

EDINBURG YOUTH SOCCER CLUB
A DIVISION OF RIO VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
August 3, 2007

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BY-LAWS

August 3, 2007

BY-LAW 1. THE CLUB

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name shall be the Edinburg Youth Soccer Club (EYSC), (hereinafter called "the Club"). The Club is organized as a division of the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association, a Texas non-profit 501 C (3) corporation.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Club shall teach good sportsmanship, promote physical health, and develop, govern and promote the game of soccer among youth players within the area of jurisdiction of the Club. In furtherance of these purposes and objectives, the Club shall sponsor, organize, and govern regularly scheduled games among its members and shall be affiliated with the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (RVYSA), South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA), and the United States Youth Soccer(USYS). The principles governing competition among the teams shall include development of physical fitness, mental alertness, leadership and good sportsmanship; permitting all players who faithfully attend and adhere to team rules to have a maximum participation in team competition; recognition that the courtesy, good conduct and respect for constituted authority by players, officials, and spectators.

ARTICLE III. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

The Club's territory shall include the City of Edinburg, a portion of area surrounding Hidalgo County in the Southern Tip of Texas.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Club shall be made up of member teams (hereinafter called teams). Each sanctioned team is entitled to one voting seat in the general meetings.

**ARTICLE V. ELECTED OFFICERS, CLUB APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES,
DUTIES, AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

The officers of the Club shall be the President, Vice-President, Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sponsorship Coordinator. These officers shall be known as the Executive Committee and are authorized to represent the Club between meetings of the Club.

The President, Registrar, and Secretary shall be elected at a Club meeting held in November and will assume duties on the first day of December. The Vice-President, Treasurer, and Sponsorship Coordinator shall be elected at a Club meeting held in August and assume duties on the first day of September. Elections are covered in Article VI.

SECTION A. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT- The President shall be the general manager of the Club and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. appoint such committees as may be required for the proper operation of the Club, subject to approval by the members, including the Disciplinary-Protest Committee, the Nominating Committee, and Referee Coordinator,
2. shall be the representative to the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association, Inc.,
3. shall submit an annual report on the operation of the Club at the November meeting of the Club.

SECTION B. DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President with the same powers and authority and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall represent the Club at all RVYSA meetings in case of the unavailability of the President,
2. be responsible for coordinating the schedules,
3. be responsible for coordinating the use of the facilities, nets, and other equipment,
4. shall be the liaison between the Club and the Parks and Recreation Department,
5. shall inspect the playing fields and advise of acceptability or deficiencies to the satisfaction of the Club,
6. shall be the official scorekeeper of the club.

SECTION C. DUTIES OF THE REGISTRAR. The Registrar shall be responsible for maintaining records of all Club duly registered players and verification of team structures in compliance with the Club, RVYSA, STYSA and USYS rules, regulations and reporting deadlines.

SECTION D. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY. The Secretary shall:

1. keep the records and minutes of all meetings of the Club, and make any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes before acceptance by the Club,
2. have available the minutes of the previous meeting at the next regular meeting,
3. maintain a complete set of the minutes of each meeting as part of the Club's records, and have general custody of the records,
4. make available a copy of the minutes, upon request and payment of a reasonable fee, to any interested party,
5. give written notice and/or via electronic mail of all regular Club meetings to all coaches and officers of the Club at least seven (7) days and not more than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting,
6. be responsible for distributing a copy of the By-Laws to each new coach or By-Laws changes to existing coaches.

SECTION E. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER. The Treasurer shall:

1. receive and account for all the funds of the Club which shall be kept in a bank designated by the Club,
2. disburse funds at the direction of the Club or as authorized by the Executive Committee,
3. present reports of current finances at the Club's regular meetings, consisting of:
 - a. bank balances,
 - b. money received and spent per category,
 - c. a copy of the bank reconciliation,
 - d. a report on any fundraisers.
4. submit a copy of the monthly bank statement to RVYSA,
5. prepare an annual report at the July meeting.

SECTION F. DUTIES OF THE SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR. The Sponsorship Coordinator shall:

1. be responsible for aiding the solicitation sponsorship donations for the benefit of the member teams,
2. may appoint other individuals as needed to carry out his/her duties of solicitation,
3. will render all donations received to be disbursed to member teams,
4. coordinate all fundraisers,
5. maintain an updated list of all Club sponsors and their donations.

SECTION G. DUTIES OF TEAM REPRESENTATIVE. The team representative shall be the coach or his designee. A team registration form, stating the team representative and the alternate team representative shall be filed with the Secretary and may be cancelled by the coach at any time.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS AND VOTING

SECTION A. VOTING. Voting shall be by member teams with each team having one vote. A team shall vote through its team representative. At the request of any member team, voting shall be by written secret ballot. In case of a secret ballot, the Executive Committee shall collect, tabulate and report results of the balloting. All officer elections shall be by secret ballot if there are two (2) or more nominees for an office.

SECTION B. NOMINATIONS.

