

# TASL RULEBOOK

In addition to *“FIFA Laws of the Game”*



**5017 Memory Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 341-4554**

***www.tasl.us***

## **Triangle Adult Soccer League**

The documentation of the Rules and Policies were updated by the Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL) in July 2014. TASL follows FIFA Laws of the Game with the following additions and exceptions.

If you have a specific question about a rule, its interpretation, or application, please contact the TASL office at (919) 341-4554, email [registrar@tasl.us](mailto:registrar@tasl.us) or [soccer@tasl.us](mailto:soccer@tasl.us) or the TASL Referee Assignor, Ralph Jordan ([ralph.jordan@ncfcyouth.com](mailto:ralph.jordan@ncfcyouth.com)).

This manual is published by the Triangle Adult Soccer League, Inc. Reproduction, in whole or in part, without specific written permission from TASL is prohibited. Should you need additional copies or want to reproduce a portion of this manual, please contact the TASL office for the proper permission.

The TASL Bylaws and TASL Conflict of Interest Policy are covered under separate documents.

### **Statement of TASL Policy**

All divisions are sanctioned by TASL through the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association (NCASA) under the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) and shall be governed by the TASL Constitution, TASL Bylaws, and TASL Rulebook. Scheduled games shall be in compliance with "The Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA (Federation International de Football Association) and modified in accordance with USSF (United States Soccer Federation), NCASA (North Carolina Adult Soccer Association), and TASL rules.

Since the objectives of different divisions of TASL are tailored to the age and skill level of the players, modifications to the "Laws of the Game", as contained herein, are attached to govern those particular programs. All modifications are subject to the specific playing division and TASL Board of Directors approval.

Only violations of the TASL Bylaws and Rulebook, or misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" shall be proper subjects of protests or appeals. No protest will be upheld when the dispute involves the judgment of the referee. All protests must be in writing and addressed to the TASL Board of Directors as specified in the TASL Bylaws. Any individual who is consistently in conflict with the "Laws of the Game" or TASL Bylaws may be suspended from further participation in TASL, pending review by the TASL Discipline and Appeals Committee and/or the TASL Board of Directors.

# **TRIANGLE ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Purpose and Responsibilities**

The Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL) has been established for the purpose of providing and promoting soccer related programming for interested members of the community. TASL seeks to promote safe and fair play on and off the field.

### **Players' Responsibilities**

- Practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game.
- Wear the proper equipment.
- Adhere to the rules of the game and respect the decisions of the game officials.

### **Referees' Responsibilities**

- Maintain proper USSF certification, including recertification courses yearly.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match providing each team captain with at least a 5-minute warning of the match's start time.
- Be an example of sportsmanship showing the same respect and consideration that you expect.
- Maintain control and stay focused on each match, calling it in a fair and impartial manner.
- Ensure that the game is played fairly, for the maximum enjoyment of the players, as well as the spectators, with as little interference by the referee as possible.
- Prior to the game, ensure that the field of play is safe for the players, and that the goals and markings are sufficient for the referee to perform his essential duties.
- Prior to the game, ensure that both teams' players have the appropriate credentials per NCASA and TASL rules, including colored photo rosters.
- Ensure that all players have the proper uniform and equipment, especially shinguards, and are not wearing anything which might be dangerous.
- Have a thorough knowledge of all TASL rules of the game through attendance at training courses and clinics.
- Be in good physical condition at all times and able to keep up with the pace of play.
- Use common sense, while keeping the players' safety foremost in your mind.
- Be consistent in all decisions.

## Laws of the Game

I.	The Field of Play.....	6
II.	The Ball.....	6
III.	Number of Players.....	6
IV.	Players' Equipment .....	7
V.	Referees.....	7
VI.	Assistant Referees.....	8
VII.	Duration of the Game .....	9
VIII.	The Start and Restart of Play.....	9
IX.	Ball In and Out of Play.....	9
X.	Method of Scoring.....	9
XI.	Off-Side .....	10
XII.	Fouls and Misconduct .....	10
XIII.	Free-Kick .....	12
XIV.	Penalty-Kick .....	12
XV.	Throw-In .....	13
XVI.	Goal-Kick .....	13
XVII.	Corner-Kick .....	13

NOTE: "He" in the following text means "he/she"

**Supplemental TASL Policies  
as Approved by the TASL Board of Directors**

1.	Age Requirements.....	13
2.	Board Member Credit Policy.....	13
3.	Code of Conduct .....	14
4.	Coed Division Rules .....	15
5.	Discipline and Appeals Policy .....	15
6.	Field Use Policy .....	16
7.	Game Day Requirements.....	16
8.	Game Reschedule and Forfeit Policy.....	17
9.	Illegal Player Policy.....	18
10.	Maximum Goal Differential Recording Policy .....	19
11.	Division Promotion and Relegation Policy .....	19
12.	Non-Discrimination Policy.....	19
13.	Point System for Season Standings.....	20
14.	Recreation Division Rules of Play.....	20
15.	Referee Abuse and Assault Policy.....	21
16.	Referees that Play Policy .....	22
17.	Refund Policy .....	22
18.	Sanctioning of a Team Policy.....	23
19.	Slide Tackle Policy.....	25
20.	Substitute Players Policy.....	25
21.	Summer Heat Rules of Play.....	26

## Law I: The Field of Play

Dimensions of the Field of Play:

MATCH SIZE	FIELD SIZE (Min.)
11 v 11	110 x 64 yards
10 v 10	100 x 60 yards
9 v 9	90 x 55 yards

Should field markings become obscured by the elements before or during the course of a match, the markings shall be assumed to be present and decisions shall be rendered by the officials to the best of their abilities to interpret the original position of the markings.

On each side of the field wherever possible there are specific bench areas for the Players and Team Officials. Each bench ("Home" and "Visitors") shall be limited to an area located no less than one (1) yard from the touch-line and extending on each side of the mid-line to the top of the penalty box (18-yard line). Players and Team Officials *are restricted to this bench area at all times during the game.*

Where conditions do not permit the locations of the players, team officials and spectators on opposite sides of the field, the teams, as well as the spectators, shall be on the same side. The bench area will then be limited to the area between the halfway-line and the penalty area (18-yard line) for each team.

Where conditions do not permit the locations of the players, team officials and spectators on opposite sides of the field *Spectators from the "Home" team shall sit on the "Home" team side of the field and spectators from the "Visitors" team shall sit on the "visitors" side, as designated on the maps of the playing field or by the Officials when not indicated on the maps.* All spectators shall be confined to areas at least five (5) feet from the touch-line. No spectators or coaches shall be permitted directly behind the goal-line or beyond the bench area. Spectators shall sit on either side of the coaching area, extending to the top of the penalty box (18-yard line).

## Law II: The Ball

Ball must be size 5.

The home team shall supply at least one, and up to three balls, to the referee. However, the referee may choose to use any ball that is acceptable which is offered by either team.

