RULES AND POLICIES

TRIAD CHALLENGE LEAGUE

July, 2010

1.01 COACHES

A. Challenge coaches will be selected, each year, by their associations. These coaches will be selected with regard to experience, results, and teaching ability.
    1. Each coach will be encouraged to obtain at least an "E" license by the end of the first year of coaching challenge.
    2. Each coach is required to turn in a signed Coach's Participation Agreement with his or her team's intent to play. By signing this Agreement each coach is agreeing to respect the opposing team and its players, the referees and to be responsible for the conduct of his or her players and their parents. (See appendix 1)
    3. If any coach has a "serious" letter of complaint during the season, the local association will first attempt to correct the situation. If the situation cannot be resolved locally, an official of the challenge league D & A Committee will observe the coach at the earliest possible opportunity. If the "problem" is not correctable, the D & A Committee has the authority to suspend or expel the coach.
    4. All carded coaches must complete the online NCYSA risk management program.

B. Assistant coaches, instructional coaches, skill coaches, team managers, etc., may be appointed by the team. Any person associated with the team falls under the jurisdiction of the Member, Coaches or Parental Participation Agreement.

C. In the case of an ejection, the coach must leave the park/facility (out of sight and sound) in which the field is located and cannot return until 1 hour after the team's next match. If the coach returns before this time, an additional 2 game suspension will be enforced.

1.02 TRYOUT AND TEAM FORMATIONS:

A. Challenge teams will be single year age groups. The accepted date of August 1st is employed. The TCL President shall determine age divisions. The age division cut offs are based on NCYSA standard.

Age Divisions will be:
Under 10
Under 11
Under 12
Under 13

Under 14
Under 15
Under 16
Under 17
Under 18
Under 19

B. Challenge teams will be formed after each spring season. Each association will determine the methodology to form their teams. TCL strongly encourages associations to employ open tryouts for all players.
C. Challenge team rosters will be on file with each association. The roster is for verification of people who have played or are presently playing at the challenge level.
D. A penalty of $400.00 will be issued to the offending association for withdrawing a team after turning in an Intent to Play form.

1.03 PLAYER REGULATIONS:

A. Players will be allowed to play Recreation, Challenge, or Classic. A player is not allowed to play in two leagues.
B. Players may play up in an age group. Under no conditions will a player be allowed to play down in age.
C. All Challenge players must be members in good standing with NCYSA.
D. All Challenge League players must be carded by their associations PRIOR to participating in any game with a Challenge team.

    1. The card will be delivered to the coach of the player's team. The coach must have cards for each and every player on his team available for inspection at every game.

    2. No player may participate in a game without his card being available to the referee on site, on demand. In no circumstances will a player be allowed to play when unable to produce his card.

E. A parent or guardian must sign a Parental Participation Agreement for each player to be eligible to participate in Triad Challenge League play. (See Appendix 2). At the discretion of the Executive Board, a parental participation agreement signed by a parent or guardian on a form provided by a member association may suffice.

1.04 UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT:

A. Uniforms selection will be at the discretion of the team coach or association per association rules. Team colors are to be approved prior to an association joining TCL by the division commissioner to avoid conflict. In the event that a uniform color conflict does arise, the home team must change colors. A color conflict will be determined by the referee.
B. Shin-guards are required for all participants. Goalkeepers are encouraged to use a mouthpiece.
C. A number "4" ball will be used for Under 10 – 12; a number "5" ball for Under 13 – 19.

1.05 PLAYING SEASONS / PRACTICES:

A. The season will consist of approximately ten games in the fall and approximately eight games in the spring.
B. The league will be responsible for scheduling league games.
C. A Challenge team may elect, at its own expense, to participate in a tournament or to schedule matches against teams from other cities or leagues. Scheduled league games will take precedent over non-league tournament games.
D. All TCL scheduled games are to be played as scheduled.
E. In case a game is rained out – the appropriate commissioner must be notified by both the home and visiting coaches of the new date and time. The home coach must arrange for a field and certified referees through their association. The penalty for forfeits is as follows:
    1. First offense: $100.00 plus referee fees
    2. Second and subsequent offenses: $250.00 plus referee fees
    3. All penalties are in the discretion of the President. Appeals go to the board.
F. Each U15 through U18 teams must post a $350.00 performance bond. Duration is for the seasonal year. If the team plays all the scheduled games, the entire $350.00 will be refunded. Forfeits will be deducted from this bond. Referee fees still apply.
G. *Teams folding after submitting Intents to Play but before the season starts will be fined $400.00, and forfeit the $350.00 bond.*

1.06 GAME RULES:

A. All games will be played to FIFA rules, except as noted within these rules.
B. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times.