1. The President shall appoint a nominating committee two months prior to elections to seek out qualified candidates for offices for the coming year. Each member team shall have the right to nominate candidates for any office. The nominating committee shall have the duty to ascertain from each nominee that if elected, he shall be willing to serve. The nominating committee shall have at least one nominee per office no less than two weeks prior to elections.

2. Nominations from the floor may be made during the elections with the provision that persons nominated from the floor shall be present and affirm their willingness to serve if elected, or such persons shall have such nominee's intention in writing and this intention shall be presented to the President at the time the nomination is made.

SECTION C. FILLING OF VACANCIES

1. When vacancies occur in any of the offices of the Club except the office of the President, the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy temporarily until the next general meeting at which time the teams shall vote to fill the vacancy.

2. When the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President, and the vacancy for Vice-President shall be filled as above.

SECTION D. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS. An officer of the Club may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds of the total representative votes of the member teams (not two-thirds of a quorum).

ARTICLE VII. FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITY

1. The Club shall exercise the functions set forth in the By-Laws and shall have such authority as is set forth in the By-Laws.

2. The Club shall be the parent organization for the member teams. The Club shall establish the requirement for membership in the Club, admit new teams to the Club and assist its members or other groups wishing to become soccer teams.

3. The Club shall provide an umbrella for member teams in meeting requirements for tax-exempt status (IRS) and for obtaining exempt status for Texas sales tax purchases.

4. The Club shall coordinate the scheduling of Division III and Division IV regular season play, make-up games, or replay of disputed games. The Club in conjunction with the Association shall coordinate Division I, Division SII and Division II games.

5. Competition and exhibition play with teams outside the Club shall be arranged through the Club. The member teams may arrange competition, exhibition, or practice games with teams within the Club so long as such games do not interfere or impact sanctioned Club events.

6. The Club shall register all players with the Club and provide for any higher level of registration at association, district, state, or national levels by the appropriate deadlines.

7. The Club shall assist any member teams in dispute with clubs or teams from other clubs on advisement from RVYSA.

8. The Club shall have the authority to levy fees on member teams.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

SECTION A. REGULAR MEETINGS. Regular club meetings shall be held at a regular time and place on a monthly basis.

SECTION B. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS. Executive Board meetings will be held at a minimum of every other month.

SECTION C. SPECIAL MEETINGS. The President shall call a special meeting upon the written request of not less than one-half of the member teams. The special meeting shall take up only the specified business for which the meeting is called. The President may call special meetings at his discretion. Notification must be given no less than 48 hours prior to all special meetings.

SECTION D. QUORUM REQUIREMENT. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum at general meetings. A majority of votes represented shall decide all questions except those involving amendments to the By-Laws, which are stipulated in Article 10.

SECTION E. MINUTES. Minutes shall be taken of all regular club, executive board or special meetings. (See By-Law 1, Article 5, Section D.)

SECTION F. ORDER OF BUSINESS. The normal order of regular business meetings shall be as follows, unless a change is moved and approved by the members:

- Roll call of teams
- Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
- Communications Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Delegate's reports
- Special reports
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

SECTION G. ATTENDANCE AT CLUB MEETINGS. The team coach or his designated representative, and Club officers are expected to be in attendance at all regular Club meetings.

The Club Officer's tenure will be terminated if they miss three (3) consecutive regular club meetings.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

SECTION A. ASSESSMENTS OF TEAM MEMBERS. The Club shall have authority to determine appropriate assessments on team members to permit the Club to carry out its functions. Assessments will cover **such** items as:

1. RVYSA, STYSA, and USYSA fees for players,
2. office expenses,
3. publicity, and public relations expenses for promotion of soccer and club activities,
4. any equipment required by the Club,
5. trophies and awards,
6. liability insurance for officers, coaches and officials of the Club.

Unless otherwise stated, assessments shall be on a number of registered players basis. The Club assessments shall be determined by the Club prior to registration and collected at time of registration and due when the registrations are presented to the Club.

SECTION B. BONDING OF CLUB OFFICERS. Officers of the Club who are authorized to collect and disburse Club funds may be bonded. Such bonding may be at the request of the individual or the Club and shall be done at the Club's expense. The amount of the bond shall be the largest amount in the Club treasury during the prior year.

SECTION C. FISCAL YEAR AND AUDIT. The fiscal year shall run from July 1 through June 30. An in-house audit shall be conducted of the accounts and of the funds of the club at least once a year to be completed at the end of the fiscal year. A report of the audit shall be given to the general members at the next general meeting. The audit shall be conducted by a committee of three (3) people appointed by the, President. The club is required to file a federal tax return at the end of its fiscal year and provide a copy to the Association.

ARTICLE X. AMENDING OF THE BY-LAWS

The By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by two-thirds majority of the total representative votes of the member teams (not a two-thirds quorum) provided that each team has received written notice of the proposed changes fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLVING OF THE CLUB

In the event that EYSC ceases to function or dissolves and after paying or making the provisions for payment of all just liabilities, the Executive Committee shall transfer all of the net assets to any successor organization which has similar purposes as specified in this By-Laws. That is provided, however, that such successor organization qualifies under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any corresponding provision). Should no successor organization exist, the net assets shall be distributed to RVYSA provided RVYSA qualifies under Section 501 (c) (3). If RVYSA does not exist or does not qualify, then the Executive Committee may distribute the net assets to STYSA, so long as the organization qualifies under Section 501 (c) (3).

