

**Chapter 1**  
**Constitution and By-Laws**  
**For The**  
**Upshur County Youth Soccer Association**

Revised 03.09.2023

**1.1 General**

**1.1.1 Article One**

The name of this organization shall be Upshur County Youth Soccer Association, Inc. hereinafter referred to as the association or UCYSA.

**1.1.2 Article Two**

This Association is affiliated with the North Texas State Soccer Association. Ultimate affiliation is with the United States Soccer Federation.

**1.1.3 Article Three**

Within the county of Upshur and the adjacent areas as determined by North Texas State Soccer Association, the purpose of the Association will be:

- A. To advance and promote the game of soccer.
- B. To provide the opportunity for fun, recreation, skills, and fair play through team competition.
- C. To develop the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fellowship.
- D. To provide competent leadership for attainment of a successful soccer program.

**1.1.4 Article Four**

No part of the net earnings of the association shall insure to the benefit of, or distribution to its members, officers, or other private persons except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions for furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1.3 hereof. No Substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign or candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:

- A. By an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 © (3) of Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- B. By an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 © (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

**1.1.5 Article Five**

The Fiscal year for the Association will begin on September 1st and end on August 31 of the following year.

**1.1.6 Article Six**

The headquarters of the Association shall be any appropriate meeting place approved by the voting membership, in the City of Gilmer, Upshur County, Texas.

**1.1.7 Dissolution of Association**

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the assets shall be distributed to any exempt organization under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Directors are to use their best discretion in making the distribution of assets to such exempt organizations under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

**1.2 Membership**

**1.2.1 Article One**

The members of the Association shall consist of the voting members, sustaining members, and associate members.

**1.2.2 Article Two**

Voting members shall consist of members of the Executive Committee of the Association and the official delegate from each member team in good standing each of whom shall be entitled to one vote at all General Association Meetings. The official team delegate or the Association President may authorize an alternate delegate for any given meeting by notifying the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting for which the alternate will apply. No delegate or alternate will be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one team.

**1.2.3 Article Three**

Sustaining members (non-voting) shall be the parents or legal guardians of those athletes participating in the Association program.

**1.2.4 Article Four**

Associate members (non-voting) shall be those institutions, organizations or persons not having a child participating in the Association program but evidencing a continuing interest in advancement of the game of soccer.

**1.2.5 Article Five**

The Executive Board shall determine further qualifications and requirements for membership.

## **1.3 Government**

### **1.3.1 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee:

- A. Shall consist of the Executive Board.
- B. Shall manage the affairs of the Associations. A simple majority of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum.
- C. Shall have a term in the office of two year with no limit to the number of consecutive terms allowed. Elections shall be held at the annual general meeting with ½ of the Executive Board being elected each year in the following manner.
  - President even years
  - Vice President odd years
  - Treasurer even years
  - Secretary odd years
  - Head of Coaches even years
  - Head of Referee odd years
  - Head of Maintenance even
- D. Can be a member or an official of a team.

### **1.3.2 Executive Board**

The Executive Board:

- A. Shall consist of the Officers of the Association:
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Head of Coaches
  - Head of Referees
  - Head of Maintenance

Past Presidents

- A. Shall be members in good standing in the Associations and, except for the Referees' Representative, shall be elected by a majority vote of the Voting Members present at the General Meeting. The Referees' Representative shall be nominated by the Upshur County Youth Soccer Associations and approved by the voting membership of the UCYSA.
- B. Will transact all business of the organization. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.
- C. Shall hold three General Meetings during the year. The President may call for an emergency meeting of the Board at a place and time of his/her choosing to conduct business if a valid quorum is present.
- D. May cast one vote at Executive Committee meetings. In the event of a grievance involving his team, the said member may not act on its behalf nor be entitled to vote on grievance.

