

## Section IV

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MANSFIELD SOCCER  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Revised – June 2021)

## **I. Game Day Procedures**

### Game Day Status Information

- A. Please call the **Mansfield Field Status Line at 817-592-6393** to determine if games are being played and/or to get field closure information on game day. This line is updated around 7:30 a.m. on weekends.
- D. Soccer Games may be played even though it is raining.

### Uniforms and Equipment

- A. The home team is responsible to wear alternate-colored jerseys if a color conflict occurs. If the home team does not have an alternate colored jersey, pennies should be worn.
- B. For U5 and U6 teams, a reversible jersey may be available. If teams are issued a reversible jersey, home will wear the light colored side and visitors will wear the darker colored side.
- C. All players are required to have the proper equipment to participate. The referee will perform a check to determine the eligibility of players based on equipment.
- D. The home team is responsible for the game ball. The ball must be an appropriate size for the age group. U5 - U8 teams use a size 3 ball. U9 – U12 teams use a size 4 ball. U13 and up teams use a size 5 ball.

### Coaches' Technical Area

- A. If the area is not marked, the technical area is bounded by the apex of the center circle on either side of the midway line.
- B. If teams are on the same side, the technical area extends from the midway line to the apex of the center circle on the teams bench side of the midway line.

### Spectator Restraining Line

- A. Spectators are to be seated no closer than six (6) feet from the touchline and no closer to the goal than the top of the penalty area.
- B. No seating or coaching from behind the goal is allowed.

### Game Report

Each coach shall sign the game report after the match. It is the coaches' responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the game score and the misconduct reported.

## **II. Rescheduled Games Policy and Procedure**

Prior to the establishment of the league schedule for a season and no later than the coaches meeting, all coaches must notify, in writing, their Age Division Commissioner and the League Scheduler of dates that may conflict with the game schedule (including Tournament dates). No more than three (3) individual dates will be accepted. An effort to honor these requests will be made by the game scheduler but there is no guarantee that the requests will be met. Any other request after the league schedules have been established may be honored upon written request to the Age Division Commissioner and approval from the Scheduler, Referee Assignor and Director of Fields and Games. An absent star player(s) or conflict with another sport association is not sufficient reason to cause a game to be rescheduled.

*As per North Texas Soccer Association rule 3.10.3 (9) For the purpose of this rule, all players participating in a Soccer Academy who are also registered with a NTSSA Member youth association recreational team shall, in the event of a conflict, consider the NTSSA recreational team to be their primary team and the Soccer Academy as a secondary commitment.*

#### Rescheduling Games Due to Rain / Weather Concerns / Field Closure

Games that are cancelled due to rain, weather concerns, and/or field closures will be rescheduled to the first available day and time. Reschedules may occur on any day of the week and/or the scheduled rain out day. It is important for coaches and commissioners to be aware of the rainout dates at the beginning of the season and be mindful of that fact when they are scheduling tournaments or other team events. Reschedules will be posted at least 3 days prior to the rescheduled date and time when possible.

Once there are no more make up dates available, games will be made up at the discretion of the Executive Board with games affecting standing having priority over all other games.

#### Policy on Rescheduling of Games Due to Conflicts (MSA League ONLY)

1. If a coach/team requests a game to be rescheduled and the opposing coach/team agrees with the reschedule and the age group commissioner, the Scheduler, and Director of Referees are notified at least 72 hours before the original game, then the rescheduling request will be honored.
2. If a coach/team requests a game to be rescheduled and the opposing coach/team denies the request and the reason for the request is due to school function and/or UIL function –
  - a. If the school or UIL function will cause the team to forfeit due to not enough players to field the minimum number of players, then the rescheduling request will be honored if at least 72 hours notice is given to the age group commissioner, the Scheduler, and the Director of Referees.
  - b. If the school or UIL function will not cause a forfeit then the rescheduling request will not be honored.

