

TIDEWATER WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

1. LEAGUE PARTICIPATION:

A. To participate in the league a player must have paid their yearly insurance fee and registered online. The current registration fee must be made by credit card online. The registration fee amount will be determined prior to player registration and will be no greater than to allow for the purchase and repair of necessary equipment and cost of operation of the league including field maintenance, league affiliation and game officials.

B. The seasonal year runs from September 1st to August 31st.

C. Refunds will be approved for the current season as long as the registrar is notified before games have started. After games have started, refunds will be issued less a service fee through the first week of play. Refunds will not be approved after the first week of play.

2. TEAMS

A. Maximum number of players on the field for each team will be seven (7) for 7 v 7 or eleven (11) for 11 v 11, including the goal keeper.

B. Team size and the number of teams will be determined at the conclusion of registration by the Board of Directors.

C. Teams will be assembled by the Board of Directors at the team formation meetings, with the help of the Team Representatives as necessary

D. The minimum age for players must be met for each division prior to the first game of the season for which they are registering. 18 yrs. old for Open, 30 yrs. old for O-30, 35 yrs. old for O-35.

E. The Board reserves the right to alter team rosters if necessary.

F. Late registered players will be added to teams at the Board's discretion. Requests cannot be made.

G. All players new to TWSL will be required to provide the league registrar with proof of their date of birth through a picture ID.

3. TOURNAMENTS

A. Each player will be considered a carded player with MDCSVA. This allows players to participate in area tournaments. Cards can be obtained through the league registrar upon request. Cards will be issued within two weeks of your request.

4. PRACTICES

Teams can practice at any time they so choose.

5. SCHEDULE

Games shall be played in accordance with the schedule set up by the league officials with each team playing as close to eight games as possible. There will be no postponements except in the case of extreme emergency and/or weather conditions. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, games will be canceled and rescheduled.

6. LENGTH OF GAMES

Games out of doors will consist of two 35 minute halves and a 5 minute halftime for 7 v 7 matches and two 40-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime for 11 v 11 matches. The official will keep the official game time and will not stop the time except for injury or other lengthy delay. Games ending in a tie will remain a tied contest.

7. OFFICIALS

A. There will be at least one U.S.S.F. certified referee per game. If certified referees are not available, uncertified referees will be used.

B. The official shall have the authority to call off any games on the field that he/she deems unsafe due to extreme weather conditions. The games may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

C. No game will be repeated because of dispute of an official's call.

D. The league shall pay officials at the end of each game, or as decided between the league and the assignor.

E. A copy of the Rules of play will be provided to the Assignor before the start of the season. The Assignor will pass them along to the referees before the start of all games. A copy of the rules will be available at the fields for referencing.

F. Referees will be required to fill out a score report at the end of each match. These score reports will be turned into the board member present at the match. Score reports should include the final score of the match and a list of cards issued to any players.

8. GAME REPORTS

A. The designated board member at each game will get the game reports from the referee and send the game report details to the division coordinator via e-mail. These should be provided within 24 hours of game play.

9. EQUIPMENT

A. Footwear: Players may wear molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes. NO SOFTBALL CLEATS OR STEEL CLEATS!

B. Shinguards: use of shinguards is mandatory.

C. Field equipment: equipment will be furnished by a board member prior to the start of each match as needed.

D. Soccer balls: size 5 game balls are furnished by the league. Practice balls must be provided by players.

E. All players must wear shorts or pants, socks, and either a white or royal blue jersey. Home team wears white. Away team wears royal blue. Goalies are permitted to wear any color except white or royal blue.

10. LEAGUE PLAY

A. League play will be governed by the current U.S. Soccer Federation Rules (FIFA) rules as amended by these by-laws or by agreement in meeting by league officials.

B. Substitutions can be made AT ANY TIME.

C. Slaughter Rule - In a 7 v 7 match, when the winning team gets ahead by five goals, field players are to be reduced by one player. If the losing team scores, a player from the winning team may return to the field. If the winning team gets ahead by seven goals, players are to be reduced by two. In a 6 v 6 match, the five goal slaughter rule will be upheld, but the seven goal slaughter rule is not applicable.

D. NO sliding or slide tackling is allowed. Any field player who slide tackles will be warned verbally by the referee the first time that it occurs. A yellow card will be issued the second time. This does not pertain to the goalkeeper making low slides to the ball.

E. Offsides WILL be called.

F. Fouls that will result in a DIRECT KICK are the following: handling, kicking, tripping, jumping, charging, striking, pushing, holding, or spitting at an opponent.

