

# Tri-City United Youth Recreational Indoor Rules





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## League Laws

- **LAW 1 – Field of Play**

Different age groups play on different size fields to ensure age-appropriate development:

1. **Field Size:**

- **Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Fields measure 30 yards x 20 yards.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Fields measure 50 yards x 30 yards.

2. **Game locations:**

- **TCU Indoor Turf:** 2761 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Ste A Fargo, 58103.
- **Fargo Parks Sports Center:** 6100 38<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo, 58104.

- **LAW 2 – The Ball**

Different size balls are used to ensure age-appropriate development:

**NOTE:** Combined age groups will use the older age group size ball.

1. **Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Size 3 ball
2. **3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Size 4 ball
3. **5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Size 5 ball

- **LAW 3 – Number of Players**

The maximum number of players allowed on the field of play varies depending on the age group. See below:

3. **Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

- Games are 4v4 format – no goalkeeper.
- Substitutions are unlimited and on the fly.

4. **3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Games are 5v5 format – 4 field players + goalkeeper.
- Teams must have at least 4 players to play (3 field players and a goalkeeper).
- Substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any stoppage in play with the referee's permission.

5. **5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Games are 5v5 format – 4 field players + goalkeeper.
- Teams must have at least 4 players to play (3 field players + goalkeeper).
- Substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any stoppage in play with the referee's permission.

- **LAW 4 – Players' Equipment**

To ensure a safe playing environment, all players must meet the following equipment requirements:

1. Players are required to wear soccer cleats. Football and baseball cleats are not acceptable footwear due to the addition of a front stud.

**NOTE:** Tennis shoes are acceptable for the PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade group.

2. **Jewelry of any kind is prohibited.** This includes bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and any similar accessories i.e., watches and all must be removed. **Please keep this in mind when you plan to get your child's ears pierced.**

3. Players must wear the official TC United reversible rec jersey to each game. The reversible rec jersey can be used in any of the year-round rec leagues.

**NOTE:** The home team wears WHITE, the away team wears BLACK.



- **LAW 5 – Referees and Assistant Referees**

Many referees in the Rec League are still developing their skills, just as the players are learning the game. We ask that coaches and parents keep this in mind and show patience as referees gain experience in this role. Decisions made by the referees are **FINAL**.

  1. **Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Volunteer coaches will referee the games. The priority for volunteer coaches is to facilitate the speed of play and to ensure that players remain safe and display positive sportsmanship to their teammates and opponents.
  2. **3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Whenever possible, a USSF certified referee will be assigned to games to enforce the laws of the games. If a referee is not assigned to your game a member of the TCU staff will act as the referee.
  
- **LAW 6 – Duration of the Match**

The length of the match varies by age group:

  1. **Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Two 13-minute halves + 4min half time.
  2. **3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Two 18-minute halves + 4min half time
  
- **LAW 7- Ball In and Out of Play**
  1. The ball is considered out of play if:
    - It completely crosses over the touch line or goal line.
    - If it strikes any object hanging from the ceiling.
    - If the referee signals an offense or infraction.
  
- **LAW 8 – Start and Restart of Play**
  2. **Kick-off:** The away team will kick off to start the game. The home team will kick off to start the second half. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves in any direction.
  3. **Kick-in:** When the ball completely crosses the touch line, play is restarted with a throw-in on the line nearest to where the ball went out of bounds. At the time of the throw-in, all opposing players must be at least 3 yards from the ball.  
**NOTE:** All PreK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade restart of play is a kick-in or dribble in.
  4. **Corner Kick:** If the ball completely crosses over the goal line outside the goalposts and is last touched by the defending team, play is restarted with a corner kick for the attacking team. The referee will indicate which corner to take the restart from. The ball must be placed anywhere within the 1-yard arc and is in play once the ball has been kicked and clearly moves. The defending player must stand on the edge of the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play when touched and it clearly moves.
  5. **Goal Kick:** If the ball completely crosses over the goal line and is last touched by the attacking team, the restart of play is an indirect kick from anywhere within the goal box (6-yard box).
    - Goalkeepers may not punt or dropkick the ball. Doing so will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team in the penalty area, near where the offense occurred.
    - Goalkeepers cannot throw the ball over the halfway line. If it goes over the halfway line untouched or doesn't bounce before the halfway line, it is an indirect free kick for the other team on the halfway line.
  
- **LAW 9 – Scoring**
  6. A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the two goal posts and under the crossbar. A goal may be scored directly from a kickoff, corner



kick, direct free kick. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in or an indirect free kick. If the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the two goal posts and under the crossbar from a throw-in or indirect kick, the restart of play is a goal kick.

