



**THESE ARE THE BYLAWS OF THE EAGLE MOUNTAIN SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. DULY ADOPTED AT AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMED IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

**REVISED: APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

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### **ARTICLE I. NAME, AFFILIATION, OFFICES AND PURPOSE**

**1.01** The name of this organization shall be the Eagle Mountain Soccer Association, herein referred to as the Association or EMSA. The principal office of the Association in the State of Texas shall be located in Northwest Tarrant County. The Association may have such other offices, either within or outside the State of Texas, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Association may require from time to time.

**1.02** The Association shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Association, and the Board of Directors may change the address of the registered office from time to time.

**1.03** This Association is affiliated with Northern Mid-Cities Soccer League (NMCSL) and the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA). Ultimate affiliation is with United States Youth Soccer (USYS).

**1.04** The purpose of the Association shall be to foster and advance the cause of soccer within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Association and to guard the interests of its members. EMSA shall promote sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and courage through organized athletic competition and educate participants in the rules of sportsmanship and soccer through and according to the NTSSA.

## **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

**2.01** EMSA shall be comprised of parents and/or legal guardians with youth participating in the Association's soccer program and coaches. Hereafter these parents and/or legal guardians shall be referred to as members of the Association based upon Article 2.02. Any person who has interest in and sympathy with the purpose of EMSA and their adherence to its Bylaws and Rules and Regulations shall be eligible for membership as approved by a majority vote of the association Board of Directors.

**2.02** Applicants for membership shall properly complete a Registration/Release form, submit a birth certificate, and pay all fees required by the Association. Comply with the constitution as governed by NTSSA and EMSA Bylaws/Rules/Regulations and other rules and requirements that the Board of Directors may establish. Having complied with the foregoing, the Applicants may be accepted for membership by the Board of Directors.

**2.03** It is the ultimate responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardians of youth participating in EMSA soccer activities to ensure that their children are properly and safely attired for soccer games and practices. This includes proper equipment, proper clothing according to weather conditions, and a source of hydration.

**2.04** Any adult, who agrees to abide by the Constitution of NTSSA, EMSA Bylaws/Rules/Regulations, and with approval of the Board of Directors, may volunteer to be a Coach or Coaches Assistant upon passing a criminal background check and signing a Coaches Agreement.

**2.05** An annual membership is established as being from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.

**2.06** Each adult member 18 years of age and older shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

**2.07** Any member of the Association (or coach, team, or official) may be expelled and his or her membership canceled, forfeited or suspended unilaterally by the Association's Board of Directors or through its consideration of a recommendation of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee or he/she may be censured by the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and/or by the Association's Board of Directors for a violation of the Association's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations or for conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Association.

**2.08** The Association will honor all orders of suspension of players, coaches or referees issued by the Association, NMCSL, NTSSA or any other Association based upon a determination of the facts by the Board of Directors or the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Division.

**2.09** Any member of the Association may resign by giving written notice to the President, but such resignation shall not relieve the member so resigning of the obligation to pay any fees, assessments, or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid unless otherwise excused by rules established by the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE III. GOVERNMENT OF ASSOCIATION**

**3.01** The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of EMSA and shall transact all business and enforce all rules for the Association. It shall have the power to settle all disputes and protests. All decisions rules by the Board of Directors are final. The only appeal is to NTSSA.

**3.02** There shall be no vote by proxy for any Annual General Meeting (AGM) or meeting of the Board of Directors.

**3.03** Directors shall be members of the Association.

**3.04** This Association, represented by the Board of Directors, shall have jurisdiction over all members, administrators, referees, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, registered players, teams, parents and/or legal guardians, and other persons affiliated with such teams. Each member will adhere to these Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and will comply with the authority of the Association. If the Association is presented sufficient evidence that a member is not adhering to the Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations, the Association will ask the Vice President to investigate the allegations and take necessary actions.

**3.05** This Association shall be comply with the authority of, the NTSSA and shall represent all its members and respective interest in and before the NTSSA.

**3.06** The Association recognizes the superseding authority of the NTSSA. In the event of a discrepancy between EMSA's Bylaws and the NTSSA, the NTSSA's authority supersedes EMSA's.

