

Arlington Premier Invitational League



Playing Rules
2017-2018

Arlington Soccer Association

Arlington Premier Invitational League

I. ADMINISTRATION	2
II. MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT OF TEAMS	2
III. STANDINGS—SCORES—MATCH RECORDS	3
IV. DURATION OF THE GAMES	4
V. SUBSTITUTIONS	4
VI. TEAM EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS	5
VII. PAYMENT OF REFEREES	5
VIII. PLAYING SITES	5
IX. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES	6
X. RESCHEDULED GAMES	7
XI. COMPETITIVE LEVEL OF DIVISIONS	7
XII. REFEREE NO SHOWS	7
XIII. ELIGIBILITY	7
A. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS	7
B. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS	7
C. AGE REQUIREMENTS	8
D. ROSTER SIZE	8
XIV. DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT	8
XV. FORFEITS	13
XVI. API LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY	14
A. TEAM ELIGIBILITY	14
B. FALL QUALIFYING GAMES REQUIREMENTS	15
C. AGE GROUP STANDINGS	15
XVII. AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL AND PLAYING RULES	15
XVIII. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE PLAYING RULES	16

Arlington Premier Invitational League

- I. ADMINISTRATION**--The administrative rules of our affiliates listed below apply unless otherwise noted herein.

Federation International de Football Association (FIFA)
United States Soccer Federation (USSF)
United States Youth Soccer Federation (USYSA)
North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA)

II. JURISDICTION

- A. The ASA has the authority to create leagues and to abolish any leagues that it has created. The ASA has jurisdiction over any and all leagues that it has created, including but not limited to all Arlington Recreational Leagues U-4 through U-10, U-11 through U-19 (ASU) Academy Leagues, Competitive Leagues and Adult Leagues.
- B. The ASA has jurisdiction over ASA sanctioned leagues, ASA teams participating in any NTSSA-sanctioned league, and all members and associate members of the ASA. This includes any A&D hearings on any playing rule violations that occur during league play regardless where the game is being played.
- C. No youth or adult league affiliated with NTSSA may be formed or operate within the ASA boundaries, which are the same as the boundaries of the Arlington Independent School District, unless it has been sanctioned by, and has agreed in writing to be responsible to, the ASA. This includes both recreational and competitive leagues.

III. MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT OF TEAMS--Refer to NTSSA Rule, 3.11.5 - Misconduct and Punishment of Teams.

ASA RULE 6.1.5 - The ASA Board of Directors, through majority vote, may deny membership to any coach, player, assistant coach or team manager. Requirements for denial of membership include, but are not limited to, continued rules violations, ethical or moral complaints that are a detriment to the players, violent behavior as reported by a referee or ASA representative, questionable or negative results from the background check.

- A. This league will not hesitate to deny teams the privilege of further participation in all or selected soccer activities within the Arlington Premier Invitational League for repeated offenses and/or serious offenses considered to bring the game or league into disrepute. Such offenses include, but are not limited to:
1. A coach pulling his/her team off the field of play before the referee signals the end of the half or the end of the match.
 2. Any team affiliated individual who displays a threatening bodily harm attitude and/or an article, which, in its form, may be deemed dangerous to a person or persons.

3. See “API Rule XIV. - DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT”
4. Team Coaches and Managers are responsible for the actions of their players, parents and team officials. Club Officials may be held liable for the actions of the teams within their club.

