



Irving Soccer Association League Rules

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Amended for Irving Soccer Association play on 03/01/02 V2.10 ©

A change is indicated by a | to the left of the change.

THE IRVING SOCCER ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES

LEAGUE RULE 1. SOCCER YEAR

The soccer year shall start September 1 and run through August 31 each year.

LEAGUE RULE 2. RECOMMENDED PLAYING SEASON

Fall September 1st through December 15th

Spring February 15th through May 15th

LEAGUE RULE 3. AGE REQUIREMENTS

A. Division age grouping for boys and girls shall be:

Under 6	Under 8	Under 10	Under 12
Under 14	Under 16	Under 19	

- B. A player's classification for the season shall be determined by the player's age on July 31st of the immediately preceding soccer year and should be verified by a birth certificate or suitable facsimile.
- C. A player must be four (4) years of age by July 31st or December 31st in order to play in the Fall or Spring season respectively.
- D. A younger player may move to the next older age division one year early, if approved by both age group commissioners and their commissioner chairman in writing, but he or she may not be allowed to play in a younger division. This approval will be required whether the player is moving up early, individually or with a team.
- E. Except where prohibited by USSF Law, players who participate in older age divisions may return to younger division play, provided that they do not violate age requirements of that division.

NOTE: The playing of any person over the age limit for his team may result in the forfeiture of all games in which such player has participated.

LEAGUE RULE 4. TEAM FORMATION RULES

Teams are permitted and encouraged to stay together, each player has the right to stay on his returning team. It is the responsibility of the coach to insure that all rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on that team, if the team is without a coach the age division commissioner has that responsibility.

New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are to be formed by the following method.

1) For Under 6, 8, 10, Age Groups

Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group coordinating committee of more than one member on a territorial basis defined as the elementary school the player attends. (If "home schooled" the territory is the neighborhood elementary school).

Players names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. If a person becomes the Head Coach of a new team formed in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching they must have been Head Coach of record of that team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons or asked to be the Head Coach by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational.

Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered non-recreational for recreational league and tournament play.

2) For Under 12, 14, 16, 19 Age Groups

Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by an age group coordinating committee of more than one member on a territorial basis defined as the junior high school or high school the player attends. (If "home schooled" the territory is the neighborhood school)

Players names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team.

If no players are available in the player pool coaches of record may actively seek players of the proper age group to be added to the team as long as no methods are used to assess the ability of the player and:

- a) The player is not presently registered on an existing team.
- b) The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous soccer year. If a person becomes the Head Coach of a new team formed in the current season, the coach may request their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching. In order for any person to request their child be transferred to a returning team they are coaching they must have been Head Coach of record of that team for the previous two outdoor playing seasons or asked to be the Head Coach by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational.

Any team not formed by the above manner shall be considered non-recreational for recreational league and tournament play.

LEAGUE RULE 5. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. Under 6 shall play ISA developmental rules.
- B. Under 8 shall play ISA developmental rules.
- C. Under 10 shall play ISA developmental rules.
- D. All other age divisions will play 11 man soccer and have no more than 16 players under contract.
- E. The division commissioner shall have the authority to make exceptions to this rule subject to the approval of the Committee of Commissioners.

LEAGUE RULE 6. PLAYER RELEASE

- A. Release from a team:
 1. Players may only be registered with one team at any given time. In order to change teams during the Soccer Year (Sept. 1 through Aug. 31), a player must:
 - a) Get a written release from the team to which he was last registered. The player will be placed into the player pool to be assigned in accordance with League Rule 4.
 2. Releases granted by a coach leaving a team are not valid unless the age division commissioner approves the release.
 3. Releases must be in writing and will be filed with the new teams roster.
- B. Release from Home Association
 1. A player living outside Irving and not attending school in IISD must have a release from their Home Association. (Use form required by Home Assoc.)
 2. Players transferring into Irving must have a hardship reason to be accepted.
 3. Players transferring in must also comply with League Rule 4..

LEAGUE RULE 7 FIELD & GAME PROCEDURES FOR TEAMS, COACHES, SPECTATORS

Each coach and assistant coach is responsible for the conduct of his players, their parents and supporters. Each coach is responsible for reading, understanding and making known to assistant coaches and team representatives (including parents) the ISA code of conduct.

- A. Yelling at, or using abusive language towards the referee, or physical abuse of the referee may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game.
- B. All persons (except coaches and linesmen) shall remain at least five (5) feet from the sidelines. No persons are allowed behind the goal line. Managers and coaches are encouraged to assist referees and linesmen in keeping the sidelines cleared. The referees may remove players or persons who crowd the sideline and the goal line.
- C. Coaches and players shall remain in a area not to exceed twenty (20) yards on either side of the mid-field line.
- D. Coaching: in all divisions, the coach must coach from only one side of the playing field. Home team has their choice of which side they want, the visiting team will take the opposite side, unless directed otherwise by the commissioner.

