

# Rules and Regulations

## Club Purpose

The Triangle Y Soccer Club (TYSC) is a non-profit organization formed to promote and administer a youth soccer program, which includes a participation recreational division and a competitive Challenge division. TYSC is run by a Board of Directors, (the “Board”) and is a member in good standing of the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA). TYSC is made up of volunteer coaches, parents and a volunteer Board of Directors. The goal of TYSC is to offer every player the opportunity to participate in and play soccer at his or her own level of competition. Emphasis is placed on the physical, mental, and emotional growth of children through the development of soccer skills, participation in programs and activities of the club, and the providing of positive role models. While team standings may be kept, development, participation, and a positive experience for the players are emphasized.

Changes to the TYSC Rules and Regulations or the rules of competition require the review and approval of the TYSC Board of Directors.

## Rule 1 – Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for players, parents, and coaches shall be in accordance with the NCYSA Discipline & Appeals Manual. The Code of Conduct is required to be read and understood by all coaches of each NCYSA registered team. The document is required to be signed by all coaches attesting to their understanding of it. In addition, the Southwest Wake YMCA will perform a background check on all coaches.

Censure and suspension for violation of these rules by a player, parent, or coach, shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and in accordance with the NCYSA Discipline & Appeals Manual.

### Unsporting Conduct

Unsporting conduct by spectators, referees, coaches, or players directed at spectators, referees, coaches or players is strictly forbidden. Coaches are responsible and may be held accountable for the conduct of team parents and fans and are expected to assist the referee in his/her efforts to control the game. The referee has the right to eject any coach or player or to terminate the game for reasons of unsporting conduct. This is applicable before, during and after games.

### **Suspension or Discipline of Coaches or Players**

Any player who receives a red card must sit out the next regularly scheduled match. The player should be seated on the bench with his/her team. The referee and opposing coach should be advised why the player is not participating.

Any coach who is ejected from a game must sit out the next regularly scheduled match. Upon ejection, the coach must immediately leave the field and must be out of sight and sound of the match. The coach may not be present at the next regularly scheduled match.

All cautions and ejections of a coach or player from a game shall be reported by the referee to TYSC Referee Coordinator (Assignor) who shall in turn report to the TYSC Discipline and Appeals Representative with recommendations.

The TYSC Discipline and Appeals Representative, upon consulting with the Age Group Commissioner, may suspend a coach or a player on such terms as deemed advisable and necessary. A written report of the action taken and reasons for the action shall be immediately forwarded to the Board of Directors.

The TYSC Discipline and Appeals Representative's action shall remain in effect until the appeals procedure has concluded.

TYSC may suspend a coach or a player from participation for the following offenses:

- Striking and/or directing derogatory remarks toward a coach, player, spectator, or TYSC official before, during or after a game. The minimum suspension is 3 games; the maximum suspension is 2 years. Assault can also result in criminal action.
- Striking and/or directing derogatory remarks toward a referee other official of the game before, during or after a game. The minimum suspension is 3 games; the maximum suspension is 2 years. Assault on referees can also result in criminal action.
- Receiving two (2) or more ejections from games in one season until such time as the TYSC Recreational Division can meet and decide on a course of action dependent on information and evidence surrounding the incident. The minimum suspension is 3 games; the maximum suspension is 3 months.
- Recruiting of players for a specific team or allowing an ineligible/unregistered player to participate in any TYSC sanctioned soccer match. The minimum suspension is 6 months; the maximum suspension is 1 year.

## Rule 2 – Protests

Appeals or protests made by a coach, referee, parent, guardian or an official of TYSC and pertaining to the interpretation and enforcement of the Rules and Regulations, will be decided by the Discipline and Appeals Committee. Unless otherwise stated, protests and appeals will be handled according to the process outlined in the NCYSA Discipline & Appeals Manual.

Protests must be made in writing within 48 hours of the incident in question and addressed to the appropriate Age Group Commissioner. If necessary, the Commissioner will request a special, closed meeting of the Board of Directors for the presentation of said appeal.

Decisions of the Board of Directors shall require a majority vote of the quorum of the Board, and all decisions are final. Any Board member directly involved in a protest may not participate as a member of the Board during the protest hearing.

The process of appeals is not a court of law and no attorney and/or character witnesses will be allowed.

The decision of the Board of Directors shall be put in writing and filed with the TYSC secretary.

No protests concerning referees' interpretations of rules of play will be considered.

## Rule 3 – Rules of Play

### Recreation Level

Recreational level games shall be played according to the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified for youth play by the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and NCYSA. Published USYSA rules for the Age Group, in effect at the time of the game, shall supersede rules by any other organization or publication. FIFA laws of the game are available at:

<http://www.fifa.com/en/regulations/regulation>

TYSC, in accordance with USYSA and NCYSA recommendations, is implementing small-sided game rules for U5 through U12 age groups. The purpose of these revised rules is to increase player participation due to smaller rosters and enhance player development by providing more touches on the ball.