## Law III: Number of Players

<b><i>Division</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Players</i></b>
Men's	11 players (including goalkeeper)
Women's	11 players (including goalkeeper)
Coed	10 players (including goalkeeper, minimum three women)
Coed Eight	8 players (including goalkeeper, minimum two women)
Recreation	8 players (including goalkeeper)
Summer Heat	See Summer Heat Rules

The minimum number of players is seven.

Each team shall designate a speaking team captain who is the team's representative and who may address an official on matters of interpretation and/or obtain essential information.

## SUBSTITUTION RULES:

Substitution is allowed, but only *with the permission of the referee* at the following time:

- On throw-in, either team may substitute if the team taking the throw-in substitutes – effective Fall 2018
- On goal-kick (either team may substitute)
- After a goal is scored (either team may substitute)
- At half-time (either team may substitute)
- When referee stops play for an injury (either team may substitute)
- After a caution, only the cautioned player(s) and a like number from the opposing team

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Once the referee acknowledges the desire for a substitution, he will indicate his permission for one to be made. Before the substitution may enter the field of play, the player he is replacing must be completely off the field of play or he must be beckoned onto the field by the referee.

NOTE: When, in the opinion of the referee, a team substitutes to consume time (time wasting tactics), the referee can deny permission to substitute and/or warn the coach of the offending team that any repetition may be construed as Unsporting Behavior and will be punished accordingly (cautioned).

## Law IV: Players' Equipment

Medical ID medallions that are securely taped to the chest or medical id bracelets that are taped to the wrist in such a manner that a finger can not be caught under it are acceptable.

No metal hair clips are allowed (use plain rubber bands). No hard-billed hats or helmets, other than soccer goalie helmets, are allowed. No hard elbow or knee pads are allowed.

Casts, splints, etc.: Prior to the game, the coach should ask the referee to inspect the player to permit time for padding. If cast, splint, etc. (even after padding) will interfere with opposing player(s), the referee may remove the player or not permit him to participate. *It is suggested that casts be wrapped in foam rubber or like material secured in place with an Ace bandage.* Do not use metal clips in the bandage.

Players with visible blood on their uniforms or body must be substituted for.

The home team is responsible to change jerseys in cases of color conflict between jerseys of two opposing teams (home team normally wears white).

If, in the judgment of the referee, a player is not in full compliance with the Laws set forth above, such player shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. Unless his team would normally be allowed to substitute at this time, his team must play short. After correcting the deficiency, the player may report to the referee at a substitution opportunity. The referee will then check his equipment and decide whether to allow him to return to the match.

## Law V: Referees

Shall arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.

Shall enforce the laws of the game. Inspect and approve field, goals, lines, match ball(s), as well as player's attire and equipment.

Should inspect and approve valid colored photo team rosters (black and white rosters accepted on emergency basis as long as player photos are clear). In the event a valid roster cannot be presented, the team will forfeit the match.

Should start the match in a timely fashion, giving teams the opportunity to take the field with proper notification. Once both captains have been given proper notification, not less than 5 minutes prior, referees may start time in which case the

match will have equal time for both halves. Match time will start with the referee fully prepared to officiate, on the field and in close proximity to the center of the field.

Should allow play to continue, if in the opinion of the referee, it gives an advantage to the team with the ball by not calling that foul. However, if the advantage that was anticipated does not develop at that time, the referee shall penalize the original offense.

Can stop or terminate the game due to weather conditions or outside interference that would endanger the safety of the participants, and in the event of severe misconduct by players, coaches or spectators.

Shall allow coaching from the bench area provided that it is not abusive or derogatory and the tone of voice is informative and encouraging.

In case a team official, field player, bench personnel, or spectator should make derogatory remarks or gestures, use profanity or incite disruptive behavior of any kind aimed at the officials, other players, or opposing spectators, the penalty shall be at the sole discretion of the referee and, depending on the severity of the infraction, can be in the form of immediate dismissal from the field area without prior warning.

The three-man system of refereeing shall be used for all matches in accordance with state affiliation rules except for recreation league games. Under no circumstances shall a 2 referee, two whistle system be used. If enough officials are not present, "club" linesmen shall be used.

The referee shall report all match results, including all cautions and/or dismissals and injuries, through the Arbiter. Match reports should be submitted within 48 hours of the match or else delinquency will be reported to the assignor.

In case of Send-Off, or any other serious incident (such as a terminated game or serious injury), a supplemental report must be submitted with the particulars. The supplemental report must contain the date, time and location of the match, the name of the teams, and as much information as possible of the incident. This includes the name of the players or coaches involved (as appropriate), name of witnesses (if any), detail description of what happened, what was the punishment (if any), and how the game was restarted.

In the event of a forfeited game, the referee must still submit a match report form with the notation which team(s) did not show up or other reason for the forfeit. The same procedure shall apply to a match that is "Terminated" prior to the normal expiration of time.

If no officials are present for the match, captains should inquire if there are any licensed officials among the spectators. If not, by mutual agreement, a captain or player should act as referee. If so desired, a person from one team can referee the first half and a person from the other team, the second half. The TASL office should be notified that no referees were present so the reason can be investigated. This match will not be counted toward the standings; consequently a match report need not be turned in unless there is a case of an injury. The League Registrar, with input from the Team Captains, will make every attempt to reschedule the game as soon as possible.

## **Law VI: Assistant Referees**

As necessary to maintain a three-man system of officiating, the referee will select one or two club linesmen (depending on how many assistant referees are missing) and advise them of the proper method of determining when a ball is out of play. Only if it can be determined that a club linesman is a USSF certified referee will the linesman serve as a full official.

In the event of misconduct or interference on the part of the club linesmen or assistant referees, the referee shall dismiss the offending official(s) and select alternates.

If one or both assistant referees are not present, the referee shall ask the team captains to provide club linesmen.

## Law VII: Duration of the Game

Length of periods:

Division	Playing Time
Men's & Women's	2 x 45 minute halves
Men Over 60	2 x 30 minute halves
Coed	2 x 35 minute halves
Coed Eight	2 x 30 minute halves
Recreation	2 x 30 minute halves

Periods may be shortened if mutually agreed upon by the captains prior to the match start; or, in an emergency, ordered and communicated by the referee to both team captains before the start of the match or half.

A game shall be forfeited if:

- A team is more than fifteen (15) minutes late and has not notified the opponent of an emergency, causing it to be late; (the referee will determine the amount of available game time left when the late team is ready to play and play the appropriate periods of equal length so as not to delay the start of the subsequent matches);
- A team refuses to play after having been instructed to do so by the referee;
- A team has fewer than seven (7) players at the start or during the game. For coed division forfeit rules, see TASL Supplemental Policy #4.

The score of a forfeited match shall be 3-0.

Water breaks can be given, provided the referees and captains agree prior to the start of a match.

## Law VIII: The Start and Restart of Play

The start of the game shall be determined by a toss of a coin, and the team which wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick off to start the match.

