



# Coach Handbook



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## Contacts

Richardson Soccer Association is a volunteer organization, with the exception of our Registrar, Mrs. June McClintock.

The RSA office is located at 651 North Plano Road, Suite 421, Richardson, TX 75081 in the Richardson Tech Center. The mailing address is address is P. O. Box 851552, Richardson, TX 75085-1552.

The office is open during the season from 1 pm – 6 pm, Monday through Thursday, and closed on Friday. We're also open on Saturdays in August from 10 am – 4 pm.

You can reach June by phone during office hours at 972-234-2571, or via email (preferred) at [registrar@richardsonsoccer.org](mailto:registrar@richardsonsoccer.org). Our website address is <http://www.richardsonsoccer.org>.

Volunteer board members are available to assist our members and teams. Questions or concerns should first be forwarded to you, and if you are unable to assist, contact your Division Commissioner. Contact information for our current Board Members and other key volunteers is as follows:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>
Tim Kline	President	<a href="mailto:president@richardsonsoccer.org">president@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Position Open	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@richardsonsoccer.org">treasurer@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
John Koehler	1st VP - A&D	<a href="mailto:vp-of-ad-rules@richardsonsoccer.org">vp-of-ad-rules@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Tommy Jones	2nd VP-Referees	<a href="mailto:vp-of-referees@richardsonsoccer.org">vp-of-referees@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Tom Maxwell	League Commissioner	<a href="mailto:leaguecommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org">leaguecommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Art Cantu	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@richardsonsoccer.org">secretary@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Don Rupley	Member-at-Large	<a href="mailto:member-at-large@richardsonsoccer.org">member-at-large@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
June McClintock	Registrar/Office Manager	<a href="mailto:registrar@richardsonsoccer.org">registrar@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Tracy Chumbley	Assigner	<a href="mailto:tschumbley@hotmail.com">tschumbley@hotmail.com</a>
Gary McClintock	Field Coordinator	
Girls Division Commissioner	Position Open	<a href="mailto:girlscommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org">girlscommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Boys Division Commissioner	Mark Menton	<a href="mailto:boyscommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org">boyscommissioner@richardsonsoccer.org</a>
Bryan Quilici	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@richardsonsoccer.org">webmaster@richardsonsoccer.org</a>

### Field Condition Lines:

RSA	214-757-5297
Lake Highlands	214-265-0050
Chamber Classic Soccer	972-738-9000
Garland Soccer	972-530-2636

All Board positions are available annually. If you are interested in serving in a volunteer position on RSA's Board of Directors, or as a Division Commissioner, please contact any member of the RSA Board for more information.

## History, Goals and Purpose

*Established over 40 years ago as a non-profit organization, RSA provides a youth soccer program serving the City of Richardson.*

Richardson Soccer Association is a member of the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA), the non-profit organization established to govern soccer in the North Texas area, and an affiliate of the US Youth Soccer Association and the US Soccer Federation.

In conjunction with City of Richardson and their Parks Department, RSA has played a significant role in the development of its local soccer complexes. RSA contributes funds annually to our local fields and complexes.

Richardson Soccer Association operates with the following goals in mind:

- ◆ To provide a healthy and emotionally nurturing program for youth, with an emphasis upon developing a positive self-image, building of self-confidence, and challenging each individual to succeed.
- ◆ To offer positive experiences and constructive activities for family members through soccer and related activities.
- ◆ To enhance member players' appreciation of teamwork, establishing and working toward goals, fair play, and accepting responsibility.
- ◆ To create a sense of "community" within our association and the RSA area.

The Richardson Soccer Association was founded to provide the youth of Richardson the opportunity to learn and play the game of soccer. The Association's activities are based on the philosophy and mission which emphasizes fun, education, and sportsmanship as the principal direction:

- ◆ Promote the game of soccer
- ◆ Emphasize enjoyment, sportsmanship and personal accomplishment in young age groups and competition in upper age groups
- ◆ Provide the opportunity for all youths of Richardson to learn and play soccer regardless of ability or physical disabilities
- ◆ Limit the amount of stress placed on the players
- ◆ Develop soccer abilities in players and coaches
- ◆ Accomplish the previous philosophies in an environment of cooperation, sportsmanship and mutual enjoyment

## Member Benefits

Please remember the following benefits provided by your registration fees are coordinated by volunteer board members and offered at the most reasonable price possible. Feel free to contact RSA to volunteer your time and talents for a successful season!

