

# **FRONTIER COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. BYLAWS**

**Amended June 9, 2008**

## **SECTION I FCSA ORGANIZATION**

A. Utilizing the State of Oklahoma Recreational Map, the Oklahoma Soccer Association encouraged the development of what is the Frontier Country Soccer Association, which covers twelve counties in Central Oklahoma: Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Hughes, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Payne, Pottawatomie, and Seminole. Similar organizations in Tulsa, Enid, and Watonga, known as the Green Country, Red Carpet Country, and Great Plains Soccer Associations, have also been formed, while others are being formed in other areas.

B. The Frontier Country Soccer Association (FCSA) was formed as a nonprofit organization to support and propagate the game of soccer in Central Oklahoma. It is associated with and a member of the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Through these associations, the FCSA is the officially sanctioned youth soccer program for this general area, and it is understood that any youth soccer group which is not a member of the FCSA will not be officially affiliated with the USYSA and its format.

C. The FCSA is organized through soccer clubs, each having a number of teams. The purpose of this organizational plan is to permit league games to be played conveniently to most players' homes.

D. In general, the jurisdiction of a club will be determined on a geographical basis. The jurisdiction of each club will be assigned by the Board of Directors of the FCSA and may change from season to season as needs indicate. A club will be organized and directed through its own constitution approved by the Board of Directors of the FCSA and in conformity with the rules and regulations of the FCSA, OSA, USYSA, and FIFA where applicable.

## **SECTION 2 ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FCSA**

### **A. CLUBS**

The responsibilities of each club will include:

1. Promoting and developing youth soccer within its area of jurisdiction.

2. Each FCSA club shall be responsible to maintain a field for all home games to be played within their jurisdiction. Any change of club home fields location must be approved by the FCSA Board of Directors.
3. Recruiting, selecting, and educating coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and referees where needed.
4. Actively recruiting both boys and girls as players and providing or organizing both boys and girls teams where player enrollment permits.
5. Working with coaches to provide practice and playing fields for the teams within the club.
6. Assuring that all teams of all age levels are balanced in terms of numbers of members and their playing skills insofar as possible.
7. Assuring that only FCSA registered coaches shall coach the association teams, thereby assuring a consistency of standards throughout the Association.
8. Working with the Fields, Equipment, and Purchasing Committee in providing FCSA equipment for the teams. This equipment normally will include practice and game balls, corner flags, nets, marking equipment, rule books, coaching manuals, visual aids, etc.
9. Each individual club is responsible for providing registration information as determined by FCSA Registrar by the deadline set by the FCSA Registrar for all and spring seasons. FCSA Member Clubs will be charged a 2% late fee for registration that is turned in 1 day to 2 weeks late. For registration turned in 2 weeks & 1 day to 4 weeks late, a 4% late fee will be assessed. After that, if registration has still not been received, then the club's traveling recreational teams and competitive teams will be suspended from the FCSA league until the registration is turned in and the fees have been paid. Furthermore, FCSA shall notify the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) to revoke any existing tournament (travel) papers and advise OSA not to approve any further tournament (travel) papers for teams from the clubs whose registration has not been received. In addition, no teams from the late clubs shall enter the Day of Champions Tournament until the registration paperwork and fees have been received by the FCSA office.
10. Sanctions of any member club within FCSA will automatically be recognized by all member clubs.

## **B. TEAMS**

## **1. Membership**

- a) Each team must be registered with the FCSA through its local club. Each team must be classified as either a recreational team or a competitive team and must be formed in accordance with appropriate rules. No team that is formed by tryouts or selection may be classified as a recreational team.
- b) Insofar as is practicable, all players on a recreational team shall reside in the same neighborhood area or attend the same school.
- c) Once a team is organized, its roster shall be maintained, if possible, without change during each Seasonal Year, September 1 to August 31. Any additions to the original roster must be reported to the proper FCSA Officials by established deadlines.
- d) Teams may be organized, consolidated, or reorganized by the clubs as required for maximum player participation. Teams may also be reorganized to conform to school attendance or residence. Such reorganized teams may not be eligible for State competition.
- e) A team player may continue with his original team regardless of a change of residence or school attendance.
- f) No team that has been selected and classified as a competitive team may be reclassified as a recreational team. Such a team must be disbanded and its team members must go through general registration in order to play in the recreational league. No recreational team may be required to play a competitive team during the regular season.

