

**GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC**

**BYLAWS**

**STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**Affiliated with:**

**US Club Soccer**

**United States Soccer Federation**

**Federation Internationale de Football Association**

**Effective August 2016**

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**GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

**BYLAWS  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

Oklahoma's Green Country Soccer Association (GCSA), a non-profit organization, provides a positive, recreational soccer experience to all recreational and rec plus teams within all US Soccer affiliated clubs across Northeast Oklahoma and surrounding communities. Our focus is on providing and administering high quality and challenging recreational, youth leagues and tournaments, as well as training programs for players and coaches. GCSA encourages high standards of fair play, sportsmanship, cooperation, and integrity for each of our Member clubs and their teams.

# **BYLAWS OF GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. (GCSA)**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this Corporation shall be Green Country Soccer Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as GCSA).

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose for which this Corporation is formed is to further and promote the progressive development of the sport of youth amateur soccer through organization, training and education; to organize a soccer team or teams to compete and participate in youth soccer; to promote the progressive development of the sport of soccer through the establishment and development of programs for minors; to secure sponsors; to receive gifts, legacies, and donations from any source whatsoever to be used solely to promote the health, welfare and recreation of the general public through the organization of this Corporation for the development of the sport of soccer.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERS**

- Section 1. A soccer team or a club of soccer teams shall be admitted to membership in GCSA upon written application to and acceptance by the Board of Directors.
- a. All soccer teams (or a soccer club) shall submit their teams and the name of a coach or team representative to GCSA upon acceptance as a Member, or at the beginning of any season or both as requested or required by this Article. (04/23/2014)
  - b. A club of soccer teams shall submit their teams and a list of Officers, Bylaws and Team Formation Guidelines. (04/23/2014)
  - c. All teams shall be a Member of a Club in good standing, or affiliated with a Member Club. (04/23/2014)
- Section 2. The organization admitted to membership may be clubs which are formed by GCSA, or they may be independently formed clubs.
- Section 3. In order to maintain good standing, Members shall:
- a. Pay dues, fees and all legal debts on time.
  - b. Assure that Member Bylaws, Standing Resolutions and Team Formation Guidelines are in conformance with those of GCSA.
  - c. Assure that a current copy of Member Bylaws, Standing Resolutions, Team Formation Guidelines and a list of officers are on file with GCSA. These copies shall be submitted on a yearly basis (due July 1 and January 1 depending on season).
  - d. Comply with and uphold the Bylaws and Standing Resolutions set forth herein.

- Section 4. Members in bad standing shall be subject to any or all of the following sanctions as deemed appropriate by the GCSA Board of Directors:
- a. Loss of voting privileges.
  - b. Prohibition of Member's teams from participation in any GCSA sanctioned tournament(s).
  - c. Withholding of GCSA provided awards, patches, trophies, medallions, etc.
  - d. Prohibition from all Inter-Club play.
  - e. Recommendation for termination of membership.
- Section 5. The membership of any Member may be terminated at a special meeting called for that purpose by the concurrence of two-thirds of the eligible votes of GCSA.
- Section 6. GCSA is a membership organization. Members are required to pay dues, abide by GCSA by-laws, codes of conduct, rules of play in the US Club, FIFA and laws of the State of Oklahoma and The United States of America. Membership is applied for, not guaranteed. (04/23/2014)
- Section 7. GCSA does not discriminate in its member acceptance or denial based on Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Education, in accordance with the laws set forth by the U.S.A. (04/23/2014)
- Section 8. GCSA has the right as a membership only organization to refuse membership to any Club or Organization applying for membership to GCSA, for any reason subject to the approval of the Membership, including but not limited to criminal history, previous membership in GCSA resulting in bad standing. (04/23/2014)
- Section 9. Members of GCSA may resign their membership at any time, by placing their request in written form, to any board member of GCSA, by email or U.S. mail. (04/23/2014)
- Section 10. Members who resign or are removed are not due any refund of any dues paid, unless within 14 days of current season or session payment. Members are not due any refund of any kind if session has started, or registration has closed. (04/23/2014)

#### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The officers of GCSA shall be as follows:
- a. President
  - b. First Vice President
  - c. Secretary – Treasurer
  - d. Games Scheduler (08/2016)

- Section 2. All officers shall be elected by ballot unless unchallenged. (04/23/2004) All officers shall serve until their successors are elected. All terms of office shall be one (1) year and shall begin at the close of the Membership meeting at which they are elected.
- Section 3. No officer shall hold more than one GCSA office at a time and no officer shall be eligible to serve concurrently as a Member President. GCSA Officer cannot be an officer of another organization. (04/23/2014)
- Section 4. No officer on the Board of GCSA may be a family member, relative or spouse of a currently sitting GCSA officer. (04/23/2014)
- Section 5. No more than two officers shall be members of the same Member. To be eligible for the position of President, the nominee must have served at least one full term as an officer of GCSA or served as a Member President.
- Section 6. The President shall be the presiding officer and if absent, the order is: 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, etc., and shall be the general manager of GCSA. He shall appoint the Chairmen of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and Games and Disciplinary Committee, subject to the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. (08/2016)
- Section 7. The First Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Games and Disciplinary Committee and shall act in the absence of the President with the same power and authority and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- Section 8. The Second Vice President shall have the responsibility of forming recreational leagues for the purpose of keeping games competitive and shall have the responsibility of scheduling recreational games. This shall be accomplished with the help of the Scheduling Committee of which he/she will chair. Committee members must be presented and approved by the GCSA Board of Directors. (08/2016)
- Section 9. The Secretary - Treasurer shall keep the records and minutes of all meetings of GCSA (notices of all meetings shall be sent out by GCSA Office Manager), and have general custody of the records of GCSA. In addition, the Secretary - Treasurer shall have oversight for the receipt and disbursement of, and accounting for, all funds of GCSA, which shall be kept in a bank (or banks) designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary - Treasurer shall prepare for presentation at each Annual Meeting a financial statement of GCSA for the preceding year. The Secretary - Treasurer shall also be responsible for filing all GCSA tax forms pertaining to his term of office and shall be bonded. (10/27/2010)
- Section 10. At the regular meeting held in April and October, a Nominating Committee of three (3) members shall be elected by the Membership. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices of GCSA and the respective office each shall hold for the next term. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify the Membership of its recommendations not less than seven (7) days prior to the January and the August Membership Meetings. The offices of President and Secretary - Treasurer shall be elected at the January Meeting. The offices of First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be elected at the August Membership Meeting. Before an election, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted. (8/2016)
- Section 11. An officer of GCSA may be suspended from office and membership on the Board by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors at a regular or specially called Board meeting. Grounds for suspension include failure or inability to perform the duties of one's office - including regular attendance at Board meetings, violation of the GCSA Bylaws and Standing Resolutions, criminal misconduct or other conduct harmful to GCSA. The suspended officer shall