**3.07** The geographic boundaries of EMSA are defined as:

*Beginning at the intersection of I-35 and Northwest Loop 820. West along 820 to Silver Creek Road, Northeast of Parker/Tarrant/Wise County line. This excludes the city limits of Haslet.*

**3.08** The Fiscal Year (FY) of the Association shall be from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**3.09** The Association shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of all meetings at its principle office and are available for review upon written request of the Secretary.

**3.10** The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers of the Association, in addition

to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**3.11** Two signatures, limited to the Treasurer, the President or the Vice President, will be required on all checks for payment to any obligation of the Association over \$200.00.

**3.12** The Association will maintain one (1) debit/credit card from the financial institution associated with EMSA. That card will remain in the sole custody of the Treasurer at all times. No other member, except the Treasurer, of the Association shall use this card to make any transactions without written consent by the Board of Directors.

**3.13** A member of the Board of Directors shall conduct an annual audit of the financial records, transactions and bank statements. The Board of Directors shall select this individual each year, by no later than the July board meeting, in order to complete and finalize the audit by no later than August 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year. This Board Member cannot have signature authority as defined in 3.11.

**3.14** If a member of the Association has utilized personal funds for the purpose of purchasing item(s) or fulfilling any obligation for sole purpose of the Association, based on the needs of the Association, where a board meeting could not be conducted due to time constraints, he/she must submit any and all receipts for that purchase(s). These receipts must be presented to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting in order to receive full reimbursement of those personal funds spent. The Board of Directors will make the determination if those personal funds were spent appropriately and warrant a reimbursement.

**3.15** All funds of the Association shall be deposited to the credit of the Association in such banks, credit unions, trust companies, or other depositories as approved by the Board of Directors.

**3.16** The Board of Directors may accept, on behalf of the Association, any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Board of Directors.

**3.17** These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors present at any regular meeting, or at any special meetings.

#### **ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**4.01** All meetings of the Association shall be held at such a place as designated by the President and will be open to all members of the Association. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws and any special rules of order of EMSA, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all matters to which they are applicable.

**4.02** An AGM of all members shall be held before the conclusion of the spring soccer season with the date to be decided by majority vote of the Board of Directors, for the purpose of electing Directors and transacting such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. A quorum of the membership is not required for this meeting so as long as notices of such meeting were properly given.

**4.03** The President or a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors may call special meetings of the Association for any purposes. Notification may be in person or in writing via USPS postal mail or email if at least a two (2) day notice is provided. Business transacted at all special meetings shall be confined and limited to the purpose stated in the notice of the meeting. For the purposes of conducting association business a quorum must be present to hold this meeting. A quorum for this purpose shall be considered as a simple majority of the Board of Directors, provided one of those present is the President or Vice President. A majority vote of those present is required in order for any actions to be taken.

**4.04** The meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. For the purposes of conducting association business a quorum must be present to hold this meeting. A quorum for this purpose shall be considered a simple majority of the Board of Directors, provided one of those present is the President or Vice President. If the meeting is rescheduled then proper notice must be given within 24 hours of the original scheduled time. Attendance shall be taken and documented by the Secretary during board meetings to ensure maximum participation is met. The President needs to be notified if a board member is unable to attend the scheduled meeting to avoid being accounted for as absent.

**4.05** A Board Member participating through the use of telephone or visual electronic (i.e. Facetime or Skype) means is counted as being present at the Board of Directors meeting. The meeting of the Board of Directors may be held by means of remote electronic communications system, including video conferencing, electronic mail, or the Internet, but only if:

- 1) Each Board of Director consents to the meeting being held by means of that system.
- 2) The system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each Board Director participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other.

**4.06** A Board of Directors vote on any matter may be conducted by USPS mail or email, provided that the outcome of the vote, to include subject and results are input into the Minutes and approved at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

**4.07** Any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, which may include the President, may take emergency action on matters demanding immediate attention when it is impractical or impossible to call a meeting and shall report their actions to all Board of Directors within 24 hours.

