

WEST TEXAS PREMIERE LEAGUE
PLAYING RULES

- 1) **ADMINISTRATION:** United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA), and the Affiliate Association administrative rules apply unless otherwise noted herein.
- 2) **REGISTRATION:** Teams must be members in good standing of their home associations. 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 from NTSSA. Team roster, team releases, player releases, and the league fee must be turned into the WTPL association commissioner before a team will be scheduled to play.
- 3) **RETURNED CHECKS:** Should a check be returned, for any reason, written either by or for a team, to the WTPL for league fees, or to referees for games play in WTPL, a returned check fee of TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$25) will be assessed to the team in addition to the amount of the check, to be paid either by cashier's check (payable to WTPL) or cash only. For the second, a subsequent, returned check in the same season, a fee of FIFTY AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$50) will be assessed in addition to the amount of the check to the team, and the coach of the team may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4) **ROSTER CHANGES:** Roster changes shall be made through the team's home association. All teams must submit to the WTPL administrator a copy of Add/Delete sheets and properly executed releases. These must be in the possession of the WTPL administrator prior to game time. No phone calls are acceptable. An official of the team's home association must sign add/delete sheets. The above must be accomplished before a player is eligible to engage in any competition.
- 5) **AGE GROUPINGS:** In order for the WTPL to have an age division, at least four teams must participate. Age divisions will be considered per NTSSA guidelines (i.e. U-12, U-14, U-16, U-19), with separate boys and girls divisions; where possible, age pure divisions will be formed (U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, etc.). Teams that desire to play up an age group must request permission from the board of directors in writing (along with justification) before the fall board meeting. If granted approval a team may play up an age group. They must remain the older age group for the current soccer year if the team decides to return to the original age group; they will be placed into the division they left.
- 6) **INELIGIBLE PLAYER:** If it is suspected by the WTPL Select Commissioner, at any time during applying season (the Fall season begins with the first scheduled game in August/September and ends with the final game normally in November and the Spring season begins with the first scheduled game in February/March and end with the final game normally in May), that an ineligible player has participated in a league game, a meeting of the Appeals and Disciplinary committee will be called, the A & D Committee will determine if the player in question was eligible or not. It is determined that the player in question was ineligible; all games in which that player participated will be forfeited. It is determined that the coach, assistant coach, and/or team manager knowingly played an ineligible player, the team will incur a fine or the maximum forfeit fee under Section 23 and the responsible party(s) may be heretofore disqualified from further activities within the WTPL and report thereof forwarded to NTSSA.
- 7) **ELIGIBLE PLAYERS:** An eligible player is an individual on a current accepted team registration form, as prescribed by NTSSA.
- 8) **PLAYING RULES:** FIFA playing rules are applicable, with exceptions provided for by USYSA, NTSSA, and the Playing Rules. Coaches must present a copy of the official roster to the officials before the start of any WTPL match. This must include the add/delete sheets. The officials will retain the roster.
- 9) **OFFICIALS:** the local association will assign referees. Licensed United States Soccer Federation officials are required.
- 10) **STANDINGS:** Standings are calculated on the following point system: Win – 3 points, Loss – 0 points, Tie – 1 point, Goals scored – 0 points, Forfeit - -3 points, No game sheets received - -3 points. Should a tie in standings occur the following tiebreakers will be utilized: a) Head-to-head competition, b) Least number of CAUTIONS /EJECTION POINTS incurred during league play, c) Least goals allowed in league play, d) Goals scored less goals allowed in league play, but no more than three goal credits per game, e) Record against common opponents, f) Elimination game(s) if time permits. Opponents determined by random draw if more than two teams tied for one position.
- 11) **GAME BALLS:** To provide uniformity, stitched balls only will be used as game balls. Each team will present the referee with a ball and the referee will choose which shall be used as the game ball.
- 12) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** In WTPL competition, substitutes will be allowed according to the USYSA Rule No. 3220 regarding "Substitutions". A. Substitutions shall be unlimited. B. Substitutions can be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times: 1) prior to a throw-in, in your favor. 2) Prior to a goal kick by either team. 3) After a goal by either team. 4) After an injury by either team when the referee stops play. 5) Halftime. 6) A player may be substituted after receiving a caution and before play has been restarted. No substitution is allowed for a player ordered from the field of play (ejected) by the referee. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.
- 13) **NETS:** Host team is responsible for providing both nets and all corner flags. Host team will put up and take down nets.
- 14) **PAYMENT OF REFEREES:** Home team (team listed first on schedule) is responsible for full payment (in cash) of referees. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture and an additional fine equal to the referee fee. When teams are sharing referee fees, home team must pay referees in full at the field. Visiting team will take care of there half directly to the home team
- 15) **PLAYERS:** Home teams will occupy the North or West Side of field (home team is listed first on schedule). ALL COACHES AND PLAYERS WILL STAY WITHIN 10 YARDS OF HALFWAY LINE AND 5 FEET BACK OF TOUCHLINE.
- 16) **UNIFORM COLORS:** The home team (team listed first on schedule) must wear light and the visiting team will wear a contrasting color.
- 17) **UNIFORM NUMBERS:** All players are required to have proper uniforms including numbers. Players without numbers will not be allowed on the playing field. A team with less than 7 players in numbered uniforms shall forfeit the game.
- 18) **CLEAN UP:** Each team must pick up its trash after the game. Failure to do may result in forfeiture of performance bond (as set out in Section 32). Once the bond has been forfeited, a new bond will have to be posted before the team's next scheduled match.
- 19) **GAME SHEETS:** Coaches are responsible for the completion of a Game Report (copy to be provided) after each game played, which will include the following: game date, time, and place; goal(s) scored by each team; any cards given, including player's name and jersey number; note of any player(s) serving game suspension, and referee's signature. **SIT OUT PROCEDURE:** 1. Player must appear in uniform with roster before start of game to the center referee and announce their name and that they are sitting out. Coach/Manager must appear before start of game to the center referee and announce their name and that they are sitting out. 2. Player must sit on side line with penne on to verify they will not play. Coach/Manager must leave game area and cannot return until game is complete. 3. Have referee sign sit-out verification sheet.
- 20) **SCORES:** Each team will send completed game sheet into association commissioner within 48 hours of the completion of the game. The board will periodically mail the standings to each coach.
- 21) **LENGTH OF GAMES:** The length of games are as follows (no overtimes): a) U-11 – 12 -- two 30 minute halves, b) U-13 – 14 -- two 35 minute halves, c) U15 – 16 -- two 40 minute halves, d) U-17 – 19 -- two 45 minute halves.
- 22) **PLAYING SITES:** Teams participating must play one home and one away game with each opponent within their division (A or B) in the fall season and only one game with each opponent in the spring season. For participating team(s) more than 150 miles from each other, a neutral site may be found to play games with prior approval from neutral site's playing association and appropriate compensation made to such playing association for fields and referees fees by participating team(s).
- 23) **FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES:** In case of foul or inclement weather, WTPL shall make every effort to insure that teams and parents do not make unnecessary trips to the fields. However, there will be times when only the referee will be able to make the determination at the fields. In order that we may adopt a fair ruling for all concerned, the following will apply: a) only the association commissioner or his agent may cancel games prior to game time. B) The referee or local association official may cancel games at the field of play. C) Unless notified by the local association's