IV. STANDINGS--SCORES--MATCH RECORDS

- A. The Game Roster / Misconduct Report will be provided to the referee by ASA.
 - a. Teams should record their scores into the Got Soccer app within 48 hours after the end of the game.
 - b. Teams should check their Got Soccer standings to verify the scores have been received and are correct. Notify the API Registrar if your score is not recorded correctly.
- B. In case a game is cancelled due to weather, field closure, or like reasons and the team is in possession of their game roster/ misconduct report, it is the HOME teams responsibility to fax the game roster to Arlington Soccer within 72 hours of the game with the reason of the cancellation noted across the form. In case of a forfeit where only one team is present or in cases where the referee has possession of the game roster, the referee will keep the game roster to note the reason for the forfeit and he/she will turn it into ASA . In case of potential inclement weather check the foul weather line before leaving for the fields. If the foul weather line does not advise of any changes on the date of the scheduled game, both teams must arrive at the field ready to begin no later than 15 minutes after scheduled game time.
- C. **STANDINGS:** The Arlington Premier Invitational League shall use a four (4) point system to determine league standings. The ASA Office will periodically post the standings on the website. Points will be awarded in the following manner:

WIN --Three (3) points
TIE -- One (1) point
LOSS -- Zero

(Single forfeits will be recorded as a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team)
- D. **TIE BREAKERS:**
 1. Winner of “Head to Head” competition.
 2. Goal differential, goals scored minus goals scored against (maximum of 5 points goal differential per game).
 3. Most goals scored in season games.
 4. Fewest goals allowed in season games.

5. Team with fewest misconduct cards (only cards accumulated in league play will be considered). Only cards accumulated in API league season play will be used in this calculation.

E. GAME PROTESTS

There are only 2 acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played:

- A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player
- There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of The Game that directly affect the outcome of the match, and the referee admits to the error.

V. DURATION OF THE GAME--The length of games periods are as follows:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>GAME LENGTH</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U-11/12	2 X 30' HALVES	4
U-13/14	2 X 35' HALVES	5
U-15/16	2 X 40' HALVES	5
U-17/19	2 X 45' HALVES	5

VI. SUBSTITUTIONS--In Arlington Premier Invitational League competition, substitutes will be allowed according to the NTSSA Rule 3.14.3.2 – Substitution Rule – Youth.

A. Substitutions shall be unlimited.

B. Substitutions can be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in, for the team in possession (the opposing team may substitute when the team in possession subs)
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal by either team.
4. Half-time.
5. After receiving a caution, that player may be substituted for before play has been restarted. No substitution is allowed for a player ordered from the field of play (ejected) by the referee. No player shall leave the field of play without consent of the referee.
6. After an injury by either team when the referee stops play. (see the USSF Position Paper – Requirements for injured players 2012)
7. At the discretion of the referee.

VII. TEAM EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- A. NETS AND CORNER FLAGS--Each team is responsible providing two (2) corner flags. The teams that are playing the first match on a field may be required to put up a net. The teams playing the last match on a field may be required to take down a net. Teams are responsible for verifying if they are the last match before leaving the field. Any team leaving up a net after instructed to take the net down may be subject to monetary fines and/or sanctions with a possible point deduction from the standings.

All teams playing at locations other than Harold Patterson need to always be prepared to provide one (1) net along with their two (2) corner flags.

- B. GAME BALLS-To provide uniformity and safety, stitched balls only will be used. Each team will present the referee with a ball and the referee will choose which shall be used as the game ball.

C. COACHES AND PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:

1. UNIFORM COLORS: Team jersey colors are home wears white or light and visitors wear dark. Teams unable or unwilling to follow these rules are subject to the game being called a forfeit.
2. UNIFORM NUMBERS: All teams are required to have permanent numbered and corresponding alternate numbered jerseys. Players without numbers will not be allowed on the playing field.

Note: A sleeved shirt of similar color with permanent marker is acceptable

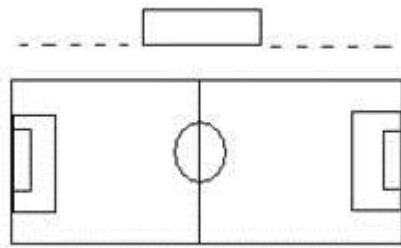
3. All players of a specific Premier team participating in an API League match shall have the same color jersey, the same color shorts, and the same color socks with the exception of the goalkeeper.
4. The goal keeper shall wear colors that distinguish them from the other players and the referee. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the roster.

