

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**



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**ARTICLE 1**  
**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Tri County Soccer Association. Hereafter referred to as TCSA.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Tri County Soccer Association is to promote and advance the game of soccer, to provide opportunity for fun and recreation, to develop leadership, sportsmanship, physical fitness, and courage through competition and to provide competent leadership for the attainment of a successful soccer program.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1

The membership of this association shall be composed of adults and youth who have applied to TCSA with the approval of the Board of Directors and the membership shall be composed of the following:

- A. **Players:** Any boy or girl within the age limits set forth by the Association is eligible for membership. A contract approved by a manager or coach together with the payment of all required fees, is evidence of such membership. A player shall have no vote.
- B. **Associate Member:** All individuals (minimum age 18), whom have an interest in aiding the objectives of the Association and agree to abide by the constitution, by-laws and rules of TCSA, are eligible for membership as an associate member. Associate members shall have no vote.
- C. **Coaches:** Any person 18 years of age or older, who supports the purpose of this organization and agrees to uphold the provisions set forth in Article 2 and abide by the rules of the Association, may apply to become a coach. Providing all other conditions listed above are met, exception for age may be made with the approval of the Board of Directors.
  - 1. It is recommended that all coaches, or a team representative appointed by the coach, attend all meetings, coaches meetings, and fieldwork days.
  - 2. All new coaches must attend the "G" course clinic for coaches sponsored by TCSA.
  - 3. All coaches must:
    - a. Attend the Mandatory Coaches meeting(s)
    - b. Submit the NTSSA background check online and be approved prior to the first game of the fall season each year.

Final approval resides with NTSSA.

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**ARTICLE 3**  
**MEMBERSHIP (Cont'd)**

SECTION 2

**Voting**-Each team shall be entitled to one vote only on the general election of the Board of Directors and Bylaw / Rule Changes.

- A. Elections will be held in the fall season, at the Annual Coaches Meeting, for any position that has expired in term.
- B. The team coach, assistant coach, or an alternate may cast this vote.
  - 1. In the event that an alternate will be a voting member at a scheduled or called meeting, the alternate must register with the Secretary prior to the meeting.
  - 2. If a coach is a Board Member, that coach must have an assistant coach or alternate in order to receive a team vote.
  - 3. Voting will be made by secret ballot.

SECTION 3

**Code of Conduct / Ethics:**(as stated in Rule 3.11 and Rule 11 of NTSSA) including:

- A. Any member (players, spectators, coaches, etc.) may be expelled or suspended for:
  - 1. Any violation of the by-laws or rules, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of this Association, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
    - 1. This prejudicial conduct shall include but not be limited to:
      - i. A displaying of gang related items such as clothing, jewelry, signs, gestures and any other possibilities not specifically mentioned, at any TCSA sponsored event. This includes all practices, pictures, games and tournaments.
- B. All members must sign a Spectator Code of Conduct at the beginning of each season and will abide by said conduct rules.
  - 1. This signature is located in the membership form for players and parents/spectators.
  - 2. The coaches' signatures are on a completed coach's application and will represent an agreement to abide by the code of conduct/ethics rules.
- C. Coaches may not wear a board-member or referee shirt while coaching.

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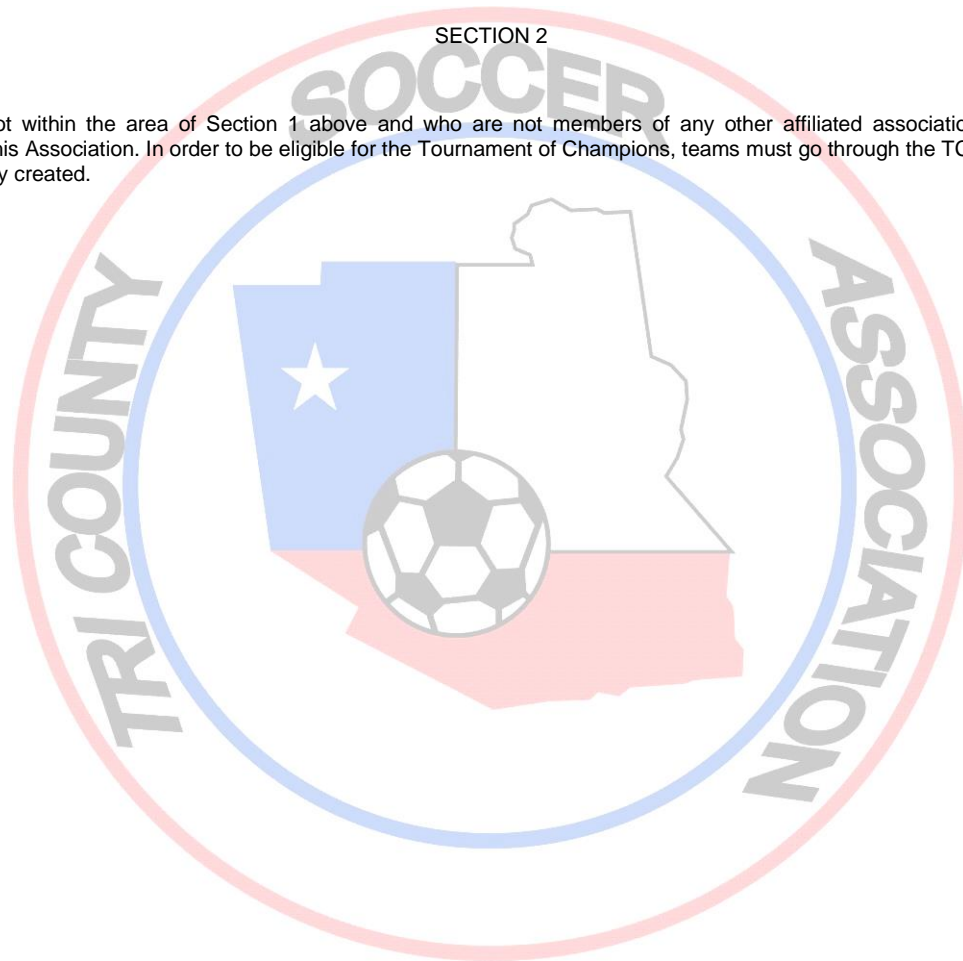
**ARTICLE 4**  
**AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

SECTION 1

The territory under jurisdiction of this Association shall be the five independent school districts (Eustace, Kemp, Mabank, Malakoff and Trinidad) surrounding Cedar Creek Lake.

SECTION 2

Any teams not within the area of Section 1 above and who are not members of any other affiliated association may become members of this Association. In order to be eligible for the Tournament of Champions, teams must go through the TCSA player draw when originally created.



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**ARTICLE 5**  
**GOVERNMENT**

SECTION 1

**Board of Directors:**

- A. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following:
1. President (elected in even number years)
  2. Vice President – Publicity (elected in odd number years)
  3. Vice President – Referees (chosen by referees)
  4. Treasurer (elected in odd number years)
  5. Secretary (elected in even number years)
  6. Registrar (elected in odd number years)
  7. Age Division Commissioners (elected in even numbered years)
  8. Coach Coordinator (elected in odd number years)
  9. Purchasing Agent (elected in odd years)
  10. Referee Assignor (appointed each year by President)
  11. Appeals & Disciplinary (appointed each year by Board of Directors)
  12. Field Maintenance (appointed each year by President)
  13. Concessions (appointed each year by President)
- B. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote in all voting matters.
- C. The Board of Directors shall transact all business of the Association, and shall have the power to enforce the rules of the United States Soccer Federation, the United States Youth Soccer Association, the North Texas State Soccer Association, the laws of the game; and the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of this Association. The Board of Directors shall have the power to settle all appeals, disputes, and protests subject to re-hearing by this Association. Board of Directors' meetings may be held at the discretion of the President at the time and place designated by the President.
- D. Board of Directors must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

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**ARTICLE 5**  
**GOVERNMENT (Cont'd)**

SECTION 2

**Election of the Board of Directors:**

- A. The President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three (3) members
  - 1. No more than two of which may be a member of the Board of Directors
  - 2. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.
- B. The nominating committee shall name
  - 1. At least one consenting member for each of the posts to be filled
  - 2. Should make an effort to see that each area is represented on the Board of Directors.
  - 3. Shall publish a list of the persons named, to be presented at the scheduled meeting, prior to the annual Mandatory Coaches meeting.
- C. Additional nominations can be made from the floor prior to the elections.
  - 1. Nominees are allowed five (5) minutes, per nominee, to address membership prior to voting taking place.
  - 2. Nominees may have members speak on their behalf
    - a Not more than 3 may speak per nominee
    - b Each speaker is limited to two (2) minutes.
- D. Election of the Board of Directors may be by written ballot.
- E. Election of the Board of Directors shall be at the Annual Coaches Meeting.
- F. The individuals receiving the greatest number of votes, as cast by the voting members of this Association, shall be declared elected.
  - 1. Ballots will be counted by members of the Nominating Committee
  - 2. Nominees may have a representative present during the counting of the ballots
  - 3. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote by written ballot will declare the winner.
- G. Any member of the Board of Directors who is absent from three consecutive regular meetings shall have his office declared vacant by the Board of Directors.
  - 1. A vacancy of any office because of death, resignation, or any other reason may be filled by the Board of Directors for the remaining portion of the term.