be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all eligible votes present at a special meeting of the General Membership called for that purpose or at the next General Membership meeting. Provisions of Article V of the Bylaws shall govern as to the conduct of the meeting, including notice of the meeting and quorum requirements. Any officer of GCSA may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to any other officer. The acceptance of any such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

- Section 12. In the event of the suspension of an officer, the other officers shall select an interim or acting officer to fulfill the duties of the suspended officer until the General Membership meeting at which time a vote is taken to remove the suspended officer. In the event of a vacancy occurring in any office of GCSA, the officers shall elect a successor to the office by majority vote at a special meeting called for that purpose, within 30 days, or at the next scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.

## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

- Section 1. There shall be a meeting of Members at 7:00 p.m. during the last full week of the months of January, April, August and October. (10/27/2010)
- Section 2. The meeting in August shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees and for any other business that shall arise.
- Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or shall be called upon request of the members of the Board of Directors or upon request of two Members of GCSA. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least seven (7) days notice shall be given.
- Section 4. Each Member Club shall be entitled to one vote per club as a GCSA Member. (08/2016)
- Section 5. Each Member shall designate a spokesman who shall speak and cast all votes for the Member at the meetings. A spokesman shall be an officer of the Member or have, in his possession, written authorization from an officer of the Member to act as spokesman for that specific meeting. No absentee ballots shall be accepted. Each member may also name up to four additional persons as part of the delegation. These additional persons may speak, but shall not vote except when acting for the delegation spokesman.
- Section 6. The agenda for meetings shall be provided to the Members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
- Section 7. An item of new business shall be brought for a vote before any meeting by having been placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting by the Board of Directors on its own initiative or by a written request to the Board of Directors made at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
- Section 8. If an item of new business is brought for a vote before any meeting without having been placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting, a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for consideration. Requires a simple majority required for passage.
- Section 9. Any appeal shall be placed on the agenda only in accordance with Article V., Section 8. Article V., Section 9. is not applicable.

## **ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of:



- a. The Officers of GCSA as voting members.
- b. All standing Committee Chairmen as non-voting members.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Attorney and an Auditor to advise GCSA.

Section 3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held during the first week of each month unless agreed to by majority of the Board of Directors. (10/27/2010)

Section 4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors can be called by the President or two members of the Board of Directors. Seven (7) days notice of a special meeting shall be given, unless waived by three voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Three (3) voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. No vote shall be cast by proxy. Majority vote of the members present shall govern.

## **ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Appeals Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall hear appeals of decisions rendered by a lower body.

Section 2. Games and Disciplinary Committee

- a. Shall consist of the Chairman (1<sup>st</sup> VP GCSA) and not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) members. (01/22/2004) Members shall be appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall discipline coaches, players and spectators for misconduct and/or violations of GCSA Bylaws and Standing Resolutions.
- c. Shall assure that all games are played in accordance with the GCSA Standing Resolutions.
- d. Shall review misconduct reports, game determinations and game terminations, forfeit requests and game protests involving Inter-Club leagues and shall take disciplinary action when necessary. (01/22/2004)
- e. Shall review misconduct reports, game terminations, forfeit requests and game protests involving an Intra-Club league only if that Member refuses to render a decision or waives its rights in the matter, and shall take disciplinary action when necessary. (01/22/2004)

Section 3. Scheduling and Statistics Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman (Games Scheduler) and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall establish recreational leagues and assign teams thereto.

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- c. Shall monitor and approve scheduling of all games.

(08/2016)

Section 5. Rules Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall interpret Bylaws and Standing Resolutions.
- c. Shall recommend revisions of the Bylaws and Standing Resolutions.
- d. Shall assure conformance with FIFA and USSF.

Section 6. Tournament Committee

- a. Shall consist of a GCSA Board of Directors and volunteers from the Membership. (08/2016)
- b. Shall be responsible for organizing and directing the GCSA Spring Recreational Tournament.

Section 7. The GCSA Board of Directors shall have the right, at any time, to remove any appointed committee chairman or committee member for just cause.

Section 8. Such other committees shall be appointed by the President as the Membership or Board of Directors so directs.

Section 9. All minutes, reports and/or decisions issued by GCSA committees shall be submitted in writing to the GCSA Secretary within ten (10) days.

