

TRI-CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION UNDER 7 DIVISION Fall 2006

Revised Spring 2009

This document is intended as an introduction to the basic rules of soccer for those in the U-7 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 on U-7 fields and actual goals are introduced at this age.
- B) Goalkeepers are added at this age group.
- C) A team plays with 6 field players and one goalkeeper for a total of 7 players on the field.
- D) Throw-ins are permitted for restarts for balls out of play over the side touch lines. A second chance throw-in should be given before the ball is turned over to the other team if a foul throw occurs.
- E) For a ball crossing the end line that is not a goal, play is restarted with either a corner kick or a goal kick. For a ball crossing the end line and resulting in a goal, play is restarted from the center circle.
- F) There are no direct free kicks (or penalty kicks) at this age group.
- G) There are no offsides at this age group and coaches are not allowed to “sandbag” a player at their opponents goal.
- H) Coaches are encouraged to teach players to pass the ball to increase “touches” of the ball by all players.
- I) The league does not assign referees at this age group so coaches act as referees and are allowed on the field.
- J) 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 stopped for substitutions. The length of each half is 24 minutes of playing time. To resume play after a substitution, if the ball is out of play at the time of the substitution, play should resume with a throw-in or goal kick. If the play was stopped when the ball was in the field of play, play should resume with a drop ball. Substitutions time outs should be done as not to take away an advantage if the ball is not out of play at the time of the substitution.
- K) 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).
- L) Emphasis should be placed on passing the ball and having a good time.
- M) Scoring and keeping score should be of little importance at this age group.
- N) 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.
- O) 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 team not having the waivers.

P) Games will be played on Saturdays as scheduled by Tri-Cities Soccer and the rescheduling of the 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.

Q) 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.

R) Home teams should occupy the East or South sideline of the field. Visiting teams occupy the West or North sideline of the field. Players, coaches, parents and spectators from the same team occupy the same sideline. No one is allowed to stand by the goal lines.

Law 1 - The field of play

1) The field is rectangular. The longer boundary lines are the touch lines and the shorter lines are the goal lines. The widths of the lines (the lines themselves) are within the field of play. A halfway line divides the field. Each half includes a goal area, a penalty area, two corner areas and a goal.

A) All area mentioned above are to be proportionate with the size of the field.

2) Spectators are not allowed to stand on the ends of the field (by the goal lines) and are to be on the side of the fields (touch lines) only.

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 7 division uses a size no. 3 ball.

Law 3 - Number of Players

1) Suggested team size is between 9 and 12 players.

2) The game is played with 6 field players and a goalie for each team.

3) Coaches are encouraged to change players positions each week but it is suggested that only players who want to play goalkeeper play that position.

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.

7) If a player is attended to on the field for an injury, the player must be removed until the next substitution. The player leaving the field can be replaced prior to the restart of

play by another player on the team. If no substitutions are available, the coaches may delay restarting the game until the injured player is ready to play (within reason).

8) In the event that a team is unable to field a full 7 players, the opposing team may play with only one additional player on the field. For example, if one team only has 5 players the other team may field 6 players.

9) If a team is unable to field at least 5 players, the game is forfeited.

10) If either team is up by 6 goals, the other team is allowed to add one additional player on the field. They also should add one additional player for each goal over the 6 goal spread. It is Tri-Cities Soccer philosophy to avoid lopsided games and coaches are asked to keep this in mind when coaching a stronger team.

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) The goalkeeper is to wear colors that distinguish them from the other players on both teams.

4) 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 that might exist.

5) IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT GOALS ARE CHECKED PRIOR TO EACH GAME TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE ANCHORED DOWN SECURELY. GOALS THAT ARE NOT ANCHORED CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURIES. IF YOU FIND A GOAL THAT IS NOT ANCHORED DOWN, CALL A TCSA OFFICIAL AND REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT PLAY THE GAME UNTIL THE GOAL IS ANCHORED DOWN. IF YOU LEAVE THE FIELD PRIOR TO THE GOAL BEING ANCHORED, TIP THE GOAL OVER AND ADVISE ANY OTHER TEAMS PLANNING TO USE THE FIELD OF THE UNSAFE CONDITION.

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 after the conclusion of the game.
- 6) Any player that is bleeding must leave the field for treatment.
- 7) One coach or a designated substitute from each team should referee in a “dual” system for this age group. If a neutral referee is available and it is agreeable to both coaches, the referee may officiate the game and be assisted by the coach/referee.

