

RECREATIONAL SOCCER RULES AND POLICIES (DRAFT -- Amended 10/16/2013)

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Worcester Youth Soccer League (“WYSL”) recreational program is to allow children to learn and enjoy the sport of soccer in a balanced, nurturing and fun environment. With the help of volunteer parent coaches, our aim is to provide children of all abilities with a positive experience playing soccer, and to instill values of sportsmanship, responsibility, teamwork, and respect while honoring the game.

Registration

Age Group Cut offs will be established according to the MAYS age cut offs.

On-Time Registration

Fall Registration is usually conducted from May 15 - August 1, Spring Registration is generally November – February 28) with a deadline advertised for the end of on-time registration. The official “date of registration” to determine whether registration is “on-time” is the day that **payment is received by the league** not the date that the information is entered into the Sports Pilot system or the paper registration form is filled out.

Late Registration.

While late registrations are accepted, WYSL can offer no assurance that late registrants will be placed on a team. Priority in late registration shall be given in the following order: 1) to players who moved to Worcester after the close of the on-time registration period, 2) to Worcester residents, and 3) on a first come-first served basis to all non-residents.

When circumstances allow, new teams will be formed with late registrants **ONLY IF** a volunteer coach steps forth from those families. All late registrations, except for families that move into the area after the registration period or U6 registrants, will be subject to a **non-refundable** late fee of \$20. All other fees will be refunded if WYSL is unable to place a child on a team. WYSL does not guarantee that late registrants will be granted any friend or scheduling requests.

Given that many U6 families do not hear about soccer until the start of the school year, late registration shall be allowed for this age group only for as long as is feasible with regard to league scheduling.

Refund Policy

Refund request before September 1 Full Refund, less a \$10 administrative fee

Refund request Sept 1 - first game 50% of registration fees

No refunds will be offered after the first weekend of play.

No refunds will be offered at anytime if a child is removed due to concerns about team/coach placement.

Team Formation

The Age Group Coordinators (“AGCs”) are responsible for team formation.

A Note About Friendship Requests

WYSL allows parents to make a friendship request or a coach request on the player registration form (online and on paper) in the "Special Request" field. This information must be provided during team formation so that the AGCs can take such requests into consideration, but ***WYSL cannot guarantee that any request will be honored.*** In the case when a parent lists multiple friends, the AGC shall consider this a prioritized list, attempting to satisfy the first friend request if possible, and then moving down the list as necessary. Coaches may not request specific players, other than their own children, be placed on their team.

U6

Co-ed teams are formed by the AGC with a strong emphasis on school-based teams, but with efforts made so that no single team will be comprised of players exclusively from one school. A premium is placed on friendship requests made at the time of registration. WYSL does not guarantee that any requests made after on time registration or made in a method other than on the registration form will be accommodated.

Upon final release of rosters by the AGC, the teams will be set and team assignments cannot be changed except as provided elsewhere in these Rules. Any

vacancy on a team shall be filled from the waiting list maintained by the Club Registrar, in coordination with the AGC.

U8

Co-ed teams are formed by the AGC. The AGC shall endeavor to create teams with balanced skill levels. They shall consider, but cannot guarantee one friendship request, **and will otherwise take into account conflicts made on the registration form at the time the child is registered and prior to the time that teams are formed**. School-based teams will be supported, with no single team comprised of players exclusively from one school.

Upon final release of rosters by the AGC, the teams will be set and team assignments cannot be changed except as provided elsewhere in these Rules. Any vacancy on a team shall be filled from the waiting list maintained by the Club Registrar, in coordination with the AGC.

U10

Co-ed teams are formed by the AGC. The AGC shall endeavor to create teams with balanced skill levels. They shall consider, but cannot guarantee one friendship request, **and will otherwise take into account conflicts made on the registration form at the time the child is registered and prior to the time that teams are formed**. School-based teams will be supported, with no single team comprised of players exclusively from one school.

If possible, the league will make a dedicated “girls’ league”. This may be a season to season determination based upon the numbers of girls registering for the program. Final decision on whether to have a girls only league or co-ed teams rests with the Director of Recreational Soccer, the AGC, and the WYSL president.