### **ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION**

The Green Country Soccer Association member of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and US Club Soccer agrees to abide by the rules, policies and procedures established by these organizations as they pertain to youth soccer; unless otherwise amended by Standing Resolutions passed by a majority vote of the Membership of GCSA. (04/23/2014)

### **ARTICLE IX. RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Decisions of GCSA may be appealed to the USSF as appropriate following their procedures and policies as outlined in the current USSF Official Administrative Rulebook. (04/23/2014)

### **ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern GCSA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order GCSA may adopt.

## **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of all eligible votes, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting or at a special meeting called not less than two weeks prior to the regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of GCSA shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

## **ARTICLE XIII. NONPROFIT STATUS - DISSOLUTION**

This corporation is not organized for pecuniary profit, nor shall it have any power to issue certificates of stock or declare dividends, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member, director, trustee or individual. The balance, if any, of all money received by the corporation from its operation, after payment in full of all debts and obligations of the corporation of whatsoever kind and nature, shall be used and distributed exclusively for carrying out the purpose or purposes of the corporation, as more particularly set forth herein above. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Law, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes provided further that in no event shall any of the corporation's assets or property in the event of its dissolution go or be distributed to any director, member or individual, either for the reimbursement of any sums subscribed, donated or contributed by such director, member or individual or for any other purpose.

# **STANDING RESOLUTIONS GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **SECTION I. CLUB BOUNDARIES**

- A. Member Clubs' boundaries are defined by the Member Clubs themselves. (04/23/2014)

## **SECTION II. REGISTRATION**

It is the intent of GCSA that a player should play in his own Club area and on a team in the appropriate age division.

- A. Requirement: Clubs shall register with GCSA, US Club or OSA every soccer player and every soccer team that is sponsored by, financed by, coached or administrated by such Club. (08/2016)
- B. Players
1. Procedure
    - a. Individual players shall be registered by their Club using a registration form prescribed by GCSA.
    - b. Individual registration fees shall be paid at the time of registration. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the Registration form and pays the appropriate fees.
    - c. Upon acceptance of the player application by GCSA (or Club appointee), a player may participate in practices and any non-game activities.
    - d. A new or transferred GCSA player shall not participate in any games sanctioned by GCSA or their affiliates, until a player registration has been received by noon on Wednesday and approved by GCSA's Registrar. Upon approval by GCSA, the player must be added to the Official Team Roster/Game Form before becoming eligible to participate in sanctioned play. (08/2016)
    - e. A recreational player who is refused registration under Section II., B.1.a. may register with the next nearest geographic Club, if it will accept such a player. A player may be refused registration if there is no available team in the proper age division.
  2. Eligibility
    - a. Definitions
      - (1) Youth Player - a youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches his nineteenth (19th) birthday after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year, shall be allowed to complete the seasonal year. If questions, refer to US Soccer Age Group Chart on website ([www.gcsoccer.com](http://www.gcsoccer.com)) (08/2016)
      - (2) Senior Team - a team registered with the United States Soccer Federation as an adult team.

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- b. A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of senior games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. In the event of a conflict between a senior trial game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player, who is required to sign a senior form, shall retain youth eligibility. (04/23/2014)
  
- c. Age divisions shall be based upon calendar years. Players within those age divisions will have matching birth years. Players can play up a birth year. Players are not allowed to play down. (08/2016)
  - (1) Under 19 years of age
  - (2) Under 16 years of age
  - (3) Under 14 years of age
  - (4) Under 12 years of age
  - (5) Under 10 years of age
  
- d. Under 8 (U8) GCSA players shall have attained the age of 6 years before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the immediately preceding seasonal year. U8 (5v5) teams shall be formed with a maximum of ten (10) players. (08/2016)
  - (1) Player registration shall be in compliance with Section II., B., 1., b., c., and d. (01/22/2004)
  - (2) Clubs offering U8 soccer shall comply with the Official Small-Sided Soccer 5v5 Program, except as follows: (See link on [www.gcsoccer.com](http://www.gcsoccer.com) for complete list of rules - <http://www.gcsoccer.com/Administration.html> .) (08/2016)
  
- e. Under 6 (U6) soccer shall be a Club option. The following rules shall apply:
  - (1) Players shall have attained the age of 4 years before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the immediately preceding seasonal year. A child, who attains the age of 4 years prior to February 1 of the current seasonal year, shall be permitted to play in the Spring season. (08/2016)
  - (2) Player registration shall be in compliance with Section II., B., 1., b., c., and d.
  - (3) Clubs offering U6 soccer shall comply with the Official Small-Sided Soccer 3 v 3 Program, except as follows: (See link on [www.gcsoccer.com](http://www.gcsoccer.com) for complete list of rules.)
    - (i.) Law VIII - The Start and Restart of Play - A goal may not be scored directly from the kick off.
    - (ii.) Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct – No cautious or send-offs shall be issued except by an independent neutral referee.
    - (iii.) Law XIII – Free Kicks – A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
  - ((ii.) through (iii.) added 01/22/2004.)
  - (iv.) Law XVI – The Goal Kick – A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