- E. Shall cast, or appoint members to cast, Association votes at the meetings of North Texas State Soccer Association.
- F. Will enforce the Constitution and bylaws, Rules, and Laws of the Associations.
- G. Will have the power to settle all disputes or protests.
- H. Will coordinate with North Texas State Soccer Association to set rules of play and all requirements for registration of players under its jurisdiction.
- I. Will determine which age groupings will be offered for each season.
- J. Will establish player's fees.
- K. Will employ an Independent Public Accountant to conduct an audit, which will include preparation of necessary financial statements and tax return for prior fiscal year.
- L. Shall approve any fund-raising efforts by individual Association members. Without prior approval, individual fundraising efforts are prohibited.

### **President**

The President shall be charged with the overall administrative and executive functions of the Association, as chief Executive Officer, the President:

- A. Will be chairman of the Executive Committee.
- B. Will preside at the General Meetings.
- C. Will assign duties to all officers as required.
- D. Will appoint such additional committees, as deemed necessary to carry out the function of the association.
- E. Will make the final decision on game cancellations due to weather or other causes.
- F. Will take prudent, reasonable action in cases not covered herein, and such authority is implicit in the office.
- G. Will chair all committees.

### **Vice President**

The Director of Facilities:

- A. Will assist the President in performance of duties.
- B. Will assume and exercise all the powers of the President in their absence.
- C. Will check the P.O. box in a timely manner.
- D. Will coordinate and supervise all field maintenance.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary:

- A. Will record the minutes of all meetings, attend to all correspondence, and keep the records of the Association.
- B. Shall keep a complete list of all registered players.
- C. Shall keep on file permanent original records of the Association.
- D. Will coordinate all rescheduling of games with the Head of Referees.
- E. Shall be responsible for decisions for Registration and submitting current rosters to NTSSA.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer:

- A. Will collect all monies of the Association and keep detailed account of all expenditures thereof.
- B. Will pay bills approved by the Executive Boards.
- C. Will sign all checks on the Association bank account; all checks will be countersigned by one of the Executive Board members (other than the President) designated on the bank account. Any capital expenditures more than \$2000.00 must be approved by the board with a vote.
- D. Will submit a written report at the Annual General Meeting, and a verbal report at any other General Meeting upon request of any member of the Association.
- E. Will collect all Referee score cards from the boxes and pay Referees for the previous week at a specified time. Referees will sign for receipt of payment.

### **Head of Referees**

The Head of Referees:

- A. Shall be a registered Referee.
- B. Will create game schedules for the season with the Secretary.
- C. Will coordinate all rescheduling of games with the Secretary.
- D. Will provide the Board with a list of all current referees and contact information.
- E. Will ensure all referees are registered (certified) for all games, 16U and older.

### **Head of Coaches**

The Head of Coaches:

- A. Shall provide and keep updated a coaches guide handout.
- B. Shall provide a current coaches list and practice schedule each season.
- C. Will make coaches aware of current game standings, upon requests.

### **Head of Maintenance**

The Head of Maintenance:

- A. Will assist in or help coordinate the striping of fields and setup of fields on game day. (Putting up nets, corner flags and trash bags)
- B. Will be responsible for the upkeep of the fields during season and between seasons.

## **1.3.3 Committees**

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Association officers for the upcoming year. The Slate will be presented at the April meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the current Association President and the immediate two past Presidents plus two Members at Large approved by the Executive Board. Should any of the three Presidents be unable to serve on this committee, the Executive Board shall elect a Member at Large to fill vacancies.

### **Standing Committee**

Sponsor Committee

Equipment Committee

Award Committee  
Capital Improvement Committee

#### **1.3.4 Appeals of Association Decisions**

Decisions made by the Executive Board or by the General membership of the Association may be appealed to the North Texas State Soccer Association. Appeal of last resort is to the United States Soccer Federation.

#### **1.3.5 Vacancies**

##### **A. Executive Committee**

In the event of a vacancy occurring among the members of the Executive Committee, The President will appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

##### **B. Presidency**

If a vacancy should occur in the Presidency, the Vice President shall succeed to the unexpired term and shall also appoint another member of the Association, with the majority vote of the board, to assume the office and duties of the Vice President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

##### **C. Other**

The President, with majority vote of the Executive Board, shall fill any vacancy not covered elsewhere through appointment until the next Annual General Meeting.