(The school or UIL function must cause the team to forfeit, not just to play without substitutes or without being able to field the optimal number of players. The missing players must all be involved in the school and/or UIL functions).

3. If a coach/team requests a game to be rescheduled and the opposing coach/team denies the request and the reason for the request is not due to a school and/or UIL function, then the request will be denied.
4. If possible when rescheduling request is honored the Scheduler working with the Director of Referees and the Director of Fields and Games will offer three days/times to each coach requesting each coach to pick two of them. Whichever day/time both coaches chose will be the rescheduled game day/time.

### **III. Game Report Procedure**

Under 9 – Under 19 - A game report is utilized by the referee crew to record the game score and misconduct of players, coaches, and spectators. Each coach shall ensure the accuracy of the score and the misconduct and sign the game report after each match.

The referee is to report the winning team and score for any U9 and up match. (Please note that score is not kept below U9; however, scores for any game where the goal differential causes concern should still be noted by the referee and turned into the referee assignor.) Any other comments by the referee are listed in the referee remarks area.

Any issues, concerns, or comments regarding referees shall be directed to the Director of Referees via email. Any issues, concerns, or comments regarding the field conditions shall be directed to the Director of Field and Games via email. Any issues, concerns, or comments regarding the misconduct of players, parents, coaches, and/or spectators shall be directed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (A&D Chair) via email. All email addresses can be found on the Associations website.

### **IV. Lottery Placement Procedures / Team Formation Procedures**

Preparation for Lottery Placement Day

U5/U6

At the U5 and U6 age level, players may request to be placed on a specific team or to be placed with a specific player provided that the player has not been rostered on any NTSSA team before or if they have only played one season in MSA and did not request the team previously rostered on.

At U5 only – the age group commissioner shall attempt to place children on teams based on school attendance zones and/or neighborhoods when possible.

At both U5 and U6 there will not be a formal lottery. Players will be assigned randomly by the age group commissioner.

U7 and above

Players eligible to return to a roster or be placed on a roster before lottery placement are as follows. Prospective players who register during regular registration may be placed on a specific roster in this order:

- A. Players Returning from the Prior Season – Each season, players will return to the team on which they were rostered the previous season unless a request is made by the player to be placed in the unassigned players pool.
- B. Missing one season – A player who has sat out one season is eligible to return to his/her team if space is available on that roster.
- C. Sibling Requests - At the request of the parent or guardian, siblings may be placed on the same roster provided that all MSA and NTSSA by-laws, rules, regulation, policies, and procedures other than those concerning random lottery placement are followed. (Example: younger child may play up on older sibling's team but older sibling may not play down absent NTSSA permission).
  1. If both / all siblings involved are new to MSA, they will be placed in the lottery but will both or all be rostered on the same team according to the first sibling name drawn.

2. If one child is currently rostered on a MSA team and the sibling is eligible (age, gender) to play on that team, the sibling shall be placed on that team's roster provided space is available. If space is not available on that roster, the sibling group may enter the lottery placement as if they were new to MSA.
  3. Should a conflict arise between a returning player missing one season and a sibling attempting to be rostered, the returning player shall be rostered on that team first provided that the returning player registers during regular registration.
  4. A sibling who registers during regular registration and is placed on a roster may not be removed to accommodate players (returning or missing one season) who register after regular registration.
  5. A request to place siblings on the same team must be submitted by the parent or guardian at the time of registration and in any event before lottery placement. A request received after lottery placement shall not be considered for that season.
- D. Friend Request - A player may request to be placed on a specific team or to be placed with a specific player provided that the requesting player has not been rostered on any NTSSA team roster within the two (2) soccer seasons.

Age Division Commissioners will ensure as much as possible numerical equalization among teams.

Prior to Lottery night, the age division commissioner shall:

1. Assign all returning players to their perspective teams.
2. Contact each returning coach and inform him/her of the registered returning players. This will allow the coach to inform the commissioner of any players he/she expected back and it will give the coach an opportunity to contact and verify those not registered did not plan on returning.
3. Print out each team roster for the lottery placement.
4. Print out two copies of a list of all unassigned players in the lottery placement.