BY-LAW 2. MEMBER TEAMS

This part describes the requirements for member teams in the Club, their functions and responsibilities.

ARTICLE I. REQUIREMENTS FOR TEAM

SECTION A. NAME. Each team shall adopt an official name and register this name with the Club. Names of teams shall be sufficiently different from the Club's name and other team names in the same age group to preclude confusion.

SECTION B. AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY CLUB BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. Each team, player, officer and coach shall abide by club By-Laws, rules, policies, regulations, and schedules in effect at the time of application for membership or as subsequently adopted by the Club, RVYSA and/or STYSA.

ARTICLE II. FUNCTIONS OF MEMBER TEAMS

Each member team shall exercise the following functions:

SECTION A. REGISTERED PLAYERS ONLY. Players within the Club area will be registered with the Club on a form approved by the Club. Players must be duly registered with the Club and in good standing to participate in any Club sponsored competition.

SECTION B. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS. Each member team is expected to maintain and promote good sportsmanship and good conduct at its games. Where possible, the team should designate spectator areas for games.

SECTION C. UNIFORMS AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT. Each coach shall make sure that teams are in minimum uniform as specified by the Club. If the club issues uniforms, the teams must wear the league uniform whenever the club and/or Rio Valley sanction the competition unless there is a color conflict whereas the designated home team is required to change.

SECTION D. THAN PROMOTIONS, SPONSORSHIP, AND FUND RAISING PROJECTS. Each member team may engage in promotions, solicit sponsorships for teams, and conduct fund raising projects with the prior approval of the Sponsorship Coordinator. Each team shall report to the Sponsorship Coordinator all funds received and shall use the funds received only for purposes authorized for tax-exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue code.

BY-LAW 3. PLAYER REGULATIONS

The Club shall adopt and publish such regulations for players as may be required by RVYSA, STYSA, or USYSA, and the needs of the Club to operate an orderly soccer program.

ARTICLE I. AGE LIMITS

Age divisions shall comprise players who are, as of July 31st of the previous soccer year:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Age Division</u>
18	- Under 19 years of age	(A)
17	- Under 18 years of age	(B)
16	- Under 17 years of age	(C)
15	- Under 16 years of age	(D)
14	- Under 15 years of age	(E)
13	- Under 14 years of age	(F)
12	- Under 13 years of age	(G)
11	- Under 12 years of age	(H)
10	- Under 11 years of age	(I)
9	- Under 10 years of age	(J)
8	- Under 9 years of age	(K)
7	- Under 8 years of age	(L)
6	- Under 7 years of age	(M)
5	- Under 6 years of age	(N)
4	- Under 5 years of age	(O)

ARTICLE II. PROOF OF AGE

Each player shall furnish proof of age at the time of his first registration with the club each soccer year. Acceptable proof of age is official birth certificate, passport, or Alien Registration Card. Where none of these are appropriate, the individual case shall be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.

ARTICLE III. PLAYER TRANSFER AND RELEASE

Any player signing a player registration form is bound to the team to which he is assigned by the Executive Committee for the entire season, unless there is a case of extreme hardship, (i.e. moving out of area). However, all requests for transfers shall be submitted to the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association in writing stating the reason for the request for transfer. The player transfer and/or player release forms will be reviewed and only after transfer approval may the player participate with the new team. All transfers, adds or release must comply with STYSA Rules.

BY-LAW 4. RULES OF COMPETITION

ARTICLE I. RULES.

SECTION A. The Club shall adopt rules of competition for the Club level play and the same published as Regulations of the Club. These rules may be amended, changed or repealed by a majority of the votes in attendance at a club meeting provided each team has been mailed (first class mail through the U. S. Post Office, at the last known mailing address of the team coach or team representative) written notice of the proposed change(s) at least fourteen (14) days prior to the club meeting.

SECTION B. If any of these rules are found to be in conflict with rules or procedures of RVYSA or STYSA, then the appropriate STYSA rule(s) and procedure(s) will prevail in resolving the question or matter at hand.

ARTICLE II. DISCIPLINARY AND PROTEST PROCEDURES

The purpose of the Discipline, Protest and Grievance Procedures is to promote and insure uniformity and consistency in the application of the rules and procedures of EYSC, RVYSA, STYSA, and USYS.

SECTION A. DISCIPLINARY AND PROTEST COMMITTEE. The Disciplinary and Protest (D & P) Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members who are well versed on the rules to include an officer of the Club who will be the Chairperson. Decisions of a majority of the Committee shall be the decision of the committee. The President shall appoint the members of this committee at the December meeting. The D & P Committee shall:

1. rule on all disciplinary actions within seven (7) days of receiving the protest, grievance, or appeal,
2. has the right to call any or all interested parties to their hearing for testimony or they may ask for written statements in advance,
3. have a minimum of three members of the Committee present for a quorum,
4. the Chairman will preside but does not have a vote unless there is a tie.