    1. Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession.
    2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.

3. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
4. At half-time
5. After a goal by either team.
6. After a yellow card has been awarded, for the player receiving the card.

A substitute may not enter the field of play until they have been given a signal to do so by the referee and until the player substituted for has left the field.

C. Each game will consist of two equal halves:

Under 10	25-minute halves
Under 11	30-minute halves
Under 12	30-minute halves
Under 13	35-minute halves
Under 14	35-minute halves
Under 15	40-minute halves
Under 16	40-minute halves
Under 17	40-minute halves
Under 18	40-minute halves
[Under 19	40-minute halves]

All matches will have a five-minute half time.

D. Number of players

1. Games Under 13 and above will be played between two teams, each consisting of not more than eleven (11) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Seven (7) players is the minimum for a team to start a game and/or continue play after injury or ejection from the game, otherwise the team must forfeit.
2. Games Under 11 & 12 will be played between two teams, each consisting of not more than eight (8) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Six (6) players is the minimum for a team to start a game and/or continue play after injury or ejection from the game, otherwise the team must forfeit.
3. Games Under 10 will be played between two teams, each consisting of not more than six (6) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Four (4) players is the minimum for a team to start a game and/or continue play after injury or ejection from the game, otherwise the team must forfeit.

E. A player receiving a red card is out of the game and the team must continue play with one less player. The player will also be suspended from the next scheduled game.

F. Each team will be represented at the field by a coach or assistant coach whom has been properly carded. A team not so represented shall forfeit the match.

G. In case of a rainout- "One (1) full half must be played before it can be counted as an official game.

1.07 REFEREES:

A. Referees are the responsibility of the association hosting a particular game. This will include acquisitions, payment and direction.
B. Except as provided below for U10 games, each game should have a referee and two assistant referees. Officials are not permitted to use the Two-man System (Two centers with no linesmen). U10 games may be played with a single referee and no assistant referees.
C. If a referee is not present at a match, the coach of each participating team or a person agreed upon by both coaches will referee one-half of the game. Failure to play the game will result in a double forfeiture.
D. Each team may be requested to provide a linesman. Club linesmen, when used to complete a crew, may not call offside or fouls, but may only indicate out-of-bounds. If only two officials show up for your match, then they receive their appropriate fees. A club linesman may be paid if they are a certified referee. If only one official shows up for your match, he/she is paid one referee's fee plus one assistant referee's fee. If only one official shows up, two club linesmen are used.
E. The referee shall make the final decision at the field of play as to whether to begin the match based upon the referee's judgment of the conditions of the field, the weather, or any other factors considered pertinent.

1.08 GAME FIELDS:

A. Game fields are the responsibility of the association hosting the matches.
B. Field Size

Under 10 Age Group

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 45 yards; maximum 60 yards
Width: minimum 35 yards; maximum 45 yards

NCYSA RECOMMENDED FIELD SIZE FOR U10 IS 40 WIDE X 50 LONG.

Goals: **GOAL SIZE FOR AGE GROUPS PLAYING SMALL-SIDED GAMES WILL BE A RANGE OF 6X18 TO 7X21 WITH A RECOMMENDED SIZE BEING 6X18 .**

Under 11 & Under 12 Age Groups

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the *length of the goal line.*

Length: minimum 70 yards; maximum 80 yards

Width: minimum 45 yards; maximum 55 yards

NCYSA RECOMMENDED FIELD SIZE FOR U12 IS 50 WIDE X 70 LONG.

Goals: **GOAL SIZE FOR AGE GROUPS PLAYING SMALL-SIDED GAMES WILL BE A RANGE OF 6X18 TO 7X21 WITH A RECOMMENDED SIZE BEING 6X18 .**

U13 Age Group and Above

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 100 yards; maximum 120 yards
Width: minimum 50 yards; maximum 65 yards

Goals: Goal dimensions will conform to U.S.S.F. Regulations. Goals must be anchored before play can begin.

1.09 PROTEST:

A. The referee is to be notified by the team captain, at the next dead ball after the incident, that a protest will be entered. No discussion is allowed at this time.
B. All protests must be in writing and filed with the D & A Committee within twenty-four (24) hours after the game has ended. A non-refundable fee of One hundred ($100.00) dollars must accompany the protest for the protest to be considered valid.
C. Protest should state rule infraction that is protested. A referee's judgment is not deemed an acceptable basis for filing a protest.
D. Protest will be answered within ten (10) days of receipt.
E. If the protest is allowed, the protested game will be replayed from the protest point.
F. The decision by the Director may be appealed to the TCL Advisory Committee, in writing, for final dispensation, within seven (7) days of the initial protest response.

