

TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES



**TCSA
Constitution**

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

ARTICLE 1 NAME

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

ARTICLE 2 ORGANIZATION

Tri County Soccer Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE 3 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 4 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 player registration, approved by the registrar 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), who 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, an 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 should attend the clinic for new 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.
 - c. Complete all NTSSA requirements before being provided the Team Contact List
- D. All members must uphold Article 2 of the TCSA Constitution
- E. Final approval resides with NTSSA.

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ARTICLE 4
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 Chapter 8 of NTSSA Bylaws and Rules) 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 their completed background check 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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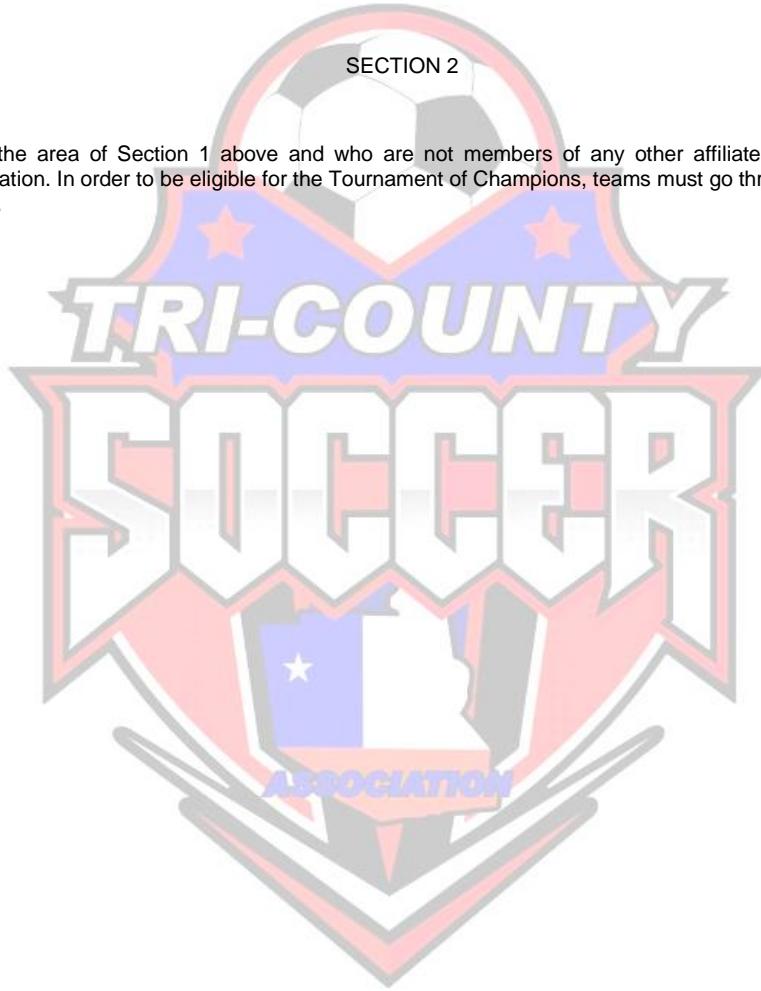
ARTICLE 5
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

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 6
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.
- E. All board members must submit a background check and complete all other NTSSA requirements.
1. These expire on 5/31 each year.
- F. All board members must uphold Article 2 of the TCSA Constitution.

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ARTICLE 6
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 may 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.

ARTICLE 7
DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of TCSA, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of TCSA, distribute all assets to an organization or organizations that operate exclusively for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, as the Board of Directors determines. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

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**TCSA
Bylaws**

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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. Is responsible for securing and collecting money from league sponsors for each season and turning it over to the Treasurer to be deposited into the association's checking account.
- G. A list of the participating sponsors must then be provided to the sign company representative for sponsor advertising each season.
- H. Manage the Tri County Association website and social media

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 and collect 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 at all 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 members on the signature card at the bank shall be voted on at a board meeting in the case of a 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
- H. Shall complete and submit all documents related to Federal Tax Reporting at the end of each fiscal year to NTSSA as part of the Group Tax filing requirements.
- I. Shall submit any sales tax reporting and payments to State of Texas each quarter as required.