## **2. Registration**

- a) Each team must be registered with the FCSA through its local club, using prescribed team registration forms. Registration forms must include the player's name, address, and full birth date.
- b) Registration after the closing date for registration may be permitted by the FCSA or Club Registration Committee. Payment of the late registration fee for registration after the closing date may be required.
- c) A current roster of all teams participating in the season shall be provided by each club to FCSA Credentials Committee at the time of registration. The form of the roster will be available for inspection by the referee or opposing team at all games played under the jurisdiction of the FCSA.
- d) Any team playing a player who is over age shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part.

### **3. Recreational Teams Formation**

- a) Recreational teams shall start each season approximately equal in terms of ability, numbers and age.
- b) The placement of players on teams shall be the responsibility of the club.
- c) Team Formation Guidelines shall be submitted by July 1 of each year to the FCSA for approval prior to registration of teams.
- d) Each Club shall formulate guidelines based on the needs of that Club for forming teams from one or more of the following methods:
  - 1. School Attendance
  - 2. Geography
  - 3. Neighborhood concept
  - 4. Player draft
  - 5. Random draw
- e) Efforts by coaches or others to recruit players onto Recreational teams on the sole basis of players ability shall be prohibited.
- f) Recreational teams shall be reorganized at least as often as players move from one age division to another in order to assure competitive balance. Recreational teams shall not be construed as moving from one age division to another; as players move to another age division, they shall automatically be considered unaffiliated.
- g) Any team that is not formed in conformance with its own Clubs Recreational Team Formation Guidelines and FCSA Bylaws shall be subject to reorganization by the FCSA.
- h) Recreational teams which have proven to dominate play in their league shall be disbanded and/or reorganized between the Spring and Fall seasons only. This shall not apply if that team is the only team from a Club or Association in that age group.

### **4. Consolidation and Dissolution of Teams**

- a) Consolidation of two or more teams during a playing season because of a lack of player participation requires approval of the FCSA Playing Committee and the local club's Games Committee.
- b) Each surviving team of a consolidation will complete the schedule of one of the original teams as determined by the Playing Committee.
- c) The consolidated teams will be reorganized on the original team basis at any time that registration of players makes it possible.

## **5. Practices and Team Activities**

- a) All team meetings shall be considered team activities. This includes practice sessions, scrimmages, and instructional meetings.
- b) Team activities for recreational teams shall be limited to three during any Calendar Week. No activity shall exceed 90 minutes except the Under 19 age group teams whose activities may not exceed 100 minutes in duration.
- c) The Calendar Week shall begin with Saturday and shall consist of that day and the following six days.

## **6. Suspension**

- a) The Playing Committee (Recreational), Competitive Commission (Competitive) or similar committee of a member club may recommend to the FCSA Hearings and Appeals Committee that disciplinary action be taken against any team if, in the opinion of the Committee, the team(s), its players, coaches, trainers or supporters are or have acted contrary to the best interest of the FCSA, or encouraged dangerous playing practices, or acted in an unsporting manner or failed to adhere to the FCSA Constitution, Bylaws, Competitive Bylaws or any other FCSA Standing Resolutions or Rules. Recommended action may include, but is not limited to suspension of the team(s) from present and future participation in any FCSA league play. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYSA.

## **C. PLAYERS**

### **1. Registration**

- a) Individual players will be enrolled by the club registrars using the USYSA Membership Form prescribed by the FCSA.
- b) Individual registration fees must be paid at the time of enrollment.
- c) No player who is physically able to play soccer and meets registration requirements will be denied or discouraged from participation.