SECTION B. LINE OF JURISDICTION.

(1) The line of jurisdiction on protest or appeal, except in the instance of assault or abuse of a referee, shall be as follows:

- a. Local club or Member association
- b. STYSA D & P Committee, then
- c. STYSA Executive Committee only in disputes between Member Associations or their member clubs, then
- d. USSF National Appeals Committee.

(2) All decisions at all levels of the appeal/protest process shall stand and be in full force and effect until changed by a higher authority and communicated to all of the affected parties in writing.

(3) Assault of Referee, the line of jurisdiction shall be referred to the STYSA Appeals Committee.

(4) Abuse of Referee, the line of jurisdiction shall be the Member Association or the STYSA Appeals Committee.

(5) If the Club fails to reach within 15 days of receipt of the written appeal/protest, the party filing the appeal/protest may submit the appeal/protest to RVYSA with no additional fee.

SECTION C. PROTEST PROCEDURES.

(1) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest shall:

- a. be filed in writing with the appropriate fee (\$50), to the President and copied to the Secretary,
- b. the Chairperson of the D & P Committee shall immediately upon receipt of the protest, notify the team against which the protest is made, and shall send a copy of the protest and all of the particulars,
- c. a plea of ignorance of the rules shall not be sufficient grounds for appeals or protests.
- d. A game cannot be protested on a referee's judgment call.

(2) Information to be submitted by Appellant:

- a. Date of the occurrence in question,
- b. List of all parties involved including their names, addresses and telephone numbers and other identification. Parties shall include:
 - 1. Both coaches
 - 2. Assistant coaches
 - 3. Referees and linespersons
 - 4. Any player involved in the matter protested
 - 5. Any witnesses
- c. A short plain statement of the matter protested setting forth the specific law or rule involved in the protest,
- d. Action that Appellant desires EYSC to take.

SECTION D. APPEAL PROCEDURES.

(1) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each appeal shall follow these procedures:

- a. shall be submitted in writing to the STYSA as per guidelines established and in place within ten (10) business days of the receipt date of the original decision rendered by the lower authority.
- b. Appeal procedures are defined in the STYSA Administration Manual www.stxsoccer.org

SECTION E. FEES FOR APPEALS AND PROTESTS. The Appellant will incur fees for all appeals, protests, and hearings.

ARTICLE III. REFEREES

The Club shall contract for referees' services. Rules and regulations pertinent to referees and officials shall be published as Regulations of the Club.

ARTICLE IV. PLAYING FIELDS

The Club shall adopt standards for playing fields for the various divisions prior to the start of season play. Sizes of field and goals and marking of fields shall be included in the Regulations and Policies.

ARTICLE V. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Prior to the start of the regular season, the Club shall include in its rules of competition, procedures for determining the championships of each age division of play. These procedures shall address breaking of ties in season standings.

In the Under 5 through Under 8 Age Groups, no standings (win and losses) will be maintained; no trophies or awards will be given except for participation and/or sportsmanship.

PART B

(To Be Complete By D & P Committee)

Date appeal was delivered to President: _____
(Appealing party must be able to document and prove timely filing)

	YES	NO	N/A	INITIAL
1. Proper fee submitted	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Appeal filed on time	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Part A completed	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other information deemed necessary by D & P Committee:

Decision of D & P Committee:

Committee Members: _____

D & P Chairperson: _____
Printed Name Signature

Date

GRIEVANCE/PROTEST/APPEAL FORM

FORM GPA-1

Part A of this form and the information requested on it is to be completed by the appealing party and delivered by appropriate means to the President prior to any further administrative action.

Part B of this form is to be completed by the appropriate D & P representative.

PART A

(To Be Completed by Appealing Party)

Date of grievance/protest/appeal (circle one): _____

Date(s) of situation being appealed: _____

Location: City: _____ **Field:** _____

Time: _____ **Age Level:** _____ **Division:** _____

Responsible: Association: _____ **Club:** _____

Protesting Team: Name: _____ **Coach:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Nos.: (W) (_____) _____

(H) (_____) _____

Signature of Coach: _____

Date: _____

Opposing Team: Name: _____ **Coach:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Nos.: (W) (_____) _____

(H) (_____) _____

Referee: Name: _____ **Coach:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Nos.: (W) (_____) _____

(H) (_____) _____

Description of Grievance/Protest/Appeal: (use addition sheets if necessary):

REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

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REGULATION 1. PLAYING YEAR

The soccer year will run from September 1 through August 31.

REGULATION 2. PLAYING ABOVE NORMAL AGE GROUP

Players are assigned to the youngest appropriate age team. Younger players may play in the next higher age group, although each coach, parents and player should be sure the player concerned is both physically and emotionally able to play with other players as much as 3 years his senior. A player cannot play in a younger age group. If a player chooses to "play-up", he or she cannot return to the correct age group within that season without permission of the Club, except as guest player in tournaments. The Club does not encourage "playing-up" and the parents and coach must sign a waiver/permission form, Form R-1, and have on file.