SECTION 3

**Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year of Tri County Soccer Association shall be from September 1 to August 31.

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**ARTICLE 1**  
**DUTIES OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SECTION 1

**President:**

- A. Shall be the principal executive officer of this Association.
- B. Shall preside over all meetings.
- C. Is charged with the overall administrative and executive functions of this Association
- D. Shall appoint all committees as he sees necessary to carry out the functions of the Association.
- E. Shall assign duties to all officers as required.
- F. Is empowered to take prudent and reasonable action in any cases not covered by these By-Laws, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- G. Shall be an ex-officer member of the Board of Directors

**Vice President - Publicity:**

- A. Shall perform the duties of the President, in his absence
  - 1. When acting, will have all the powers of and be subject to the restrictions as assigned to him by the President or Board of Directors.
- B. In the event the office of President is vacated, the First Vice-president shall become the President for the remainder of that term.
- C. To promote and advance the Tri County Soccer Association and the game of soccer.
- D. To obtain publicity for signups and association functions.
- E. To get approval from code enforcement officers of Mabank and Gun Barrel City as well as the Superintendent of area School districts for sign placement and flyer distribution at least 30 days prior to the first chosen signup date of each season.
- F. Receive signup flyers from purchasing agent in time to distribute to the schools prior to signup dates.
- G. Position is responsible for securing and collecting money from league sponsors for each season and depositing the money into the association's checking account.
- H. A list of the participating sponsors must then be provided to the purchasing agent for sponsor advertising.

**Vice President - Referees:**

- A. Shall be a Registered USSF referee
- B. Will be appointed by the majority of the registered referees assigned to this Association.
- C. Responsible to the President for training and assessment of all referees.
- D. Will maintain all records concerning the referees.
- E. In the absence of the President and the First Vice President, the Second Vice President will preside over all official meetings.

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**Treasurer:**

- A. Shall receive all and collect all money credited to the Association, and deposit same to the account approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. Shall maintain records of all deposits and disbursements
- C. Will present a complete and as up-to-date as possible financial report tall Association meetings
- D. Must present a financial budget in advance of each fall season (August meeting), for approval by the voting membership.
- E. Each disbursement over \$250 will require two authorized signatures of the Treasurer and another Board Member
  1. The member on the signature card at the bank shall be voted on at the annual meeting or in the case of resignation.
- F. The Treasurer shall not approve any non-budgeted items without Board Approval
- G. Shall submit all reports to Secretary no later than 1 week before regularly scheduled meeting for disbursement to board members

**Secretary:**

- A. Shall record and maintain a record of all regular and Board meetings.
- B. Will have a copy of the previous meetings minutes available at all meetings, and present them to the members for acceptance vote.
  1. The copy of minutes and records will be kept at the association office
- C. Check mail weekly
- D. Shall disburse agenda / reports / minutes to board members for review no later than 5 days before scheduled meeting.
- E. Make notifications of meetings and other inner-organizational information

**Registrar:**

- A. Shall compile and forward all rosters and information required by the North Texas State Soccer Association prior to the specific deadline.
- B. Shall maintain all records pertaining to the disciplinary point system concerning each player, as reported by the referee
  1. Must immediately notify the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee so the appropriate action may be taken.

**Age Division Commissioners:**

- A. Shall communicate all Association business to their respective coaches the condition of all playing fields and equipment within their jurisdiction
- B. Will make initial recommendations concerning protests, violence, disputes, and misconduct.
- C. Shall work with all coaches to assure the proper regard and enforcement of all rules.
- D. Shall receive all player birth certificates to assure them of accuracy and verification by registrar.
- E. Shall monitor all records pertaining to the scheduling, and playing of each game, to include the win/loss record of each respective age group.

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**Appeals and Disciplinary:**

- A. Members of this committee shall be from the playing areas within Tri County.
- B. The Chair shall be appointed each year by a majority vote of Board of Directors
- C. Duties of this committee
  - 1. To deal with all disagreements within Tri County Soccer Association
  - 2. To hear all appeals
  - 3. Form a just decision in all matters.
- D. Term of office is one playing year.
- E. Chairperson shall submit a report containing number of issues heard and dispositions of issues to secretary for disbursement to board members no later than 1 week prior to regularly scheduled meeting.
- F. Ethics Committee – an A&D subcommittee
  - 1. To hear all non-game related misconduct.
  - 2. Reports must be submitted in writing.
  - 3. The chair shall determine whether a hearing is needed.

**Referee Assignor:**

- A. North Texas State Association shall license the Referee Assignor.
- B. They are responsible for assigning the appropriate referee to each game and make-up games,
- C. They shall keep a record of referee fees to be submitted to the Treasurer monthly for payment.

**Coach Coordinator:**

- A. Choose an assistant to support with any time/age group conflicts.
  - 1. Assistant must submit to and pass background check.
- B. To register for the new coaches G clinic with North Texas State Soccer at least 4 weeks in advance of clinic date each season.
- C. To be present at each TCSA clinic as on site coordinator.
- D. To provide literature and training to implement and administer a high-quality coaches system in TCSA.
- E. To inform Purchasing Agent of the number of total coaches from both divisions in the fall season.
- F. To inform the Purchasing Agent of the number of coaches attending the “G” clinic each season.
  - 1. Supplies need to be ordered in time to be received before the clinic date.
- G. Responsible for visiting with all coaches in the responsible division, for instruction or to help in any way.
- H. Position will coordinate players’ and coaches’ camps and mini camps.
- I. This position must uphold Article 2 of the TCSA constitution as well as Section 28.7 of the NTSSA Constitution.
- J. Shall submit a report of previous month’s activities to Secretary for disbursement to board members no later than 1 week prior to regularly scheduled meeting.

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**Field Maintenance:**

- A. Responsible for the general field maintenance and overall promotion of a healthy and well-conditioned playing surface for the players.
- B. This responsibility will include the mowing, watering, fertilizing, seeding, goals, building, and all ancillary equipment needed to field the playing areas.

**Concessions:**

- A. Responsible for the set up and maintenance of the concession stand during all home games.
- B. Handle all purchasing of merchandise,
- C. scheduling of workers
- D. Reporting of all income and expenses of the concession stand.

**Purchasing Agent:**

- A. Must have a way of advertising each sponsor during the season to show our appreciation.
- B. Ordering and distributing the chosen league uniforms, with numbers, for all players on each team every fall season as well as the added new players in the spring season.
- C. Purchasing of program related supplies (ex. Balls, nets, flags, "G" clinic coach supplies)
- D. Ordering player application forms and signup flyers as needed prior to registration time.
- E. Position must uphold Article 2 of the TCSA constitution.

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**ARTICLE 2**  
**MEETINGS**

SECTION 1

A board meeting will be held the third Monday of each month. The meeting scheduled for July will be set aside to formulate the necessary budgeting and administrative procedures for the fall and spring seasons, respectively.

SECTION 2

A quorum requires at least 9 Board Members to be present. If a quorum is not present, no vote on Association business may be taken.

SECTION 3

The Board of Directors shall meet upon call by the President. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4

Robert's Rules of Order shall conduct all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors.

SECTION 5

The order of business for all Association meetings shall be:

1. Roll call
2. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting minutes
3. Reading and approval of treasurer's report
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Reports from other members of the Board of Directors
7. Committee reports
8. Adjournment

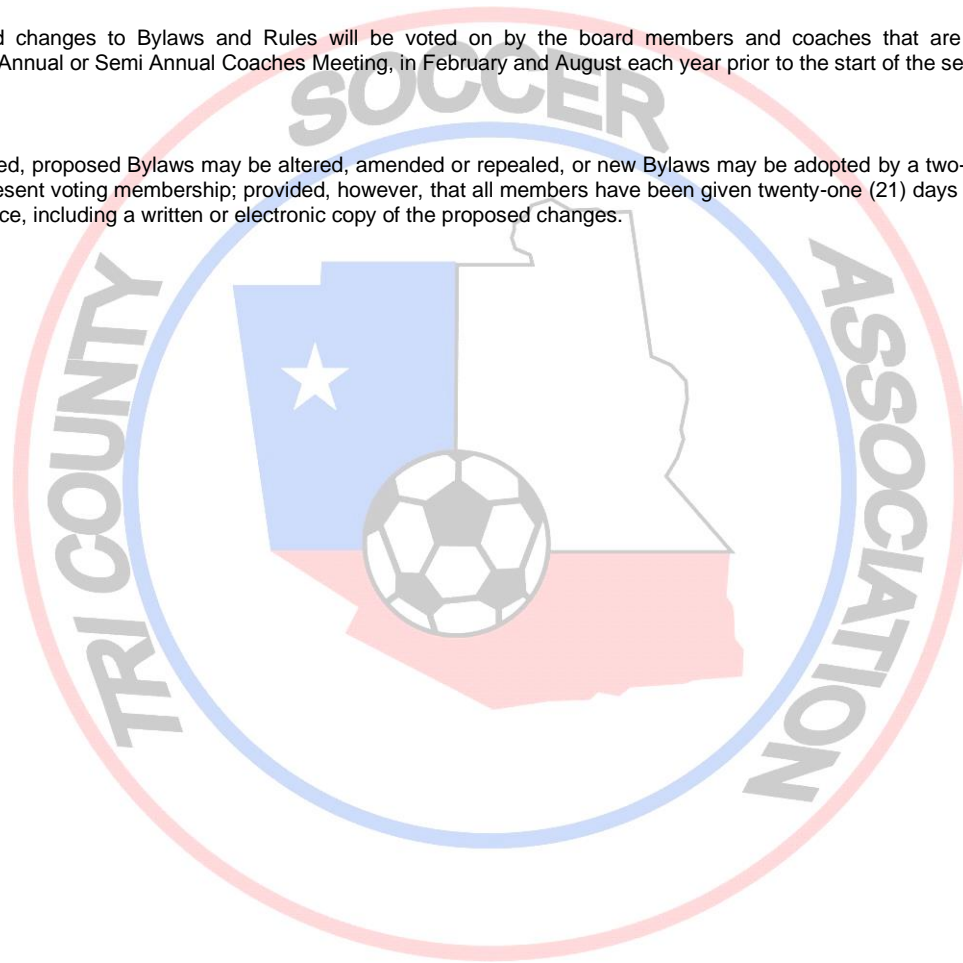
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**ARTICLE 3**  
**AMENDMENTS**

