

Tri-City Soccer Association

By-Laws

Wednesday, January 15, 2008

1 Soccer Year

Tri-City Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as TCSA) defines the soccer year as August 1st to July 31st. A child's soccer age shall be his age on July 31st of the preceding soccer year.

2 Registration

2.1 Seasons

2.1.1 Fall

The fall season opens the first day after the last day of registration. Season should end before Thanksgiving Day.

2.1.2 Spring

The spring season opens the first day after the last day of registration. Season should end before Memorial Day.

2.2 Eligibility

2.2.1 Fall

In order to register for the Fall season, a child must be at least 4 years old *before* August 1st and no older than 18 *on* August 1st. Children turning 4 on or after August 1st shall be ineligible. Children turning 18 years of age or older before August 1st shall be ineligible. Special exceptions can be made by the board.

2.2.2 Spring

In order to register for the Spring season, a child must be at least 4 years old *before* February 1st and no older than 18 *on* August 1st. Children turning 4 on or after February 1st shall be ineligible. Children turning 18 years of age or older before August 1st shall be ineligible. Special exceptions can be made by the board.

2.3 Requirements

2.3.1 Verification of Age

Proof of age, by displaying an official Certificate of Live Birth, shall be required in order for a child to be registered to play soccer with TCSA.

2.3.2 Registration Fee

The Board of Directors shall set the fee to be paid to register a child to play soccer with TCSA.

2.3.3 Team-building Deadline

The team-building deadline for registration shall be the last day of registration for the season (see 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). No more teams shall be formed to accommodate registrants after this date.

2.3.4 Placement on a Team

A child registering on or before team-building deadline shall be guaranteed a spot on a team unless there are not enough children registered in his/her division to form a team. In the event there are not enough other children registered in a registrant's division, the registrant shall be notified as soon as possible and the registrant's registration fee shall be refunded in full.

2.3.5 Late Registration

A child can be registered on a first-come first-serve basis after the team-building deadline prior to the third game of the season, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, **if and only if** there are spots available on a team in their division. A late fee may also apply at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

3 Teams

3.1 Divisions

3.1.1 Under 6

The Under 6 division (hereinafter referred to as U-6) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 4 or 5. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.2 Under 8

The Under 8 division (hereinafter referred to as U-8) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 6 or 7. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.3 Under 10

The Under 10 division (hereinafter referred to as U-10) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 8 or 9. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.4 Under 12

The Under 12 division (hereinafter referred to as U-12) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 10 or 11. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.5 Under 14

The Under 14 division (hereinafter referred to as U-14) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 12 or 13. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.6 Under 16

The Under 16 division (hereinafter referred to as U-16) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 14 or 15. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.1.7 Under 19

The Under 19 division (hereinafter referred to as U-19) shall consist of teams of players whose soccer age is 16, 17, or 18. See Section 3.2 for further description.

3.2 Age Purity

TCSA shall make every effort to form teams that are **pure age**. Pure age teams are teams that consist of players of the same soccer age. Spring soccer age is the same as the Fall soccer age.

3.3 Gender

TCSA shall make every effort to form teams that are all boys or all girls in U-8 and above. U-6 teams can be coed.

3.4 Team Formation

The Registrar shall form teams with assistance from the Board of Directors.

3.4.1 Returning Players

Every effort shall be made to keep players who are returning for the previous season on the same team. Players returning to a team from the most recent season shall have priority over players who skipped the previous season. A returning player registering after the team-building deadline shall only be assigned to their previous team if there is a spot available, i.e. the player forfeits priority placement after the team-building deadline.

3.4.2 Player Requests

A player shall be allowed to request a particular team. A player requesting a specific team shall not be given priority over returning players. A player requesting a specific team shall only be assigned to that team at the discretion of the Registrar if there is a spot available. A player shall be allowed to request to play with another player. However, players requesting to play together shall not be given priority to return to a particular team.

3.4.3 Coach Requests

A coach shall not be allowed to request a particular player for a team **except** for that coach's child. A coach shall not deny a player from being placed on his or her team by the Registrar. Prior to the season, returning coaches can request in writing, a player not to be assigned to their team. This will be decided by the Board of Directors.

3.5 Team Names

Team names shall be selected by the team and approved by the Board of Directors. Team

names shall not be repeated in the same division. In case of conflict, preference shall be given to the returning team in that division if they are using the same name as the previous season. If this does not resolve the conflict, the coaches shall draw lots to determine which team is given preference.

