



Tri-Cities Youth Soccer Association

Recreational Season Game Dates

- Saturday March 10
- Saturday March 17
- Saturday March 24
- Saturday March 31
- NO GAME April 7**
- Saturday April 14
- Saturday April 21
- Saturday April 28
- Saturday May 5
- Jamboree May 12



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Right or Wrong - how to help Honor the game of Soccer

Written by Dave Long, VP of Competition

Let's start out with a little quiz. Give your answer, "right" or "wrong", after each example:

- A coach runs on the field and tackles a 13 year old football player who had just been flagged for a foul against the coach's son – Right or Wrong?

If you said "right", we need to talk. I think we all can agree that this was wrong. How about another one?

- At a Philadelphia area football game for 5 and 6 year olds, a player's father waives a pistol during a dispute with the coach over his son's playing time – Right or Wrong?

Again, we can agree that this was wrong; there really are better ways to address these matters. How about this one?

- The Roberson High School (Asheville, NC) boy's soccer team settles for a 1 – 1 tie with its archrival when the coach refuses the go-ahead goal. Coach Rob Wilcher makes this decision after his players tell him that the referee mistakenly called a missed shot a goal. Right or Wrong?

Now this is an example of doing what is "right" – right? But if you were the coach would you have chosen to override the official's call, even if it meant your team would not win the match? Wouldn't it have been easier to just shrug your shoulders and think, "oh well, we'll take it", or something like that? Doing the right thing must have been tough.

What's important about this last story is not just the tough choice made by the coach, but the fact that his players brought it to his attention – the kids apparently knew what was right and wanted to set the record straight. Any parent of a player on that team can be proud of the values their child demonstrated that day.

In recent years, new stories have highlighted a negative trend in sports, showing the darker side of sports at all levels – for example, the infamous "head butt" during the World Cup, or bench-clearing brawls during a game. Whether because of violent behavior, cheating being exposed, or rumors of illegal drug use, the impact of sports on our youth has come into question. Professional athletes can no longer be counted on as positive role models; and some people wonder if this behavior is filtering down to sports at the youth levels. But the players at Roberson High must have learned something truly valuable from their participation in the "beautiful game."

Recently I came across an organization called the Positive Coaching Alliance. One of their mottos is to "Honor the Game." If we adults as parents and coaches can Honor the Game with our words and actions, our children will grow to do the same. And at a time when so many of our moral foundations seem to be under constant attack, it may be more important than ever that we pass along the right values for sports, and for life, by "honoring the game."

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If you have information that you would like to see in the T-CYSA Newsletter please send it to Christina Stout, Director of Communications via email christinastout@charter.net

Development Tip: Tweaking Lopsided Games

Written by Greg Thomas, VP of Development

T-CYSA recommends that scores not be kept in recreational games, which matches the recommendations made by our state and national soccer organizations. Accordingly, no official scores or results are reported for T-CYSA's recreational games. Since competition is a natural aspect of soccer, however, players and coaches and fans tend to know how many goals each team has scored, especially as the players get older.

In this context, suppose that Team A beats Team B in a recreational game by a lopsided score, e.g., 13-0. Does this game have any developmental value for these teams? Some people would say no, but I think it does. If the game is properly framed for the players by coaches and parents, it can teach life lessons related to winning graciously, losing with dignity, sportsmanship, motivation, handling success, dealing with adversity, respect, humility, etc.

I'd like to suggest, though, that the developmental value of this game can be increased for both teams if Team A tweaks its behavior. If I coach Team A and see that my team is dominating Team B, I can place conditions on my players to increase the challenge they face. Conditions I might place on my team include:

1. Limited touches. Each player can only touch the ball at most N times consecutively, where N is often 3 (easiest), 2, or 1(hardest). In 3-touch, for example, a player might use the first touch to control the ball, the second touch to dribble it, and the third touch to pass or shoot.
2. Weak foot. Players are only allowed to touch the ball with their non-dominant foot.
3. Big shot. Shots may only be taken from at least a certain distance away from the goal (outside the penalty area, beyond midfield, etc.).
4. Cross head. Goals may only be scored off headers from crosses.

