

GREAT WESTERN SOCCER LEAGUE

Section I. Constitution

Article I

The name of this organization shall be the Great Western Soccer League and will be known as the league for all purposes hereinafter enumerated.

Article II

The purpose of this League shall be to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer among the area's youth. The league will support teams for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The League shall teach and promote good sportsmanship in regularly scheduled soccer competition and clinics and conduct such other educational activities that shall be deemed appropriate to the promotion of the sport of soccer.

Participation should be the key factor at the lower age levels with the emphasis shifting to competitiveness only as the players reach the older divisions. Association administrators, league administrators, coaches, referees, players, and spectators must adhere to the highest ideals of good sportsmanship. The good of every individual involved should be kept uppermost in the minds of the persons responsible for putting the teams on the field.

Article III

The jurisdictional area of the League shall consist of the greater northwest part of Corpus Christi consisting primarily the Tulozo Midway and Calallen school districts and adjacent areas not already members of CBYSA.

Article IV

The League may become a member of and comply with the rules and regulations of the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) and such other associations as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

Article V

Section I: Membership in the League shall consist of all properly registered players and their parents, coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and club officers.

Section II: The seasonal year of the League shall begin on August 1st and end on July 31st of the following year. The fiscal year will begin January 1st and end December 31st of the following year.

Article VI

Section I: The League shall be governed by a Board of Directors which will be known as the Board for all purposes hereinafter enumerated. The members of the elected Board shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. The term of office for elected officers shall be for one year, beginning on January 1st and ending the following December 31st. Elections will be held during November of each year as set forth in the by-laws, Article III.

Section II: The elected officers of the Board shall constitute the Executive Committee, the Emergency Committee, and the Review Board.

Article VII

The first regular meeting of the League shall be held annually during the month of January. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Roll call and introduction of league officers
2. Annual report
3. Reports, if any, of chairmen of standing committees and league officers.
4. Reading of proposed plans for the future
5. Adjournment

All meetings of this League shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.

Article VIII

Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules & Regulations of the League may be at any meeting of the Board as specified in the By-Laws, Article VI.

Article IX

In the event the League shall be dissolved or cease to function for a period of two years, the assets and properties of the League shall be transferred to the Coastal Bend Youth Soccer Association (CBYSA) to be used as it may so decide.

Section II. By-Laws

Article I

Section I: President It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the League, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and such other committees and boards as he/she may be a party. The President shall appoint delegates to represent the League at any soccer association meetings and shall appoint Chairpersons of the standing committees, all appointments being subject to confirmation by the board. The President shall appoint an audit committee at the January meeting with an audit due at the February meeting.

Section II: Vice-President The Vice-President shall assist the President in matters concerning the operations of the association and shall succeed to the powers of the President in his absence.

Section III: Secretary The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the League and shall have custody of all official papers and reports. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings, attend to all correspondence, and keep the records of the League. The Secretary shall provide a complete list of members of the board and officers of the League to any and all parent organizations. At the expiration of the term the Secretary will turn over all books, papers and other property of the League pertaining to the office in his/her custody to the successor and receive a receipt therefore.

Section IV: Treasurer The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record and have custody of all monies of the association. The Treasurer shall render all just bills and receipts and shall submit a report at each meeting of the monies received and disbursed since the last report. The Treasurer shall pay all bills for budgeted expenses as directed by the President or the Executive Committee. At the expiration of the term, the Treasurer shall turn over all books, monies, records and other property of the association pertinent to the office in his/her custody to their successor and receive a receipt therefore.

Section V: Registrar The Registrar has principal responsibility for registration of all players, coaches, assistant coaches, and referees. The Registrar will forward the list of teams, coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and players to the parent associations for registration and insurance purposes. The Registrar will maintain a central league registry and provide to the member teams individual rosters and player identification cards. The Registrar will be responsible to provide medical forms to the coaches of their teams.

Article II

Section I: Board of Directors The Board of Directors shall transact all business of the Association and shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game, the rules of the United States Soccer Federation and the constitution, by-laws and rules and regulations of the Association. The Board of Directors will hear appeals of decisions of the Review Board and will have full right of disposition. Appeals of the Board of Directors' decisions must be filed with the Board of Directors of the parent organization.

The Board of Directors shall adopt and approve an annual budget for the League, establish the policies, approve all unbudgeted expenditures in excess of \$50.00, and approve all Association related activities.