- (4) There shall be no protests or appeals. All other administration shall be the sole responsibility of the Club.
  - (5) Clubs offering U6 soccer shall comply with the Official Small-Sided Soccer 3 v 3 Program, except as follows: (See link on [www.gcsoccer.com](http://www.gcsoccer.com) for complete list of rules - <http://www.gcsoccer.com/Administration.html>.) (08/2016)
- f. Any player may be required to prove his legal age or legal residence to GCSA.
- (1) Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by the appropriate government agency, driver's license (08/26/2004), passport, alien registration card issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates shall not be accepted.
  - (2) Legal residence is the true domicile of the player and his or her family/legal guardian. This is the place where the player and his or her family/legal guardian have their permanent residence to which, if absent, they have the intention of returning.
3. Transfers
- a. A transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA or US Club registered player to a roster or a player who returns to the same roster.
  - b. Any recreational player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he requests a transfer. All requests for transfer shall be submitted in writing, on the appropriate form, stating the reason for the request to the GCSA Office for approval.
4. "Playing Up"
- a. "Playing Up" refers to playing in an older age division than the player's age is assigned (Section II., B., 2., c.).
  - b. "Playing Up" in the U6 age division shall be managed and allowed by the individual club, using their own discretion, when they deem necessary. (05/24/2007)
  - c. A recreational player shall not play up more than two (2) seasonal years if failure to do so provides a documented hardship on the player, his family or his Club. Ruling on the hardship rests with the Club. The player shall remain in that older age division for the entire seasonal year, unless the Club is able to form that age group the next season. (08/2016)
  - d. "Playing Up" shall not be allowed merely for the purpose of keeping a pre-existing recreational team together.
  - e. At the Club's discretion, when there is no team in a player's proper age division during the Fall season and the player must play up in order to play soccer, that player may be allowed to return to his proper age division if the Club can field a team in that age division in the Spring.
  - f. Requests for "Playing Up" shall be submitted in writing, on the appropriate form, by the parent or legal guardian, for approval by the Club. A bona-fide case shall be made in the request. (08/31/2011)

5. "Playing Down"

"Playing Down" refers to playing in a younger division than the player's age as assigned (Section II., B., 2., c.). This can be a club option in closed, recreational only, upon presentation of a detailed, written request with criteria as: special needs, physical or mental (must be accompanied by a physician's diagnostic statement), or if there is no age group options within the home club for the player. (08/2016)

6. Drops

Once a team has been registered with and approved by GCSA, no player shall be dropped until a written request, stating the reason for such drop, is received and recorded by GCSA.

C. Teams

1. The seasonal year shall begin September 1 and end July 31 of the following year. During this seasonal year, GCSA has two playing seasons, Fall and Spring. All recreational teams shall be registered with GCSA prior to each season.
2. All teams shall be registered during the registration periods set by the GCSA Registration Committee. No new teams shall be added after the initial registration with GCSA with the exception of Intra-Club leagues.
3. It is the responsibility of each Club to submit player and coach registration forms; Team Roster/Game Forms; registration fees; and where required, player passes, drops and playing up forms to GCSA. (08/28/2008)
4. An "Official" roster shall be the "GCSA Roster/Game Form/Game Card", approved by GCSA through GotSoccer. Once roster is frozen, GCSA's stamp appears when printed. (10/27/2010)
5. For Intra-Club leagues only, new teams may be registered up to seven (7) days prior to GCSA play. "New teams" are defined as teams additional to those registered during the registration periods described in paragraph 2 above, and are composed of players not already registered to another team.

D. Coaches

1. All coaches shall be registered with GCSA prior to the first scheduled date of the seasonal year or spring season GCSA play by filling out US Club paperwork so a background check can be done and card given as proof. Card needs to be with coach/volunteer at each game if requested by Referee, GCSA Board member, or opposing coach. (04/23/2014)
2. GCSA can refuse to register a coach selected by a Club for just cause. Any coach who has been suspended by GCSA, a Club or any other USSF affiliated organization shall not be registered by GCSA during his period of suspension.
3. All Clubs shall notify GCSA, in writing, of the suspension of any coach within seven (7) days.
4. The GCSA Office Manager shall notify the GCSA Board of Directors of any coach suspension at the next Board meeting.

## SECTION III. TEAMS

In order to assure fair and equal competition and the maximum opportunity for each individual to play, recreational teams shall be limited as follows:

### A. Size

1. U10 (7v7) teams shall be formed with a minimum of six (7) players and a maximum of fourteen (14). (08/2016)
2. (a) Recreational teams (U11-U12) shall be formed with a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of sixteen (16). (08/31/2011)
- (b) Recreational teams (U13 - U14) shall be formed with a minimum of eleven (11) players and a normal maximum of eighteen (18) players per team. (10/27/2010)
- (c) U16 - U19 recreational teams shall be formed with a minimum of eleven (11) players and up to a maximum of twenty-two (22) with a maximum of eighteen (18) players participating/suiting up at any one game. (10/27/2010)
- (d) Club Player Pass (CPP) – The purpose of the CPP is to help a specific team gain the correct number of players to ensure the team has enough rostered players to field a team rather than have to reschedule/forfeit. The purpose IS NOT to add higher skilled players to replace or decrease the playing time of lesser skilled players. Players, up to three (3) per team, must:
  - 1) Already be registered with GCSA;
  - 2) Already be placed on a team within same club;
  - 3) Must be of appropriate age;
  - 4) Must play on their “primary” team if game time conflicts exist.(08/2016)

### B. Formation

1. All recreational teams shall start each season approximately equal in terms of ability, numbers and age.
2. The placement of players on teams shall be the sole responsibility of the Club. Reference Club’s team formation guidelines on file at the Club. (04/23/2014)
3. Efforts by coaches or others to recruit players onto recreational teams on the sole basis of players’ ability shall be prohibited.

