

TEXOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Frequently Asked Questions

CTRL + click to follow links below

1	Registration.....	3
a.	When does TSA conduct registration?	3
b.	How can I register my child?.....	3
c.	What happens at registration?.....	3
d.	Can I mail-in my registration?.....	3
e.	What do I need to have when I sign up?.....	3
f.	How does TSA handle refunds?	3
g.	What's next? Who will contact me?	4
2	Soccer Equipment.....	4
a.	What does my son/daughter need?	4
b.	Do we need soccer cleats?	4
c.	Do I need to purchase a ball?.....	4
3	Practices.....	4
a.	Who determines when/where practice is held?.....	4
b.	What about school scheduling conflicts?.....	4
c.	How many hours per week do we practice?	5
4	Soccer Seasons versus Soccer Year	5
a.	What is the difference between a soccer year and a soccer season?.....	5
b.	How does TSA use soccer seasons?	5
c.	Why is the soccer year different than the calendar year?	5
5	Ages, Assignments, Play-up, Release	5
a.	What is a U5, U6, U7 age division?	5
b.	How old do players need to be?.....	5
c.	What divisions are available for playing?.....	6
d.	How does TSA assign players?	6
e.	What is the Draft?	6
f.	How are players notified of assignment?.....	6
g.	Can a player move up or down to the next age division?	6
h.	Can a player request assignment to a team for transportation reasons?	7
i.	What is a release?	7
6	Coaches.....	7
a.	How do I become a coach?	7

<i>b.</i>	If I am asked to coach and say yes, then what?	7
<i>c.</i>	What does it mean REJECTED?	8
<i>d.</i>	OK, I'm approved, now what?.....	8
<i>e.</i>	Does this mean I only have one check regardless of how many years I coach?	8
7	Schedules	8
<i>a.</i>	How does TSA create schedules?	8
<i>b.</i>	Can teams request schedule adjustments?	8
<i>c.</i>	How are weather situations handled?	9
<i>d.</i>	Does TSA reschedule canceled games?.....	9
<i>e.</i>	Why are there no Under-8 and below standings?	9
<i>f.</i>	Why are all the games mainly in Sherman (Fairview Park and Center Street)?	9
<i>g.</i>	What is the Tournament of Champions?	9
8	Money and Expenses	9
<i>a.</i>	How does TSA determine the fee each season? Where does the money go?.....	10
<i>b.</i>	Why not charge a higher fee for the first season a player registers during the soccer year?.....	10
<i>c.</i>	Why only a single uniform in a year?.....	10
<i>d.</i>	What does the state registration fee provide?	10
<i>e.</i>	Why does TSA have paid positions?	11
<i>f.</i>	What do the players receive at the end of the season?.....	11
9	Communications	11
<i>a.</i>	How do I get information about TSA?	11
<i>b.</i>	Who can I contact if I have more questions?.....	11
<i>c.</i>	Will this FAQ be updated?	11

1 Registration

a. **When does TSA conduct registration?**

ANSWER: TSA conducts registration twice a year. The fall registration occurs in July and the spring registration occurs in January.

b. **How can I register my child?**

ANSWER: Online registration is the primary means of registration for the Association. A Quick Guide is available in the Download Library to assist with online registration. There will also be at least one location in Sherman, on two consecutive Saturdays, for in-person registration. Some satellite registrations may occur on the same dates in outlying communities. The dates and locations will be posted in a News item on the homepage during the registration period.

c. **What happens at registration?**

ANSWER: Regardless of online or in-person registration, an Account is created and each player is registered under that account. Parents are also provided a general summary of important dates needed for the upcoming season.

d. **Can I mail-in my registration?**

ANSWER: Mail-in registrations are no longer accepted, an account must be created online for each player.

e. **What do I need to have when I sign up?**

ANSWER: Payment is collected for all players. TSA currently accepts cash, checks, most credit cards and eChecks for online registration. A birth certificate is also necessary for any first time players.

f. **How does TSA handle refunds?**

ANSWER: The person requesting a refund informs the registrar. The registrar determines the level of the refund per the TSA Procedures (found in the Online Documents). Typically, a player will get a full refund if (1) the request comes before assignment to a team, (2) TSA is unable to place the player on a team, or (3) the player is assigned to a team outside of their area and the player decides not to participate. The latter reason is only valid before the first scheduled game. TSA may offer a full refund if there is confusion regarding assignments such as a team change. Partial refunds are given to all others.

g. **What's next? Who will contact me?**

ANSWER: TSA provides a Parent's Meeting each season for new players. This parent's meeting will be announced in a News article on the homepage of the website and in the online Calendar. Once players are assigned to teams and coaches are selected, coaches will contact the players on their rosters. This can be as late as 2 weeks before games start so try not to panic.

