

SOCCER INTERLEAGUE RULES & PROCEDURES

This sets forth the rules and procedures for play in the Soccer Interleague ("League"). Unless otherwise stated herein all FIFA rules and NTSSA rules will apply, and each team's home association rules will also apply to such team.

I. FIELDS

1.1 Field Assignments. Each member association will provide appropriate fields for use by each of their association's teams when playing as the home team. Each association shall provide a list of available fields, dates and times to the League Division Commissioner or league scheduler prior to commencement of the playing season for use in assigning league games. No association or any individual team will be allowed to make any changes to field assignments. All field assignments will be handled by the appropriate League Division Commissioner or other League official upon receipt of field assignments from the home association.

1.2 Weather. All games will be played as scheduled unless the home association determines that the fields are unplayable. The appropriate Weather hotline phone number and/or website are listed on the attached League Field Protocol Schedule.

1.3 Field Protocol. Parents and players will take positions on the sides of the field as dictated by each home association. For the specifics, see the attached League Field Protocol Schedule.

1.4 Nets and Flags. All games must be played with nets on each goal and four corner flags. Each home team/association will be responsible for putting up and taking down the nets and corner flags as specified on the attached League Field Protocol Schedule.

II. GAME PROTOCOL

2.1 Game Reports. Each team shall use the League form of Game Report (available on the website of most League Home Associations and shall submit the fully completed and signed Game Report to the appropriate League official as designated in the attached League Game Protocol. Within 72 hours after completion of each game, each team's coach or manager shall deliver the Game Report to its appropriate League Division Commissioner or other designated League official; **THERE IS NO EXCEPTION TO THIS REQUIREMENT**. The deposit of a Game Report in the mail within such time period for submission is deemed timely delivery. The appropriate League official shall promptly review each Game Report and handle matters as specified in the attached League Game Protocol.

2.2 Penalty for Game Reports. If a team does not submit a duly completed Game Report within the time period specified in Rule 2.1 above, there will be a MANDATORY deduction of one (1) point from that team's overall standing points for each delinquent Game Report. Such deduction shall be noted in an appropriate manner on the League's published website standings or otherwise depending on software capability. Game Reports which are timely submitted, but which are not duly completed (such as lack of referee or coach signature, etc.) will be addressed by the League Division Commissioner or other appropriate League official. The League Division Commissioner or other appropriate League official shall take appropriate actions with

respect to any coach/team failing to submit duly completed Game Reports, including sanctions consisting of additional standing points deductions.

2.3 Jersey Colors Conflict. Also, in the event of any jersey conflicts, the home team will be required to change to a different color jersey (without the number requirement).

2.4 Uniform Policy. All teams will be required to have uniform jerseys with distinct permanent numbers for each player. Although uniform shorts and socks are strongly encouraged, no player will be prohibited from participating because of non-matching shorts or socks.

2.5 Referees / Payment. The payment of Referees' fees will be handled by each home team in accordance with each home association's requirement. For specifics, see the attached League Field Protocol.

2.6 Game Protests / Grievances. Except as provided herein, all players, coaches, teams and spectators will be governed by their own association's rules. Any game protest or grievances shall be directed to the applicable League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official, as provided in the League Game Protocol attached hereto. Protests must be in writing and accompanied by a \$50.00 fee and delivered to the applicable League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official, as provided in the League Game Protocol, within 72 hours of the scheduled game start time. The League Division Commissioner or other League official will forward the written protest to the League Appeals and Disciplinary Committee ("League A&D Committee") for consideration. Each League Division Commissioner or other League official who receives "complaints" not in accordance with the requirements of this Section 2.6 is instructed to advise the complainant of the requirements of this Section 2.6 and take no further action regarding such "complaint." The League A&D Committee will make a determination based on applicable association rules and regulations, these League Rules and Procedures, NTSSA and FIFA rules, and good common sense for matters not covered by any of such rules, and advise the applicable parties and the League Executive Council. Appeals therefrom should be made to the League Executive Council in writing within 72 hours of notification of the League A&D Committee's determination accompanied by a \$50 fee. After a determination by the League Executive Council, further appeals from the League Executive Council decisions must be directly to NTSSA.

