

COMPETITIVE GUIDELINES



As of

3/27/2014

COMPETITIVE GUIDELINES

1. SELECTION OF COMPETITIVE COMMITTEE

- a. Competitive Coordinator(s) to be appointed by the President of the Association and approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. The Competitive Coordinator(s) will head the Competitive Committee.
- c. The Competitive Committee will consist of all Competitive Coaches and appointees in accordance with the Constitution.
- d. All Coaches of the current competitive season (August to following July) are expected to attend at least 75% of the meetings.
- e. There will be a meeting at least once a month during the competitive season.
- f. The competitive coaches will be selected and approved at the House meeting in August.

2. EVALUATIONS

- a. Competitive evaluation dates will be posted on the web site for a minimum of three weeks before the evaluation date. Tryouts for competitive will be held in a timely fashion to satisfy state requirements.
- b. Evaluation structure is to be determined by the Competitive Coordinator(s) with the assistance from the Competitive Committee. Player evaluations for each age and gender group shall consist of between 1.5 to 4 hours of evaluation time (depending upon the number of registrants involved). Evaluators will look for individual and team play. They not only look at the individual skills of the players, but more importantly where, when, why, and how they use them.
- c. The Competitive Coordinator(s) will select the evaluators for each age division.
- d. An immediate family member may not evaluate another family member. (For exception refer to line i.)
- e. All players must attend the mandatory evaluation session. If a player does not attend an evaluation, he/she will be placed on the lowest ranked team if an opening exists. Failure to attend at least one evaluation will preclude the player from being placed on the higher-level team of his/her age group.
- f. A player may only be evaluated in one division per competitive year.
- g. Players can request to be evaluated one age division higher only. Players must fill out a Play-Up Form two weeks prior to tryouts. The form needs to be given to the Player Agent who needs to process the request prior to Competitive Tryouts.
- h. All players league age U14 and younger with the exception of high school team players, are required to be registered and play in the West Warwick Fall Recreational Season to be eligible to try out for the upcoming West Warwick Competitive Soccer Seasons.
- i. There will be no less than two independent evaluators conducting all phases of the evaluation process. The Head Coach of the highest ranked team will be an evaluator in addition to the two independent evaluators at the competitive tryout(s) regardless whether his/her own child is participating in the evaluation(s).

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- j. ALL PLAYERS, U-19 and younger, MUST register for the competitive season in the book at the Riverpoint Park concession stand.
- k. Competitive tryouts will be held for U-16 and younger.

3. PLAYER EVALUATION EXCEPTIONS

All players must be evaluated for placement on a team. WWSA recognizes that there will be instances when a player is unable to attend the evaluations scheduled for their age group. Below are the resolutions for this situation:

- a. The WWSA Player Evaluation Exception Form is used when an excusable absence (medical condition, family emergency) makes participation in the evaluation process impossible. This form must be completed by the parent or guardian and submitted to the WWSA Executive Board at least TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the scheduled evaluation for approval. In case of an injury that may keep the player out of evaluations, the form should be completed immediately following the diagnosis.
- b. The player will be expected to participate in a mandatory evaluation prior to the selection of the competitive team. The mandatory evaluation date will be determined by WWSA. At a minimum the evaluators will be a member of WWSA Executive Board, Competitive Coordinator, Player Agent and current assign WWSA coach for the age group and gender being evaluate.
- c. If a player has a medical hardship that simply does not allow them to be evaluated, efforts will be made to place the player appropriately based upon coach feedback, but preference will be given to players that attend tryouts. Any player who does not fulfill the criteria listed above will be placed at the bottom of the competitive rankings.

4. RANKING

- a. Results from the competitive evaluation(s) will be compiled and analyzed by the Competitive Coordinator(s). Final rankings will be determined by the Competitive Coordinators(s), Player Agent, President and Head Coach.
- b. The Competitive Coordinator(s), Player Agent, President and Head Coach shall keep the rankings confidential. These results will only be shared with coaches of the appropriate age division and the President.
- c. If a player who has chosen to be evaluated at a higher age division does not make that division's team(s) and wishes to move down to his/her age division, the player will have the lowest current ranking in his/her division.
- d. When the ranking list is exhausted, the coach is free to fill the team with players from outside of the list. The coach is required to notify the Competitive Coordinator(s).
- e. Players excused from competitive tryouts will be ranked with input from the Competitive Coordinator(s) and the Player Agent. When possible, the Player Agent will make the necessary arrangements to evaluate the player at a

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Recreational and/or Competitive Soccer game and/or practice to determine the players ranking, prior to teams being formed.

5. SELECTION OF COACHES

- a. Prospective coaches must complete a West Warwick Soccer Association application and a disclosure statement authorizing a background check during indoor seasons or apply online through the database during Fall and Spring Super Liga seasons.
- b. Coaches must be in good standing with the West Warwick Soccer Association and Soccer Rhode Island.
- c. It is the Competitive Coordinator(s) and Coaching Directors' responsibility to recommend a Head Coach for each competitive team to be approved at the Association meeting.
- d. The Head coach will select his/her assistant coaches with the approval of the Competitive Coordinator(s).
- e. The Competitive Coordinator(s) and Coaching Director will take into consideration when recommending a Head Coach: Licenses, competitive meeting attendance, certificates, and involvement in the league. The Competitive Coordinator(s) and Coaching Directors' responsibility is to recommend a head coach who will best develop the player and/or the team.
- f. The Competitive Committee and the Board of Directors will approve all prospective coaches. The Board of Directors majority vote may override the Competitive Committee selection.
- g. The Head Coach of the highest ranked team must be selected prior to tryouts.
- h. A Head Coach must be a least eighteen years old. Coaches must be three years older than the division they are coaching.
- i. All coaches must sign a "Coaches Code of Conduct" agreement.
- j. A coach is not allowed to coach more than one team in the same age group and division within the same facility/league.