REGULATION 3. TEAM ROSTERS

No boy or girl may be added to a team roster when there are less than four (2) regularly scheduled league games left to play. Each team roster must contain a minimum of seven (7) players and no more than eighteen (18) players, except as modified for Under 5 through Under 10 Age Groups, by rules of RVYSA, STYSA, or USYSA.

REGULATION 4. PLAYING OF UNREGISTERED OR INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Any team known to have played an unregistered or ineligible player will forfeit all games in which that particular player participated, player being defined as suited-up and available to play, even if he/she did not actually play. The coach will also be subject to disciplinary action by the D & P Committee.

REGULATION 5. PLAYOFFS

Playoffs may be required:

- a. To determine a champion between teams
- b. To assist in selection of Club entries into external competitions (see Regulation 6).

The format of each playoff competition will be determined by the Executive committee and presented to the club for approval.

REGULATION 6. EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Immediately following the Club Fall season, teams will be allowed to participate in Club supported external competition, (i.e. RVYSA and STYSA Fall or Spring playoffs), for which their season's performance qualifies them. During the Club season, or after, teams shall be permitted to participate in invitational tournaments sanctioned by the STYSA, or USYSA.

If attendance at such a tournament requires the rescheduling of a game scheduled by the Club, the coaches shall reschedule the game by agreement or if they cannot agree, the Vice-President shall reschedule.

A player may play as a guest player on another duly registered team in any invitational tournament sanctioned by STYSA or USYSA, as long as his primary team or league team is not playing during the weekend or days of the tournament.

REGULATION 7. GAME SCORING FORMS

It is the responsibility of each coach to perform the following:

- a. Prepare a game roster of players on an official club scoring form,
- b. Properly list all his players who play in or are available as substitutes in the game on the scoring form,
- c. Give the official scoring form to the other coach prior to half time of the game, so that he can also properly list all his players who play in, or are available as substitutes for the game,
- d. See that the referee obtains the completed form prior to the end of the game.
- e. The referee will turn the form, which includes the proper score for each team into the official scorer within 48 hours.

REGULATION 8. PLAYER UNIFORMS

Uniforms for players are mandatory and the normal uniform consists of:

- a. identical Jersey or T-shirt
- b. shorts
- c. socks
- d. shoes
- e. shinguards are required
- f. knee pads and elbow pads are permissible
- g. Players may wear warm clothing on cold days provided they wear their Jerseys on the outside.
- h. It is recommended that each player's jersey shall be numbered with at least a six (6) inch high number, except for the goalkeeper, and each player shall wear the same number throughout the game.
- i. In the event the player teams do not have contrasting colors, the home team shall be required to change, if requested by the referee.

REGULATION 9. INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

All teams are required to show up for all Club scheduled games (regular or make-up) at the field and at the time scheduled unless notified prior to game by the Executive Committee. If the game is postponed due to weather, the Vice-President will reschedule the game.

RAIN DURING GAME. Once a game has started, only the referee can decide if the game is to be called off because of the foul weather or possible damage to the playing field. If the game is called off prior to the start of the second half, the game must be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety. If the game has reached the second half, the score will stand as it is at that particular time. THE REFEREE AND/OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS FINAL AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE OR TERMINATE A GAME BECAUSE OF WEATHER AND/OR PLAYING FIELD CONDITIONS.

REGULATION 10. FORFEITS

Any of the following constitutes a game forfeiture:

- a. Fielding an ineligible player or a suspended player.
- b. A suspended coach appearing at the game to coach his team.
- c. Failure to field a team with the minimum players for that age group within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a game according to the referee's watch.
- d. A coach or other responsible adult not present with the team during competition or failure to show up within 15 minutes of the scheduled game starting time.
- e. Any team which receives player ejections on three (3) separate occasions during one game shall forfeit said game. All play will cease with the 3rd ejection and all players will be required to leave the field.

The Club Executive Committee will make a final ruling on all forfeits within their jurisdiction.

REGULATION 11. SUSPENSIONS AND PROBATIONS

The Club Executive Committee shall have final authority on all player/coach suspensions and probations. Coaches may institute their own suspension/probation procedures, but any player who so desires may appeal in writing a suspension/probation by his or her coach to the Club Executive Committee upon deposit of a \$10 fee which will be returned if the appeal is upheld. Any coach enforcing discipline action must advise the disciplined party of his or her right to appeal to the Club Executive Committee. The judgment of the club Executive Committee on matters of suspensions and/or probations can be appealed to RVYSA.

REGULATION 12. MINIMUM PLAY IN CLUB GAMES

The Club requires significant participation in each game by each eligible player who is suited up to play with a minimum of one-half game required, unless player is being disciplined (disciplined player must be noted on game scoring form). Failure to comply with these regulations may result in the coach being brought before the D & P Committee. Actions such as short-term suspension of the coach and/or other appropriate action may be taken.