2.7 Player Substitution. League will follow NTSSA rules on player substitutions. In general, this allows substitutions as follows:

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| Kick-offs | - | either team |
| Goal kick | - | either team |
| Caution (Yellow card) | - | player receiving card may be substituted |
| Throw-in | - | only team taking throw-in |
| Injury | - | either team if referee stops the play |
| Mid-half | - | either team at a stoppage in play at about the midpoint in each half, to be determined at the referee's discretion |

III. LEAGUE PLAY

3.1 League Standings. The league standings will rank the teams in the order in which each such team has season standing points at the end of the season (with the highest points being first place, and so forth). In the event of an abbreviated season, the ranking of the teams shall be based on the average points per game (including any bonus or deduction points related thereto). In the event a tie breaker is needed to determine a winner, the following order of priority will be used: (1) head to head competition results, if only 2 teams are tied; if more than 2 teams are tied, then go to the next tie-breaker criteria, (2) goal differential (total goals scored less total goals allowed per game, to a maximum goal differential of 3 goals per game), (3) the team which has the best record of compliance (as determined by the applicable League Division Commissioner) with Section 2.1 hereof, regarding the timely submission of a duly completed Game Report, (4) the fewest yellow and red cards, (5) if only 2 teams are tied, the winner of a "tie-breaker" game between such teams as scheduled by the League Division Commissioner giving due regards to all applicable considerations, and if 3 or more teams are tied, the drawing of lots to determine the final standings of the teams involved.

3.2 Scoring System. The League will use the nine (9) point scoring system which allocates points (up to a maximum of 9) as follows:

Win	-	6 points
Tie	-	3 points
Loss	-	0 points
Goals scored	-	1 point per goal up to a maximum of 3 points per game

If any team is dropped from or added to league play after the commencement of season play by the League Division Commissioner, with approval of the League Executive Council, all games previously played and all future games scheduled for such team for that playing season will be scored as "not played" and not counted in the standings.

3.3 Commissioners. You should expect to receive information directly from the applicable League Division Commissioner or applicable League official. So that the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official will have pertinent information for each of the teams, each team needs to supply to the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official the name, address, phone number, e-mail address and related contact information for your team's coach, assistant coach and manager. Also each team must advise the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official of the team's primary jersey color.

3.4 Game Schedules; Standings. The "official" game schedules and standings are those posted on the League website or other League Executive Council approved locations. You should contact your League Division Commissioner or applicable League official to determine how schedule changes, standings and other matters will be handled by that League Division Commissioner or applicable League official. League Division Commissioners and other League

officials shall handle game scheduling in accordance with the attached League Scheduling and Rescheduling Protocol.

3.5 League Play. Each applicable League Division Commissioner or applicable League official will receive teams from all member associations and group those teams into an appropriate arrangement (i.e., equally matched playing ability) and prepare a playing schedule on the basis of home and away games of an equal number of times for each team on the fields provided by each team's home association (or League mandated "home association"). The goal is to play approximately 10 games per season (but not less than 8 games); the manner will be determined by the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official (e.g., 10 league games; 8 league games and 2 preliminary or exhibition games; etc.).

3.6 Season Awards. For each playing division there will be awards given for the applicable places based on the regularly scheduled league play games. In divisions of six (6) or more teams, first, second and third place will be awarded; in other cases, only first and second place will receive awards.