The Age Group Commissioner shall bring the following to the player lottery placement meeting:

1. Printed rosters of teams with all their returning players
2. Printed list of all unassigned players
3. Numbers to be pulled for the lottery placement or extra unassigned player list to be drawn.

U7 – U12 Lottery placement day Policies and Procedures

- A. All MSA board members are to meet at the lottery placement location 30 minutes prior to the start of the lottery placement so they can be assigned a lottery placement partner. An executive board member should also be present at each of the lottery placements being conducted to ensure they are following policies and procedures.
- B. Every lottery shall be conducted by the age division commissioner or a Board of Directors member and shall be witnessed by at least one disinterested person.
- C. A participating Executive Board Member should be available to observe each lottery placement. The Executive Board Member cannot have a relative playing in that age division.
- E. Either numbers shall be written next to the unassigned player pool and those same numbers placed into a container to draw from or the unassigned player pool

document shall be cut into strips and the unassigned players names placed into the container.

- F. The age group commissioner shall determine in which order the teams will draw players from the unassigned pool of players. He or she or their designee shall then draw enough numbers or names from the container to fill each team's roster, team by team. The age group commissioner shall attempt to keep the rosters as even as possible concerning the number of players on the roster.
- G. The age division commissioner shall document on the Team Roster and on the unassigned player list which team each child is placed onto.

#### U13 and Above Committee

U13 and above teams shall be formed by Committee. This committee shall consist of the age group commissioner and the Executive Board. Prior to lottery night, the Age Group Commissioner shall place players on rosters using the prescribed methods above (returning player, missing one season, sibling request, friend request). If a player wishes to be rostered on a particular team and does not meet the requirements of the approved exceptions to team formation, the matter will be presented to the Committee in person or by email for approval. If the Committee does not approve the placement, an appeal may be made by the player to the entire Board of Directors. Players in the unassigned pool shall be randomly assigned to teams at lottery night using lottery procedures to make the team rosters as even as possible.

H. Maximum number of players per team.

Age Division	Ideal Number of Players	Maximum Number of Players
U5 & U6	5	6
U7 & U8	7	8
U9 & U10	9	12
U11 & U12	11	16
U13 – U14	15	18
U15 & UP	16	22

#### Player Lottery Placement Completion

- A. All copy of all paperwork is to be kept by the division commissioner to be entered into the online system. All updates to the system must be made within three (3) days after the player lottery placement.
- B. The original paperwork should be given to the Registrar at the end of the lottery placement.

#### Late-registering players

The age division commissioner should take care of randomly assigning these players.

#### Contesting a Lottery Placement

There is no contesting a lottery placement unless definitive, physical proof can be provided that lottery placement day policies were not followed. If a parent, coach or board member questions the validity of any division lottery placement, they must have proof that the lottery placement was not conducted within defined policies. If you feel compelled to contest a lottery placement then you must provide, in writing, your accusations along with the proof. This should be turned into the executive board within 24 hours of the lottery placement.

