

# **TRI-CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

## **UNDER 6 DIVISION Fall 2006**

REVISED August 2008

This document is intended as an introduction to the basic rules of soccer for those in the U-6 division. It also specifically addresses Tri-Cities Soccer Association (TCSA) exceptions, adjustments or special circumstances. The goal of Tri-Cities Soccer is to introduce and promote the game of soccer to the youth of the Tri-Cities area and it is our intention for it to be a learning experience. It is also the leagues intention to follow as closely as practical the consensus opinion of high school, college and upper level coaches as to how this should be accomplished. To this end, TCSA also introduces the players to the various laws and concepts of the game in stages as they move through the various age groups.

- A) Games are played “sideways” on U-7 fields (if available) or on fields of similar size.
- B) A team plays with 4 players on each half of the field against the other teams four players.
- C) Actual soccer goals are used with this age group.
- D) No goal keepers are used and all players are “field players”
- E) Throw-ins are permitted for restarts for balls out of play. A second chance throw-in should be given before the ball is turned over to the other team if a foul throw occurs.
- F) There are no direct free kicks at this age group.
- G) There are no offsides at this age group.
- H) Coaches are encouraged to teach players to pass the ball to increase the “touches” of the ball by all players.
- I) Teams are not allowed to place players in their goal area to act as goal keepers.
- J) Teams are not allowed to “sandbag” players at the opponents goal.
- K) The league does not assign referees at this age group so coaches act as referees and are allowed on the field.
- L) Players sub about every 6 minutes. All players on the sidelines at the sub time must return to the field (except for injured players). The clock is a “running clock” in this division (with 25 minute halves) and it does not stop for substitutions. To resume play, if the ball is out of play at the time of the substitution, play should resume with a throw-in, corner kick or goal kick. If the play was stopped when the ball was in the field of play, play should resume with a drop ball.
- M) All players who show up to play the game must play and rotate in. This is regardless of how well they play or how many practices they have attended. This rule basically means that all players must play at least ½ of the game (except for injuries).
- N) Emphasis should be placed on passing the ball and having a good time.
- O) Scoring and keeping score should be of little importance at this age group.
- P) Since referees are not used in this division, it is the responsibility of the coach to report any misconduct or conduct not within the spirit of the division to their TCSA commissioner.

Q) TCSA waivers must be at all games and practices. If waivers are not at a game, the game may not begin until the waivers are “on site”. If the game is unable to be played after a reasonable amount of time is spent waiting for the waivers, the game is forfeited by the team not having the waivers.

***R) Games will be played on Saturdays as scheduled by Tri-Cities Soccer and the rescheduling of league games for ANY reason is not allowed. If a team is unable to play the scheduled game as scheduled, the game is a forfeit. In the event games are cancelled due to bad weather the following rules apply: If an entire days games are cancelled due to bad weather the games will not be made up. If games start during the day and the games later in the day are cancelled due to bad weather, the games that were played will count and all games that were not played will be considered a tie and will not be made up.***

***S) IF ANY TEAM USES A PLAYER THAT IS NOT ROSTERED ON THEIR TEAM, THE COACH AND THEIR CHILDREN AND THE NON-ROSTERED PLAYER AND THEIR FAMILY SHALL BE BANNED FROM TRI-CITIES SOCCER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT SEASON AND FOR ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT SEASON.***

### **Law 1 - The field of play**

The field of play for this division is approximately the size of an under 7 field (40X50 yards) and is divided in half. This allows for two small sided games to occur simultaneously.

### **Law 2 - The ball**

- 1) The ball must be spherical. No material shall be used in its construction which might prove dangerous to other players. The pressure shall be enough to push thumbs in about a quarter of an inch.
- 2) The under 6 division uses a size no 3 ball.

### **Law 3 - Number of Players**

- 1) Suggested team size is between 10 and 12 players.
- 2) The game is played with 4 players on the field for each team on each ½ of the field.
- 3) At half time, teams should change their “half teams” so that each half team plays the other teams opposite half team in the second half.
- 4) Coaches are encouraged to change players each week on the ½ teams to avoid any appearance of an A or a B team.
- 5) A player who leaves the field for first aid treatment, to change or adjust equipment or for any other reason must wait until the next substitution time to reenter the field of play.
- 6) Players that are removed from the field because of injury can be replaced prior to the restart of play by another player off of the sideline.

#### **Law 4. - Players Equipment**

1) A players equipment consists of:

a) A TCSA shirt or jersey, shorts, socks, shinguards and footwear.

b) A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player.

Baseball shoes are not allowed due to the cleat structure. There are NO exceptions.

Players are not allowed to play if any part of their body is in a cast. This is for the safety of all players. Jewelry is not permitted, this includes ALL ear studs. Hooded sweatshirts should either be worn up around the head and tied or be tucked into the game shirts to help avoid injuries. Short knit stocking caps are permissible but billed caps or other dangerous ornamental cap or headgear is not permissible.

2) Shinguards must be worn at all TCSA practices and games and must be covered in the entirety by socks.