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 create and publish the online player registration system each season.
- B. Shall verify the birth certificates of all players in the online player registration system.
- C. Shall verify all coaches and volunteers fulfilled the online requirements for background checks and any other NTSSA requirements.
- D. Shall verify all approved players are assigned to a team by using the online platform roster builder event to fill teams each season.
- E. Shall compile and forward all rosters and information required by the North Texas State Soccer Association prior to the specific deadline.
- F. 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.

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Age Division Commissioners:

- A. Shall communicate all Association business to their respective coaches
 - a. Make sure all have submitted their online requirements to be approved to coach.
 - i. Background Check & Safe Sport expire on 5/31 each year
- 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 confirm all player birth certificates were submitted online 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.
- F. Shall assist the Registrar in finding needed coaches by contacting players' parents, in the respective divisions, to recruit new coaches each season.

Appeals and Disciplinary:

- A. Members of this committee should be from the playing areas within Tri County. However, the chairperson may use persons from outside of Tri County if / when needed.
- 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 weekly for payment.

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Coach Coordinator:

- A. May choose an assistant to support with any time/age group conflicts.
 - 1. Assistant must submit to and pass background check any other NTSSA requirements.
- B. To be present at each TCSA clinic as on site coordinator.
- C. To provide literature and training to implement and administer a high-quality coaches system in TCSA.
- D. To inform the Purchasing Agent of the number of coaches attending the new coach clinic each season.
 - 1. Supplies need to be ordered in time to be received before the clinic date.
- E. Responsible for visiting with all coaches in the responsible division, for instruction or to help in any way.
- F. Position will coordinate players' and coaches' camps and mini camps.
- G. This position must uphold Article 2 of the TCSA constitution as well as Section 28.7 of the NTSSA Constitution.
- H. 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.

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, field painting, 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 and paying them each Saturday
- D. Reporting of all income and expenses of the concession stand.

Purchasing Agent:

- A. Ordering and distributing the chosen league uniforms, with numbers, for all players on each team, that uses the league uniform, every fall season as well as the added new players in the spring season.
- B. Purchasing of program related supplies (ex. Balls, nets, flags, new coach clinic supplies)

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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 June or 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 a majority of 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. Open Issues
9. Adjournment

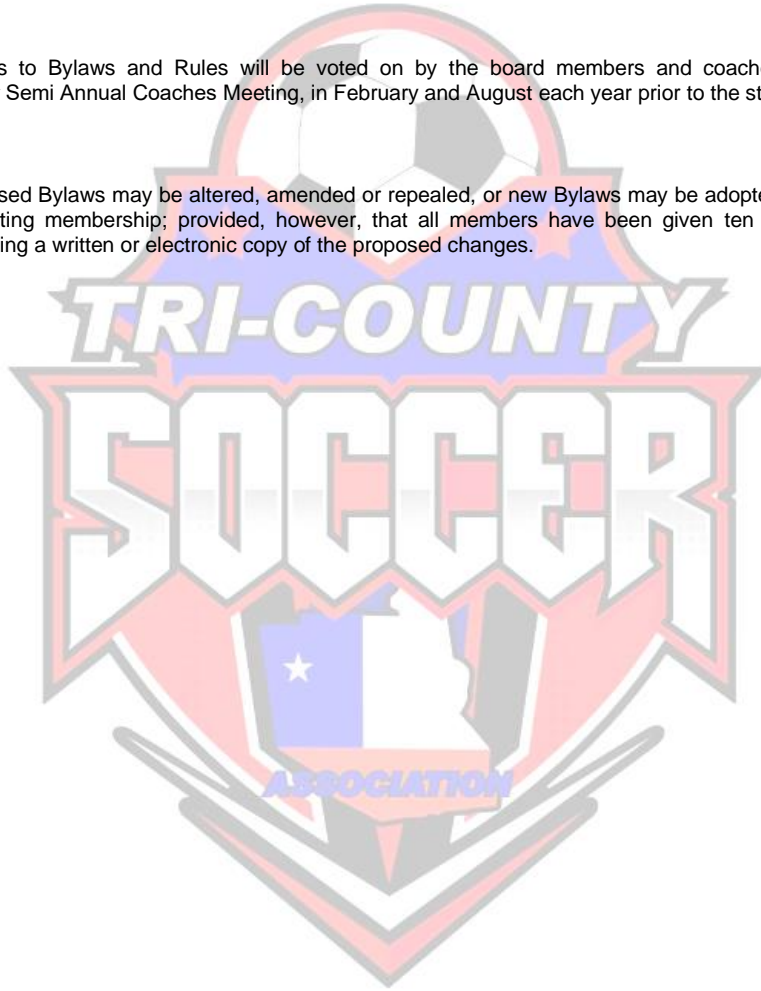
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ARTICLE 3
AMENDMENTS