Play shall be started by a kick-off at the center of the field after the referee's signal.

At half-time, ends will be changed and the kick-off will be by a player of the opposite team that started the game.

## Law IX: Ball In and Out of Play

If the ball completely leaves the field of play in the air and re-enters the field of play without touching the ground, it is still out of play at the moment that it completely left the field.

On fields that dual (soccer and football) goals are used, if the ball rebounds off that part of the goal structure that is not part of the soccer goal, the ball shall be considered out of play as if it had completely crossed the goal line.

The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish unless it has been stopped by the referee.

## Law X: Method of Scoring

In case of a tie at the end of a match, unless specific tournament rules are in effect, the score shall stand. No overtime and/or penalty shots will be used. Such game shall be scored as a “draw”.

## Law XI: Off-Side

A player is not judged to be off-side when he receives the ball, but at the moment when the ball is passed to him by one of his teammates; therefore, a player does not become off-side if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.

Even if an assistant referee should signal for off-side, the center referee has the final decision on whether or not to stop play.

## Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct

The decision on whether or not to call any foul rests with the referee. The referee in rendering his decision will judge the player's intent only for handling the ball. Any of the direct kick fouls occurring within the penalty area by a defending player will result in a penalty kick.

A sliding tackle is a legal tackle in which one or both feet slide in an attempt to tackle the ball that is within playing distance of an opponent. However, any tackle, which endangers the safety of an opponent, must be sanctioned as serious foul play. Key elements that the referee looks for in determining whether a tackle was fair or not include the following; did the defending player strike the ball first or the opponent? Was the ball deflected or “trapped by the defender? Was the defender's timing late so that the ball had already been played before the defender's body contacted the offensive player? The referee is always the sole judge of the fairness of a sliding tackle. Sliding tackles are not permitted in Coed, Coed Over 30, Women, Men's Over 40 and Men's Over 50 age Divisions.

Cautionable Offenses:

*A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card for committing any of the following seven offenses (mandatory cautions are shown in bold print):*

1. is guilty of unsporting behavior (**UB**)

(The following actions are examples only and are not a complete list.)

- a. Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner (for example, charging, pushing, tripping)
- b. Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner while tackling for the ball from any direction (**including any slide tackle foul in Recreation, Coed, Coed Over 30, Women's, or Men's Over 40 and Men's Over 50 divisions**)
- c. Commits a tactical foul designed to interfere with or impede an opposing team's attacking play (e.g., pushing an opponent, blatantly holding an opponent or an opponent's uniform, handling the ball deliberately)
- d. Handles the ball deliberately to score a goal
- e. Commits an act which, in the opinion of the referee, shows a lack of respect for the game (e.g., aggressive attitude, inflammatory behavior, or taunting)
- f. **Fakes an injury or exaggerates the seriousness of an injury**
- g. **Fakes a foul (dives) or exaggerates the severity of a foul**
- h. Interferes with or prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands into play
- i. Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- j. **Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in**
- k. **Changes jerseys with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (both players must be cautioned)**
- l. **Engages in trickery to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)**
- m. Makes unauthorized marks on the field.

**n. Removes the jersey after scoring a goal**

2. shows dissent by word or action (DT)
  - a. Verbally or through action disputes or shows contempt for an official's decision
  - b. If playing as a goalkeeper, leaves the penalty area (not beckoned by the referee) to engage an official in debate regarding a decision
3. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game (PI)
  - a. Repeatedly fouls or participates in a pattern of fouls directed at an opponent
  - b. Violates Law 14 again, having previously been warned
  - c. If playing as goalkeeper, wastes time, having previously been warned or penalized for this behavior
4. delays the restart of play (DR)
  - a. Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a free kick restart by an opponent
  - b. Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a throw-in or corner kick by an opponent
  - c. Fails to restart play after being instructed to do so by the referee or hinders the restart of play
  - d. Excessively celebrates a goal
  - e. Fails to return to the field upon conclusion of the midgame break, fails to perform a kick-off when signaled to do so by the referee, or fails to be in a correct position for a kick-off
5. fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick (FRD)
  - a. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's free kick
  - b. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's corner kick
6. enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission (E)
  - a. **Having previously been substituted (unless the rules of competition allow such return)**
  - b. **After having previously been instructed to leave the field to correct equipment**
  - c. After having previously been given permission by the referee to leave the field due to an injury
  - d. After having previously been instructed to leave the field due to bleeding or blood on the uniform
  - e. **As a substitute, without having received a signal to do so by the referee**
7. deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission (L)
  - a. To place an opponent in an apparent offside position
  - b. Other than through the normal course of play

**The actions listed above assist in defining the scope of the basis for a caution and can provide a useful guide in identifying the specific behavior which the Laws of the Game consider unacceptable. It is critical, however, for Referees to distinguish between those relatively few actions for which a caution is mandated by the Laws of the Game and the remaining actions for which a caution is *discretionary*.**

Sending-Off Offenses:

*A player is sent off and shown the red card for committing any of the following seven offenses:*

1. is guilty of serious foul play (SFP)
2. is guilty of violent conduct (VC)
3. spits at an opponent or any other person (S)
4. denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area) (DGH)

5. denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick (DGF)
6. uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (AL)
7. receives a second caution in the same match (2CT)

**Any player, coach, bench personnel or spectators Sent Off must leave the playing field vicinity and may not interfere or interact in any way with the players for the rest of the game.**

Coaches, bench personnel or spectators sent off are not actually shown a card. However, the referee is within his authority to ask these persons to leave in an effort to control the match. If the person sent off was a FIELD player at the time of the incident, then his team cannot replace him on the field (Substitution for the player sent off is not allowed). If the player was part of the bench at the time of the incident, then his team will not be required to play short.

A player or coach who is Sent Off is disqualified from the rest of the current match, and at a minimum the next scheduled match. If the incident is particularly serious in nature, the TASL Discipline and Appeals committee may extend the disqualification period.

Any person found guilty of actions of un-necessary violence will be disqualified for a period of one year plus other remedies that the TASL Discipline and Appeals committee, TASL Board, NCASA, or NCSRA deems appropriate.

The team is responsible for the behavior of spectators who support his team. If, after a referee warning, the team will not or cannot control the spectator, the referee may Send Off the team captain, spectator, and/or terminate the match, as provided in Law V.

Should the Sending Off be the result of infractions such as insulting the referee, threatening the referee, attempting or making obscene gestures, or making damaging or insulting remarks concerning other players, spectators or referees, the individual may, in addition to the above disqualification, be suspended pending further review of the TASL Discipline and Appeals committee.

Physical Violence, whether between players or aimed at officials or coaches, will not be tolerated. Any person engaging in any incident of this kind will be required to appear in person before the TASL Discipline and Appeals committee, which has discretionary power to determine what further penalty should be imposed.

Any appeal of a decision made by the TASL Discipline and Appeals committee may be directed to the TASL Board, in writing, within guidelines of the TASL Bylaws or the NCASA Discipline and Appeals committee.