[HOME](#)

2 Soccer Equipment

a. **What does my son/daughter need?**

ANSWER: All players must wear shin guards to play in a game.

b. **Do we need soccer cleats?**

ANSWER: Soccer cleats are not required. Players may play in regular shoes. However, other sports' cleats are not usually allowed as they have a "toe cleat" which presents a danger to other players.

c. **Do I need to purchase a ball?**

ANSWER: Although a ball is not required, most coaches would agree that it makes their lives easier when players show up with an appropriate ball for practice.

U5-U8 = size3 ; U9-U12 = size4 ; U14+ = size5

3 Practices

a. **Who determines when/where practice is held?**

ANSWER: The head coach makes this decision in collaboration with the parents of the team. However, as the coaching role is a volunteer position requiring a tremendous time commitment, the practice schedule and location strongly favors the coach's availability.

b. **What about school scheduling conflicts?**

ANSWER: TSA encourages all coaches to take a "school comes first" approach. During TAKS testing week each coach is reminded that players need the week off. The TAKS testing schedule is added to the online Calendar.

c. **How many hours per week do we practice?**

ANSWER: Teams and players are allowed to play together 3 hours per week. On weeks with no games, teams may practice 3 full hours. On weeks with games, game time must be reduced from practice time.

4 Soccer Seasons versus Soccer Year

[HOME](#)

a. **What is the difference between a soccer year and a soccer season?**

ANSWER: The soccer year is defined by the USSF (US Youth Soccer Federation) and begins on 1 August each year and ends on the following July 31st. A soccer season splits the year into a fall (September – December) and spring (January – May) season.

b. **How does TSA use soccer seasons?**

ANSWER: Besides scheduling, seasons allow players who only play soccer in the fall or the spring season the opportunity to return to their team each year. Players usually return to their previous team each season but TSA recognizes that sometimes a season will be skipped, e.g. playing baseball or basketball in the spring. TSA tries to keep players with their team (see Assignment questions).

c. **Why is the soccer year different than the calendar year?**

ANSWER: The soccer year is mainly used to determine player age, similar to the public school system. However, this is also set as the fiscal year by state and federal associations. TSA uses the same fiscal calendar for administrative and budgetary concerns. Additionally, the soccer year allows for smooth transitions with election of officers (see TSA Rules and Procedures documents on the website).

5 Ages, Assignments, Play-up, Release

a. **What is a U5, U6, U7 age division?**

ANSWER: U7 stands for “under 7” and consists of 6 year old players, as determined by their age on August 1st for the soccer year.

b. **How old do players need to be?**

ANSWER: Players must be at least 4 years old on August 1st before they can begin playing soccer in the North Texas state association. This is not a TSA rule and cannot be waived. Players who subsequently turn 4 before December 31st are allowed to start one season early in the spring season but are held to the U5 age division for the next soccer year (3 seasons instead of 2 at the U5 age division).

c. **What divisions are available for playing?**

ANSWER: TSA provides youth divisions for Under-5 through Under-19 as well as an Open division (over 18) and a Coed Over-30 division. Where possible, TSA tries to keep players in the same age group (i.e. 6 year-olds playing against other 6-year olds in the Under-7 division.) US Youth Soccer recognizes youth divisions (Under-6, Under-8, etc) and TSA may have to use youth divisions for assignments.

[HOME](#)

d. **How does TSA assign players?**

ANSWER: Players are originally placed on teams via a blind draft by school district. Players return to their team each season. Players who skip the previous season may be drafted to a new team if their old team becomes full or if it is necessary in order to maintain a balance of players on teams within a division. Players may request to go into the draft BUT may not pick a team or area.

e. **What is the Draft?**

ANSWER: When registration is complete, the TSA Registrar assigns players. TSA uses a blind system that randomly assigns a number to a player. The Registrar determines the number of teams and the fill requirement by division and assigns players to teams. With each player placement, the random number reshuffles to keep the assignment random.

f. **How are players notified of assignment?**

ANSWER: After the draft is complete, the Area Directors (see Personnel page on website) are provided rosters and contact information for each player. Area Directors work to assign coaches to each team and provides the coaches with their rosters. NOTE: It is not uncommon to have teams and no coaches until late in the process. Once players are assigned to teams and coaches are selected, coaches will contact the players on their rosters. This can be as late as 2 weeks before games start so try not to panic.

g. **Can a player move up or down to the next age division?**

ANSWER: Possibly. USYSF strongly recommends players play at the proper age division, especially at the younger ages, for development purposes. TSA attempts to keep all teams age pure. A parent may request that a player be allowed to play-up one age division. This request may be rejected by TSA depending on the need to fill teams at the proper age division or youth division. Players cannot be assigned outside of their proper youth division without permission from the state association. Except for valid medical reasons and clearance by both TSA and North Texas, a player may NOT play down. Play-up requests are not accepted for Under-5 players. Under-5 players will only be assigned to an Under-6 team if the needs of the area dictate that is necessary.

h. **Can a player request assignment to a team for transportation reasons?**

ANSWER: TSA does not recognize requests for carpooling. This essentially allows a player to select a team. TSA may assign players together from one area to a team in a different area (e.g. Gunter players assigned to a Sherman team).

