

TUALATIN HILLS JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE
JUDICIAL PROCEDURES
Adopted December 7, 2000

1. It is the role of the Tualatin Hills Junior Soccer League (THJSL) to operate a recreational youth soccer league as a joint program of its seven recreational soccer clubs. Its emphasis on both “youth” and “recreational” means that the League intends to maintain high levels of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship means that participants seek to gain only the advantage obtained by superior skill, within the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Participants will behave in a courteous manner towards opponents, officials and each other. “Participants” include not only players, but also coaches and spectators. The THJSL has established these procedures for those instances where sportsmanship does not occur.
2. “Incidents” at THJSL games may be classified as:
 - A **Inappropriate behavior.** This includes overaggressive play or the encouragement of such play, refusal to participate in post game handshakes, allowing pets to run loose on the field, etc. This specifically does not include any behavior falling into one of the categories below.
 - B **Unsporting behavior.** This includes any behavior that would normally receive a caution (yellow card) for unsporting conduct, but which, for some reason, did not. This covers incidental foul language, loud arguments with opposing parents or coaches, refusal to cooperate with game officials, etc. This classification also includes violations of THJSL policy that each player receives a minimum of 50% playing time per game.
 - C **Misconduct.** This includes any cautions (yellow cards) or send offs (red cards) received during the game by players or coaches. In rare, special cases (as outlined below), it would include cautions or send offs give the departure of participants from the game site.
 - D **Repeated misconduct.** This includes a pattern of misconduct by a coach or player, as described below.
 - E **Administrative problems.** This includes players registered with their club with the wrong age and/or gender, use of unregistered players, etc.
3. THJSL does not keep standings in any age group. Accordingly, NO protests of game results will be considered.
4. Incidents may be reported to the League by.
 - A Referee game reports. Regardless of their age, referees are objective, third parties, who serve as the League’s representative at the game. Accordingly, referee game reports are considered to be factual and do not require further verification.
 - B Letters and phone calls concerning behavior at THJSL games.
 - C Clerical action (e.g. records of cards received by players or coaches)

5. THJSL considers parents and other spectators to be part of the game. Accordingly, the team head coach or other adult acting in his/her place will be held responsible for the conduct of all of the supporters of that team. Any misconduct penalties may be imposed on the team head coach or the team as a whole, as appropriate.
6. Reports of **inappropriate behavior** (as defined in 2A. above) will be referred by the League to the head coach (or President, if there is no head coach) of the club registering the team reported. All investigations and correction of such behavior is the responsibility of the club. A pattern of inappropriate behavior by the same team, as determined by the League President or Vice President, will be treated as unsporting behavior.
7. Reports of **unsporting behavior** (as defined in 2.B. above) will be reviewed by the League Vice President (or President, if the Vice President is unavailable). The Vice President has the authority to further investigate these reports as (s)he sees fit. If the Vice President concludes that there may be substance to the report, the Vice President may send the responsible person(s) a letter of reprimand on half of the League. If the Vice President concludes that the reported behavior is of a more serious nature, (s)he will refer the report to a THJSL Judiciary Committee for determination of appropriate action. (see 15. below)
8. The referee scheduler will immediately notify the THJSL Vice President of all reports of **misconduct** (as defined in 2.C. above). The Vice President will compile a list of misconduct points accumulated in each season and on a weekly basis will notify players, coaches, teams or clubs of the resulting penalty. This notification will be by phone and a confirming letter. Notice of a player suspension will be given to both the player's coach and parent.

If the League Vice President considers the misconduct to be particularly serious, (s)he may refer the matter to a THJSL Judiciary Committee. The Committee may impose such additional penalties as they see fit, up to and including a five year suspension. These penalties will only be imposed as the result of a Judiciary Committee hearing, as outlined in 16. below.

The system of points to be used is:

Yellow card	1 point
Red card	3 points (2 yellow cards in one game is considered a 3 point offence)

The system of penalties is as follows:

Per player, coach or parent	
3 points	letter of reprimand from the THJSL President and suspended from the next THJSL game
4 points	probation for the remainder of the season
6 points	suspended for the next two THJSL league games
8 points	suspended for the remainder of the season

Per team

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| 6 points | letter of reprimand to the Club's head coach, President and team coach |
| 12 points | Club's head coach or President, if the club does not have a head coach, assists coach to try and resolve the team's problems |
| 16 points | Team is suspended until the Club's head coach, President and the team's coaching staff meet with the THJSL Judicial Committee to decide if the team's issues can be resolved. |

In addition the following acts of misconduct have additional penalties that roll over to the following year.