- **LAW 10 – Offside**

1. The offside rule is not in effect in this league.

- **LAW 11 – Fouls and Misconduct**

1. **PreK to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** With this group it is more important to let the game flow than it is to call fouls. Players at this age are still developing their motor skills and coordination and as a result will fall more often. There should be no game stoppages for fouls at this age.
2. **Direct Free Kick:** A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offenses: Holds an opponent, handles the ball, slide tackles an opponent, kicks an opponent, trips an opponent, jumps at an opponent, charges an opponent, strikes, or attempts to strike an opponent, or pushes an opponent.
  - A direct free kick is taken from the spot on the field where the offense occurred. All opposing players must remain at least eight (8) yards away from the spot of the ball.
  - There are no direct free kicks for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade group.
3. **Indirect Free Kick:** An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if:
  - The goalkeeper receives a ball with their hands after a teammate intentionally played the ball to them with their feet.
  - Sliding on the field of play for any reason.
  - If the goalkeeper handles the ball for longer than eight (8) seconds before distributing the ball. The correct restart for this is a corner kick.
  - If the goalkeeper punts or dropkicks the ball.
  - A player plays in a dangerous manner, obstructs an opponent, or prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball.
  - All fouls for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade will be indirect free kicks.

Indirect free kicks are taken from the spot on the field where the offense occurred. All opposing players must remain at least eight (8) yards away from the spot of the ball.

4. Yellow Cards are issued for the following offenses:

- Unsporting behavior.
- Dissent.
- Persistent infringement.
- Delaying the restart of the game.
- Failure to respect the required distance on restarts.
- Player enters or leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.
- A substitute player interferes with play before the player coming off is completely off the field of play.
- Slide tackling an opponent.
- The player has improper equipment.

5. Red cards are issued for the following reasons:

- Serious foul play.
- Violent conduct.
- Spitting at another opponent or referee.
- Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
- Directing abusive language towards an opponent or the referee.



6. If a player receives two yellow cards within the same game, they will be shown a red card.
  7. Any player who receives a red card will be dismissed from the game and must leave the facility immediately. The red-carded player's team must play with one less player for five minutes, after that the referee may allow another player to sub in.
  8. A first-time red card offense will result in the player being removed from the current game and will serve a minimum of a 1-game suspension.
  9. A second red card offense in the same season will result in the player being removed from the league.
  10. All red card incidents will be reviewed by the league director and additional suspension may be determined based on review of such incidents.
  11. Coaches may be asked to assist escorting their red-carded player and family out of the facility if they are not cooperating. Play may be halted until said player leaves.
- **LAW 12 – Penalty Kicks**
    1. A penalty kick is awarded for any offense occurring in the defender's penalty area, which would normally result in a direct free kick. The ball is placed on the penalty spot and is in play once it has been kicked and moves forward.  
**NOTE:** There are no penalty kicks for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade group. All fouls within the penalty box will be taken as an indirect free kick from the edge of the box closer to where the offense occurred.
  - **LAW 13 – Disciplinary Matters**
    1. TC United holds the power to handle disciplinary matters for violations of the League Laws and misconduct by any team, player or official as it sees fit.
    2. Any abusive or threatening behavior towards another player, coach, fan, referee, or administrator will not be tolerated. Any player or spectator found guilty of this will face disciplinary action, which may include removal of the game and future permanent suspension.
    3. Verbal and physical abuse will not be tolerated towards other players, game officials, spectators or members of TCU staff. If a person violates this law, he/she will be removed from the facility and not allowed to return.
    4. All offenses for which a player is ejected shall result in a minimum of one game suspension.

## League Policies

- **Referee and Game Procedures**
  1. All qualified referees will be assigned to do games by an appointed referee scheduler.
  2. Referee judgments are final and cannot be protested.
  3. Referees' authority begins when they enter the area of play and will end leave the area of play.
  4. Referees shall have the power to suspend or terminate the game at any time for any infringement of the laws or interference by spectators, or any other situation judged by the referee.
- **Code of Conduct**

As defined by the United States Soccer Federation Policy Manual page 42:



(3): (a): (i): Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. (ii) For purposes of this policy, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable, unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant. (b) Assault includes, but not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, or bodily running into a referee; head butting, the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referees’ uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.

(4): (a): (i): Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referees’ property or equipment. (b): Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul language towards the referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on referees’ personal; or spitting (even if not on) the referee.

1. Violent Conduct: Verbal and physical assault towards other players, game officials or members of TCU staff will be treated as violent conduct, and anyone found guilty will be removed from the facilities.
2. Verbal Abuse: Players shall not use foul language when speaking to spectators, referees, other players and TCU staff. Players found guilty of verbal abuse will be removed from the game and face possible suspension.
3. Players who are found guilty of violating the code of conduct will be removed from the game, the facilities and be permanently suspended from the league. NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Drug Free Environment: Any player under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to play. Absolutely no alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco allowed in the facility.

- [League Standings](#)

1. This league does not keep team/player standings.