##### **D. Declared Vacancy**

Any member of the Executive Committee who shall be absent for any three meetings during his term of office, unless such absence is excused by the remaining body of the Executive Committee, may have his office declared vacant by the Executive Committee.

##### **E. Removal by Vote**

The Executive Board may call for a vote of no confidence on another member of the Board of Directors whose actions have been resolved to be grossly negligent, or severe improprieties, or other serious irregularities provided that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Executive Board Members so vote. If a director receives this vote of no confidence, he/she is automatically suspended from the Board of Directors and the Directors must then concur with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote removal to be effective immediately.

### **1.4 General Meetings**

#### **1.4.1 General Provisions**

##### **A. Parliamentary Procedures**

Parliamentary procedure, as specified by Robert's Rules of Order, shall govern Association Meetings. The President is responsible for order at all meetings.

##### **B. Successions Order**

The Succession order for Presiding Officer at any Association meeting will be as follows:

Vice President  
Treasurer  
Head of Coaches  
Head of Referees

**C. Open Meetings**

Association meetings are open to everyone; all affiliated members are invited to attend and discuss any matter. To do so, you shall contact the President at least 48 hours prior to the next scheduled meeting. State what you wish to discuss and ask to be put on the agenda. You will be notified of the date of the meeting. All delegations should have one spokesman. The President Officer may place a time limit on discussions.

**D. Closure**

Any officer presiding over a meeting may close to the general membership at any portion of the meeting at the officer's discretion.

**Binding Resolutions**

Resolutions and decisions passed by a majority vote of the members at any General meeting will be binding upon all affiliated members.

**1.4.2 General Meetings**

**A. Meeting Date**

This Association shall hold three General Meetings. The Fall and the Spring meeting shall be held in conjunction with team assignments. The General Meeting will be held, followed by team assignments. The annual general meeting will be held in the month of June.

**B. Order**

The order of business for the February and August meeting shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Communications
4. Unfinished business
5. Reports of Officers and Committees
6. New business
7. Adjournment

**1.4.3 Annual General Meeting**

**A. Meeting Date**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of June at the place and time to be designated by the President.

**B. Order**

The order of business shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Unfinished business
4. Reports by chairperson of Standing Committees
5. Reports of Officers
6. Election of Officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

#### **1.4.4 Special Meetings**

##### **A. President Call**

Additional General Meetings may be held upon call from the President.

##### **B. Membership Request**

One-fifth of the voting membership may request, in writing, that the President call a General Meeting for a specific purpose. The President shall call the meeting within ten days.

### **1.5 Amendments**

#### **1.5.1 Process for Submitting Amendments**

- A. Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Laws of the game must be submitted to the secretary in writing prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow for review by the Executive Board before the Annual General meeting. The amendment will be discussed, and if needed amended, and voted on at the Annual General meeting by the membership.
- B. The Secretary will post the proposed amendment, etc. on the Web Site after the Executive Board has reviewed. Handouts of the amendment will be available for distribution to the membership before the General Meeting.
- C. No Amendments, etc. shall be proposed and adopted at the Annual General Meeting held in June.

#### **1.5.2 Approval**

Adoption of amendments requires an approval of a two-thirds majority vote by the voting members present.



# **Chapter 2**

## **Rules**

### **Of the**

#### **Upshur County Youth Soccer Association**

#### **2.1 North Texas State Soccer Association**

##### 2.1.1 North Texas State Soccer Association

If any rule is not covered in the Upshur County Youth Soccer Association Rules, the NTSSA Rules and By-Laws will be followed.

##### 2.1.2 Inadvertent Conflict

NTSSA rules specify minimum requirements. If any Association rule conflicts with a NTSSA Rule, then the NTSSA Rule has Precedence.

#### **2.2 General**

##### 2.2.1 Individual Fundraisers

All Fundraising efforts by any individual member(s) of the Association are prohibited without prior approval of the Executive Board.

#### **2.3 Fields and Equipment**

##### 2.3.1 Provisions of Field Equipment

###### A. Nets and Flags

Nets and corner flags are supplied by and are the property of UCYSA.