- Two Seasons (Fall and Spring)
- Six-game seasons for ages U4-U6, and eight- to ten-game seasons for ages U7-U19
- Team tee-shirts for new U4-U6 players
- Team ball, flags and cones provided to each coach/team
- Game scheduling
- Insurance coverage
- Safety/Risk management
- Richardson's best fields
- Referee training and scheduling
- Coaching clinics and support
- Awards, trophies and recognition
- Tournaments
- Sponsor development
- Administrative duties
- Community coordination
- Newsletter and information
- Indirect community benefits

## Team Structure

Each team needs a variety of volunteers to function successfully. Since many hands make for light work, every parent should be prepared to provide support to either their team and/or the association by filling one or more of the positions listed below. All teams must provide at least the following positions to participate in the season:

### Coach

This individual is the team leader, responsible for teaching and developing soccer skills to his/her assigned players. The coach (or co-coaches) organizes and conducts practices and directs players during games.

### Assistant Coach

While not required, each team should endeavor to have more than one coach. Whether they are co-coaches or assistants, they help during practices and games, and are in charge in the coach's absence.

### Team Parent

This individual(s) helps the coach by communicating with the player's parents about practices, games, and other team activities, and by keeping teams organized. As Team Parent, getting the work done doesn't mean you do all the work. Just like soccer, you have to pass the ball around and play like a team. We suggest you delegate these jobs among ALL parents on your team. Every parent should be prepared and willing to help your team and/or the association in some small way. The Team Parent's job is to:

- Assist the coach with communication to team families as necessary
- Schedule providers of your team's snacks/beverages
- Coordinate your team's photos, if desired (Check RSA's "Resources" page for suggestions)
- Coordinate the end-of-season team party and awards, if desired and/or earned
- Transition your job to next year's Team Parent

### Association Volunteers

These individuals represent their team to help in the operation of the association. RSA needs volunteers for one-time assignments (like airing up game balls) as well as more involved jobs, like coordinating tournaments. RSA appreciates our volunteer's support and flexibility. To volunteer, call the RSA office at 972-234-2571.

*RSA endeavors to provide volunteer board members to help coordinate the team positions listed above. Please feel free to contact a Board Member if you have questions or concerns. Literally thousands of details must be coordinated and completed during the season, and everyone's cooperation, support, and patience is appreciated!*

## Team Formation Guidelines

Players that have properly registered with the Richardson Soccer Association will be assigned to a team in the following way:

- ◆ By the Assignment Committee (Division Commissioner, Executive Board Member and a Volunteer who does not have a relative in the age group where players will be assigned).
- ◆ Teams will be formed or filled using the following guidelines:
  - Reassignment Request (player requesting to return to home school team from the prior season)
  - School Team
  - School Area
  - Geographic Area
  - Blind Draw
  - Team Size
  - Team Balancing
  - Late Registration
- ◆ Age Considerations: Eligibility for play in each division will be based on the player's age as of the most recent July 31. In the event divisions are established such that age is a factor for grouping the players to the various teams, this will be an additional consideration for the committee. **A player without proper proof of age will not be assigned to a team.**
- ◆ Players playing up will only be placed on a team after everyone else of the correct age in that age group has been assigned to a team.
- ◆ The Under 4 and Under 5 Age Group teams may have boys and girls on the same roster. All other Age Groups shall have teams formed of one gender. The League Commissioner may, when necessary due to number of players, form coed teams in any Age Group.
- ◆ Former Players: A player sitting out (unregistered) for one or more seasons is not automatically returned to their former team.
- ◆ Decisions made by the Registration Team Formation Committee are reviewed by the League Commissioner and are final.
- ◆ Refund Policy: Players not offered a team will receive a full refund. Registration, Membership and Transfer fees may be refunded (less a \$15.00 processing fee) up until the first scheduled game. After the first scheduled game, there will be no refunds.

**The above guidelines are taken from the RSA Rules and Bylaws. Consult the current Rules and Bylaws document on the RSA website for any updates.**

## The Season and What to Expect

**UNIFORMS, CHOOSING COLORS, NAMING YOUR TEAM** – Players are required to wear a team uniform including jersey (shirt) with a number on the back, shorts, shin guards, knee length socks that cover shin guards, and shoes. The association provides game tee-shirts for all new players in the U4 – U6 age groups at no charge. Contact June McClintock at RSA for the available color options. RSA can provide game tee-shirts for U7 and above for a fee, or these teams may choose to purchase their own jerseys.

Typically, the coach or the team will choose the name and the colors. Team uniforms can be purchased online, or at local soccer stores such as Soccer Corner or Soccer City. Your players will need to choose their numbers as well, which can be applied when you purchase jerseys. To avoid color conflicts in your age division, you can contact your Division Commissioner to find out what colors existing teams are using, which is helpful in avoiding color conflicts on the field. In the case of a color conflict, the home team will be asked by the referee to wear pennies over their jerseys or change jerseys.