Coaches can think up many fun and useful conditions. If your players are still having success with the current conditions, increase the level of difficulty in the single condition (e.g., 3-touch to 2-touch) or combine conditions (e.g., 2-touch and weak foot and big shot).

Note that your players will probably have no clue how to play using conditions unless they are allowed to practice using the conditions during your training sessions. Also, remember that a coach's ability to influence the game from the touchline is limited, especially for younger children. I suggest introducing conditions to players by U10, or earlier if they are developmentally ready for it.

If conditions are used appropriately to tweak games, it can help develop Team A by putting more pressure on those players, and it can help develop Team B by giving those players more chances for success and not subjecting them to lopsided losses.

Resignation of T-CYSA President Scott Ruf

On February 28th Scott Ruf resigned his position as President of T-CYSA. Scott emailed all Board Members and said that he did not feel that he was the right person to lead T-CYSA. We would like to thank Scott for his service and look forward to working with him on the District 6 tournament.

Wrong or Right—how to help honor the game continued from page 1

As a soccer parent I've been fortunate enough to have an experienced, credentialed coach point out to me how valuable my input from the sideline was to the players. Since that time I've learned to keep my eyes open, my mouth shut, and my hands ready to applaud good play – by both teams. Positive encouragement from parents is great, but leave the coaching to the coach. Let the kids play. Don't yell at the other team. Honor the Game.

As a soccer coach, I've learned that so much of what we read and are taught about soccer coaching is true. "Winning", especially at the recreational level, is so far down on our children's priorities that we can ruin the game if we, as coaches, make "winning" our top priority. For our younger children it's not the end that's important, but all the chances for fun in the middle. (And don't forget the snacks after the game!) Even for older players the emphasis needs to be whether or not they give it their best, play fair, and can hold their heads high at the end. Developing skills and values should be our highest priorities. And in soccer, letting the players learn by their successes and mistakes is how we develop truly good players and teams with solid foundations. Skill and hard work usually produce good results.

Coaches: Remember that we're here for all of the kids. Keep it positive for everyone involved. Follow the rules. For recreational play, emphasize skills, experimenting, and having fun. Support the officials. Leave your ego at home.

Parents: Be supportive of the players, the coaches and the officials, and keep it positive on the sidelines. Volunteer. Read the rules for your child's age group. If there's a problem bring it up with your coach; if problems persist let your City Coordinator know and send me a note at competitionvp@gmail.com.

Finally, thanks to all the positive people that I've met along my journey as a soccer parent and now as a soccer coach. If you'd like to read more about *honoring the game* and the Positive Coaching Alliance, visit their website at <http://www.positivecoach.org>



Parents: Have you stepped up to volunteer for one of the jobs that your coach needs help with? Please do so! Some of the jobs require very little time, e.g.. Bringing a first aid kit, or bringing extra water for the child that forgets. Your coach can spend more time working on soccer skills with your son or daughter.

Recreational Registrations for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 season began on March 1st, 2007. Register online by following the links from our website

www.t-cysa.org

Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

3/7 T-CYSA Board Meeting 6:00 pm

3/10 First weekend of recreational soccer

3/12 Center of Excellence Starts check in 4:30

3/12 Three Rivers Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

3/17-18 District 6 Girls Spring Tournament

3/23-25 E License Coaching Class

4/9 Three Rivers Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

4/11 T-CYSA Board Meeting 6:00 pm

4/20-22 and 4/28-29 D License Coaching Class

Don't Forget the following:

- Animals are not allowed on the grass for any reason
- No stopping along the fence line - even to drop off children or equipment
- Do not park in the yellow striped area at the end of each parking row. **YOUR CAR WILL BE TOWED**
- The T-CYSA Complex is a tobacco free area.