3.7 Rescheduling Policy. In the event any games are unable to be played or completed pursuant to these Rules and Procedures, such games will be rescheduled by the League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official only (coaches are not allowed to attempt to reschedule games). The League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official should attempt to reschedule such games as soon as possible considering the remaining time frame for the playing season and other relevant factors. The League Division Commissioner or other League official is not required to seek approval of the rescheduled date and time from either team, but should inquire generally as to favorable times and dates. In no event shall any team or coach be allowed to "refuse" to play a rescheduled game due to conflicts or inconvenience. League Division Commissioners or other League official shall handle rescheduling games pursuant to the attached League Scheduling and Rescheduling Protocol. League Policy forbids the rescheduling of games for the convenience of a team, even if both teams involved agree to such rescheduling.

3.8 Suspended Games. Any game which has been suspended after completion of the first half of play shall be considered a full game and shall count in the standings as such.

3.9 Forfeit Time. Any team which does not have the minimum number of players (8 players) required to commence a game within ten minutes after the scheduled commencement time shall forfeit such game. A forfeited game will be counted as a score of 3 – 0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

3.10 Playing Time. Each rostered player, who is at the game at the start of the game, shall play at least one-half of a game, subject to any exceptions allowed pursuant to NTSSA rules.

3.11 Rosters. Each team shall be required to furnish, upon request, an official, signed Roster from their home association to their League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official prior to the commencement of the playing season.

3.12 Coaches Identification. Each team's coach, assistant coach and manager, as listed on their official Roster, must have available at each game, for presentation to the appropriate game

officials, appropriate identification cards issued by their home association; if same do not include a photograph of the person, then a valid Texas Driver's License must also be shown to the appropriate game official.

3.13 Scheduling Conflicts. Each team shall be allowed to provide its applicable League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official, prior to the initial playing schedule having been prepared by the League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official, with the following "conflict requests." For the Fall season, each team shall be allowed to submit a conflict request for **no more than two (2) days** throughout the playing season which represent a conflict for such team. Such a conflict may include a specific Saturday, but cannot include an entire weekend. For the Spring season, each team shall be allowed to submit a conflict request for **no more than seven (7) consecutive days** for spring break. The League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official shall use its best efforts to schedule around those conflicts; however, the League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official shall not be required to consider any other conflicts, and will not consider any conflicts which arise or which are communicated after the original schedule has been completed. League Division Commissioners or other applicable League official shall consider and make appropriate concessions for religious holidays in preparing game schedules.

3.14 Division Formation and Team Placements. In considering how to form Divisions with in an age group and the placements of teams within a Division, the primary guiding premise is that the Division should be competitive for all teams; that is, Divisions should be organized and teams placed within Divisions to create the best competitive environment. However, the following should also be given consideration for Division formation: (1) the number of teams in the entire age/gender group, (2) how the game schedule for a Division will be impacted; in other words, the League attempts to have 8-10 games per season, with each team playing other teams an equal number of times, and (3) other relevant considerations. With respect to team placements within a playing Division, the following factors should be considered: (1) the team's playing record for the prior season(s), (2) the age of the majority of the players; in other words, where an age/gender group has a number of Divisions and covers 2 years of ages, then the teams with the relatively same ages should be placed in the same playing Division, (3) the stability of the Roster (changes in the roster may indicate a need for a move to either a more or less competitive playing Division), and (4) the Home Association of the teams anticipated to be in the Division (there is sentiment that each playing Division should contain a team of each Home Association to the extent reasonable). Each League Division Commissioner or other League official should make a recommendation as to Division formation and team placements within each playing Division to the League Executive Council prior to the start of such season; however, final determination rests with the League Executive Council, which decision may be based upon the foregoing and such others factors as the League Executive Council deems appropriate.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE

4.1 Purpose and Goals. For most teams, there will be at least some variations in these rules from the typical rules in their home association. We apologize for any "culture shock" caused by any rules changes, and hope that each of the teams participate in the spirit envisioned by the formation of this interleague playing association. We hope that this brings more stability, interest, and more appropriate levels of competition for all participating teams and associations.