**COACHING TOOLS** – RSA provides each NEW team/coach with a game ball, flags and cones, available when the coach signs the roster at the RSA office. There are a number of other training opportunities for both coaches and players. Please check the RSA website for details.

**PRACTICES** - Officially, practice may begin when a team's roster is complete. Each player is expected to participate in each practice. Please inform your coach or team parent if your child cannot attend any team activity. Players should bring a water bottle and must wear shin guards during each practice. Age groups U4-U7 may practice a maximum of twice per week, no more than one hour per practice. Age groups U8 and older may practice a maximum of twice per week, no more than ninety minutes per practice. Prior to the first game, the older age groups may practice a maximum of three times per week. PLEASE make sure that your child arrives at practice on time and is PICKED UP on time.

**GAMES** - Games typically are played on Saturdays and begin mid- to late-September, depending on the age group of your child. The number and length of games played by each team depends upon the age bracket of the players. Schedules should be available a week before play begins, and can be found on the Schedule/Standings link on the RSA website. Players should arrive well in advance of the scheduled start time to allow for warming up. Coaches will set player's preferred arrival time. Each player should bring a water bottle and must wear shin guards during each game. Players cannot play without shin guards. Players wearing braces or retainers are suggested to wear a mouth protection device. IF YOUR CHILD CANNOT ATTEND A GAME OR WILL BE LATE, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR COACH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

### GAME PROCEDURE

- Home Team - You are home team if your team is listed first on the schedule
  - ✓ Provide the game ball
  - ✓ Sit on the north or east side of the field
  - ✓ Change jersey color or wear different color practice bibs in the event that there is a color conflict
- Visiting Team - You are visiting team if your team is listed second on the schedule
  - ✓ Sit on the south or west side of the field

- Both Teams
  - ✓ Bring lawn chairs; there are not always two sets of bleachers at the small fields
  - ✓ Make sure that trash has been picked up following your game

**SCORES** - The score for U4 - U8 games is not kept and all games in these age groups are considered "TIES." Coaches (or their designated representative) for U9 and above teams are required, win or lose, to report the score of their game to RSA by depositing the game card in the designated location at each field, or at the RSA office, within 24 hours of the game. Failure to do so may result in the game being counted as a "loss." RSA is not responsible for any incorrectly recorded games resulting from such failure.

**WEATHER** - While RSA makes every attempt to be timely in their responses concerning game cancellations due to weather changes, it is critical that coaches and parents be prudent and use their best judgment concerning their children and possible risks while playing. Weather in one area of the city may be different than in other areas. We all know Texas weather can change at a moment's notice. Please don't ever wait on RSA to cancel a game if you have concerns about your child's safety. Further, when at the field, the center referee has the authority to stop play, if in his opinion the weather presents a danger to the participants and fans. However, if the game proceeds and parents/coaches are concerned for the safety of their teams due to weather, they may use their judgment and not continue the game. The situation should be described and conditions noted on the game report.

In the event of inclement weather, always assume that the game will be played. Coaches will be notified if fields are unplayable via email. In the event that rain falls during the day, coaches can call the RSA rainout line for up-to-date field condition status. Any weather updates will be listed on the home page of the RSA website, or on the links under the Schedule/Standings tab.

Weekday games, the goal will be to decide rainout status by 4:00 pm on game day  
 Saturday games, the goal will be to decide rainout status by 7:30 am on game day  
 Sunday games, the goal will be to decide rainout status by 11:00 am on game day

Current rainout information will be posted IN RED on the main GotSoccer RSA schedule page, which can be accessed via the RSA website under the Schedule/Standings tab.

Rainout information lines for coaches **only**:  
 Richardson Soccer Association - 214-757-5297  
 Lake Highlands Soccer Association – 214-265-0050  
 Chamber Classic Soccer – 972-738-9000  
 Garland Soccer Association - 972-530-2636

Coaches should be diligent in monitoring the resources above in the case of inclement weather as emails cannot always be sent. Parents are encouraged to monitor the schedule website for updates.

**RESOURCES** – Check the Resources tab on the RSA website for some suggestions on local photographers for team pictures.

# NEW COACHES' CHECKLIST

## **WELCOME TO RICHARDSON SOCCER ASSOCIATION, AND THANK YOU FOR COACHING!**

If you have any questions concerning team formation or managing a soccer team, contact your Division Commissioner, League Director, or any member of the RSA Executive Board.