**4.08** Written, printed or emailed notice stating the place, day, and hour, of any meeting, and the

purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called, shall be delivered not less than five (5) and no more than fifty days before the meeting, either personally, by mail, by email or online posting by or at the direction of the President, to each Board Member of record entitled to vote at the meeting unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when postmarked by the USPS addressed to the Board Member at their address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon prepaid.

**4.09** Each member of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the President, shall cast one vote regardless of how many positions they hold. The President shall only cast his/her vote in case of a tie and on changes to the Bylaws.

**4.10** When a Bylaw is amended, revised or changed a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required. This same rule applies to the replacement and removal of a Board Member, with the exception of the President or Vice President. Any Board Member may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Board whose actions have been judged to be negligent, or involve severe improprieties, or other serious wrongdoings. If the vote of no confidence is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors, he/she is automatically removed from the Board of Directors, the Association, and their ability to transact business in behalf of the Association is terminated immediately. If the Board Member in question is performing the additional duty of Coach, the Board of Directors will intervene and attempt to find an interim Coach to finish the season. If an interim Coach cannot be found, a Board Meeting will be called to order to determine the course of action. If the President or Vice President willfully neglects the duties of his/her office to the detriment of EMSA they may be brought to a hearing before the Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the voting members present at the hearing is necessary for the removal or disciplinary action toward the President or Vice President.

<b><u>Board Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Two-Thirds Majority</u></b>	<b><u>Three-Fourths Majority</u></b>
<b>4</b>	3	3
<b>5</b>	3	4
<b>6</b>	4	5
<b>7</b>	5	5
<b>8</b>	5	6
<b>9</b>	6	7
<b>10</b>	7	8
<b>11</b>	7	8
<b>12</b>	8	9

**4.11** Minutes of meetings shall include the actions considered and discussed at the meeting, the decisions made, actions taken at the meeting and the persons present and voting at the meeting. If a conflict of interest is addressed at a meeting, the votes of each Board Member will be separately recorded in the minutes. The opposition of any Board Member to a particular action or vote at a Board meeting will be reflected in the minutes of that meeting. Important written materials acted upon by the Board of Directors, or members of the Association, shall be included as attachments to the minutes of the meeting.

**ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**5.01** The Board of Directors, with the exception of the Association Director, shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. The Association Director shall be appointed only by members of the Board of Directors on a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote. An evaluation of the Association Directors annual performance will be evaluated at the annual AGM in order for his/her term to be sustained or terminated. Any Board Member that desires to seek election to another office must first resign the office he/she is holding, prior to the election. Any person declaring to run for office of the Board of Directors must submit in writing their declaration to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting at least one month prior to the election. Elections shall be held at the AGM. The members will elect by a majority vote each Board Member whose term is open. For a member to vote they must have a child registered with EMSA and having played in the spring or fall season of the current year. Current Board Members may vote in the election without having a child currently registered. The member and child must be in good standing within the Association. The member will be granted one vote per child up to a maximum of two (2) votes per family. Each Board Member seat will come open for election on the following years:

*President.....Elected Even Years*  
*Vice President.....Elected Odd Years*  
*Secretary.....Elected Even Years*  
*Treasurer.....Elected Odd Years*  
*Registrar.....Elected Even Years*  
*Coaches Commissioner.....Elected Even Years*  
*Referee Commissioner.....Elected Odd Years*  
*Field Commissioner.....Elected Even Years*  
*Equipment Manager.....Elected Odd Years*  
*Uniform/Trophy Coordinator.....Elected Even Years*



**5.02** A person may occupy more than one elected position but not more than two at any time. Should an elected position be vacated prior to an election year, the President shall nominate a person to serve in such a capacity with Board approval. The appointed position will be filled at the next regular season election. The President is prohibited from occupying more than one position.

**5.03** The Board of Directors shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings. The minutes shall be placed in the minute book of the Association. Minutes shall be approved at the next Board Meeting and are available for review by the membership via the Secretary as described in 3.09 (written request).

**5.04** Creation of new positions on the Board of Directors will be the duty of the Board Members, subject to confirmation at the ensuing AGM.