Law 6 - Referee assistants (formerly called linesmen)

- 1) No referees 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 24 minutes long.
- 3) Allowances should be made for all time lost through substitution, injuries, time-wasting or other causes. The amount of time lost shall be a matter of discretion for the referee/coach.

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 team 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:
 - a) It has completely crossed the side touch line or goal line, whether on the ground or in the air.
 - b) the game is stopped by the referee/coach.
- 2) The ball remains in play when:
 - a) it rebounds from a goal post, goal cross bar, or corner flag pole into the field of play.
 - b) if it rebound off a referee/coach when they are in field of play.

- c) in the event of a supposed infringement of the laws, until the referee/coach stop play.
- 3) In the case of a restart by an indirect kick, the ball is in play when it has been kicked and moves.

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 11 – Offsides

Not applicable in this Division

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). The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball in his own penalty area.
 - j) obstruct an opponent when not playing the ball
- 2) A player may not:
 - a) Play in a manner considered by the referee/coach to be dangerous (for example, kicking the ball while in the goal keepers hands).
 - b) Charge the goalkeeper in his penalty box when he has possession of the ball. The keeper may be challenged for the ball outside his box.
 - c) Obstruct opponents when not playing the ball.
 - d) Charge any player fairly with their shoulder when the ball is not playable.
 - e) If he is the goalkeeper, hold the ball (in their hands) more than 6 seconds prior to putting the ball back into play. After releasing the ball to play, the keeper is not allowed to pick up the ball again until it has been played by another player outside the penalty area. An opponent may not obstruct the keeper while the keeper is attempting to release the ball.
 - f) Pass the ball to the keeper with his feet with the keeper picking up the ball. If a player passes the ball back to his keeper with his feet and the keeper does not pick up the ball, there is no infraction. A ball may be passed to and picked up by the keeper if it is touched to the keeper with any other part of passing players body than his feet.
 - g) A goalkeeper may not handle (with their hands) a ball received directly from a throw-in from their own team.

The penalty for any of the above offenses is an indirect free kick from the point of the infraction after the infraction has been explained to the offending player by the referee/coach.

3) A warning is issued by the referee/coach that advises a player that a heavier punishment is liable if the conduct persists. A yellow card is shown to a player as an indication that a caution is being issued. A player is cautioned when:

- a) A player re-enters the field of play without the approval of the referee/coach.
- b) A player exchanges positions with the keeper after the game has started without the approval of the referee.
- c) Leaves the field without having been given permission to do so the referee/coach.
- d) Persistently infringes the rules of the game.
- e) Shows dissent in any manner.

Penalty - If play is stopped for a yellow card, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the point of the infraction (subject to overriding conditions imposed in Law 13). If the ball is out of play when an infraction warranted a Yellow Card occurs, play will resume normally.

4) A player is ejected (“sent off” or Red carded) if he:

- a) persists in misconduct after receiving a yellow card (receives a second yellow card)
- b) Is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play.
- c) Is guilty of foul or abusive language.
- d) If a player is ejected from the game due to a red card, the player is not replaced with another player and his team must play one player down.

Penalty - If play is stopped for a red card, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the point of the infraction (subject to overriding conditions imposed in Law 13). If the ball is out of play when the infraction occurs, play will resume normally.

In this division, cards should not be given unless absolutely necessary.

Law 13 - Free Kick

1) All kicks will be indirect in this division.

a) an indirect free kick:

1) A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick unless the ball touches another player prior to going into the goal. This is the only type of free kick given in this division.

2) Free kicks are taken from the place of the infraction except

a) If the infraction occurs against the defending team with the keepers 6 yard box, the ball can be placed anywhere on the side of the six yard box in which the infraction occurred.

b) If the infraction is charged against the attacking team, the ball can be placed on the six yard box line parallel to 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

Not Applicable in this Division

Law 15 - Throw-in

- 1) A throw-in puts that ball back in play after it has completely crossed the sideline. 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 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. Note: the ball should not have side spin if properly thrown. A spinning ball is an indication of a foul throw.
- 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 ball may be placed anywhere in the 6 yard box and may be taken by any player.
- 2) The ball must go outside the penalty box before it is played by any player. The ball may not be touched a second time by the player taking the goal kick until touched by another player.
- 3) A goal MAY NOT be scored directly from a goal kick.
- 4) Players from the opposing team must remain outside the penalty box until the ball crosses the penalty box line.

Penalty: The kick is retaken for all infractions except when the player who kicked the goal kick touches the ball a second time outside the box before another player touches it. In this case, an indirect kick is given to the attacking 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 ball is in play when it has been kicked and moves.
- 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 a second time is an indirect kick for the opposing team.