### **ORGANIZING YOUR TEAM:**

- Contact the parents of the players listed on your team roster.
- Schedule a Parents/Coach Meeting.
- Discuss the following items at your Parent/ Coach Meeting:
  - Team Parent**- Ask for a volunteer to help with telephone duties (changes in practices or changes in game schedule).
  - Snack Schedule** - Assign to the Team Parent, or prepare one to hand out at the meeting. (Each parent should bring snacks during the season. Please consider food allergies, etc.
  - Game Schedule** - Distribute copies to all parents. (You may want to give them a schedule that only shows your team games). Schedules will be located on our website.
  - Absences** - Ask parents of any dates their child may not be able to attend a game. (Advise your Division Commissioner about rescheduling a game ONLY if you do not have the minimum required players). Absences for multiple players (i.e., Scout campouts or school functions) should be noted and the date requested off on the Schedule Request Form.
  - Practices** - Decide on day(s), place and time of practice. Remind parents of the importance of practice and to be sure that their child arrives on time and is picked up on time.
  - Uniforms** - Decide on a team name, RSA will determine what colors are available of the RSA Soccer Is A Kick T-shirt. Advise parents of the process for obtaining shorts & sock colors for the uniforms. Coaches should collect any T-shirt fees and place an order. Adults & Coaches T-shirts also available thru RSA. U4 - U6 (first time players) will receive T-shirts for uniform jersey, new shirts will be \$6.00 each, Adults t-shirt \$6 –Small-X-Large & 2xl are \$8.00.

### **PARENT REMINDERS:**

- Remind the parents to remain at least 3 feet from the sideline and not to go beyond 10 yards on either side of the mid- field line. (This is a rule that parents and coaches MUST abide). No one should be behind the goal area.
- If a child is hurt, only the coach may enter the field, and only when the referee signals that it is okay to do so.
- Parents should talk to the coach if they have a concern during the game. Inform the parents that they should not talk to or abuse a referee or linesperson.
- Refer parents to the Parent Handbook available online, and request that they sign and return the Parent Sportsmanship Agreement to you.
- PARENTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL GAMES.

### **COACH'S REMINDERS:**

- Contact your Division Commission with any questions, problems, or recommendations.
- U4 and U5 games use parent referees. Each team will share ½ of the game duties. Check the Referee Page on the RSA website for assistance.
- Complete ALL AREAS of your game and referee cards and turn them in after each game.
- Do not ask for a game to be rescheduled after the final schedule is complete.
- Distribute RSA information directed to parents. (Make sure your parents are kept informed).

# Saturday Game Information - Under 4 & Under 5 Coed

## Game Schedules

Game schedules are posted once the entire season's games are slated. You can check your game schedules at the Schedule/Standings link on the RSA website. Please note that full schedules will not likely be ready in time for the first game, but you will be notified via email as soon as your first game is scheduled. Please be patient during this time; scheduling is an arduous process and there is really no easy way to do it. Be kind to our volunteers!

## Game Cards

Completed game report cards should be placed in the mailbox located at the information board after every game. The game report is available in the "Forms" section of the RSA webpage:

<http://www.richardsonsoccer.org/forms.html>

## Game Procedure

- Home Team - You are home team if your team is listed first on the schedule
  - ✓ Provide the game ball
  - ✓ Sit on the north (towards Renner Rd.) or east (toward Brand Rd.) side of the field
  - ✓ Change jersey color or wear different color practice bibs in the event that there is a color conflict
- Visiting Team - You are visiting team if your team is listed second on the schedule
  - ✓ Sit on the south (towards the lake) or west (towards the woods) side of the field
- Both Teams
  - ✓ Bring lawn chairs, there are not always two sets of bleachers at the small fields
  - ✓ Make sure that trash has been picked up following your game
- Weather
  - ✓ In the event of inclement weather, always assume that the game will be played
  - ✓ Coaches will be notified if fields are unplayable via email
  - ✓ **Rainout Line:** In the event that rain falls during the day, coaches can call the RSA rainout line at 214-757-5297 for up-to-date field condition status. Any weather updates will be listed in red on the Schedule/Standings page of the RSA website.
- Coaches/Referees
  - ✓ U4 and U5 age groups use a coach or parent as a referee
  - ✓ Goalkeepers are not used
  - ✓ Coaches should try to remain on the sideline during the game to prepare the kids for the U6 age group when coaches are not allowed on the field
  - ✓ If coaches need to be on the field, they should strive to remain out of the action as much as possible
  - ✓ Different teams have different needs from a coaching standpoint and all coaches should be flexible in allowing all of the teams to develop in their own way. **Remember the goal is to have the kids eventually play on their own with minimal input from the coach.**

## Saturday Game Information – Under 6 and Older

### Game Schedules

Game schedules are posted once the entire season's games are slated. You can check your game schedules at the Schedule/Standings link on the RSA website. Please note that full schedules will not likely be ready in time for the first game, but you will be notified via email as soon as your first game is scheduled. Please be patient during this time; scheduling is an arduous process and there is really no easy way to do it. Be kind to our volunteers!