VIII. PAYMENT OF REFEREES-- Fees will be set by the ASA Board of Directors.

- A. Both teams will be responsible for paying the referees every game. Each team will pay the fee of one assistant referee and ½ (half) the fee of the center referee.
- B. The referees are to be paid prior to the start of each match, in cash, in EXACT change. Failure to do so will subject the offending team to disciplinary action, including a possible forfeit and/or loss of points.
- C. Referees for all API League games must be paid in accordance to the API fee structure & manner described in Rules VII.A and VII.B.

IX. PLAYING SITES

- A. Games will be played at API/ASA approved location as determined by the API and/or the representative of API.
- B. FIELD AVAILABILITY--For any field which is unavailable for an Arlington Premier Invitational League match at the scheduled start time, the scheduled start time shall be deemed "as soon as possible" after the completion of the preceding match and the fifteen (15) minute grace period shall begin as soon as the field becomes available.
- C. PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS-- All coaches, spectators, and players must be located not less than 3 yards from the touch line and not more than 20 yards from the center line. All spectators' chairs shall be no closer to the touchline than the leading poles on the canopy covering the bleacher area (5 yards) Team players and coaches will be required to occupy the sideline opposite of the parent /spectators. Home will occupy north or west end of field



- D. CLEAN UP--Each team must pick up its trash after the game. Any unsightly remains from a Arlington Premier Invitational League team may subject the guilty team to disciplinary action.
- E. On all fields, only the current teams (players and coaches) are allowed on the field (either for warm-ups or the actual game). NO TEAM WARMUP IS PERMITTED INSIDE THE 18 YARD PENALTY AREA OF THE GOALS. There is to be no free play by spectators at any time, including half time or before or after the game, etc. Violations of this rule may result in a fine imposed against the offending team.
- F. All Playing sites are to be approved by the Arlington Premier Invitational League.

X. FOUL WEATHER PROCEDURES--In case of foul or inclement weather, the Arlington Premier Invitational League shall make every effort to ensure that teams and parents do not make unnecessary trips to the fields. However, there will be times when only the referee will be able to make the determination at the fields. In order that we may adopt a fair ruling for all concerned, the following will apply:

- A. Only the API Boys or Girls League Director or his / her assigned agent may cancel games prior to game time.
- B. The referee may only cancel games at the field of play.

- C. Both teams must appear at the field ready to start no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled time unless notified by ASA league officials or via the foul weather hotline. Those teams not in accordance with the above shall be subject to a forfeit, i.e., only one team not ready or showing, single forfeit; two teams not ready or showing, double forfeit. **IF ANY OF THE 15 MINUTE GRACE PERIOD IS USED, THAT TIME WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM EACH HALF IN EVEN AMOUNTS (I.E., 10 MINUTES USED, EACH HALF WILL BE SHORTENED BY 5 MINUTES)**
- D. Games reaching the completion of the first half of regulation play will be considered to be a full game.

XI. RESCHEDULED GAMES--Games will not be rescheduled except for reasons of weather. Exceptions of the policy may be made only by the VP of Competitive, League Coordinator or his/her assigned agent and only under extraordinary circumstances. Written requests stating specific reason(s) for rescheduling must be submitted. Such requests must be received at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled game. If a reschedule request is granted, there will be a \$50.00 fee assessed for the reschedule, payable to Arlington Soccer Association.

XII. COMPETITIVE LEVEL OF DIVISIONS--The Arlington Premier Invitational League will offer divisions in the U11 through U19 age groups.

- A. COMPETITIVE teams will be defined as any team that has had try-outs, or it was the coaches/assistant coaches/team managers' decision as to whether or not a player was assigned or accepted to his/her team.
- B. League Coordinator and Directors will be responsible for the placement of teams in Divisions.

XIII. REFEREE NO SHOWS—In the event of a “referee no show”, the League Director or his/her assigned agent shall do the rescheduling of games.