Any proposal to amend the constitution and Bylaws or add new Bylaws may be made only by members of the Board of Directors. These proposals must be submitted at a board meeting for discussion by the Board of Directors. Proposals are then submitted to Coaches and Board Members, by written or electronic means, at least 21 days prior to the Associations Annual or Semi Annual Coaches Meeting.

Any proposed changes to Bylaws and Rules will be voted on by the board members and coaches that are present at the Association's Annual or Semi Annual Coaches Meeting, in February and August each year prior to the start of the season.

These accepted, proposed Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total present voting membership; provided, however, that all members have been given twenty-one (21) days written notice or electronic notice, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.





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SECTION 1

**Playing Year:**

- A. The Association playing year shall be August 1 through July 31 of the next year.
- B. The playing year may be divided into as many playing seasons as the membership desires (NTSSA Rule).

SECTION 2

**Team Standings:**

- A. The following point system will be used to determine a team's division standings for Under 10 and older teams for FALL regular season scheduled games.
  - 1. Tournaments and scrimmages do not count.
  - 2. The entire SPRING season game points do not count in the calculation of the fall standings.
  - 3. If an age division is too small to schedule itself (3 teams or less) these teams may play in outside leagues.
    - a. They must, however, play against each of the TCSA registered teams in their same division in order to determine their standings in TCSA.
- B. Game points:
  - 1. Only calculated on the officially (by the league scheduler) scheduled games played
    - a. in the fall season
    - b. against TCSA teams registered in the same age division
      - i. (3) points for each win
      - ii. (1) point for each tie
      - iii. (0) points for each loss
  - 2. (-2) points for each forfeit
    - a. accumulated for the whole same calendar year spring and fall games against TCSA and Non TCSA teams on the officially scheduled games (See Section 5 . A.)
    - b. does not include tournaments

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C. Game Sheets

1. Failure of Coaches of U-10 and Older teams to turn in game sheets to the TCSA building the same day for Home Games or within seven (7) days for Out of Town Games will result in that game being scored as a Zero (0).

D. Assessment of team card penalty points:

1. All team cards accumulated during the current calendar year (Jan-Dec) by a player/coach/asst. coach/manager at all scheduled games during that calendar year.
  - a. This will include all games on the spring and fall schedule against both TCSA and Non TCSA teams.
2. When yellow cards are accumulated each will equal
  - a. (1) Point deduction.
3. A sendoff ( or red card) is equal to
  - a. (2) point deduction or
    - i. Up to a (4) point deduction.
  - b. Any sendoff/red card is automatically a (2) point deduction.
    - i. Any deduction over this minimum is decided by the A&D Committee.
  - c. A red card that is a result of a second yellow will only count as
    - i. (2) Point deduction.
    - ii. The yellow cards will not count as additional points in this instance.
  - d. Any cards issued during a tournament are not used on card penalty point calculations.

E. At the end of the fall season all game points from the fall schedule (excluding games outside of TCSA teams) and all point deductions for all forfeits (accumulated for the whole calendar years spring and fall season games on TCSA official schedules against both TCSA & Non TCSA teams.) will be totaled to equal the team standings. Should a tie result in the final standings, the following tiebreakers shall be used in the order shown using only the games played against home association teams of the same age group.

1. Head to head competition results – winner advances
2. Maximum number of goals scored with a maximum of three (3) goals per game ( excluding non TCSA registered teams)
3. Kicks from penalty mark according to FIFA rules until a winner is determined. Teams will be notified in advance that a tie is possible and should therefore be at the field for the tiebreaker. Each team participating in this tiebreaker must have a minimum number of players required to start a game per their age group requirements (ex U12-U19 is 7), at the field before the kicks can start.

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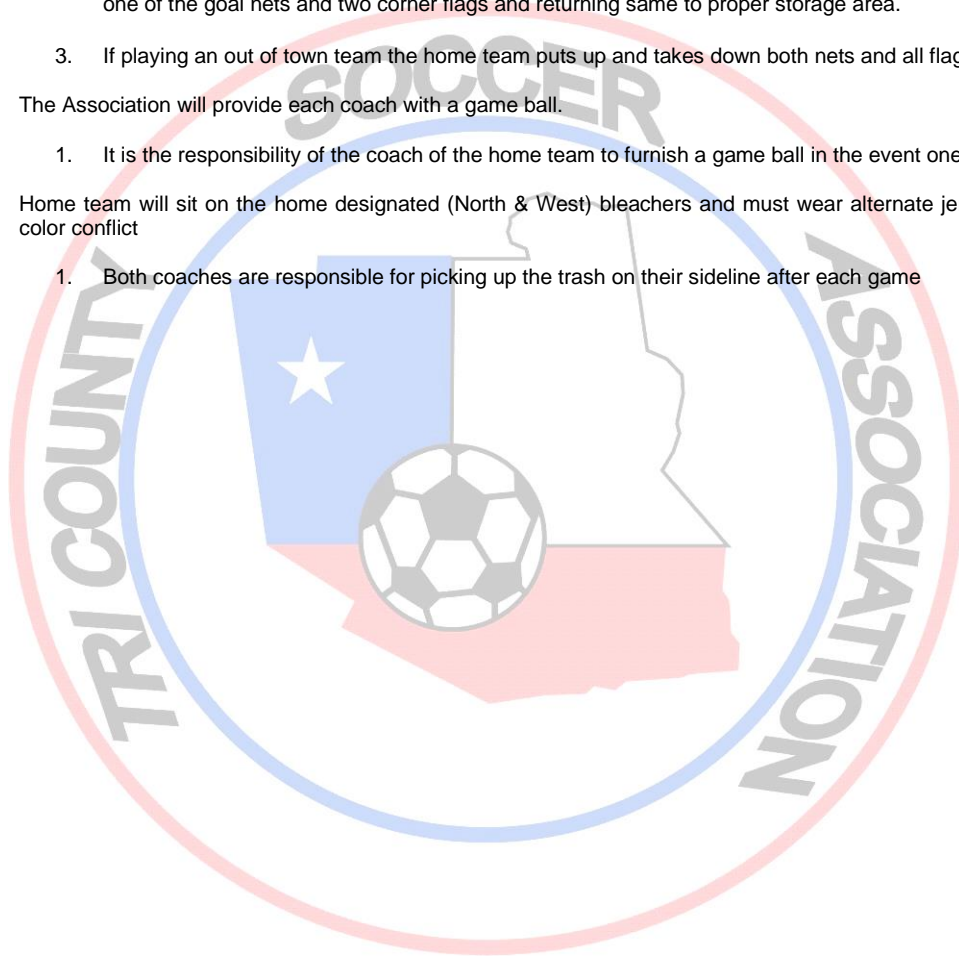
- F. Tournament of Champions (TOC): Teams must satisfy the following criteria for entry into the NTSSA Tournament of Champions at the conclusion of each Fall season:
1. The team must finish first in their assigned age group.
    - a. In the case of a tie, the team that holds the tie-breaker will advance.
      - i. See Section 2. E
  2. Must have won at least 50% of current fall season schedule. This includes both TCSA and Non TCSA team games.
    - a. Scrimmages and tournaments do not count
  3. The team has not exceeded the following penalty card point totals during the current soccer year (Spring and Fall seasons of the current calendar year)
    - a. 18 total penalty card points
    - b. 5 total send-offs
      - i. Including red cards as the result of two yellow cards in a single game
    - c. Cards received during league play, against both TCSA and Non-TCSA teams, are used for penalty card point totals
    - d. Cards received during tournament play or scrimmages do not count toward these totals.
  4. Divisions that consist of only one team will advance to TOC as long as they meet the requirement of section 2. F. 2 and are not deemed ineligible by section 2. F. 3.
    - a. In the event that the age group commissioner deems a team not likely to meet the requirements of F. 2. The commissioner can rule the team ineligible to advance to TOC based on the team's record.
      - i. This decision must be made no later than ten (10) days prior to the NTSSA deadline to enter teams in the Tournament of Champions and delivered to the coach at that time.
    - b. If a team is ruled ineligible for Tournament of Champions, the coach may appeal the decision to the TCSA Board of Directors
  5. In divisions that consist of more than one team:
    - a. If the first place team has ruled ineligible or willingly elects not to enter TOC, the TCSA Board of Directors may elect to send the second place team instead.
    - b. The second place team is eligible for selection as long as they have met the requirements of Section 2 F. 2. And are not deemed ineligible due to section 2. F. 3.
      - i. If the second place team is not selected for advancement to TOC, the coach may appeal only if the decision to not send them is based on being ineligible due to Section F. 3. a.
  6. Any team which is returning to recreational play from competitive play is not eligible for Tournament of Champions.