### **Law XIII: Free-Kick**

Follows all FIFA rules without any additions or exceptions.

### **Law XIV: Penalty-Kick**

Penalty kicks are only awarded for direct free kick offenses that occur within the defensive penalty area by the defending team.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

The kicker must make a smooth and uninterrupted approach to the ball (trying to "fake" the goalie by trickery is considered Unsporting Behavior).

Players who enter the penalty area before the ball has been kicked are no longer cautioned.

## Law XV: Throw-In

A re-throw will be taken if the ball does not enter the field of play.

There is no off-side on a throw-in.

The throw-in must be taken within one (1) yard of where the ball left the field. If in doubt, the player should ask the referee or assistant referee where to take the throw.

## Law XVI: Goal-Kick

Follows all FIFA rules without any additions or exceptions.

## Law XVII: Corner-Kick

There is no off-side directly from a corner-kick (the corner kick ends when the ball is touched by another player).

# SUPPLEMENTAL TASL POLICIES AS APPROVED BY THE TASL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 1. Age Requirements Policy

All players must be eighteen years of age by the first day of the season.

Division age requirements are as follows:

Division	Fall Season Requirement	Spring Season Requirement	Exception – One Per Team
Men's Over 30	Must turn 30 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 30 by June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Must turn 29 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>
Men's Over 40	Must turn 40 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 40 by June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Must turn 39 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>
Men's Over 50	Must turn 50 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 50 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 49 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>
Men's Over 60	Must turn 57 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 57 by first day of the spring season	
Coed Over 30 (male)	Must turn 30 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 30 by June 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Coed Over 30 (female)	Must turn 27 by December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Must turn 27 by June 30 <sup>th</sup>	

Board Approval Date: 09/2014

## 2. Board Member Credit Policy

As recognition of the time that each volunteer TASL Board member contributes to the league during the elected year(s) of service, a seasonal playing credit may be provided to the Board member. The amount of the playing credit will be established by the TASL Board annually during the budget cycle and is not guaranteed to be provided at all.

Each Board member shall receive a maximum of three playing credits for one year of volunteer service. Each playing credit must be earned and shall be applied to the subsequent season of play even if the Board member is no longer serving a position on the Board.

Board members are required to attend monthly meetings of the TASL Board or get an excused absence from the TASL President in advance of the meeting. Board members are required to participate on a minimum of one committee.

A playing credit shall be applied to the subsequent season provided that the following responsibilities are met:

- During the time frame of August – November, a Board member must attend a minimum of three Board meetings and/or be an active participant on a committee, as determined by the Committee Chairperson, in order to receive a playing credit for the spring season.
- During the time frame of December – March, a Board member must attend a minimum of three Board meetings and/or be an active participant on a committee, as determined by the Committee Chairperson, in order to receive a playing credit for the summer season.
- During the time frame of April – July, a Board member must attend a minimum of three Board meetings and/or be an active participant on a committee, as determined by the Committee Chairperson, in order to receive a playing credit for the fall season.

Board credits are not transferable and have no actual monetary value. A playing credit cannot be carried over more than one subsequent season. A Board member cannot receive cash in exchange for the playing credit if they are not participating on a team. A playing credit may only be applied if the Board member is actively participating on a team.

Upon receiving a playing credit for the subsequent season, a Board member should register and select the “Mail-In Check” option during the registration process.

Board Approval Date: 11/2010

### 3. Code of Conduct Policy

I am a proud member of TASL and will always conduct myself in a manner that reflects the highest honor and respect for me, my team, my league and the game of soccer. **I agree to and will adhere to the following standards on and off the field of play:**

- Learn, understand the spirit of, and abide by TASL and NCASA Rules and Policies and FIFA Laws of the Game or be subject to disciplinary actions including suspension or dismissal from the league.
- Practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game of soccer.
- Show respect to officials and abide by their decisions.
- Show respect to my teammates and opponents and not instigate confrontations or retaliate by the use of physical force or verbal abuse or gestures.
- Respect the rights of others, including spectators, by using appropriate language.
- Uphold values which will eliminate discrimination by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, color, religion or disability.
- Abide by facility rules and regulations including but not limited to no alcohol, no drugs, no smoking, no pets, no firearms and no trash on the premises.
- Value my Team Captain as the representative for the team.
- Win or lose the game with dignity, congratulate your opponent, thank the officials and not blame others for the result.

- Promote soccer and be an ambassador to the game through positive actions.

Board Approval Date: 11/2012

#### **4. Coed Division Rules Policy**

The TASL Coed Division complies with FIFA's Rules of the Game with the following exceptions:

- A coed team that cannot field a female player at any time automatically forfeits the game.
- Coed games play 35 minutes halves.
- Slide tackling is strictly prohibited in all coed divisions per the TASL Slide Tackle Policy.

For Coed division games:

- The standard format is 11 vs. 11 with at least three females on the playing field at all times.
- However, if both team captains agree, the game format on the full-size playing field can be changed to 10 vs. 10 with three females on the playing field.
- If only two females are present, the team will play with ten players (two females and eight males).
- If only one female is present, the team will play with nine players (one female and eight males).
- If there are not any females present, then the game is a forfeit.

The TASL Coed Eight Division complies with FIFA's Rules of the Game with the following exceptions:

- Coed Eight games are played on half field with small goals and use a one-man referee system.
- A coed team that cannot field a female player at any time automatically forfeits the game.
- Coed Eight games are 30-minute halves.
- Slide tackling is strictly prohibited in all coed divisions per the TASL Slide Tackle Policy.

For Coed Eight division:

- The standard format is 8 vs. 8 with at least two females on the playing field at all times.
- If only one female is present, the team will play with seven players (one female and six males)
- If there are not any females present, then the game is a forfeit.

Board Approval Revision Date: 09/2014

#### **5. Discipline and Appeals Policy**

FIFA and Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL) rules will be used as a guide in determining player suspensions or other sanctions. TASL reserves the discretion to provide increased suspensions and other sanctions based on player misconduct.

When a player receives a card during or related to conduct at a TASL match, the TASL office will issue a suspension or other sanction of future playing time or privileges by email to the said player and the team captain within six days of the player receiving the card (provided that the TASL office received written notification from the official within 48 hours of the match where the player was issued a card). An automatic one game suspension, as a minimum, will be issued for two yellow cards or a straight red card.

Additional sanctions may be required for more serious player misconduct such as red card infractions for Violent Conduct. As these types of incidents often require additional review time, the TASL office will notify the player and the team captain of the automatic minimum one game suspension and will inform them that additional penalties may be warranted pending review. The TASL office will have an additional fourteen days for review and to issue additional sanctions. While the incident is under review, the said player may not participate in TASL matches.