- A Any player or coach who refuses to leave the field when sent off shall be automatically suspended for a period of one year from the date of the incident.
- B Any player or coach who refuses to give their name when asked by the referee, or who gives the referee a false name, shall be automatically suspended for a period of four THJSL League games. This penalty shall be in addition to any other suspension.
- C Any player or coach sent off for violent conduct and the referee reports that the violent conduct was fighting shall be automatically suspended for four games. This penalty includes the one game suspension for being sent off. Fighting includes any participation in a fight, regardless of which party initiated the fight.

By United States Soccer Federation rules, original jurisdiction over any case of **referee assault** in a THJSL game (including referee abuse or assault of their equipment) rests with the Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA). The League Vice President will report any such cases to the Oregon Youth Soccer Association for action. The League will cooperate with OYSA in such cases as much as possible. Participants should be aware that referees are encouraged to also pursue criminal charges in cases of assault.

- 9. Sometimes youth referees are intimidated by adult coaches. If a youth referee (under the age of 19) determines after the game that (s)he should have given a red or yellow card to a coach, they may report it on their game report. Such game report shall state a cause for the card, as found in The Laws of the Game, and the related conduct. The League Vice President shall inform the coach by phone upon receipt of the game report. For all judicial purposes, the card will be considered to have been given on the field.
- 10. The League President or Vice President (as defined in 2.E. above) will investigate administrative problems, with the cooperation of the relevant club(s). If the President or Vice President concludes that the report may be correct, (s)he will refer the matter to the League Board, acting as a hearing body. If the matter involves actions by the member club itself (as opposed to one or a few teams), that club may not participate in or vote on a League decision in the matter. The Board may impose such penalties as it sees fit, up to and including a five-year suspension of responsible individuals from involvement in the League in any form. The Board also has authority under League by-laws to take action

against a member club, which acts against the interests of the League. “action” includes penalties up to and including suspension of the club from participation in the League.

11. “Suspension” (as used in 8 above) shall mean that the suspended person may not play in, coach or attend any THJSL League game. By OYSA rule, any THJSL suspension also means that the suspended person may not play in , coach or attend any OYSA game. A similar rule exists at the national level. Playing in or attending a THJSL game while suspended as a player shall double the player suspension otherwise provided. The player’s coach shall also receive a one-year suspension. Attending a THJSL game while suspended as a coach shall result in a five-year suspension for the coach and a one-year suspension for the team (i.e. they forfeit their next game).
12. Referees shall be instructed by the THJSL referee scheduler that all taunting of an opponent or official of a religious , racial, ethnic, gender or gender preference nature shall be considered “offensive language” and the offender shall be sent off on the first offense. Repeated instances in the same contest shall result in termination of the game by the referee. The League Vice President shall refer all such incidents to a THJSL Judiciary Committee for further action.
13. Players or coaches penalized under sections 8, 11, and/or 12 may appeal their penalty to a THJSL Judiciary Committee. Appeal of the penalty will not suspend enforcement of the penalty during the appeal process. To be timely any appeal must be received by the League President or Vice President within 7 days after the mailing of the League’s notice of the penalty.
14. A THJSL Judiciary Committee shall be informed whenever
 - A An automatic penalty is appealed under section 15 (an “appeal”), or
 - B An incident is referred to a Judiciary Committee under section 7, 8 or 12 (a “disciplinary hearing”).