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SECTION 3

**Playing Equipment:**

- A. Fields shall be lined and net and corner flags installed in accordance with rules established at the beginning of each season by the Association.
  - 1. Each team who participates in the first scheduled games on a given day shall be responsible for installing one goal net and two corner flags.
  - 2. Each team who participates in the last scheduled games on a given day, shall be responsible for removing one of the goal nets and two corner flags and returning same to proper storage area.
  - 3. If playing an out of town team the home team puts up and takes down both nets and all flags.
- B. The Association will provide each coach with a game ball.
  - 1. It is the responsibility of the coach of the home team to furnish a game ball in the event one deflates.
- C. Home team will sit on the home designated (North & West) bleachers and must wear alternate jersey in cases of color conflict
  - 1. Both coaches are responsible for picking up the trash on their sideline after each game



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SECTION 4

**Eligibility:**

A. Team Eligibility

1. Each team must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for divisional play:
  - a. Submit its fee and required documents to the appropriate Age Commissioner on or before the date set by the Association.
  - b. Not be under suspension

B. Player Eligibility

1. For a player to be eligible for divisional play in the association, he or she must
  - a. Have submitted a valid contract and fee to this Association.
    - i. Fees must be paid in full by first Saturday of April/October for current season of play.
  - b. Not be under suspension
  - c. Fall within the age and gender limits of the following divisions.
    - i. Each age division consist of a boys and a girls division separately
      1. Under 5 Division
        - a. players 4 before July 31st of current year may play in the Fall season.
      2. Under 6 Division
      3. Under 8 Division
      4. Under 10 Division
      5. Under 12 Division
      6. Under 14 Division
      7. Under 16 Division
      8. Under 19 Division
  - d. Age is determined on December 31<sup>st</sup>, of the playing year.
  - e. A player may play in an older division, but under no circumstances may he or she play in a younger age division.
  - f. No player may change teams during a season without written permission of the releasing coach and their age group commissioner.
    - i. Once a coach contracts a player, he/she must be given successive contracts until he/she moves to an older age group, unless:
      1. Player requests in writing to be placed on another team, at registration.
      2. Receives a release from the coach, and such release is approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
  - g. A Player, who played as a guest player with another team, may not be transferred or added to the hosting team's roster for the remainder of the current soccer season, and all of the following soccer season, unless the transfer is approved by the appropriate age group commissioner

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**Forfeits:**

- A. The following constitutes ground for forfeiture equal to a 2 point deduction in standings (accumulated for the whole calendar year spring and fall season games against TCSA and Non TCSA teams. Not tournaments)
1. Fielding an ineligible player.
  2. A Coach or responsible adult not present with the team during competition.
  3. Failure to field a team with the minimum number of players allowable within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time according to the referee's watch.
    - a. The minimum number of players a team may field without being subject to forfeit is as follows:
      - i. Under 5 and Under 6 3 players
      - ii. Under 8 3 players
      - iii. Under 10 5 players
      - iv. Under 12 6 players
      - v. Under 13 through Under 19 7 players
    - b. The referee shall report this incident to the Age Division Commissioner.
  4. Game stoppage (abandonment) by the referee because of extreme misconduct
    - a. Misconduct could be on the part of Coach, Player, or Spectator
    - b. Abandoned games are to be turned into A&D Committee
- B. If a coach pulls their team off the field during a game, that team shall receive an automatic forfeit
- C. On game day, if the fields are determined to be playable by the association, all teams must play regardless of weather conditions.
- D. Decisions, by teams, not to play (or reschedule) will be considered a forfeit for all age groups of U-10 and above.
1. If teams decide not to play, (or reschedule) coaches need to notify their commissioner or the referee assignor the day before their scheduled game.
    - a. Any U9/U19 team that fails to make up a scheduled game will be given an automatic forfeit. This includes games against TCSA and Non TCSA teams

**Game Cancellations / Reschedules:**

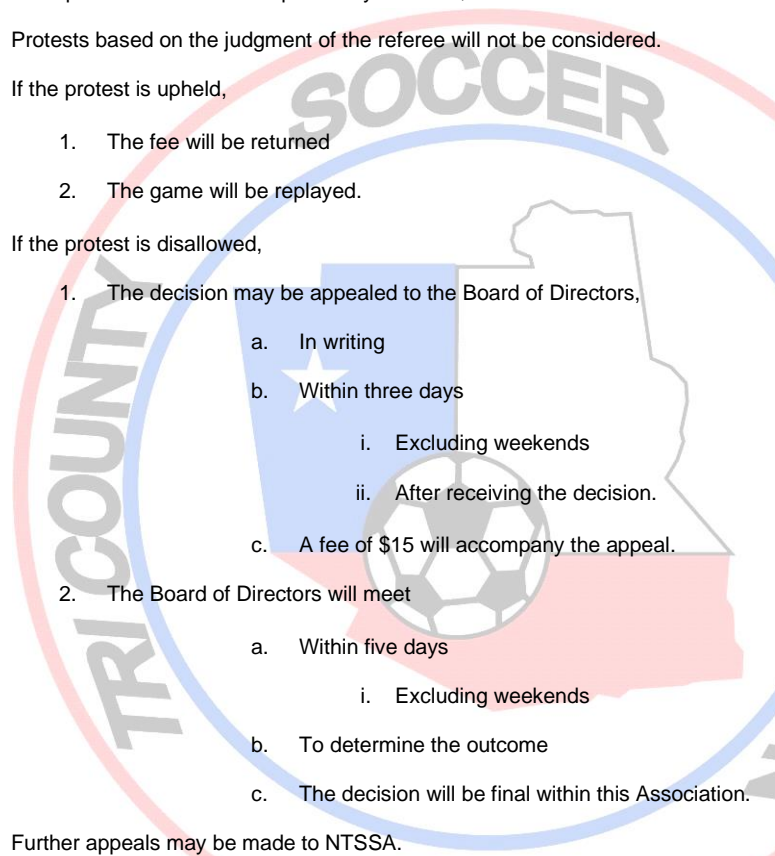
- A. If a team needs to request a game be rescheduled, the coach must contact their commissioner no later than 2 days before the games scheduled date.
- B. All rescheduled games should be made up within two weeks of the original game date or before the last scheduled game of the season – whichever comes first.
- C. If TCSA or away association chooses not to reschedule a canceled game there will not be a penalty for either team and the game will not be considered forfeit.



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 6

**Protests:**

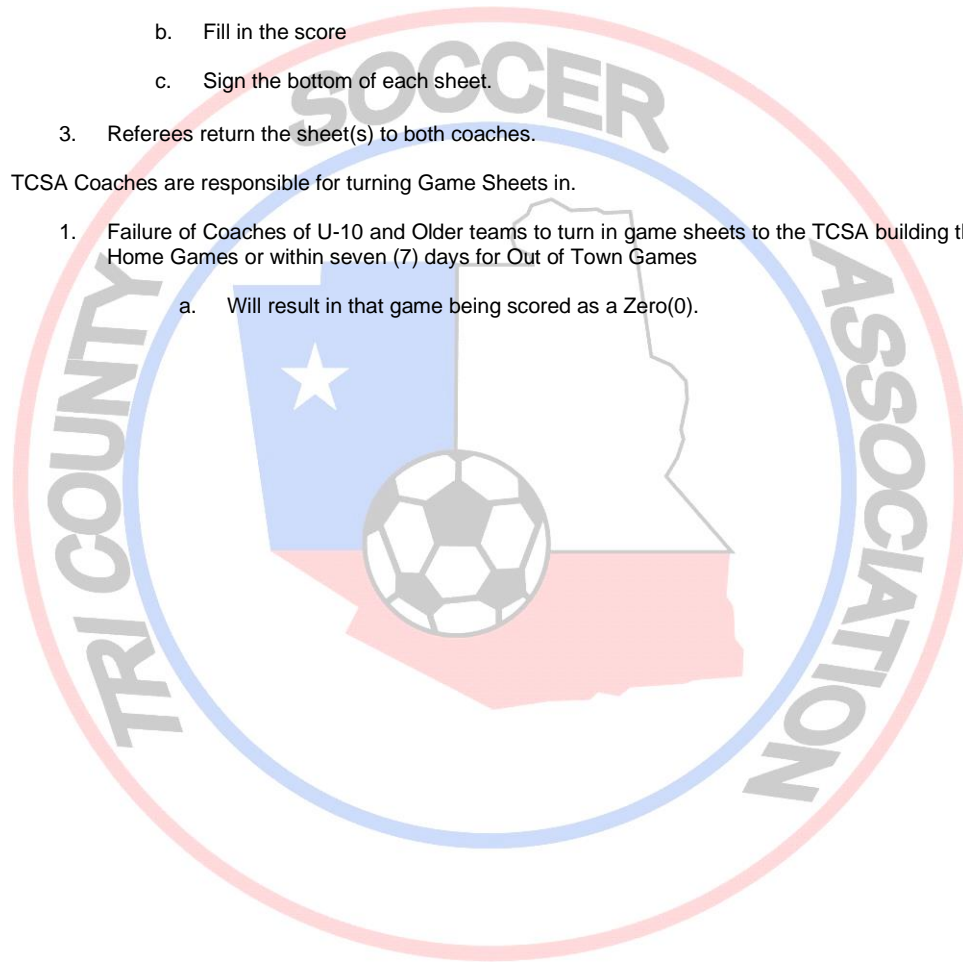
- 
- A. Any team protesting a game
    1. Must deliver the protest in writing to the appropriate age commissioner
    2. Within three days after the game.
  - B. Each protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.
  - C. Protests based on the judgment of the referee will not be considered.
  - D. If the protest is upheld,
    1. The fee will be returned
    2. The game will be replayed.
  - E. If the protest is disallowed,
    1. The decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors,
      - a. In writing
      - b. Within three days
        - i. Excluding weekends
        - ii. After receiving the decision.
      - c. A fee of \$15 will accompany the appeal.
    2. The Board of Directors will meet
      - a. Within five days
        - i. Excluding weekends
      - b. To determine the outcome
      - c. The decision will be final within this Association.
  - F. Further appeals may be made to NTSSA.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 7

