

# TRI-CITIES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## UNDER 12 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!

### **SPECIFIC TO THIS AGE GROUP**

- Punting is allowed at this age group for the first time
- A purposeful header by a player in U12 and younger shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent.
- Games played on U12 size fields
- Games played with size 4 ball
- Teams play with ten field players and one goalkeeper for a total of eleven players.
- A minimum of seven players (six and a goalkeeper) are required to start a game.
- A maximum of seventeen players will be allowed on any roster.
- Throw in violations result in a turnover immediately at this age for the first time. That is, no second chance throw-ins are given at this age
- Players sub about every seven minutes, thirty seconds.
- The length of each half is thirty minutes of playing time.



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