**Mansfield Soccer Association  
Field Marshal Duties**

1. Wear the provided orange vest to identify yourself to the officials, coaches and spectators. These vests are stored in the referee area behind the concession stand. The Board Member on Duty has a cellular phone provided by the Association. Please write down that phone number in case you need him/her during your shift..
2. Make sure that coaches, spectators and players do not enter the field of play at any time unless instructed to do so by the referee.
3. Make sure that each team's players, coaches and spectators take position on opposite sides of the field.
4. Make sure that the field is free of debris to provide a safe playing environment.
5. A professional demeanor is very important when dealing with problems that arise with the referees, coaches and spectators. Specifics are important here. Please file a written report listing names, telephone numbers, and a description of the problem.
6. Please caution any coach or spectator that gets overzealous in their actions or words. This includes making derogatory remarks to the referees, the other coaches, or other spectators. If the situation does not cease, please notify the Board Member on Duty. Be very careful to try to calm the individual or situation and not add to the problem.
7. It is recommended that you either carry a cellular phone with you in case there is an emergency or have the knowledge of someone who does so that you may dial 911.
8. Occasionally, you will be asked directions to a field so be aware of the set up of the sports complex. The map is attached.
9. If you observe any misuse or abuse of the sports complex, please address the individual and contact the Field Marshal in Charge.
10. Absolutely no animals are allowed at the Mansfield Sports Complex during MSA events.
11. If there is a missing child, you must follow the guidelines that are implemented for such an emergency.
12. Our number one concern is for the safety of the players, coaches, referees, and spectators. If you see anything that appears to be a detriment to safety, stop the unsafe act, assess the situation, and then address the situation in an appropriate manner.
13. Make sure that coaches remain in the coach's box marked at the center of the field (mid-field circle if not marked). Spectators should remain near the center of the field and are not permitted in the areas directly behind the goals.
14. You DO NOT have authority to override a referee's decision or interfere in the game play.

15. Please make periodic stops by the restroom facilities to curb any attempts at vandalism. Also, check the toilet paper in each restroom. If necessary, refill toilet paper. Extra toilet paper is located in the BMOD shed (adjacent to the Concession Stand).
16. At the end of your shift, return the field marshal vest to the referee room. Check out with the Board Member on Duty.

#### **V. Missing Child Procedure**

1. The field marshal who is notified of the missing child should notify the board member in charge.
2. The board member in charge should confirm that there is a missing child with a reliable source. Please obtain important information that would help locate the child such as gender, race, height, weight, hair and eye color and clothing that the child was wearing at the time of disappearance. Obtain a picture of the child, if possible.
3. The board member in charge should have a field marshal lock the front gate while another contacts the police by dialing 911. Again, relay all, important information to the police.
4. The board member in charge should begin organizing a search of the Mansfield Sports Complex starting at the concession stand then fanning out to the baseball fields, playground, other games, parking lot and wooded areas. Enlist the help of other board members and coaches at the Mansfield Sports Complex to cover the area quickly.
5. Allow only the police inside the Mansfield Sports Complex to take over the operation and continue to be of service as requested by the Police Department. Allow no one out of the complex until directed to do so by the board member in charge or the Police Department.

#### **VI. Lightning Detection Policy and Procedure**

##### THORGUARD ADVANCED WEATHER WARNING SYSTEM: A Lightning Prediction System

Mansfield Soccer Association (MSA) has invested in an early warning severe weather prediction system by purchasing and having the systems installed at the Hardy Allmon Soccer Complex and the Mansfield Sports Complex. The systems were purchased and installed by Mansfield Soccer Association and dedicated to the City of Mansfield for the continued care and maintenance by the City for the safety and protection of the youth and adult players, coaches, fans, spectators and members of the community.

The systems, through electrostatic sensors and basic computer models, automatically measures changes in electrostatic fields, both activity and intensity, and atmospheric conditions. These measurements of conditions are used to predict the probability and likelihood of the occurrence of lightning strikes, before lightning actually occurs, as a storm or weather condition approaches.

The systems sound three (3) short blasts of its horn warning of danger, while a strobe light flashes throughout the period of danger. When the threat of severe weather clears, the horn sounds a single long blast of the alarm and the strobe light turns off.

When the systems alert of eminent danger, MSA Officers, Board Members in Charge, Field Marshals and Referees are instructed to suspend all soccer matches and activities, while recording time and circumstances within the match at the time of suspension to facilitate the ultimate restart of the match when weather conditions allow. All players, coaches, fans, spectators and guests are to be sent from the fields to their cars for protection from the severe weather. If within a reasonable time the weather systems do not clear and the ultimate field conditions do not allow for restart of play, a MSA Board Member will cancel and terminate all remaining matches until conditions are acceptable to commence play. The MSA Board will ultimately determine dates and times of all cancelled and terminated matches to be re-scheduled.