**Scoring Forms:**

- A. For U9/U19 age groups
  - 1. 10 minutes prior to the game, coaches must
    - a. Submit a completed game roster to the referee.
  - 2. At the end of the game the referee must
    - a. Fill in their information,
    - b. Fill in the score
    - c. Sign the bottom of each sheet.
  - 3. Referees return the sheet(s) to both coaches.
- B. TCSA Coaches are responsible for turning Game Sheets in.
  - 1. Failure of Coaches of U-10 and Older teams to turn in game sheets to the TCSA building the same day for Home Games or within seven (7) days for Out of Town Games
    - a. Will result in that game being scored as a Zero(0).



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 8

**Fees and Rosters:**

- A. Team fees and starting rosters must be submitted to the Age Commissioner on or before the date set by the Association.
- B. Each team must be composed of enough players to meet the competition requirements of its age group.
  - 1. Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, and Under 8
    - a. Shall field 4 players to a side.
    - b. Teams must be composed of
      - i. at least 4 players and not more than 8 players.
  - 2. Under 10
    - a. Shall field 7 players to a side.
    - b. Teams must be composed of
      - i. at least 7 players and not more than 12 players.
  - 3. Under 12
    - a. Shall field 9 players to a side.
    - b. Teams must be composed of
      - i. at least 9 players and not more than 14 players.
  - 4. Under 13 through Under 19
    - a. Shall field 11 players to a side.
    - b. Teams must be composed of
      - i. at least 11 players and not more than 18 players.
      - ii. In order to provide competition in these age groups the Board of Directors may authorize smaller sided games.
- C. All player fees must be paid in full on or before the first Saturday of April in each spring season and/or the first Saturday of October in each fall season.
- D. No player, with outstanding fees, will be listed on an official signed roster.
- E. During the second half of such playing season, additions to the team roster must be approved by
  - 1. Age Division Commissioner or the Board of Directors.
- F. Refunds will be given, as requested, provided the player drops before getting their league provided uniform and before the first game.
  - 1. If the registered player is on a team which purchases their uniforms independently, TCSA will only refund the portion of the fee paid directly to TCSA excluding the uniform cost.

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SECTION 9

**Contracts and Releases:**

A. Contracts

1. A player contract must not be signed prior to thirty days before a playing season starts.
2. Terms:
  - a. Shall be for one playing year, however:
    - i. The player and the team are bound to each other while the player remains in that age division of the Association. During this period the player cannot sign a contract with another team or club, and the coach must offer him/her a successive contract.
  - b. Should a player sit out for one playing season, for any reason, the player and the team is no longer mutually bound.
  - c. If a player should obtain a written release from the coach, the release will be filed with the Age Group Commissioner and he/she and the coach are no longer bound.
  - d. If a team participates in one playing season and fails to field a team for the subsequent season, the players from that team will be placed in the random draw.
3. Contracts must be submitted to and approved by the Age group Commissioner at least
  - a. Forty-eight hours prior to a player participating in a scheduled Association game.
    - i. Provided that this team roster does not exceed minimum number of players as described in Section 10 E, to prevent stacking a team.
    - ii. No new contracts will be accepted for a play-off or tournament game.
4. Proof of age must be established to make the contract valid.
  - a. After a player's age has been established, proof of age will not be necessary with subsequent contracts.
5. Recruiting of a player contracted to another team or club shall be in violation of the rules of TCSA punishable by no less than a five game suspension for the head coach.

B. Releases:

1. A head coach may release a player by written request and the approval of the Age Group Commissioner if
  - a. the player has been guilty of
    - i. insubordination,
    - ii. willful evasion of practice,
    - iii. and/or other such infractions.
  - a. NOTE: A player that has been requested to be released by a coach under these conditions may also be placed before the Disciplinary Committee for suspension.
2. A player may obtain his release by mutual consent of him/herself and the team coach.
  - a. A coach is not bound to release a player upon request, but is expected to exercise good practical judgment in each case.
3. The release must be rendered in writing and each signature must be clear and legible.
4. The team coach must deliver one copy of the release to the player, and one copy to the Age Group Commissioner within forty-eight hours of action.

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SECTION 10

**Team Alignment:**

- A. Team Formation Requirements:
1. Coaches and Players, constituted as a team in the previous season, may remain as a unit provided they meet the TCSA eligibility and age requirements. The minimum number of players remaining on a team in order to remain as a team is :
    - a Three (3) players for a U-6 Team.
    - b Five (3) players for a U-8 Team.
    - c Six (6) players for all other Teams.
  2. If an existing team has the minimum numbers of returning players but there are not enough new players to add to the recreational team for it to continue as a team, the players will be placed on another team. All the players from the discontinued team will not necessarily be assigned to the same new team, but will be assigned just as any other player in the draft pool.
  3. Tri County Soccer Association may approve an exception to these restrictions when they determine that doing so is in the best interests of the Association and its youth players.
- B. Coaches
1. The head coach may have his/her children assigned to his/her team, provided they meet the requirements of that division
  2. Head coaches may request a parent to be their assistant coach. However, no player may be recruited from another Team by way of the parent being named assistant coach for an already existing team.
- C. Boys will be placed on teams in the appropriate age boys division. Girls will be placed on teams in the appropriate age girls division. Parents may request for siblings of the same gender to be placed on the same team, provided they meet the requirements of that division. Sisters may request to play on the same team as brothers, provided they meet the requirements of that division. However, no girls will be placed on a boy's team unless and until all boy players have been assigned to a team.
1. Requests should be made in writing.
- D. Buddy Requests:
1. Request to play with another player must not leave other teams below levels described in Section F
  2. Player must not have registered within the last 1 years in any NTSSA association
    - a Therefore no player registered on an existing team in the previous or current season is eligible for a buddy request.
      - i. Neither to play for a specific team nor with a friend/player on another team.
  3. No requests will be honored after Sign Ups have closed.
  4. All requests are approved at the discretion of the Age Group Commissioner and / or Board of Directors
- E. Teams shall be filled by the Age Group Commissioners at the beginning of each season as follows:
1. New players (no previous soccer experience) will be assigned by random to fill the balance of teams, until each team has the equal number of players by age, sex and experience
  2. A player sitting out one season may request to return to the player's former team provided space is available. Otherwise that player will be placed on a team in the same manner as any other non-rostered player.
  3. Players moving to a new age group, without their team and players that sat out for two (2) or more playing seasons, shall be assigned to teams by a random drawing supervised by the Age Group Commissioner

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

SECTION 10  
Cont'd

4. A player signing up after the last scheduled sign up period can return to the player's former team provided space is available at the time the registration is completed. Otherwise, that player will be placed on team in the same manner as any other non-rostered player.
5. Parental and/or player requests that a player be removed from a team will be accepted at registration each season. Such requests will be honored.
  - a. The player will be assigned to a new recreational team in the same manner as any other non-rostered player.
  - b. Players in an age group that only has one other team will not be directly moved to the opposing team. They must sit out at least one season or have approval of Age Group Commissioner.
    - i. Decision may be appealed by:
      - a. Releasing Coach
      - b. Parent
6. All newly registered players, all players who leave an existing team, all players returning to recreational league play from competitive teams, and all players who have sat out one or more seasons and cannot return to their previous team will be placed in the draft pool.
7. Any misrepresentation by individual players, parents, coaches, relatives, or league commissioner as to a player's birthday or other information that might be interpreted as trying to circumvent this policy will subject the player to being removed from that team, and may subject those individuals to action by the Disciplinary Committee.
- F. No players may be added to a team roster after the second week of scheduled Association games unless, the roster has dropped to the following described levels:
  1. Under 5 - Under 8 6 players or less (may build to a maximum of 8)
  2. Under 10 8 players or less (may build to a maximum of 12)
  3. Under 12 10 players or less (may build to a maximum of 14)
  4. Under 13 through Under 19 14 players or less (may build to a maximum of 18)
- G. If the Board of Directors has authorized smaller sided games, then these levels will decrease proportionately. All players added to a roster after the draw will be assigned according to team counts. This draw will be conducted by the Age Group Commissioner.
- H. Players will be made no promises to be placed on any team before the draw.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 11