### C. Sponsorship

- a. Any recreational team may secure a sponsor or sponsors to aid them with expenses.
- b. Caution and common sense shall be exercised in the selection of a team sponsor to maintain the character, spirit and intent of GCSA and its idea of sponsorship, character building, participation and teamwork. Sponsor approval by the club with which the team is registered shall be required.
- c. Sponsor insignia may appear on player’s uniforms, warm-up suits, jackets, equipment bags, etc., without size restriction.



- d. Sponsors shall not be permitted any authority or control of player selection, game participation or coach selection.
- e. Any team and/or club found guilty of impropriety in regard to team sponsorship may be suspended or otherwise dealt with by the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee.  
(04/27/2011)

D. Consolidation

- 1. Consolidation of two or more recreational teams during a playing season, because of a lack of player participation, requires approval of the GCSA Games Committee for Inter-Club leagues or the Club Games Committee for Intra-Club leagues.
- 2. The surviving team of a consolidation shall complete the schedule of one of the original teams, as determined by the appropriate Games Committee.
- 3. The consolidated teams may be reorganized on the original team basis between seasons if registration of players makes it possible.

E. Dissolution

Dissolution of a team after GCSA Scheduling shall be reported by the Club to GCSA within 24 hours.

## **SECTION IV. COACHES**

A. Selection

- 1. Each Club shall be responsible for selecting coaches for all its team.
- 2. Methods of selecting coaches shall be determined by the individual Club.
- 3. All Clubs should encourage the coaches to seek instruction in The Laws of the Game and coaching techniques.
- 4. All coaches shall pass a US Club administered background check. (04/23/2014)

B. Responsibilities and Duties

- 1. Each coach shall be responsible for being familiar with the GCSA Bylaws and Standing Resolutions.
- 2. Each coach shall be responsible for ensuring that GCSA Rules of Competition are complied with by players and spectators, and for maintaining order and respect by players and spectators for referees, players, and others involved with the game.
- 3. Each coach shall assure that all his players are properly registered with the Home Club prior to participation in scheduled games.
- 4. Each coach shall be responsible for training and conditioning his players and for conducting practices.

5. All team meetings shall be considered team activities. This includes games, practices, scrimmages and instructional meetings in which seven (7) or more players from the same team participate under the supervision of a coach or adult.
6. Recreational team activities shall be limited to three (3) during any calendar week except in the U16 and U19 age divisions. The calendar week shall begin on Saturday.
7. No recreational team practice, scrimmage or instructional meeting shall exceed ninety (90) minutes in duration.
8. All coaches shall have an Official GCSA Roster/Game Form at each game.
9. All coaches of U11 and U19 recreational teams shall have approved, individual player passes (with current picture affixed and player's signature) at each game. (08/2016)
10. CPP rules for recreational leagues: Players must be: 1) already registered with GCSA; 2) already placed on a team; 3) of appropriate age; 4) the game the CPP applies to cannot be at the same time as their "primary" team's game. (04/23/2014)
11. Each coach shall sign his Official GCSA Team Roster/Game Form/Game Card and that of the opposing coach following each game.
12. Both coaches retain their own Official GCSA Roster/Game Form/Game Card and the winning coach is to call in the score to GotSoccer within 48 hours upon completion of the game. If this is not done by winning coach, opposing coach may do so. Coaches are to keep the Roster/Form/Card through end of season in case any discrepancies occur in the reporting procedure. In the case of a game termination or an ejection, see Section V., D., 3. In case of game termination/determination or ejection, coaches still keep forms and referee will fill out a Misconduct Report and submit to GCSA. (08/2016)
13. The home coach shall contact the opposing coach to reschedule any postponed game (Section VI., E.). Mutual agreement shall be reached as to the date/time of any rescheduled game. Coaches must adhere to home coach's Club's rescheduling policy. If agreement can't be reached, Club presidents are to be notified for resolution. (08/2016)
14. All coaches shall have copies of the players' registration forms at all team activities.
15. It is the responsibility of the home coach or Home Club to provide a suitably marked field which, in the opinion of the referee, complies with requirements stated in FIFA and GCSA rules.
16. In the event that no referee appears for a game, it is the responsibility of the home team coach to select a referee suitable to both coaches.
17. Each coach shall provide a linesman agreeable to the referee, when requested.
18. It is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and discipline players or themselves as required by the cautions/ejections received. Additionally, the coach shall send the Player/Coach Sit-Out Verification form to the GCSA office when appropriate. (01/22/2004)
19. Failure of a coach to uphold GCSA Bylaws and Standing Resolutions shall result in disciplinary action by the appropriate Games Committee.

## **SECTION V. RULES OF COMPETITION**

All GCSA Competition shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, except as noted below.

### **A. The Ball**

U10 - U12 Divisions shall use a size 4 ball. (08/2016)

### **B. Substitutions**

1. In the U14, U16 and U19 recreational divisions, substitutions shall be unlimited. (01/26/11)  
Substitutions shall be permitted at the following times:
  - a. Prior to a throw-in, in any favor (08/2016)
  - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
  - c. After a goal, by either team
  - d. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play
  - e. Also Section V., B., 1., a., b., c., d., and e.
2. In the U08 and U12 recreational divisions, substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions shall be permitted at any stoppage of play. (08/2016)
3. A player who is bleeding or has an open wound, or has any amount of blood on his or her uniform, shall be directed by the referee to leave the game and a substitute shall be permitted. In the referee's discretion, the player shall be allowed to return at the next stoppage of play, following correction of the problem.

### **C. Player's Equipment**

1. No player shall wear anything that is dangerous to him/herself or to any other player.
  - a. No jewelry of any kind, not even if taped.
  - b. Medical casts, splints, braces and wraps must be approved by the Referee before each game. (04/27/2011)
2. All players shall wear shin guards.
3. The home team shall be responsible for differentiating jersey color.
4. All players on a team, except the goalkeeper, shall wear jerseys of the same basic color.
5. Each player's jersey, except the goalkeeper, shall carry a unique number and correspond with player's name on the game form.