### **2. Eligibility**

- a) A player may not participate in a practice or game unless his USYSA Membership Form is on file with the appropriate registration committee and all player fees are paid seventy-two hours before the practice or game.
- b) For the purposes of registration, a player's age before August 1, preceding the FCSA seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) shall be the player's playing age for both the Fall and Spring Playing Seasons; provided, however, all players must have reached the age of four (4) years before August 1 in order to participate in any practice or game during the immediately following time period of August 1 through January 31, and all players must have reached the age of four (4) years before February 1 in order to participate in any practice or game during the immediately following time period of February 1 through July 31.
- c) A player may play in an older division **but not in a younger division** than his age allows according to Article IX of the Constitution.
- d) No player shall play on more than one FCSA team at the same time except according to the policies for secondary registration approved by the FCSA board.

### **3. Transfers**

Transfer is defined as a player change from one team to another during a Seasonal year after the player is duly registered on a team.

- a) Transfers are to be discouraged except those resulting from a change of school or residence.
- b) The consent of the FCSA Playing Committee and appropriate local club committee will be required for all recreational transfers. Consent of the Competitive Commission will be required for all Competitive transfers.
- c) A player must transfer using the appropriate form, which is available from the FCSA Office or the Fourth Vice-President.
- d) A team shall be limited to a total of three transferred players per Seasonal Year (September 1 through August 31) except for team consolidation or reorganization under Section 2B4 of these Bylaws. A transferred player is one who has been registered with another USYSA team in the same Seasonal Year, September 1 to August 31.

### **4. Player Equipment**

- a) All Players must provide and wear shirts, shorts, and socks during team competition. Uniforms need to be nothing more than a pair of tube type socks, a pair of gym shorts, and a white or dyed T shirt (warmer clothing may be worn under the uniform as weather requires). All Shirts are to be numbered. Numbers must be placed on

the back and be at least eight (8) inches in height. Team colors or uniform styles will be determined by each team, subject to approval of the local club's Games Committee to avoid repetition of colors between teams. Players other than the goalkeeper must wear alike uniforms to distinguish them from the opposition.

- b) Shoes are required. They may be either sneakers, athletic shoes, or cleated soccer shoes of either the molded plastic sole type or the screw in soccer type that leaves a flat surface when lost. When cleats are used, the minimum diameter of any cleat, bar, or stud is one-half inch for the screw in type shoe and three-eighths inch for the molded cleat type shoe. Cleated shoes for the Junior Division are not recommended. In no event can the equipment create a hazard to any player. In cleated shoes, there may not be a single cleat located near the front tip of the shoe.
- c) Shin guards are mandatory; however, it is important that they be of the soft, flexible type and not those which have a rigid shell covering which tends to cause injury to other players.
- d) FCSA or local club patches may be worn on the left chest or shoulder of either the jacket or uniform.
- e) All emblems or insignias, or logos worn on player uniforms are subject to approval by the FCSA Playing Committee.
- f) In the event that two teams with similar colors compete, the home team will change to uniforms of distinguishing colors.
- g) The goalkeeper must wear a target jersey or a shirt of a contrasting color to those jerseys of his team, the jerseys of the opposing team, and the uniforms of the game officials.
- h) All equipment is subject to the approval of the FCSA Playing Committee and shall be inspected before each game by the game officials.

## **5. Player Passes**

- a) The FCSA Board of Directors will determine each seasonal year whether recreational players will be required to have players passes. All Competitive players must have player passes that have a recent photograph permanently affixed on the reverse side for identification purposes. The pass must be completely filled out, signed by the proper officials, and duly stamped with the FCSA seal.
- b) In all FCSA, OSA, or Regional sponsored tournaments and competitions, all players must have duly certified player pass with a photograph on the back.

