

Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League

Coaches/Parents Information Packet

2008 Season



Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League

Mission Statement

We the members of The Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League seek to foster a safe, fun and recreational environment for all of the elementary school children of our member groups. We seek to provide each child with a fair opportunity to participate and to emphasize sportsmanship and fair play. The focus of Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League is to help the children play safe, have fun and learn new skills by encouraging quality instruction.

**Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League
Members**

Harmony Township
St Philips & St James AA
Lopatcong Township
Phillipsburg Recreation Dept
Pohatcong Township
Holland Township
Easton
Lower Mt. Bethel

**Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League
2007 Board Members**

Harmony – Carolann Ficarro
Lopatcong – Levent Bayrasli
Holland Township – Linda Motta
Phillipsburg – Dawn Slifer
Pohatcong – JR Hann
SPSJAA – Pete Torrey
Easton – David Rodriguez
Lower Mt. Bethel – C.J. Bunting & Al Capecci

Twin Rivers Youth **Soccer League Official Rules 2008** **Revised 08/22/2008**

Article 1

League General Policy

- (a) Instruct and teach the Laws and rules that are the game of Soccer and how to implement them.
- (b) Instill discipline and sportsmanship into minds of the players, coaches, fans, and referees, but still use the game for enjoyment.
- (c) This is a recreational league, NO team stacking, etc.
- (d) A 6-goal differential should not be exceeded. In the case where a team purposefully scores beyond six goal differential the following action will be taken:
 - 1. First Time: Game will be finished but forfeited by the team that exceeded the 6 goal differential. The head coach will receive a red card.
 - 2. Second Time: Game will cease. The assistant coach will receive a red card.
- (e) Coaches identification must be worn (3 coaches maximum). Coaches are to remain on their half of the field.

Article 2

Teams Entries and Field Designations

The season begins the first Saturday following Labor Day. Municipal representatives to the league must notify the President and the Secretary of the league as to the teams from that municipality to be entered in the league. This notification must be given by the deadline set each year in order to provide sufficient time to arrange the schedules. At this time, playing fields to be utilized in each municipality must be designated and approved by the league Directors.

Roster Of Players

Temporary rosters of all participating players must be submitted to the league along with the declaration of teams entered and must be updated with the league secretary no later than the first game of the season. Any additions to the rosters will be allowed throughout the season and must be submitted to the Secretary forthwith. The roster given by the league will be used by all municipalities. They must include birthdays and grade they will enter this September.

Roster sizes

- KinderKickers – min 8, max 10
- Little Kickers - min 8, max 10
- Biddy – min 10max 14
- Intermediate – min-12, max 18
- Senior - min-12, max 18

Exceptions will be granted on a case by case basis by the TRAYS board.

Player Eligibility

The Senior league shall consist of 7th and 8th graders. The Intermediate league shall consist of 5th and 6th graders and the Biddy league shall consist of 3rd and 4th graders. The LittleKickers league shall consist of 1st & 2nd graders. The Kinderkickers league shall consist of children age 5 by August 5th of that year or enrolled in kindergarten for the school year beginning September.

Player Participation

Each player in good standing must play a minimum of one half of every game of which they are present. Players wearing casts will not be eligible for competitive play.

Failure To Field A Team

If a team fails to fulfill a scheduled game at any time, it will be punished by the loss of that game. Any visiting team that fails to field a side within 30 minutes after the scheduled start of a game, or 15 minutes for a home side, that team shall forfeit the game to the opponent 1-0. In the event that both teams do not appear and the referee deems the ground playable, then both teams shall be awarded a loss.

Teams will field an equal number of players at the start of all games.

¹**NOTE:** A Bidy game shall consist of 9v9 teams with a minimum 7v7. The Intermediate and Senior levels play with 11v11 with a minimum of 9v9, both teams using same number of players.

The rain date of a postponed game shall be within 8 days after the scheduled Saturday game or make appropriate arrangements.

Article 3

Officials/Referees

One referee shall be designated to each game. The referee is the sole time and scorekeeper. He shall conduct himself in the manner stated in "The Laws of The Game."

