



# GENERAL RULES



West Warwick Soccer Association  
General Rules

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### **1. Team Organization**

Teams will be formed during the course of each playing season in accordance with the guidelines established by the West Warwick Soccer Association Board of Directors. At all times, the ultimate objective in team formation will be to achieve equal balance. The league will be non-result oriented.

Age divisions shall comprise players who will be on the 1st day of August of the current season 8/1-7/31):

Under 16 years of age

Under 14 years of age

Under 12 years of age

Under 10 years of age

Under 8 years of age

Under 6-Minimum age, player has to be 4 years old on the 1st day of August

### **2. Organization**

The Board of Directors following registration in accordance with the USYSA regulations will determine the maximum number of players on a team.

### **3. Minimum Play**

Every player, who attends at least one weekly practice, must play at least 50% of the game. Free substitution is permitted in accordance with normal playing rules. Any suspected violation of this rule is to be reported to the Divisional Commissioner.

### **4. Rosters**

No person may participate in a game or practice without being properly registered. Proper registration consists of the following:

- a. Acceptance of the player's registration application by the Registrar.
- b. Receipt of the player's registration fee.
- c. Assignment of the player to a team by the Divisional Commissioner and Registrar.



- d. Players cannot be changed, once they are assigned to a team unless approved by Divisional Commissioner.

## **5. Equipment**

No street shoes or shoes with metal cleats may be worn during league games or practices. All players for games and practices require Shin Guards. No jewelry will be worn by any player during practices or games.

Complete uniform provided by the Association must be worn by all players. Goalkeepers must be distinguishable by a shirt of a different color.

## **6. Prizes and Awards**

The Executive Board of the association must approve all prizes, awards, rewards, gifts, etc. whether or not the cost is born by the association or other sources.

## **7. Practices and Games: Times and Places**

- a. The association will make fields available for team practice. Practices at other locations must be cleared through the Board prior to practice being held due to insurance reasons.
- b. Cancellation of practices by the President or his/her designee is final. Upon any disregard of this ruling, the coach or coaches involved will assume total liability for personal injury and/or property damage.
- c. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to be in attendance at all practices and games.

## **8. Kick-Off Times and Dates**

All games are to begin promptly at the assigned time. Kick-Off times and dates of regularly scheduled games may not be changed except by the Divisional Commissioner.

Cancellation of a game by the Association President or the Divisional Commissioner supersedes the jurisdiction of the referee.

Only the Divisional Commissioner and/or President may reschedule a cancelled game. A rescheduling policy may be requested by the League President at the start of the season.



In keeping with the philosophy stated in the General Rules of the association, no team will play with more players than the team with the least number of players.

## 9. Conduct

Conduct which disrupts a team with which a member is associated, which is provocative toward another member or team, which shows a disregard for the aims and purposes of the Association, or which is deemed by the Board to be detrimental to the best interest of the Association, shall be grounds for suspension or dismissal from the Association.

- a. **Red Cards: A player, players and/or their parents, will be responsible for any and all fees associated with an ejection or red card fine(s) assessed against the Association, if an appeal taken with Super Liga is denied.**

## 10. Volunteers, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee

Volunteers, members of the Board of Directors, and members of the Executive Committee of the West Warwick Soccer Association; are required to have an active background check performed every two (2) years. Also each volunteer, Board member, and Executive Committee member is required to take a mandatory 'Sexual Abuse Awareness Training' provided by the league and Soccer RI. Every volunteer, Board member, and Executive Committee member will be subject to the Constitution, General Rules, and Competitive Guidelines of the Association and decisions made by the Executive Committee. (Updated by CR2018-02)

## 11. Coaches

Coaches in the West Warwick Soccer Association are selected by the Divisional Commissioners and approved by the Board of Directors. Coaches will be selected for one (1) playing season. All coaches are required to have an active background check performed every two (2) years. Also each coach is required to take a mandatory 'Sexual Abuse Awareness Training' provided by the league and Soccer RI. All coaches are subject to the constitution and playing rules of the Association and decisions made by the Executive Committee. It is expected that all coaches will be familiar with the mission statement and rules of the Association, and will abide by them. (Updated by CR2018-01)



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The responsibilities of the coach are:

- \* To ensure the fun and participation of each player
  - \* To teach and develop the basic skills of soccer
  - \* To apply the rules of the game
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- a. Coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times and teach fair play. Players should be encouraged to be as gracious in losing as in winning. Winning should be kept in perspective. Coaches are expected to encourage and teach their players respect for the rules, their fellow players, and officials.
  - b. Coaches are expected to set a good example. Alcoholic beverages, drugs, and smoking are prohibited at all association games and practices. Coaches are not to appear before their teams while under the influence of such substances.
  - c. Coaches are expected to help their players improve their soccer skills. At practices, every player from the most highly skilled to the least skilled should be given equal attention. During the season games and all play-off games every player must play at least 50% of the game regardless of their skill level.
  - d. Running up scores, embarrassing, or humiliating another team is not tolerated. Teams will exchange handshakes at the completion of the game. Coaches will ensure that all players participate in the hand shaking.
  - e. Coaches are responsible for maintaining the good conduct of their players at all times. Errant behavior should be addressed at once. Players who flagrantly violate the rules or consistently display poor sportsmanship are to be referred to the commissioner for their age group. Serious infractions are to be referred to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action or dismissal. Control of the conduct of the spectators and players on the touchlines shall be the responsibility of the coaches.
  - f. Coaching is not allowed at the ends of the field or near the goal. Coaches are asked to remind parents and spectators of the proper sideline behavior and, in general, to foster the ideals of sportsmanship and good manners.
  - g. Coaches should schedule at least one (1) but no more than two (2) practices per week during the playing season. Every effort should be made



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to adhere to practice starting and ending times.