###### B. Game Balls

The coaches provide game balls. Each coach will present a ball to the Referee prior to the game. The Referee will judge if the balls are acceptable and, if so, will then select one for the game ball.

##### 2.3.2 Preparation of the Fields

###### A. Field Marking

The Vice President is responsible for coordinating the marking of the fields.

###### B. Nets and Flags

The Vice President is responsible for coordinating the installation of nets and flags.

##### 2.3.3 Cleanup

A. The coaches are responsible for helping to keep the fields clean by having their team pick-up around the area after each game.

- B. After the last game (each Saturday), the teams that play on field are responsible for cleaning up the field and removing trash bags from barrels and placing them in the dumpster.

#### 2.3.4 Coaching Box

##### A. 6U Fields:

A line parallel to and one yard from the touchline will be provided. It will extend from the center toward each goal and will stop at the top of the penalty area. Each line will have a vertical line one yard long going away from the touchline. The vertical lines will be connected to form a box. Coaches will be required to stay within this box. Only the Head Coach and one Assistant Coach will be allowed in the coaching box. Players, parents, and other spectators will be required to be behind the Coaches.

##### B. For 9U thru 19U Fields:

1. A line parallel to and one yard from the touchline will be provided. It will extend from the center toward each goal and will stop at the top of each penalty area. Each line will have a vertical line one yard long going away from the touchline. Coaches will be required to stay within this box. Coaches and players will not be allowed to cross the center strip when entering and leaving the field. Teams will occupy one side of the field. Home team will be on the right of the centerline facing the field. Only the Coach, one Assistant Coach and team Manager will be allowed to be with players.
2. Parents and spectators will be required to be located on the opposite side of the field behind a line on their side of the field two yards from the touchline. Players, Coaches, Parents, and Spectators arriving at the field prior to their game, and while a game is still being played will abide by the above rule. No coaching will be allowed on the parents and spectators side. Parents and spectators are not allowed in the penalty area on either side of the sideline.

## 2.4 Team Organization

### 2.4.1 Teams and Coach Assignments

- A. A team shall consist of one Head Coach, one Assistant Coach, and the Players. The Head Coach will be approved by the President and assigned a team by the Executive Committee. The Head Coach and Assistant Coach shall sign the Coach's Code of Ethics and complete required background checks and the Safe Sports program.
- B. If a team's Head Coach or Assistant Coach quits or retires during or between soccer seasons, then their child must be re-pooled if the new Head Coach or Assistant Coach comes from outside the team and brings their child on that team.
- C. Any Coach who has not fulfilled his coaching requirements will not be allowed to coach until he has satisfied all requirements. If there are not enough players to fill all teams during the formation process, then the team of the coach who has not filled his coaching requirements would be assigned and the players redistributed.

#### 2.4.2 Players Eligibility

No player may participate in a game without first submitting to the Association a properly completed and signed registration form and proof of age. After submitting the registration form and having been assigned to a team, the player is said to be registered with that team. A player may only be registered with one team at any given time.

#### 2.4.3 Assignment of Players

- A. All players are drafted in the fall season for the year, except for the coach's child, who is assigned to their parent's team unless it is otherwise requested. Drafts are blind and players' registrations are placed faced down by age and gender only. Attempts are made to balance male and female players on teams.
- B. Should it be necessary to add a player to a team roster after team assignments have been completed, the player shall be assigned to the team with the fewest number of players in that division.
- C. Players of the same Family may play on the same team if of the same age or age group.
- D. Playing Up and Playing Down
  1. A younger player may play up in an older age division. Parents must sign a release for a child to play in an older division. A player participating in an older division may return to a younger division the following season provided the age requirement for the younger age division is satisfied.
  2. Only in very unusual circumstances will a player be allowed to play in a younger division than their age dictates. If allowed by the Executive Board, this player is ineligible for any postseason play. The coach must secure written permission from the Executive Board before allowing an older player to play in a younger age division. This is reserved for cases of developmentally delayed students who size does not cause concern for increased instance of injury if playing with younger.

