

TIPP CITY YOUTH SOCCER, INC.
INTRODUCTION TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

MATCH DAY PREPAREDNESS

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Before you leave home

- Make sure you have all your equipment – whistle, watch, score card, pencil/pen, coin, referee shirt, proper shoes and shorts, and water
- Review your assigned game time, field #, and age group

Arrival at the field

- Double check your assignment; coaches sometimes set up on the wrong field
- Make sure you and the teams are on the correct side of the field
- Place your equipment and water near the center of the touchline on the teams' side, about 5 yards off the field

Pre-game checklist

- Find your partner
- Inspect the field together, or agree that each of you will inspect one-half
- Inform the coach of severe holes in the nets or turf; safety first
- Inform the home coach to get flags if none are present

Review in your head and with your partner

- Areas of the field – know where you are – don't get too close to, and don't be too far away from the action
- Mechanics of your positioning during the game – **STAY AHEAD OF THE BALL!**
- Kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, throw-in situations
- Free Kick situations
- Penalty kicks (not in Passers)
- Quarter and half-time intervals
- Drop-balls
- Fouls and misconduct by players
- Misbehavior by coaches –
 1. ignore initial dissent
 2. ask them to stop dissenting, either with a hand up or a quiet word
 3. tell them "No more dissent will be tolerated"
 4. YELLOW CARD the coach
- Offside

Team inspection

- Allow the teams to warm up until about 7 minutes prior to game time; then call them over to the touchline
- You and your partner may inspect each team together with one of you taking the lead, or separately
- In a 8U Passers match you may inspect both teams together in the middle of the field at the center line
- Ask the coach if everyone is present or if he expects anyone to be late
- Notice how many players there are and if the number is sufficient to start the match on time.
- Greet the players; ask them to face you first so that you may inspect them:
 - The 5 "S's": Shirts tucked in (check team colors-home team changes), shorts, socks, shin-guards, shoes (no sharp edges on cleats, tennis shoes are allowed)
 - No jewelry of any kind is permitted
 - No hair control devices consisting of any hard material or plastic beads is allowed; only elastic hair bands or rubber bands are permitted
 - No bandanas tied in a knot around the head are permitted

- Remind the players to play until they hear the whistle, even if someone appears to be injured
- Remind the players to be at the center line when substituting in and to wait for the Referee's permission
- Tell the players to have a good game
- Ask the home coach for money and a game ball
- Inspect the ball for surface imperfections that might be dangerous or for misshaping. If not satisfactory, ask the visiting coach for a ball to use.

Coin toss

- Ask for **ONLY ONE CAPTAIN** from each team to come to the center line on the touchline
- Decide which of you will direct the coin toss
- Introduce both of you to the Captains
- Ask the Captains to shake hands with each other and to say their first name
- Ask the visiting captain for his selection before tossing the coin. Repeat his selection
- Flip the coin and let it hit the ground, or you may catch it
- Ask the **WINNER** a) does he wish to attack first? ...or...b) choose which goal to defend?
- Ask the **LOSER** which goal he wants to defend, **ONLY IF THE WINNERS WANT THE BALL FIRST.**
- Record the results of the coin toss. Tell the Captains to have a good match and when you will be ready to kick-off
- **NO HANDSHAKES BY THE CAPTAINS THIS YEAR**

Kick-off

- Prior to Kick-Off, decide which of you will take the teams' side and the spectators' side of the field – this will determine which of you is the **LEAD REFEREE** and which is the **TRAIL REFEREE** for the kick-off. Traditionally, the **LEAD REFEREE** at the Kick-off is the time-keeper for the entire game:
 - Remember....anytime the ball is moving toward your **RIGHT**, you are the **LEAD REFEREE**; anytime the ball is moving to your **LEFT**, you are the **TRAIL REFEREE**
 - The **TRAIL REFEREE** always blows the whistle for any kick-off
- On your way to your position check the net at your end one more time
- Assure the spectators are at least 2 strides away from the touchline
- Look around for small children on blankets or toddling around the touchline
- Look around for dogs on or off leashes
- Caution spectators to keep their children and pets away from the touchline
- Look for spectators around and behind the goal closer than 10 yds; ask their coach to move them back to prevent distraction of the goalkeeper or interference at the flags during corner kicks

During the game

- Be aware of spectators and children encroaching the field along the touchline and the goal line
- Be aware of players and coaches encroaching the touchline into the field of play or onto the opponents half of the bench area
- Always stay ahead of the ball (i.e. to your RIGHT) during play; PAY ATTENTION!
- If you are not in position to see the entire ball cross the goal line on a close play, **THEN IT NEVER HAPPENED! DO NOT SIGNAL A GOAL UNLESS YOU ARE SURE! BE IN POSITION NEXT TIME!**
- Listen to the players; you may hear something that violates the laws or spirit of the game; you may be able to avoid problems by offering a quiet word to a player in a heated moment
- Report any problems with the spectators to the coaches immediately; wait for the next stoppage of play, then pause the restart until you talk to the coaches; inform them what happened and instruct them that play will not resume until the appropriate coach handles the situation

Following the game

- Recover the game ball
- **NO LINING UP FOR HANDSHAKES THIS YEAR**
- Gather all your belongings and leave the field
- Report any disciplinary actions you issued (yellow or red card) to Mike Mahan via email or phone call right away; also report any excessive dissent by coaches or spectators that occurred during or after the game
- Review the Laws of the Game or other resources to help clarify questions you may have about any decisions you made during the game
- Call Mike or Todd on any issue or question, or just to make a comment, anytime (937) 499-4378