Each team shall be represented on the Board by the team's registered coach and one registered assistant coach. Each Board member shall have one vote, which may be proxied only for amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules of Play (in writing). In addition, the President or his authorized representative of the "association" which provides referees will be a voting Board Member. (this "referees' representative" position will be limited to one)

Section II: Review Board The Review Board shall have the power to settle all disputes, appeals, or protests which develop. In this capacity, the Board has a full range of options to restrict participation by the individual. Appeals of the Review Board's decision will be referred to the Board of Directors.

Article III

Section I: Nominations Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar shall be made by a nominations committee appointed by the President. The nominating committee shall be selected at the September meeting and will report its list of candidates at the October meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the fall season annual awards meeting and ceremony.

Section II: Board officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the Board, at the fall season annual awards meeting and ceremony. Officers do not have to be members of the Board prior to their election but once elected they shall become full voting members until expiration of their term of office.

Section III: Upon the death, resignation or removal from office of any elected officer, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy of the unexpired term from the Board with appointment being subject to confirmation by the Board. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board for the following reasons: (a) inability to function due to illness, (b) neglect of duty, (c) failure to attend three consecutive scheduled meetings with the discretion of the Executive Board, (d) inefficiency. Any committee chairperson or member or any other appointed position can be removed from office by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article IV

Section I: The standing committees of the Association shall be: Finance and Awards & Special Events. Special committees shall be formed by the President as the need arises and will usually be at least a registration and awards special events. The President shall appoint a committee chairman for each standing committee within thirty days of taking office.

Section II: Duties The duties of the standing and special committees and special appointees are as follows:

- A. The Finance Committee shall prepare an annual budget, recommend registration fees and be responsible for all fund-raising projects of the Association. The budget and registration fee recommendations shall be presented at the February and July meetings.
- B. The Awards and Special Events Committee shall be responsible for the acquisition of all trophies, plaques, patches, and certificates to be awarded or presented by the Association.

Article V

Section I: The Board shall meet at least once each month between the start and end on the regular soccer season, and at least every third month during the remainder of the year. The Executive Committee shall meet within thirty days of taking office and as required thereafter.

Section II: Special meetings may be called by the President upon his/her own volition, upon request of the Executive Committee, or upon written request of a quorum of the Board. The Board members shall be notified of such special meetings and the purpose for which it is being held. Only the business for which the special meeting was called may be conducted at such meeting.

Section III: For purposes of transacting business of the League, a quorum of three (3) members of the Board shall be required. For purposes of transacting business of the Executive Committee, a quorum of three (3) members must be present.

Article VI

Section I: Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulation may be proposed, in writing, by any member of the Board.

Section II: Amendments may be adopted at any meeting of the Board provided that official notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given by providing a copy of the proposed amendment to each member of the Board not less than 14 days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds favorable majority vote of the total Board members present and/or proxy shall be necessary to amend. An amendment voted affirmative shall become effective immediately.

Section III: A particular section of this Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules and Regulations may be suspended for a single purpose by a two-thirds favorable vote of the membership of the Board.

Section IV: Any point not covered by this Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules and Regulations shall be decided by a majority vote of the membership Board.

Article VII

The order of business at the regular meetings of the Board shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and Approval of minutes of last meeting
3. Announcements and guests
4. Standing Committee reports and reports of officers, if any
5. Old business and Special Committee appointees' reports
6. New business
7. Notification of date and place of next meeting
8. Adjournment

Article VIII

The Association shall have jurisdiction over all teams, coaches, officials, referees, and players affiliated with it. Specifically, any league member, player, coach, assistant coach or referee, registered or unregistered who displays unsportsmanlike conduct, as determined by the Board or the Board of Review, is ineligible to participate in any league function without specific approval of the Board of Directors of the League. All such suspensions will be reported to the parent organization.

Article IX

A member of the Board may belong to any team, but in the event of any grievance involving his/her team, he/she may not vote on the grievance.

Article X

The Emergency Committee of the Association shall act on matters demanding immediate attention, when it is impractical or impossible to call a Board Meeting.

Article XI

The Board shall have power to set up rules governing tournaments and special competitions.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

A. Players

Those individuals are eligible as Players in the GWSL who:

1. At the time of registration legally reside within the GWSL jurisdictional area.
2. Prior to December 31 of the current playing season, have attained the minimum age of four (4) years of age and have not exceeded eighteen (18) years of age.
3. Exceptions to the eligibility rule (A) shall require approval of the Board.