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 10 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 ten (10) days written notice or electronic notice, including a written or electronic copy of the proposed changes.



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**TCSA
Rules**

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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 9 and Under (9U) 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 scheduled 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 9 and under (9U) and Older teams to turn in game sheets to the TCSA building 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.
 - b. This accumulated total of team penalty points will be a factor in determining a team's TOC eligibility (See "F")

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
 - a. (excluding non TCSA registered teams)
 - b. Team with highest total will advance
3. Maximum number of goals allowed.
 - a. Team with lowest total will advance
4. Kicks from penalty mark according to IFAB 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
 - b. When a division has 3 or less teams available to play any games vs team from the next older overall age division are considered scrimmages
 - i. For example: U11/U12 vs U13/U14, U13/U14 vs U15/U16, or U15/U16 vs U17/U19
 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 was 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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7. When age pure teams must play games in a combined age division schedule because there were not enough teams to separate age pure division games, the association will send the team that won the combined division to TOC in their "pure" age division.
 - a. If the top team in the other age pure division wants to go to TOC they are responsible for paying their own entry fee and must notify TCSA before the NTSSA deadline for intent to enter passes.
 - i. This team must meet the requirements of F.2 and F.3 above.

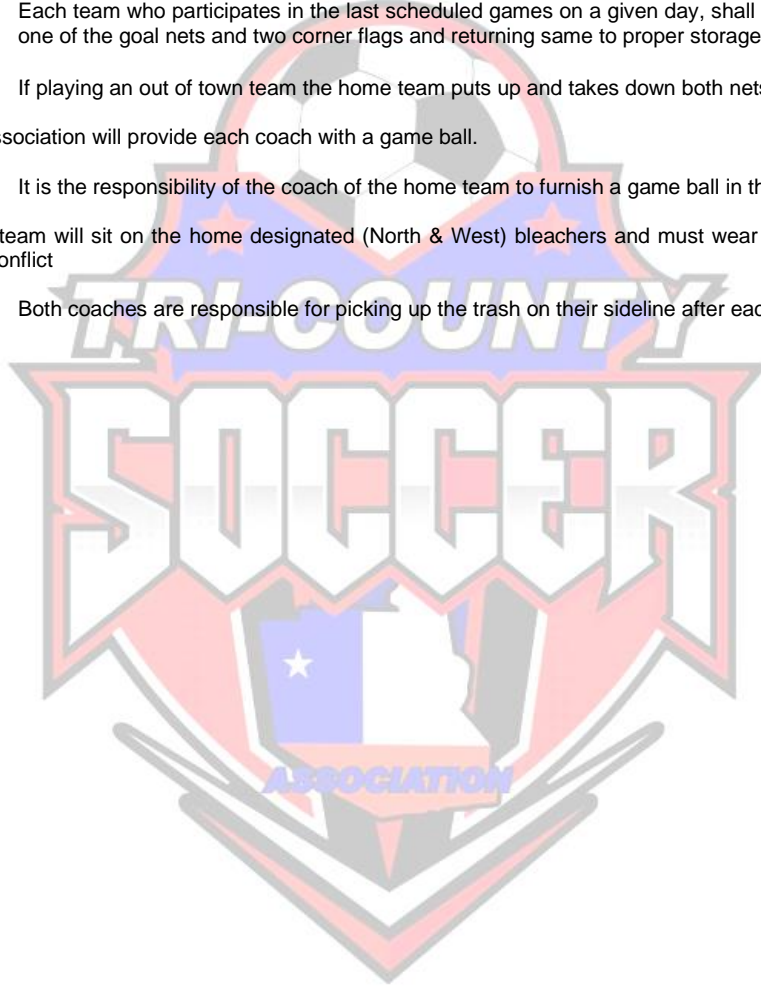


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SECTION 3