D. Referees - Assistant Referees

1. It shall be the responsibility of the home team's Club to provide a referee for officially scheduled games.
2. 09s recreational referees can officiate any match from U06 to U14 as a Center or AR. 08s or higher ranking are to center U16 and above recreational matches and all competitive matches. (04/23/2014)
3. It shall be the responsibility of the referee to record on the Official GCSA Roster/Game Form the game result, date and duration of the match, cautions and/or send-offs, and **LEGIBLY PRINT** his name in the appropriate space. The referee shall allow a coach the opportunity to note his intent to protest prior to the referee completing the game form.
4. For any send-off or game termination, the referee shall submit the Misconduct Report(s) to GCSA within 48 hours via email (written form if no computer available). Official GCSA Roster/Game Form/Game Card is handled per Section IV.B.12. (04/23/2014)
5. When requested, each team shall provide one linesman who shall have the duties as outlined by the referee.

E. Duration of Game

1. The duration of the game shall be two equal periods as shown below in minutes:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Length of Half</u>
U19	45
U16	40
U14	35
U12	30
U10	25
U08	20 (in open league play) (11/12/2014)

2. The half time interval shall be a maximum of ten (10) minutes. (For U10, see F., 1., Law VII, below)

F. U10 Soccer

U10 soccer shall comply with the Official Small-Sided Soccer 7 v 7 Program except as noted: (See link on [www.gcsoccer.com](http://www.gcsoccer.com) for complete list of rules.) (08/2016)

Law I - The Field - C. Goals - Recommended Size

Goal Size – Reference current US Soccer Player Initiatives. (08/2016)

Law III - Number of players

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be seven (7) one of whom shall be a goalkeeper. The match may not start if either team consists of fewer than five (5) players.
- B. Number of Players on Roster - Standing Resolutions III., A., 1. shall apply.
- C. Substitutions: Standing Resolutions V., B., 1. shall apply.

Law VII - Duration of Game – (10/28/2005 – Effective Fall 2006 Season)

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) 25-minute halves.
- B. There shall be a break of five (5) minutes between halves.

G. U8 Soccer

U8 soccer shall comply with Official Small-Sided Soccer 4 v 4 Program except as amended by GCSA. Amendment, as per Membership, is teams will play halves with free substitutions. This also applies to clubs offering U6 programs. (04/23/2014)

**SECTION VI. GAMES**

A. Players Right to Play

GCSA believes that the sport of soccer is best promoted by maximum participation.

- 1. A registered player on a recreational team shall be entitled to play at least one-half of each game scheduled for his team.
- 2. The coach of a team may restrict for one game a player's right to play when, during the preceding week, the player failed to appear for the scheduled team practices or was guilty of unsportsmanlike or violent conduct. Such restriction may, in the coach's discretion, deny completely the player's right to play in one game, provided that the coach had an established written policy setting forth disciplinary standards, which differentiate between discipline for failure to practice and discipline for unsportsmanlike or violent conduct. Such policy to have been published to the players and approved by the Home Club prior to the commencement of the season. However, such disciplinary action shall be noted on the Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card prior to the game.
- 3. A parent may for medical reasons place limitations on the time his child shall play in a game provided written notice is given to the coach. This restriction shall be noted on the Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card.

B. Official Game

- 1. GCSA scheduled league games
- 2. Rescheduled GCSA league games
- 3. League play-off games
- 4. USSF/US Club/GCSA sanctioned tournament games

## C. Schedules

1. Schedules for GCSA recreational leagues will meet the following minimum requirements:
  - a. Ensure that all teams are provided with a schedule consisting of not less than eight (8) games.
  - b. Assure that all teams are leagued in order to provide equitable playing opportunity.
  - c. Form leagues with no less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) teams, wherever possible.
  - d. Use the standard GCSA Recreational template provided electronically by GotSoccer. (10/27/2010)
2. The GCSA Scheduler shall:
  - a. Take special requests into consideration. Special requests will only be considered if they are presented in writing to GCSA prior to 48 hours before the GCSA league formation meeting. All requests should be sent to the GCSA office. Requests must be legitimate with the reason for the request clearly stated.
  - b. Form Inter-Club leagues (a league that has teams from more than one Club), when requirements dictate using the following procedure:
    - (1) Whenever possible, Clubs with adjacent geographical boundaries shall be selected for combining leagues.
    - (2) Each team shall play approximately one-half of its games on its own home field, if such a field is available.
    - (3) The teams making up a league shall be of approximately equal ability, insofar as possible.
  - c. Provide all Clubs with prescribed scheduling forms.
  - d. Decide the dates for beginning and ending each soccer season.
  - e. Notify Clubs in writing/e-mail of those leagues which are not in compliance with GCSA Standing Resolutions.
3. The Club shall be responsible for:
  - a. Scheduling of its Intra-Club leagues (a league which has teams from just one Club) on the forms provided by GCSA.
  - b. Providing a copy of all Intra-Club league schedules to the GCSA Office no less than seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled date of GCSA play.
  - c. Ensuring that all official games are played within seven (7) days following the last scheduled date of GCSA play.