- h. Coaches are responsible for the equipment assigned to them for the duration of the season. All league equipment is to be returned when the playing season is completed.
- i. There will be no tolerance of abuse, physical or verbal, of players or officials. Coaches are expected to treat all referees with respect. A clarification of a call or rule should be asked in a civil and professional manner. Temper tantrums, or display of emotion are an embarrassment to the individuals involved and to the Association in general. Coaches receiving a Red card will be automatically dismissed from the fall league.
- j. No coaches are to take upon themselves to add players or an unregistered player to their team's roster or to allow an unregistered player to participate in league games or practices.
- k. Coaches and assistants should be with the team at all times. If neither can make practice, the coach should cancel practice. If neither cannot make a game contact the division commissioner.
- l. Coaches should see that all players have proper equipment for practices and games. All players are to wear shin guards under the socks and not to play in street shoes. No metal cleats are allowed.
- m. The health and safety of the players at practices and games is also the responsibility of the coach. Medical problems must be recorded on each child and held in confidence. Let common sense and a cautious attitude be your guideline when dealing with an injury.
- n. Coaches and assistants are to care for the fields. Litter will be picked up and properly discarded. Items left behind should be brought to "lost and found" at the concession stand.
- o. All games will be played with an equal number of players from both teams. If your opponent is able to field less than the appropriate number but more than required, you must not field more than he/she. Late arrivals may be added when play is stopped.
- p. Games must begin and end on time. Starting times will be strictly adhered to. Late starting games will be shortened by the amount of time they are late.

**COACHES MAY BE DISMISSED AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF THESE RULES.**



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**12. Parent/ Legal Guardian/ Family Member/Friend Responsibilities**

- a. Be my child's best fan! Support my child unconditionally and make him/her feel like a winner every time!
- b. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- c. Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- d. Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- e. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- f. Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
- g. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all soccer activities.
- h. Respect the decisions of officials and teach children to do likewise.
- i. Learn the rules of the game and the policies of the organization.
- j. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- k. Respect the rights, dignity and value of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- l. The coach is a volunteer --giving of personal time to provide a recreational activity for your child. They are providing a valuable community service, often without reward other than their personal satisfaction. Without them your child could not participate.
- m. Believe that referees, just as coaches and players, are attempting to do their best.
- n. I will refrain from speaking to officials, unless it is to say thank you after the game. If I have questions or concerns with the referees, I will speak to the coach after the game or at practice.
- o. Understand that my attitude can influence the players, coaches and spectators.
- p. Be sure my child is available for most practices and games. Practices are as important as games. Children who simply don't show up for practice and/or games are letting everybody down. If I know my child is unable to attend a practice or game, I will give the coach advance notice to enable



- proper planning.
- q. Report to the coach all injuries, special medical conditions (such as asthma) or extenuating circumstances (such as lack of sleep or family crisis) that may affect the player.
  - r. Send my child ready to play. My child will be dressed in uniform and will arrive on time.

### **13. Players' Responsibilities**

- a. Practice and play with enthusiasm and with a commitment to improve one's skills, those of teammates, both individually and as part of a team.
- b. Refrain from dangerous behavior, in practices and games, and take an active part in ensuring that practices and games take place in a safe environment.
- c. Refrain from engaging in horseplay and other conduct that presents a risk of injury to others or that demeans others.
- d. Recognize that playing a team sport requires a commitment to the team in such ways as: being reliable in one's attendance for practices and games; giving adequate notice of unavoidable absences from practices and games; being on time; being supportive of teammates, particularly those less skillful; being attentive during practices and games.
- e. Refrain from unsportsmanlike play or manner.
- f. Refrain from criticism of opponents (during or after games).
- g. Refrain from criticism of referees
- h. Refrain from criticism league officials.

### **14. Selection of Coaches for Competitive Team**

Selection of coaches for select teams shall be made in accordance with the criteria Established by the Competitive Guidelines.

### **15. Uniforms**

All teams sanctioned by WWSA will register and wear approved uniform, whether they select, indoor, spring, tournaments or premier soccer. The approved WWSA logo will be on the left front of the uniform shirt. The approved competitive uniform for WWSA shall





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match West Warwick High School colors.

### **16. Agenda**

Any member of the Association wishing to add to the agenda of the Board of Directors, or annual meeting must submit additions in writing to the league secretary at least 5 days prior to said meeting. Exceptions will be made for circumstances requiring immediate action by the Board of Directors.

### **17. Changes**

These rules may be changed or exceptions made by a majority of the Executive Board.