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. Player fees and required documents must be submitted to the Registrar on or before the date set by the Association.
 - b. Not be under suspension
 - c. Must have a coach with current approved background check and completed all other NTSSA Requirements.

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 registration and fee to this Association.
 - i. Fees must be paid in full by first Saturday of April/October for current season of play.
 1. Unless a payment option has been approved by the registrar.
 - 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. 5 and Under (5U) Division
 - a. players 4 before July 31st of current year may play in the Fall season.
 2. 6 and Under (6U) Division
 3. 7/8U Division
 4. 9/10U Division
 5. 11/12U Division
 6. 13/14U Division
 7. 15/16U Division
 8. 17/19U Division
 - d. Age is determined on December 31st , 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, or
 2. Receives a release from the coach, and such release is approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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- 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 registrar



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SECTION 5

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.	5/6U	3 players
ii.	7/8U	3 players
iii.	9/10U	5 players
iv.	11/12U	6 players
v.	13U-19U	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 9U and above.
1. If teams decide not to play, (or reschedule) coaches need to notify their commissioner and the referee assignor the day before their scheduled game.
 - a. Any 9U-19U 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:

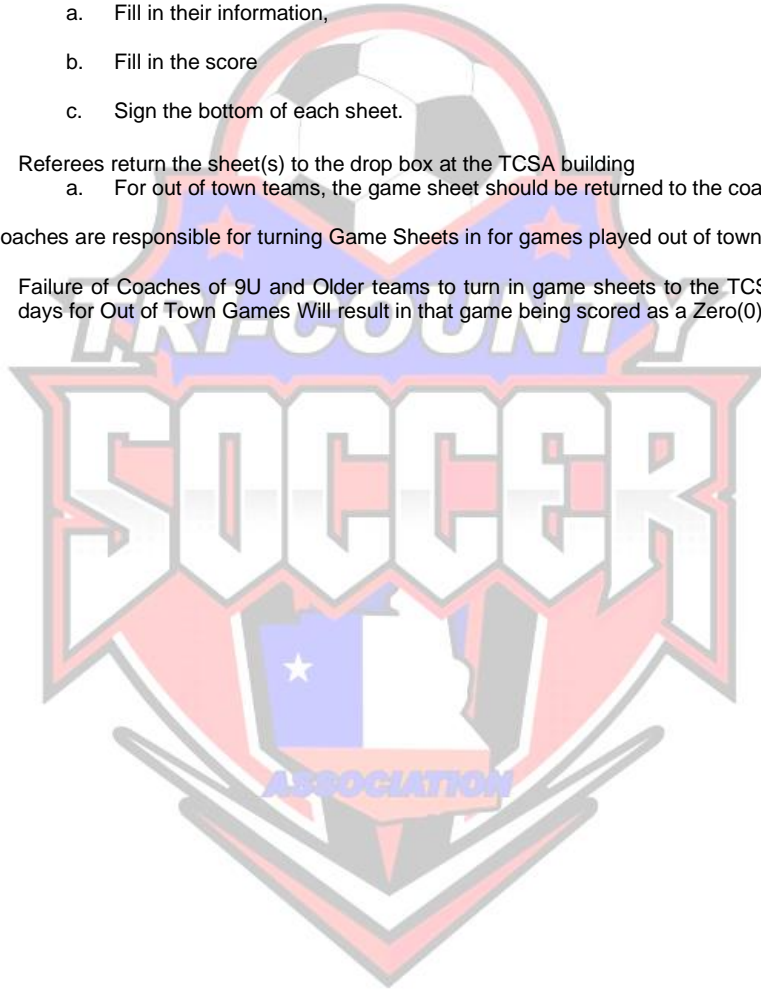
- A. Any team protesting a game
 - 1. Must deliver the protest in writing to the appropriate age commissioner
 - 2. Within three days after the game.
- B. Each protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.
- C. Protests based on the judgment of the referee will not be considered.
- D. If the protest 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.