D. U8 League Standings

Scores are kept in the U8 division with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies being provided by GCSA. (No score is kept in the U6 division. However, U6 players, if club offers program, do receive participation trophies provided by GCSA.) (08/2016)

GCSA shall notify Club president of the team placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in league play for trophy purchases by club. (08/2016)

E. Cancellation, Postponement and Rescheduling

1. Games may be postponed and/or rescheduled with the mutual consent of both coaches while adhering to home coach's Club's rescheduling policy. (08/2016)
2. Games may be postponed and/or rescheduled by a visiting coach, if the visiting team must leave their homes before 7:00 a.m., provided that seven (7) days notice is given to the home team. (08/2016) A notice of seventy-two (72) hours is permissible during the first week of the season.
3. Games may be postponed and/or rescheduled by a visiting coach, if the visiting team would be arriving home after 10:30 p.m. during a week night provided that seven (7) days' notice is given to the home team. A notice of seventy-two (72) hours is permissible during the first week of the season. (01/25/2012)
4. In the event of a conflict between a league game and a USSF/US Club/GCSA sanctioned tournament game, every effort shall be made by both coaches involved to reschedule the league game. Upon failure of coaches to agree, see Section IV., B., 13. Additionally, every effort should be made to inform the opposing coach in advance of this conflict for planning purposes. (08/2016)
5. All postponed games shall be rescheduled within seven (7) days and played within seven (7) days following the end of the season.
6. In the case of inclement weather, a game can be postponed if:
  - i. The Home Club closes its field (home coach should notify visiting coach).
  - ii. If the Club does not close the field due to inclement weather, for U6s only, the coaches can make the decision whether or not to play the game. (08/2016)
  - iii. If a game is postponed due to inclement weather, an agreed upon reschedule date must be provided within seven (7) days. If the coaches are unable to agree upon a reschedule date, Club presidents are to be notified to come to a resolution. (08/2016)
  - iv. If a game is terminated due to inclement weather, game forms (after referee has marked reason for termination, timeframe of game and score) are given to each coach and Misconduct Report is filled out to be sent to GCSA G&D for game determination.

**NOTE: It is recommended that clubs have their own inclement weather policy and rescheduling policy and both be made available for viewing.**

F. Forfeiture

1. If a team fails to appear or field a team of at least five (5) players U9-U10; six (6) players U11-U12 or seven (7) players U13-U19 and produce an Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card and player passes (where required) within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled game time, the referee shall note this failure on the Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card(s). The Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card(s) shall be sent to the GCSA office by the referee within forty-eight (48) hours. (01/22/2004)
2. The right to declare a game forfeit shall be vested in the governing Games Committee. The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded as 1 - 0.

G. Cautions, Send-offs and Discipline

1. Both coaches and players shall be subject to cautions and send-offs by the referee for misconduct.
2. An accumulation by a player or a coach of three (3) cautions (yellow cards) during one playing season (either Fall or Spring) shall result in an automatic suspension of such player or coach from the next official game (as defined in Section VI.B). (01/25/2012)
3. A coach or player who receives a send-off shall leave the immediate area of the playing field (within 100 yards of the perimeter as defined by the Rules Committee) before recommencement of the game. (01/25/2012)
4. A coach or player who receives a send-off shall be suspended from participation in at least the next official game (as defined in Section VI.B). Additional punishment may be imposed by the governing Games Committee. When a player or coach is serving a suspension, the coach or his appointee shall complete a "Player/Coach Sit-Out Verification" form, obtain the signature of the referee substantiating the sit-out from the next game and send the form per the directions on the form. (01/25/2012)
5. A coach or spectator who is serving a suspension shall be prohibited from the immediate area of his team's playing field (within 100 yards of the perimeter as defined by the Rules Committee). (01/25/2012)
6. It is the policy of GCSA to uphold the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of entities, clubs and other organizational bodies, including city and county park and recreation departments, concerning the scheduling, use, protection and enjoyment of fields and park lands within their jurisdiction and control. Any Club, team, coach or player violating such rules or policies as to the use of soccer fields shall be subject to discipline by the Games & Disciplinary Committee
7. It is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and discipline players as required by the cautions/ejections received. (08/2016)

H. Disciplinary Point System

The Disciplinary Point System (DPS) shall be applicable to all U15 - U19 teams registered with GCSA. The purpose of DPS is to identify those players and coaches responsible for receiving repeated yellow and red cards during the seasonal year (Fall and Spring season). All suspensions under DPS shall be in addition to any suspension earned under GCSA Standing Resolutions VI., H., or any additional suspension awarded by the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee.

1. Players and coaches shall receive disciplinary points as follows:



- a. Cautions: 1 point
  - b. Ejections: 4 points
  - c. Examples:
    - (1) 1 yellow = 1 point
    - (2) 1 red = 4 points
    - (3) 2 yellows (received in 1 game) = 1 red = 4 points
    - (4) 1 yellow and 1 red (received in 1 game) = 5 points
2. The referee of the match shall have the responsibility of recording infraction(s) on the GCSA Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card under FIFA guidelines of Law XII.
  3. Coaches have the responsibility of keeping a record of the DPS points earned by each player, coach and team. It is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and suspend players as required under DPS.
  4. Player points:
    - a. 7 points: suspension from the next official game.
    - b. 11 points: suspension from the next two official games.
    - c. 15 points: suspension from all official games until the player has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time further sanctions could be imposed.
  5. Coach points: In order to encourage coaches to set a positive example for their fans and players, coaches will be held to a higher standard than players.
    - a. 5 points: suspension from the next official game.
    - b. 9 points: suspension from all official games until the coach has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time further sanctions could be imposed. (01/22/2004)
  6. Team points: Team points are the aggregate of points earned by its players and coaches during a seasonal year.
    - a. 32 points: forfeiture of the next official game.
    - b. 39 points: forfeiture of the next two official games.
    - c. 45 points: suspension from all official games until the coach has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time sanctions could be imposed. Sanctions could include, but are not limited to, additional forfeits, suspension of traveling papers or suspension of the team from all official games for the balance of the seasonal year.