3.6 Player Release

3.6.1 Mutual Request

A player may request release from a team with consent of the coach. The coach is not required to release the player but is expected to exercise good judgment. A player released by mutual request shall be assigned to another team **if and only if** there is an open position on a team for which that player is eligible.

3.6.2 Coach Request

A coach may request the release of a player for the following reasons:

- Insubordination
- Willful evasion of practice
- Willful evasion of games
- Repeated dangerous misconduct at practice
- Repeated dangerous misconduct at games
- Other such infractions that cause disruption

The coach requesting release shall submit the request, clearly signed by the coach, to the Head Coach. A copy of the request shall be given to the player to be released. The player may appeal the release to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make the final determination of a player release requested by the coach.

3.7 Playing Up

A player shall be permitted to play in the next higher age division with the consent of the Parents/Guardian, Coach's and the Board of Directors approval .

Players requesting a change to play up must make the request at time of registration. A player playing up for one complete season shall not be eligible to play in a lower division in following seasons. If a team is not available to play in a higher division, a case by case decision will be made by the Board of Directors, to play in a lower division.

3.8 Rosters

An official team roster shall be given to the coach prior to the first game of the season. The team is not an official team until the coach receives these items. Team activity shall not be sanctioned by TCSA until the team is official.

4 Coaches

4.1 Volunteer Disclosure Forms

All team head and assistant coaches shall submit an official Volunteer Disclosure Form prior to conducting any team activities. Coaches shall submit a Volunteer Disclosure Form no less than once per soccer year. Coaches shall submit the Volunteer Disclosure Form to the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) electronically. VDF's will be done electronically and no board members are privileged to this information

4.2 Responsibilities

4.2.1 Contacting Players

The coach shall contact all players upon receipt of an official roster to notify them that they are on his/her team.

4.2.2 Practice

The coach shall conduct regular practice sessions during the season. The coach shall specify the time and place of practice. As a rule, practice sessions shall last no longer than:

- U-6: 60 minutes and no more than 120 minutes in a week
- U-8: 75 minutes and no more than 150 minutes in a week
- U-10: 90 minutes and no more than 180 minutes in a week
- U-12: 90 minutes and no more than 180 minutes in a week
- U-14 and up: 90 minutes and no more than 180 minutes in a week

Coaches are expected to use good judgment with respect to conducting practice sessions.

4.2.3 Matches

The coach shall be present at all matches for his or her team unless the coach is in a situation that prevents attendance. In the instance that a coach may not be available for a match, the coach shall designate a qualified assistant (see 4.1) to act as coach for that match. If no

qualified assistant is available, the coach shall contact the opposing coach and Referee Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the match to either reschedule or cancel.

4.2.4 Minimum Playtime

The coach shall ensure that all players on the team Shall have Equal Playtime. Except when:

- A player is disqualified by the referee
- A player does not have the proper equipment
- A player partaking in dangerous misconduct
- A player has an incapacitating injury
- A player is ill
- A player has requested to play less than the minimum
- A player willfully evades practice (circumstances shall be addressed with the TCSEA Head Coach and parents of the child before reducing playtime)
- A player shows up after the start of a match

4.3 Match Conduct

4.3.1 Abuse of Referees

The coach shall respect the decisions of the referee. Abuse of referees **shall not be tolerated**. If a coach is in violation of any of the following he/she may be asked to leave the field.

4.3.2 Appropriate Language

The coach shall use appropriate language. Abusive or foul language, racial slurs or epithets, or other offensive remarks shall not be allowed.

4.3.3 Player Conduct

The coach shall ensure appropriate player conduct:

- o Abiding by the laws of the game
- o Using appropriate language
- o Respecting the decisions of the referee

- o Avoiding other inappropriate behavior
- o Displaying good sportsmanship

4.3.4 Spectator Conduct

The coach shall ensure appropriate spectator conduct:

- o Remaining in the spectator area
- o Using appropriate language
- o Respecting the decisions of the referee
- o Providing a positive environment for the players
- o Respecting the opposing team and spectators

Spectators are not allowed to address the Referee's in any form. If a Spectator is in violation of any of the following He/She may be asked to leave the field.

4.4 Injury Report

An injury report must be filed with the Board of Directors on the day of injury. This is due to insurance liability.

5 Code of Ethics

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
2. I will refrain from verbal abuse, intimidation, or physical altercations at any soccer game or practice.
3. I will accept the decisions of the officials, coaches, and club administrators without arguments or derogatory comments.
4. I will avoid interference in the play of the games by remaining behind the designated spectator lines on the field opposite the team's side
5. I will place the emotional and physical well being of players ahead of any

personal desire to win.