Upon final release of rosters by the AGC, the teams will be set and team assignments cannot be changed except as provided elsewhere in these Rules. Any vacancy on a team shall be filled from the waiting list maintained by the Club Registrar, in coordination with the AGC.

Practice Times

U6 practices are on Game Days. All practices and games are held at Forest Grove Middle School.

U8 practices are either on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 5:30 and 7 pm at Forest Grove Middle School. Games are on Saturdays between 9 and 12 am and occasionally Sundays between 12 and 3.

U10 practice times vary by coach and may be held at multiple locations. Games are held at Green Hill Park between 9 -12 on Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays between 12-3 pm.

Parents with requests for specific practice times must make those requests on the registration form. **The AGC will attempt to take into account conflicts listed by the parent on the registration form prior to team formation at the time the child is registered.** Later requests are not accommodated.

Teams are prohibited from practicing on a WYSL contracted field on a date or time other than is assigned, and are prohibited from practicing on a field that is not contracted by WYSL.

Player Transfers

In general, player transfers between teams are not permitted. Transfers are only allowed in extraordinary circumstances and with the prior consent of the DOR or other person(s) designated by the Board. A parent's sentiment that a player cannot play this season unless s/he is on the same team as a friend shall not be considered to be an adequate reason for a team transfer, and no refunds are available should a child chose not to play for those reasons.

Playing Up

To request that a player be allowed to "play up", a written request from the player's parent or guardian should be submitted to the appropriate Director (Recreation or Travel). Supporting evaluations of the player's skills and readiness by the player's current coach, Age Coordinator, and/or the Director of Coaching and Player Development are also required. The Director will review the request and evaluations and act in the best interest of the player's development. Appeals of the Director's decision may be made to the Vice President who will have final authority.

Please note the following:

1. Requests for placement out of age division for matters of “convenience” (e.g. sibling/friend placement, carpooling, etc.) will not be considered.
2. Preference is given to age appropriate players. That is, a player seeking to “play up” should not prevent an age appropriate player from participating at an appropriate level.

Playing Down

It is the view of the WYSL Board of Directors that player development is generally best served by having players play with others of similar skill and age and typically discourages requests to “play down” in age division. However, any such requests will be considered using the same procedure as described above for “playing up”. Please note that such requests can only be considered for Recreation Division players as Travel league by-laws prevent rostering of over-age players.

Scholarships

Partial scholarships in the recreational division can be authorized by the Registrar, the DOR, or the President. Scholarship requests should be made as part of the on-line registration process, and a one-page application must be completed for scholarship consideration. Scholarship applications are due to the league no later than 2 weeks after the cut off date for registration.

Placement of Parents, Players and Coaches on Field During Games

In all age divisions, the players, assistant coach and coach on both teams are expected to remain on one side of the field. Parents, family, fans, spectators and everyone other than players, assistant coach and coach should stay on the other side. A parent, coach or assistant coach may stand behind either goal while the game is in play. By registering their child, parents agree to follow the Parent’s Code of Conduct.

Standard Uniforms

All WYSL registered teams shall wear uniforms sanctioned by the club, including official club jerseys. All players must wear soccer cleats and shin guards at all times during games or practice. Baseball cleats with a toe cleat are prohibited. Nothing can be worn (i.e., earrings, watches, loose jewelry, rings, bracelets etc), which might jeopardize the health or safety of any player on the field.

Coaches/Volunteers

Each team must have a registered coach who is not a playing member of that team. Recreation level head coaches must have an F license or the equivalent. Recreation level assistant coaches must have a G license or the equivalent. New coaches will receive a one season exception to gain their licenses. All coaches are required to submit a CORI request through Mass Youth Soccer prior to being awarded a team. The league will CORI check a maximum of three coaches/volunteers per team. All coaches are expected to abide by the Mass Youth Soccer "Coaches Code of Conduct". Coaches found in violation of the "Code" are subject to removal by the Recreation Director with the approval of the Vice President of the League.