When a TASL player receives a suspension or other sanction during or related to conduct at a TASL match, said player may appeal his/her suspension or its severity to the TASL Discipline and Appeals Committee (D&A) per the following rules and procedures:

- Only suspensions greater than one match and cases of mistaken identity may be appealed.
- A player may file a Notice of Appeal for a suspension of more than one match.
  - The Notice of Appeal must be submitted by the player's team captain/coach. In the event the team captain/coach was not present for the match or competition in question, then the team captain/coach in charge of the team at the time of the match or competition must file the appeal;
  - The Notice must be in writing or by email to the League Registrar;
  - The Notice must be received by the League Registrar within 48 hours of said player and team captain receiving notice by email from the TASL office of the sanction issued for the suspension.
  - The Notice must be accompanied with a \$25.00 non-refundable filing fee.
- The TASL D&A will review the Notice of Appeal within seven days of receiving the Notice. While the suspension is under appeal, the said player may not participate in TASL matches.
- In the event an appellant wishes to have an expedited appeal with a determination within five business days, said appeal must be accompanied by an additional \$50.00 expedite fee. In the event an appellant's suspension is overturned, the fee for an expedited appeal (only) will be refunded.
- A player appealing a sanction may present a written statement as well as statements from two additional witnesses in support of his/her appeal to the D&A. Any such statements should be submitted to the League Registrar along with the Notice of Appeal.
- D&A will follow the following guidelines in reviewing an appeal:
  - D&A may contact any and all appropriate persons for information regarding the matter appealed;
  - While statements will be taken from appellant and witnesses, testimony will only be required where D&A feel such will aid any understanding of the facts and circumstances of the incident or conduct in question;
- TASL reserves the right to suspend players or coaches from participation in league matches pending a hearing on sanctions. Where TASL investigates conduct involving abuse of a referee, assault on a referee, or serious bodily injury to player(s) or person(s) associated with a TASL match or event, D&A may request appearance of a player and/or coach at said sanctions hearings to answer questions related to said conduct or incident.

Board Approval Date:

## 6. Field Use Policy

No alcohol, pets, smoking or firearms are permitted at any field.

Follow all park rules at each field.

All trash must be picked up and thrown away. A Security Clean Up Bond will be required if teams cannot clean up after themselves.

Field space is at a premium in Wake County and violation of facility rules may result in suspension of field rental privileges or fines.

Board Approved Revision Date: 09/2014

## 7. Game Day Requirements Policy

The Home team must have an alternate uniform in case of a color conflict.

### **Pre-Game:**

- Both captains must present a colored, photo Game Day Roster from the TASL Team Connect system to the officials. Several people should have a copy of your roster.
- The referee has the right to ask for additional photo ID if there is any question about the identity of a player.
- If player jersey numbers are not printed on the roster, the captain must hand write the numbers in.

### **Player Check-In Pre-Game:**

- Players will line up for check in so that the officials can check uniforms, jewelry, and shin guards. Please make sure your players are aware and prepared.
- The officials will verify the photo shown on the Game Day Roster is the individual present.
- Players that arrive late will check in with the assistant referee *before* entering the field.

### **Post-Game:**

- The official will complete the match report online through Arbiter.com within 24 hours.
- ALL players should remove all trash and personal items from the field or the team can be fined. These are not our fields and we get charged for clean-up if required.
- Team captains must assure that red carded players serve the sanction determined for the card.

Board Approved Revision Date: 09/2014

## **8. Game Reschedule and Forfeit Policy**

### **Weather or TASL Administration Related**

All games cancelled by the league or field administrator will be rescheduled on play dates determined by the TASL office.

### **Non-Weather Related**

Teams have an opportunity to change a game date and/or time because of a predetermined conflict impacting the majority of their team members and creating a situation where the team will be unable to field the required number of players during a given match.

- Teams are permitted to request a maximum of two (2) reschedules per season.
- Reschedules are not guaranteed.
- Reschedules are only allowed if the opposing team has not already had a reschedule during the season.
- Reschedule requests must be received at least five (5) business days in advance of the game.
  - *Less than Five Days Notice:* The game will not be rescheduled. The team will have to forfeit if they do not have enough players.
- Date and time options will be provided to the team captains for review and agreement. If agreement is not met after two options of dates are provided the requesting team will automatically forfeit the game, which will be scored as a 3-0 loss for the requestor.
- Reschedules will not be permitted based on forfeits at the field.
- No reschedule requests are accepted during the last 3 weeks of the season.

### **Game Forfeit Policy**

Teams that do not show up to their scheduled match or do not have the minimum number of players required to field a team or do not have a copy of the Game Day Roster to give the referee will forfeit the game with the score reported as 0-3 loss. The team will be fined for any game that they forfeit and the fine must be paid prior to the next game.

## Costs

### Weather or TASL Administration Related

- No fee

### Non-Weather Related

- \$25 Reschedule Consideration Fee for 1<sup>st</sup> request (this fee is required regardless of if the reschedule is approved).
- \$50 Reschedule Consideration Fee for 2<sup>nd</sup> request (this fee is required regardless of if the reschedule is approved).

### Forfeits

- \$50 Game Forfeit Fee for the first game forfeit in a season
- \$100 Game Forfeit Fee per game for any additional game forfeits in a season.

## Process

### Weather or TASL Administration Related

- No action needed by team, TASL will automatically reschedule the game and provide notification of the new date and time.

### Non-Weather Related

- Team captain should validate opposing teams eligibility for a reschedule via the TASL website using the "[Game Reschedules](#)" link. If the opponent for your original game is listed they are NOT eligible for a reschedule.
- Team captain will request a reschedule via the TASL website using the "[Game Reschedules](#)" link.
- Upon completion of the request, captain will click the "[Buy Now](#)" button on the game reschedule page to pay the applicable request fee.

- 
- Upon payment the TASL office will be notified of the reschedule request.
  - The TASL office will officially cancel the original game.
  - Notification will be sent to both team captains with date/time options available for the rescheduled game.
  - Captains have 24 hours to respond to the request for availability.
  - If there is congruence in availability the game will be booked for reschedule and the teams will be notified of the new game date/time.
  - If there is NOT congruence in the teams availability the non-requesting team will be asked for several alternate date/time options, outside of the original options provided, that will work for their team. Alternate options will then be provided to the requesting captain.
    - If congruence is found the game will be booked for reschedule and the teams will be notified of the new game date/time.
    - If congruence is NOT found, the game will be a forfeit for the requesting team and shall be listed as a 3-0 loss.

### Forfeits

- After a game is reported as a forfeit by the official, the TASL office will invoice the applicable Game Forfeit Fee to the forfeiting team.
- The Game Forfeit Fee must be paid prior to the next scheduled game in order for the team to be eligible to play.

Board Approved Revision Date: 03/2018

## 9. Illegal Player Policy

TASL requires all players to be currently registered and paid to your team and appear on the Game Day Roster with a colored photo before playing in a TASL match.

An illegal player is defined as a player that does not appear on your team's TASL roster for that particular game day.

