hearing after selecting three (3) committee members of his/her choosing, if the protest or appeal is upheld.

PROTEST WILL NOT BE HEARD OR ENTERTAINED THAT PERTAIN TO REFEREE JUDGEMENT

NOTE: NTSSA Rule 3.13.1 states: "There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a match after it has been played. They are:

1. A Team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player. If match protest is upheld, the team playing such a player shall forfeit the match.
2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the laws of the game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it in writing. If match protest is upheld, the match will be replayed

AVENUES OF APPEAL

1. Appeals & Disciplinary Committee of where protest or caution reviewed.
2. WTPL Board of Directors.
3. Affiliated (hot) Association Executive Committee
4. North Texas State Soccer Association
5. United States Youth Soccer Association.

There are filing fees with each step appeal. The filing fee must accompany the appeal and the appeal must be in writing.

IN NO EVENT SHALL ANY PERSON OR PERSON OR ORGANIZATION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE WTPL RESORT TO THE COURTS UNTIL ALL APPEAL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. FOR VIOLATION OF THE RULE, THE OFFENDING PARTY SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY CAPACITY IN THE WTPL. EXCEPT AS A PARENT/SPECTATOR AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SANCTIONS OF SUSPENSION AND FINES AS SET FORTH BY THE WTPL, ITS HIGHER AFFILIATES, AND SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ALL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE WTPL AND/OR ITS HIGHER AFFILIATES AND ITS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS IN DEFENDING EACH COURT ACTION, INCLUDING RESPONSES TO DISCOVERY AND COURT APPEARANCE, TRAVEL EXPENSE AND EXPENSES FOR HOLDING SPECIAL MEETINGS NECESSITATED BY THE COURT ACTION. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE REFERENCED, THE WTPL AND ITS HIGHER AFFILIATES ADOPTED THE POLICY THAT IT IS ALLOWED TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF RIGHTS PERMITTED TO IT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

ARTICLE XIV – MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The Board of Directors of WTPL shall determine any matter not provided for in the aforesaid and decisions so made shall be final and binding.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by the WTPL membership at any regular or special meeting, provided at least thirty(30) days notice of the proposed amendment(s), briefly indicating its nature, shall have been mailed in writing to each member and provided that the amendment(s) be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at such meeting.

Any and all amendments shall be submitted to and approved by the administering association prior to adoption.