**At no time can a player without a documented intellectual ability play down. This is not a change, but rather a clarification of NTSSA and Federation law.**

#### E. Transfer and Re-Pool

1. A player must stay with their assigned team for the entire soccer season. No transfers are allowed during the season. If a player drops off a team during the soccer season, he will not be allowed to play for any other team that season.
2. *Players may request a transfer or re-pool, between soccer seasons. A player who chooses to transfer teams will be placed in the draft.*
3. A team might be subject to re-pool if less than 50% of the eligible players fail to return to the team in a season.  
*Example: A team ends a season with 10 players on it. The next season, all 10 are eligible to return to the team. For the team to stay as a team at least 5 players must return. If only 4 returns, then the returning players might be re-pooled.*

#### F. Dropped Players

The coach must report players dropping off a team to the Secretary within 48 hours, excluding weekends. If a player for any reason of his own does not regularly attend practice and games, he must be reported as dropped from the team.

## **2.5 Uniforms**

- A. Players must be in uniform when taking the field for games. Their numbers must be always visible. Shin guards are required during all official play.

## **2.6 Practices and Playing Time**

- A. Practice sessions for recreational teams are limited to 1-1/2 hours maximum 2 times per week. Scrimmage games count as practice.
- B. We conform to NTSSA 3.14.3.3  
"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, no birth certificate on record, and non-payment of fees may cause for reduced play time, or in the case of birth certificate, no play.)"

## **2.7 Age Groups**

### **2.7.1 Official age**

We follow NTSSA guidelines for players' ages and team age group assignments. Players move up in the fall season. A player is not required to move up in Spring.

### **2.7.2 Age Groups**

Age groups will be dependent on the numbers of players that register to play.

## **2.8 Playing Schedule**

### **2.8.1 Seasons**

The playing schedule will consist of a Fall and a Spring Season.

### **2.8.2 City Championship**

The Championship shall be decided in both the Fall & Spring Season. The Teams who are declared first place winner in age group 10U and above, will be declared UCYSA Champions.

### **2.8.3 Home/Visiting Team**

The home team is the first team listed on the schedule. The home team has its choice of the side of the field from which to coach (except in 19U). The home team is responsible for Jersey change in the event of a color conflict.

## **2.9 Foul Weather Procedure**

### **2.9.1 Field Playability**

It is the responsibility of the President to determine the playability of the fields. They may cancel games on a half-day basis or for the entire day, as deemed necessary.

\*In the case of extraordinarily inclement weather, the UCYSA works to assure that each team plays a minimum of 5 games in a season.

#### 2.9.2 Game in Progress

It is the Referee's responsibility to call off a game in progress whenever he feels conditions are unsafe.

### 2.10 Records of the Game

The referee will deposit the score card from the game into the score box after each game. The official score sheets will be retained by the Association for season records, publicity, protest, playoffs, referee, and linesman pay and regional or state records.

### 2.11 Team Standings

#### 2.11.1 Point System

League standing will be determined by a point system to be kept current during a playing season. The point system will be:

- A. Win=6 Points
- B. Tie=3 Points
- C. Loss=0 Points
- D. 1 point per goal scored per game (Maximum of 3)
- E. 1 point for shutout
- F. A forfeit will be scored 3-0

#### 2.11.2 Tie Breaker

At the end of a playing season, should a tie exist, that must be broken; the following tiebreaker will be applied in order.

##### A. Tiebreaker

1. Goal Differential-Team with highest goal differential, in league play, against opponents would finish first. Only the first five (5) goals scored by any team in league games will be counted when calculating winning points for advancement.
2. Most number of "shutouts" in league play. Team with the most "shutouts" would finish first.
3. Fewest accumulations of caution points in league games, 1 point for yellow and 2 points for red. Team with the fewest points would finish first.

### 2.12 Game Forfeits

#### 2.12.1 Forfeits

The Executive Board will make decisions as to forfeits. Any of the following violations may result.

##### A. Illegal Player

An illegal player is one not properly registered or ineligible, for example, a player outside the age limit, a player for whom the UCYSA holds no release or proof of birth, a

player not registered to the playing team, or a suspended player. Playing an illegal player will result in forfeiture of all games in which the offending player participated.

