

**WAXAHACHIE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

UPDATED: 2023

**1. GENERAL GAME RULES**

**1.1. Home Team**

- 1.1.1. Listed first on the schedule
- 1.1.2. Responsible for changing jerseys if there is a color conflict.
  - 1.1.2.1 Each team must have numbered alternate jerseys/t-shirts available. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed to re-enter until the player's equipment has been corrected.
- 1.1.3. Will occupy either the North or West side of the playing field.
- 1.1.4. Will provide an adequate game ball.

**1.2. Game Length**

- 1.2.1. Teams will play Mini-Games in preliminary games (except for 8U and younger).
  - 1.2.1.1. Semi-Final and Final games will be full length
- 1.2.2. Halftime will be five minutes

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Mini-Game Length</u>	<u>Full Game Length</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Players to Start</u>
6U	4V4		8 min. Quarters Three 2 minute breaks	3	3
7U-8U	4V4		10 min. Quarters Three 2 minute breaks	3	3
9U-10U	7V7	20 min. Halves	25 min. Halves	4	5
11U-12U	9V9	25 min. Halves	30 min. Halves	4	7
13U-14U	11v11	30 min. Halves	35 min. Halves	5	7
15U & above	11v11	30 min. Halves	40 min. Halves	5	7

**1.3. Substitutions**

- 1.3.1. There will be free substitution, with the referee's consent, at the following times;
  - 1.3.1.1. A player receiving a yellow card (the player carded only)
  - 1.3.1.2. Prior to a throw-in for the team in possession only
  - 1.3.1.3. Prior to a goal kick
  - 1.3.1.4. After a goal by either team
  - 1.3.1.5. After an injury, when the referee stops the play
  - 1.3.1.6. At half-time by either team (or between quarters in 6U-8U)
  - 1.3.1.7. In case of extreme heat, at the referee's discretion
- 1.3.2. All players MUST play a *minimum* of 50% of each game unless they are under a disciplinary sanction as outlined in the NTSSA playing rules or as outlined in these rules. The referee must be made aware of all disciplinary sanctions for players who will not play the minimum game time before the game begins. Any team who fails to meet this requirement may be forced to forfeit any games where this rule was violated.

**1.4. Special Rules for 6U-8U**

- 1.4.1. There will be no goal tenders allowed. If a player uses their hands, an indirect free kick will be awarded.

- 1.5. All referee decisions are final. No protests will be allowed, except for ineligible players.
- 1.6. The Tournament Director, or his/her designee, is empowered to make all decisions regarding the competition during the tournament. The decision of the Tournament Director is final in all matters. No appeals will be allowed beyond that point.
- 1.7. In the event the referee or linesman is missing from the field, report immediately to tournament staff
- 1.8. If a game is played into the second half but is stopped short of full time, other than by acts on the part of one of the teams, the game shall be considered complete.
- 1.9. Full length games, if tied will be determined by the tie-breaker procedures as outlined in 2.3.2.

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## 2. ADVANCEMENTS

### 2.1. Bracketing

2.1.1. See Bracketing Guidelines

### 2.2. Points

2.2.1. NTSSA scoring system for mini-games will be as follows

2.2.1.1. WIN: six points

2.2.1.2. TIE: three points

2.2.1.3. LOSS: zero points

2.2.1.4. One point awarded per goal scored in each game, maximum of three

2.2.1.5. Forfeit games will be scored 3-0 win in calculating mini game points

### 2.3. Tie-Breakers

2.3.1. Preliminary games may end in a TIE

2.3.2. If Semi-Final or Final games end in a TIE, two 10 minute overtime halves will be played, and if the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, kicks from the penalty spot will be taken to determine the winner.

2.3.3. If two or more teams are tied in points after their mini-games are completed, the following tie-breaker procedures will be used to determine the team advancing:

2.3.3.1. Head to head game results- winner will advance.

2.3.3.2. Most number of shutouts - team with most shutouts will advance.

2.3.3.3. Goal differential- team with highest goal differential against opponents (goals scored team in any game- maximum of 5) will advance. Only the first three goals scored by any team in any game will be counted in calculating advancement.

2.3.3.4. Fewest goals allowed - team with fewest goals allowed will advance.

2.3.3.5. Fewest accumulation of caution points, 1 point for yellow and 2 points for red.

2.3.3.6. Kicks from the mark.

## 3. FORFEITS AND SEND-OFFS

### 3.1. Forfeits

3.1.1. A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team is not ready to play at the published time within five minutes of the mini-games and within ten minutes of the full-length games. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five minutes of the referee's designation.

3.1.2. A game shall be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director or tournament committee if an ineligible player participates in a game or if a violation of the playing rules occurs.

### 3.2. Send-Offs

3.2.1. Any send-offs should be reported to the tournament committee immediately following the game.

3.2.2. Any player or coach sent-off shall automatically sit out the next played tournament game.

3.2.2.1. If the send-off was for fighting, or if it is the player's second tournament send-off, the player will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament.

3.2.3. Any player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in the tournament must sit out the next played tournament game.

3.2.4. The NTSSA Cup & Games A&D Committee has the right to hold a hearing and increase the suspension at its' discretion.

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**4. WEATHER**

- 4.1. In the event of inclement weather, format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the tournament committee.
- 4.2. In case of rain- **HARD RAIN, NOT A SPRINKLE**- call the rainout line (972-938-5719) and/or visit the website before you leave for the game.
- 4.3. If inclement weather cancels the tournament prior to the completion of the first scheduled game of the tournament, a maximum of 50% of the team's entry fee will be retained by the tournament to cover start-up costs of the tournament.

**5. REFEREE ABUSE**

- 5.1. The Waxahachie Soccer Association has a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** for referee abuse. Any issues with referees' are to be addressed with tournament staff only. **Do NOT approach the referee.** All allegations of referee abuse will be reported to the North Texas State Soccer Association.