

# THURSTON COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## RULES OF COMPETITION

### GENERAL RULES

#### ARTICLE 1. GOVERNING OF LEAGUES

- 1.1 These rules apply to any league run by the Thurston County Youth Soccer Association (TCYSA).
- 1.2 As a condition of participation in TCYSA activities, players, coaches, parents and member clubs will be subject to the authority of the TCYSA. Non-TCYSA affiliated clubs will comply with all TCYSA rules, Washington Youth Soccer (WYS), US Youth Soccer and FIFA.
- 1.3 The approved version of the Rules will be posted on the TCYSA website. TCYSA shall will notify referee associations and/or referee assignors that the TCYSA Rules are posted on the website. TCYSA member Clubs and all Clubs with teams playing in any TCYSA league ("Clubs") will also post the rules on their respective websites.

#### ARTICLE 2. SEASON

- 2.1 The playing year is defined by WYS, while the duration and parameters of each season will be determined by TCYSA.

#### ARTICLE 3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 A website will be maintained for communication of TCYSA league information.
- 3.2 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 4. REGISTRATION

- 4.1 The term 'youth player' means an amateur player who was born within the age requirements defined by WYS. Age classifications will be defined in accordance with WYS rules.
- 4.2 TCYSA leagues are limited to recreational players. Absent express approval of a waiver, select, competitive and premier players are prohibited from being registered on a recreational team in any playing year in which the player is registered with a select, competitive or premier club or team.

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- 4.2.1 A recreational player is any player who plays on a team where the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited.
- 4.2.2 A select, competitive or premier player is any player who plays, or is registered, on a team formed through the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively at any time during the current playing year, regardless of whether said player was registered with a TCYSA member Club or with some other Association.
- 4.3 The Director of Competition, in counsel with participating clubs, 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. All clubs submitting teams to be included in the season of play must have a member participate during the sort meeting. The Director of Competition will assign teams to maximize competitive balance. At the discretion of the Director of Competition, adjustments regarding placement of teams may occur during the season of play.
- 4.4 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. Waivers may be granted to allow a player to play one year below their designated age group, with a max of 3 players per team. TCYSA reserves the right to rescind the waiver if competition is negatively impacted at any point during the season of play.
- 4.5 Team registration will be in the form prescribed by TCYSA. All member Clubs will have a designated person, who, in cooperation with the TCYSA Registrar, will 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.
- 4.6 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. No club or team may allow any unregistered player to participate in any competition. Any team playing a player who is ineligible to play for any reason, will forfeit any game(s) in which the player has taken part. Any individual who knowingly allows an ineligible player to participate in any TCYSA competition is subject to disciplinary action.

## ARTICLE 5. PLAYER MOVEMENT

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5.1 Although not required, TCYSA may encourage registration of players with the club servicing the geographic region of the registered player. Each Club will 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 and/or WYS.

5.2 Any individual attempting to induce a registered player to transfer from one team to another team may be subject to disciplinary action.

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### ARTICLE 6. SCHEDULING

6.1 Game schedules will be compiled and posted on the TCYSA website. Games will not begin before 9:00 a.m. or end after 9:00 p.m. unless agreed by both teams.

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

6.3 Rescheduling matches will be done only in extraordinary circumstances. Refer to Game Rescheduling Instructions on the TCYSA website.

6.4 A team forfeits a match if, 10 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. 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 7. POINT SYSTEM FOR STANDINGS IN LEAGUES

7.1 Game results must be reported by a team representative no later than 48 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.

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

7.3 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 will be deducted for each red card received for unsporting

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behavior, violent conduct or dissent. One point will be deducted each time a team prevails in a match with a goal differential greater than 7 goals.

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

7.5 In standings leagues, the order of finish will be decided by the number of points accrued during the season.

## MATCH PLAY

### ARTICLE 8. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARKING AND SETTING UP FIELDS

8.1 TCYSA clubs agree to cooperatively work in making sure there are properly marked fields, with appropriate and safe goals. Upon arrival at the field, the referee must 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 will proceed in the event there are concerns about field conditions.