Do you own or work in a business that would benefit from advertising in the T-CYSA bi-monthly newsletter? We would love an opportunity to talk with you about different advertising options. If you would like to discuss these options please contact Christina Stout, Director of Communications via email at christinastout@charter.net.



LPT's are coming fast

LPT's are quickly approaching. If your team is interested in working the LPT Tournament please contact Toni Garza, acting President of T-CYSA as soon as possible. Toni can be reached via email at soccermom69@msn.com

Fall 2007/Spring 2008 Registration is now open! Be sure to register your children to avoid being placed on the waiting list. Registration is online via our website. If you have any questions or concerns about the registration process please call the T-CYSA Office at 544-0276.

Did you move this year? Did you change email addresses or phone numbers? Did your emergency contact information change? If so, please log into the registration system and update your information as soon as possible. If you don't remember your user name or password please call the T-CYSA Office at 544-0276 and they can help!

Spring Jamboree May

The Spring Jamboree is scheduled for Saturday May 12th. This is a great opportunity for your son/daughter. Mark your calendar and plan on attending! Please visit our website for more information.

Advanced Coaching Clinics

Would you like to learn more about Coaching? Are you interested in coaching your son or daughter when they begin to play for Three Rivers? If you answered yes to any of these questions please visit our Coaches page on the website and sign up for the E or D License class. These classes are free to all T-CYSA Coaches. You won't regret taking these classes! For specific details please visit www.t-cysa.org and click on Coaches.

Spring Pictures

Real Life Photography will be taking spring pictures for those teams/individuals that would like to retake their fall pictures. Team pictures will be taken on Saturday March 31st and Tuesday April 10th. If you would like to sign up for a time please email Christina Stout at christinastout@charter.net Additional days will be scheduled if needed.

Score Uniform Update

The Board of Directors has determined that we will keep the Score uniforms. New uniforms will be required by players beginning in the Fall 2008. Those teams who would like to purchase new uniforms before that time can do so by emailing Christina Stout. We are still hashing out the contract details with Score. We are excited to offer this opportunity to you and would like to thank the pilot program supporters.

Three Rivers Soccer Club Registration is now open. Please remember to register your son or daughter for the Fall 2007 season. ALL Players must be registered with Three Rivers PRIOR to attending tryouts. Tryout dates are posted on the website and please check the website for changes to the tryout schedules. If you have any questions or problems when registering please contact the T-CYSA Office at 544-0276.



Volunteers Needed ASAP for District 6 Tournament on March 17 and 18

The Girls District 6 Tournament will be held at the Complex in Pasco on March 17 and 18th. Many of you will be out at the soccer fields for more than one game that weekend. We would like to ask that you volunteer to help with the tournament. We have many different volunteer opportunities. We need approximately 50 people to help with various jobs. Volunteers are needed on Friday afternoon/night to put up all the nets. Volunteers are needed Saturday morning to put up corner flags and garbage cans. Additional volunteers are needed every hour to empty garbage cans (it only takes about 20 minutes to do this job!) and to work in the concessions stand. **Volunteer positions can be split into one hour or 30 min. sections and we are more than willing to work around your child's game schedule!** We ask that you contact the T-CYSA Office (544-0276 or t-cysa@bossig.com) to volunteer for one or more time slots. Even if you are unsure about your game schedule - please let the office know that you are willing to help and we can pick a time that fits either before or after your scheduled games. We would like to Thank each and every parent (and players!) for volunteering to help make this tournament a success.

Three Rivers Update from Club Director Mike Nolan

As the new program evolves information will be placed on the Three Rivers Website. Please check the website frequently for updates. If you would like more information please feel free to email the following Three Rivers personnel:

Mike Nolan, Three Rivers Club Director mikenolan@netzero.net

Cindy Lackey, Premier Coordinator MBLACKEY@aol.com

Jennifer Stillings, District Coordinator jennifers@bftitle.com

Three Rivers Website can be found at: <http://www.t-cysa.org/3rsc.html> or by links from the T-CYSA Website