

Washington Youth Soccer
THURSTON COUNTY
YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

ARTICLE 1. GOVERNING OF LEAGUES

1.1 The organization of Thurston County Youth Soccer (TCYSA) has agreed to run a District 7 league in cooperation with Grays Harbor Foothills Youth Soccer Association (GHFYSA) and Lewis County Soccer Association (LCYSA).

1.2 Competition shall be administered by TCYSA, and governed as part of a committee (Committee) established by TCYSA with decisions made by majority agreement of TCYSA, GHFYSA and LCYSA, each having one vote, and the Rules and Regulations ("Rules") as set forth herein, unless rules of a specific competition determine otherwise. As a condition of participation in TCYSA activities, players, coaches, parents and member clubs shall be subject to the authority of the TCYSA, Washington Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer and FIFA.

ARTICLE 2. SEASON

2.1 The playing year is defined by Washington Youth Soccer (WYS). All league seasons are determined by a majority vote of the committee.

ARTICLE 3. CHANGES TO STANDING RULES

3.1 Changes to the Standing Rules (Rules) may be made at any time by a majority vote of the committee, subject to the notification and quorum requirements as required by the TCYSA Board.

3.2 The approved version of the Rules will be posted on the TCYSA web site.

ARTICLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDING RULES

4.1 In the interests of consistency, TCYSA shall notify referee associations and/or referee assignors that the TCYSA Rules are posted the website. TCYSA member Clubs, and all Clubs with teams playing in any TCYSA league ("Clubs") shall also ensure that their coaches are informed about the Rules.

ARTICLE 5. COMMUNICATION

5.1 A web site will be maintained for communication of TCYSA league information.

5.2 Each association, club, and team participating in any TCYSA league must provide and maintain an active email address and telephone number for TCYSA communication.

PLAYERS/TEAMS/LEAGUES

ARTICLE 6. REGISTRATION

6.1 The term 'youth player' shall mean an amateur player who was born within the age requirements defined by WYS.

6.2 A recreation team is one formed without the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively. A recreational player is defined as any player who has not registered as a select, competitive or premier player during the current playing year.

6.3 A select, competitive or premier team is one formed through the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively. A select player is also any player who has registered with any Club as a select player, or

played in any select, premier or competitive league, during the current playing year, regardless of whether said player was registered with a TCSYA member Club or with some other Association.

6.4 Age classifications will be defined in accordance with WYS rules.

6.5 The Director of Competition, in conjunction with the committee, will, prior to the beginning of each playing season, determine the age groups of individual league divisions based on fairness, balanced competition and registered team numbers.

6.6 On application from individual clubs the Director of Competition may (but is not obligated to) grant waivers to roster players on teams where players would otherwise be ineligible provided such determination does not negatively impact the competitive balance or create an unreasonable safety risk, while also factoring alternative reasonable opportunities (if any) for these overage players within the community.

6.7 All Member Clubs shall have a designated person, who, in cooperation with the TCYSA Registrar, shall oversee the proper registration of players, coaches, assistant coaches and other volunteers, and liaise with WYS on matters related to registration, player and team verification and risk management. The TCYSA Registrar must be afforded full access to the registration information of all clubs with teams competing in any TCYSA league.

6.8 All players participating in TCYSA leagues and competition must be registered with an Association that operates under the umbrella of WYS and in accord with WYS requirements, unless specific provision is made for guest player participation. No club or team may allow any unregistered player to participate in any competition.

6.9 Team registration shall be in the form prescribed by TCYSA.

6.10 At the discretion of TCYSA, any team playing a player who is ineligible to play for any reason, shall forfeit any game(s) in which the player has taken part.

6.11 Any individual who knowingly allows an ineligible player to participate in any TCYSA Competition shall be subject to disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 7. PLAYER MOVEMENT

7.1 Each Club shall have the authority to register youth players according to its own bylaws and operating procedures provided they are not inconsistent with those rules approved by TCYSA.