### Game Reports

The game report card is available in the "Forms" section of the RSA webpage:  
<http://www.richardsonsoccer.org/forms.html>

Completed game reports should be turned in within 48 hours of the completed game. You may submit them in one of the following ways:

1. Place them in the mailbox located at the information board at Breckinridge Park.
2. Scan and email them to June McClintock: [registrar@richardsonsoccer.org](mailto:registrar@richardsonsoccer.org)
3. Fax them to the RSA office: 972.234.2583
4. Drop them in the mail slot at the RSA office: 651 N. Plano Rd. #421, Richardson, TX 75081

### Game Procedures

- Home Team - You are home team if your team is listed first on the schedule
  - ✓ Pay referee fees
  - ✓ Provide the game ball
  - ✓ Put up and take down 2 corner flags to be used in the game
  - ✓ Sit on the north (towards Renner Rd.) or east (toward Brand Rd.) side of the field
  - ✓ Change jersey color or wear different color practice bibs in the event that there is a color conflict
- Visiting Team - You are visiting team if your team is listed second on the schedule
  - ✓ Put up and take down 2 corner flags to be used in the game
  - ✓ Sit on the south (towards the lake) or west (towards the woods) side of the field
- Both Teams
  - ✓ Coaches must remain off the field and stay near the midfield field line. Use the diameter of the center circle as a guide.
  - ✓ Bring lawn chairs, there are not always two sets of bleachers at the fields
  - ✓ Make sure that trash has been picked up following your game
- Weather
  - ✓ In the event of inclement weather, always assume that the game will be played
  - ✓ Coaches will be notified if fields are unplayable via email
  - ✓ Coaches Only Rainout Line: In the event that rain falls during the day, coaches can call the RSA rainout line at 214-757-5297 for up-to-date field conditions. Any weather updates will be listed in red on the Schedule/Standings page of the RSA website.
  - ✓ All coaches and families can check the RSA website under the Schedules/Standings page for updated weather information

## Midweek Game Information

### Game Schedules

Game schedules are posted once the entire season's games are slated. You can check your game schedules at the Schedule/Standings link on the RSA website.

### Game Reports

The game reports are available in the "Forms" section of the RSA webpage:  
<http://www.richardsonsoccer.org/forms.html>

Completed game reports should be turned in within 48 hours of the completed game. You may submit them in one of the following ways:

1. Place them in the mailbox located at the information board at Breckinridge Park.
2. Scan and email them to June McClintock: [registrar@richardsonsoccer.org](mailto:registrar@richardsonsoccer.org)
3. Fax them to the RSA office: 972.234.2583
4. Drop them in the mail slot at the RSA office: 651 N. Plano Rd. #421, Richardson, TX 75081

### Game Procedures

- Home Team - You are home team if your team is listed first on the schedule
  - ✓ Pick up the goal nets at the appropriate address listed on the appropriate midweek net location document (available from RSA) based on the field you're playing on. This will only need to be done for the FIRST game of the evening.
  - ✓ Put up the nets on one of the goals
  - ✓ Pay referee fees
  - ✓ Provide the game ball
  - ✓ Sit on the north or east side of the field
  - ✓ Change jersey color or wear different color practice bibs in the event that there is a color conflict
- Visiting Team - You are visiting team if your team is listed second on the schedule
  - ✓ Return the goal nets to the appropriate address listed on the appropriate midweek net location document (available from RSA) based on the field you're playing on. This will only need to be done if you are the LAST game of the evening.
  - ✓ Sit on the south or west side of the field
- Both Teams
  - ✓ Bring 2 corner flags to be used in the game
  - ✓ Coaches must remain off the field and stay near the midfield field line. Use the diameter of the center circle as a guide.
  - ✓ Bring lawn chairs, there are not always two sets of bleachers at the fields
  - ✓ Make sure that trash has been picked up following your game
- Weather
  - ✓ In the event of inclement weather, always assume that the game will be played
  - ✓ Coaches will be notified if fields are unplayable via email
  - ✓ Coaches Only Rainout Line: In the event that rain falls during the day, coaches can call the RSA rainout line at 214-757-5297 for up-to-date field conditions. Any weather updates will be listed in red on the Schedule/Standings page of the RSA website.
  - ✓ All coaches and families can check the RSA website under the Schedules/Standings page for updated weather information

## Sportsmanship and Conduct

Your coach asks your cooperation in abiding by the rules and guidelines players, coaches, referees, and spectators are required to follow. FIFA, US Soccer, North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) and Richardson Soccer Association (RSA) set these guidelines forth.