## **6. Caution, Ejection and Suspension**

- a) Players are subject to a caution and/or ejection by the referee of a game for various types of misconduct.
- b) A player who is ejected shall leave the immediate area of the playing field before recommencement of the game.
- c) Refusal by a player to leave the area of the playing field within the time specified by the referee shall result in immediate termination of the game. The game shall be declared a forfeiture and shall not be replayed.
- d) No substitution is allowed for a player ordered from the field of play by a referee in the Juvenile Division. A substitution may be made in the Junior Division at the next regularly allowed time of substitution. No player shall leave the field of play, except by accident, without the consent of the referee.
- e) A player who is ejected shall not participate in the remainder of the game from which he/she was ejected and is prohibited from participation in at least the next game in which his/her registered team plays. If he/she does participate in a game at which they are prohibited, the game shall be declared a forfeiture. Any ejection for *violent conduct* involving physical contact shall carry an immediate three (3) game suspension; provided, however, for purposes of clarification an ejection based upon verbal insults and/or abuse shall not result in a three (3) game suspension. The FCSA Playing Committee (Recreational) or Competitive Commission (Competitive) and/or the local club may impose additional penalties (see section f).
- f) An accumulative point system will be utilized to track and penalized excessive cautions (yellow cards) and/or ejections (red cards) received in FCSA league play. Two (2) points will be assessed for any ejection and one (1) point for each caution received during the course of the playing year (August 1 – July 31). Cautions received in the same game resulting in an ejection will be assessed as cautions (for a total of 2 points). Upon reaching or exceeding six (6) points, an automatic one-game suspension will be assessed, exclusive of any game(s) suspension due from an ejection itself. This one-game suspension may not be appealed. Upon reaching or exceeding ten (10) points, an automatic two-game suspension will be assessed, exclusive of any game(s) suspension due from an ejection itself. This two-game suspension may not be appealed. Additional penalties may be imposed by the Playing Committee (Recreational) or Competitive Commission (Competitive) based on the severity of the foul or additional point accumulation above ten (10). Accumulation of points will only occur during league play and game suspensions resulting from the point system will only apply to league play.
- g) Ejected players have the right to submit, within 72 hours of the incident involved, a written statement of his/her position to the Playing Committee (Recreational) or Competitive Commission (Competitive) for review prior to any additional punishment. Decisions of these Committees when violations of FIFA laws are involved are subject to appeal to the FCSA Appeals Committee within 72 hours of notification of

said decision. Each appeal must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashiers Check or Money Order made payable to FCSA. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled

## **7. Suspensions**

- a) The Playing Committee (Recreational), Competitive Commission (Competitive) or similar committee of a member club may recommend to the FCSA Hearings and Appeals Committee that disciplinary action be taken against any player, if, in the opinion of the Committee, a player is or has acted contrary to the best interest of the FCSA, or encouraged dangerous playing practices, or acted in an unsporting manner, or failed to adhere to the FCSA Constitution, Bylaws, Competitive Bylaws or any other FCSA Standing Resolutions or Rules. Recommended action may include, but is not limited to, suspension of the player(s) from present and future participation in any FCSA league play. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYSA.

## **D. COACHES**

### **1. Registration**

- a) All coaches shall be registered with the FCSA and their local club and shall be required to meet the registration requirements as specified by the FCSA and their local club. In inter-club games, USYSA passes are required for all coaches in the coaches' box.
- b) The Playing Committee (Recreational), Competitive Commission (Competitive), or similar committee of a member club may recommend to the FCSA Hearings and Appeals Committee that disciplinary action be taken against any coach or trainer if, in the opinion of the Committee, the coach or trainer is or has acted contrary to the best interest of the FCSA, or encouraged dangerous playing practices, or acted in an unsporting manner, or failed to adhere to the FCSA Constitution, Bylaws, Competitive Bylaws or any other FCSA Standing Resolutions or Rules. Recommended action may include, but is not limited to, suspension of the coach or trainer from present and future participation in any FCSA league play. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original

decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYSA. Suspension of a coach must be reported in writing to the FCSA Executive Board within 10 days of decision, which will in turn file a report to OSA.

## **2. Responsibilities and Duties**

- a) Coaches are responsible for the proper training and conditioning of players on their team.
- b) Coaches are responsible for maintaining order and respect for the authority of the referees and linesmen during the game.
- c) Coaches are required to refrain discourtesy by the spectators toward officials and players.
- d) Coaches must remain in the coaching area (five yards either side of the halfway line and five yards from the touch line thereby forming rectangular area ten yards long by five yards deep backing onto the spectator restraining line). Neither coaches nor spectators are permitted along the goal line or behind the goal area. Spectators must remain ten yards from the touchline, behind the spectator restraining line.
- e) No coach shall endeavor to run up a high score against any team.
- f) Coaches will allow only players who are properly registered with the local club and FCSA to participate in practices or games.
- g) Recreational coaches will play each player on their recreational team at least one-half (1/2) of every game, except for health or appropriate disciplinary reasons. The referee and opposing coach in a recreational game must be notified prior to commencement of the match when a player is not playing a full half game for one of the above reasons.

