

TCSL Playing Rules for the 2024 Season

FIFA Laws of the Game & Ontario Soccer Small Sided Laws of the Game shall apply unless stated below or in the TCSL Constitution and By-Laws – see info and hyperlinks on reverse.

PLAYING RULES FOR ALL LEVELS:

- In the event of similar uniform colours, the **HOME team must change**.
- **Duplicate shirt numbers are not allowed** and must be corrected prior to the game. If not corrected, goals scored by these players will be disallowed.
- A **forfeited game** shall be recorded as a 1-0 win for the non-offending team and a game is forfeit:
 - a. if a team cannot field a minimum of 7 players in the U18 and U15 age groups, 6 players for U12, 5 players for U10, and 4 players for U8: or
 - b. if a team is not on the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off.
- When one team is playing short, the other team may field an equal number plus 1. This does not include playing short due to discipline (e.g. a red card issued in that game).
- The referee will, in the event of extreme heat or humidity (i) 30 - 34 degrees humidex –add at least 2 water breaks per half, players bench can move to shade if available at field and/or (ii) 35- 39 humidex plus have discretion to shorten games in consultation with the coaches.
- If a referee fails to show up for a game, the home coach or other registered team official will referee the first half and the visiting coach or other registered team official will referee the second half. One person may referee the entire game if everyone agrees. A 15-minute waiting period is required for a referee to be considered a “no show.” The **TCSL Head Referee must be notified of all “no shows.”**

CANCELATIONS:

- The TCSL President may cancel a regularly scheduled game prior to 4:00 p.m. on game day if the humidity index is over 40 degrees Celsius.
- If there is a threat of inclement weather the TCSL President will contact the Club Presidents via text message at 4pm on game day to discuss if the game should be canceled. A decision will be made if a game will be canceled due to increment weather by 5:20pm on game day.
- The Club Presidents must contact the TCSL President and advise if, for any reason, the home game field is unusable by 5:20pm on game day, sooner if possible.
- The referee may cancel a regularly scheduled game due to inclement weather at the field. In the event of a game being cancelled the coaches are encouraged to have the game rescheduled.
- In the event that a game is canceled for any reason the Club Presidents shall use all reasonable efforts to have the game rescheduled. The TCSL Statistician must be notified in either case.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Substitutions will be allowed on goals, goal kicks, throw-ins/kick-ins, half-time, and injury. There is no limit to the amount of substitutions made.
- Only the team with possession on a throw-in/kick-in may initiate a substitution. The opposing team may follow/piggyback.
- If the referee stops play for attention to an injured player, the injured player must be subbed off.
- All substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the Referee and the Referee shall be advised of all substitutions, including all goalkeeper substitutions. Substitutes will enter the field of play at the half.

OFF-SIDE

- Off-side will be called for U10 and older age groups.

CALL-UPS

- Players may be called up from a younger age group to allow a maximum of 14 players for U12 and older and a maximum of 10 players for U10 and under or to fill out your team roster, whichever is less. A maximum of 3 call-ups may be used per game.
- Any called-up player must be designated with “CU” beside their jersey number on the game sheet.
- A player may only be called up to play only one division higher. Call-ups are to be in their final year of their home division and coaches are to rotate through the available players as best they can to attempt to use all equally.

MERCY RULE

- U8 and U10 are allowed 2 goals per player per game. U12 and older are allowed 3 goals per player per game. If exceeded, the goal is not counted, and a goal kick is awarded to the non-offending team. Extra time and penalty shoot-outs are the only exception during tournament play.

SMALL SIDE GAME (SSG) RULES

- For U8, one coach for each team may be on the field of play provided they do not interfere with the play.
- Pass (kick-in) or dribble will be utilized in place of throw-ins for U8. For U8, the referee shall allow two chances at a throw-in and shall instruct the player on a proper throw. If not done correctly on the second attempt the player will be required to do a kick in.
- Throw-ins will be utilized for U10 and older. For U10 and U12, the referee shall allow two chances at a throw-in and shall instruct the player on a proper throw. Failure to complete a proper throw in will result in loss of possession and the opposing team will take the throw in.
- The Retreat Rule will be utilized as per OS Small Sided Laws of the Game and LTPD Matrix.
The Retreat Line will be one-half for U8 and one-third for U10 and U12.

SIZE OF BALL AND DURATION OF GAME

U8 — Size 3, 4 or 5 light — 2 x 20-minute halves. U10 — Size 4 or 5 light — 2 x 25-minute halves. U12 — Size 4 or 5 light — 2 x 35-minute halves. U15 — Size 5 — 2 x 40-minute halves. U18 — Size 5 — 2 x 45-minute halves.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

U8 play 5V5 (4 plus 1 goalkeeper). U10 play 7V7 (6 plus 1 goalkeeper). U12 play 9v9 (8 plus 1 goalkeeper). U15 and U18 play 11v11 (10 plus 1 goalkeeper).

MAXIMUM ROSTER SIZE

U8 - 10
U10 - 12
U12 - 18
U15 - 18

Rules & General Reference Info

1. FIFA Laws of the Game – <http://www.theifab.com/laws>
2. FIFA Laws of the Game Full Download – <http://theifab.com/document/laws-of-the-game>
3. FIFA Law Changes 2023/24 - https://www.theifab.com/downloads/lotg_changes_23_24_en?l=en
4. FIFA Law Changes 2022/23 - [Law changes | IFAB \(theifab.com\)](http://www.theifab.com/law-changes)
5. FIFA Glossary – http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/assets/documents/LotG2018/LotG_18_19_EN_Glossary.pdf
6. FIFA Practical Guidelines for Match Officials – http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/assets/documents/LotG2018/LotG_18_19_EN_Practical_Guidelines.pdf
7. IFAB Additional Guidance on Law 11 – Offside – https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/cfaf-2747248/Circular_26_2022_EN.pdf?_gl=1*i019ej*_ga*OTQ1NTgyMDYzLjE2Nzk2OTA5Njk.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTcxNTcyNzUxNi42LjEuMTcxNTcyNzU1OC4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.244122690.654555046.1715727518-945582063.1679690969
8. Ontario Soccer Laws of the Game Resources – <https://www.ontariosoccer.net/referee-rules>
9. Ontario Soccer Small Sided Laws of the Game – https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0127/5531/Small_Sided_LOTG_2024.pdf?_gl=1*1kj84v4*_ga*OTQ1NTgyMDYzLjE2Nzk2OTA5Njk.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTcxNTcyNzUxNi42LjEuMTcxNTcyNzUxNi4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.185329902.654555046.1715727518-945582063.1679690969
10. Ontario Soccer Differences Between 9v9 to 11v11 Games – https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0113/0267/9v9_vs_11v11_06-2023.pdf?_gl=1*1arbxsa*_ga*OTQ1NTgyMDYzLjE2Nzk2OTA5Njk.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTcxNTcyNzUxNi42LjEuMTcxNTcyNzY2MS4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.181020896.654555046.1715727518-945582063.1679690969
11. Ontario Soccer Retreat Line – https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0121/9444/Retreat_Line_Information.pdf?_gl=1*1arbxsa*_ga*OTQ1NTgyMDYzLjE2Nzk2OTA5Njk.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTcxNTcyNzUxNi42LjEuMTcxNTcyNzY2MS4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.181020896.654555046.1715727518-945582063.1679690969
12. Ontario Soccer Field Organization Guide – <http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0112/8119/1901-Field-Organization-Guide.pdf>
13. Canada Soccer – <https://www.canadasoccer.com/>