Fa. ALL fouls that take place inside the penalty box will be awarded by a PENALTY KICK. Because of the reduced size of the field, the ball will be placed at the center top of the penalty box, aka the "18 yard line". All players must remain outside the penalty area and the penalty arc until the ball is kicked. The goalkeeper must have both feet on the goal line until the ball is kicked. If, after the ball is kicked, it rebounds off of the goal or the keeper and stays on the field, the ball is "live" and anyone can play it.

Fb. All fouls that take place OUTSIDE the penalty box will be awarded by a DIRECT kick where the foul occurred if the foul is determined by the referee to be careless, reckless, with excessive force, or a deliberate hand ball.

G. Fouls that will result in an INDIRECT KICK are the following: dangerous play, obstruction, preventing the keeper from releasing the ball, keeper handling the ball after it has been deliberately passed back from her own

player, keeper taking more than 6 seconds before releasing the ball, keeper handling the ball on a throw in from her own teammate.

Ga. A goal may not be scored directly from an INDIRECT kick; rather it must be touched by a second player before a goal can be scored. If the ball goes in goal directly from an indirect free kick, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team. If the ball goes in own goal from an indirect free kick, a corner kick is awarded.

H. Misconduct: A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be cautioned (YELLOW CARD) for:

(a) Entering or leaving the field without permission of the official (unless make a substitution).

(b) PERSISTENT INFRINGEMENT of any rules of the game.

(c) Objecting to by words or action to any decision by an official.

(d) Unsportsmanlike conduct including use of vulgar or profane language.

(e) Sliding or slide tackling (after a verbal warning - see 'D' above).

A yellow carded player must be substituted. She may return after two minutes of play have passed. The referee will keep the time and let the player know when she may return to the field

I. A player or bench personnel shall be disqualified (RED CARD) for:

(a) Exhibiting violent conduct or serious foul play.

(b) Using foul or abusive language.

(c) Any subsequent act of misconduct after having been cautioned (CAUTION MAY BE VERBAL OR YELLOW CARD)

Anyone who is disqualified must leave the vicinity of the playing area for the remainder of the game. There will be no replacement of the disqualified player. The referee may stop the game until the disqualified person leaves and may end a game if the disqualified person refuses, with the offending team forfeiting.

Referees will "officially" yellow card players who continue to commit fouls after being verbally cautioned. After being yellow carded, the player will be "officially" red carded and suspended for the remainder of the game and the following game.

Players and spectators who disrupt play or create an incident before, during, or after a game may receive a personal/team game suspension, followed by a suspension of the next scheduled game. This suspension will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

I. The Tidewater Women's Soccer League will not tolerate abusive behavior towards players, board members, staff, or referees under ANY circumstances. ANYONE who acts in a violent physical manner or threatens ANYONE will forfeit the refund of all registration fees paid and is disqualified from participation in the Tidewater Women's Soccer League for a period of not less than 6 months. Disqualification decisions shall be made by the Board and any Board Member involved in any such incident shall be prohibited from voting on such decision.

11. FAILURE TO FIELD A TEAM

A. If a team cannot field 5 players for 7 v 7 matches or 7 players for 11 v 11 matches, a forfeit will occur. If a team forfeits before the game, the opposing team receives 3 points. If the two teams are interested in a scrimmage game, the forfeiting team MUST obtain players for the game by asking the opposing team to provide players from its team. If the opposing team declines to provide players, any other REGISTERED player may be used.

B. If a team chooses to forfeit after the start of the game, the opposing team receives 3 points or the sum of their own goals scored, whichever is greater.

C. To avoid a forfeit a 10 minute grace period is given to the team with less than 5 players. The grace period time will be deducted from playing time.

D. At the discretion of the Board, if a sufficient number of guest players are not available, registered TWSL players within the division from teams not involved in the scheduled match, may be used to supplement as guest players.

12. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Player participation in Tidewater Women's Soccer League sponsored matches may be disallowed if a player's actions result in an accumulation of excess cards. Absolutely no fighting will be tolerated. Any fight, serious foul play or violent conduct may result in an immediate one year suspension from TWSL dated from time of incident. Participation within the TWSL is dependent upon the number of cards one receives:

2 Yellow Cards (1 match) = RED CARD = 1 game suspension*

4 Yellow Cards in a season = 1 year suspension

2 Red Cards in a season = 1 year suspension

Any combination of 2 red cards or equivalent of 2 red cards = 1 year suspension

*Minimum

APPEAL POLICY: any appeal made will be made in writing to the TWSL Board within 3 days of the action under protest. The Board will review the relevant facts and render a determination to the protestor within 7 days receipt of written protest.

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