*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 a captain(s)from each team to come to the center line on the touchline
* If you are doing a 2-man match, decide which of you will direct the coin toss
* Introduce both of you to the Captains
* Ask the visiting captain for his selection before tossing the coin. Repeat his selection
* Flip the coin and let it hit the ground. **(IN THE ABSENCE OF A COIN, VISITORS CHOOSE BALL OR END)**
* Ask the **WINNER** if his team wants the ball first or to pick an end to attack
* Tell the **LOSER** he will get to do the alternative of the **WINNER**
* Record the results of the coin toss.Tell the Captains to have a good match and when you will be ready to kick-off

**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
* Stand at the half line while the teams congratulate each other; be aware of any ill feelings among the players or the coaches toward each other
* 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