In order to help us provide a fun and positive experience for everyone, we ask that each family sign and return to their coach the "Parent Sportsmanship Agreement" at the end of this manual.

### Conduct Policy

#### Policy Statement

The RSA Executive Board wishes to provide a wholesome playing environment for the mutual enjoyment of all players, coaches, spectators and officials. To provide this environment, the Board will not condone actions by players, coaches or spectators which are detrimental to the conduct of the game. Criticism of the referee, linesmen or players, from the sidelines or field, is regarded as unsportsmanlike. Players, coaches or spectators responsible for such action will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### Authority

All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of Richardson Soccer Association have requested to participate in our program; therefore, they have agreed to abide by the Bylaws and rules of RSA and NTSSA as well as those of the USSF. The RSA bylaws provides that it has jurisdiction over all members, players, coaches, team representatives and administrators who choose to affiliate as well as spectators.

#### Enforcement and Punishment

Enforcement of this policy shall be by the RSA Executive Board and other designated League Officials, including the League Commissioner, Division Commissioners and members of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, as charged by the Board. These officials are authorized to observe the conduct of coaches, players and spectators, and to speak to those persons whose actions are contrary to the Philosophy and goals of RSA, as specified in the RSA Soccer Guide. The intent of such action by a League Official is to serve as deterrent to the offender. The offender may be required to leave the playing field area and/or be subject to disciplinary action. A member or participant in the Association must appear before the Disciplinary Committee, League Official or RSA Executive Board for disciplinary action when requested to do so. Possible disciplinary actions that may be taken by the Association include, but not limited to:

- ◆ reduction of playing time of the offender for one game
- ◆ probation of the offender for a specific period of time
- ◆ suspension of the offender for the next soccer game
- ◆ suspension of the offender for more than one game, the remainder of the season, or other period of time
- ◆ suspension of the offender from RSA sponsored activities forever

### Specifically Prohibited Conduct

Some specific actions which are prohibited while engaged in any RSA soccer related activity are listed below. Offenders will be subject to severe disciplinary action by RSA and/or NTSSA. No player, coach or spectator shall:

- ◆ use foul or abusive language
- ◆ harass league officials, referees or linesmen
- ◆ harass opponent's players (belittling or derogatory comments)
- ◆ harass opponent's coaches or spectators
- ◆ be guilty of violent conduct (i.e. threatened, attempted, or actual physical violence) towards another player, league official, referee, linesmen, coach or spectator
- ◆ have in their possession or consume alcoholic beverages at a game or practice field (City of Richardson ordinances)

### Conduct of Spectators

Each RSA team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee has the authority to caution and/or send off the coach for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach is expected to control his spectators. The Association will take appropriate action toward any identifiable unruly spectator. If the spectator is not identifiable the Association will take action against the team itself. Possible actions for misconduct of spectators include:

- ◆ assess the offending spectator's team at least 12 and not more than 40 caution points
- ◆ report spectator to the Parks and Recreation Department
- ◆ require team to forfeit any games at which the spectator is present on the touch-line
- ◆ require offending team to pay for presence of police at its games
- ◆ revoke or refuse registration to the offending team
- ◆ cause the spectator to be placed under a peace bond

### Coaching Area

A coach may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however, all coaches, parents, spectators and substitutes shall remain within the boundaries of the technical area\*, whether marked or not, and will not be permitted in the area behind the goals or along the goal-lines.

\*The technical area is defined as extending 10 yards in each direction from the half-way line and up to one yard away from the touch-line. On U-8 and smaller fields the area shall be eight (8) yards in each direction from the half-way line and up to one yard away from the touch-line.

# Soccer Rules

## RSA Rules and Laws of the Game

Please refer to RSA's Rule Book, posted under the "General Information" tab on the RSA website at [www.richardsonsoccer.org](http://www.richardsonsoccer.org) for a thorough overview of the rules of Richardson Soccer Association and the laws of the game.

## General Rules of Soccer

The following general rules are offered in an attempt to familiarize you with the game of soccer for our children. It is not meant to be your only source of information. Please do not use these simplified explanations to call a game or judge whether a referee is properly officiating. Much of both playing and officiating soccer are judgmental decisions.