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SECTION 7

Scoring Forms:

- A. For 9U-19U age groups
 - 1. 10 minutes prior to the game, coaches must
 - a. Submit a completed game roster to the referee when playing out of town.
 - 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 the drop box at the TCSA building
 - a. For out of town teams, the game sheet should be returned to the coach.
- B. TCSA Coaches are responsible for turning Game Sheets in for games played out of town.
 - 1. Failure of Coaches of 9U and Older teams to turn in game sheets to the TCSA building within seven (7) days for Out of Town Games Will result in that game being scored as a Zero(0).



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SECTION 8

Fees and Rosters:

- A. Each team must be composed of enough players to meet the competition requirements of its age group.
1. 5U – 8U
 - 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. 9U/10U
 - a Shall field 7 players to a side.
 - b Teams must be composed of
 - i. at least 7 players and not more than 12players.
 3. 11U/12U
 - 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. 13U - 19U
 - 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 for 13U/14U.
 - ii. at least 11 players and not more than 22 players for 15U-19U.
 - iii. In order to provide competition in these age groups the Board of Directors may authorize smaller sided games.
- B. 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.
- C. No player, with outstanding fees, will be listed on an official signed roster.
 1. Unless payment arrangements have been agreed to with the registrar
- D. During the second half of such playing season, additions to the team roster must be approved by
 1. Registrar.
- E. 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:

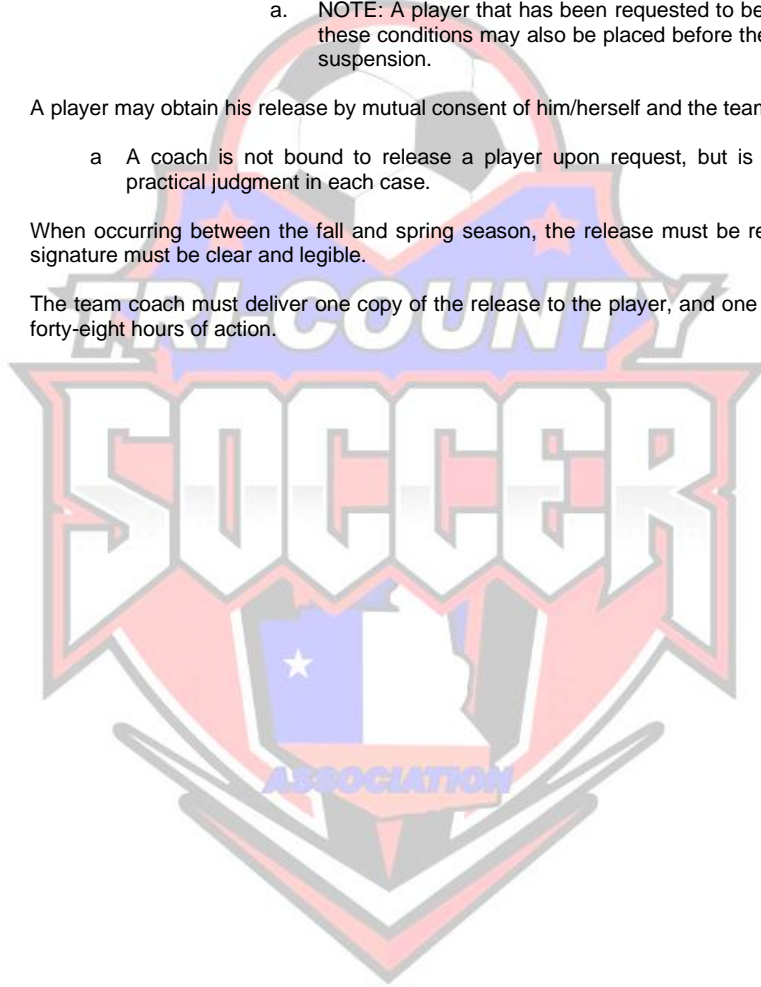
A. Contracts

1. A player registration contract must not be signed prior to open registration dates determined by the association.
2. Terms:
 - a. Shall be for one playing year, ending on July 31st each 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 Registrar and he/she and the coach are no longer bound.
 - i. Written releases are necessary to change teams between fall and spring season if the player is requesting to leave their current team.
 - 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. Registration must be submitted online and approved by Registrar 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 registration 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 birth certificate has been verified, proof of age will not be necessary with subsequent seasons.
5. Recruiting of a player contracted/registered 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.

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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. When occurring between the fall and spring season, 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 Registrar 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 5U-8U Team.
 - b Five (3) players for a 9U/10U Team.
 - c Six (6) players for all other Teams.
2. If an existing team has the minimum number 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 online through the registration process.

D. Buddy Requests:

1. Request to play with another player must not leave other teams below levels described in Section 10-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. Players will be made no promises, by anyone, to be placed on any specific team before registration
5. All requests are approved at the discretion of the Registrar

E. Teams shall be filled by the Registrar, at their discretion at the beginning of each season

1. Unassigned players will make up the draft pool in the online platform Roster Building Event. These players will be sorted by gender and birth year and will be assigned to fill the balance of teams until they have equal numbers of players.
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.

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SECTION 10
Cont'd

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 randomly, by the registrar, through the online platform roster building event.
 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 previously existing 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. 5U – 8U | 6 players or less (may build to a maximum of 8) |
| 2. 9U/10U | 8 players or less (may build to a maximum of 12) |
| 3. 11U/12U | 10 players or less (may build to a maximum of 14) |
| 4. 13U/14U | 14 players or less (may build to a maximum of 18) |
| 5. 15U – 19U | 14 players or less (may build to a maximum of 22) |
- G. If the Board of Directors has authorized smaller sided games, then these levels will decrease proportionately.
- H. All players added to a roster after the draw will be assigned according to team counts. This draw will be conducted at the Registrar's discretion .
- .

TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
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SECTION 11

Laws of the Game:

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

- A. Field Size / Layout:
 - 1. As stated by NTSSA 3.14.1
- B. Substitutions:
 - 1. 5U – 8U
 - 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. 9U and Up
 - a 9U 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.
 - 1. Spectators should not be located on the opposing team's sideline and will be asked to move to their own team's sideline of the field.
- 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.

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B. Cumulative Card System

1. **Yellow Cards** – A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.
2. **Red Cards** – A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.

3. CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM for league play will be operated as follows:

- a **Yellow Cards**: One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individuals sixth league play yellow card.

NOTE: *A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game. The two yellow cards are not added to such individual's total of league play yellow cards but a Red card will be added to such individual's league play red card total.*

- b **Red Cards**: One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play red card. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will be added to such individual's league play red card total.

NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

- c **Seventh Card**: Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning a combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA sanctioned activities
- d **Exception**: When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standing and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or nation body that has been charged with the operation of the said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games for that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

4. CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM for tournament lay will be operated as follows:

- a **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

NOTE: *A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, but those two yellow cards are not added to such individual's total of yellow cards for that tournament to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.*

- b **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA sanctioned activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

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NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

- c **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in tournament play shall be immediately suspended, pending a hearing with NTSSA A&D Committee (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven)
- d **Exceptions** *For misconduct cards issued during State Cup, Regionals, or National competitions (US Youth Soccer), the misconduct will be handled with in that competition.*

The "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" above defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be given. Nothing herein prevents enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by an individual justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the individual is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the report) rule on the report.

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with.

Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the individual at the next scheduled played game within the competition in question (not necessarily the next league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) which such individual's team is involved. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

EXTREME VIOLENT CONDUCT

Severe punishment will be extended to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

EXCEEDING THE CARD LIMIT

Individuals who exceed the card limits above shall be sent to the NTSSA A&D Committee for further disposition. The NTSSA A&D Committee will issue any decision and/or monetary punishment based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the NTSSA A&D Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

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Section 13

Codes of Ethics / Conduct

Refer to NTSSA Bylaws and Rules Chapter 8 – NTSSA Code of Ethics / Conduct



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Section 13

B. 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.us
 - ii. P.O. Box 157
Mabank, Texas 75147

TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
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SECTION 14

MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR 5U - 8U

- 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.
 - 1. Coaches may be on the field during the game to instruct for their first 3 games only.
 - a 1 coach from each team.
 - b 5U/6U may have 1 coach on the field during the game through the entire season
- F. Parents should not coach or instruct players during the game.
 - 1. All spectators should stay on their own team's sideline.
- 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
- 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 IFAB with the following exceptions:
 - a Replaced by a kick in.
 - b Kick in is an indirect kick from the sideline or the goal line.
- L. Law XVI – Goal Kick
 - 1. Conform to IFAB with the following exception
 - 2. Goal kick may be taken from any point two (2) to Three (3) yards from the goal, on the goal line.
 - 3. Opponents must be ten (10) feet away from the ball.
- M. Law XVII – Corner Kick
 - 1. Conform to IFAB with the following exception
 - a Opponents must be ten (10) feet away from the ball.

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SECTION 15

MODIFIED PLAYING RULES FOR 9U/10U

- 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 1st and 2nd 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 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.
- 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.
 - 1. All spectators should stay on their own team's sideline.
- G. No alcoholic beverages or cigarettes will be consumed or allowed near the playing area
- H. 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.
 - 4. No head balls allowed.
- I. Build out area rules conform to approved US Soccer rules for small sided 7v7 soccer
 - 1. Posted on www.tricountysoccer.us

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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.
 - 2. The prospective coach must submit all other NTSSA requirements
- 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 Registrar or other Board member
- C. The head coach of a team may submit the names of prospective assistant coaches to the Age Group Commissioner for approval.
- 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 D and or E 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, bows with loops.
- 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
CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS / RULES / POLICIES



TCSA
Policies & Procedures

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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.

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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.

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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:

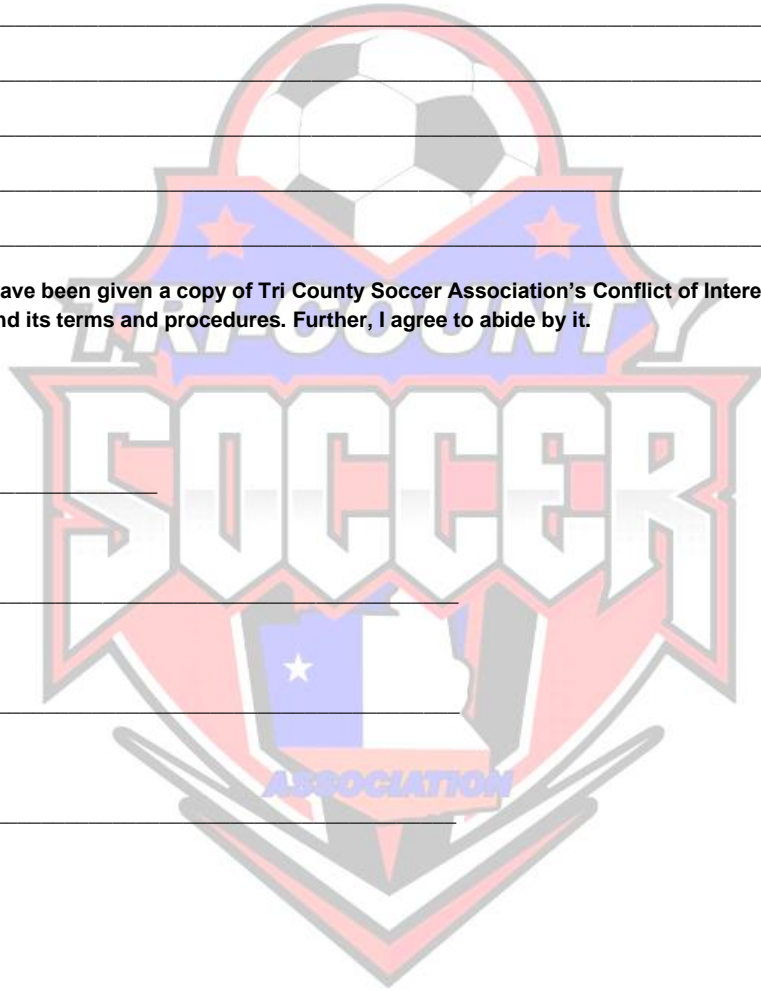
I acknowledge that I have been given a copy of Tri County Soccer Association's Conflict of Interest policy, that I have read it, and that I understand its terms and procedures. Further, I agree to abide by it.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Position: _____



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

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.

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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
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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 may be 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

TRI COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
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Weather/Lightning Policy

In the event of inclement weather and/or lightning, the guidelines below shall be followed during Tri County Soccer sanctioned events:

PARENTS: With regard to the often-unpredictable weather conditions in Northcentral Texas, the safety of your children ultimately lies with you. While the Tri County Soccer Board makes every attempt to ensure everyone plays in a safe environment there is no means pursuant to which safety can be maintained without everyone doing their part, including you. Your adherence to this policy is expected and is mandatory.

If the fields are CLOSED, please respect the decision that has been made in order to provide the safest environment for the children and the coaches alike.

Although Board Members, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Players, and Parents may desire that games continue without suspension or cancellation, the decision to stop such activities will be made only after a careful consideration of the latest available weather information and the best interest and safety of everyone involved.

If lightning is detected in the area, all activities will be suspended and are subject to cancellation.

Suspension/Cancellation of Activities

Typically, if precipitation is the only weather condition affecting play, games will proceed as scheduled. Do not assume that if it is raining, games will be cancelled. If the precipitation is heavy and it is determined that damage to the fields may occur if activities proceed, the field may be closed, and activities cancelled.

With regard to LIGHTNING in the area, all outdoor activity must be suspended when lightning is 10 miles away or less (10 miles is the closest proximity permitted). All lightning should be monitored using the "My Lightning Tracker" app.

If lightning is indicated within the guideline set above, clear the field and do not resume play until **15 minutes** have elapsed from the most recent lightning strike observed in the app.

In the event that play is suspended, all individuals (including athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators) should immediately go indoors or to their cars to wait for the storm to pass. If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects (such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields.

Resumption of Activities

Play shall not resume until 15 minutes have passed since the most recent lightning strike observed in the "My Lightning Tracker" app.

Taking Action

Coaches and/or Assistant Coaches are the individuals who will be most likely to be on the field with the players. As a result, the coaches are the first individuals needing to take action if lightning or thunder is observed. In a similar fashion, if a parent is present during a practice or game, and lightning or thunder is observed, the parent should notify a coach, assistant coach, field marshal, or board member immediately. Do not sit idly by while practice takes place or a game proceeds if you see or hear thunder or lightning. The coaches, referees, field marshal and/or board members may be focused on their present task and may not observe the lightning or thunder as quickly as a spectator.