**5.05** The Board of Directors shall serve without salary for their services. Any Board Member may be reimbursed for expenses approved by the budget and/or Board of Directors as long as the requirements defined in 3.13 are met.

**5.06** Any Board Member with youth participating in EMSA soccer may request a free season of soccer for both the spring and fall seasons, not to exceed two (2) children. If the Board Member resigns or is removed during the season, The Board Member will be responsible for paying the cost of the discount

**5.07** Coaches having coached a minimum of two (2) seasons and can show completion of a Coaches Certification Course for his/her teams current age group, shall receive a 50 percent discount for his/her child's registration fees, not to exceed one (1) child.

**5.08** The Board of Directors shall not discuss or disclose information about the Association or its activities to any person or entity unless such information is already a matter of public knowledge, such person or entity has a need to know, or the disclosure of such information is in furtherance of the Association's purpose, or can reasonably be expected to benefit EMSA.

**5.09** The Board of Directors shall use discretion and good ethical and business judgement in discussing the affairs of the Association with third parties. Without limiting the foregoing, discussions with regard to upcoming fundraiser and the purposes and functions of EMSA, including but not limited to accounts on deposit in financial institutions are authorized.

**5.10** A member of the Board of Directors can be a member or official of a team, or club. In the event of any grievance involving such organization, he/she may not act in its behalf nor be entitled to vote on the grievance.

**5.11** Any member of the Association, in good standing and with just cause, may bring a grievance against any member of the Association to include members of the Board. The individual bringing the complaint must submit the grievance in writing and provide supporting

documentation to the President or Vice President, in order for EMSA to recognize and/or act on grievance. The Vice President will verify the individual filing the grievance is a member and in good standing. Once the member is validated as being in good standing, the Vice President will review the grievance and all supporting documentation with members of the Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee, and if approved by a two-three (2/3) majority vote by the committee, the grievance may then be submitted to the entire EMSA Board for further consideration and course of action.

## **ARTICLE VI. POWERS AND DUTIES**

**6.01 President.** As chief executive officer, the President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall, in general, supervise the business and affairs of the corporation. He/she shall preside at all Association meetings. The President shall appoint committees as deemed necessary, assign duties to Board Members as required, take prudent and reasonable action in circumstances not covered in these Bylaws, and such authority is implicit in the office. He/she is ex-officio voting member of all Committees. He/she shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting, or he/she may waive the right to do so. He/she may sign with the Treasurer or any other proper officer of the Association authorized by the Board of Directors on any deed, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments which the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated to the Board of Directors by these Bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the Association. The President may co-sign checks for payment along with the Treasurer and Vice President. The President shall coordinate an audit of the treasury every year as detailed in 3.12. He/she shall be the primary liaison between EMSA and the Cities within the Association's geographical boundaries and its departments such as Parks and Recreations.

**6.02 Vice President.** The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President in the event that office becomes vacant. He/she shall serve in that office until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, at which time the Board of Directors will appoint a President to serve until an election can be held at the next AGM to fill the office of President. The Vice President shall assume the powers of the President in his/her absence. He/she shall be responsible for seeing that the administrative policies and the operation of the Association are carried out. The Vice President shall be responsible for the A&D Committee and serve as the A&D Chairman.

**6.03 Immediate Past President.** Shall server as an advisor to the President. Immediate Past President will be a voting member of the Board of Directors. This position can be served up to 1 year after the resigning as President.

**6.04 Registrar.** The Registrar shall be responsible for the registration and eligibility of all players and teams per the rules and Bylaws provided by NTSSA. The Registrar shall maintain all team rosters and player information will attend to and keep records of all player/team releases. He/she will also coordinate with the divisional league directors on player/team assignment.

**6.05 Secretary.** The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings, attend all correspondence, keep records for EMSA, and notify the Board of Directors of all meetings, as designated by the President. The secretary is responsible for making these records available per 5.03.