Specific rules for each age group are provided in the following separate documents:

TYSC U5-U6 Laws

TYSC U7-U8 Laws

TYSC U9-U10 Laws

TYSC U11-U12 Laws

TYSC U13-U14 Laws

These documents cover field dimensions, ball size, number of players, equipment, referees, game length, fouls, free kicks, and game restarts. Any recreation age group that requires inter-club play due to low participation will adhere to the rules set forth by the governing body for that league (e.g. Carolina Rec Alliance).

### **Challenge Level**

Challenge level games shall be played according to the rules outlined in the NCYSA Challenge Handbook available at

<http://www.ncsoccer.org/Challenge/challenge%20main.shtml>

Challenge teams play against other clubs within the Mid-State Soccer League (MSSL). The MSSL is a scheduling league for the NCYSA. Their policies and by-laws can be found at:

<http://www.midstatesoccer.org/>

Specific rules for the TYSC Challenge Division are provided in a separate document entitled TYSC Challenge Level Guidelines.

## **Rule 4 – Age Groups**

TYSC subscribes to the USYSA seasonal year starting August 1 of any given year and ending on July 31 of the following year for the purposes of team formation as well as establishment of age divisions.

TYSC will have the following age groups for recreational play:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Max age on Aug 1 of the Seasonal Year</b>
U5 (coed)	4
U6 (coed)	5
U8 (coed)	7
U10 Boys	9
U10 Girls	9
U12 Boys	11
U12 Girls	11
U14 Boys	13
U14 Girls	13

Age groups may be eliminated or combined with other age groups (i.e., creation of a coed age group) at the discretion of the Team Formation Committee due to low participation.

Each seasonal year consists of a fall and spring season. The fall season will commence no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August and end no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> week in November. The spring season will commence no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> week in March and end no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> week in May.

### **Age Group Commissioners**

The Age Group Commissioner retains the following responsibilities:

- To oversee play within the age group.
- To participate in player assignments as a member of the Team Formation Committee.
- To serve as the focal point for communications from (to) the TYSC Board of Directors to and from the coaches and players in the age group.
- To report any serious incidences of unsportsmanlike conduct within the age group, whether from personal observation or the reports of others, to the TYSC Discipline and Appeals Representative with recommendations.

## **Rule 5 – Registration**

### **General**

The TYSC Registration Committee will plan and conduct player registration prior to each season and will establish the dates for closing registration and initiation of the team formation process. Registration fees are due at the time of registration.

Proof of age is required at the time of registration unless previously provided. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or other legal document recognized by the State of NC as proof of age.

Recreational division applications will be accepted and actively placed in the division until the Team Formation Committee meeting. Applications will be accepted after the team formation committee meeting with assignments made only at the discretion of the age group commissioner and on a first come, first serve, first available team basis. The goal is to provide an opportunity for all applicants to play.

Registration rules for the TYSC Challenge Division are provided in a separate document entitled TYSC Challenge Level Guidelines.

### **Player Eligibility**

All TYSC players playing the game of soccer in a TYSC sanctioned game or event, shall be registered with the NCYSA.

A player who is properly registered and assigned to a team is not allowed to participate on other teams. An unregistered and/or unassigned player is ineligible to participate with any TYSC team. Suspected violations should be reported in writing to the age group commissioner.

Players registered as Recreation with the NCYSA for a seasonal year are not eligible to play in the Challenge Division for that seasonal year. Players registered as Challenge with the NCYSA for a seasonal year are not eligible to play in Recreation Divisions.

If there is doubt as to a player's status with the division, the coach shall be responsible for assuring that any player in question is properly registered with the division and properly assigned to the coach's team by contacting the Age Group Commissioner.

Team managers and coaches who do not comply with registration policies will face disciplinary action in accordance with the most current NCYSA Discipline & Appeals Manual.

TYSC teams are permitted to play in competition outside TYSC if the following rules are observed:

- Such competition does not interfere with TYSC scheduled games, **AND**
- Such games count as a practice session under these rules, except in cases where the team participates in a tournament where three or more games are played in one weekend, **AND**
- Such competition is sanctioned by the USYSA and / or the NCYSA and / or TYSC.