- E. The home team is responsible for getting the nets to the game, both teams are responsible for putting up the nets.
- F. After the last game at each field both teams are responsible for taking down the nets and returning them to the storage bags. The home team is responsible for returning the nets and bag to the person designated to store them.
- G. Failure to return the nets within twelve hours will result in a twenty dollar fee assessed to the responsible team. This team may not play any games until the fee is paid.
- H. The highest standards of conduct and good sportsmanship must be maintained at all times by players, coaches, referees, spectators and all other participants. Offensive, insulting or abusive languages is forbidden. The use of alcohol, tobacco products or illegal drugs in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games, meeting areas, parking areas and concession areas is strictly forbidden.

LEAGUE RULE 8 FOUL WEATHER

- A. The referee or commissioner has the authority to postpone a game because of weather conditions. His decision will be based on the conditions of the playing field.
- B. Teams must report to the playing field ready to play unless previously notified otherwise by the commissioner. The penalty for failure to follow this rule is forfeiture of the game. Coaches **MUST NOT ASSUME** a game has been postponed.
- C. The Referee Association will notify the respective commissioner of all games postponed or suspended by the referees.
- D. If a game is suspended for any environmental reason before the second half has started, that game shall be replayed. If suspended after the second half of play has begun, that game shall be considered a full game. Environmental reasons include foul weather, lack of lighting, etc.
- E. When a game is called off or stopped because of inclement weather, both teams will take down the nets and put them in the bag. The home team should return the nets immediately. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a twenty dollar fee assessed to the responsible team/teams. The team/teams may not play any games until the fee is paid.

LEAGUE RULE 9 MAKE-UP GAMES

The commissioner shall schedule or approve the scheduling of all make-up games. He shall notify the coach 72 hours in advance of the game. Shorter notice is acceptable if agreed to by both coaches. (see scheduling policy)

LEAGUE RULE 10 PRACTICE

- A. Each coach will be responsible for finding his own practice field. (the commissioner will have a list of practice areas designated by the city for soccer practice.
- B. Assignment of fields for scrimmage games will be done by the Commissioner.
- C. There will be a minimum of two (2) practices per week. If there is a game during the week (Monday through Friday) it may count as one practice.
- D. No practice is permitted on fields designated by the city as "league game field only" or fields closed for maintenance. Any coach, asst. coach, manager, player or team representative who violates this rule may receive a one game suspension. Violations of this rule will be reported to the A. & D. Committee. A second violation of this rule will cause the violator to have to appear before the A. & D. Committee for disciplinary action.

LEAGUE RULE 11 DETERMINING DIVISION STANDINGS

- A. The following point system will be used to determine league standings:
 1. Under 6 (see ISA under 6 developmental rules)
 2. Under 8 (see ISA under 8 developmental rules)
 3. Under 10 (see ISA under 10 developmental rules)
 4. All others:
6 points for a win.

- 3 points for a loss
- 0 points for a loss
- 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3 points allowed per game for goals scored.
- B. On the same day that a game is played, the coach of both teams shall call his commissioner and report the score of the game. The standings will be maintained by the Commissioner and the Commissioner Chairman.
- C. In the event of a tie in season standings:
 - Under 6 ... No play-off
 - Under 8 ... No play-off
 - Under 10 .. No play-off
 - All others there shall be a play-off game.
- D. A forfeited game will be scored as a 3-0 loss.

LEAGUE RULE 12 PLAY-OFF GAMES

If a play-off game ends in a tie, overtime periods and if still necessary, "kicks from the penalty spot" will be used to determine the winner.

OVERTIME PERIODS

- Under 12 ----- two 10 min. periods
- Under 14 ----- two 10 min. periods
- Under 16 ----- two 10 min. periods
- Under 19 ----- two 15 min. periods
- See Law 7

OVERTIME PENALTY KICK PROCEDURES

- A. In the event the game is still tied at the end of overtime play, each team shall be awarded five (5) penalty kicks to decide the score the score. The kicks shall be taken by five (5) different players and alternate team to team.
- B. If the score is still tied at the end of the five (5) penalty kicks, extra kicks shall be taken by different players and alternate kicks from team to team until there is a difference in scores. The difference in score shall be after each team has taken the same number of kicks.
- C. Each player on the field of each team shall take a turn at kicking before any one player repeats a turn at kicking.
- D. Goalkeepers may be changed. The referee shall be notified prior to changing goalkeepers.
- E. Only the players on the field of play at the end of the overtime shall be allowed to take the penalty kicks.
- F. All players other than the kicker and the opposing goalkeeper shall remain in a separate area designated by the referee.
- G. Those players participating at the conclusion of the overtime period must remain on the field. No other players or spectators will be allowed to enter the field of play. The coach may enter the field of play with the permission of the referee.
- H. If a championship game is abandoned by the referee for any reason and the score is tied, the game shall be replayed.