**6.06 Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect all monies, keep a detailed account of income and expenses, maintain an EMSA checking account, pay all fees and expenses as authorized by the Board of Directors, coordinate the preparation of budgets, and submit a detailed financial report at each meeting to the Board of Directors. He/she is responsible for the proper filing and paying of all taxes incurred by the Association. Any checks written over the amount of said \$200.00 must have two (2) signatures as defined in 3.11. The Treasurer may sign checks and pay indebtedness up to \$200.00 without seeking express authority from the Board of Directors.

**6.07 Coaches Commissioner.** The Coaches Commissioner shall coordinate all coaching, activities, development, and education as required by NTSSA and the Association.

**6.08 Field Commissioner.** The Field Commissioner shall be responsible for coordinating all work and cost for field maintenance and expansion. He/she shall also work with the President to maintain any contracts with cities or entities and attend any meetings pertaining to the use or expansion of fields. The Field Commissioner has the authority to determine the playability of the fields and is responsible for notifying the appropriate Board Members. He/she is responsible for ensuring to the best of their ability a safe and secure playing environment (i.e. anchoring goals, nets, etc.). The Field Commissioner is responsible for coordinating practice locations.

**6.09 Uniform/Trophy Coordinator.** The Uniform/Trophy Coordinator shall be responsible, the Board approval, for ordering and distributing trophies, awards, plaques, and uniforms for players, coaches, and referees each season, in a timely manner. He/she shall coordinate with the Sponsor Coordinator for sponsorships when warranted.

**6.10 Sponsor Coordinator.** The Sponsor Coordinator shall be responsible for promoting and publicizing EMSA to the community. He/she shall be responsible for the organization and

coordination of efforts to obtain supplemental funding which may be in the form of sponsorships, grants, donations, fundraisers, etc.

**6.11 Equipment Manager.** The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for maintaining an accounting of all equipment needs of the Association. An accurate inventory should be provided at the conclusion of each season with a detailed projection of the equipment needs for the upcoming season. The Equipment Manager will be responsible for the coordination of getting needed equipment to the fields and back to storage each week.

**6.12 Referee Commissioner.** The Referee Commissioner shall be responsible for developing the referee program of the Association. His/her duties shall include, but not be limited to, training, assessing, promotion, and registration of officials to support EMSA's program. This is to include both Referees and Assistant Referees.

**6.13 Scheduler.** The Scheduler shall be responsible for the scheduling of all season and playoff games. He/she shall attend all scheduling meetings with other identified Associations. The Scheduler will be responsible for coordinating and scheduling all make-up games. He/She shall be responsible for other miscellaneous scheduling activities including, but not limited to, picture scheduling.

## **ARTICLE VII. CONDUCT**

**7.01** All persons associated with EMSA are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to good sportsmanship and a wholesome atmosphere for the youth. Examples of misconduct that will not be tolerated and will be cause for disciplinary action shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1) *Foul/Abusive language or physical assault of any other person.*
- 2) *Arguing with officials, coaches, or players*
- 3) *Throwing objects onto the field of play and/or at other persons.*
- 4) *Destruction of equipment/facilities or theft.*
- 5) *Verbal/Physical Assault*
- 6) *Consumption of alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs.*
- 7) *Other misconduct which is deemed disruptive to the orderly conduct of the game of soccer*
- 8) *Scouting or recruiting of players (see NTSSA rules, Chapter 10, Article V)*

**7.02** Misconduct of members, coaches, officials, or players must be reported, either written or verbally, to the Board of Directors within 48 hours of the occurrence. Upon receipt of a report, the A&D Chairman will undertake a preliminary investigation of the charges and will determine, 72 hours, whether the report will be:

- 1) *Rejected for cause*
- 2) *Accepted for hearing before the A&D Committee*
- 3) *Written warning describing possible actions or consequences*

**7.03** In the event that the report is rejected for cause, the A&D Chairman shall respond in writing to the complainant within five (5) days giving a concise reason for the rejection. The complainant may appeal this action to the Board of Director, which may accept the request for hearing. An appeal must be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit, which will be returned to the complainant only if the protest is upheld.

**7.04** Any complaints of incompetence regarding coaches or officials must be reported in writing and may be received by any Board Member. The Board Member receiving a report shall forward the complaint to the Vice President within 24 hours.