- commissioner or his/her agent, both teams must appear at the field ready to start no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled time. Those teams not in accordance with the above shall be subject to a forfeit, i.e., one team not ready or showing, single forfeit, and two teams not ready or showing, double forfeit. D) Games suspended after the start of the second half of play will be considered full games.
- 24) PERFORMANCE BOND: Each season (i.e., Fall and/or Spring), each team competing in the WTPL will be required to post a \$100 performance bond. Such performance bonds will remain on depots until respective team leaves WTPL.
- 25) FORFEITS: Teams not able to field 7 players within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time shall forfeit. Providing 7 players are in attendance, the game shall proceed. The opposing team is not required to play short.
- 26) SCHEDULED GAMES: After the schedules have been prepared, no schedule changes will be allowed except in the case of inclement weather. Exceptions to this policy may be made only by the Association Commissioners and only under very rare extraordinary circumstances. Association Commissioners must notify WTPL Administrator and any teams involved in a rescheduled game at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the rescheduled game. Any team initiating a reschedule shall be charged a \$50.00 fee. Any team initiating a reschedule less than 72 hours prior to the start of the game to be rescheduled will be charged a \$100.00 fee. The administrator must receive payment before the rescheduled game is played. (Note: This rule is in no way intended to insinuate that reschedules are permissible. Reschedules must be for a valid, very rare, extraordinary reason and must be granted by the association commissioner. All games scheduled at the scheduling meeting (standing and non-standing) are league games.
- 27) MISCONDUCT OF SPECTATORS: a) each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators; therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his or her spectators. b) The harassment of players on the opposing team, verbal communication, physical force, or physical sign language will not be tolerated. C) Any violation of the rule will be dealt with per NTSSA Rule XI, Misconduct of Spectators.
- 28) COMPETITIVE LEVEL OF DIVISION: The WTPL will offer open division in the U-12 through U-19 age groups (where possible, pure age divisions will be formed). All age groups that have more than eight teams will be divided into an A & B division. Teams with odd numbers of teams will place the odd team into the A division. All new teams will start in the B division. The top team in the B division of an age group will move into the A division and the bottom team in the A division will move into the B division based on the previous fall season's standings. The winner of the A division and the winner of the B division will have a playoff game to determine who will represent the division at the State Cup. WTPL will reimburse the division champion for the State Cup entry for all divisions U11-19. WTPL teams must participate in the spring season. Teams that do not participate in the spring will forfeit their bond.
- 29) REFEREE NO SHOWS: If both teams are at the field to play a match and the referees do not show, the game will be rescheduled at the "visitors" home field with the "original home team" responsible for paying the referees at the scheduled game. The association commissioner shall do rescheduling. Teams must wait at least 10 minutes past the scheduled game time unless otherwise notified.
- 30) RULES CHANGES: Changes to the rules of the WTPL must be submitted in writing 30 days prior to meeting, can only be accomplished at any WTPL meeting. Each team is allowed one vote. Changes must carry a majority vote.