B. Coaches

Those adults are eligible as Coaches in the GWSL who:

1. Have completed the Coaches' Contract.
2. Have not had their coaching assignment revoked for violations of the policies and procedures of the Coaches' Contract.
3. Exceptions to the eligibility rules (A) and (B) shall require approval of the board.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Player registration times shall be determined by the GWSL in conjunction with the CBYSA. Registration is initiated by the player and his parent or guardian by completing the appropriate registration forms and presenting a birth certificate for each player registering.

New registrants are not eligible to play in any competition games until they have attended at least one team practice and one of the registrants' parents or guardian has attended the parents' team meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS

A. Divisions

Divisions shall be formed of teams subject to registration:

Under 19 years of age - A	18, 17, 16 generally
Under 16 years of age - B	15, 14 generally
Under 14 years of age - C	13, 12 generally
Under 12 years of age - D	11, 10 generally
Under 10 years of age - E	9, 8 generally
Under 8 years of age - F	7, 6 generally
Under 6 years of age - G	5, 4 generally

ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS (cont.)

A. Divisions (continued)

A child's age prior to July 31st of the current calendar year determines playing division.

Divisions may be merged with other divisions to facilitate scheduling, inter-league and intra-league play, or as otherwise necessary. This may require revision of the age brackets listed above and shall be approved by the Board. Written notice shall be given to all registered players, coaches and officials.

B. Placement of Players

Teams shall be decided by the Team Placement and Scheduling Committee and approved by the board.

C. Coaches

1. Eligible coaches shall be assigned to teams by the Coaches' Representative with the approval of the Board.
2. Any Coach continually displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will have his or her coaching assignment reviewed by the Board.
3. A coaching assignment may be revoked by the Board at any time for willful violation of GWSL Constitution and/or By-Laws.
4. Each coach must hold at least one team meeting before the start of league play for the purpose of communicating to the team the GWSL policies and philosophies.

TEAM MEETINGS, PRACTICE AND GAMES

A. Team Meetings

1. No team meetings, workouts, or games shall be conducted prior to placement of players, nor after the regular playing schedule, unless expressly authorized by the Board.
2. The total of team meetings, workouts, and/or games for each team shall be limited to six (6) hours not to exceed three (3) team meetings per week, unless specifically authorized by the Board.
3. Workouts/Practices will not exceed two (2) hours per session.

B. Scrimmages

Games or scrimmages with teams not in the GWSL will require approval of the League President.

C. Equipment

1. All players shall wear soccer style shoes with rubber cleats or shoes with rubber soles. No shoes with molded cleats with a cleat in the front (such as baseball style or softball style cleats) shall be allowed. Absolutely no metal cleats are allowed. All players shall wear shin guards.
2. Any equipment provided by the GWSL will be issued to the coach, not to the individual player. The coach will sign a receipt for the equipment and is responsible for all equipment issued to him/her.
3. All equipment will be turned in immediately following the team's last game to the Fields and Equipment Committee.
4. Uniforms will be furnished by the GWSL or will be purchased by the player and will become the player's responsibility of the individual player.

D. Special Provisions for Games

1. The number of officials assigned to each game shall be one (1) referee and two (2) linesmen.
2. Inclement weather rule:
 - a. A practice or league game that is suspended before the beginning of the second half shall be made up in its entirety.
 - b. A practice or league game that is suspended after the beginning of the second half shall be considered a full game.
 - c. All playoff and championship games shall be played in their entirety.
 - d. Inclement weather rule for tournament games will be decided upon by the Board.
 - e. Unless games are called by the GWSL Board prior to the start of play, teams shall report to the field.
 - f. All games cancelled shall be rescheduled by the Board.
 - g. It shall be the responsibility of the GWSL Board President to determine if play is to be suspended before the game is started. After the game is started, it will be the responsibility of the referee to determine if play is to be suspended.

E. Forfeit Policy

1. A game shall be considered a forfeit by a team if that team fails to field the minimum number of players to start a game. Teams scheduled to have seven (7) players on the field must field five (5) players, teams scheduled to field eight (8) players must field six (6), and teams scheduled to field eleven (11) must field eight (8) players in order to avoid a forfeit.
2. An official shall be required to wait only fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled start time of the game for the team to field a minimum number of players.
3. All forfeits shall be subject to a Board review.

PLAYING RULES

A. GWSL league soccer will be played under the International Laws with the following exceptions:

1. Law 1 - Field of Play
 - a. The size of the fields will be subject to the availability of the area.
 - b. The goal area, penalty area and goal post shall be scaled down according to the field size.