XIV. ELIGIBILITY--Each team must register through their home association.

A. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

- 1. An eligible player is an individual on a current accepted team's roster, as prescribed by NTSSA. **ONLY PLAYERS ON THE TEAM ROSTER ARE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY WITH THAT TEAM. A PLAYER MAY ONLY BE ON ONE TEAM ROSTER AT A TIME. API DOES NOT ALLOW ANY GUEST PLAYERS DURING QUALIFYING GAMES OR LEAGUE PLAY.**
- 2. All online player information is to be kept current during the soccer year.

B. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

- 1. If it is suspected at any time during a playing season that an ineligible player has participated in a league match, a complaint in writing must be submitted to the

appropriate league official which is the VP of Competitive. It will be the responsibility of the VP of Competitive to determine the validity of the complaint. If the complaint is determined to be valid, the matter will be referred to the A&D Committee for appropriate action.

2. If it is determined that the coach, assistant coach, and/or team manager knowingly played an ineligible player, the team will incur a fine of the maximum forfeit fee and the responsible party(s) may be heretofore disqualified from further activities within the Arlington Premier Invitational League FOR ONE YEAR and a report thereof forwarded to NTSSA.

C. AGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Refer to NTSSA Rule 4.11.1 for specific age requirements
2. A team will be deemed a specific age division based upon the age of the oldest player on the roster.

D. ROSTER SIZE:

Age Group	# of players	Min Roster Size	Max Roster
Under 11	9v9	10	16
Under 12	9v9	10	16
Under 13	11v11	12	18
Under 14	11v11	12	18
Under 15	11v11	12	22
Under 16	11v11	12	22
Under 17	11v11	12	22
Under 19	11v11	12	22

Heading Rule. Players in U11 programs and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. Per U.S. Soccer Referee Program – How the rule should be implemented: “When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.”

XV. DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT--The Arlington Premier Invitational League, in addition to the following, shall follow the guidelines of NTSSA regarding Rule 3.11 - DISCIPLINE, and the misconduct cumulative card system administration thereof.

A. DISCIPLINE

Note: The Sit Out Verification Form (used for any player, coach, manager, or spectator sitting out a game due to disciplinary action) **Must Be filled out completely**

and signed by the referee. For a player that is due to sit out a game and the opposing team does not show (forfeits) and the game is not played due to the forfeit of the opposing team – that player is considered to have fulfilled his/her obligation for that game.

1. Discipline will be rendered as set forth in Appendix B and NTSSA Rule 3.11 - DISCIPLINE.
2. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team, his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for either his or her old and new teams.

Member Associations, Playing leagues and Tournament Officials may institute for players/coaches and assistant coaches additional sanctions as they see appropriate. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Sanctions for misconduct will remain within the competition where they are earned unless the violation happens in the last game of that competition and the Member Association/Player League or Tournament Officials deem that it is serious enough to forward to North Texas A & D for consideration of further sanctions.

3. Yellow Cards A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.

4. Red Cards A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.

- One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. (see section D for additional penalties that may be assessed)

- . API's A&D Committee may elect to reduce a red card to a yellow card if it determines that a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

B. MISCONDUCT OF SPECTATORS

1. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team.
2. Spectators who are dismissed from the sideline of a game must immediately leave the soccer complex. Under **NO** circumstances may a dismissed spectator return to the game field or have any contact with the team until the team members have dispersed and are returning to their vehicles in the parking lot.
3. Unruly spectators may be or cause:
 - a. Suspended from attending future matches.
 - b. The offending team to forfeit any games at which the spectator is present on the touchline.
 - c. The offending team's registration to be revoked and/or be refused registration in the future.

C. MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT OF TEAMS

1. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total number of thirty (30), the Member Association and/or Playing League shall notify the team and the State A & D Committee. The team will be fined \$100 payable to NTSSA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of thirty (30) cards. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear before the Member Association and/or Playing League Disciplinary Committee to explain the team's continued misconduct. If desired, the Member Association and/or Playing League may waive the holding of a local hearing and refer the matter to the State A&D Committee. Failure of the Member Association or Playing League to notify the State A&D Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days of a team's cards totaling thirty (30) will result in a fine of \$100 per week for each week such notice is late. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies
2. Any spectator entering the playing field during league play with the perceived intent of engaging in fighting or retaliation against another player or spectator will be suspended, along with all spectators from that team for a minimum of 2 games.
3. If a game is not complete because of the misconduct clearly traceable to one of the participating teams, its management, or its spectators as determined by the ASA

Appeals and Discipline Committee, the A&D Committee can decide the outcome of the game.

D. GAME SUSPENSION

1. Sanctions for misconduct will remain within the competition where they are earned unless the violation happens in the last game of that competition and the Member Association/Player League or Tournament Officials deem that it is serious enough to forward to North Texas A & D for consideration of further sanctions. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension. All suspensions served must have signed Sit Out Verification Forms on record at the ASA Office as proof of sit out.

If a coach receives one or more game suspensions, that coach may not attend those games.

- a. Coaches - Coaches who receive an ejection or are dismissed from the sideline of a game must immediately leave the soccer complex. Under **NO** circumstances may the coach return to the game field or have any contact with the team until the team members have dispersed and are returning to their vehicles in the parking lot. Additionally, the coach may be required to appear before the A&D Committee, which may assess additional penalties.
 - b. Ejection: An ejection shall require a minimum one game suspension.
2. Players - When ejected from a game, players must immediately leave the soccer complex or go to the picnic pavilion with a parent or responsible adult. Players who receive an ejection may be required to appear before the A&D Committee, which may assess additional penalties.
 3. The minimum punishment for **VIOLENT CONDUCT** is a two (2) game suspension. **EXTREME VIOLENT CONDUCT** is a minimum two (2) game suspension and an automatic A&D review to determine potential additional disciplinary action. **EXTREME VIOLENT CONDUCT** includes but is not limited to fighting.
 4. Misconduct Penalties

A coach, manager, or spectator, who is serving a sit out **may not** be at the soccer complex at which the game being missed is being played, immediately prior to or following the game they are sitting out. Exception: A coach who is serving a sit out for one team may be at the complex to coach a different team of which he/she is coach of record but may have **NO** contact with the team for which the sit out is being served. The use of electronic devices (cell phones, walkie-talkies, etc.) to communicate coaching information during the game would be considered a violation of the sit out and result in additional sit out time being assessed.

Any coach, manager, or spectator who owes a sit out but does not sit out the NEXT game scheduled for his/her team, will automatically receive an additional game sit out. They may also be required to attend a hearing of the A&D Committee, at which time additional sanctions could be assessed including, but not limited to, more missed games and/or games they attended being declared forfeits.

Players who participate in a game that they were to be serving a sit out, will automatically receive an additional game sit out. They may also be required to attend a hearing of the A&D Committee, at which time additional sanctions could be assessed including, but not limited to, more missed games and/or games in which they participated being declared forfeits. To receive credit for their sit out players **MUST turn in a completed "Sit Out Verification Form" with all signatures** A form without all of the appropriate signatures will not be considered valid.

5. COACHES/MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE ALL GAME SUSPENSIONS ARE SERVED IMMEDIATELY AT TEAM'S NEXT SCHEDULED GAME(S). ANY PLAYER FOUND TO HAVE PLAYED WITHOUT SERVING REQUIRED SITOUTS COULD SUFFER SEVERE PENALTIES, AS COULD THEIR TEAM. THESE PENALTIES COULD INCLUDE ADDITIONAL GAMES TO SIT-OUT OR SUSPENSION FROM THE LEAGUE. TEAM PENALTIES COULD INCLUDE COACH OR MANAGER SUSPENSIONS OR EVEN ALL GAMES SAID PLAYER PARTICIPATED IN BEING DECLARED A FORFEIT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TEAM'S MISCONDUCT INFORMATION CALL THE ASA COMPETITIVE OFFICE.