LEAGUE RULE 13 GAME PROTESTS

- A. There are only two acceptable reasons for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
 1. A team knowingly playing an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player; or
 2. There has been an obvious error made in the Laws of the Game by the referee that directly affects the outcome of the match and the referee admits it.
- B. No protests can be even entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in FIFA Law 5 (Referees) ..." A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game ... his decision on points of fact connected with the play of the game shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned". A game can not be protested because one coach or the other,

or both for that matter, think the referee was incompetent. That is a matter to handle through the local referees group or the state referees group or the state referee's committee.

- C. Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars or other obstructions of the game shall not be entertained by any protest committee or board unless an objection has been lodged with the match referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of the objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the match. When an objection has been lodged, a protest in writing, must be made to the protest committee of the playing association under whose direct jurisdiction the match was played. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protester won the match) except by the consent of said protest committee.
- D. Protests shall be in writing and into the hands of the Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours after the time the game was played. (Sunday not included in the 48 hours). A copy of the protest shall be sent to the Irving Referee Association Liaison Officer. All protests shall be accompanied by a fifteen dollar fee. If the protest is upheld the fee will be returned. If the protest is upheld the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury.
- E. A game protest or charge is to be heard by the age division commissioner. A decision will be rendered within 48 hours.
- F. League rule 15 defines the appeal procedure.

LEAGUE RULE 14 DISCIPLINE

- A. Violation of ISA rules or other misconduct shall be reported, in writing and received within five (5) days, to the age division commissioner and the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- B. Any coach, asst. coach, manager, player, parent spectator or team representative not abiding by these rules shall be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension if deemed necessary. Disciplinary action taken will conform to NTSSA Rule XI.

NOTE: Anyone suspended from a game can not be closer than 250 yards, of said game, from thirty minutes before until thirty minutes after the game is over.

- C. The age division commissioner will notify all parties, in writing, of the minimum punishment required by the rules. A copy of this ruling shall be sent to the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may administer more severe punishment if it deems necessary. The A & D Committee will notify the Executive Board of it's decision in writing. The Executive Board may administer more severe punishment if it deems necessary.
- D. Any teams which receive written cautions and/or player ejection's on three (3) separate occasions during one game shall forfeit said game by the score of 3-0 unless the score was more favorable for the winner when play was stopped, in which case, the existing score shall be declared the final score. All play shall cease with the third caution and players will be required to leave the field.
- E. Justification for forfeiture of the game and all previous games shall exist:
 - 1. If a team plays a player above the age limit.
 - 2. If a team plays a player still under contract to another team.
 - 3. If a team plays a player who is not under contract.
- F. League rule 15 defines the appeal procedure.
- G. If a coach has a discipline problem with a player, the coach will contact the player's parent or guardian to assist in correcting the problem. If the player continues to be a discipline problem the coach will contact the Age Division Commissioner. The Commissioner will contact the parents or guardian of the player to discuss the problem. If the problem continues the Commissioner will contact the Commissioner Chairman for approval to remove the player from the team. The Commissioner will then submit a copy of the removed player's registration, Refund Request form (if applicable) and a NTSSA add/delete form to the registrar. The removed player will then be removed from the team's roster on the ISA computer.
- H. The Appeals and Discipline Committee shall administer appropriate punishment based on current ISA, NTSSA, USYSA, USSF rules and policies and City of Irving requirements. Appropriate punishment may include, but is not limited to, suspension, forfeiture of games, forfeiture of fees and or fines.

NOTE: Bylaws Article 1 paragraph 14.g, Article 3 and Article 4.

LEAGUE RULE 15 APPEALS

- A. The decision of the Commissioner, relating to game protest and disciplinary action, may be appealed to the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee if done so in writing to the chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee within forty-eight (48) hours (Sunday not included) after the receipt of the ruling of the Commissioner. All appeals shall be accompanied by a ten dollar fee. If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned. If it is denied the fee will be forfeited to the treasury.
- B. The decision of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, relating to game protest and disciplinary action, may be appealed to the Executive Board if done so in writing to the President of the ISA within forty-eight (48) hours (Sunday not included) after the receipt of the ruling of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. All appeals shall be accompanied by a ten dollar fee. If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned. If it is denied the fee will be forfeited to the treasury.
- C. All parties shall be notified of:
1. Date, time, and place of the hearing.
 2. When a decision will be rendered.
 3. The next step in the appeals process.
 4. The reason for the hearing.