B. Suspended Coach

A suspended coach appearing at the game will result in forfeiture.

C. No Team

Failure to field a team with a minimum of seven players at game time will result in a forfeit. If both teams fail to show up for a scheduled game, both teams shall forfeit, not tie. The number changes to five players for 10U and below.

a. When a team does not have enough players to take the field, the teams will play with lower numbers up to the point that a forfeit is forced. At that point, players who are present will be divided into two teams, as evenly as possible and play will be considered a scrimmage. Points are applied as a forfeit 3-0, per bylaws. No players may be recruited from other teams. Because all games are played on the same day, players recruited would be pushed beyond what is advisable by federation standards. If a player not registered to the team is played to avoid a forfeit, it will be ruled a forfeit. We are a recreational league, not a competition league. (Update per 2017 Spring AGM)

D. Playing Time

Failure to play an eligible player the minimum time will result in forfeiture.

E. Refusing to Play

A team refusing to continue a game after being instructed to do so by the Referee will forfeit the game. The team should continue to play “under protest” and should inform the Referee.

2.12.2 Forfeit Score

If a team forfeits a game, the official score will be 3-0 against the forfeiting team.

## 2.13 Penalties for Coach’s Misconduct

2.13.1 Ejection

A coach receiving an ejection from a Referee during a regular, playoff, Tournament, or Championship game will be suspended from being within sight or sound or from participating in his team’s next regular, playoff, Tournament, or Championship games.

2.13.2 Rule Violations

Violations of the following Association Rules and By-Laws by coaches or teams will result in assessment of the described penalties by the board.

A. Illegal Player

Any coach who knowingly allows an unregistered or ineligible player to participate with his team, in a game of any type, will result in the coach’s suspension from coaching for one year in the Association.

B. Illegal Recruiting

Any coach found guilty of illegally recruiting players as defined in UCYSA Coaching Code of Ethics will be suspended for one year from coaching in the Association.

C. Practice Time Limit

Violation by a Coach of Rule 2.6.1, Practice Time, will result in that coach receiving a formal caution from the Association. Subsequent violations will result in suspensions from the next game following the Association decision.

D. **Playing Time per Player**

Violation by a coach of NTSSA Rules concerning playing time per player will result in the coach being formally cautioned by the Association. The second such violation will result in the coaches' suspensions from the next game following board decisions based on a review and hearing. The third violation will result in a one-year suspension from coaching in the association.

2.13.3 **Amendments to Penalties**

These penalties from misconduct may only be amended by Executive Board action based on findings and decisions involving extenuating circumstances.

**2.14 (Reserved)**

**2.15 The Rescheduling of Games**

2.15.1 The rescheduling of any game must be done (1) week (seven days) prior to the scheduled game date. The following procedure must be made to reschedule a game:

A. The Coach desiring to reschedule a game must call the Head of Coaches with the rescheduled time and date for game to be played. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.

2.15.2 The Head of Coaches will call the Head of Referees and reschedule the game.

**2.16 Adult Criminal Background Checks**

2.16.1 Every person over the age of seventeen (17), who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player, must have on file with NTSSA a completed Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check (NTSSA Adult Applicant).

2.16.2 For purposes of this procedure, at a minimum, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, referees, volunteer administrators, board members, and staff/employees are included. Others may be included if they may be alone with registered youth players.

NOTE: Procedures for Adult Criminal background checks can be found in NTSSA Rules and Regulations, Section 3.6.2

**Chapter Three**  
**Laws of the Game**  
**Of the**  
**Upshur County Youth Soccer Association**

**3.0 General**

The official playing rules of this Association shall be the “laws of the Games and Universal Guide for Referees with USSF supplement “printed by the USSF with permission of FIFA. These laws and the International Board Decisions shall govern Association play, except as revised by NTSSA and the Association. The following is a summary for the FIFA Laws and Association Exceptions to the Laws. This summary is for general information and should not be used as a document of the fact to resolve disputes.

