

# Tri-County Spring 2019- U8-U18 Regular Season and Tournament Rules

TCSL of MO Rules for Spring 2019 Season :

1. No Floating or Double Rostering of any Player. If a player is found to be floating or double rostered, it is an automatic loss of game for the team that allowed the player to float. **Current rosters should be on file with TCSL of MO before the first game.**
2. Mercy Rule is in effect at all regular season games but not in Tournament. Team with 5 point advantage will remove one player. Team with 6 point advantage will remove a second player. U10 – U18 with a 7 point advantage will remove a 3rd Player. U12, U15 and U18 with an 8 pt advantage would remove a 4th player. Coaches are to avoid running the scores up if at all possible. (i.e. Remove players that score, Switch positions of players, Require minimum number of passes to be completed before a goal can be attempted, etc.) Coaches should remember that a Perfect Game is a Score of 3-0. Our Season is Seeded by Wins, Losses and Ties but you only need a score of 1-0 to get a Win.

Points Spread Ruling is in effect in regular season games but not in Tournament – Once there is a points difference of 10 points during any game, the official score is recorded at that moment and no further scores will be recorded. (Regardless of outcome of the game, even if the losing team were to make a comeback, the official score was the one recorded once a 10 point difference occurred) The game will continue on with Mercy Rule in full effect.

3. A team that is missing players may play as long as they meet the Minimum Fielded Player Requirement. The opposing team is required to play with less players fielded so both teams will have the same number of players on the field. (i.e. A U8 team only has 3 Players show up. The other U8 team has 10 Players show up. Both teams are only allowed to field 3 Players.) If a team cannot meet the Minimum Fielded Player Requirement then they must forfeit. The Minimum Field Requirement and matching the number of players on the field for both teams is still in effect during an injury as well. The moment any team doesn't have enough players on the field, the game is forfeited at that moment. All forfeits are recorded as a loss of 0-3.

## Minimum Field Requirements (Spring 2019 Only):

Regular Season Only:

U8 - 3 Players Minimum (1 must be **of opposite gender**) / U10 - 5 Players Minimum (**2 must be of opposite gender**)/ U12- 7 Players Minimum (**2 must be of opposite gender**)/ U15- 7 Players Minimum (**2 must be of opposite gender**) / U18 - 7 Players Minimum (**2 must be of opposite gender**)

## Tournament Only:

U8 - 3 Players Minimum (1 must be **of opposite gender**) / U10 - 5 Players Minimum (**2 must be of opposite gender**)/ U12- **9 Players Minimum** (**2 must be of opposite gender**)/ U15- **9 Players Minimum** (**2 must be of opposite gender**) / U18 - **9 Players Minimum** (**2 must be of opposite gender**)

Coed Rules are in effect during all games. All age divisions are Coed this season.

**1 Player of the Opposite Gender shall remain on field of play at all times in U8. 2 Players of the Opposite Gender shall remain on field of play at all times in U10, U12, U15 and U18. There will be no vacant positions or playing short to accommodate a missing opposite gender player. The minimum of opposite gendered players required to be on the field is required for the entire game and this includes injuries. If at any moment the minimum number of opposite gender players required for the field cannot be met, then the game becomes a forfeit at that moment. If a team does have availability of meeting the coed requirement but makes a substitution error during a game, the following will occur: The coach in violation of the coed rule will receive a Yellow Card for Illegal Substitution. This Yellow Card will stay on record for entire season including Tournament. The appropriate substitution will be made and any goals scored in favor of the offending team during the illegal substitution will result in that goal(s) being disallowed. If a second offense of the CoEd rule occurs during a future game, the Coach of the team will receive a Yellow Card and he/she will be punished with a one game suspension of the next game and their conduct will be subject to review by TCSL.**

4. Sideline Rules are as follows:

Coach's Sideline – Players, Coaches and TCSL Representatives only. The only children on the Coach's sideline should be a child of a Coach. Any siblings on a sideline must be in a contrasting colored shirt so as not to be confused as a player. Friends of players should not be on the sideline. No boyfriends or girlfriends should be on the Coach's sideline. No pets. Coaches should stay on their half of the sideline and well behind the line so as not to interfere with play. Substitutions should be at the center line and ready to go. Coaches are to only address their team or the referee. Coaches shall not address or argue with the other team's players or the opposing coach.