A Committee shall be composed of three members. The THJSL Vice President shall be one member (except in the case of evident conflict of interest, in which case the THJSL President shall be a member) and shall serve as the chair. The other two members shall be Presidents of other THJSL member clubs, selected by the THJSL Vice President. The Presidents selected shall not be from the same club as the offending person or team. In so far as possible, Presidents selected shall not be from the clubs of teams participating in the contest precipitating the incident. However, availability for a timely hearing shall be deemed an overriding consideration. If enough club Presidents are not available, the THJSL Vice President may select other members of the board of THJSL member clubs, subject to the same considerations as apply to club Presidents.
15. In the event of an appeal, the League Vice-President will investigate the technical validity of the appeal. Technical validity means determining that the appeal is of a penalty imposed by THJSL, the appeal has been filed by the person penalized or, in the case of a penalized player, their custodial parent, the appeal has been filed in a timely manner, etc. If the League Vice President concludes that the appeal is not technically valid. (s)he will report

that to the Committee members by phone. If the other Committee members agree that the appeal is not technically valid, the League Vice President will notify the appellant of their decision. If the League Vice President or the other members conclude that the appeal is technically valid, the Vice President will set a date, time and place for a hearing. The Vice President will also determine whether the hearing will be “open” or “closed”. An open hearing allows oral testimony by the affected parties. A closed hearing allows only written testimony.

16. In the event of a disciplinary hearing is required, the League Vice President shall conduct such investigation as (s)he deems necessary. (S)he will also set a date time and place for the hearing. The Vice President will also determine whether the hearing will be “open or “closed”. An open hearing allows oral testimony by the affected parties. A closed hearing allows only written testimony.
17. An appeal hearing must be held no sooner than 7 days and no later than 14 days after the receipt of notice of appeal. A disciplinary hearing must be held no sooner that 7 days and no later that 14 days after the receipt of initial information about the incident. The “14 days” requirement may be exceeded in the case of force majeure. If it is exceeded for any other reason, the hearing will still be held, but enforcement of any penalties will be suspended until the hearing is held.
18. The Judiciary Committee chair shall notify relevant parties of the date, time and place of the hearing. This notice must be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested. In addition, notice may also be given by phone, e-mail and /or fax. The notice shall go to the offending party, their coach (if the offending party is a player), the referee and the members of the judiciary committee. The notice shall be given in a reasonably simultaneous time frame. The notice must include a statement of why the hearing is being held, the date, time and place for the hearing whether this will be an open or closed hearing, what limits or restrictions on testimony will be imposed and whether testimony must be in written form, and, if so, the date by which it must be received. The notice will also include the date by which the committee will render a decision and notify all parties of the result. All written testimony and other documents must be submitted in advance by a date specified in the hearing notice. Documents submitted at the hearing itself will not be admitted into evidence.
19. An open hearing of an appeal will give the appellant the opportunity to present the reasons for their appeal, subject to any reasonable limits or restrictions imposed by the Judiciary Committee. The appellant may also call witnesses, subject to any reasonable limits or restrictions imposed by the Judiciary Committee.
20. An open disciplinary hearing will begin with the chair presenting the information received by the League concerning the misconduct. The responding person(s) will then be allowed to present testimony, witnesses and evidence in support of their position, all subject to such reasonable limits or restriction as may be imposed by the Judiciary Committee.
21. The Judiciary Committee may continue the hearing to a latter date, if necessary. During a closed hearing or at the conclusion of any open hearing , the Judiciary Committee will deliberate in private towards a decision. Any decision requires a majority vote of the

Judiciary Committee. The committee does not have the authority, in the case of an appeal, to take action concerning anyone other than the appellant. The decision of the Committee will be mailed to the parties notified of the hearing (SEE 18 ABOVE) WITHIN 7 days of the conclusion of the hearing. The League Vice President will report the outcome of any Judiciary Committee hearing to the THJSL Board at its next meeting. Any suspensions of four games or longer will also be reported to the Oregon Youth Soccer Association.

22. The appellant (in the case of an appeal) or the responding party (in the case of a disciplinary hearing) may appeal any decision of the Judiciary Committee. (This appeal will be referred to as a “level 2 appeal”.) In order for a level 2 appeal to be timely, it must be received in writing by the League President within 7 days of mailing of the Judiciary Committee’s written decision. The THJSL Board will hear all level 2 appeals. The League President will serve as non-voting chair, with the same responsibilities as the League Vice President in the initial hearing. The hearing process will be the same as outlined in 21 above in the case of an open hearing. Decisions will be reached as outlined in 21 above. The club from which the appeal arises may not vote on any decision of the level 2 appeal.
23. The Oregon Youth Soccer Association, under their procedures handles appeals from level 2 appeal decisions.
24. The chair of the Judiciary Committee is responsible for maintaining a file of all documents relating to any hearing, and retaining the file for a period of not less than one year after the hearing.