



NORTH TEXAS PREMIER SOCCER YOUTH ACADEMY LEAGUE RULES

(Reference to the male gender within these Rules with respect to Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches/Managers is for simplification and refers to both males and females.)

North Texas Premier Soccer Association Youth Leagues - Academy (NTPSA Youth - Academy) are Academy only. NTPSA Youth - Academy rules follow the **US Soccer Federation Player Development Initiative** with a few exceptions.

Playing Format:

Age Group	Format	Length (mins)	Ball Size	Field Size (yards)	Goal Size
U7	4v4, no goalies	4x10	3	30 x 20 ⁽²⁾	4' x 6' ⁽²⁾
U8	4v4, no goalies	4x10	3	30 x 20 ⁽²⁾	4' x 6' ⁽²⁾
U9	7v7	2x25	4	60 x 40 ⁽²⁾	6.5' x 18.5' ⁽²⁾
U10	7v7	2x25	4	60 x 40 ⁽²⁾	6.5' x 18.5' ⁽²⁾
U10 ⁽¹⁾	9v9	2x25	4	60 x 40 ⁽²⁾	6.5' x 18.5' ⁽²⁾

- (1) U10 age pure teams may play 9v9 on 75 x 50 field to prepare themselves for next year's competitive soccer. All other rules for U10 shall be followed.
- (2) Field sizes and Goal Size may vary due to availability. But these are typical.

Modified Playing Rules for U7 and U8 (4v4)

- Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: Four (4)
- All free kicks will be indirect
- Opposing players are to be at least five (5) yards away from the ball when the free kick is taken
- Offside will not be called

Modified Playing Rules for U9 and U10 (7v7)

- When the goalkeeper has the ball, all opposing players must move behind the build out line until the ball is put in play by the goalkeeper
- Goalkeepers may not punt or drop kick the ball (drop kick means to drop the ball on the ground and kick it as it bounces back up)
- Players CANNOT be penalized for offside offenses between the midfield and build out lines
- Players CAN be penalized for an offside offense between the build out and goal lines

Roster Size:

NTPSA maximum roster size is 22 players, however the allowable maximum number of players at each game are shown as follows:

- U7 and U8 (4v4) = 8
- U9 and U10 (7v7) = 12
- U10 (9v9) = 12

Player Eligibility:

- All players must be registered through a NTSSA Member Association as an Academy player
- At every game, teams must have proof that all participating players are Academy registered
- Teams that play ineligible or unregistered players could forfeit any matches where that player(s) participates
- US Club player forms are NOT VALID
- Players may “play up” to an older division, but may not “play down” in a younger division
- Girls may play in boys divisions, boys may NOT play in girls divisions

Other Rules:

- Substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, after goal scored, or at other stoppage with referee's permission.
- For U9 and U10, all other rules and procedures follow USSF “**Player Development Initiatives**”, including offside, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.
- **For players on teams in U7 through U10 divisions, it is illegal for a player to intentionally use their head to make contact with a soccer ball during play. This is punishable by an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the act.**

Home vs Away and Jerseys:

- The team listed on the left side of the schedule is the Home team.
- The Home team will wear their white or lighter colored jerseys.
- The Away team is NOT to wear white jerseys.
- At most complexes, both teams and their coaches will sit on one side of the field and ALL spectators will sit on the other side, across from their team bench. If the facility is set-up with teams on opposite sides of the field, teams and their spectators will sit on opposite sides.
- Players are required to have like-colored jerseys/t-shirts with permanent numbers (ironed-on or permanent marker) at least 4 inches tall on the back of their jersey/t-shirt that match the numbers listed on the team roster. **Taped numbers will NOT be permitted.**
- Scrimmage vests (mesh) without numbers may be worn only over a permanently numbered jersey/t-shirt.
- **No duplicate numbers on the same team. All players on each team must have a unique number.**
- Goalkeepers are not required to have a number

Game Day Procedures:

- Prior to the start of each game, both teams will present to the referee crew one (1) copy of the game report
- If your team has ALL players for that game listed in your Home Association computer system account, you have the choice of presenting a game card printed from your Home Association computer system account or a completed NTPSA Youth League Game Report
- If your team does NOT have all players listed in your Home Association computer system account, you must present a completed NTPSA Youth League Game Report
- When the game is over, the referee will give the game reports to onsite staff

Rainout Policy:

- In the event of a rainout, the rainout game will automatically be rescheduled to the first available rainout weekend.
- Any team unable to attend their rescheduled rainout game will forfeit the game and be scored as a 0-3 loss, per the forfeit policy.

Forfeit Policy:

- Any team who forfeits a game will be assessed a \$125 fine due before the next game played. A small portion of this will be retained for administration purposes with the remainder credited to the team forfeited against for not receiving their guaranteed games. The forfeited game will be recorded as a 0-3 loss.
- Opponents winning by forfeit may request the forfeited game be rescheduled instead of receiving a credit. If the game is rescheduled and played, the score will not be reported as 0-3, the opponent will not receive a credit and the forfeiting team will not owe the \$125 fine.
- A forfeiting team will owe NTPSA Youth the referee fees, if you forfeit after Wednesday at 5pm the week of the game.

Game Guarantee Policy:

- League teams will be guaranteed eight (8) games.
- Teams will receive a percentage refund of their registration fee should all rainout weekends result in rainouts or should a team forfeit a game and opponent decline a reschedule.
- We suggest teams avoid tournaments on all league dates including rainout weekends.
- Teams will receive a credit of 7% of their entry fee for each game less than 8 that are played.
- Credits are to be used in future NTPSA Youth outdoor soccer tournaments or leagues within one calendar year from the end of the league season. Credits are for the team incurring the credit and may not be combined or transferred to other teams.