**7.05** For a player, coach or parent that is ejected from a game a sit-out will be issued to that individual. A player ejected will be required to attend the next game but not participate in the games events, verified by the games referee and players coach. A coach ejected will be required to attend the next game from the parent's side of field, verified by a member of the Board of Directors. A parent who is ejected from the game will be required to be absent from their child's next game. Evidence of the parents' absence from the games events will be verified by the coach or board member. If viable evidence is presented to the board that documentation was tampered with, forged or altered in any way. The player, coach or parent will be suspended immediately until an A&D hearing.

**7.06** EMSA adopts a philosophy and policies that met or exceed the minimum criteria established by USSF that prohibits physical or sexual abuse of or by players, coaches, referees, administrators, and spectators. EMSA will take steps necessary to remove from further soccer activities any person found guilty of such.

EMSA prohibits all types of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing. Participants or volunteers in EMSA may be subject to disciplinary and/or legal action for engaging in any misconduct or abuse against another person. Reports of any actual or suspected violations must be sent within 24 hours to the EMSA Board of Directors and/or local authorities.

Mandatory reporting is required of all "covered individuals", defined as any adult who is authorized by an amateur sports organization to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an amateur sports organization facility or at any event sanctioned by an amateur sports organization. Covered individuals include, but are not limited to, volunteers, coaches, team administrators, referees, and trainers.

## **ARTICLE VIII. DISCIPLINE**

**8.01** The A&D Committee of the Board shall hear reports as set out herein. Decisions will be rendered according to NTSSA guidelines. All members of EMSA are subject to disciplinary, to include any Board Member. The committee shall be composed of the A&D Chairman and three (3) committee members. The Vice President shall serve as the A&D Chairman. The committee must have, at a minimum, three (3) members present in order to conduct a hearing. The Chairman shall not be a voting member in any matters before the committee, with the exception of a tie.

**8.02** The A&D Committee shall set a hearing date and location within 30 days of the date the incident in question occurred. He/she shall notify the concerned individual(s) within 10 calendar

days of the hearing date. The concerned party shall be notified, in writing, by the A&D Chairman of, but not limited to, the date, time, and location of the A&D hearing. This notification shall be mailed via certified mail; all documentation pertaining to the mailing of the letter shall be maintained by the A&D Chairman. The Committee shall vote after hearing the pertinent facts and the witnesses have retired. A majority vote of the committee will determine the course of action to be taken. The concerned individual(s) shall be notified immediately, in writing, of the committee's action. The action taken by the committee may include but may not be limited to:

- 1) Written Reprimand*
- 2) Probation*
- 3) Suspension*
- 4) Dismissal from all EMSA activities*

## **ARTICLE IX. PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL**

**9.01** In no event shall any person(s) or organizations, under the jurisdiction of this Association, resort to the Courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violations to this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines as set forth by the USSF. The person(s) or organizations shall be liable for all expenses incurred by EMSA, its Directors, and its members in defending each court action. These liabilities include, but are not limited to, court costs, attorney fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by EMSA officers and/or members in responding to and defending against allegations, in the actions, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and the expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the Court action.

**9.02** Procedures for filing any and all appeals shall be as follows:

- 1) All appeals to the A&D Committee must be submitted in writing within five (5) days. The Committee, at its discretion, may, when requested in writing to do so, waive the time limit for filing appeals, but in no case shall an extension of more than ten (10) days be granted.*
- 2) All appeals to this Committee must be made to the A&D Chairman. In cases of controversy as to timely receipt of appeals, the postmark date (postage meter not acceptable) will govern.*
- 3) Upon receipt of appeals, properly submitted, the A&D Chairman shall set a time and location for the hearing and will advise all appropriate parties. Such hearing settings are solely the responsibility of the Committee, but all such hearings must be scheduled within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal and the appealing party is bound to present all information and evidence relative to the appeal hearing.*
- 4) Decisions of the A&D Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors of the Association. Procedures for filing appeals with the Board of Directors shall be the same as for filing with the A&D Committee except that all material shall be submitted to the President. The President shall notify all concerned parties of the receipt of the appeals and set a time and location for the hearing.*
- 5) All decisions at all levels of the appeals process shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed*

*by a higher authority.*

**9.03** Any person protesting/appealing a game must first file and submit a protest/appeal, in writing, to the Association A&D Committee. Under no circumstance can a game be protested or appealed on the basis of a Referee's decision, unless the decision can be proven to be in direct conflict with the rules of the game. No protest will be heard concerning a game where scores or standings are not recorded.