### Playing Time

#### ***U4 – U6***

- The game is divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter lasts 10 minutes.
- Players will be substituted after each quarter. A break will be taken at half time.
- Each player must play at least 50% of each half of the game.
- No goalkeepers.

#### ***U7 - U8***

- The game is divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter lasts 12 1/2 minutes.
- Each player must play 50% of each half.
- U7 - A different player must play goalkeeper in each quarter. No child will play in goal more than 1 quarter per game.
- U-8 - Goalkeeper substitution is not required.

#### ***U9 and above***

- The game is divided into 2 halves.

<b>U9 &amp; 10</b>	two 25 minute halves
<b>U12</b>	two 30 minute halves
<b>U14</b>	two 35 minute halves
<b>U16</b>	two 40 minute halves
<b>U19</b>	two 45 minute halves

- Each player must play at least 50% of each game
- Goalkeeper substitution is not required.

### Number of Players on Field and Soccer Ball Size

U4	4 players	Size 3
U5	4 players	Size 3
U6	5 players	Size 3
U7 & U8	7 players*	Size 3
U9 & U10	8 players*	Size 4
U12	11 players*	Size 4
U14, U16 & U19	11 players*	Size 5

\* Number of players on the field includes the goalkeeper

A team must field at least 7 players (except U6-U8) within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time or forfeit the game 3-0.

### Game Referees

State Licensed Referees will officiate every game when available. Their decisions concerning points of the game and the exercising the power granted to him/her by the laws of the game are final. She/he generally will use two linesmen or assistant referees to assist in determining when the ball leaves the field of play and which team is entitled to return it to play, and to identify off sides. Richardson Soccer Association (RSA) enforces a ZERO TOLERANCE approach to any abuse towards its referees, coaches or players by anyone verbally or physically.

### Offside

- U6-U8 - no offside rule.
- Simplified definition: A player is in an offside position at the time the ball is played, if he/she is closer his/her opponents goal line than the ball unless:
- He/she is on their own half of the field
- There are at least two opponents nearer the goal line than they are (one is normally the goalkeeper, but does not have to be).

### Fouls & Misconduct

“Direct free kick fouls” committed outside the penalty area award the opposing team a direct free kick in the U9-U19 age divisions; a goal can be scored directly from this kick. If the foul is committed inside the penalty area a penalty kick is given.

No penalty kicks or direct free kicks are awarded in the U4-U8 age divisions and all fouls result in an indirect free kick. A goal can only be scored from an indirect free kick if the ball subsequently touches another player before entering the goal.

A direct free-kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent

A direct free-kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offenses:

- tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

An indirect free-kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, commits any of the following three offenses:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent

- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands

An indirect free-kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offenses:

- takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball back into the field of play after he gains possession of the ball
- touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any player
- touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

### Advantage

If a player is fouled, the referee usually stops the play. If the fouled player or his/her team keeps possession and a stoppage might benefit the offenders' team, play may be allowed to continue.

### Out of Bounds

The ball is out of bounds when it has completely crossed the boundary line, either in the air or on the ground. It is returned to play by the opposing team in one of three ways:

- **Throw-In:** Ball must be thrown with both hands from behind and over the head. Part of both feet must be on the ground, either on or behind the touchline.
- **Goal kick:** When a member of the attacking team puts the ball out of play over the goal line, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team. It must be taken from inside the goal area, and a goal cannot be scored directly from this kick.
- **Corner kick:** When the defending team kicks the ball across the goal line (not between the posts) the opposing team kicks the ball from the corner arch closest to where it went out of play. A goal can be made from this kick.

### Required Equipment

- Jersey or shirt with a number on the back
- Socks that cover the shin guards
- Shin guards (if a child does not have any shin guards, he/she may not play in a game or practice)
- Shorts
- Mouth protection is optional for retainers or braces
- No baseball cleats (toe cleats)
- No jewelry

## Coaching Certificate Definitions

The Coaching Development Program offered by North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) provides instruction for any individual regardless of coaching and playing background.

- Offered for the purpose of training & licensing coaches
- Designed to provide the tools to handle the challenges of coaching
- Clinic participants can qualify to receive "G", "F", "E", and "D" certificates

### G Clinic

- **Target Group:** For U6 & U8
- **Classroom session:** Child Development, Philosophy of Coaching, Role of Youth Coach, Laws of the game, Care/Prevention of Injury, Fundamentals of 4 vs. 4
- **Practical Session:** Games and Activities
- **Course Materials:** USYSA Parent/Coach Primer, USYSA Asst. Coach Series U6 & U8
- **Number of Hours of Course:** 4
- **Minimum Number of Participants:** 15
- **Minimum Age:** 15
- **Prerequisite:** None