The purposes for establishing an interleague playing association include: (i) establish continuity, (ii) provide a stable arrangement for play by the member association's U-11 and older teams, (iii) avoid arbitrary exclusionary policy from other associations, (iv) provide better matched competition levels for the member association teams, (v) encourage increased participation for recreational players of these age levels, (vi) increase excitement for continued play by providing new teams to play against and short travel to new soccer complexes, and (vii) avoid last minute problems with trying to find a suitable playing league.

4.2 Executive Council. The League Executive Council shall be composed of one (1) representative from each substantial member association. The current members of the Executive Council are listed on the accompanying League Contacts Schedule.

4.3 Registration. Each Association will register its own teams and players (to the extent that there are not sufficient players from a single association, a "combined" team can be formed).

4.4 Fees. Each member association would continue to charge the fees it establishes for its teams. Except for certain costs addressed in these Rules and Procedures, there will not be any payments between associations with regard to the interleague play covered by these Rules and Procedures.

4.5 Fields. Each member association will provide a home field for its teams for all of their home games, except when and under the circumstances as approved by the other team's home association or when another home association, with its approval and payment of applicable costs associated therewith, supplies the "home field" for such team.

4.6 Referees. Each home association and home team will be responsible for assigning and paying (in accordance with each home association's standard procedure) the referees and assignors for such home games.

4.7 Promotional Matters. Each association will be responsible for its own promotional matters (such as special programs for FC Dallas and any special tournaments, clinics and the like).

4.8 Cost Sharing. A uniform per team cost will be assessed to each association after determination of the cost of awards. Any costs incurred by an association for referees (and assignors), fields and lighting (if applicable) for a "home" game held at such association's facilities where the "home" team is from a different association shall be reimbursed by such other association. Such costs are as specified on the League Cost Sharing Schedule, to be approved annually (or more frequently as necessary) by each member association as a condition to participation in the League, and the current version of which is attached hereto. Each association will reimburse the purchasing or furnishing association promptly upon written request.

4.9 Disciplinary and Appeals. Each applicable home association, League Division Commissioner, or other appropriate League official shall have the responsibility of monitoring all Game Reports and Referee Misconduct Reports and shall report to the League A&D Committee any matter requiring a League A&D Committee hearing and the home association which is to chair such hearing. Disciplinary hearings will be held by the applicable member association for the first send off of a player, coach, assistant coach, manager, parent or spectator

from such home association. A second send-off and all other grievances or game protests shall be heard by the League A&D Committee. All appeals from the League A&D Committee will be to the League Executive Council, together with a \$50 fee, and the League Executive Council shall have the right to require any player, coach, assistant coach, manager, parent or spectator to appear before the League Executive Council at the location it may designate for appropriate disciplinary hearing and action. The League will strictly adhere to NTSSA rules and these Rules and Procedures. Otherwise, the League will consider the Rules of all the member associations in the League and determine the appropriate actions based on what is in the best interests of furthering the purposes hereof. If any party to a hearing appears with an attorney-at-law, court reporter or tape recorder, the hearing shall be terminated and the League Executive Council shall determine whether to handle the hearing or refer it directly to NTSSA.

4.10 League A&D Committee. The League A&D Committee will consist of one (1) member of each home association in League. The home association which will chair such League A&D Committee hearing shall be determined as follows:

- (i) If the hearing involves players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, parents or spectators from only one (1) home association, then such home association shall chair such meeting, which shall be held at the office of such home association; or
- (ii) If the hearing involves players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, parents or spectators from more than one (1) home association, then the A&D hearing shall be chaired by and located by the home association selected by the League Executive Council, which shall be based upon willingness, availability and location.

4.11 Tournament of Champions. Each member association will chose its own team representative for the Tournament of Champions based on their own internal rules or guidelines for the teams registered within that association.

4.12 Timing. Each member association agrees to cooperate with each other as to registration dates, team formation dates, season start and ending dates, special association tournament dates, etc.