1.10 PARTICIPATION:

A. Coaches are strongly encouraged to play their players at least one half of each game as long as the player attends practice and offers no disciplinary problems.

1.11 DIVISIONAL PLAY; SEEDING

A. The Executive Board shall have the right, in its discretion, to provide for divisional play in any age group where at least fourteen (14) teams send in intent to play forms in the following divisions – U-10, U-11 and U-12 boys or girls.
B. The Executive Board shall also have the responsibility for determining the seeding of member teams for TCL and/or state cup tournament play.

1.12 MISCELLANEOUS:

A. The interpretation and/or modification of the above rules is reserved to the League Board of Directors.

1.13 ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENT:

A. Each club/association must have their current President sign a Member Participating Agreement in order to be eligible to participate in the upcoming seasonal year (September 1 to August 31) league play. (See Appendix 3)

Appendix #1

COACH'S PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I, _____, the coach of _____, which plays in the Triad Challenge League, agree to the following code of conduct.

- I will respect the opposing team and its players and will not engage in any disrespectful conduct.
- I will respect the referees and will not challenge or show dissent with their officiating.
- I will be responsible for the conduct of my players and their parents and will take all necessary steps to ensure their proper behavior.
- As a coach I will not engage in any activity that encourages unsporting behavior by my players.

If I violate any of the above provisions, I will adhere to the following discipline:

- Disrespect to an opposing player – 1 game suspension
- Ejection from a game (first offense*) – 1 game suspension
- Ejection from a game (second offense*) – 1 season suspension
- Ejection from a game (third offense*) – Life time suspension from coaching in TCL
- Verbal assault/hostile challenge of a referee/coach/player – 1 year suspension
- Physical assault of referee/coach/player – Life time suspension from participation in TCL
- Coaching unsporting behavior – 1 year suspension

This code of conduct does not exclude discipline by the local association/club or NCYSA.

In the case of an ejection, the coach must leave the park/facility (out of sight and sound) in which the field is located and can not return until 1 hour after their teams next match. If the coach does return before this time, an additional 2 game suspension will be incurred.

Signature:_____ Date:_____

* Offenses are tracked over a 1 calendar year period.

Appendix #2

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I/WE, _____, the parent/guardian(s) of _____, who plays for the _____, agree to the following code of conduct.

- I will respect the opposing team and its players and will not engage in any disrespectful conduct.
- I will respect referees and will not challenge or show dissent with their officiating.
- I will respect my team's coach and abide by his/her direction and leadership.

If I violate any of the above provisions, I will adhere to the following discipline:

- Disrespect to an opposing player – 1 game suspension
- Ejection from a game (first offense*) – 1 game suspension
- Ejection from a game (second offense*) – 1 season suspension
- Ejection from a game (third offense*) – Life time suspension from participation in TCL
- Verbal assault/hostile challenge of a referee/coach/player – 1 year suspension from attending games.
- Physical assault of referee/coach/player – Life time suspension from participation in TCL

This code of conduct does not exclude discipline by the local association/club or NCYSA.

In the case of an ejection, the parent must leave the park/facility (out of sight and sound) in which the field is located and can not return until 1 hour after their teams next match. If the parent does return before this time, an additional 2 game suspension will be incurred.

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Signature:_____ Date:_____

* Offenses are tracked over a 1 calendar year period.

Appendix #3

MEMBER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

As a member* of the Triad Challenge League,

_____,
agrees to conduct the following activities to ensure the proper operation of league activities and conduct of our players, coaches, and parents.

- Submit to the league a signed parental participation agreement for each parent/guardian for each player with the team's intent to play form.

- Submit to the league a signed coach's participation agreement for each team coach and assistant coach with the team's intent to play form.

- Enforce all disciplinary actions taken by the Triad Challenge League.

- Implement a referee development program that at least includes the following:

  - Annual referee meeting to cover referee conduct
  - Annual assessment of all referees officiating matches for your Association/Club,

- Ensure proper coaching of players that includes the following:

  - Semi-annual (prior to the start of each season) coaches meeting to cover coaching responsibilities and conduct.
  - Annual observation of game conduct of coach.

- Designate a club official as a representative on the TCL Board and ensure attendance at all Board meetings.

- Abide by any sanctions to my club/association that are levied by the TCL Board of Directors.

Club/Association:_____

President: _____

Date: _____

* Member is defined as a club, association or league that sponsors teams for play in the Triad Challenge League.