3) Since referees are not used in this division, it is the responsibility of the coaches to check the players equipment and the field of play and to correct any dangerous conditions.

#### **Law 5 - Referees**

1) No referees are assigned to this division and coaches from both teams are in control of the field and game.

2) The purpose of this division is for the players to have fun and not be unduly influenced by coaches. In this spirit, coaches are asked to refrain from calling penalties unless there are gross fouls. Coaches are also encouraged to instruct the parents to be supportive but not disruptive.

3) In the event of lightning, games are automatically terminated as soon as lightning or thunder is evident.

4) Soccer is played in rain or snow but if weather is threatening, TCSA requires that the coaches act in the best interest of the players and act accordingly.

5) Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach, parent, spectator or player should be reported to the league commissioner at the conclusion of the game.

6) Any player that is bleeding must leave the field for treatment.

#### **Law 6 - Referee assistants (formerly called linesmen)**

1) No referee assistants are assigned to this division and coaches from both teams are in control of the field and game.

#### **Law 7 - Duration of the Game**

1) The game consists of two periods. The half time interval is not to exceed 5 minutes.

2) Each period shall be 25 minutes long and the clock will remain running during substitutions. One time keeper shall keep the clock for both ½ games and call for substitutions approximately every 6 minutes.

### **Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play**

- 1) At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall decide which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other shall take the kick-off.
- 2) A goal may **NOT** be scored directly from the kick-off.
- 3) The ball is in play when it is kicked and it moves.
- 4) When restarting play after half-time, ends of the field shall be changed and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game.

### **Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play**

- 1) The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the side touch line or goal line, whether on the ground or in the air.
- 2) The ball remains in play when it rebounds from a corner flag pole into the field of play.
- 3) In the case of a restart by an indirect kick, the ball is in play when it has moved.

### **Law 10 - Method of Scoring**

- 1) A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes through the goal crossing the goal line provided it has not been thrown, carried or propelled by hand or arm of the attacker.
- 2) A goal can not be scored from a throw in.

### **Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct**

- 1) A player may not **INTENTIONALLY**
  - a) kick or attempt to kick an opponent
  - b) trip or attempt to trip an opponent.
  - c) jump at an opponent
  - d) charge an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner
  - e) charge an opponent from behind, unless the other player is obstructing
  - f) strike or attempt to strike an opponent or spit at them.
  - g) hold an opponent
  - h) push an opponent
  - I) handle the ball with arm or hand, (that is any area below the shoulder).
  - j) obstruct an opponent when not playing the ball
- 2) The penalty for any of the above infractions is an indirect free kick from the point of the foul. Play is resumed with an indirect free kick after the foul has been explained to the offending player.

### **Law 13 - Free Kick**

- 1) There are two types of free kicks:
  - a) an indirect free kick:
    - 1) A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick unless the ball touches any other player prior to going into the goal. This is the only type of free kick given in this division.
  - b) a direct free kick:
    - 2) A goal can be scored directly from a direct free kick. This type of kick is not allowed the U-6 division.
- 2) Free kicks are taken from the place of the infraction.
- 3) The ball must be stationary when a free kick is taken.
- 4) Defending players must be 5 yards away from all free kicks.
- 5) The player taking the free kick may not touch the ball again until another player has touched the ball. (Penalty, an indirect free kick for the other team.)

### **Law 14 - Penalty Kick**

- 1) This Law does not apply to this division.

### **Law 15 - Throw-in**

- 1) A throw-in puts that ball back in play after it has completely crossed the side touch line. Throw-ins are taken from the spot where the ball crosses the touch line. The throw in is awarded to the team that did not touch the ball last. Any player on the field may take the throw-in for the team.
- 2) The thrower must be facing the field of play, have two feet on the ground, be behind the touch line and throw the ball over his head with two hands.
- 3) The thrower is allowed two chances to complete a “fair throw” at which point if still unsuccessful, the ball is turned over to the other team.
- 4) The thrower is not permitted to touch the ball again until any other player touches the ball.

### **Law 16 - Goal Kick**

- 1) When an attacking player last touches the ball before it crosses the goal line (or end line) outside the goal mouth a goal kick is awarded. ***THE DEFENDING TEAM SHOULD PLACE THE BALL ABOUT 5 YARDS INSIDE OF THE FIELD ON A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE END LINE (AND OUTSIDE OF THE GOAL AREA). THE BALL MAY BE PLACED ANYWHERE ON THIS IMAGINARY LINE AND PLAY IS RESTARTED WITH THE DEFENDING TEAM TAKING A GOAL KICK.*** Attacking players must be 5 yards away from the ball prior to the kick being taken. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it is touched by another player. The penalty for touching the ball again is an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

### **Law 17 - Corner Kick**

- 1) When a defender is the last to touch the ball crossing the goal line outside the goal posts, a corner kick is awarded. The ball is kicked from by the corner flag by the attacking team.
- 2) Defenders must be 5 yards away from the ball when it is played.
- 3) The kicker may not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player. The penalty for touching the ball is an indirect kick for the opposing team.