

TRI SPORTS 8v8 Soccer Rules

1. **Equipment/Field Set-Up:** Field dimensions are approximately 50 yards wide and 80 yards long; goals are slightly smaller than full size.

2. **Game Time/Default:** Games start on time. Please arrive 15 minutes early to help set up fields and start your games on time. Games are comprised of two (2) 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. Teams are comprised of eight (8) players (including goalkeeper) with a minimum of two (2) women. A forfeit will occur if any team cannot field a squad by 15 minutes after start time. A team can play with a minimum of six (6) people, as long as two (2) of the players are women (coed only). Women may play any position on the field. There are no timeouts except for injury (*see 8*).

3. **General Rules:** In general, standard soccer rules apply to all TRI SPORTS games.

i. Each half starts with one team initiating play by making a pass from the center of the field. The ball does not have to travel forward. Coin toss determines team that can choose to kick off or defend a goal.

ii. If a ball is kicked out of bounds along the sidelines, a **throw-in** is awarded to the opposite team.

iii. If a ball is kicked out of bounds along the goal line by the offense, a **free/goal kick** is awarded to the defending team.

iv. If a ball is kicked out of bounds along the goal line by the defense, a **corner kick** is awarded to the attacking team.

v. **Substitutions** may occur at any time (on the fly) and must be made near midfield. A substitution cannot result in an advantageous play on the ball. If it does, the play can be whistled dead and a free kick awarded to the disadvantaged team.

vi. **Free kicks may be direct or indirect.** On direct kicks, the ball is placed at the point of infraction, and put in play by any member of the affected team. No opposing player is allowed within 8 yards of the ball prior to the kick. Goals may be scored on direct kicks.

A **direct kick** occurs for the following infractions: 1. Charging; 2. Roughness; 3. Dangerous play/kick; 4. Slide tackles.

Penalties occurring inside the goal box by the defense will result in a penalty kick 12 yards out from the goal line. Penalties occurring outside but within close proximity to the goal box will be kicked from the point of infraction. The defense must stand 8 yards away from the point where the ball is being kicked.

An **indirect kick** occurs when the goalkeeper touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a teammate or drop-kicks/punts (*see ix*).

The indirect kick will be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

To score off an indirect kick, the ball must first be touched by another player (offense or defense).

vii. **Penalty kicks will be awarded at the referee's discretion on whether the foul stopped a goal or a scoring chance.** Due to the smaller field size and possible congestion of players, the goal box may have no bearing on whether the foul warrants a penalty kick. Any member of the offended team may take a penalty kick. The goalkeeper in goal at the time of the foul must face the penalty kick (no subbing goalies).

viii. **Goal kicks** are taken from within the penalty area and must leave the area before being touched by another player. The opposing players do not have to give any room off the ball as long as they are outside the goal box – it is up to the goalkeeper to back the ball off any required distance.

ix. **Goalkeepers** may not directly catch a throw-in from their own team. Goalkeepers may not punt or drop-kick the ball...keepers must throw the ball or play it to the ground. An infraction will result in an indirect kick from just outside the goal box.

x. **Metal cleats are not allowed.**

4. **Offsides:** There are NO offsides. However, a strategy of consistently "cherry-picking" is considered to be unsportsmanlike.

5. **Slide Tackling:** Even if contact is made with the ball first, slide tackling is NOT ALLOWED under any circumstances. As well, no players can slide to block a shot or pass at any time. 6. **Referees** enforce the rules and maintain safety. They will have the last word along with the league coordinator. Excessive arguing will result in a yellow card being issued. Cursing at or disparaging an official can result in a red card.

7. **Yellow/red cards.** **Yellow cards** will be issued as a warning and "cooling off" for players who are either dangerous or dissenting. If a yellow card is issued, a player (even the keeper) is sent off and cannot return for 2 minutes. The affected team plays a man down even if a goal is scored during the 2-minute period. If the referee deems a player's repeated misconduct warrants a red card, it will be issued. If a **red card** is issued, the affected team must play a man down **the remainder of the game (in coed, the player must play down a player of the same gender as that issued the card)** and the player may have to sit one additional game pending review by the league coordinator. A red-carded player will automatically miss a second game of any doubleheaders played in a given day/night. Excessive red cards or dangerous play may result in expulsion from the league.

Should a player off the field receive a yellow card, the affected team must play a man down for 2 minutes. Should a player off the field receive a red card, the affected team will have to play a man down the remainder of the game.

Any player or fan is encouraged to root for their own team, but rooting against teams or using disparaging language is discouraged and can result in penalties of players or dismissals of fans. Any fans of teams may be asked to leave by the referees or TRISPORTS staff. Refusal to leave will result in forfeiture of the game.

8. **Time:** A running clock will be maintained by the referee. The clock will stop only for prolonged injury timeouts. Any delay tactics (such as deliberately kicking the ball out of bounds) will allow the referee (at his/her discretion) to stop the clock. If for any reason the game should be cancelled with more than half played (if the second half has started), the game and score at that point is considered final. If half or less of the game is played, the entire game will be replayed from the beginning. Referees have the discretion of shortening game times if games are running behind schedule.

9. **Rough Play:** ANY ROUGH OR PHYSICAL PLAY WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION FROM FURTHER LEAGUE PLAY AND MAY RESULT IN LIFETIME LEAGUE EXPULSION.

10. **Playoffs:** Games tied in regulation will go into overtime, consisting of up to two 5-minute sudden death periods (first team to score wins – if team scores in first OT period, second period is not played).

If neither team scores in the overtime periods, teams will go into a shootout.

Each team selects five players (coed: 3 males, 2 females). Players do not have to have been playing at end of regulation. Coin toss will decide which team shoots first. Referee will decide which goal to shoot at. Shots will be placed and not dribbled. Teams will alternate taking shots from the penalty kick spot. Order of shooters is up to each team (coed does not have to alternate male/female). If game is still tied after each team's five shots, second shootout round will be sudden death (first team to score a goal in any alternating pair of shots is the winner).