## **ARTICLE X. GAME POSTPONEMENT, SUSPENSION, OR ABANDONMENT**

**10.01** A Referee has the final authority to postpone, suspend, or abandon a game due to inclement weather or other circumstances he/she deems unacceptable or unsafe.

**10.02** EMSA will exercise discretion in the best interest of the membership when considering the cancellation or postponement of games due to inclement weather. Parents are encouraged to consider what is best for their individual child as it relates to weather conditions. Local lightning shall always be hazardous and result in an immediate abandonment.

**10.03** Teams must report to the field ready to play regardless of the weather, unless the coach has been notified otherwise, or the "rain-out" number of where the game is to take place indicates otherwise. If in doubt, show up.

**10.04** If a game is abandoned due to weather after the second half has begun, it shall be considered a complete game.

**10.05** The referee may postpone a game a maximum of five (5) minutes from the scheduled time or five (5) minutes after the finish of the prior game to field a full team, whichever comes first. If the five (5) minutes lapse without both teams being filled, the referee shall abandon the game.

**10.06** Teams shall allow a referee 30 minutes after the scheduled time to report before abandoning the game. Any such abandonment shall be reported to the Board of Directors in writing by each coach within 48 hours.

**10.07** A suspension for EMSA purposes shall be a temporary delay of game after it has begun. A suspension shall be limited to a maximum of twenty (20) minutes at which time the game must be resumed or abandoned.

**10.08** Any abandonment shall be reported to the Board of Directors in writing within 48 hours by the referee. Postponements and suspensions shall be included in the referee's game report.

## **ARTICLE XI. FUNDRAISING**

**11.01** Any person(s) and/or team desiring to do a fundraiser of any sort must first submit to the Board of Directors all the details of their fundraiser. They must do so in writing or in person to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of their fundraiser. The Board of Directors has two (2) weeks in which to approve or disapprove the fundraiser. If the fundraiser is approved, the person(s) or a representative of the team must present to the Board of Directors a full accounting of all monies raised and what the monies will be used for. This must be done within thirty (30) days of the fundraiser end date at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**11.02** All funds of the approved fundraiser must go to the intended purpose with the following exceptions:

- 1) Any team doing a fundraiser that is without a Sponsor, must at the completion of the fundraiser, pay the minimum sponsorship monetary amount for their age group to the Treasurer of EMSA. This must be done prior to any funds being spent.*
- 2) If more funds are raised than is required for the stated intended purpose, these remaining funds must be placed on account with the Treasurer of EMSA for the team's future use.*
- 3) If the team does not use the remaining funds or fails to form for the next season of play, those remaining funds will become part of the general treasury of the Association.*

**11.03** Any person(s) or team violating any provision of this rule, or found to have misrepresented the fundraiser in any way, or failing to account for the funds or turn funds over to the Treasurer of EMSA shall appear before the A&D Committee.



## **ARTICLE XII. RULES OF THE GAME**

**12.01** The Rules of Play for Adult and Youth competition of NTSSA and its affiliated members shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified as follows in each Law of the Game.

**12.02 Law I** – Field of Play. Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

<i><b>Age Group</b></i>	<i><b>Field Width</b></i>	<i><b>Field Length</b></i>	<i><b>Goal Size</b></i>
U17 – U19	Max 80 Yards	Max 112 Yards	8ft x 24ft
U15 – U16	Max 75 Yards	Max 112 Yards	8ft x 24ft
U13 – U14	Max 75 Yards	Max 112 Yards	8ft x 24ft
U11 – U12	44 – 55 Yards	70 – 80 Yards	6.5ft x 18.5ft
U9 – U10	35 – 45 Yards	55 – 65 Yards	6.5ft x 18.5ft
U8 and Younger	15 – 25 Yards	25 – 35 Yards	4ft x 6ft