<u>DIVISIONS</u>	<u>FIELD SIZES</u>	<u>GOAL SIZES</u>
A, B, C, D	Width 50 yards x 100 yards Length 100 yards x 130 yards	8' high x 24' wide
E, F	Width 40 yards x 60 yards Length 60 yards x 80 yards	6' high x 18' wide
G	Width 15 yards x 20 yards Length 20 yards x 30 yards	4' high x 6' wide

2. Law 3 - Number of players per side - see Forfeit Policy (1).
3. Law 4 - Players' Equipment
 - a. Only soccer style shoes with rubber cleats molded to the sole or shoes with rubber soles will be allowed.
 - b. Shin guards are required.
 - c. No cast of any kind will be allowed without proper padding to protect the other players on the field.

PLAYING RULES (continued)

4. Law 7 - Length of game, Overtime Period and Ball Specifications

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>GAME LENGTH</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>	<u>CIRCUM.</u>
A	Two 45 minute halves	#5	27"-28"
B	Two 40 minute halves	#5	27"-28"
C	Two 35 minute halves	#5	27"-28"
D	Two 30 minute halves	#4	25"-26"
E	Four 12 1/2 minute quarters	#4	25"-26"
F	Four 12 1/2 minute quarters	#3	23"-24"
G	Eight 5minute periods	#3	23"-24"

5. Law 14 - Penalty Kick

- a. The penalty mark will be subject to the size of the field, 9 yards on the under 10 field only. There are no penalty kicks in the under 8 or under 6 games.

B. Mandatory Player Participation

1. Each child participating in the GWSL program will play at least one-half of every game. Exceptions are as follows:
 - a. Unexcused absence from scheduled practices.
 - b. Personal misconduct.
 - c. A player who receives a red card and is ejected from a game will not be eligible to play in the next game.
2. A player who arrives while the game is in progress:
 - a. Shall be guaranteed to participate in the 2nd half only of the game; for divisions A-D or one quarter in the 2nd half for divisions E & F. Division G players shall get at least half of the time remaining in the game.
 - b. Shall not be guaranteed to participate in any part of the game if the game is in the 2nd half for divisions A-F.
3. The parents of the child and the President of the League must be notified at least twelve (12) hours prior to game time if a child is to be withheld from a game for disciplinary action.

4. Violation of the Mandatory Player Rule will result in a Board review of the Coach's actions.

C. Tie Games

1. A practice or league game that ends in a tie will not be played off and will accrue points as outlined in Section G below.
2. A practice or league game that ends in a tie will count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.
3. A play-off or championship game ending in a tie at the end of regulation play will be followed by overtime periods as follows: The teams will play one ten minute period consisting of two five minute halves. If the score is still tied, a shoot-out will occur. FIFA rules will govern the shoot-out. Substitution in the overtime period of a tie game is optional.

D. Protest

1. All protest must be made in writing to the League President and delivered to the League President or a member of the Board within two (2) days following the game.
2. The only legal protest concerning an official will be one involving a violation of FIFA laws. Judgement calls are not grounds for protest.
3. A filing fee of \$50.00 will be required with each protest filed.
4. If the protest is upheld by the Board, the fee will be refunded.
5. The following persons shall be present when the protest is to be heard:
 - a. The coach filing the protest
 - b. The opposing coach
 - c. The official involved in the game and the official's representative
 - d. The Board

E. Substitutions

All divisions shall have unlimited free substitutions. Substitutions shall be made at the following times:

1. In case of an injury
2. Half-time
3. Kick offs (A-D)
4. At goal kicks or throw-ins by the substituting team (A-D)
5. Quarters or periods for divisions E-G

F. Crowd Control

1. The coach will appeal to the spectators on his or her side of the field to stay at least five feet beyond the touchline.
2. It will be the responsibility of each coach to see that his or her team and all parents and associated persons conduct themselves in a manner which is conducive to fair play and good sportsmanship.

G. Standings

1. Division standings to be determined by total points accumulated from the won-lost-tie record as follows:
 - a. 2 points for a win
 - b. 1 point for a tie
 - c. 0 points for a loss
2. In the event of two teams having identical accumulated points at the end of the season the following tie breakers will be used sequentially:
 - a. Win/loss record against teams involved
 - b. Goal points for the season. One point for each goal scored in a game up to a maximum of three points per game.
 - c. Net scoring against (goals against for the entire season): for teams involved in the tie.
 - d. Play-off game between teams involved

EXCEPTIONS

- A. Any item not covered by these By-Laws will be decided upon by the Board.
- B. Any exceptions to these By-Laws must be approved by the Board and will remain in effect for only that calendar year.
- C. Violations of these By-Laws will result in a loss of accumulated points as determined by the Board.