## **3. Caution, Ejection and Suspension**

- a) Coaches shall be subject to a caution and/or ejection by the referee for misconduct.
- b) A coach who is ejected shall leave the playing area so that he may not possibly take part in any further actions during the remainder of the game. Furthermore, the game shall not recommence before the coach has exited the area.
- c) Refusal by an ejected coach to leave the area of the playing field within the time specified by the referee shall result in immediate termination of the game. The game shall be declared a forfeiture and shall not be replayed.

- d) A coach who is ejected shall leave the immediate area of the playing field before recommencement of the game. Refusal by an ejected coach or player to leave within a reasonable time as specified by the referee shall result in immediate termination of the game and automatic suspension of the ejected person(s). The game shall be declared a forfeiture and shall not be replayed. An ejected coach shall be disqualified from further participation at the game from which he is ejected and may not attend at least the next game of the team involved. If he does appear at any game at which he/she is prohibited, the game shall be declared a forfeiture. Any ejection for *violent conduct* involving physical contact shall carry an immediate three (3) game suspension; provided, however, for purposes of clarification an ejection based upon verbal insults and/or abuse shall not result in a three (3) game suspension. The FCSA Playing Committee (Recreational) or Competitive Commission (Competitive) and/or the local club may impose additional penalties. The point system described in Section 2,C,6,f, also applies to coaches.
- e) An ejected coach has the right to submit, within 72 hours of the incident involved, a written statement of his position to the Appeals Subcommittee for its consideration and review prior to any additional punishment. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are subject to appeal to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA, if put in writing and submitted to the Executive Board within 72 hours of notification of said decision of the Appeals Committee. All such appeals must be accompanied by a \$100.00 cashiers check or certified check made payable to the FCSA. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled.
- f) A coach, player, or spectator who intentionally strikes a referee shall be prohibited from participation in FCSA competition for at least one calendar year. Any action taken by the FCSA under authority of this rule will not limit the prosecution of the offender by the referee and/or the FCSA or local club under the criminal laws of the State of Oklahoma. FCSA shall report the incident to OSA, which shall have jurisdiction in this matter.

## **E. OFFICIALS**

### **1. Referees**

- a) Referees will be assigned and scheduled by the Games Subcommittee of the FCSA Playing Committee or its appointed representatives. Names of club referee coordinators will be submitted to the Games Subcommittee for approval prior to league play.
- b) All referees must be certified by the USSF. The State Referee Administrator or his Assistant shall be responsible for certification and training of all referees.
- c) The disciplinary board for referees is appointed by the State Referee Administrator or his Assistant. All complaints that are filed against a referee shall be heard by this board.

- d) The State Referee Administrator or his Assistant shall be the liaison between FCSA and all referees. Area referees for local clubs shall be the liaison between the club and the State Referee Administrator.
- e) Any person who is ejected or suspended by the FCSA or its member clubs shall not act as a referee or linesman.
- f) The referee will submit within 72 hours to the Appeals Committee of the FCSA Playing Committee a game report for all games which are canceled or terminated or in which a player or coach is ejected or for which one or both teams fail to appear.
- g) If an official referee fails to appear within a fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time, a person mutually agreed upon in writing by the coaches of both teams may act as referee. In such case, the referee should keep on his person throughout the game the written agreement for his acting as referee and return it to the winning coach with the final score and the signature of the referee. The winning coach should keep this as a record of the game for the remainder of the season unless his local club directs him to do otherwise.
- h) A referee who assaults a coach, player, or spectator shall be reported to the FCSA who will report in writing to OSA, which shall investigate the matter and render a decision.