7.2 Any release or transfer of a player shall be in accordance with WYS and applicable Member Association procedures.

7.3 Any individual attempting to induce a registered player to transfer to another team, while that team is still engaged in competition, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

RULES OF COMPETITION

ARTICLE 8. SCHEDULING

8.1 Game schedules shall be compiled and posted on the TCYSA web site. Games will not begin before 9:00 am or end after 9:00pm unless agreed by both teams.

8.2 The Director of Competition will assign teams to minimize competitive imbalance in the leagues or other competition. This will include identifying probable team strength, approving divisions with mixed ages and the reassignment of teams to an alternative division if necessary.

8.3 Absent express approval from the Director of Competition, all league matches must be played on the date and time as scheduled by TCYSA.

8.4 Rescheduling matches shall be done only in extraordinary circumstances, and by

the procedure set forth in the TCYSA Rescheduling Policy. All disputes related to rescheduled games will be decided by the Director of Competition, whose decision is final.

8.5A team shall forfeit a match if, 15 minutes after the properly scheduled game start time, the minimum number of players required to legally start the game are not on the field ready to play. The game will be forfeited in favor of the showing team with a score of 3 – 0 recorded. Should both teams fail to appear or fail to have a sufficient number of players to start, both teams will be deemed to have forfeited the game and will receive no league/competition points.

ARTICLE 9 POINT SYSTEM FOR STANDINGS IN LEAGUES

9.1 Game results must be reported by a team representative no later than twenty-four hours after the match. Results must be reported for all games, including those in non-standings leagues, unless otherwise decided by the Director of Competition.

9.2 The Director of Competition will resolve any conflict regarding reported scores, which decision shall be final. In the event a match is abandoned for any reason, the Director of Competition shall determine whether or not the match shall be completed and/or the result of the match

9.3 At its discretion, TCSYA may keep standings in some or all leagues. In leagues for which TCYSA keeps standings, points will be awarded as follows: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. One point shall be deducted for each red card received for unsporting behavior, violent conduct or dissent. One point shall be deducted each time a team prevails in a match with a goal differential greater than 7 goals.

9.4 Current standings will be posted on the website as scores are received unless the Director of Competition directs otherwise.

9.5 In standings leagues, the order of finish shall be decided by the number of points accrued during the season as outlined in 10.1.

9.6 If teams are tied on points, the tiebreaker shall be as follows:

- Head to Head competition
- Fewest Goals conceded
- Goal differential with a maximum of 3 goal differential per match
- If still tied, the teams will be deemed joint 1st place or joint 2nd place as appropriate.
- When breaking ties amongst three or more teams, once a tie is broken in favor of one team, the remaining tied teams start at the first tie breaking rule again, excluding the resolved team from the consideration.

MATCH PLAY

ARTICLE 10 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARKING AND SETTING UP FIELDS

10.1 It shall be the responsibility of each home team/club to provide properly marked fields. All fields must have appropriate and safe goals. Goals should be properly netted and anchored/weighted.

10.2 Penalties and fines may be assessed by TCYSA in accord with TCSYA governance.

ARTICLE 11 REFEREES

11.1 The home club or association is responsible for assigning referees. If a referee is

not present, the coaches may agree upon a substitute referee. If the coaches cannot agree, each coach shall referee one half. A match played with a substitute referee, or one refereed by a coach, will be considered an official match in the standings.

11.2 Under no circumstances shall any match be played without a referee. If the match starts by agreement of the teams, each team shall waive its ability to abandon the match due to a failure of the referee appearing. Any concerns about officiating should be directed to the Director of Competition.

11.3 Upon arrival at the field, the referee shall inspect the marking/equipment on the field and the field's condition to determine suitability for play. The Referee has the sole discretion to determine whether or not the match shall proceed in the event there are concerns about field conditions.