**Laws of the Game:**

Except as stated herein; FIFA, USYSA and NTSSA rules shall apply:

- A. Field Size / Layout:
  - 1. As stated by NTSSA 3.14.1
- B. Substitutions:
  - 1. U-5 thru U-8
    - a. Allowed only one substitution during the quarter and
    - b. Any other substitution in this age group will be done at the quarter break.
  - 2. U-9 and Up
    - a. U-9 and up substitution will be made in accordance with NTSSA Rule 3.14.3 with the following exception(s)
      - i. Throw Ins
        - a. The opposing team may make a substitution only if the team having possession makes a substitution first.
  - 3. Each player, when present at a game, shall be required to play a minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reason, in which case the coach must notify the player, opposing coach, and the referee crew prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (non-attendance at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action).
- C. Duration of the game :
  - 1. As stated by NTSSA 3.14.7
- D. Referees Authority:
  - 1. Begins upon arrival at the area of the field of play and continues until he or she has left the area of the field after the completion of the game.
  - 2. Completion of the game will be after the good game handshake line is through and players and coaches have returned to their own sidelines.
- E. Any game called for any reason other than disciplinary reasons, after the second half has begun, will be considered a complete game.
- F. No coach may come on the field at the quarter,
  - 1. Except in the Under 5 and Under 6 Division.
- G. Parents/Coaches, non-playing players and spectators should be located not more than 10 yards from either side of the midfield line and at least 3 yards back from the touchline where possible.
- H. No one should sit or stand behind the goal area.
- I. Under 12 and younger recreational play shall not engage in heading, either in practice or in games. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

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SECTION 12

**Violence and Misconduct**

(as stated in Rule 3.11 of NTSSA)

A. Fouls and Misconduct:

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in NTSSA.
  - a Possession is defined as: "One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it or patting it along the ground."
    - i. (Sec. 3.14.12 Per Law X11 in NTSSA)
2. It is not intentional "handball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck AT CLOSE RANGE.
  - a The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e. cautions and/or ejections.
  - a Absence of misconduct report does not negate sit-out requirement
  - b Ejected coach/assistant coach must
    - i. Sit out the next sanctioned game their team is participating in
      - a. Excluding small sided games
    - ii. Have a Match Sit out Verification form signed by the referee.
    - iii. The coach may not be at the soccer complex at which the game being missed is playing,
      - a. Including 30 minutes prior to or up to 30 minutes following the game being played.
        - i. "The complex" includes outside the fence line within sight of the field the game is being played on.
      - b. The coach may have no contact with the team at the game for which the sit out is being served.
      - c. The use of electronic devices (cell phones, walkie talkies, etc.) to communicate coaching information during the game would be considered a violation of the sit out and result in additional sit out time being assessed. It may result in a hearing before the A&D Committee.
  - c. The coach/assistant coach that was ejected from a game, must submit a signed Match Sit Out Verification form to the A&D Chairperson prior to the next eligible game.
    - i. Coach/assistant coach will not be allowed to participate until this form is submitted.
4. Players who were ejected from a game, must be present in uniform, at the next game their team plays to serve suspension.
  - a Player must have a coach/assistant coach or team manager complete a Match Sit Out Verification form and have it signed by the referee
  - b This form must be submitted to the A&D Chairperson prior to the next eligible game in order for player to participate.
  - c No player may participate until completed form has been turned in.



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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Section 13

Codes of Ethics / Conduct

A. Code of Ethics for Coaches

1. Responsibility to Players

- a The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
- b Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
- c Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- d Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
- e Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
- f Coaches must never encourage players to violate recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
- g Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

2. Responsibility to Association

- a Adherence to all Tri County Soccer Association and North Texas Soccer rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players is mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
- b Player development and growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
- c Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate Commissioner or Committee immediately.

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Section 13

Code of Ethics for Coaches (cont'd)

3. Responsibility to Officials

- a Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the games. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
- b Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
- c On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as 'Referee' or 'Mr./Ms. Referee' and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
- d Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning official and a copy sent to the Appeals and Disciplinary / Ethics committee.

4. Responsibility Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

- a It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
- b The use of video tape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
- c All Tri County Soccer Association and North Texas Soccer rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.
- d It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.

5. Responsibility of Laws of the Game

- a Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
- b Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer
- c Coaches are responsible for their players' action on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
- d If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, the Association, North Texas Soccer and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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Section 13

Code of Ethics for Coaches (cont'd)

6. Responsibility of Public Relations

- a Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
  - i. This includes any group distribution through social media, electronic , and/or print media.
- b Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Tri County Soccer Association, and North Texas Soccer.
- c Comments stressing injuries, team, personal conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
- d It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, or managers to pressure organizations, Tri County Soccer Association, or North Texas Soccer to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

7. Game Day and Other Responsibilities

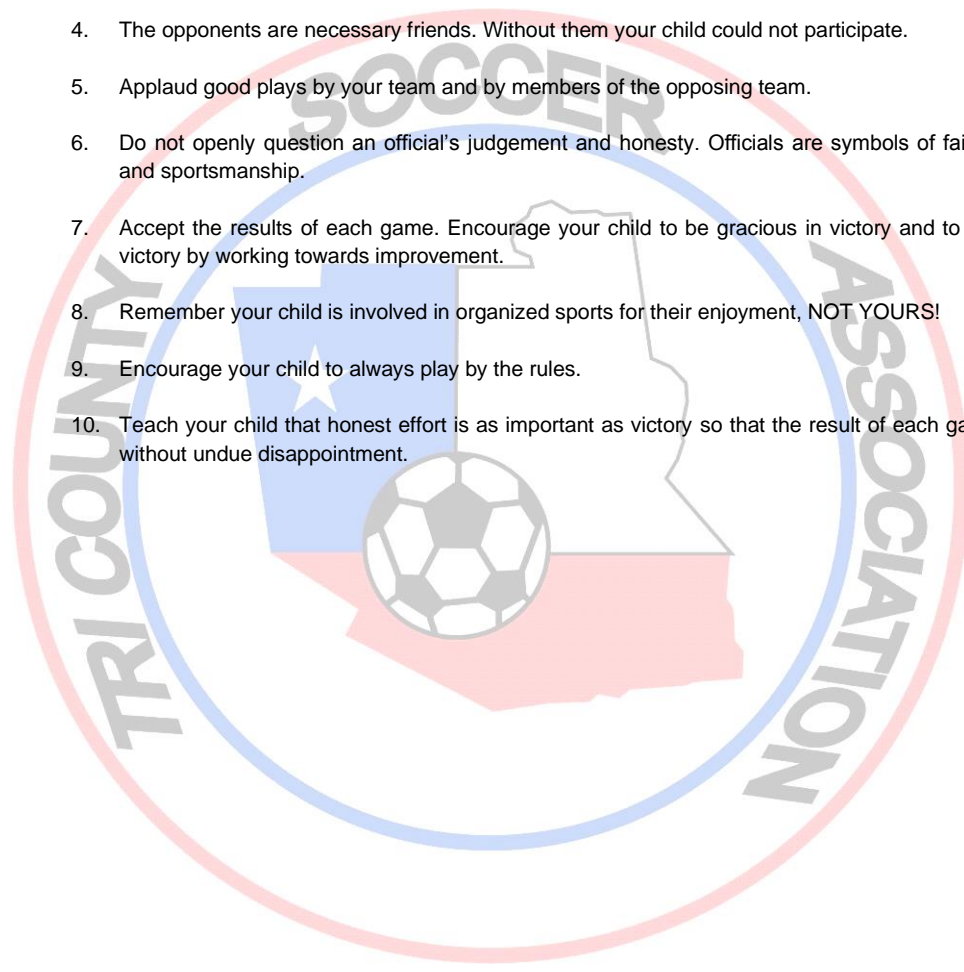
- a A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
- b Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
- c During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine himself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
- d It is unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player will not be tolerated.
- e The coach's foremost post game responsibility is his team.
- f Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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Section 13

B. Code of Conduct for Parents

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism.
2. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
3. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
4. The opponents are necessary friends. Without them your child could not participate.
5. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
6. Do not openly question an official's judgement and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
7. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
8. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
9. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
10. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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Section 13

C. Enforcement

1. The Tri County Soccer Association Appeals and Disciplinary / Ethics committee is empowered to hold disciplinary hearings and may investigate alleged violations and enforce the Codes of Ethics / Conduct.
2. No alleged violation of these Codes of Ethics / Conduct may be investigated unless the allegation is made, in writing, to the proper disciplinary committee OR unless the allegation is brought out in testimony before the association's disciplinary committee.
3. Persons wishing to report alleged violations of these Codes should write a letter outlining the date, time, and circumstances of the alleged violation addressed to:
  - a. Coaches' Representative for violations by
    - i. Coaches
    - ii. Managers
    - iii. Team representatives
  - b. Referees' Representative for violations by
    - i. Referees
    - ii. Assistant Referees
  - c. President for Violations by
    - i. Board Members
    - ii. Administrators
    - iii. Committee Members
  - d. Letters for all violations listed above should also be mailed to the Appeals and Disciplinary / Ethics committee chair person for record keeping.
  - e. Letters should be sent to the proper person listed above and A&D / Ethics to the associations mailing address.
    - i. Names of Board Members can be found at [www.tricountysoccer.org](http://www.tricountysoccer.org)
    - ii. P.O. Box 157  
Mabank, Texas 75147