## **2. Assistant Referees (Linesmen)**

- a) The Referee Schedulers of FCSA Clubs and Associations will assign two assistant referees to all games in the U11-U19 Traveling Recreational and Competitive League Games.
- b) All assigned assistant referees shall be certified referees.
- c) Upon request of the Referee, each team will supply one team linesman.
- d) Team linesmen shall assist the referee only in determining out of bounds and enforcing the ten (10) yard spectator restraining line.

## **SECTION 3 RULES OF PLAY**

### **A. LAWS OF THE GAME**

1. Except as modified below or by USYSA or in Special Rules of Play approved by FCSA, soccer competition shall be governed by the FIFA rules and interpretation then current as set forth in FIFA's Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees.

## **B. FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT**

### **1. Fields**

- a) The size and marking of playing fields shall be as described in Special Rules of Play.
- b) All fields must be reasonably flat and free of any object or hole that will endanger players.
- c) If necessary, fields may be of different dimensions than specified in the Special Rules of Play. However, on fields used for inter-club matches, in no instances shall the markings for the goal area, penalty area, spectator line, coach's box, or center circle, or the size of the goals be different from those specified in the Special Rules of Play.
- d) All fields must be approved by the FCSA Playing Committee.
- e) On fields used for intra-club matches in the U-6 and U-8 age divisions, the field, goal and interior area dimensions may be adjusted to be more compatible for those ages.
- f) All inter-club U11-U19 matches will be played on Juvenile sized fields and goal posts.
- g) The home team shall be responsible for marking the field, putting up and taking down nets, and providing corner flags.
- h) All fields must be equipped with approved corner flags, which must be of suitable size and color and attached to poles at least five (5) feet tall with rounded tops.

### **2. Balls**

- a) The under 6 and under 8 division will use a size three (3) ball, the under 10 and under 12 divisions will use a size four (4) ball and the juvenile division will use a size five (5) ball.
- b) The home team will provide a game ball acceptable to the referee.

## **C. GAMES**

## **1. Schedules**

- a) All traveling recreational games will be scheduled by the FCSA Playing Committee or its representatives. The Competitive Commission Scheduler or his/her representative will schedule all games in the Competitive League. Once the schedule has been published, your team should be made aware that there will be no changes to the schedule and to make plans accordingly. The only rescheduling allowed will be for teams traveling to tournaments or for ACT, PSAT, or SAT Testing. The FCSA Games Rescheduling Form must be **COMPLETE** and submitted to the FCSA office by Wednesday, 2:00 p.m., at least 14 days prior to the scheduled game. The FCSA Playing Committee (Recreational) or FCSA Competitive Commission (Competitive) has the right to postpone or suspend games of any team who is being brought before the FCSA Playing Committee (Recreational), FCSA Competitive Commission (Competitive), or any governing body of FCSA or OSA for disciplinary actions or rules violations.

## **2. Cancellation**

- a) Games may be canceled by the assigned referee when, in his opinion, at game time, or within two hours prior to game time the field is not in suitable condition for play and/or is dangerous to players.
- b) If the referee suspends or terminates a game for reasons other than misconduct on the part of players, coaches, or spectators, after the second half is started but before the completion of the full duration of the game, the game will be considered completed.
- c) Coaches will not cancel games.
- d) A host club, through its president, may cancel a game due to unplayable field conditions at any time, and must notify the coach of the visiting team, and also notify the assigned referee.

## **3. Forfeiture**

- a) If a team fails to appear or to field at least seven players at the time of the scheduled kickoff, the referee shall terminate the game and report the occurrence to the Appeals Subcommittee of the FCSA Playing Committee, which shall declare the game forfeited in favor of the team that was present. If neither team appears, the referee shall report such occurrence to the Appeals Subcommittee of the FCSA Playing Committee, which shall declare a double forfeiture (both teams will be charged with a forfeiture).
- b) Any team that fails to present proper credentials to the official prior to the scheduled kickoff in any FCSA league play will forfeit the game, but the game shall nevertheless be played. An FCSA-stamped "FCSA League Roster and Game Form"

and FCSA-stamped member passes constitute proper credentials for traveling recreational and competitive teams. The referee shall write on the FCSA League Roster and Game Form that is presented that the opposing team failed to present roster and/or member passes. If both teams appear without the proper credentials, the referee shall record the game information on a sheet of paper with the notation that neither coach presented proper credentials.