REGULATION 13. SIDELINE COACHING

Sideline coaching of players on the field during a game shall be permitted to a team from only one side of the playing field along the touchline as marked. The referee or the club may limit excessive coaching. Any verbal abuse or interference continuing after a warning by the referee may at the referee's discretion, stop the game and the outcome of the game be referred to the Executive Committee. Coaches are required to maintain control of their players and the team's fans on the sideline. Coaches may be given warnings and/or ejections for the actions of his team parents.

REGULATION 14. PRACTICES

No team shall hold more than three practices per week. No practice shall exceed 90 minutes in duration. This Regulation does not apply to Division I, Super II and Division II teams. Any registered player may practice with another registered team as long as the player's team is not practicing on that day. No unregistered players may practice with a registered team at any time.

REGULATION 15. REFEREES FOR THE CLUB GAMES

The Club shall furnish qualified referees and negotiate referee fees for all Club level competition. This schedule of fees will be negotiated with the referee's association. This schedule of fees will remain in effect for the post - season tournaments. The Executive Committee shall vote the schedule of fees on.

REGULATION 16. PLAYING RULES

The rules of the Competition for Club play shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game as authorized by the International Football Association for Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, and Under 10, the exceptions contained in Attachment One:

Law 1 - The Field of Play: No exceptions

Law 2 - The Ball

Age Group	Ball Size	Circumference	Weight
Under 11 & 12	#4	25"-26"	11-13 oz.

Law 3 - Number of Players: An ejected player cannot be replaced by a substitute. A minimum number of players for that age group must be present on the field in a game. The minimum number of players are:

U-19, U-18, U-17, U-16, U-15, U-14, U-13, U-12, U-11...	7
U-9 and U-10 ...	4
U-7 and U-8...	2
U-5 and U-6...	2

Substitutions – made with the referees permission

1. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor
2. Prior to a goal-kick, by either team
3. After a goal, by either team
4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play
5. At half-time

A substitute goalkeeper must report to the referee even at half-time. A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the same game.

Law 4 - Players Equipment: Shinguards are mandatory for all matches and practices.

Law 5 - Referees: If the official referee does not appear within 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, a person mutually agreed upon by BOTH coaches may referee the game.

Law 6 - Linesmen: Linesmen are optional. At the referee's request, each team shall supply a club linesman who shall assist the referee by determining out of bounds only.

Law 7 - Duration of Game: The duration of the game shall be as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Regular Play</u>	<u>Overtime if Needed</u>
U-17 thru 19	Two 45 min halves	Two 15 min halves
U-15 and 16	Two 40 min halves	Two 15 min halves
U-13 and 14	Two 35 min halves	Two 10 min halves
U-11 and 12	Two 30 min halves	Two 10 min halves

Law 8 - Start of Play: No exceptions.

Law 9 - Ball in and out of Play: No exceptions.

Law 10 - Method of Scoring: No exceptions.

Law 11 - Off sides: No exceptions.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

1. Charging the goalkeeper when he has possession of the ball (possession being defined as a hand on the ball and having the ball under control) is not permitted for U-14 through Under 9 Age Groups. No goalkeepers are used in the younger ages.
2. Girls will not be penalized for using cross arm blocks to protect themselves as long as the blocks are not used to give the ball positive direction.

Law 13 - Free Kicks: No exceptions.

Law 14 - Penalty Kicks: No exceptions.

Law 15 - Throw-in: No exceptions.

Law 16 - Goal-Kick: No exceptions.

Law 17 - Corner Kick: No exceptions.

REGULATION 17. ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYERS AND COACHES TO TEAMS FOR DIVISION III AND DIVISION IV.

Players who register with the Club shall be assigned teams on the following basis:

1. The **Executive Committee** will conduct a draft to allocate players onto teams at the end of regular fall registration in a manner, which will bring PARITY to the teams and strive for single birth years. Parity is defined as making the teams as equal as possible in player quality and level of competitiveness.
2. Teams are normally formed so that players are placed on the youngest team for which they qualify as of midnight July 31.

3. A player shall be assigned to the team on which his parent is a coach, unless otherwise requested by the parent.
4. A player may stipulate on his registration form that he does not wish to play for a particular coach. **A PLAYER MAY NOT STIPULATE FOR WHICH TEAM HE WISHES TO PLAY.**
5. Players who register after the close of public registration and whose registration is accepted will be assigned as needed by the Club to fill out existing teams or to create new teams.
6. Assign coaches on an annual basis who meet the STYSA Coaching Licensing and Kid Safe Program requirements.
7. Recruiting of players is not allowed except under Regulation 18.

REGULATION 18. DIVISION I, SII AND II TEAMS

The Club recognizes Division I, SII and II levels of competition to be appropriate for the promotion of soccer. Players on these teams will not be assigned under Regulation 17. All other provisions of the Regulations will apply to these teams and players except as changed by Regulation 18.