Schedule Changes/Reschedules:

- As schedule changes are unlikely to be granted, it is critical that each team have an assistant coach, team manager or other approved NTSSA team official to be available should the head coach not be available.
- 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 scheduling coordinator and only under very rare and extraordinary circumstances.
- The scheduling coordinator will post the rescheduled game on the website 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. Rescheduling consideration will not be given until payment is received.
- 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. Payment must be received by the age division commissioner before the rescheduled game is played. If payment is not received and the game cannot be played because of this nonpayment prior to the end of the current season, the game will not be played and the team requesting the reschedule will forfeit the game.
- **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 scheduling coordinator.**

NTPSA MISSION:

NORTH TEXAS PREMIER SOCCER ASSOCIATION YOUTH was founded with the mission of improving the developmental environment for American youth players. We recognize that coaches and parents play the largest role in creating a positive training and competition environment that promotes learning, growth, as well as the development as both a person and as a player.

The growth of a young athlete is not an easy one, and is filled with both moments of accomplishment and elation, as well as moments of challenge and disappointment. Coaches and parents have a responsibility to provide guidance to players along this path, and to serve as an example to help these players fulfill their athletic and personal potential.

NORTH TEXAS PREMIER SOCCER ASSOCIATION YOUTH is committed to providing young athletes a competitive, challenging, and most importantly, a safe opportunity to grow and develop. This commitment extends to the standards expected of any coach, parent, spectator, on-site staff, referee or any other person at a NORTH TEXAS PREMIER SOCCER ASSOCIATION YOUTH activity.

To that end, we have outlined the CODE OF CONDUCT that will be adhered to by all when participating in any NORTH TEXAS PREMIER SOCCER ASSOCIATION YOUTH activity.

NTPSA YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT:

ALL PERSONS acting in association with a NTPSA YOUTH activity are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and reasonably both verbally and non-verbally avoiding any and all of the following:

Any person(s) acting in association with a NTPSA YOUTH activity found in violation of this CODE OF CONDUCT will be subject to the following actions:

1ST OFFENSE

- A meeting must take place with all involved persons and the NTPSA YOUTH Appeals and Discipline Committee. *This meeting will be done via phone conference.*
- Participation in all NTPSA YOUTH activities will cease until this meeting has occurred. Consequences will be determined after this meeting has occurred.

2nd OFFENSE

- The person in violation will be suspended from any NTPSA YOUTH involvement for a period of time to be determined by the NTPSA YOUTH Appeals and Discipline Committee. *This meeting will be done in person at NTPSA Youth or designated offices.*
- Any future return to NTPSA YOUTH involvement is not guaranteed but may be granted, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction. Involvement will then be granted on a probationary basis.
- Any violation during that probation period will result in permanent suspension from NTPSA YOUTH.

If an offense is severe in nature (extreme, violent and/or dangerous) NTPSA YOUTH reserves the right to move directly to the consequences of the second offense, after which a meeting may take place.

Issues of referee abuse and assault will be sent directly to North Texas State Soccer Association.

PLAYER/COACH LEAGUE MANAGEMENT:

Sports, by nature, are a high-energy endeavor. As a league organizer, NTPSA YOUTH recognizes that the high-energy is shared by coaches, players and spectators. That said, there is a level of energy that, on occasion, will boil over. NTPSA YOUTH tracks all actions that may be taken against a coach, player or spectator.

MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS/COACHES/ASSISTANT COACHES

1. **Caution Card** A player receiving a second caution card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.
2. **Sendoff Card** A player receiving a sendoff card or a coach/assistant coach who receives a sendoff is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.
3. **CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM** for league play will be operated as follows:

Caution Cards One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card.

NOTE: *A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second caution card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game. The two caution cards are not added to such individual's total of league play caution cards but a sendoff card will be added to such individual's league play sendoff card total.*

- a. **Sendoff Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play sendoff card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTPSA YOUTH sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play sendoff card. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second caution card in a single game will be added to such individual's league play sendoff card total.

NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a caution card followed by a "straight sendoff card" both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play sendoff and caution cards and punished accordingly.*

- b. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of caution and sendoff cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all NTPSA YOUTH sanctioned activities.
- c. **Exception** When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standings and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or national body that has been charged with the operation of said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games of that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

COACH SEND-OFF ACCUMULATION:

If a coach/assistant coach/manager receives three (3) sendoffs in a soccer year, he shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with NTPSA YOUTH Appeals and Discipline Committee. Coach/assistant coach/manager will be assessed a fine of \$100 for each sendoff that resulted in their suspension (payable to NTPSA YOUTH).

SPECTATOR ACCUMULATION:

If, during the current year, a spectator has accumulated three (3) dismissals, he shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with the NTPSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and assessed a fine of \$100.00 (payable to NTPSA YOUTH).

REFEREE COMMUNICATION:

When it comes to game officials, support, encouragement and protection is non-negotiable. Without them games don't happen. NTPSA YOUTH has developed a 1-2-3-4 method of referee action when it comes to coach or spectator actions that go beyond what is acceptable.

LEAGUE MANDATE #1: Only the Coach or Team Manager can approach or ask questions of the referee

LEAGUE MANDATE #2: Coaches are responsible for their spectator's actions, before, during and after the game.

NTPSA YOUTH 1-2-3-4

1. If there is an issue with a spectator or coach, the referee will ASK the coach to comply
2. If the improper behavior continues, the referee will TELL the coach to comply
3. If there is still no change in behavior, the referee will DISMISS the coach/spectator
4. If the behavior continues, the game could be ABANDONED