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 14

**MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 5 - UNDER 8**

- A. Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- B. Do not record league standings
- C. Do not record final score
- D. Participation awards for all
- E. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
- F. Parents should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- G. No alcoholic beverages or cigarettes will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- H. All two touch offenses get a second try, before turning the ball over to the other team.
- I. Law 1 – The Field
  - 1. Markings:
    - a. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
    - b. A center circle with a five yard radius
    - c. Four corner arcs each with a two foot radius
    - d. A goal box 6yards by 2yards
      - i. The purpose of this box is to encourage play while still providing teams with the option of having a defender
      - ii. No defender may be allowed inside the box while the ball is in play on the opposite side of the field.
- J. Matching Players:
  - 1. Prior to the beginning of each game, the referee must be notified as to the number of eligible players present for the match. In all age groups, players must be matched player to player unless one team has to field more per half to play required time by Tri County Laws.
  - 2. The referee will abandon game if teams do not abide by this rule.
- K. Law XV – Throw In
  - 1. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
    - a. Replaced by a kick in.
    - b. Kick in is an indirect kick from the sideline or the end line.
- L. Law XVI – Goal Kick
  - 1. Conform to FIFA with the following exception
  - 2. Goal kick may be taken from any point two (2) to Three (3) yards from the goal.
  - 3. Opponents must be ten (10) feet away from the ball.
- M. Law XVII – Corner Kick
  - 1. Conform to FIFA with the following exception
    - a. Opponents must be ten (10) feet away from the ball.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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SECTION 15

**MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR UNDER 10**

- A. Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- B. Record league standings in fall season only
- C. Participation awards for all in the spring. Placement awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in fall only with everyone else receiving participation awards.
- D. Parents/coaches, non-playing players, and spectators should be located not more than ten (10) yards from
- E. Either side of the midfield line, at least three (3) yards back from the touchline where possible.
  - 1. No one should sit or stand behind the goal area.
- F. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
- G. Parents should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- H. No alcoholic beverages or cigarettes will be consumed or allowed near the playing area
- I. Law XII – Fouls and misconduct
  - 1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in NTSSA
    - a Possession is defined as: “One or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground.”
  - 2. It is not intentional “hand-ball” offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball.
    - a The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
  - 3. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedure by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

SECTION 16

**Coach Selection:**

- A. Any person willing to be a head coach may do so by contacting a Board Member and/or selecting the coach box on the registration form.
  - 1. The prospective coach must submit the online background check to NTSSA for approval.
- B. If more than one person applies to be the head coach of a team, the Age Group Commissioner will select the coach based on the following priorities:
  - 1. An established coach may stay with his/her team as long as it continues playing consecutively.
  - 2. A person who has a child on the team
  - 3. Recommendation by the Age Group Commissioner
- C. The head coach of a team may submit the names of prospective assistant coaches to the Age Group Commissioner for approval by the Board of Directors.
- D. All coaches must agree to no smoking during all practices and games.
- E. All coaches must agree to no alcohol consumption immediately prior to or during a soccer function of any kind.
- F. All coaches may not wear a Board Member Shirt or a Referee Shirt while coaching their team or assisting another team.
- G. Failure to comply with B and or C above by a coach or assistant coach will result in said person being asked to leave the area. Continued failure to comply could result in expulsion as a coach or assistant coach in this Association.

SECTION 17

**Basic Equipment and Uniform**

- A. The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall consist of a jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards, and footwear. All shirts should be tucked into shorts. A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player, i.e. jewelry, hats, barrettes, cleats with spiked toes.
- B. Shin guards, which shall be covered entirely by the socks, shall be made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, polyurethane or similar substance) and shall afford a reasonable degree of protection. Shin guards that are made inside of socks are acceptable.
- C. The goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other players and from the referee.

SECTION 18

**Competitive Teams**

- A. Competitive teams may register through Tri County Soccer Association but must then align their team with a competitive league, of their choice, to play.
- B. Competitive teams are responsible for any fees associated with uniforms, equipment, referees, and any other fees after registration.
- C. Competitive teams are responsible for any fees associated with aligning with competitive league.
- D. Each player's registration fee must be paid, in full, prior to competitive roster being issued.



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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**Conflict of Interest  
Policy and Statement**

Tri County Soccer recognizes that to fulfill its responsibilities to its members and to the public at large, it is dependent upon the dedication of the Board of Directors, its officers, employees and staff, all members of committees, all other representatives, and its volunteers. Because one aspect of determining qualification of each of the individuals is the avoidance of conflicts of interest, the following policy has been adopted. A conflict of interest is defined as any relationship in which a person receives compensation from any individual or entity that does business with and has an interest in the policies, decisions or operations of Tri County Soccer that could influence or perceive to influence the person's objectivity in any decision making process involving policies, decisions or operations.

In general, Tri County Soccer expects every person to be constantly aware of the dangers inherent in situations that give rise to conflict of personal interests with those of Tri County Soccer. Although complete avoidance of all conflicts of interest is not always possible, Tri County Soccer expects the kind of loyalty and ethical consciousness that will motivate an individual to recognize situations and circumstances that could produce a conflict. All individuals should avoid any actions that might result in or create the appearance of:

- using association with Tri County Soccer for private gain:
- granting by Tri County Soccer of unwarranted preferential treatment to any person or organization:
- misusing Tri County Soccer's confidential information for financial or personal gain:
- losing Tri County Soccer's independence or impartiality:
- adversely affecting public confidence in the integrity or the reputation of Tri County Soccer
- or endangering life, health or safety.

Consequently, all shall refrain from engaging in any transaction with Tri County Soccer in any type of situation in which such individual has a duty to protect Tri County Soccer's interest therein and a simultaneous opportunity to realize a personal gain or benefit. Additionally, no person shall accept or engage in any activity, business or employment that will conflict with Tri County Soccer's interest or diminish the ability of the individual to render to Tri County Soccer full, loyal and undivided service.

Finally, participants shall at all times avoid not only actual conflicts of interest but also the appearance of a conflict of interest. The appearance of a conflict can be as damaging as an actual conflict. Each individual is encouraged to develop and maintain an attitude of awareness of those situations in which an appearance of conflict might arise.

If a conflict of interest should arise, each and every individual has the responsibility to take necessary action to inform the Board of Directors about the conflict, and to avoid any participation in decision making regarding the action. When there is a doubt whether a conflict of interest exists, the matter shall be resolved by the Board of Directors. Should any member of the Board be in this circumstance, he or she shall excuse himself or herself from the decision and report on doing so to the President.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

Additional examples of actual or potential conflicts of interest:

- direct (and at times indirect) personal involvement with licensees, suppliers, service providers, sellers, contractors, and customers of Tri County Soccer:
- ownership of an interest or any financial interest, direct or indirect, in such an entity:
- acting in any capacity in such an entity:
- acceptance of payments, services, property, loans, or any financial interest, direct or indirect, from such an entity:
- ownership of property or any financial interest, direct or indirect, affected by actions of Tri County Soccer:
- ownership of property or any financial interest, direct or indirect, acquired as a result of Tri County Soccer's confidential information:
- outside employment or any interest, direct or indirect, which might impact job performance or efficiency:
- outside activities or any interest, direct or indirect, in civic, professional or political organizations which might involve improper and unauthorized divulging of Tri County Soccer data: and use of his or her position at Tri County Soccer to extend an offer of employment to a spouse, family member, or business associate.

This policy applies to the full Tri County Soccer Association organization and all Directors and Committee Members of Tri County Soccer shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy.