6. I will insist that players play in a safe and healthy environment.
7. I will provide support for all coaches and officials working with players to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
8. I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sports environment for players and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.
9. I will remember that the game is for the children and not for the adults.
10. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for players.
11. I will treat other player, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
12. I will promise to help players enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.
13. I will conduct myself with dignity and encourage the same behavior from others

6 Referees

6.1 Qualification

The Referee Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring the qualification of referees. Referees shall be age 10 or older. The following must apply:

- Hold an O9 certification for U-10 and above matches
- Be match qualified by the Referee Coordinator for U-6 matches

6.2 Pay Scale

Referees shall be paid per match based on a pay scale determined by the Board of Directors.

6.3 Conduct

Referees shall be expected to conduct themselves appropriately according to the FIFA

Laws of the Game and TCSA's Code of Ethics (See Section 5).

6.4 Equipment

6.4.1 Uniform

Referees shall wear the appropriate referee attire. Shirts color shall not conflict with either team during a match. In case of conflict, the Referee shall change shirt color.

6.4.2 What's Provided

TCSA will supply a bag for each field. This bag will include all of the necessary equipment needed for each game.

7 Matches

7.1 Location

All TCSA scheduled matches shall take place at an appropriate location designated by the Board of Directors.

7.2 Format

Game format shall conform to the laws set forth in the USYS regulations.

7.3 Schedules

7.3.1 In-House Matches

The Referee Coordinator shall schedule in-House matches. There shall be a minimum of 8 games per season. Matches shall be scheduled to take place on Saturdays when possible. TCSA will attempt to play teams no more than twice per season in regular matches.

7.3.2 Traveling Matches

Frontier Country Soccer Association governs all traveling matches.

7.3.3 Partner Clubs

In the event there are not enough teams for a particular division to schedule a regular season, teams in that division shall play with a partner club selected by the Board of Directors. The partner club shall schedule the matches in this situation. The Board of Directors shall advocate for TCSA teams playing with the partner club.

7.4 Postponement

7.4.1 Inclement Weather Preceding Matches

Call the Phone number 405-699-7370 or check the website www.tcsasoccer.org

Games will not be canceled until 30 minutes prior to the first game.

The Referee Coordinator and Head Coach shall make a determination whether regularly scheduled games are postponed due to inclement weather. The Referee Coordinator and Head Coach are expected to use sound judgment when postponing matches due to weather.

In case of inclement weather preceding scheduled matches, the Referee Coordinator shall:

Notify referees that matches have been postponed

Reschedule matches

Present the new schedule to the Head coach

Notify the referees of the new schedule

The Head Coach shall:

Notify coaches that matches have been postponed at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled match when possible.

Notify coaches of new schedule as soon as possible.

Coaches shall not assume that a match has been postponed unless officially contacted by the Head Coach or a designee thereof.

7.4.2 Hazardous Conditions

The Referee Coordinator or designee thereof shall postpone or terminate matches in progress in case of hazardous conditions. A match shall be postponed to be finished at a later time if less than one half of the match has been played. A match shall be terminated and the score final if at least one half of the match has been played. Conditions for a match shall be declared hazardous if:

Lightning can be seen followed by thunder

Ice is present

Heavy rain which pools on any portion of the field

Any other natural or manmade phenomenon which creates a risk of injury beyond the

normal risk of a soccer match

If the Referee Coordinator or designee postpones a match due to hazardous conditions, the Referee Coordinator shall:

Reschedule matches

Present the new schedule to the Head Coach

Notify the referees of the new schedule

The Head Coach shall notify coaches of new schedule as soon as possible

7.4.3 Mutual Consent

The Referee Coordinator shall make the determination whether a game may be postponed at the request of a coach with the consent of the opposing coach. A coach requesting a postponement shall contact the opposing coach at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled match to get consent. The requesting coach shall then contact the Referee Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled match to make the request. If the Referee Coordinator allows a postponement, he or she shall reschedule the match.

7.5 Forfeiture

A team failing to show up with enough players to field within 5 minutes of the scheduled beginning of a match shall forfeit that match. If both teams forfeit, the match shall not be made up.

7.6 Standings

7.6.1 U-6

Standings shall not be kept for U-6 regular season play.

7.6.2 U-8

Standings shall be kept for U-8 regular season play for determination of eligibility for Frontier Country Soccer Association's Day of Champions tournament (see 8.1).

