

# TRI-CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## LAWS OF THE GAME

(REVISED AUGUST 2019)



### LAW 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY

- All games assigned by the league to appropriate field size
- You may move a game to a similar size field if you deem playing conditions to be unsafe for any reason.
- Immediately contact a TCSA official to report any unsafe playing conditions

### LAW 2 - THE BALL

- Must be spherical
- Properly inflated with no jagged edges
- Home team provides the game ball

### LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- Each team must designate a goalkeeper
- If one team starts below full team size, the other must match the number of players
- If at any point a team falls below minimum number of players to play, they forfeit
- Players that removed from field because of injury can be replaced prior to restart
- If a player is attended to on the field for an injury, they must be removed until the next substitution.
- **MERCY RULE:** If either team is up by six goals, trailing team adds one additional player. Trailing team adds one additional player for each goal over a six-goal spread.

### LAW 4 - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- Full player uniform has: a TCSA shirt or jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards and proper footwear.
- No toe or metal cleats are allowed.
- Absolutely NO casts or splints, even if covered in padding.
- No jewelry can be worn, except medically necessary devices and religious relics.
- Hoods should be up around the head and tied OR tucked into the back of the jersey
- Hard-billed caps are NOT allowed.
- Shinguards must be worn at all practices and games and must be covered entirely by socks.
- Goalkeeper wears a color that distinguish them from the players on both teams.

### LAW 5 - REFEREES

- Referee has jurisdiction the second they step onto the complex.

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- Referees have three primary responsibilities: player safety, ensure fairness, promote a fun atmosphere
- Referee decisions are final regarding fouls, time, and score of the game.
- Referees may terminate a game whenever they feel that the elements, interference of spectators, coaches or other causes/situations warrant it.
- In the event a scheduled referee does not show up for a game, teams may find a suitable replacement referee. Once that replacement is agreed upon, that person(s) assumes the responsibilities of a league assigned referee.

### **LAW 6 – ASSISTANT REFEREES**

- Referees may ask parents of either team to help signal out of bounds on either sideline.
- Sole duty is to let the referee know when the ball is in and out of play.
- The referee will decide which team earns a throw in, corner kick, or goal kick

### **LAW 7 - DURATION OF THE GAME**

- The game consists of two periods.
- Half time interval is not to exceed 5 minutes.
- Allowances should be made for all time lost through substitution, injuries, timewasting.
- Allowances are at referee discretion.

### **LAW 8 - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY**

- To start the game, choice of ends and team kicking-off decided by a coin toss.
- Winner of toss may choose to kick off or defend/attack a goal.
- A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off (except U8)
- The ball is in play when it is moved by a kicking motion (forward or backward)
- When restarting play after half-time, ends of field are changed and kick-off is taken by opposite team to took first half kickoff.

### **LAW 9 - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

- Ball is out of play when:
  - It has completely crossed the side line or goal line, on the ground or in the air.
  - The game is stopped by the referee.
- Ball remains in play when:
  - It rebounds from a goal post, cross bar, or corner flag pole into the field of play.

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- It rebounds off a referee when they are in field of play (unless ball hitting referee results in change of possession or unfair advantage to one team)
- Until the referee decides to stop play

### LAW 10 - METHOD OF SCORING

- Goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the entire goal line on the ground or in the air between the goal posts
- Applies only when no other infringement of the laws of the game has taken place
- Restart: kick-off for the team scored upon

### LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

- A player cannot be called offside if they:
  - Are on their own half of the field (U12 and older)
  - Are on their own side of the BOL (U8-U10)
  - Have the ball
  - Are behind the ball
  - Have two defenders between them and the goal line (one is usually the goalie)
  - Never become actively involved in the play
- Offside position is determined at the moment the ball is played by a teammate
- Someone becomes actively involved in the play if they:
  - Play, or attempt to play the ball
  - Screen the goalkeeper
  - Affect the way an opponent would play by being in that position
  - Gain an advantage by being in that position
- There are no offside violations direct from a corner kick, goal kick, or throw-in
- There are no offside violations if the ball was last played by an opponent
- Offside can be called on a deflection off an opponent, the referee, the crossbar, a goal post, or corner flag
- Restart: IFK for the defending team

### LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- Direct free-kick (DFK) fouls (does not apply to U8):
  - kick or attempt to kick an opponent
  - trip or attempt to trip an opponent.