If weather and field conditions permit resumption of play after the ThorGuard systems signal an all-clear, all players, coaches, fans, spectators and guests will be summoned from their vehicles for the soccer matches to resume from the point in time of their suspension of play.

## **VII. Practice Fields Policy and Procedure**

There are 2 city parks in Mansfield that are contracted by MSA to be used for practice fields. They are:

Philip Thompson Practice Complex  
1701 N. Holland

Hardy Allmon Practice Complex  
Walnut Creek Drive at Magnolia Street  
2 U12 & Up fields

Additionally, each season the city will designate or allocate certain schools as soccer practice locations to be used by MSA.

It is the coach's responsibility to know if fields are closed. The rain out line (817-592-6393) is updated on weekdays around 3:30 p.m. **If the practice fields are closed, teams are prohibited from practicing on them.** If fields are closed and a team practices the team is subject to a \$50 fine and shall forfeit the game immediately following the practice. The team shall not be allowed to participate in games until the fine is paid. These games will not be made up.

### Procedure for Distributing the Practice Slots

Practice times and fields are distributed at the Coaches Meeting, which is held before each season starts. It is the responsibility of the commissioner of each age group and the coaches to get each team signed up and then to forward that schedule to whomever is in charge of the website. All teams will receive one practice a week. If there are enough available spots for a second practice, the commissioner will then distribute a second practice time.

During the off-season, the City of Mansfield should be contacted directly for use of these fields.

## **VIII. Competitive Teams Registering with MSA Policy and Procedure**

Competitive teams/clubs are not limited geographically or otherwise and may choose a home association to be registered in. Other than Mansfield Revolution, MSA has no duty to register any specific competitive team or club.

Allowing or disallowing a competitive team or club to register using MSA as their home association is the decision of the Executive Board. At team or club that was rostered previously with MSA may be denied registration for any reason or for no reason.

Once a team or club has registered using MSA as their Home Association, an Appeals & Disciplinary hearing will be required to suspend a player, coach, or manager during that soccer year.

Registering using MSA as the home association for one soccer year does not guarantee acceptance by MSA for subsequent years. MSA has no duty to register a team or club upon the completion of the current soccer year. MSA will notify the team or club of their intention not to be the home association in a timely manner so that the team or club may seek an alternative association.

If MSA chooses not to be the home association for a team or club, MSA will provide releases for players and/or coaches if required.

What you need to register "HOME" Association in Mansfield:

- Club Fact Sheet
- Club Bylaws
- Fees - \$300 administrative fee
  - \$25 for each player
  - \$5 for each coach, assistant coach and manager.
- Birth Certificate for each player
- USYSA Registration form for each player – the name on the form MUST match the name on the Birth Certificate or sufficient documentation must be presented to indicate otherwise.
- North Texas Roster – only players that you have USYSA Registration forms and birth certificates for can be on the roster.
- Blank NTSSA roster forms are available on the NTSSA website.
- Risk Management forms and a copy of the Drivers License for each Coach, Assistant Coach, and Team Manager on the roster (these must be submitted with each team he/she coaches or manages, names must be the same as on the Driver's License)

Teams are responsible for all other cost, not MSA.

Teams must conform to MSA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

## **IX. Accepting Already Formed Teams Policy and Procedure**

1. MSA will not accept any pre-formed teams from any NTSSA association unless the following criteria have been met and approved by the Executive Board:

- A. Previous season NTSSA roster must be presented proving all players were on the team.
2. MSA will not accept any pre-formed teams from an association other than NTSSA such as the YMCA, etc. unless the following criteria has been met and approved by the Executive Board:
- A. Previous season roster must be presented proving all players were on the team.
  - B. The teams must be U11 or older.
  - C. No player may have been rostered on a NTSSA team prior to this.

Any additional players needed to fill roster will be assigned using the lottery placement from the MSA pool per MSA and NTSSA bylaws.