1. If a player has been assigned to a team under Regulation 18 and that team ceases to be a Division I, SII or II team prior to the first game, the player shall be reassigned under Regulation 18.
2. The coach must request a player to be on his Division I, SII or II team and the player and parent must agree to be on that team before a player is assigned to one of these teams.
3. The Executive Committee reserves the right to approve coach annually and then the team, when Club requirements have been met. The responsibilities of coaching are considered privileges and not an inherited right.
4. Division II teams who are not complete on their rosters by the end of registration shall go to the Club Registrar for assistance on completing the roster.
5. After the end of regular registration, the Club Registrar will first complete, when needed, the rosters of Division I, SII and II teams. No team may recruit any player already registered and assigned to another team during the season.

REGULATION 19. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

Points according to the following formula will determine club standings:

1. 3 points for a win
2. 1 point for a tie
3. 0 points for a loss
4. 3 points for a forfeit

Tie Breaker at the end of a competition or a stage of the competition:

1. Result of Head to Head Competition during the competition or a stage of the competition.
2. Goal Differential with maximum of plus or minus 5 Goals in matches between/among the tied teams.
3. Least goals allowed in matches between/among the tied teams.
4. Total Goals Differential against common opponents in all games with a maximum of plus or minus of 5 per game.
5. Least total goals allowed in all games.
6. FIFA Penalty Kicks.

The tie-breaking rules are to be applied progressively in any case of three (3) or more teams involved in a tie. That is, if three or more teams enter a sequence level tied, the top team will be identified with the tie-breaking progression. If two or more teams remain tied after the initial progression, then the process is to return to the first tiebreaker and begin the tie-breaking process for the tied teams.

REGULATION 20. MODIFIED STYSA RULES FOR UNDER 6, UNDER 8, AND UNDER 10

There shall be three age divisions in which the number of players on the field shall be fewer than that specified in the FIFA Rules: Under-6, Under-8 and Under-10 as modified by the United States Youth Soccer, Inc and govern by STYSA Rules.

Each Association shall have the option to organize an Under-8 program with teams playing either 4 v 4 or 7 v 7 depending on their circumstances and needs. Each Association/league/club may run an Under-8 program with two separate divisions, i.e., one division of 4 v 4, another division of 7 v 7.

Under-5 through Under-8, Clubs may use the Dual Field Method is played on two side-by-side parallel fields with a channel area that separates the fields. The channel is designated as the bench area. During the course of the matches on the two fields, played simultaneously, players may participate in either match. Under-5 and Under-6 participating in the Dual Field Method, the maximum roster size increases to 10 and the maximum roster size for Under-7 and Under-8 is 12.

Number of Players:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 will play with no more than (8) or a minimum of (6) players needed to start the game.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 will play with no more than (4) or a minimum of (2) players needed to start the game.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 will play with no more than (3) or a minimum of (2) players needed to start the game.

Size of Team:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 teams roster maximum of (12) players.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 teams roster maximum of (8) players.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 teams roster maximum of (6) players.

Size of Ball:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 matches will use a Size 4 Ball.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 matches will use a Size 3 Ball.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 matches will use a Size 3 Ball.

Size of Goals:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 goals are 6' high by 18' wide.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 goals are 6' high by 12' wide.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 goals are 4' high by 6' wide.

Size of Fields: Rectangular with the length longer than the width:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 fields are 30 to 50 yards wide by 40 to 60 yards long.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 fields are 25 to 40 yards wide by 35 to 60 yards long.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 fields are 15 to 20 yards wide by 20 to 30 yards long.

Size of Center Circle:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 center circle radius is 8 yards.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 center circle radius is 5 yards.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 center circle radius is 3 yards.

Size of Penalty Area:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 penalty area 12 yards by 25 yards.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 will not have a penalty area.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 will not have a penalty area.

Size of Goal Area:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 goal area is 4 yards by 16 yards.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 goal area is 3 yards from each goal post and 3 yards deep.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 will not use a goal area.

The Penalty Spot:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 penalty spot is 8 yards and perpendicular from the midpoint of the goal line
2. Under-5 and Under-8 no penalty spot is needed. All fouls are classified as in-direct free kicks.

Goal Keeper:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 one player may serve as Goal Keeper.
2. Under-5 and Under-8 there shall be no Goal Keeper.

Length of Games:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 teams play two (25) minute halves with a 5-minute half time.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 teams play four (10) minute quarters with a two-minute break between quarters and a five-minute half time.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 teams play four: The game shall be divided into four eight-minute quarters with a two-minute break between quarters and a five-minute half time.

Substitutions:

1. Under-9 and Under-10, made with the referees permission,
 - a. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor
 - b. Prior to a goal-kick, by either team
 - c. After a goal, by either team
 - d. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play
 - e. At half-time
3. Under-5 through Under-8, made at the end of quarter or half time unless player is injured or requires rest.

Offside:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 the FIFA Offside Rule shall apply.
2. Under-5 and Under-8 there shall be no offside.