Examples of an illegal player: a player that was rostered on your team last season or last year; a player that may join your team next week; a substitute player that has not paid their game day fee or does not appear on the roster; a player that plays on another team.

The referee crews are instructed to check your team's rosters BEFORE the match begins, and verify the roster is printed in color with a photo for every player. The referee may accept a black and white roster in an emergency only if the player photos are clear. Any player that does not have a photo on the roster MUST provide the referee with a government issued photo identification with a picture.

A team in violation of this policy is subject to the following sanctions if it is confirmed that an illegal player has participated in any of their TASL matches:

- The team score for the match shall reflect the game as a 3 - 0 loss.
- The team standings will reflect a 3 point deduction in points.
- The team, via the Team Captain, will be assessed a \$100 Illegal Player Fine.
- The Illegal player and Team Captain will automatically receive a 3 game suspension.

Please report any suspected violations of this policy to the TASL office, including as many details as possible.

Board Approved Revision Date: 09/2014

## 10. Maximum Goal Differential Recording Policy

In addition to the Point System Rules, TASL has implemented a Maximum Goal Differential Recording Policy to discourage teams from running up the score on their opponent and to encourage good sportsmanship and fair play. All official game scores recorded in the seasonal standings will not exceed an eight (8) goal differential.

The game will be played in its entirety.

The actual score will be reported to TASL by the official.

TASL will adjust the score as necessary to assure a maximum goal differential of eight (8) goals based upon the number of goals scored by the losing team. For example, if the score of the game is 10-0, the score will be reported as 8-0.

Board Approved Revision Date: 05/2014

## 11. Division Promotion and Relegation Policy

This policy applies to the spring and fall seasons only.

### Promotion

- The winner of a division is eligible for promotion to the next highest division.
- If the winner of a division desires to remain in the division that they won, they must submit their request in writing to the registrar. Approval or denial of the request shall be determined by the TASL Office.
- If a team wins a division two seasons in a row, they will be promoted to the next highest division. No petition to the registrar and/or the TASL Office will be allowed.

### Relegation

- The last place team of a division is eligible for relegation to the next lowest division.
- If the last place team of a division desires to remain in that division they played in, they must submit their request in writing to the registrar. Approval and denial of the request shall be determined by the TASL Office.
- If a team finishes in last place in a division two seasons in a row, they will be relegated to the next lowest division. No petition to the registrar will be allowed.

### New Team Registration for Men's Open

- A new team is defined as a team that did not participate in the prior (fall or spring) season.
- New teams that apply to participate in the men's open division must begin in the lowest division of play.

- If the new team would like to begin in a higher bracket, they must submit their request in writing to the registrar. Approval or denial of the request shall be determined by the TASL Office.

### **New Team Registration for Coed**

- A new team is defined as a team that did not participate in the prior (fall or spring) season.
- New teams that apply to participate in Coed may select the division they feel is the best fit. The TASL Office will then let them know the availability for that division and their placement.

Board Approval Date: 09/2014

## **12. Non-Discrimination Policy**

*“Football is a mirror of society, which means that unfortunately our game is still blighted by discrimination and intolerance. We must use our game to educate people, especially the world’s youth, about the importance of fair play and respect. These values should be upheld both on, and off the pitch. It is 2011, and we are all responsible to protect our game and ensure that any form of discrimination is shown the red card,” FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.*

### **TASL Policy Against Discrimination:**

Officials, players, players’ agents and spectators may not act in a discriminatory manner, especially with regard to ethnicity, race, culture, gender, language, religion or politics.

Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion. Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behavior is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions. Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, color, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches.

**TASL Code of Conduct:** TASL seeks to promote safe and fair play on and off the field. Players have a responsibility to practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game. Players agree to use appropriate language and gestures both on and off the soccer field and will not offend any player, official or spectator with respect to ethnicity, race, culture, gender, language, religion or politics.

Board Approval Date: 09/2011

## **13. Point System for Season Standings Policy**

The Point System is meant to provide a uniform way for all of TASL's playing divisions to determine season standings. Points are awarded as follows:

- **Win** = 3 points
- **Tie** = 1 point
- **Loss** = 0 points

In the event of a tie within the standings, the following will be used as the tie breakers, in order:

- Head-to-head competition between tied teams
- Goal differential (up to 3 per game)
- Least goals allowed
- Most shut outs (win or tie)

Board Approved Revision Date: 07/2018

## **14. Recreation Division Rules of Play Policy**

The purpose of the recreation division is to provide an opportunity for players to participate in a less competitive environment, regardless of skill level. The emphasis is on fun and recreation. It is a more social atmosphere where players enjoy playing soccer.

- Players must be 18 years of age.
- The standard game format is 8 vs. 8.
- Games will be played on 50 x 70 approximate field size with small goals.
- Games will have two 30 minutes halves and a 5 minute half time
- Seven field players and a goalkeeper comprise a team.
- Players may only play on one team within the Recreation Division.
- One referee will officiate the game.

#### Recreation Rules

- No goalkeeper contact allowed
- No scores are recorded.
- No slide tackling.
- Yellow and red cards will be issued as needed.
- PK's can be called by the official.
- FIFA rules apply to substitution.
- No offsides.
- Keeper distribution must stay within the half field unless he is playing outside of the box like a field player.
- The play from the goalkeeper's hand must touch the ground or a player prior to crossing the half-field line.
- An indirect free kick is awarded at the half line for any infraction.
- No team forfeits. If a team has less than 7 players, the two teams will combine then split and play.
- Rosters need to be submitted to the referee.
- Game balls are to be provided by the Home Team.
- Numbers are not required on jerseys.
- Coin toss starts the game.
- Shin guards are required.
- Games will start on time and the clock will run continuously except for serious injury.

Board Approval Date: 09/2011

## 15. Referee Abuse and Assault Policy

**WHEN:** Before, during or after a match, even at later times if it is match related such as at work or at home.

**WHO:** Misconduct toward a referee, all registered referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist. It also includes any non-licensed, non-registered persons serving in an emergency capacity as a referee under USSF Policy 531-9 and any club assistant referees.

#### Definitions

Assault: An intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee, includes but is not limited to:

- Hitting
- Kicking
- Punching
- Spitting at or on
- Grabbing
- Running into
- Kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury
- Damage to referee equipment or personal property, cars, equipment, etc.

Abuse: A verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment including, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- using foul or abusive language

- spewing any beverage on a referee's property or verbally threatening a referee.
- Verbal threats or remarks that carry implied or direct threats of physical harm (e. g. "I'll get you later!" or "I know where you live!")

Serious Injuries: Those injuries that require hospitalization or treatment by a qualified dentist or medical practitioner. Definitions are excerpts from the USSF Administrative Rule Book and the USSF Referee Administrative Handbook. The following penalties for Abuse and/or Assault on a referee are the minimums. The Discipline Committee may, at its discretion, impose stiffer penalties as warranted by the individual act or incident.

