

# Tri-County Women's Soccer League (TCWSL)



## Rules and Regulations

Revised 2025

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## **I. MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. Player Membership**

1. *Membership in the league is open to women\* age eighteen (18) and over who do not participate on a high school, PAGSL, or similar junior level team.*

*\*she/her; they/them*

2. *TCWSL is open to cisgender and transgender women, and non-binary players. The term “women” in our league or rules & laws are inclusive of all.*

3. *Only registered Tri-County Women’s Soccer League (herein referred to as “TCWSL”) players will be allowed to play in TCWSL sponsored games and events.*

4. *No player registered as a professional player may play in Division 2 or Division 3 and must follow the required processes and meet requirements to play in Division 1. Additionally, no actively training collegiate player shall play in Division 2 or Division 3.*

5. *Eligibility for membership is conditional upon any operative rules of the league.*

6. *No player shall play for more than one club or team in any one season concurrently. Players must be properly registered with their club or team and TCWSL before they may play a game.*

7. *The only exception to (I.A.5. – above) will occur if/when TCWSL develop an Open and an Over-30 division, which would allow players to register for up to two teams from different divisions. (Example: a player may register for both an Open division team and an Over-30 team.)*

## **II. Club or Team Membership**

### **A. Provisional vs Full Membership**

1. *Membership in this league shall be in one of two classes, PROVISIONAL and FULL. All newly accepted independent or club teams shall be deemed provisional members of TCWSL for one (1) year from the date of their acceptance into the league. At the expiration of the one (1) year period, a vote shall be taken at the next council meeting, to admit the respective team(s) to full membership.*

### **B. Full Members**

1. *All clubs having met this requirement and in good standing with the league shall be deemed full members of the league, with applicable voting rights.*

## **III. REGISTRATION**

### **A. Player Registration**

1. *All players MUST be properly registered with Tri-County Women's Soccer League before they may play in any TCWSL game or event.*

2. *All players MUST complete and sign a state-approved, waiver/insurance form (online).*
3. *No player may play for more than one (1) TCWSL club or team concurrently during any one season.*
4. *Player registrations will be accepted throughout the season or as dictated by the Board of Directors. Only properly registered players will be eligible for playoffs and championship games (if applicable) and must be a registered player prior to playoffs.*
5. *All other forms and fees will be a “club or team” matter. This includes referee dues, which are paid on game day at the field, fees paid to the various clubs, by the players, to cover costs of uniforms, field usage, equipment, transportation, and team outings. Issues concerning individual refunds or returned checks within the club or team will not be considered by TCWSL.*
6. ***Note:** See Appendix A for list of team representative responsibilities.*

#### **IV. Team Registration**

*Any club may apply for provisional membership in the League. Application for membership in the league must be submitted in writing, by the club or team representative, to the President of the league and reviewed by the Board of Directors.*

##### **A. Requirements for Acceptance**

1. *Acceptable will be contingent upon the receipt of all necessary documents and fees required by the league (TCWSL) and the state association (EPSA), as well as agreement to adhere to all state and TCWSL policies.*

##### **B. Registration Procedures:**

1. *All team registrations are due no later than four weeks prior to the start of the season.*
2. *All paperwork must be included, i.e., League Remittance Form, Request for Certificate of Insurance, special waivers (if applicable), and the proper fees.*
3. *Teams may roster up to twenty-seven (27) players on a team.*
4. *Teams may register with a minimum of fifteen (15) players.*
5. *Placement of teams in a particular division will be based on the recommendations of the Board of Directors.*

## **V. UNIFORMS AND SPONSORS**

### **A. Uniform Selection**

1. *Team uniform color selection and changes must be approved in advance by the President and the Games Commissioner. When teams elect to change the color of their team jerseys, they must request permission from the Games Commissioner to ensure that there will be minimal color conflict. Existing team colors will not be adopted by newly formed teams within their divisions.*