Penalties for fouls:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 conform to FIFA Rules.
2. Under-7 and Under-8 all fouls shall be penalized with indirect kicks. From the point of taking an indirect kick or corner kick, opponents shall not be any closer than five (5) yards.
3. Under-5 and Under-6 all fouls shall be penalized with indirect kicks. From the point of taking an indirect kick or corner kick, opponents shall not be any closer than five (3) yards.

Throw-ins and Kick-ins:

1. Under-9 and Under-10 conform to FIFA Rules.
2. Under-5 and Under-8 if there is an infraction, the player throwing the ball in shall receive one additional throw-in after a correcting instruction from the Referee. If the player violates the FIFA throw-in rule on his/her second throw-in, then the opposing team shall be awarded a throw-in.
3. Leagues may elect to play without throw-ins. In such cases, the ball will be returned to play by an indirect kick taken from the touchline where the ball exited the field of play.

DEFINITIONS

ABUSE--is a verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to an individual. It also includes verbal abuse which is threatening, cursing, or demeaning a person or any member of his or her family.

APPEAL--arise as a result of an adverse decision from a protest hearing, administrative action, disciplinary hearing or lower level appeal. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

ASSAULT--shall include but not be limited to threats or actions, which put another person in fear of bodily harm or attacks on a person or his/her property (including a person's equipment and vehicle). It can include raising a clenched fist or holding any object that could be used as a weapon. It shall also include verbal assault, which is verbally threatening, cursing, or abusing a person, or any member of his/her family.

AUTOMATIC and INDEFINITE SUSPENSION--shall mean that a coach, assistant coach, player or team shall not participate in any Club sanctioned or approved activity, tournament or inter-association game. The Club shall confiscate all player I.D. cards of the team members or player(s) suspended, until:

- (1) such person petitions the D & P Committee for a hearing and the committee reinstates; or
- (2) the team petitions the D & P Committee for a hearing and the committee reinstates.

COACH--is an individual who coaches, trains or manages a team either permanently or temporarily. This includes assistant coaches, trainers and managers.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS--result from allegations of misconduct. Such misconduct must be a violation of a published rule, regulation or procedure.

DIVISION I--also known as "Gold" level. This is the top level of players. A competitive, premier team consisting of selected players. Includes Under 11 through Under 19 age divisions.

DIVISION II and SUPER II --also known as "Blue" level. Competitive, select teams in the Under 11 through Under 19 age divisions.

DIVISION III--also known as "Red" level, or "Recreational" level. The Club **assigns** the players to teams and recruiting is not allowed. Includes Under 11 through Under 19 age divisions.

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED) . . .

DIVISION IV--also known as "White" level, or "Recreational" level. The Club **assigns** the players and recruiting is not allowed. Includes Under 5 through Under 10 age divisions.

EDINBURG YOUTH SOCCER CLUB (EYSC)--The local soccer club covering the city of Edinburg, the surrounding areas in Hidalgo County and is located in the Southern Tip of Texas.

ELIGIBLE PLAYER--means a player who has paid the membership fee and is properly registered and rostered to a team and is not suspended.

GRIEVANCE--is any complaint, which is not a protest or an appeal, but in the opinion of the complainant is a violation of EYSC, RVYSA, USYS, or USSF Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules and Procedures or involves members of two different STYSA member clubs or Associations.

PARITY--means making teams as equal in player quality and competitiveness as possible.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE--shall include but not be limited to such things as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing clothing or personal equipment (i.e. cards, whistle, notebook), knocking equipment or other objects out of the hand, throwing any objects at a person or at his/her vehicle, throwing or spewing any beverage or other liquid at or on a person on his/her vehicle.

PROTEST--is related to a specific game and is filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties cannot file protests, on a specific game.

PRIMARY TEAM--means any team playing in competition for STYSA Fall or Spring Championships and/or U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships (USYSNC).

REGISTRATION--means completing and signing a registration form with the intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of STYSA.

RIO VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (RVYSA)--the parent association for member clubs in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy in the Southern Tip of Texas.

RVYSA is a Texas Non-Profit, 501c(3) Tax Exempt Corporation.
www.riovalleysoccer.org

ROSTERING--means assignment of a player to a team

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)---

SEASONAL YEAR--means the year beginning September 1, and ending August 31 of the following calendar year.

SOUTH TEXAS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (STYSA)--the parent soccer Association which controls and represents affiliated member soccer associations and clubs falling within the South Texas area stretches from El Paso on the west across the state to Lufkin in the east and from Temple in the central area of the state to Brownsville in the south.

STYSA is a Texas Not-for-Profit, 501c(3) Tax Exempt Corporation and is an affiliate of United States Youth Soccer (USYS), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and Federation International de Futbol Association (FIFA) whose purposes are charitable, educational and athletic, as defined by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and include the teaching of good sportsmanship, the educating of youth participants and adult sponsors in the fundamentals of soccer; the promotion of soccer through sponsorship of regularly scheduled youth soccer competitions; and by conducting such other activities as STYSA shall deem appropriate.
www.stxsoccer.org

TEAM--means a recognized entity of properly registered and rostered players with at least one registered coach, sponsored by STYSA or a STYSA Local/Club or Member Association and organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.