## Penalties

- Assault
  - 1 year minimum
  - 5 years minimum with serious injury
  - 3 years minimum adult defendant with a minor referee (17 years of age or under)
- Abuse: 3 match minimum
- Any Player, Coach, Team Official or Team Spectator who has been deemed to have ABUSED a referee shall receive, as a minimum, a three (3) consecutive game suspension from scheduled league or tournament play. The Discipline Committee may provide for a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).
- Any Player, Coach, Team Official or Team Spectator committing or attempting to commit a referee assault is automatically suspended for one (1) year from the time of the assault. If serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension shall be for five (5) years. The Discipline Committee may not provide a shorter period, but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

Note: These Assault suspensions are to be imposed from the time of the incident and will remain in force until such times as the Discipline Committee takes action.

## All Affiliated Teams:

All teams, players, managers and team officials have an affirmative obligation to protect the referees. Teams are responsible for the conduct and actions of its players and their supporters. If any Players, Coaches, Team Officials or Team Spectators escalate, inflame or abet in a physical assault on a referee or if no apparent attempt is made by the team, when time permits, to intercede in protecting or preventing an assault upon a referee then the following minimum penalties prevail:

- The team is banned from participating in any Tournament play for TWO years. Such ban will follow each team player that is rostered at the time of the incident should they try to transfer to another team. A final decision on each individual player's eligibility will be determined by the TASL D&A Board.
- Any violation of the probation by the team shall result in the team being suspended forever.
- Any violation of the probation by transferred player on the rostered team at the time of the incident shall result in that player being suspended forever.

Referees (and by definition Assistant Referees, Club Assistant Referees) and others appointed to officiate the match) shall report any and all abuse and assault incidents to the League, NCASA, the Referee Assignor and the State Referee Administrator.

The State Association and the League as matter of policy supports and encourages any Referee who is assaulted to file formal charges in a Court of Law.

It is expected that the State Referee Administrator shall inform all referees under his jurisdiction, of their responsibility to prosecute offending persons and to report any incidents of violence, actual or threatened, to the NCASA.

The above policy is effective beginning with the 2004 Calendar Year.

As a matter of policy all incidents of Referee Abuse are automatically reviewed by the State Board of Referees. When applicable, the State Board decision will supersede the decision of the local Discipline Board.

## 16. Referees that Play Policy

If a referee is playing on a team in the Triangle Adult Soccer League, that person is not allowed to referee any games in the same divisions that their team is participating in.

If a referee does get assigned to a match in the same division in which their team plays, that referee must try to switch to another game in a different playing division. If the referee is unable to switch to a different game, then the referee must participate as a linesman and not as the center referee.

A referee may request in writing to the TASL Board for approval to be allowed to referee games in their team's playing division.

Board Approval Date: 04/2004

## 17. Refund Policy

Refund requests must be submitted in writing and are not guaranteed. Full refunds are only offered to players in the player pool that did not find a team. Credits will not be given for teams that do not play 10 games.

The following key benchmarks apply:

- Before player passes are ordered: Registration fee minus \$10
- After passes are ordered but before the first game of the season: Registration fee minus \$35
- After the first game of the season: Registration fee minus \$50
- After the second game but before the third game: No refund, but \$55 credit towards the next season.
- After the third game: No refund.
- There will be no refunds for the \$20 fee charged for a 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. team.
- If a player has paid for three teams and wants to drop from one of them, there will not be a refund.

Board Approval Revision Date: 09/2011

## 18. Sanctioning of a Team

In the event of a matter that is brought to the TASL Board of Directors for the purposes of sanctioning a team, the following procedure must have taken place:

- A formal complaint must have been submitted to the TASL Board via the TASL office in writing addressing the following information in as complete and detailed a manner as possible:
  - Name of Team with Division of Play
  - Record of team's history within TASL clearly demonstrating a consistency of neglect toward TASL, NCASA, USASA and/or USSF rules, laws and/or bylaws, this would include the laws of the game.
  - While not required for submittal, it is encouraged that such a filing of a formal complaint come complete with written support and/or testimonials from players, team representatives and/or eye witnesses of recorded events preferably from within the same division of play. If this information is not included, it will be requested at the due diligence stage prior to the formal hearing, should the TASL Board agree to accept the complaint.
- Upon receipt of a formally written complaint at the TASL office, the TASL Board shall be immediately notified and provided with a copy of the complaint. The TASL Board must, within seven (7) business days, vote to address the complaint in one of three ways:
  - Accept complaint – which immediately enacts a due diligence period of no more than 14 days for which a 3 person panel is established by the board to review and research the complaints, its facts, and supporting materials.

- Return the complaint – which immediately enacts a due diligence period of no more than 14 days for the filer of the complaint to resubmit the complaint in an acceptable format with the required information OR to resubmit the complaint with requested additional information prescribed by the TASL board for reconsideration. If the complaint is not resubmitted in a timely fashion, the complaint will be denied by the TASL board.
- Deny the complaint
- Complaints requesting the sanctioning of any team must address at least one of these subject areas:
  - Financial complaint – whereby the team in question is delinquent in its dues to TASL, fraudulent or withholding in its payment to referees and/or fraudulent in its finances within the team itself.
  - Behavioral complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is verbally or physically abusive in any manner to any member of TASL, its staff, referees and/or spectators.
  - Safety complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is subjecting any member of TASL, its staff, referees and/or spectators to unsafe play and potentially threatening behavior or circumstances.
  - Disrepute complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is threatening the good name and reputation of the league, its members, its staff, referees and/or spectators by their actions, assertions or behavior.
- During the due diligence period, the TASL office will notify all players of the team via email before the next match of the formal complaint and that they have been placed into a conditional probation during the due diligence period. The team has the right to provide any of its own supporting information in writing to the panel. If any player on the team is written up for disciplinary action in any match during the due diligence period, the team will be immediately suspended from further match play in the league, forfeiting the match in question.
- The team will be notified by the TASL office of a hearing date to be held within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the due diligence period. The team will be allowed to have a maximum of two (2) representatives at the hearing, however attendance is not automatically required.
- The filer of the complaint will be allowed to have a maximum of two (2) representatives at the hearing, however attendance is not automatically required.
- The Panel has the authority to call any individuals to the hearing for questioning or simply rely on the information it has gathered during the due diligence period.
- The Hearing will proceed as follows:
  - The panel will commence the meeting by reading the formal complaint.
  - The panel will then review its finding during the due diligence period including materials provided by the team in question.
  - The panel will allow the team representatives to have 15 minutes to answer the matters in the complaint, and can agree to add time in 5 minute increments not to exceed an additional 30 minutes.
  - The panel will then conclude the hearing and go into immediate executive session.
- The filer of the complaint and the team will be notified of the panel's actions within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing. The actions of the panel are final, but can be appealed to the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association in accordance with its bylaws and policies.