The referee has the duty to;

- (a) Inform the coach of any infractions of the Laws of the game by any member of the coach's team.
- (b) Discipline a coach, supporter, or parent in the same way as the player's i.e.; yellow card, red card. If a coach, supporter, or parent is sent from the field of play, he/she, as must a player, leaves the surrounding area and takes no further part in the proceedings. The card will also issue a one game suspension and a \$25 (twenty-five) fine that must be paid from their own pocket to the relevant township.
- (c) Interpret the laws to fit each game and implement them.
- (d) Review the laws with the coaches before the start of each game.

A Head referee shall be appointed by the league president. The Head Referee shall designate a referee for each game that is scheduled. In the event of a non-appearance of a referee the opposing coaches shall agree to referee. The game will still be an official one.

(e) In the LK & KK leagues, one coach from each team will officiate.

(f) For 2008 at the Bidy, Intermediate & Senior divisions, the referee fee of \$20.00 per team will be paid to the official before the start of the game. Half of the referee fee shall be paid if the referee cancels the game.

Article 4

Laws of The Game

All games will be played under "The Laws Of The Game," as stated by F.I.F.A. unless otherwise stated by the league or modified by the U.S.S.F., in "The Official Rules Of Soccer." Goal kicks at the Bidy level shall be taken from the **edge of the 18-yard box**. The 6 second rule for the goalkeepers does **not** apply at the Bidy level. The referee may give a "Second Chance" throw-in at the Bidy level. When coaching on the same side of the field, coaches can only go to the halfway line.

A player may be substituted from the field of play, if;

- (a) He/she is unable to continue playing due to injury, at the coaches or referees discretion.
- (b) At the end of the first 2 quarters, bearing in mind that each player present at a match must play at least half of that game (as explained in Article 2, Subheading Player Participation).
- (c) Players & coaches will remain on one side of the field for the entire game.
- (d) Parents and children (fans) shall view the game from the opposite side of the field that the players & coaches are on. Not behind either goal.
- (e) No more than three coaches will be permitted on the players side of the field, and shall be identifiable by a shirt, hat or ID tag.
- (f) No coach will be permitted to be a flagman at any time. Flagman are not permitted to coach while working as Flagman.
- (g) Fans will not be permitted to be closer than 10 feet to the touch line, the line will be identified by orange paint.
- (h) During the game coaches & players are restricted to the area on the sideline between midfield & the 18 yard line on which their bench resides.

Fouls and Misconduct

A player, coach or spectator who intentionally commits the following offenses, shall be penalized by the award of a direct free-kick and/or a yellow card;

- (a) kicks or attempts to kick an opponent,
- (b) trips an opponent,
- (c) jumps at an opponent,
- (d) charges an opponent in a violent and dangerous manner,
- (e) charges an opponent from behind unless latter is obstructing,
- (f) strikes or attempts to strike an opponent or spits at him,
- (g) holds an opponent,
- (h) handles the ball.

If any of these offenses are committed in the penalty area, then a penalty-kick shall be awarded. An indirect free-kick and/or yellow card will be given against a player who intentionally;

- (a) is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct,
- (b) shows by word or action dissent from any decision given by the referee,
- (c) persistently infringes "The Laws of The Game."

A player shall be sent from the field of play and be suspended for a minimum of 1 game when shown the red card, if in the opinion of the referee, he;

- (a) is guilty of a foul and abusive language,
- (b) is guilty of violent conduct,
- (c) is guilty of serious foul play,
- (d) is guilty of second yellow card offense,
- (e) is guilty of committing the "Professional Foul," i.e.; impeding an opponent by pulling by his shirt, tripping him or deliberately stopping an opponent from reaching the goal by illegal means.

Slide tackles are not permitted.

At the second receipt of a red card during one season, the player or coach must appear in front of the TRAYS board before being eligible for reinstatement.

The Ball In And Out Of Play

The ball is out of play;

- (a) when it has wholly crossed the goal-line or touch-line, whether on the ground or in the air,
- (b) when the game has been stopped by the referee.

The ball is still in play;

- (a) if it rebounds from a goal-post, cross-bar or corner-flag post into the field of play,
- (b) if it rebounds off either the referee or linesman when they are in the field of play.

Off-Side

A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponent's goal-line than the ball, unless;

- (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, or;
- (b) he is not nearer to his opponent's; goal line at least two of his opponent's.

A player shall only be declared offside and penalized for being in an offside position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is players by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee;

- (a) interfering with play or with an opponent, or;
- (b) seeking to gain advantage by being in that position.