4.13 Coaches Meeting. The League may, if the League Executive Council deems it appropriate, hold a brief "Coaches Meeting" prior to each season start for the following purposes: (i) introductions of coaches and League Division Commissioners or other League officials; (ii) discuss playing procedures and new rules or protocols; and (iii) other appropriate matters.

Revised: August 28, 2008

INTERLEAGUE FIELD PROTOCOL SCHEDULE

1. SIDELINE PROTOCOL.

(a) LHSA and RSA Fields. For LHSA and RSA fields, home teams (players and parents) will occupy the north or west side of the field, and the visitors (players and parents) will occupy the south or east side of the field, except as noted below.

LHSA Fields: Moss 3,4,5,6 & 9; Northwood

RSA Fields: Breckinridge (except Championship Field); Huffhines

RSA Breckenridge Championship Field: Players will sit on one side and all spectators sit on the other side.

(b) CCSA Fields. Both teams and their respective coaches will occupy one sideline and all spectators for both teams will occupy the opposite sideline. No individual except registered and approved coaches and managers may be on the same sideline as the teams.

Players not in the game and spectators must remain at least six (6) feet back from the touch lines and within 20 yards of midfield. No one is permitted behind the goal lines. Failure to comply may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game.

Teams are required at all League games to have an official registration roster which may be obtained only from the League's registrar.

2. NETS/FLAGS PROTOCOL.

Both teams should assist in putting up and taking down the nets and flags, except where nets are permanently maintained by the home association. If there is no game in progress on the designated field, then you are considered the "**first Home Team;**" if there is no team waiting to play when your game is finished, you are considered the "**last Home Team.**"

CCSA. Chamber will be responsible for supplying nets and flags for all scheduled games. It will be the responsibility of each team for the first scheduled game of the day at each field to put up the nets and flags. It will be the responsibility of each team for the last scheduled game of the day to take down the nets and flags.

LHSA. The first Home Team for a designated field for the day will be required to get the Flags and Nets. The Nets and Flags are located in the "garage" of the Moss Field Concession Stand. Nets are in bags with the field number on each bag; use the proper Net bag. Flags are stored in the corner in a container. The last Home Team for a designated field for a day is required to return the Flags and the Nets (after packing them in the appropriate Net bag) to the appropriate place in the Moss Field Concession Stand). An appropriate penalty/sanction/fine will be assessed against the offending last Home Team for failure to observe the foregoing.

RSA. For Breckinridge and Huffhines: Nets are put up by Association; Each Home Team brings four (4) Flags for their game.

3. **REFEREE PAYMENT.**

CCSA. For games played at CCSA fields, home team will pay the game officials in cash in accordance with the CCSA rules.

LHSA: For games played at Lake Highlands fields, the home team coach will sign the LHSA pay card for each of the game officials.

RSA: For games played at RSA fields, the home team will pay game officials with cash.

4. **CCSA "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY".**

Because most Chamber fields are located in residential neighborhoods we ask that coaches, players and spectators comply with a "Good Neighbor Policy":

- (a) Park in designated parking areas or with right wheel to the curb on the field side of the street.
- (b) Do not park in fire lanes or block driveways.
- (c) Dispose of all trash in the provided receptacles.
- (d) No pets on fields.
- (e) No loud music.

WEATHER HOTLINES OR WEBSITES:

These hotline numbers should be called by the coaches only and not given out to each parent. Coaches should then relay the appropriate information to each of their team parents.

Chamber Classic Soccer Alliance (Campbell Green Fields): 972-738-9000 option 5

Lake Highlands Soccer Association (Moss and Northwood Fields): 214-265-0050

Richardson Soccer Association (Breckinridge & Huffhines Fields): 214-757-5297 (coaches only)

INTERLEAGUE SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING PROTOCOL

Field Assignments. Field assignments will be prepared for each Home Association for their teams on the basis of five (5) home games per season. Such assignments will be delivered by each Home Association to all applicable League Division Commissioners or other League official before designated time for game scheduling.