[HOME](#)

i. **What is a release?**

ANSWER: If a recreational player resides within the boundaries of TSA, and they desire to play in another association, they must obtain a release from TSA to do so. Likewise, a player from another association must obtain a release from their local association before playing on a team within TSA. NOTE: There are several players "grandfathered" from Anna still playing within TSA at this time. If a player is from out of Texas, then the player must obtain a release from their home association, home state, and approval to participate from North Texas prior to participating with a team. The out of state player initiates this process with their state association.

6 Coaches

a. **How do I become a coach?**

ANSWER: Contact the Area Director (see Personnel page link on the homepage). Although there is a checkbox on the registration form, that information is often lost in the thousand plus registration forms.

b. **If I am asked to coach and say yes, then what?**

ANSWER: ALL volunteers (includes all coaches, assistant coaches, and managers) must perform a background check every fall. Please reference the Quick Guide in the Online Documents. If you are new in the spring you may complete the requirement then. You do NOT need to login to the TSA website to complete this task. This is done on an external vendor site.

- i. Complete the online check.
- ii. EMAIL THE TSA REGISTRAR OF YOUR TEAM AFFILIATION
- iii. Include a headshot of yourself (if not previously provided) when emailing the Registrar for your coachID card

[HOME](#)

c. **What does it mean REJECTED?**

ANSWER: If a background check comes back stating that your information has been sent to North Texas for review, the TSA Registrar notifies the Area Director and TSA President of your temporary suspension. This means you may NOT continue in any role with the team until this is cleared. This clearance must come from North Texas and will not be changed until the TSA Registrar is notified by North Texas.

d. **OK, I'm approved, now what?**

ANSWER: You need to provide your team affiliation and a headshot to the TSA registrar by the date provided in the online Calendar. CoachID cards will be distributed at the General Meeting. Replacement badges cost \$5.

e. **Does this mean I only have one check regardless of how many years I coach?**

ANSWER: No. The check is performed every year. North Texas performs a 100% check of all coaches (approximately 15-20,000). Additionally, if someone becomes publicly known, TSA will take whatever action necessary to remove the person from access to any player information.

7 Schedules

a. **How does TSA create schedules?**

ANSWER: The TSA Executive Council (EC) determines the calendar for the upcoming season. The TSA Scheduler uses a program to create the initial schedules. TSA will schedule 8 games for Under-8 and below teams. For Under-9 and above, the TSA Scheduler will attempt to create a fair schedule (meaning every team plays the same number of games against the same opponents). Because of time constraints this is not always possible. Also, because of limited fields and agreements with the City of Sherman, TSA may limit the games to no more than 10 for the Under-9 and above divisions. Most games will be scheduled on Saturdays. Each team is usually scheduled one mid-week game. Make-up games will most likely be mid-week games. However, the season could be extended to include make-up games on Saturdays.

b. **Can teams request schedule adjustments?**

ANSWER: Yes and No! TSA allows limited requests. Prior to the draft schedules, teams may request off dates during the season. Coaches may contact the scheduler via email for requests. After TSA publishes the first draft schedule on the web site, then a team may request one change. They may also note mistakes that the scheduler made (missed earlier request). Once the schedules go final, then the requests are done and only mistakes made will change. Often, when TSA must reschedule games, previous requests often have to go away due to calendar constraints. Coaches cannot change schedules on their own.

c. **How are weather situations handled?**

ANSWER: The City of Sherman has governing power over this process. In order to avoid tearing up the fields, TSA takes a cautious approach and will cancel early. The website contains a status bar at the top. It is also color coded – Green, Yellow, Red. TSA will post a News item on the site on days when weather is questionable or only some fields are closed. Be advised that for teams scheduled to travel, conditions at Fairview may not be the same elsewhere. Likewise, rain at your home does not mean Fairview will cancel. During the game – lightning is a show stopper. Officials will send players off the field to their cars. They will wait a minimum of 15 minutes but possibly longer unless a TSA officer directs them to terminate the game. If it begins to rain during a game and there is no lightning, the referee will attempt to complete the game if field conditions permit. If a game starts the second half of play, then it is official.

d. **Does TSA reschedule canceled games?**

ANSWER: Most of the time, any game canceled by weather will get rescheduled. However, TSA also has a constraint of time and available days to reschedule games. If there isn't any free time available, then the season is shortened.