LEAGUE RULE 16 REQUIRED PLAYING TIME

Under 6 . . . See Under 6 developmental rules
Under 8 . . . See Under 8 developmental rules
Under 10 . . . See Under 10 developmental rules.
All others:

Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

LEAGUE RULE 17 EXCEPTIONS TO LEAGUE RULES

The Commissioner shall have the authority to make exceptions to these League Rules, when unusual circumstances warrant, subject to the approval of the Committee of Commissioners. When exceptions are made the Executive Board will be notified in writing within seven days.

LEAGUE RULE 18 BOUNDARY

The boundary for ISA will be the City of Irving and any additional area covered by the IISD.

LEAGUE RULE 19 COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS

The Committee of Commissioners is made up of the commissioner of each age division (U-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19) and the two outdoor commissioner chairmen. Meetings of the committee of commissioners are called by the commissioner chairman and chaired by one of the commissioner chairman. U-6, 8, 10 commissioners elect the lower age group commissioner chairman. and the U-12, 14, 16, 19, commissioners elect the upper age division commissioner chairman.

LEAGUE RULE 20 RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

Any proposed amendment to the League Rules must be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing for their approval and shall comply to the North Texas State Soccer Association Constitution and by-laws.

The approved new rule/rule change will then be presented at the next general meeting according to the ISA Constitution Article VIII.

LEAGUE RULE 21 COACHING REQUIREMENTS

All registered ISA coaches, assistant coaches, managers and anyone that may work with an ISA team, must complete at the minimum, a "G" coaching course during the 12 months after they start coaching. Persons coaching under 8 & 10 should have completed a "F" coaching course and under 12 and above should have completed a "E" coaching course. Exceptions can be made with the Vice President of Coaching and the Age Division Commissioner's approval in writing.

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HISTORY

ISA LEAGUE RULE REVISIONS.

- V2.0 07/07/82
- V2.1 09/07/82 delete para 4.B.2.E draft only players requesting club
- V2.2 09/30/82 add 15.00 protest fee 13.d
- V2.3 02/11/85 a. define game protest procedure.
b. define discipline procedure.
c. define appeal procedure.
d. establish 7 man soccer for U-6.
e. establish proper boundaries.
f. switch to NASL point system.
g. score reporting requirements update.
- V2.4 09/02/85 a. lr4 add para 9 & 10 turning in contracts.
b. lr4 draft relating to practice.
c. lr4 disbanded teams.
d. lr5 establish 9 man soccer for U-8.
e. lr6 clarify player transfers and releases.
f. lr11 point system for U-6.
- V2.5 01/11/88 a. lr4 add para c & d and move old c & d to e & f.
b. lr6 split release into player and home assoc..
c. lr14 add reference to law 5 distance from field.
d. lr5 reference developmental rules.
- V2.6 05/29/89 a. lr3 commissioner cannot make exception.
b. limit moving up early.
c. lr4 chg from comm. of commissioner to A&D.
d. define new, returning and experienced players.
e. add experienced players go into the draft. (Y)
f. add team can challenge to move up.
g. add second place may be moved up.
h. add next to last may be moved down.
i. add team adding 3 players after draft, reindex
j. tryout restrictions, declareing select team stat
k. parent becoming a coach.
l. lr5 chg u-10 shall play developmental rules.
m. lr6 specific release.
n. lr7 define net procedure.
o. refer to code of conduct.
p. lr8 define net procedure, foul weather.
q. lr9 refer to scheduler and scheduling policy.
r. Change reference to "game field only".
s. lr10 refer to "game fields only".
t. lr11 refer to developmental rules.
u no playoff for u6,8,10
v. lr12 remove ot for u6,8,10.
w. lr13,14 add spectator,team rep.
x. commissioner issue minimum punishment.
y. executive board to review a&d decisions.
z. lr16 refer to developmental rules.
- V2.7 01/14/90 a. add lr20 rule change procedure.
b. add lr19 define committee of commissioners.
c. add lr21 coaching requirements.
d. add lr4 expand purpose.
e. add lr4 rec and select team definitions.
f. add lr4 deleted player not guaranteed roster spot.
g. add lr4 procedure for moving up an age division.
h. add lr14 procedure for removing problem player.
i. chg lr16 minimum playing time for u-12 and older = 25%
j. add lr4 procedure for moving up an age division.
- V2.8 00/00/94-95 change lr 4 and other undocumented changes (gary jordan/roy parr)
- V2.8b 07/22/98add history page and convert to word 8.0.
- V2.9 07/13/00 add paragraph h to lr 7 to prohibit alcohol, tobacco products or illegal drugs.
- V2.10 03/01/02 clarify lr 10.c # of practices per week.
Add para H to lr 14 to clarify authority of a&d committee.
Update lr 16 to conform to NTSSA 50% playing time.
Update lr 21 minimum coaches level required of coach