

Tri-City United

Masters Outdoor League Laws





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League Laws

- **LAW 1 – Field of Play**
 1. Games are played on a regulation 9v9 field.
 2. Game locations:
 - Pepsi Soccer Complex.

- **LAW 2 – The Ball**
 1. All games are played with a FIFA approved size five (5) ball.

- **LAW 3 – Players**
 1. All games are played in 7v7 format (6 field players + a goalkeeper). Teams must have at least five (5) players (4 field players + goalkeeper) to play.
 2. Teams will forfeit their game if they are not able to field five (5) eligible players. Teams have until 5 minutes after the designated start time to field enough players or they must forfeit.
 - If a team forfeits due to not having enough players, the score will be recorded as a 7-0 loss.
 - If a team forfeits twice in back-to-back weeks during the season, they may be removed from the current season.
 3. Rosters are maxed out at 20 players. Players can be added to a team roster up to 12 noon on the day of the third game of the season. After this time, rosters are locked, and no other players will be added.
 4. To be eligible to play, an individual must be listed on the official team roster.
 5. Rosters will be checked by TCU staff before each game. Players not on roster will not be allowed to play.
 6. The number of men on the field cannot exceed a maximum of four (3) players (excluding goalkeepers). If a team is missing a female player, teams are not allowed to replace with a male player and must play with one less player until a female player is able to enter the game.
 7. To be eligible to play, men must be 35 or older and women must be 25 or older
NOTE: Players who turn the age required to play (35 for men, 25 for women) within three (3) months of the first game of the season, will be allowed to play.
 8. Substitutions are unlimited; however, the ref must be notified prior to the new player entering the field. In case of injury, the ref may stop play until the injured player can be moved from the field of play.

- **LAW 4 – Players' Equipment**
 1. Goalkeepers must have a different color jersey that distinguishes them from the rest of the players on either team regardless of home/away designation.
 2. Shin-guards are required and must be covered by socks.
 3. Teams must have matching jerseys that easily distinguish them from other teams in the league. If your team's color is navy blue, sky blue is not an acceptable color.
 - Players are not allowed to share jerseys for any reason.
 4. Jewelry of any kind is prohibited. This includes bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and any similar accessories i.e., watches and all must be removed.



- **LAW 5 – Referees and Assistant Referees**
 1. One referee oversees management of the game. There are no assistant referees. Decisions made by the referees are **FINAL**.
- **LAW 6 – Duration of the Match**
 1. Games are 50 minutes long: two 25-minute halves and a 5-minute halftime. The referee will keep the time on the field and allow stoppage time for time lost due to injuries, time wasting, significant delays, etc.
- **LAW 7- Ball In and Out of Play**
 1. The ball is considered out of play if:
 - It completely crosses over the touch line or goal line.
 - If the referee signals an offense or infraction.
- **LAW 8 – Start and Restart of Play**
 2. Kick-off: The away team will kick off to start the game. The home team will kick off to start the second half. The ball is in play as soon as it is moved in any direction by the team kicking off.
 3. Throw-in: When the ball completely crosses the touch line, play is restarted with a throw-in on the line nearest to where the ball went out of bounds. At the time of the throw-in, all opposing players must be at least 2 yards from the ball.
 4. Corner Kick: If the ball completely crosses over the goal line outside the goalposts and is last touched by the defending team, play is restarted with a corner kick for the attacking team. The referee will indicate which corner to take the restart from. The ball must be placed anywhere within the 1-yard arc and is in play once the ball has been kicked and clearly moves. The defending player must stand on the edge of the penalty area (18-yard box) until the ball is in play. The ball is in play when touched and it clearly moves.
 5. Goal Kick: If the ball completely crosses over the goal line and is last touched by the attacking team, the restart of play is an indirect kick from anywhere within the goal box (6-yard box).
 - Goalkeepers may not punt or dropkick the ball. Doing so will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team in the penalty area, near where the offense occurred.
 - Goalkeepers cannot throw the ball over the halfway line. If it goes over the halfway line untouched or doesn't bounce before the halfway line, it is an indirect free kick for the other team on the halfway line.
- **LAW 9 – Scoring**
 6. A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the two goal posts and under the crossbar. A goal may be scored directly from a kickoff, corner kick, direct free kick. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in or an indirect free kick. If the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the two goal posts and under the crossbar from a throw-in or indirect kick, the restart of play is a goal kick.
- **LAW 10 – Offside**
 1. The offside rule is not in effect in this league.