ARTICLE 12 RULES OF PLAY / GAME CONDUCT

12.1 Unless exceptions are approved by TCYSA, all TCYSA leagues shall be played in accord with the rules as established by the Federation International de Football Association, as modified by United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association and/or Washington Youth Soccer.

12.2 Coaches and teams are expected to respect the spirit of the recreational game and not run up large score differences against weaker teams. Teams which fail to adhere to this expectation may face disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 13 COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

13.1 All coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) must be in good standing with WYS and risk management cleared.

13.2 Coaches are responsible for their players, substitutes, and spectators. Team coaches and assistants will ensure that any person asked to leave a match shall immediately leave the playing field area.

13.3 Prior to the match, coaches shall identify themselves to the referee, and one coach shall identify him/herself as the head coach, the others being assistant coaches. Upon request from the referee, the coach shall be required to give his/her name, and/or the name of any assistant, player, substitute or spectator (known to him/her).

13.4 Coaching from the sidelines, giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and positioning, is permitted in TCYSA play provided the coaching is by not more than two coaches already identified to the referee as required.

13.5 Before the game, each coach shall give the referee a roster with (at a minimum) each player's name, date of birth and shirt number.

13.6 The home coach will choose which side they prefer, the visiting team must take the opposite side if field conditions permit, with spectators encouraged to view from the same side of the fields as their team's bench.

13.7 All coaching must be done from one side of the field. If both teams occupy the same side of the field, coaches must confine themselves to their half of that side of the field. In any case, no team may have coaches on both touchlines.

13.8 Spectators are allowed in the area that is between the top of each penalty box, and must not be any closer to the playing field than 2 yards from the touchline.

Persons desiring to photograph the match from these prohibited areas shall obtain permission from the referee before the start of the match. Said person shall not coach, cheer or in any way distract the players or official.

ARTICLE 14 SIDELINE CONDUCT

14.1 All individuals attending TCYSA matches agree to abide by the Sideline Behavior

Policy promulgated by TCYSA.

14.2 In the judgement of the referee, coaches who are excessively loud and belligerent, harangue and/or berate their players, and/or otherwise bring the game into disrepute by their behavior and/or words may receive cautions for their misconduct. Clubs and coaches will ensure they understand the definitions of sideline misconduct and abuse of referees, and they will take proactive measures to avoid both.

14.3 If a coach has been disqualified for any reason, the coach will be ineligible to coach until the disqualification has been reviewed by the TCYSA Disciplinary Committee or as provided by WYS rules on automatic suspension periods.

14.4 Any referee who cautions or ejects a player or coach shall file a report within 24 hours of the match in the manner prescribed by TCSYA. Any individual wishing to appeal any caution or ejection must do so within 24 hours via email to the Director of Competition. The committee reserves the right to determine the extent of investigation, if any, when reviewing an appeal. The committee also reserves the right to increase or decrease any sanction and will notify the appellant in the event the committee elects to alter the original decision.

14.4 Any coach who removes his/her team from the field prior to the completion of a match must provide a written report to the Director of Competition.

14.5 Any spectator interfering with the progress of a match shall be asked to leave the field. The coach of the team concerned is responsible for removal of the spectator. A coach who fails to take responsibility for the removal of a spectator may be cautioned or ejected from the field as well by the referee. Failure of a spectator or coach to leave when requested to do so may result in an abandoned game and/or further sanction.

14.6 The Board reserves the right to take additional, or alternative, action regardless of whether reported by the referee or any other individual, and is not obliged to wait for action on the part of any third party. When taking disciplinary action, the committee generally follows the minimum guidelines as established by WYS. When a player or coach is sent off the field of play for any reason, he/she shall be ineligible to play or coach, at a minimum, in the next regularly scheduled game absent express communication from the TCSYA Director of Competition to the contrary.

14.7 Coaches are responsible for educating themselves, their players and spectators on the rules for competition. Disciplinary action may be taken for conduct before, during or after a match. The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to take any action deemed appropriate.