### **Sanctioning Penalties & Appeals**

In the event the panel determines that sanctions are to be placed on a team and its players, the panel will have the choice of the following penalties to place as sanctions.

- Banishment – whereby the team and all its players are invalidated by the league and disallowed to re-register for the period of not less than a full affiliation year with NCASA. No appeal will be accepted for hearing by the league a period of not less than 12 months or 3 complete playing seasons, whichever is longer. The team and players have the right to appeal directly to NCASA.
- Disbandment – whereby the team is invalidated by the league for the period of not less than a full affiliation year with NCASA and all its players' registration with the league are suspended for the same time period. Players are allowed to appeal to the league's board of directors in writing on an individual basis. In financial neglect cases whereby monies are due to the league, players may be conditionally reinstated by the TASL Treasurer and Registrar if full restitution of the team's complete balance is made.

- Suspension – whereby the team and all its players are suspended for a period of not more than a full affiliation year with NCASA. The team and/or its players are allowed to appeal to the league’s board of directors in writing. In financial neglect cases whereby monies are due to the league, players may be conditionally reinstated by the TASL Treasurer and Registrar if full restitution of the team’s complete balance is made.
- Reprimand – whereby the team is penalized with any of an assortment of sanctions related to their standing in the league and their conference play. Penalties can include, but are limited to:
  - point deductions
  - match forfeits
  - relegation
  - loss of bond funds, in full or in portion.
- The team is allowed to appeal to the league’s board of directors in writing at the conclusion of the season.
- Defer to Discipline & Appeals committee – whereby the team will remain under conditional probation for the remainder of the season and specific players will be immediately suspended and referred to the league discipline and appeals committee for recommended action.

Should the panel decide that other sanctions are required, it will have to notify the TASL board of directors immediately after the hearing’s conclusion of its proposed penalties on the team and its players. The panel will also have to immediately inform the team and its players of its referral to the TASL board and the 48 hour timetable for a decision. The TASL board will have no more than 48 hours to accept the proposal of the panel or chose to suspend, disband or banish the team and its players by plurality vote.

Board Approval Date: 03/2009

## 19. Slide Tackle Policy

Slide Tackling is strictly forbidden in TASL Women’s, Coed, Coed Eight, Recreation, Men’s Over 40, Men’s Over 50 and Men’s Over 60 Divisions.

The slide tackling policy for these leagues is as follows:

- ☒○ A player slide tackling the first time during a game shall receive an immediate yellow card
- ☒○ A player slide tackling the second time during a game shall receive a red card and a one game suspension
- Every slide tackle shall result in a direct free kick (a penalty kick if in the penalty box).

Generally, a slide tackle is an intentional slide within your horizontal body length of an opposing player. Whether the opposing player was touched in any way is irrelevant; a “clean” slide tackle shall still result in a card and free kick. The gender of the person slide tackled makes no difference, as all slide tackles are illegal.

The referee has discretion to determine what is and what is not a slide tackle, but the referee has no discretion regarding the imposition of a card or cards.

The following plays are legal:

- Sliding for the ball when there are no other players within your horizontal body length.
- ☒○ A goalie sliding for the ball, even if feet first, so long as the goalie’s intention is to catch or smother the ball
- ☒○ Reaching for the ball but unintentionally slipping due to field conditions, etc.

We understand that slide tackling is part of the usual rules of soccer. However, because men, women and older adults are playing together, we are being extra cautious in order to reduce the risk of injury.

Board Approved Revision Date: 09/2014

## 20. Substitute Players Policy

### Policy

TASL allows for substitute (sub) players based on the specific criteria listed below:

- All registered teams must have a minimum of 16 full-time, paid players on the team roster before a sub pool can be created.

- Sub players registration should be received at least 3 days prior to game date so that the player can be registered with NCASA.
- Sub players are only permitted to play as a sub on one (1) team per division.
- Sub players cannot play as a sub in a division in which they play full time.

#### Costs

- Sub players must pay the \$30 player fee upon registration if they do not have a current, valid NCASA player pass.
- A sub player will pay a \$10 Game Day Fee to TASL prior to each game they play.

#### Process

- The sub player registers online as a “Substitute Player” for the specified team through the TASL registration system.
  - The player registration fee must be paid to TASL before an NCASA player pass is ordered.
  - The player must upload a color photo during the registration process.
- 
- If a Team Captain does not have enough players for a given game, the captain may add players from their sub pool.
  - If a sub accepts the invitation to play on a specific game date, the Team Captain must direct the player to register and pay for the Game Day Fee via the TASL registration system.
- 
- Once the game fee is paid, the Team Captain must print out a Game Day Roster showing the sub player with the specific game date.
  - The roster must be presented to the referee before the game is played and may only be used for that specific game.
  - The sub player will no longer appear on the Game Day Roster after the game date.

Board Approval Date: 05/2014

## 21. Summer Heat Rules Policy

#### General Rules

- All TASL Summer Heat league players must be at least 18 years of age to participate.
- Players between the ages of 16 and 18 can play with signed parental consent.
- The standard game format is 9 vs. 9.
- Coed teams must have two (2) females on the field at all times (see exceptions below).
- Eight field players and a goalkeeper comprise a team.
- Team rosters must have a minimum of 14 players.
- ALL players must have proof of identification at the field to present to the official.
- It is mandatory for players to wear shin guards at all games.
- There is only one official for summer heat games and the fee is paid by TASL.
- Team Captains must provide the official a TASL Game Day Roster prior to the start of the game.
- There are no make-ups or rain dates in Summer Heat.

#### Standard FIFA Laws of the Game are enforced with these exceptions:

- No Slide Tackling allowed in any division. A mandatory caution (yellow card as a minimum) is required for any infraction. Multiple infractions will result in additional sanctions.
- No offside fouls.
- A team is a “forfeit” if it cannot field 7 players five minutes after the scheduled start time.
- The play from the Goalkeeper's hand – punt, throw, or drop-kick, must touch the ground or a player prior to crossing the half-field line. An indirect free kick is awarded at the half line for any infraction.
- Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area but must touch either the ground or a player prior to crossing the half-field line. An indirect free kick is awarded at the half line for any infraction.
- The match length will be two twenty-five minute halves with a five-minute interval.

- COED LEAGUE RULES: A minimum of two (2) women & a maximum seven (7) men comprise a team. If there is only one (1) woman on the field, the team must play with eight (8) players (1 woman and 7 men). If there are no female players in the play at any time, then the game is a forfeit.

**Rule clarifications**

- ALL goals are worth one point regardless of gender or age.
- Yes, a Penalty Kick may be awarded and are allowed to be called by the referee.
- Yes, a Direct Kick may be called.
- Yes, there are Throw-Ins.
- Yes, yellow and red cards will be issued to players when required.
- No off-sides.
- No free substitution – FIFA Rules apply.
- Keeper distribution must stay within the half-field, unless he is playing outside of the box like a field player.
- Goal kick distribution must stay within the half-field.

Board Approval Revision Date: 09/2014