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- jump at an opponent
- charge an opponent, aka the “body control foul”
- charge an opponent from behind, unless the other player is obstructing
- strike or attempt to strike an opponent, or spit at them.
- hold an opponent
- push an opponent
- handle the ball with arm or hand, (that is any area below the shoulder).
- The goalkeeper can handle the ball in his own penalty area.
- Restart: DFK for victimized team at spot of contact, unless in penalty area
- Indirect free-kick (IFK) fouls (all fouls at U8 are indirect free kick fouls)
  - Dangerous play (e.g. high kick, playing on ground, kicking ball in keeper’s hands, anything the referee deems to be dangerous)
  - Obstructing the goalkeeper while ball is in hands
  - Obstruct opponents when not playing the ball.
  - Goalkeeper holds the ball in hands for more than six seconds
  - Goalkeeper drops the ball and picks it back up
  - Intentional pass-back violation – played by a teammate with the foot
  - Throw-in pass-back violation – received in hands direct from a throw-in
  - Offside
  - Any misconduct while the ball is in play
  - Double touch on any restart
  - Restart: IFK for non-committing team from the point of the infraction
- Cautionable offenses (yellow card):
  - A player enters or re-enters the field of play without the approval of the referee.
  - A player exchanges positions with the keeper after the game has started without the approval of the referee.
  - Leaves the field without having been given permission to do so by the referee.
  - Persistently infringes the rules of the game.
  - Shows dissent in any manner.
  - Delays a restart
  - Failure to respect the required distance on a restart
  - Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity with a goal having been scored
  - Restart - If play is stopped for a yellow card, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the point of the infraction. If the ball is out of play when an infraction warranting a

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Yellow Card occurs, play will resume normally.

- Send off offenses (red card):
  - 2nd yellow card
  - Violent conduct or serious foul play
  - Foul or abusive language
  - Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity without a goal being scored
  - Deliberately handles a ball to prevent a goal (other than the goalkeeper).
  - Spitting in the direction of another player, the referee, or team official
  - 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.
  - Restart - If play is stopped for a red card, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the point of the infraction. If the ball is out of play when the infraction occurs, play will resume normally.

### LAW 13 - FREE KICK

- Indirect free-kick – a goal cannot be scored directly from kick, ball must touch ANY other player
- Direct free-kick – goal can be scored direct from the kick (U9 and older)
- Ball cannot be moving at taking of kick
- Free kicks taken from place of infraction except:
  - Within either goal area, ball placed on top of goal area in line with where infraction occurred (for attacking or defending team based on infraction)
  - Direct free-kick foul against defending team in own penalty area, ball moves to penalty spot for a penalty kick
- Defending players must be 10 yards away from all free kicks.

### LAW 14 - PENALTY KICK

- Does not apply to U8 age group
- Results from DFK foul by defending team in own penalty area
- One shooter from attacking team
- One goalkeeper from defending team
- All other players outside penalty area, behind ball, and outside of penalty arc
- Goalkeeper keeps one foot on goal line until ball is kicked
- Shooter may not deceive over the ball, but may delay on the run up to the ball

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- Ball in play when it is moved forward with a kicking motion
- Violation by kicking team (or shooter) and a goal scored is a retake
- Violation by kicking team (or shooter) without a goal scored is IFK for defending team at spot of violation
- Violation by defending team (or keeper) and a goal scored is a goal (kickoff restart)
- Violation by defending team (or keeper) without a goal scored is a retake
- Violation by both teams simultaneously is a retake

### LAW 15 - THROW-IN

- Puts ball back in play after it has completely crossed the sideline.
- Taken from spot where the ball crosses side line.
- Awarded to team that did not touch ball last before it left play.
- Any player may take the throw-in for the team.
- Proper throw in must have:
  - Both feet touching the ground in some way
  - Both feet touching or behind side line
  - Two hands, and over top of head
- Violation results in a throw-in for opposite team (2nd chance throws for U8-U10)
- A goal may not be scored direct from a throw-in

### LAW 16 - GOAL KICK

- Awarded to defending team when attacking player last touches ball before it crosses goal line outside the goal posts
- Ball may be placed anywhere in or on goal area and may be taken by any player on defending team.
- Ball is in play once it has been moved with a kicking motion.
- **NOTE: the ball no longer must clear the penalty area to be in play on a goal kick**
- A goal can be scored direct from a goal kick (except U8)
- All attacking players must retreat behind the build out line.

### LAW 17 - CORNER KICK

- Awarded to attacking team when defending player last touches ball before it crosses goal line outside goal posts

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- Ball is placed anywhere in or on corner arc on the same side of the field ball went out.
- The corner flag may not be moved to take a corner kick.
- Defenders must be 10 yards away from the ball when it is played.
- The ball is in play when it has been moved with a kicking motion
- A goal may be scored direct from a corner kick (except U8)



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