**3.1 Law 1 – The Field of Play**

**FIFA:** The field shall be rectangular -100 to 130 yards long and 50 to 100 yards wide.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

A. Smaller Field

To accommodate younger players, the FIFA dimensions shall be reduced proportionately as stated in the UCYSA modified playing rules.

B. Goal Line

No one is allowed behind the goal line.

Sideline Coaching

Teams shall coach from only one side of the field. Anyone on the sideline giving instructions will be considered coaching, whether he is a coach.

**3.2 Law 2 – The Ball**

**FIFA:** The #5 ball is official size.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

The Following ball size will be used:

A. 6U - #3 Ball

B. 9U thru 12U- #4 Ball

C. 14U and older - #5 Ball

**3.3 Law 3 – Number of Players**

**FIFA:** There will be 11 players per team, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. A team can play with a minimum of 7 players. There will be a maximum of at least 2 substitutes.

A player ejected from the game after play has started may not be replaced.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

A. Team size will be reduced in the younger age groups. In all age groups, except for 6U, one of the players shall be goalkeeper. These are minimum numbers and will vary based on the number of registered players in an age group.

1. 6U - 3 players per team.

2. 9U - 7 players per team.



3. 10U – 8 players per team.
  4. All others – 11 players per team.
- B. Roster size is based on team size, and the **maximum** roster size will be limited by the following guidelines.
1. 6U – 8 players
  2. 9U – 12 players
  3. 10U – 14 players
  4. 14U - 18 players
  5. 16U, 19U – 22 players
- C. There will be free substitution, with consent of the Referee at the following times:
1. At a throw-in by the team in possession
  2. By either team before a goal kick, after a goal is scored, at half time, and when play is stopped for an injured player.
  3. A player may be substituted for when he is given a caution (yellow card).
  4. In 6U, the Referee will stop play for 2 minutes at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to allow for substitutions.
- D. A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the same game.

### 3.4 **Law 4 – Player's Equipment**

**FIFA:** A player shall not wear anything, which is dangerous to himself or to another player. The usual equipment consists of shirts, shorts, stockings, and shoes. Players on each team must wear shirts of the same color, which distinguishes them from the other team. The goalkeepers must wear colors, which distinguish them from the other players and the Referee.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

- A. If both teams have similar uniform colors, the home team is responsible for resolving color conflicts.
- B. A number at least 4 inches high is required on the back of each player's shirt.
- C. Approved shin guards are to be worn by every player (under socks).
- D. If tights (sliding shorts) are worn, they must be black, white, or match team colors. (Random colors make it difficult for the ref.)

### 3.5 **Law 5 – Referees**

**FIFA:** One Referee will be appointed for each game and his judgmental decisions are final. The Referee's authority begins when he enters the field of play and extends until he leaves the area. The Referee shall enforce the Laws of the Game but shall refrain from stopping the game advantage to the offending team. The Referee is responsible for the game, and he can suspend or terminate a game whenever he deems necessary, for example, foul weather or spectator interference. The Referee keeps a record of the game and is the official timekeeper. The Referee can caution or eject a player for violation of the rules. The Referee is required to file a Misconduct Report with the Association on any violation of rules by either team or team official for which a caution was administered; a player, coach, spectator was sent off the field; or a game was forfeited.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

A. No Referee

If the assigned Referee fails to appear within ten minutes before the scheduled game time, or if he becomes incapacitated during the game, and other qualified individual agreeable to both Coaches may conduct the game to its conclusion, making note of his substitution on the official report to the Association. If the Coaches cannot agree on an individual to conduct the game, the game shall be abandoned.

B. Coaches as Referees

In 6U, each coach or his representative may be required to referee half of the game. Home team 1st half, away team 2nd Half.

C. Rule Infractions Explained

In 6U - 9U, the Referee will briefly explain rule infractions to the offending players.

**3.6**

**Law 6-Linesmen**

**FIFA:** Two Linesmen will be appointed to assist the Referee.

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

If there are no assigned linesmen at the Referee's option, each team will supply a club linesman for U14, U19 games.