## Rule 6 – Player Assignments

All applicants are encouraged to participate in a pre-season age group skills assessment. The objective is to determine a player's skill so that even teams may be formed. The Age Group Commissioner and Team Formation Committee will rate players on a 1-to-3 scale. The Teams Formation Committee and the Age Group Commissioner(s) will assign players to teams in the following manner:

1. **Age.** Players will be placed in the appropriate age group based on their date of birth. Playing up into the next age group is permitted with the permission of the parents and the Age Group Commissioner.
2. **Coach.** Children of the head coach and one assistant coach will be assigned to the coach's team.
3. **Siblings.** Siblings will be assigned to the same team at the request of the parents if they are placed in the same age group.
4. **Previous Team.** For the spring season, players will be assigned to the same team they were on in the fall. Players returning to the same age

group in the fall will be placed on the team they played on the previous season.

5. **Skills.** Players with no previous team affiliation or new to an age group will be assigned to teams based on their skill assessment rating. Players that don't participate in the skills assessment will be assigned randomly to a team.
6. **Random.** The Age Group Commissioner will assign players who register after the close of registration to teams.
7. **Special Request.** Special requests that do not fit into any of the guidelines above must have the approval of the Teams Formation Committee, the Age Group Commissioner(s), and the coach(es) involved.

A team's official roster shall consist of the players for which the coach has received copies of an official TYSC roster from the age group commissioner. Roster sizes are described in Law III – Number of players, in separate documents described in Rule 3 – Rules of Play. Recruitment of players by parents, coaches, or other players for a specific team in the recreational division is strictly prohibited.

Player assignment rules for the TYSC Challenge Division are provided in a separate document entitled TYSC Challenge Level Guidelines.

### **Player Transfers**

A registered player may request a transfer to another team under the following conditions:

- The player obtains a written release from their current team coach or assistant coach informing them of their intent to transfer.
- The player must deliver the signed written release to the Age Group Commissioner with justification for requesting the transfer. Requests for transfers to a specific team are prohibited.
- Reassignment is at the sole discretion of the Age Group Commissioner.
- If the change is allowed, a jersey fee will be charged.

If the player is not able to obtain a written release from their current coach, a request for transfer can only be made with the consent and approval of a majority vote of the Board. All decisions are final.

## **Rule 7 – Coaches**

Coaches are responsible for compliance with the rules set forth herein, by their teams, the members thereof, and those associated with the team.

Coaches are also responsible to keep their team members, Assistant Coaches and Managers on their own sidelines during any game. No coaching is allowed from the opposing sideline or from behind the goal of either team. A coach may not direct any communication to a player on the opposing team during the game.

Coaches are encouraged to obtain a coaching license through USYSA, NCYSA, USSF, or other nationally recognized soccer coaching organization. Clinics for licensing will be made available by TYSC. A Youth I, II, or III license (dependent upon the age division to be coached) is recommended.

## **Rule 8 – Uniforms / Player Equipment**

Players are required to wear the jerseys furnished by the division. No player will be allowed to participate if his/her jersey has been altered. Shorts are required to be worn by all players.

During cold weather a player may wear a long sleeve shirt under their jersey and sweat pants under their shorts. The undergarments should match the color of the jersey or shorts as much as possible so as to eliminate confusion with the other team.

Shin guards are mandatory. Toe cleats and metal cleats are prohibited.

Refer also to Law IV - Player Equipment in the specific age group documents described in Rule 3 – Rules of Play.

## **Rule 9 – Game / Practice Cancellations**

Practice/game cancellations will be posted on the Southwest Wake YMCA weather hotline.

For games, a determination of the suitability of field conditions prior the start of each game. The field supervisor; referee; or, for U5-U6 and U7-U8 games without an independent referee, both coaches; shall make the decision. If the field is deemed unsuitable for safe play, the game is to be cancelled and rescheduled at the discretion of TYSC.

For practices, the coach shall not use a field for practice unless it is clear of obstructions, primarily grass covered, and flat without potholes, rocks that could cause injury to a fallen player, or if similar hazards are present.

## **Rule 10 – Forfeitures**

In divisions where scores and standings are kept, the minimum number of properly attired players required to be present for the match to start must be on the field at the scheduled game start time or the match will be recorded as a forfeit. Failure by both teams to field squads will result in a double forfeit. The



minimum number of players for each division is defined in the specific age group documents described in Rule 3 – Rules of Play.

## **Rule 11 – Team Schedules / Standings**

The Scheduling Committee will determine the number of games played in one season. Within each age group the same number of games shall be scheduled for each team.

Schedules produced are final and teams are expected to complete the schedule as presented.

Team standings will be kept for age groups above U6. Regular season team standings shall be determined by the won / loss record for games during one season. If two teams have the same number of points, they will occupy the same position in the standing, and the next position will be unoccupied. For example, if two teams tie for first place, the teams will be declared co-champions, and the team with the next highest accumulated point total will be in third place; second place would be unoccupied.

Points will be awarded for games as follows:

Win = 2 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

In the case of a forfeit, the score will be 1-0.