Game Schedules. Each League Division Commissioner or other League official should use reasonable efforts to schedule league games so that it accommodates the Home Association in field assignments and referee assignments. In other words, schedule back to back games so a referee team can do two (2) games in a row, if possible.

Schedule Distributions. All final game schedules should be sent, not only to each Coach, but also to each Home Association's Field Assignor, Referee Assignor and each person on the League Executive Council. For contact information for such Home Association's field and/or referee assignors, please refer to the League Contact Schedule.

Rescheduling. In the event a reschedule is needed due to weather or other legitimate reason, the League Division Commissioner or other League official cannot rely upon the original field assignments provided by the Home Association. Rather, the League Division Commissioner or other League official only (not Coaches) should contact the Home Association Field Assignor and request a time slot for the rescheduled game. Upon receipt of the rescheduled time slot, the revised game schedule should be distributed to the same persons that were to have received the original game schedule.

INTERLEAGUE GAME REPORT PROTOCOL

1. Game Report Submission by Coaches. A fully completed and signed Game Report for each game must be submitted by each team within 72 hours after the game to the Division Commissioner for that playing division. See the Interleague Contact Sheet for that information.

2. Game Report Handling by the League. The League Division Commissioner or other applicable League official should handle Game Reports as follows.

2.1 Game Report Completion and Submission. Review Game Report form for full and appropriate completion and signatures. Failure of a team to duly complete and submit the Game Report form should be immediately addressed with the team coach and manager; continued failure should be sanctioned by the League Division Commissioner or appropriate League official by any and all appropriate means, which include (without limitation): suspension of the coach for 1 or more games and practice sessions, deduction from team's league standing points, etc., depending on severity and longevity of the failures.

2.2 Administrative. All Game Reports for an entire Soccer Year (not just the current season) must be maintained on a per team basis. The Team/Card Accumulation Analysis in the form approved by the League Executive Council (the current approval form is on the League website) for each team should be maintained with all Game Reports of such team to keep track of team/player yellow and red cards.

2.3 Cumulative Card System. League strictly adheres to the NTSSA rules on discipline for misconduct. Once a team or player reaches a problem number of cards, then the League Division Commissioner or other League official must take appropriate action. Such League Division Commissioner or other League official should try to alert the team coach about the problem; however, **each team is responsible for monitoring its own card accumulations** and the failure of the League Division Commissioner or other League official to inform them does not relieve the team of its responsibility. The NTSSA rules are summarized below.

Players:

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| 3 rd Yellow Card | - | Automatic 1 game suspension for next game |
| 5 th Yellow Card | - | Automatic 2 game suspension for next 2 games |
| 6 th and more Yellow Card | - | Automatic 1 game suspension for next game for each additional yellow card |
| 7 th Yellow Card | - | Suspension hearing required before playing |
| 1 st Red Card | - | Automatic 1 game suspension for next game |
| 2 nd Red Card | - | Automatic suspension pending a hearing |
| <u>Note:</u> | - | A red card as a result of 2 yellow cards in a game is not treated as a red card |

Teams:

7 Send-offs (includes a 2nd yellow card) or 25 cards — The League must notify NTSSA A&D Committee

2.4 Sit-Out Verification. If there has been a red card issued or accumulation of the requisite number of yellow cards, then the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official should make sure that the player "sits-out" the next game(s) by checking the Sit-Out Verification from the referee on that game's Game Report. If the player played that game or if no sit-out verification is received it is assumed that he/she played, resulting in a forfeit for the team playing an ineligible player.

2.5 Referee Comments. The League Division Commissioner or applicable League official should forward referee comments contained on the Game Report (note: the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official should not entertain comments not written on the Game Report) to the appropriate Home Association representative for action. If the comments seem serious, it should be done immediately; however, if they are typical "judgment call" issues, the League Division Commissioner or applicable League official should accumulate such comments until there is a pattern about a specific referee.