## I. Protests

1. A game protest shall be upheld if both of the following are proven:
  - a. FIFA Law, GCSA Standing Resolutions, or Competitive League Rules and Regulations must have been violated.
  - b. The outcome of the game (win/tie/loss) must have been affected.
2. Protests concerning the dimensions of the field of play shall be noted on the game form before the start of the game in order to be considered.
3. The procedure for filing a game protest is as follows:
  - a. The protesting coach shall note his intention to protest on his Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card before the referee signs it.
  - b. The protesting coach shall deliver his Official Roster/Game Form/Game Card (or written protest in lieu of no place to document protest on form after making referee aware of intentions) and a protest fee of \$50.00 (in cash, money order or certified check made payable to GCSA – no personal or team checks accepted) to the GCSA office by 2 p.m. of the next business day following the date of the game. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. (10/27/2010)
4. The governing Games Committee decision shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the written protest and fee based on:
  - a. A hearing to which all parties shall be invited;
  - b. Written reports submitted by the parties involved.
5. The governing Games Committee shall have the following options :
  - a. Uphold the game result;
  - b. Alter a game result by declaring a forfeit;
  - c. Cause the game to be replayed or declared a no game. (01/22/2004)
6. A verbal decision may be given after the hearing or committee meeting and shall be followed by written confirmation within seven (7) days.

## J. Terminations

The governing Games Committee shall have the following options in deciding the disposition of a terminated game:

1. Uphold the game result;
2. Alter a game result by declaring a forfeit (recorded as 1-0);

3. Require the game to be replayed (01/22/2004); or
4. Declare game to be a no game (no points awarded). (01/22/2004)

K. Disciplinary Hearing Procedures

1. All parties are entitled to a hearing with proper notification.
2. Once a complaint has been properly filed, the Chairman of the Games & Disciplinary Committee shall notify all involved parties within five (5) days of receipt of the complaint, the nature of the complaint, the names of all parties, a copy of the complaint and the date, time and place of the hearing.
3. The conduct of the hearing shall be as determined by the rules of GCSA, except where noted herein.
4. Any party subject to disciplinary procedures shall have the right to:
  - a. present witnesses on their behalf.
  - b. be accompanied by one individual of their choice to assist in their defense. However, legal counsel shall not be permitted during disciplinary hearings.
  - c. challenge any witness against them.
5. Exceptions to Rule 4.c. may be allowed in the event the witness is a minor child and participation in the hearing is deemed harmful to the welfare of the child by the Committee.
6. A written record (called the official record) shall be kept of the proceedings.
7. A written notification of the decision shall be sent to all involved parties within seven (7) days of the hearing. This notice shall be sent by certified mail.
8. All hearings shall be scheduled to be held within thirty (30) days.

## **SECTION VII. APPEALS**

A. The GCSA Appeals Committee shall hear:

1. An appeal of a protest of an Intra-Club game ruling by a Club Games Committee.
2. An appeal of any decision by a GCSA Club.
3. An appeal of a decision by any other GCSA Committee.
4. An appeal or protest if a lower body refuses to render a decision on the matter within the timeframe specified or waives its rights in the matter.

- B. The procedure for filing an appeal with the GCSA Appeals Committee is as follows:
1. The appellant shall submit a written appeal and a fee of \$50.00 (in cash, money order or certified check payable to GCSA – no personal or team checks accepted) to the GCSA office. If the appeal is upheld in its entirety, the fee will be returned. (01/22/2004)
  2. An appeal shall be filed within fourteen (14) days of the previous decision, unless waived by the Chairman.
  3. GCSA Appeals Committee's decision shall be made within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the written appeal and payment of fee based upon a hearing to which all parties shall be invited and/or written reports submitted by the parties involved.
  4. Notice of an appeal shall be given to all involved parties when letter is sent to appellant by the Chairman, Appeals Committee, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting. (02/24/2005)
  5. A verbal decision may be given after the hearing and shall be followed by written confirmation within seven (7) days.
- C. All decisions of the GCSA Appeals Committee are appealable to the GCSA Membership at a regularly scheduled meeting or to US Club Soccer.
- D. The procedure for filing an appeal with the GCSA Membership is as follows:
1. The appellant shall submit a written appeal and a fee of \$50.00 (cash, money order or certified check payable to GCSA – no personal or team checks accepted) to the GCSA office. If the appeal is upheld in its entirety, the fee will be returned. (01/22/2004)
  2. An appeal shall be filed within fourteen (14) days of the previous decision.
  3. An appeal shall be placed on the agenda. (Article V. Section 10.)
  4. Notice of an appeal shall be given to all involved parties when letter is sent to appellant by the President of GCSA, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting. (02/24/2005)
- E. GCSA will adopt the following as an exhaustion of remedies policy:
1. No official, club, team, referee, coach, league, organization, player, or parent may invoke the aid of the courts of any state of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies with the appropriate organizations.
  2. If a person violates #1, above, of this Bylaw, the offending party is subject to suspension and shall be liable to GCSA for all expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by the Association and its officers in defending each court action.

(04/23/2014)

GCSA OFFICERS 2016:

David Dexter, President

Jeanette Rooks, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Chair, Games & Disciplinary Committee)

Atef Iskander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Chair, Scheduling)

Nancy Cornett, Secretary/Treasurer