### **B. Uniform Requirements**

1. *Players must have permanent numbers on the back of their team jerseys. A permanent number is defined as one that is silk-screened or iron-on only.*
2. *Two players may not have the same jersey number. In an “emergency” players with the same shirt number as another teammate may request for an exception at the referee's discretion.*
3. *Uniformity in team shirts, such as coloring and patterns are required.*
4. *Uniformity in team shorts and socks is highly advisable and subject to referees’ discretion.*
5. *Visible apparel under shorts may be of a different length, but a similar color to the basic color of the shorts.*
6. *Accessories such as watches, earrings, etc. are subject to referees’ discretion.*
7. *Uniform Conflicts*
  - a) *In the event of a color conflict, the Visiting team shall wear its own color and the Home team will make appropriate adjustments. (Pinnies are acceptable, if approved by the referees). It is recommended that all teams invest in alternate jerseys when possible.*

### **C. Uniform Sponsors**

1. *Commercial sponsors are permitted to participate in the financial support of the team by purchasing uniforms, equipment, or covering tournament fees. Commercial logo designs shall be in “good taste” and approved by the Board of Directors. Sponsors are not vested any rights by any action on their behalf in the management, administration, or other operation of the TCWSL.*

## **VI. DIVISIONS AND TEAM PLACEMENT**

### **A. Division Composition**

1. *TCWSL currently has three divisions: first division, second division, and third division. Distribution of teams across divisions will be determined each season by the Board based primarily on the wishes of the team but reserves the right to assign teams based on number of teams registering, previous season standings, and striving for an even number of teams in each division.*

### **B. Team reorganization**

1. *In the case of team reorganization, the group that has the majority of team players (at least 7) from the previous season will retain the team divisional standings. The remaining players may petition the Board for team admission.*

## **VII. Format**

### **A. First Division**

1. *Length of games- all scheduled games shall consist of two 45-minute halves with a ten-minute (10) rest at the half.*
2. *No first division player may play in second or third division games, unless agreed upon by the opponent.*
3. *Slide tackles are permitted in the first division.*

### **B. Second Division**

1. *Length of games- all scheduled games shall consist of two 45-minute halves with a ten-minute (10) rest at the half.*
2. *Second division players may play in division 3 upon agreement from the division 3 opponent.*
3. *Slide tackles are permitted in the second division.*

### **C. Third Division**

1. *Length of games- all scheduled games shall consist of two 45-minute halves with a ten-minute (10) rest at the half.*
2. *Slide tackles are **not** permitted in the third division.*

### **D. Select Teams:**

1. *TCWSL select teams will be chosen by a competition committee designated by the Board of Directors. Select teams will represent TCWSL and will wear the colors of the Tri-County Women's Soccer League at all sponsored games and events.*
2. *Clubs and teams may also represent the League, with the permission of the Board.*

## **VIII. REFEREES**

### **A. Referee Requisites**

1. *Officially scheduled referees may not be husbands, life partners, coaches of teams within that division, or anyone related to a team member of the game being played.*

### **B. Referee No-Show**

1. *If the designated officials are late or absent, it will be the responsibility of the competing teams to select a mutually acceptable individual to be the referee, or the teams can agree to play a game without a designated referee. In this case, "Referee Requisites" do not apply. Once agreed, the final result will stand. If no agreement can be made, then the teams may request permission to reschedule the game.*

### **C. Single Referee (if applicable)**

1. *If only one of the designated referees is present, the game shall proceed, and the Games Commissioner shall be notified as soon as possible of the absence of the other referees (if applicable). The game must begin within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time or field availability.*

### **D. Get The Game In**

1. *Every effort must be made to play the scheduled game, as there is no guarantee that the game can or will be rescheduled.*