(Coaches or managers are the only people we can give this information to)

6. Any Spectator or Coach sent off during a league game will cause their team to have a \$25.00 dollar fine assessed to their team. **Any team that owes any type of fine to the league must pay the money owed before their next scheduled game unless the next game is within a 72 hour period of the establishment of the fee/fine. Teams owing will have to forfeit all games until the fee/fine is paid. Games will be forfeited 72 hours prior to game time Make checks payable to Arlington Soccer.**

E. COMPLAINTS AGAINST COACHES, PLAYERS, AND/OR SPECTATORS:

Coaches, players, and/or spectators receiving any complaints against them will be reviewed and could be required to go before the A&D Committee or the Ethics Committee. Only signed written complaints will be considered. It will be the prerogative of the A&D Committee to take whatever action they deem appropriate.

F. COACHES AND SPECTATORS.

1. Arlington Premier Invitational League coaches, whether rostered or not, are responsible to good sportsmanship, ethical demeanor, and gentlemanly behavior. Any person wishing to be on the players sideline needs to be rostered to that team or club and must have passed a NTSSA background check.

In extreme circumstances with permission from the league if the above is not available a player parent may be allowed to represent the team on the player sideline.

2. Actions which are deemed to bring the league and/or game into disrepute shall be just cause for a disciplinary hearing.
 3. If a coach is unable to maintain the decorum expected of the sidelines, he/she is to report the difficulty to the BOARD MEMBER ON DUTY. Otherwise, the coach may suffer the inconvenience of appearing before the A&D Committee to answer for the unruly behavior of his/her sidelines.
 4. Any unruly spectator, the coach, and/or team may be subject to disciplinary action as set forth under NTSSA Rule 3.11.4 - "Misconduct of Spectators".
- G. PLAYERS--Misconduct of players shall be dealt with only when reports are submitted to the Arlington Premier Invitational League. The report is usually a referee report, but need not be, nor is misconduct confined only to the field of play.
- H. Any person found guilty of physical violence or personal attack towards an ASA official or employee may be suspended from all soccer activities for a minimum of one year. Note: Stiffer penalties may be imposed by the ASA or North Texas Soccer Association.

XVI. GAME FORFEITS

- A. The "forfeit" rules of the Arlington Premier Invitational League are designed to provide scheduling integrity and reliability. Teams not able to field seven (7) qualified players within 15 minutes after the deemed starting time shall forfeit. Providing SEVEN (7) players are in attendance to start, and as long as SEVEN (7) players are remaining on the field of play, the match shall proceed. The opposing team is not required to play short.
- B. If a coach pulls their team off the field, the team shall receive an automatic forfeit and the Coach will be required to attend an A&D Hearing to explain his/hers actions.

C. FIRST FORFEIT

1. If the team not forfeiting arrives at the field they will not be responsible for any payments to the referees.
2. If the forfeiting team notifies the office, in writing, at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start time of a forfeit, the forfeiting team shall be fined \$35.00 for their first forfeit of the soccer year (Fall & Spring).
3. If the forfeiting team **does not** notify the office, in writing, at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start time of a forfeit, the team shall be fined an amount equal to the referee fees plus \$50.00 for their first forfeit of the soccer year (Fall & Spring).

D. SECOND FORFEIT

1. If the forfeiting team notifies the office, in writing, at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start time of a forfeit, the team shall be fined \$75.00 for their second forfeit of the soccer year (Fall and Spring).
2. If the forfeiting team does not notify the office, in writing, at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start time of a forfeit, the team shall be fined an amount equal to the referee fees, plus \$100.00 for their second forfeit of the soccer year (Fall and Spring).