**3.7**

**Law 7 – Duration of the Game**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

**A. Game Length**

The duration of the game shall be:

	<u>Game</u>	<u>Overtime</u>
1.	Under 19 Two 45 min.	Two 15 min.
2.	Under 17 Two 35 min.	Two 15 min.
3.	Under 16 Two 30 min.	Two 10 min.
4.	Under 13 Two 25 min.	Two 10 min.
5.	Under 10 Four 12 min.	Two 10 min.
6.	Under 7 Four 8 min.	

**B. Playoff and Championship Games**

During playoff and championship games, if these games end in a tied score, the game shall be extended with two ten-minute halves. The Referee shall toss a coin to determine the choice of goals to start the overtime period. At the end of the first period, without a halftime break, the teams change ends and kickoff is by the team opposite to that of the first half. If the game is still tied after overtime, FIFA "kicks from the penalty spot" will be used to determine the winner.

**C. Suspended Game**

If a game is suspended because of foul weather before the second half has begun, the game shall be replayed. If a game is suspended after the second half has begun, the game shall be considered a full game, and the existing score shall be the final and official score.

\*In the case of extraordinarily inclement weather, the UCYSA works to assure that each team plays a minimum of 5 games in a season.

### **3.8 Law 8 – The Start of Play**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

Coin Toss

The visiting team shall call the coin toss.

Game Time

Game time is the scheduled starting time.

### **3.9 Law 9 – Ball In and Out of Play**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:** NONE

### **3.10 Law 10 – Method of Scoring**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

Games scores and league standings will not be recorded in 6U.

### **3.11 Law 11 – Offside**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

There will be no offside in 6U thru 9U.

### **3.12 Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

A. Goalkeeper Protection

For protection of the goalkeeper, charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is not allowed. Violation of this rule is considered violent and dangerous play. The first consideration in determining if play should be stopped and the goalkeeper be given possession of the ball is the degree of danger to which the goalkeeper is being subjected, regardless of whether he has physical possession of the ball.

B. Unintentional Handball

It is not an intentional handball offense for any player to attempt to protect vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them. The Referee shall judge whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball. A ball bouncing from the ground to a player's arm, hand, etc. IS a handball. The handball penalty is not assessed based on intention, but on the fact that it impacts the direction of the ball.

C. Coach's Misconduct

Coaches and Assistant Coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the Referee as are the players, that is, cautions and ejections.

D. Player ejection Penalties

The first ejection during the soccer year results in suspension from the following game for the ejected player. The second ejection results in a two-game suspension. The third ejection results in NTSSA action.

E. No Direct Kicks in 6U

There will be no direct kicks in 6U. All free kicks will be indirect.

F. No Slide Tackles

For the protection of the players, slide tackling in 6U thru 9U, is not allowed. A free kick will be taken from where the offense occurred.

**3.13 Law 13 – Free Kicks**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

In 6U thru 9U all free kicks will be indirect.

**3.14 Law 14 – Penalty Kick**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

There will be no penalty kicks in 6U thru 9U. All kicks will be indirect.

**3.15 Law 15 – Throw-In**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

In 6U thru 9U, if the first throw-in is incorrectly taken, the Referee must explain the infraction to the player, and a second throw-in will be allowed.

**3.16 Law 16 – Goal Kick**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:** NONE

**3.17 Law 17-Corner Kick**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:** NONE

**3.18 Law 18-Headers**

**FIFA:** Conform to FIFA

**UCYSA Exceptions:**

13U and below headers are not allowed.

**Chapter Four**  
**North Texas State Soccer Association**  
**Upshur County Youth Soccer Association**  
**Rule 3.11 Discipline**

- 4.1** The Upshur County Youth Soccer Association will conform to North Texas State Soccer Association Rule 3.11 concerning discipline of players and coaches and concerning appeals of disciplinary actions.
- 4.2** Every coach, player, team managers, league administrator and referee should make themselves familiar with the contents of this rule. It is intended that the coach and/or the player will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators.
- 4.3** The rules can be found at [www.ntxsoccer.org](http://www.ntxsoccer.org)