

TRI-CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

UNDER 8 DIVISION RULES

(REVISED AUGUST 2019)



PURPOSE

This document is intended as an introduction to the basic rules of soccer for those at the U8 age level. It also specifically addresses Tri-Cities Soccer Association (TCSA) exceptions, adjustments or special circumstances.

THE GOAL

Introduce and promote the game and laws of soccer to the youth of the Tri-Cities area. It is TCSA's 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.

SUGGESTED IMPLEMENTATION

It is widely accepted and encouraged in the TCSA recreational soccer program to utilize "teaching moments" to help younger age groups learn the laws of the game. Referees should use discretion in implementing teaching moments.

THE WEATHER POLICY

- Any flash of lightning, clap of thunder, or the activation of the weather detection system (at fields equipped with it) IMMEDIATELY ends the current games being played with the score reported as it was when the game was terminated.
- There are NO delays and restarts of games related to weather.
- A period of TWENTY (20) consecutive minutes must go by without a flash of lightning or clap of thunder AND the all clear signal must be given by the weather detection system (at fields equipped with it) before players can be on the fields.
- A game will NOT start later than fifteen (15) minutes after its scheduled start time. If the 20-minute period needed for all clear has not passed by this time, that game will not be played.
- There are absolutely no exceptions to the weather policy. Referees and coaches should work together to ensure the safety of everyone at the field. Do NOT mess around with the weather

GOAL SAFETY – ZACK'S LAW

- THE STATE OF ILLINOIS HAS A LAW CONCERNING GOAL SAFETY.
- COMMONLY CALLED "ZACK'S LAW."
- 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 AND EVEN DEATH.

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- 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, ADVISE ANY OTHER TEAMS OR REFEREES PLANNING TO USE THE FIELD OF THE UNSAFE CONDITION.
- DO NOT LET KIDS HANG FROM THE GOAL CROSSBAR OR CLIMB THE NETTING!

BUILD-OUT LINE (BOL)

- Hashed line painted halfway between half line and top of penalty area.
- If no BOL is painted on the field, it is recommended to use the bottom of the center circle
- Any free kick for defending team inside their own penalty area, specifically goal kicks OR goalkeeper gains possession of the ball in his or her hands
- Attacking players cannot cross the build out line until a 2nd defending player touches the ball OR the ball crosses over BOL
- Enforced with indirect free kick (IFK) for the defending team at the spot of infringement
- BOL is now the line for determining if a player is offside.

SPECIFIC TO THIS AGE GROUP

- No punting allowed for all age groups U10 and below
- A purposeful header by a player in U12 and younger shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent.
- Games played on U8 size fields
- Games played with size 4 ball
- Teams play with six field players and one goalkeeper for a total of seven players.
- A minimum of five players (four and a goalkeeper) are required to start a game.
- A maximum of twelve players may be allowed on any roster.
- Second chance throw-ins are used to help instruct players to conduct throw ins correctly. It is suggested to have the same player attempt the second chance throw in to help teach.
- There are no direct free kicks at U8.
- There are no penalty kicks (a form of direct free kick) at U8.
- Referees are introduced for the first time in this age group. At team check in, remind coaches that they are not permitted on the field without referee permission. This includes handling of subs.
- Players sub about every six minutes.
- The length of each half is 24 minutes of playing time.

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- Keeping score and win/loss record apply to this age group for the first time.
- Teams and coaches occupy one sideline; parents occupy the other sideline for the first time at this age group. You should only have as many adults on the team sideline as the team has coach's stickers in their waiver packet.



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