E. THIRD FORFEIT

1. If a team forfeits a third game in a soccer year, they are to be expelled from the Arlington Premier Invitational League. The minimum expulsion for the coach shall be the balance of that playing year. (Fall and Spring).

NOTE: Any API team that owes any type of forfeit fee or fine to the league must pay the money owed before their next scheduled game unless the next game is within a 72 hour period of the establishment of the fee/fine. Teams owing will have to forfeit all games until the fee/fine is paid. Games will be forfeited 72 hours prior to game time

XVII. API LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY--In addition to the aforesaid, the following modifications shall prevail for all teams.

A. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. The API League is dedicated to providing the highest level of competition possible. Therefore, entrance to the API League play is strictly invitational. This invitation to participate can be withdrawn by the API League Director and League Coordinator upon a finding that a team has brought disrepute to the league and/or the game of soccer either in this league or any league.
2. Any team that participates in the API Qualifying Games or registers and qualifies for API, but decides not to participate in that Division during the season for which the team qualified will be ineligible to participate in the Arlington Premier Invitational League or API Qualifying Games for a minimum of one year beginning with the end of the season for which the team qualified.
3. A team may withdraw from the API league up until the deadline for registration. Once the deadline has passed, a team withdrawing will not receive a refund.
4. Any team that participates in the fall API and does not play in the spring of the same soccer year will be required to submit in writing the reasons they did not participate and a request to be allowed back into API. The decision to allow a team back in will be up to the Competitive Coordinator and VP of Competitive. If a team is allowed to return to API that team will be required to pay both the fall and spring registration in full upon registering for the fall.

B. FALL QUALIFYING GAMES REQUIREMENTS—If such matches are held when conditions warrant, any match which is deemed unnecessary in determining the placement of a team in the league may be canceled by the Age Group Commissioner and/or the League Director. There is no minimum guarantee of the number of matches to be played by any team.

1. Any team desiring to enter API must comply with the requirements as they are announced prior to the deadline for entering.
2. Each team must send a representative to the season organizational meetings.
3. Each team must complete and submit the required information materials by the deadline as they are announced.
4. Teams are encouraged to play in their age group. However, teams that “play up” in the API Qualifying Games and qualify must “play up” during season play.

C. AGE GROUP STANDINGS—

1. All age groups standings will be based on full year competition. Awards will be given at the end of the spring season only.
2. Divisions will be formed based on the number of teams registering/competitiveness of teams and outcome of qualifying games where needed.
3. API will form all divisions. All decisions for division placement are final and cannot be appealed.
4. API reserves the right to realign or split divisions between the Fall and Spring seasons.

XVIII. AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL AND PLAYING RULES

Amendments to the General and Playing Rules may be proposed at any meeting of the Board of Directors or Competitive Committee.

The Competitive Committee have authorized the Board of Directors to make any necessary changes to the ASA/API Playing and General Rules if such changes are dictated by NTSSA, based upon changes in the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules or NTSSA Rules and Regulations. Any such changes shall be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Immediately upon making any such changes, the Board of Directors shall advise the Competitive Committee in writing of the nature and extent of such changes, at the next meeting of the Committee.

The ASA / API Committees, Board of Directors, and General Membership are not authorized to make any changes in the ASA/API Playing and General Rules that are

contrary or not allowed by the Laws of the Game, USSF/USYSA Rules or NTSSA Rules and Regulations.

XIX. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE PLAYING RULES-- It is the responsibility of each coach/manager/team representative to familiarize themselves with the rules. A breach of the League Playing Rules shall be dealt with appropriately with two intents;

- A. To uphold the integrity of the Arlington Premier Invitational League, its affiliates, and the game of soccer.
- B. To enforce the safety, equality, and enjoyment of soccer within the Arlington Premier Invitational League for all concerned.

XX. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR-- Matters not provided for in these playing rules shall be determined and decided upon by the ASA Board of Directors, Arlington Premier Invitational League Director and League Coordinator.