- **LAW 11 – Fouls and Misconduct**

1. **Direct Free Kick:** A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offenses: Holds an opponent, handles the ball, slide tackles an opponent, kicks an opponent, trips an opponent, jumps at an opponent, charges an opponent, strikes, or attempts to strike an opponent, or pushes an opponent.
 - A direct free kick is taken from the spot on the field where the offense occurred. Opposing players 8 yards away from the spot of the free kick.
2. **Indirect Free Kick:** An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if:
 - The goalkeeper receives a ball with their hands after a teammate intentionally played the ball to them with their feet.
 - Sliding on the field of play for any reason.
 - If the goalkeeper handles the ball for longer than 8 seconds before distributing the ball, a corner kick will be awarded to the opposing team.
 - If the goalkeeper punts or dropkicks the ball.
 - A player plays in a dangerous manner, obstructs an opponent, or prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball.
 - Indirect free kicks are taken from the spot on the field where the offense occurred. All opposing players must remain at least 8 yards away from the spot of the free kick.
3. **Hand Ball:** Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is a hand ball offence. It is a direct-free-kick offence if a player:
 - Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball.
 - Touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized.
4. **Slide Tackling:** Slide tackling is not allowed for any reason. Any form of sliding will result in a direct free kick from where the offence occurred.

NOTE: Goalkeepers may attempt a save with a slide inside their own goalbox. If a goalkeeper slides outside their goalbox, the opposing team will be awarded a direct free kick from where the offence occurred.
5. **Disciplinary Action:** The referees have the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the pitch for the pre-match inspection until leaving the pitch after the match ends.
6. **Cautionable offences:** A player is cautioned if guilty of:
 - delaying the restart of play
 - dissent by word or action
 - entering or leaving the pitch without the referees' permission or in contravention of the substitution procedure
 - failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or kick-in
 - persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes "persistent")



- commits a direct-free-kick offence in a reckless manner
 - handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack
 - denies an opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity by committing an offence
 - shows a lack of respect for the game
 - deliberately moves or overturns the goal (without denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity)
- unsporting behavior
7. **Sending-off offences:** A player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their own penalty area) or by deliberately moving or overturning the goal, such as when this prevents the ball from passing over the goal line
 - denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity, provided that the goal is unguarded by the defending goalkeeper, to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal through an offence punishable with a free kick
 - serious foul play
 - biting or spitting at someone
 - violent conduct
 - using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) towards players, referees, and spectators
 - receiving a second caution in the same match
- A player or substitute who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the pitch and the technical area.
8. **Players who received 3 yellow cards during the course of one season will IMMEDIATELY serve a one game suspension. If the player gets their 3rd yellow card in match week 6, they will miss the last match. If it is on the last game of the season, the suspension will be carried out on the first game of the next season. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
9. A first-time red card offense will result in the player being removed from the current game and will serve a minimum of a 1-game suspension.
10. A second red card offense in the same season will result in the player being removed from the league. Red cards are tracked during the season and over the course of all Tri-City United adult leagues throughout the year. Suspension carries over from league-to-league meaning that player is ineligible to play in any league while suspension is being served.
11. All red card incidents will be reviewed by the league director and club leadership, and additional suspension may be determined based on review of such incident.
12. Team captains may be asked to assist escorting their red-carded teammates out of the facility if they are not cooperating. Play may be halted until said player leaves.
- **LAW 12 – Penalty Kicks**
 1. A penalty kick is awarded for any offense occurring in the defender's penalty area, which would normally result in a direct free kick. The ball is placed on the penalty spot (8 yards from goal) and is in play once it has been kicked and moves forward.