Spectator Sideline - Spectators are to stay back 5 feet from the line. SPECTATORS CAN NOT APPROACH, ARGUE, QUESTION OR CHALLENGE THE REFEREES AT ANY TIME DURING, BEFORE OR AFTER THE GAMES.

It should be noted that anyone on either sideline could be subject to receiving a red or yellow card. Absolutely no one is to enter or leave the playing field without permission of a referee and this will include substitutions of players on/off the field during the game. Red or yellow cards may be issued before, during or after any game.

5. Coach Challenges: A coach cannot challenge a Judgement Call of a Referee. Judgement calls are made based on the Referee's Position on the Field and ALL JUDGEMENT CALLS ARE FINAL. (i.e. Handballs, Goals Scored/Not Scored, or In/Out of Bounds.) There are to be no Coach Challenges with the Referee. A Coach may ask the Referee why a call was made if done so calmly and not during an active play. Once the question has been answered, the ruling is final and the game shall continue on. If a Coach disagrees with the interpretation of the rules, they may address their own Town Rep by email after a 24 hour cooling off period is taken.

## 6. Red Cards

Once a Red Card is issued, the Person or Persons will be told to leave the premises once and after that, the police will be contacted. **Red Carded Persons are to leave the premises within 10 minutes, or it will be a forfeit for their team.** The police will also be contacted if any person is assaulted no matter how minor the assault is. Red Cards may be issued by any Tri-County Rep or Referee to any Coach, Player or Spectator. Red Cards may be issued before, during or after a game and this includes on Half Times and Quarter Breaks. Also, any game may be stopped or delayed by any TCSL of MO Rep or Referee. Games will be stopped/delayed for any unsafe weather and or environment. Games shall also be stopped and forfeit issued if it is determined another team has double rostered a player, played down a player, floated a player, played an ineligible player.

7. Proper Chain of Command is to be followed. Each town should address their own Town Reps preferably by email after a 24 hour Cooling Off Period is taken. No phone numbers, email addresses, or home addresses should be given out to anyone without permission.

8. Injuries - Per SAY Rulebook Law V Section 4 F&G – Referees are to allow no one other than the active players and assistant referees to enter the field without permission. Referees shall stop the game if a player is injured, but not during a drive on goal unless the injury appears to be serious.  
(Example Obvious Concussion, Compound Fracture, etc.)

Tri-County Specific Rules Regarding Injuries – Coaches should NOT tell everyone to take a knee- the injured player should take a knee. Play will continue until the Referee stops the game. Coach should also not run onto the field they should wait to be asked on the field by the Referee. If a Coach enters the field, the injured player must come off of the field even if the player feels fine and wishes to play. The only exception to this rule is for a Goalie and that is only because of the amount of time involved to switch a Goalie.

9. Water Breaks Ruling - If water breaks are requested by a Coach, then a **2 minute water break will be allowed once in each half.** Coaches may request water breaks for no substitutions or due to extreme temperatures. This request shall be made before the start of the game or during halftime (if players have left or have become injured, temperature has changed, etc). Water breaks will be 2 minutes only. Half time will remain 5 minutes. Players may exit the field to grab their own drink quickly and substitutions can be made if done so quickly during this break. Coaching sessions and team discussions are not allowed though as this break shall not last more than 2 minutes. **The restart after a Quarter Break will be either a Throw-In, Goal Kick, or Kick Off. The referees will wait until an obvious and clear possession and dead ball has occurred before signaling for a water break so please bear in mind that it won't be exactly at the half way point of a half.** Also, as a reminder, a player may go over to the edge of the playing field during the game to grab a drink as long as they don't exit the field and don't interfere in the play so water breaks may not be needed if Coach will cycle their players to get quick drinks throughout the game on a hot day.