- c) The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded as 3-0.
- d) A team that allows an unregistered player, or a player or a coach serving a suspension, to participate shall forfeit that game, if won; if the game is lost, the first victory thereafter shall be forfeited.

#### **4. Protests**

- a) Inter-club protests will be heard and decided by the Appeals Committee of FCSA. Intra-club protests will be heard and decided by the appropriate club protests committee subject to appeal to the Appeals Committee.
- b) Protests to the FCSA Appeals Committee must be detailed in writing within 72 hours and accompanied by a check for the \$100.00 protest fee.
- c) Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. The appeal fee will be refunded if the appeal is decided in favor of the person or team who posted the fee. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYSA.
- d) Appeals of Executive Board decisions may be made in writing to OSA. OSA decisions are subject to appeal to USYSA.
- e) A copy of the protest shall be mailed by the chairman of the committee to the coach of the opposing team and, where applicable, to the referee involved.
- f) The opposing team and/or referee involved will furnish a written response of the protest to the committee within 72 hours after receipt of a copy of the protest.
- g) The committee will not uphold protests based on the qualifications of the referee or upon matters of the referee's judgment unless it is found that the club used a non-certified referee for the game in question.
- h) The committee may uphold or change a game result or schedule a replay of the game when the committee determines that the referee's interpretation of the game rules is faulty.

- i) Decisions on protests will be rendered in writing to the coaches of the two teams, and where applicable, to the referee of the game within seven business days of the receipt of the protest.
- j) Protests involving the conditions of the field, equipment, or facilities will be denied unless the referee is notified in writing prior to the start of the game that the game is being played under protest.

## **5. Mercy Rule**

Once a team reaches a goal differential of 10 points in any traveling recreational league game, the losing coach has the option to discontinue the game, provided, however, that the mercy rule may only take effect once the second half of the game has begun.

## **6. League Standings**

- a) Team standings for league competition shall be determined according to the number of points earned by the teams. Points shall be determined by game results according to the following:

Win 3 points  
Tie 1 point  
Goal 0 points  
Loss 0 points

- b) League standings at the end of the season will be determined on the basis of all regularly scheduled games regardless of the number of games played and the number of teams in the league.
- c) Ties for first place at the completion of all games of league competition shall be broken using the following tie-breakers:
  - 1. Head to head competition
  - 2. Goal Differential, with a maximum of 3 goals per game
  - 3. Fewest total goals allowed in all gamesIf rankings are still tied, the Competitive Committee (Competitive) or Playing Committee (Recreational) shall determine further tiebreakers.
- d) If any game is tied when terminated by the referee before the beginning of the second half, it shall be replayed from the beginning, unless termination resulted from the ejection of a coach or player.

## **7. Playing Season**

- a) There will be two playing seasons in each seasonal year.

b) The playing season will be determined each season by the FCSA Executive Board.

### **8. FCSA Tournaments and Playoffs**

a) FCSA will host two tournaments each seasonal year. The Oklahoma Cup Soccer Tournament will be held in the middle of October and The Day of Champions Tournament will be held on the second or third weekend of May of each year. The proceeds of these tournaments will be placed in the FCSA College Scholarship Fund. The FCSA Tournament Committee will submit tournament rules and playoff guidelines to the FCSA General Board of Directors for approval. These rules and guidelines will govern all FCSA Tournaments and Playoffs.

### **SECTION 4 INSURANCE COVERAGE AND PROVISIONS**

A. Insurance for all registered players, coaches and officials will be in accordance with the Insurance Policy or Policies obtained by the Oklahoma Soccer Association.

### **SECTION 5 AMENDMENTS OF THESE BYLAWS**

A. These Bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled Membership Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment is presented in writing at least one week in advance of the Membership Meeting to the FCSA Board of Directors. These Bylaws may not be amended at a special Membership Meeting.

Amended and adopted this 9th day of June 2008.

ATTEST:

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Fred Bross  
Secretary/Treasurer, FCSA

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Glen Smith  
President, FCSA