### ARTICLE 9. REFEREES

9.1 QUADCO is responsible for assigning referees for all matches played in Thurston County. For matches played outside of Thurston County, the Association having governance over the location in which the match is played is responsible for assigning referees. If a referee is not present the coaches are encouraged to come up with a solution that results in the match being played. The coaches may agree upon a substitute referee, and may even agree on different referees for each half. A match commenced with an agreed upon referee(s) will be considered an official match in the standings. Any concerns about officiating should be directed to the Director of Competition.

### ARTICLE 10. RULES OF PLAY / GAME CONDUCT

10.1 Unless exceptions are approved by TCYSA, all TCYSA leagues will be played in accordance 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.

10.2 All players must be safely attired with shin guards covered by socks. Jersey numbers are recommended but not required. Teams should have jerseys that match and are significantly different from the opposing team. Rules about wearing jewelry or other non-essential items

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apply as they do in the FIFA Laws of the Game. Under no circumstances may jewelry of any sort be worn in TCYSA competitions. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to, watches, rings, bracelets, chains, necklaces, earrings (including posts), hair barrettes and other similar objects. Taping over jewelry will not be allowed.

10.3 In some divisions, the build out line (BOL) is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting to learn how to “build out” the attack. When the goalkeeper possesses the ball, either from the run of play or on a goal/free kick, the opposing team should move behind the BOL. Once the opposing team is behind the BOL, the goalkeeper can pass or throw/roll the ball to a team mate. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the BOL and play resumes as normal.

10.4 Teams trailing by 4 or more goals are allowed to add a player to the field and play a “player up”.

10.5 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. See 7.3

### ARTICLE 11. COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

11.1 All Volunteers (Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers) must be in good standing with WYS and risk management cleared.

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

11.3 Prior to the match, coaches will identify themselves to the referee, and one coach will identify themselves as the head coach, and also identify no more than one assistant coach. Teams will have no more than one head coach and one designated assistant coach at each game for purposes of communicating with the referee. Upon request from the referee, the coach will be required to give their name, and/or the name of any assistant, player, substitute or spectator (known to them).

11.4 Before the game, each coach will give the referee a roster with each player's name, date of birth and jersey number if available.

11.5 The home team 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. Regardless of where spectators are located, coaches are responsible for the behavior of all of their spectators.

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11.6 All coaching must be done from one side of the field, and no coaching can occur closer to the endline than the top of the penalty area. 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, on the touchlines beyond the penalty area, or anywhere between the corner flags on the end lines.

11.7 Spectators are allowed anywhere on the touchlines, and must not be any closer to the playing field than 2 yards from the touchline. Spectators located closer to the endline than the top of the penalty area are prohibited from directing any comments to players on the field.

### ARTICLE 12. SIDELINE CONDUCT

12.1 All individuals attending TCYSA matches agree to abide by the Sideline Behavior Policy promulgated by TCYSA. The Sideline Behavior Policy will be posted on the TCYSA website and all Clubs will provide a copy of the policy to all coaches, players and families prior to the start of the season.

12.2 In the sole discretion of the referee, and in accord with the Laws of the Game, coaches may be cautioned or disqualified for their misconduct and/or the conduct of their respective players or sidelines. 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.

12.3 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.

12.4 Any individual wishing to appeal any caution or ejection must do so within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match via email to the Director of Competition, who will forward said appeal to the Chair of the TCYSA Disciplinary Committee. 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.

12.5 Any coach who removes their team from the field prior to the completion of a match must provide a written report to the Director of Competition.

12.6 At the discretion of a referee, any spectator interfering with the progress of a match may 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.

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12.7 TCYSA 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 the referee or 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, they will 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.

12.8 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.