[HOME](#)

e. **Why are there no Under-8 and below standings?**

ANSWER: Our recreational program is designed to provide healthy activity, emphasizing enjoyment and development over competition. Consequently, scores are not published / recorded for the younger ages. However, TSA does use standings in the fall to determine the representatives to the North Texas Tournament of Champions (U10 and above).

f. **Why are all the games mainly in Sherman (Fairview Park and Center Street)?**

ANSWER: Referee availability is the largest problem. TSA does schedule games at the Durant Soccer Complex with referees being assigned by the Durant Soccer Association. For the most part, referees are limited to where they can travel because a parent must provide transportation. Working with the City of Sherman, all fields at Fairview Park are now watered. However, we still try to prevent overuse. TSA continues to work with the City to develop other venues.

g. **What is the Tournament of Champions?**

ANSWER: North Texas invites the top team from every association in each youth division from U10 and above to a tournament in December. TSA participates and pays the fees for teams to participate. To be eligible, the teams must meet the assignments requirements of players to be truly recreational and qualified through a TSA league, if available.

8 Money and Expenses

a. **How does TSA determine the fee each season? Where does the money go?**

ANSWER: The TSA EC sets a budget for the soccer year based on previous seasons and forecasted changes in expenses. The major costs are:

- Referees (contracted with the Texoma Soccer Referee Association)
- Uniforms (one per soccer year)
- State registration fee (once per player per year)
- Trophies (all players, both season)
- Field Maintenance (partnership with the City of Sherman)
- Paid Personnel (Referee Assignor, TSA Scheduler, TSA Registrar)
- Tournament of Champions (fall)
- Team tournament fees (partial assistance each season)
- State meeting (semi-annual attendance by 4 delegates, twice per year)
- Web Host Subscription (annual)
- Coach's training (annually)
- State affiliation fees (annual)

[HOME](#)

Many of the expenses are incurred once each soccer year. As most players enroll in both the fall and spring, expenses are tremendously higher for the Association in the fall. However, TSA charges the same fee for both seasons.

b. **Why not charge a higher fee for the first season a player registers during the soccer year?**

ANSWER: This is done to simplify the registration process and keep the apparent fee as low as possible. If TSA charged by actual cost each season, then the first season played for the year will be much higher than what is currently paid. For example, instead of paying \$70 each season, a player would pay \$85 in the fall and \$55 in the spring (Note – the total is still \$140). TSA operates at a loss in the fall season and at a gain in the spring season, ending each season with a small but comfortable amount in the bank. The added complexity of collecting different fees would require more complicated registration procedures to insure the proper amount is received.

c. **Why only a single uniform in a year?**

ANSWER: Uniforms should last at least two seasons. TSA purchases a uniform for (1) all players in the fall, (2) new players in the spring, and (3) any player transferring teams in the spring. The biggest problem with uniforms is not wear and tear but growth of the players. Players should order a slightly larger uniform in the fall to address player growth. NOTE: If TSA ordered uniforms each season, then the cost per player would increase at least another \$15-\$20 each season.

d. **What does the state registration fee provide?**

ANSWER: Although North Texas provides many programs to its members throughout the year, the most visible aspect is the insurance policy provided to each member association.

[HOME](#)

e. **Why does TSA have paid positions?**

ANSWER: TSA continues to grow. These positions are common with other associations due to their immense work load and time commitment. The referee assignor works each week with a short turn-around period to assign referees to your games. The scheduler goes through an intense two week period at the beginning of the season and each time a full weekend of games must be rescheduled due to weather or special requests. The registrar has several weeks of intense data collection, team assignments, and uniform ordering. The registrar also provides all team related documents throughout the season.

f. **What do the players receive at the end of the season?**

ANSWER: TSA purchases awards each season. For Under-8 and below, every player receives the same participation award. For Under-9 and above, TSA provides placement trophies based on seasonal standings and a smaller participation award. TSA recognizes the Intercity teams with placement trophies in the fall because they are the recognized TSA participant to the TOC. They get the smaller participation award in the spring.

9 Communications

a. **How do I get information about TSA?**

ANSWER: The website is the official means of communication for the Association and will be kept current. TSA tries to maintain relevant information as News items. Additionally, TSA provides links to its Rules, Procedures, and meeting minutes. The next place to turn is your Area Director but any TSA officer may be contacted. Check the Personnel page on the website for contact information.

b. **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

ANSWER: You may send any general questions to tsa@TexomaSoccer.org. All youth and adult commissioners are listed on the Personnel page on our website.

c. **Will this FAQ be updated?**

ANSWER: We will continue to update the FAQ each season and as additional questions arise after this publication. This is meant to be a quick glance at the more in-depth documentation provided on the website.