### F Clinic

- **Target Group:** For U10
- **Classroom session:** Philosophy of coaching, Identifying needs of players, Organization of practice, Parent/Team management
- **Practical Session:** Dribbling, Passing, Receiving, Heading, Shooting, Goalkeeping
- **Course Materials:** "F" Coaching Workbook, "F" Coaching Text USYSA Asst. Coach Series U10
- **Number of Hours of Course:** 9
- **Minimum Number of Participants:** 15
- **Minimum Age:** 16
- **Prerequisite:** None
- **Course Fee per Candidate:** \$40.00

### E Clinic

- **Target Group:** For U12
- **Classroom session:** Methods & philosophy, Care/Prevention of injuries, Parent/Team management, Laws of the game, economical training, Principles of defending & attacking, Transition from small-sided game
- **Practical Session:** Dribbling, passing, Receiving, Heading, Shooting, Additional defending aspects of goalkeeping
- **Course Materials:** "E" Coaching Workbook, "E" Coaching Text USYSA Asst. Coach Series
- **Number of Hours of Course:** 18
- **Minimum Number of Participants:** 15
- **Minimum Age:** 18
- **Prerequisite:** F License
- **Course Fee per Candidate:** \$50.00

## D Clinic

- **Target Group:** For U14 & U18
- **Classroom session:** Methods of coaching, Organization of training sessions, Team management, Match analysis
- **Practical Session:** Team principles of attack/defense, Advanced goalkeeping, technical/tactical, skill training. Finishing, Technical functional training
- **Course Materials:** "D" Coaching Workbook
- **Number of Hours of Course:** 36
- **Minimum Number of Participants:** 20
- **Minimum Age:** 21
- **Prerequisite:** E License (Waiver Policy\*)
- **Course Fee per Candidate:** \$125.00

### \*Waiver Policy for D Clinic

All waivers to take the "D" License without prior clinics will be determined by the Director of Coaching and Player Development. To obtain a waiver, send a resume to the NTSSA office with all of your previous soccer experience.

To obtain a waiver you must be coaching a U12-16 Competitive Team and at least one of the following:

- High School Coach
- Played Soccer in College for 4 years

RSA offers coaching clinics throughout the year, as do other area associations. All are posted on the NTSSA website (<http://www.ntxsoccer.org/lists/schedule/coachingclinics.aspx>) and you are able to sign up through any association.

# Richardson Soccer Association

## Parent Sportsmanship Agreement

- ◆ I WILL BE POSITIVE ---I will express support and encouragement for my child and teammates ---nice pass, good job, atta girl/boy.
- ◆ I WILL RESPECT THE COACH ---I will support the coach and help out when asked. I understand that any coaching or instructions from the parent's side of the field is not allowed. I will let the coach do the coaching without my interference.
- ◆ I WILL RESPECT THE REFEREE ---I will give professional respect before, during, and after the game to the referee. I will refrain from criticizing referees. I will accept official decisions without anger no matter how unfair they may seem.
- ◆ I WILL RESPECT ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS ---I understand that soccer has rules and guidelines, such as player placement on a team and recruitment of players, and all decisions are based on those rules and guidelines.
- ◆ I WILL BE A GOOD SPORT ---By my example I will teach my child good sportsmanship toward the opposing team and parents and respect for the property owned by the city and property owned or leased by the association or others.
- ◆ I WILL RECOGNIZE THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS --- Coaches, referees, and association officers give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for my child.
- ◆ I WILL ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES IF I BEHAVE IMPROPERLY ---These consequences may include my being told by the referee to leave the field; my being suspended from attending games; possible disciplinary actions against the head coach.

I hereby agree to abide by the rules of this agreement:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name and Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

**COACH COLLECTS FOR HIS RECORDS FROM EACH PLAYER (REQUIRED)**

As the parent/legal guardian of:

Name of Player: \_\_\_\_\_

I request that in my absence the above-named player be admitted to any hospital or medical facility for diagnosis and treatment. I request and authorize physicians, dentists, and staff, duly licensed as Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Dentistry or other such licensed technicians or nurses, to perform any diagnostic procedures, treatment procedures, operative procedures and x-ray treatment of the above minor. I have not been given a guarantee as to the results of examination or treatment. I authorize the hospital or medical facility to dispose of any specimen or tissue taken from the above-named player.

Date of players birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last Tetanus Booster: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: TX

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # H: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Person responsible for charges (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: TX

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # H: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Person to notify if parent/guardian is unavailable: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # H: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ | ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical and/or Hospital Insurance Co Phone #:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Holder Policy Number

Signature of Parent /Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_