## IX. GAME RULES

- A. Except as herein provided, FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to each and every game played within the jurisdiction of this League.
- B. Substitute Players
  - 1. *Up to seven (7) substitutes may be used in any TCWSL sponsored game or event, for a total of eighteen (18) rostered gameday players.*
- C. Dangerous Medical Devices
  - 1. *No player may participate in a game while wearing an exposed cast or other dangerous medical device. All cast and metal braces must be fully padded and covered. Exposed metal or plastic will not be allowed. All decisions are at the referee's discretion.*
- D. Shin guards are mandatory.
- E. Coaches and/or spectators will not be permitted behind the goal area. Coaching is only permitted from your own sidelines.
- F. Reporting Red and Yellow Cards
  - 1. *All cautions and ejections must be reported by the team representative to the Games Commissioner. If a team representative fails to report a caution before the team's next game, the team will be fined (see "Fines" section) and may result in forfeiture of its next game. Failure to report a red card before the team's next game may result in a TWO (2) game forfeiture: the game in which the red card was issued and the next scheduled game. Remember, an official is not required to show a card. A warning or verbal communication of any kind is sufficient under FIFA rules. If in doubt, after the game ask the referee if a card was issued.*
- G. Red card penalty
  - 1. *Red cards result in immediate expulsion from the game. Anyone receiving a red card will also be ineligible to play in the next game. The penalty for a red card received during the last game of the season will carry over to the first game of the next Fall/Spring season. Anyone receiving three red cards will be brought up before the Board of Directors and will be ineligible for the remaining season and the next season. Additional sanctions may apply at the Board of Directors' discretion.*
- H. Yellow card penalty
  - 1. *Any player receiving three yellow cards in a season will be considered to have received the equivalent of a red card and will be ineligible to play in the next scheduled game.*
- I. Goaltending – As per FIFA Laws of the Game.



J. Substitutions – Any team may make substitutions during the following:

1. *All throw-ins*
2. *All goal kicks*
3. *Injury*

K. No slide tackles permitted in the third division.

## **X. PROTESTS**

A. Valid Protest

1. *A team may protest a game (to be replayed) only for the misapplication of the rules by a referee, not for judgment calls. Protests may also be filed for another team's disregard of the league's rules. Protests will be heard by a Grievance/Protest Committee.*

B. Protest Procedure

1. *Protests must be submitted in writing and delivered to the Games Commissioner within 72 hours of the game. The referee and the opposing team should be advised at the game of the possibility of a protest.*

C. Protest decisions shall not be made by those involved in the protest.

## **XI. POSTPONEMENTS**

### **A. Game Cancellations**

- 1. In the case of adverse weather or field conditions, the Club or Facility owner is responsible for cancelling or postponing games. Under special circumstances, the Games Commissioner and/or the President will cancel or postpone games as appropriate to the situation. Team representatives should coordinate all the information with their club representative(s) when possible.*
- 2. The Games Commissioner must be notified of all the cancelled and rescheduled games immediately. Notify Division Commissioners as well (if applicable).*
- 3. In the event a scheduled field is deemed unplayable, the home team will be responsible for securing an alternate time and field for the postponed game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit and accompanying fine.*
  - a) Reschedule of the makeup should be addressed (new date/time) within a week after the postponed game.*
  - b) If the guest team fails to accommodate the home team's reasonably rescheduled game request, they will be assessed the forfeit and accompanying fines.*
- 4. Once the referees have taken the field, only the referees or an official representative from the local township, club or field owner or school district, may call off the game. If the game is called off after the second half has begun, the game will be considered a complete game.*
- 5. Teams may not mutually agree to postpone or cancel a game. If this occurs, the two teams will be fined. (See "Fines" section) and be subject to additional disciplinary actions from the Board of Directors.*
- 6. Any team that does not play a regularly scheduled game will forfeit that game, with the exception that the team gives at least one (1) week notice to the Games Commissioner and the President. The officers shall notify the referee assignor of any changes in the schedule.*

### **B. Schedule Changes**

- 1. Special requests for scheduling will not be accepted after the schedule is set. Team representatives should attend the council meetings with their special requests for the season and/or provide them to the Games Commissioner by the date they specify.*

## **XII. FORFEITURE**

### **A. Immediate Forfeiture may be declared when a team:**

1. *fails to field seven (7) players within fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled game time or field availability or fails to maintain seven (7) players throughout the game.*
2. *leaves the playing field and fails to complete a game in progress*
3. *has a non-registered or ineligible player participating in the game*
4. *Fails to report yellow or red cards*
5. *Fails to play regularly scheduled games*
6. *Fails to reschedule/play a postponed game*