7.6.3 U-10 and up

Standings shall be kept for U-10 regular season play for determination of eligibility for Frontier Country Soccer Association's Day of Champions tournament (see 8.1).

7.6.4 Scoring TCSA

When kept, standings shall be calculated by a point system. Only if a tie applies. Points shall be tallied as follows:

Win = 6 points

Tie = 3 point

Loss = 0 points

Shutout = 1 point

Forfeit = 0 points (match score 1-0)

Goals = 1 point each up to 3 points maximum

7.7 Mercy Rule

7.7.1 U-6, U-8, U10 Addition of a Player

A team who is behind by 5 goals or more in a match shall be allowed to add 1 player. An added player shall be allowed to remain in the game until the goal differential is less than or equal to 3 goals. Please remember this is up to the coaches and the Referees discretion.

7.7.2 U-10 and Up Early Termination

A match can be terminated early in the second half of play if the goal differential is 10 or higher and the result will stand. However, if both coaches consent, the match can continue.

8 Tournaments

8.1 Frontier Country Soccer Association Day of Champions

At the end of each Spring season, Frontier Country Soccer Association invites the top teams from each division U-8 and above to a tournament called Day of Champions. TCSA shall provide tournament entry and referee fees for the top teams in each division as allowed by the Day of Champions rules.

8.2 Recreational Tournaments

A coach shall be allowed to take his or her team to recreational tournaments. TCSA fees shall not cover entry into recreational tournaments other than the Day of Champions. The coach shall be responsible for raising the funds to enter a recreational tournament. If tournament play conflicts with a regular season match, the coach shall contact the Referee Coordinator, Head Coach, and Opposing coach 48 hours prior to reschedule that match.

9 Player

9.1 Balls – TCSA supplies game ball

U6 - #3

U8 - #3

U10 - #4

U12 - #4

U14 - #5

9.2 Footwear

Players shall utilize appropriate footwear during practice and games: closed-toe athletic shoes with no toe cleat; no baseball or football shoes.

9.3 Shin Protection

Players shall utilize appropriate shin protection during practice and games.

9.4 Uniforms

9.4.1 Socks

Players shall wear socks that completely cover shin protectors. All players on a team shall wear the same color socks during match play.

9.4.2 Jerseys

All players on a team, except goalkeepers, shall wear the same color jerseys during match play. Goalkeepers shall wear a jersey of a color that distinguishes them from the rest of the players. Jerseys shall be numbered (**Numbers are not required for U6 teams**). Each jersey on a team shall have a unique number on the back. The number shall be a minimum of 6 inches and clearly visible. Jerseys shall not impede player movement.

9.4.3 Shorts

Shorts shall not impede player movement.

9.4.4 Colors

During match play, teams must wear colors that are easily distinguished by the referee. The referee shall make the final determination whether the colors can be distinguished. In case of

conflict, the home team is responsible for changing their color.

10 Fields

10.1 Field dimensions

Field dimensions shall conform to the laws set forth in the USYS regulations.

10.2 Goals

Goal dimensions shall conform to the laws set forth in the USYS Regulations.

10.3 Corner flags

Corner flags shall be used for all matches played at the TCSA fields.

10.4 Field Markings

Field markings shall conform to the laws set forth in the USYS game.

10.5 Practice Policy

Game fields specified as such shall not be used for practice sessions.

10.6 Vehicles

All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas. No one shall park or drive motorized vehicles on non-paved areas except when required for field maintenance.

10.7 Tobacco and Alcohol Usage

Tobacco and alcohol use at fields used by TCSA shall be prohibited.

10.8 Pets

Pets shall not be allowed at the fields during games or practice, with the exception of service animals.

10.9 Signage

Signs shall not be posted near or on game fields without prior approval by the Board of Directors.

10.10 Solicitation

There shall be no solicitation without approval by the Board of Directors.

11 Availability of By-Laws

11.1 Hard-copy

The By-Laws for TCSA shall be made available to any member or registrant within 48 hours of request. Members and registrants may request a hard-copy of the by-laws from the Secretary.

11.2 Electronic Copy

TCSA shall maintain a current version of the By-Laws on the TCSA website. Members and registrants may download an electronic copy of the by-laws from the TCSA website.

12 Acceptance of By-Laws

12.1 Ratification

These By-Laws have been approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors on January 7th of the Year 2009.

President _____

Vice-President _____

Secretary _____

11.2 Amendment

Amendments to any law herein shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.