**12.03 Law II** – The Ball. Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

<i><b>Age Group</b></i>	<i><b>Ball Size</b></i>
<i>U13 and Older</i>	<i>Size #5</i>
<i>U9 – U12</i>	<i>Size #4</i>
<i>U8 and Younger</i>	<i>Size #3</i>

**12.04 Law III** – Number of Players.

<i><b>Age Group</b></i>	<i><b>Ball Size</b></i>
<i>U13 and Older</i>	<i>11v11</i>
<i>U11/U12</i>	<i>9v9</i>
<i>U9/U10</i>	<i>7v7</i>
<i>U8 and Younger</i>	<i>4v4 No goal keeper</i>

Substitution Rule shall be as follows:

- 1) *At a throw-in, by the team in possession only*
- 2) *Either team, at a goal-kick*
- 3) *Either team, after a goal is scored*
- 4) *Either team, at an injury, when the referee stops the play*
- 5) *At halftime or quarter/period for Under 8 and younger:*
- 6) *When a caution (yellow card) is given in Under 9 and older, that player may be substituted for*

EMSA, per NTSSA Rules, allows for the use of the “Quarter Substitution System” for Under 8

and younger age groups only. The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half the way through each regular half time period. Each recreational player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action). Teams shall be allowed the following maximum number of players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year:

- ▶ *Under 15/16 and Under 19 – maximum 22 players*
- ▶ *Under 13/14 – maximum 18 players*
- ▶ *Under 11/12 – maximum 16 players*
- ▶ *Under 9/10 – maximum 12 players*
- ▶ *Under 8 and younger – recommended 6, maximum 8 players*

**12.05 Law IV – Players Equipment.** Each player shall have a number on the back of his/her jersey not less than four (4) inches high. Shin guards, meeting the standards set forth in the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda, shall be mandatory.

**12.06 Law V – Referee.** Conforms to FIFA, except for Under 8 and younger the following applies:

1. *Registered Referees*
2. *Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach*
3. *Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.*
4. *All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.*
5. *Only registered Referees have the power to caution or send off players.*

**12.07 Law VI – Assistant Referees.** Properly trained and registered referees may be used by the Association for Under 9 and older. There are no Assistant Referees in Under 8 and younger.

**12.08 Law VII – Duration of Game.** The duration of games for U19-U6 is as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Halves</u>	<u>Length of Overtime</u>
U17-U19	Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
U15-U16	Two 40 min.	Two 15 min.
U13-U14	Two 35 min.	Two 10 min.
U11-U12	Two 30 min.	Two 10 min
U9-U10	Two 25 min.	Two 10 min
U8	Four 10 min.	None
U6	Four 8 min.	None

**12.09 Law VIII – Start of Play.** Conforms to FIFA, except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

**12.10 Law IX** – Ball in and out of Play. Conforms to FIFA.

**12.11 Law X** – Method of Scoring. Conforms to FIFA.

**12.12 Law XI** – Off Side. Conforms to FIFA, except that for Under 8 and younger there is no offside, and for Under 10 there is no offside between the halfway line and the build out lines.

**12.13 Law XII** – Fouls and Misconduct. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in NTSSA. 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.” Charging the goalkeeper in adult competitions (per FIFA laws) is left strictly up to the Adult Leagues involved. It is not 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. 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. Under 10 and Under 9 – no punting is allowed. All attacking players must move behind the build out line which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.

**12.14 Law XIII** – Free Kick. Conforms to FIFA, except that all free kicks are indirect kicks in Under 8 and younger and opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

**12.15 Law XIV** – Penalty Kick. Conforms to FIFA, except that there are no penalty kicks in Under 8 and younger.

**12.16 Law XV** – Throw In. Conforms to FIFA, except for Under 8 and younger are allowed a re-throw. Under 8 and younger may use kick in.

**12.17 Law XVI** – Goal Kick. Conforms to FIFA, except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

**12.18 Law XVII** – Corner Kick. Conforms to FIFA, except for Under 8 and younger opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.