**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

Tri County Soccer Association  
Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement

Please disclose and list any existing or potential conflicts that you may have with Tri County Soccer and/or its operations:

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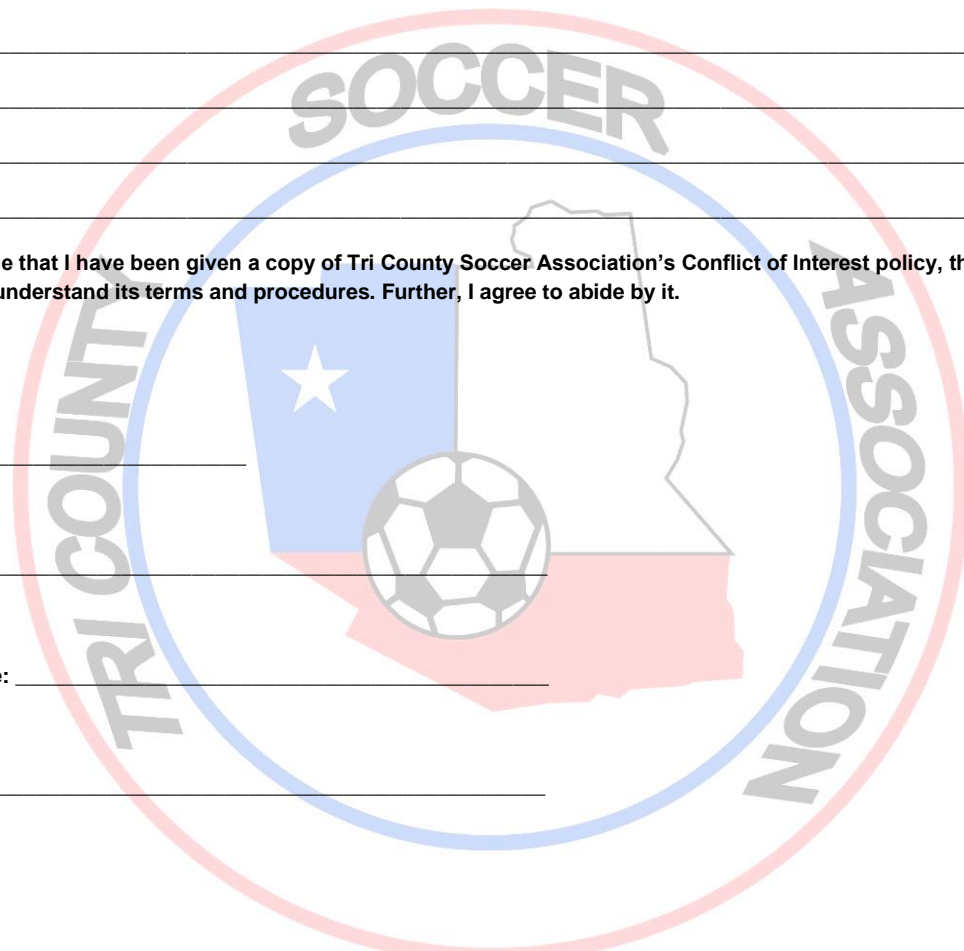
I acknowledge that I have been given a copy of Tri County Soccer Association's Conflict of Interest policy, that I have read it, and that I understand its terms and procedures. Further, I agree to abide by it.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_



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**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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**Tri County Soccer Association**  
**Whistleblower Policy**

If any volunteer, member or employee believes that some policy, practice or activity of Tri County Soccer Association is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that person with the President of the Board of Directors.

It is the intent of Tri County Soccer to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the organization and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the organization's goal of legal compliance. The support of all volunteers, members and employees is necessary to achieving compliance with various laws and regulations. A volunteer, member or employee is protected from retaliation only if he or she brings the alleged unlawful activity, policy or practice to the attention of Tri County Soccer and provides Tri County Soccer with a reasonable opportunity to investigate and correct the alleged unlawful activity. The protection described below is only available to persons that comply with this requirement.

Tri County Soccer will not retaliate against the person who in good faith, has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of Tri County Soccer, or of another individual or entity with whom Tri County Soccer has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy.

Tri County Soccer will not retaliate against the persons who disclose or threaten to disclose to a Board of Director, any activity, policy or practice of Tri County Soccer that they reasonably believe is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy concerning health, safety, welfare or protection of the environment.

All Directors and Committee Members shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- ❖ Has received a copy of the whistleblower policy,
- ❖ Has read and understands the policy,
- ❖ Has agreed to comply with the policy.



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
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**Tri County Soccer Association**  
**Whistleblower Policy Acknowledgement**

My signature below indicates my receipt and understanding of this policy.

I also verify that I have been provided with an opportunity to ask questions about the policy.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

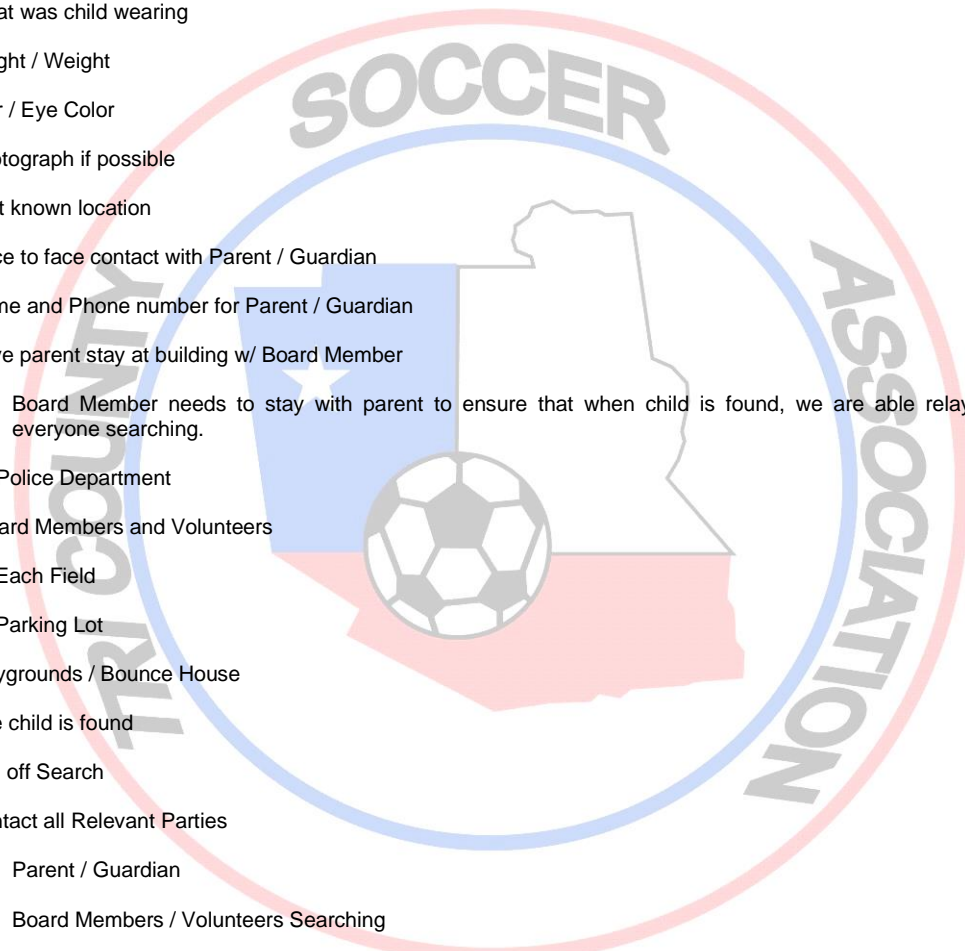
Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_



**TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

**Tri County Soccer Association**  
**Missing Child Procedure**

In the event that a child becomes missing at a Tri County Soccer Association event the following steps should be taken:

- 
- A) Gather as much information about the child as possible
    - 1) Name
    - 2) Age
    - 3) What was child wearing
    - 4) Height / Weight
    - 5) Hair / Eye Color
    - 6) Photograph if possible
    - 7) Last known location
  - B) Make face to face contact with Parent / Guardian
    - 1) Name and Phone number for Parent / Guardian
    - 2) Have parent stay at building w/ Board Member
      - a) Board Member needs to stay with parent to ensure that when child is found, we are able relay information to everyone searching.
  - C) Contact Police Department
  - D) Send Board Members and Volunteers
    - 1) To Each Field
    - 2) To Parking Lot
    - 3) Playgrounds / Bounce House
  - E) Once the child is found
    - 1) Call off Search
    - 2) Contact all Relevant Parties
      - a) Parent / Guardian
      - b) Board Members / Volunteers Searching
      - c) Police Department / Emergency Services

# **TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION** **CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES**

## **Tri County Soccer Association Water Break Policy**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Tri County Soccer Association is to foster and advance soccer programs that promote the ideals of Good Sportsmanship, Honesty, Loyalty, and Courage through athletic competition. The Water Break Policy (WBP) is intended to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the youth in our program. This is not a policy on substitutions, nor is it a policy on coaching during stoppage of play.

### **Policy:**

A water break for player hydration will be given at the midpoint of each half in any Tri County Soccer Association sponsored match played at any Tri County Soccer Association complex. The water break will adhere to the following:

- The water break will be given at a normal stoppage of play
- Water breaks will be mandatory when the heat index is at 95 degrees or higher
- The water break will be no longer than three (3) minutes and no shorter than one (1) minute
- Game time will NOT be extended to accommodate the water breaks
- Teams may freely substitute field players during official water breaks upon notifying the referee
- A goalkeeper maybe substituted as long as the substitute keeper is ready when the teams are summoned to resume play by the referee
- Teams must return to their positions on the field when summoned by the referee
- Referees will be notified to implement the water break policy when they check in at the complex

### **Heat Index less than 95 Degrees:**

When the heat index is less than 95 degrees, water breaks are to be given under the following conditions:

- If requested by either coach prior to the match (determined during pre-match conference)
- The referee may declare a water break at any time for the safety and welfare of the players without conference or agreement of the coaches

### **Normal Stoppage of Play:**

The official water break will be given at a normal stoppage of play. Normal stoppages of play are: goal kicks, throw-ins and injury. ***Free kicks and corner kicks are set plays and not considered as normal stoppages of play.***

### **Notification of Water Break Policy:**

- The President or their designee, will determine when water break policy is in effect
- The President or their designee will notify the Director of Referees
- The Director of Referees will notify working referees
- Referees will notify the coaches