A player shall not be declared offside by the referee;

- (a) merely because of his being in an offside position, or;
- (b) if he receives the ball from a goal kick, a corner-kick, or a throw-in. If a player is declared offside, the referee shall award an indirect free kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from where the infringement occurred.

Length of Game/Substitutions

The Senior League games shall consist of 2 thirty minute periods. A 5 minute break shall be allowed at half time. The teams shall change sides at the end of half time. Teams can sub players in good standing, on their own possession of the ball, goal scored or for medical or safety reasons. All players in good standing shall play at least thirty (30) minutes per game.

The Intermediate League games shall consist of 4 twelve minute periods, a break will be allowed after each period of 2 minutes, and 5 minutes at half time. The teams shall change sides at the end of half time. Intermediate teams can substitute in good standing, on their own possession of the ball, after a goal scored or for medical or safety reasons.

The Biddy League games shall consist of 4 twelve minute periods, a break will be allowed after each period of 2 minutes, and 5 minutes at half time. The teams shall change sides at the end of half time. Biddy teams can only substitute at the quarter play breaks, or for medical or safety reasons.

The Littlekicker games shall consist of four 10 minute quarters. A five (5) minute break shall be allowed at half time. The teams shall change sides at the end of half time.

The Kinderkicker games shall consist of four 8 minute quarters. A five (5) minute break shall be allowed at half time. The teams shall change sides at the end of half time.

The Ball

The ball shall be spherical; the circumference of which shall not be more than 28 inches and not less than 27 inches. The weight of the ball at the start of the game shall be not more than 16 oz. or less than 14oz. The pressure shall be equal 0.6-1.1 atmosphere. Most balls have a recommended pressure already embossed on the outside. These numbers should be adhered to. A size #4 will be used for Biddy games and Intermediate games and for senior game's size #5.

Player's Equipment

The basic recommended equipment of a player shall consist of a jersey or shirt, shorts, appropriate socks, shin guards, appropriate footwear and appropriate eyewear (if necessary). A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks. The goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish from the other players and from the referee. No jewelry of any kind shall be worn, including watches, earrings, necklaces, etc.

If eyewear is necessary for play, it must adhere to the following NJ statute:

"Any child who wears corrective eyeglasses while participating in racquetball, squash, tennis, women's lacrosse, basketball, women's field hockey, badminton, paddleball, soccer, volleyball, baseball or softball, sponsored by a school, community or government agency, shall be required to wear protective eyewear that meets the frames standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F803 and lens standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1."

Remember that the league is here to make Soccer a fun sport to play and participate in. Rules and regulations are put in place to serve a purpose are not implemented to be broken. If there are any infractions of these rules, then the individuals at fault will be dealt with accordingly. The ruling of the league and its officials are final. If any individual has questions or protests during or before season, they will be heard and dealt with (see Article 3). Teach your players the fundamentals of the game, respect for others and above all else, fairness and good sportsmanship. With all of this in mind, have an enjoyable season.

2008 Playoff System – Senior/Intermediate Boys & Girls

Each coach is responsible for reporting game scores to their township director by the Tuesday following the game. Without adequate notification to TRAYS board of a make up game, both teams will be scored as a loss for the regular season standings subject to board discretion.

Top 4 teams by record will be in the playoffs.

****TRAYS adheres to NJ State Law as it applies to Safety Goggles***

Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League

Helpful Coaching Web Sites

www.thecoachingcorner.com

www.usysa.org

www.ksnusa.org/soclinks.htm

Tools to Avoid Exceeding a 6-Point Goal Differential

The following are guidelines that coaches in the Twin Rivers Area Youth Soccer League can implement to avoid triggering the 6-goal differential Mercy Rule. These ideas can be used individually or in combination. It is also suggested that these ideas be used gradually as the dominating team's score exceeds a 3-goal differential.

- **Strong player substitution** – substitute weaker players sitting on the sidelines for the stronger players on the field.
- **Rotate positions** – move the high scorers to defensive positions.
- **Reduce players** – reduce number of players to minimum allowable.
- **One touch** – players are only to physically touch the ball once. After a teammate comes into contact with the ball, they may have another single touch.
- **18-yard line restriction** – dominating team is not to advance beyond the weaker team's 18-yard line (penalty box).
- **Shooting restriction** – No shooting on goal from within the penalty box.
- **Midfield restriction** – dominating team is not to advance beyond the midfield line.