10. Determining Seeds – All regular season games played will count in Season Seed unless it is a predetermined game that is not to count in Standings due to it being an extra game played to balance out a bracket. Seed is based on Wins/Ties/Losses. In the event of a tie, the following Tie Breakers are used in this order: 1. Head to Head Result. 2. Points Difference (Points Scored minus Points Allowed) for Entire Season. 3. Highest Number of Shut-outs. 4. Coin toss. . **In the case of a Team Forfeit during the Season or during Tournament: If schedules have not been released, the team will be removed from the bracket and schedules will be refigured without that team in the bracket. If schedules have already been released and a Team Forfeits, the remaining games will be forfeited and the forfeited team would remain in the bracket.** If a team does not show or doesn't meet Minimum Field Requirement or Minimum CoEd Requirement for any Tournament or Regular Season Game, we will allow 10 mins from game scheduled start time before declaring a Forfeit.
11. Head Injuries/Suspected Concussions or Serious Injuries – All head injuries or suspected Concussions must be reported to TCSL of MO Board for determination on when or if a player may be returned to play. If a player is injured and must go to a hospital or doctor for any injury on a Game Day, they will not be allowed to play for the remainder of that day even if they are cleared to play by a Doctor. Referees have the right to remove a player from the field of play for a Suspected Concussion.
12. New SAY USSF Rule on Headers. No U8, U10 or U12 Intentional Headers will be allowed. They will be penalized with an Indirect Free Kick at the place where the Intentional Header Occurred. Intent will be based off of Referee's Judgement and cannot be challenged.
13. Equipment Check and Pre-Game Instructions (New Ruling): All players and coaches are to line up at the halfway line / center line of the field for the combined team Referee Instructions and Equipment Checks to allow for quicker transition of games and to ensure both teams have been informed of the same rules. As per SAY Rulebook: Shin guards are required and must be covered, Earrings and piercings must be removed not just taped over, all jewelry must be removed unless it is a medical alert one that is taped and no players with a hard cast will be allowed to play.
14. Lightning Policy - TCSL of MO will adhere to SAY Soccer's Lightning Policy which can be found on Page 2 of the SAY Soccer Playing Rules, Second Edition which is available online at [www.saysoccer.org](http://www.saysoccer.org) or in the book itself. In addition to seeing lightning or hearing thunder by any Referee or League/Town Rep, games will also be stopped whenever lightning is showing within 20 miles based on the WeatherBug app to help allow sufficient time for everyone to take cover. **RainOuts will be made up on the following weekend with locations, dates and times TBA after a RainOut has occurred. These games may be shortened to allow for games to be played out. Games may also be made up on Easter Saturday. No set number of games is promised. TCSL schedules and makes contingent plans to get all games played but we are at the mercy of the weather and field conditions.**
15. Tobacco Policy- There is to be No Tobacco or Nicotine Usage on the Coach's Sideline or on the playing field by any Coach, Referee, Rep, Player or Spectator. This ban includes smokeless or chewing tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, E-Cigs and similar devices, pipes, hookahs, etc. Red Card will be issued for any person breaking this rule.

16. Good Sportsmanship Ruling - Allowing Subs for Short Teams

Any team that is missing players, will be granted up to 2 Subs upon request as long as the number fielded still meets the Minimum Field and Co-Ed Requirements. The opposing team is required to match the number of players fielded.

17. No Slide Tackles – Slide tackles are banned in all age divisions. If a slide tackle occurs and it is not deemed a Dangerous Play, the restart will be an Indirect Free Kick where the slide tackle occurred. If the slide tackle was deemed a Dangerous Play or a Repeat Infringement IN THE JUDGEMENT OF THE REFEREE, the penalty could be more severe and player could receive a Yellow or Red Card. Examples of Dangerous Plays found during Slide Tackles include: Cleats out, From Behind, Making Contact, Intentionally Aggressive, etc. Goalies should still go “feet first” to go for the ball only not to charge at an opponent.

18. Forfeit and Double Forfeit- If a team does not have the Minimum Field Requirement or cannot meet the CoEd Minimum Requirement we will wait 10 minutes past the official start time of a game, before a forfeit is declared. When a forfeit is declared, the team that forfeits will receive a loss in their standings and a score of 0-3 is recorded. If both teams forfeit then both teams will receive a loss and a score of 0-3 will be recorded for both of their teams. After the score is recorded for a forfeit, the teams may choose to play an Unofficial Game and the Referees will officiate the game to ensure the safety of all players. Unofficial Games may be shortened or stopped due to scheduling or for safety concerns. (i.e. not enough players for size of field, extreme temperatures, high level of aggression, etc.)

19. Conduct Review – **All Red Cards and Yellow Cards may be reviewed by TCSL and additional penalties up to and including suspensions or removal from the league is possible.**

**All Coaches, Town Reps and League Reps are expected to ensure a safe environment for all players to play soccer and a professional working environment for our Referees and Volunteers at all times. Failure to comply with this standard will result in a review by TCSL of the conduct of any offending party or parties.**