### **B. Forfeiture Appeal**

1. *In the event of extenuating circumstances, teams may appeal a forfeited game. All appeals must be received in writing, to the Games Commissioner within 72 hours of the game in question. The Board of Directors will determine whether the appeal is warranted. Forfeiture appeal decisions shall not be made by those involved in the appeal (e.g. if an appeal is made by a board member; they will not be involved in the discussion and decision made).*

## **XIII. FINES**

### **A. Teams may be fined for a variety of reasons, by the Board of Directors:**

1. *Failure of a team to play a regular scheduled game as indicated in the forfeiture rules - \$90*
  - a) *Note: Forfeiting team may also be responsible for the entire referee fee if cancellation is close to game time*
2. *Failure to send a team representative to all council meetings – \$25*
3. *Failure to report a yellow or red card – \$25*
4. *Failure to enter scores and send game report to the Games Commissioner before the teams next scheduled game – \$5*
5. *Extra fines and sanctions may be imposed on teams with more than one forfeit per season. Three forfeitures in one season may be grounds for expulsion from the league. All fines must be paid before teams will be allowed to play in the next season. This applies to Fall/Spring only.*

## **XIV. DIVISIONAL STANDINGS**

### **A. Division standings are based on a point system, determined by the following:**

1. *Three (3) points for a win*
2. *One (1) point for a tie*
3. *Zero (0) points for a loss*
4. *Minus one (-1) for a forfeiture*
5. *Tie breakers will be determined as follows: Head-to-Head Competition, goal differential*

## **XV. Sportsmanship & Discriminatory Behavior**

A. Zero-Tolerance

1. *Use of transphobic, homophobic, racist and other such language will be met with **ZERO tolerance** from players and coaches. Should the referee and/or players from both teams concur on what was said, play should stop immediately, and the player issued a red card and asked to leave the game and facility.*

*a) This zero-tolerance rule applies to spectators as well. Coaches/captains are responsible for spectators' behavior. If spectators violate this rule, they will be asked to leave the game. Police will be called if necessary. Following the incident, the offending spectator & associates will not be permitted to attend games. Should further incidents occur, all spectators will be banned.*

B. Other Inappropriate Conduct

1. *Inappropriate conduct will NOT be tolerated by TCWSL players, coaches, or even spectators and referees. Such behaviors include:*

- a) Abusive, degrading, or repetitively unnecessary foul language*
- b) Physical threats or assault*
- c) behavior induced by alcohol or other controlled substances*
- d) encouragement of poor sportsmanship, including harassment of players for any reason*
- e) entering or leaving the field of play except for substitution/injury*
- f) harassment of referees*
- g) disputing and/or attempting to influence the referee's decision*

2. *Coaches will be warned about their spectators behavior and the spectators warned as well for less serious infractions. However, should the behavior continue and escalate or become problematic, the spectator may be asked to leave. Should recurring incidents with spectators occur, your team will not be permitted to have spectators for the duration of the season.*

Should any of the above behavior occur, please capture as many details as possible and immediately report the incident to the TCWSL Board, who will investigate the incident and take appropriate action(s), which may range from a verbal warning to league expulsion.

## **XVI. APPENDIX A. DUTIES OF TEAM REPRESENTATIVES**

- A. Serves as team manager and liaison between TCWSL Board of Directors and team members.
- B. Communicate rules, policies, game schedules, field locations, special events, weather decisions, and other important information to team members.
- C. Attend semi-annual meetings and other meetings as required.
- D. Reports team concerns, games scores, forfeits and injuries to appropriate board members and in the system, as required.
- E. Compiles a current team roster and makes two copies available on game day to the referee for him/herself and for distribution to the opposing team.
- F. Ensures alternate jerseys or pinnies are available in case of a color conflict.
- G. Ensure that field duties are completed (if necessary). Home team supplies corner flags and game ball.
- H. Ensure Board member approval is obtained for changes to: team name, jersey color changes, and home field.
- I. Reports referee no-shows to Games Commissioner.
- J. Team representatives are responsible for these duties, but are encouraged to coordinate these duties with other players on the team.

### **Revision History**

Revision – August 2025  
Revision - July 2021  
Revision – March 2019  
Creation – 2007