- **LAW 13 – Disciplinary Matters**

1. TC United holds the power to handle disciplinary matters for violations of the League Laws and misconduct by any team, player or official as it sees fit, including contacting law enforcement.
2. Any abusive or threatening behavior towards another player, coach, fan, referee, or administrator will not be tolerated. Any player found guilty of this will face disciplinary action, which may include removal of the game and future permanent suspension.
3. Fighting will not be tolerated. Any teams or players involved in a fight will be removed from the current league and any future league.
4. Verbal and physical abuse will not be tolerated towards other players, game officials or members of TCU staff. If a player violates this law, he/she will be removed from the current league and not allowed to register for future leagues.
5. All offenses for which a player is ejected shall result in a minimum of one game suspension.
6. Team captains will be accountable for their teammate's behavior, and may be responsible for serving their suspension, if deemed necessary by the league director.

League Policies

- **Game Time Check-in**

1. TCU staff will check in players each week by name from the official team roster.

- **Fines**

1. The following fines will be issued for violations, offenses, and misconduct:
 - Red card violations fines will be as follows:
 - First red card: \$20
 - Second red card: \$40
 - Third red card: \$100
 - Yellow card violations:
 - Five yellow cards in one season - \$30.
2. Teams with player(s) who cause the official to terminate the game before it is completed - \$100.
3. Fighting (each player; per team) - \$100.
4. Any player fine is the same as a team fine, as the team or team captain will ultimately be responsible for payment.
5. Payment of a fine is due 24hrs prior to the next scheduled game. If not paid, the player will not be eligible to play until payment is made. If payment is not made within 14 days from the day it was issued, the team will forfeit their next scheduled game until payment is made.
6. If a fine is issued in the last week of the season, and not settled within 14 days, it will be enforced in the following season. If a player switches teams, the fine will follow the player. If the player does not register for the following season, the team or team captain will be responsible for payment.



- **Referee and Game Procedures**

1. All qualified referees will be assigned to do games by an appointed referee scheduler.
2. Referee judgments are final and cannot be protested.
3. Only team captains shall talk to the referees, and it should be in a calm respectful manner.
4. Referees' authority begins when they enter the area of play and will end leave the area of play.
5. Referees shall have the power to suspend or terminate the game at any time for any infringement of the laws or interference by spectators, or any other situation judged by the referee.
6. If a team/player is responsible for the termination of a game, that team will forfeit the game with a 7-0 loss.

- **Code of Conduct**

As defined by the United States Soccer Federation Policy Manual page 42:

(3): (a): (i): Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. (ii) For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable, unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant. (b) Assault includes, but not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, or bodily running into a referee; head butting, the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referees' uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.

(4): (a): (i): Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referees' property or equipment. (b): Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul language towards the referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on referees' personal; or spitting (even if not on) the referee.

1. Violent Conduct: Verbal and physical assault towards other players, game officials or members of TCU staff will be treated as violent conduct, and anyone found guilty will be removed from the facilities.
2. Verbal Abuse: Players shall not use foul language when speaking to spectators, referees, other players and TCU staff. Players found guilty of verbal abuse will be removed from the game and face possible suspension.
3. Players who are found guilty of violating the code of conduct will be removed from the game, the facilities and be permanently suspended from the league. NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Drug Free Environment: Any player under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to play. Absolutely no alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco allowed in the facility.

- **League Standings**

1. Teams will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and zero points for a loss.
2. Goal differential will only be recorded up to +7 goals. I.e.: If a team wins 10-2, the score will be posted and calculated as 9-2.



3. If more than one team has the same point total, tiebreakers will determine which team receives the higher seed if the league has an end-of-season playoff structure. Tiebreakers are as follows:
 - Most wins.
 - Head-to-head results.
 - Most goals scored.
 - Fewest goals allowed.
 - Coin toss.