6. SELECTION OF TEAMS

- a. Each team is selected for a single session.
- b. The Head Coach will determine the minimum number of players for their team based on the number of players required to field a complete starting line-up.
- c. In the event a ranked player declines to participate on the primary team, the ranked player forfeits the chance to play for that session.
- d. There will be no dual rostering within the same association.

7. TOURNAMENTS

- a. Only WWSA sanctioned coaches may enter teams in tournaments under the West Warwick Soccer Association.

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- b. The Head Coach for the division has priority in establishing a tournament team.
- c. No tournament monies will be fronted to any team. Any team wishing to participate in a tournament will be responsible for raising its own fees with the exception of Fall Super Liga and RI Youth Invitational Tournament (RIYIT) which are entitled and referred to as a tournament requiring a bond.
- d. If a Coach other than the Head Coach wants to take a team to a tournament, the tournament Coach will ask the head Coach for permission to take the players as a courtesy.
- e. Player releases to tournaments or other Associations will not be signed if the player has outstanding fees owed to WWSA.
- f. The free Fun Fest Soccer Tournament sponsored by Soccer RI for the U8/U10 divisions held at the end of the Spring session must be entered if the minimum number of players is available to field a team. If the Head Coach is not available for their team, another Spring approved coach will be appointed to represent the team.

U8 – 6 player minimum

U10 – 9 player minimum

8. GENERAL RULES

- a. The Competitive Committee, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall determine the registration fee(s).
- b. Issuance of post-season awards to follow the guidelines listed in “General Rules” #6 “Prizes and Awards” of the West Warwick Soccer Association.
- c. Indoor, spring and fall competitive seasons shall be financially self-supporting and responsible for raising appropriate monies to be used as operating funds.
- d. Funds to be raised will be determined by the Competitive Committee, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.
- e. The Competitive Committee will reimburse all monies borrowed by the Competitive Committee from the general operating funds of the West Warwick Soccer Association.
- f. All Competitive Committee decisions will be by simple majority vote of committee members present.
- g. Written record of Competitive Committee meetings to be kept by the Competitive Coordinator.
- h. A player playing a U10B team or younger must play 50% of the game.
- i. No Coach shall add/drop players or switch documents at any sanctioned or unsanctioned facility.

9. NEW PLAYERS MOVING TO TOWN

- a. The Competitive Coordinator(s) and Player Agent evaluate and rank the player.
- b. The Competitive Coordinator(s), Player Agent and the Executive Committee vote to add the player to the competitive player list.

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10. WILD CARD

- a. The wild card picks must be selected from the competitive ranking list.
- b. The wild card pick is prioritized as follows:
 1. West Warwick Soccer Registered Players,
 2. West Warwick Residents and
 3. All others until the list is exhausted
- c. The Goalkeeper wildcard pick must be selected from the goalkeeper ranking list of players that tried out for goalkeeper. It will be to the discretion of the Coach to determine whether the goalkeeper has to play a majority of the game (50%) as the goalie.
- d. Under 8 Division – Boys & Girls
 - i. No goalkeeper pick
 - ii. One wild card available
- e. Under 10 Division – Boys & Girls
 - i. One goalkeeper pick available
 - ii. One wild card pick available
 - iii. Or two wild card picks available if a goalkeeper pick is not used
- f. Under 12 Division – Boys & Girls
 - i. One goalkeeper pick available
 - ii. Two wild card picks available
 - iii. Or three wild card picks available if a goalkeeper pick is not used
- g. Under 14 Division – Boys & Girls
 - i. One goalkeeper pick available
 - ii. Three wild card picks available
 - iii. Or four wild card picks available if a goalkeeper pick is not used

11. PLAYER COMMITMENT

- a. A player from a previous competitive session of the current season that does not come to 50% of the practices and misses more than 4 games can be omitted from the next competitive season(s) at the discretion of the head coach and with approval from the Competitive Coordinator(s) and Executive Board. The coach will need to present documentation to support his/her decision.

12. PLAYER FEES

- a. A player becomes an official rostered team member only after payment of registration fees have been received and a parent/guardian has signed the proper medical release form established for each competitive session. Any financial special requests such as a payment plan for the session must be accepted and approved by the Registrar, President and Competitive Coordinator(s) and put in writing and signed by all parties.

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- b. Dual-rostered players, playing at the same or different facilities/leagues, must pay full fee for each team.
- c. Competitive soccer is a luxury and not a necessity. WWSA will not be responsible for hardships for player's fees or uniform fees or any other costs during all sessions of competitive soccer.
- d. A flat fee will be assessed and applied for all competitive indoor session teams based on the requirements to field a team of 12 players. A team with less than 12 players must pay based on the total number of rostered players on the team.
- e. All outstanding WWSA player fees must be paid prior to a player being rostered on a competitive team or unless otherwise approved by the Executive Board.
- f. The Head Coach of his/her team shall be responsible for any and all administrative fines associated with his or her team.
- g. Any and all other fines shall be brought to the Executive Board for review.

13. DRESS CODE

- a. In order to compete, a player must be dressed in the West Warwick Soccer Association approved jersey, shorts and socks in accordance with the West Warwick Soccer Association general rules. Any other alteration or substitution will have to be approved by the Competitive Coordinator(s) and the Executive Board.
- b. Protective equipment such as shin guards and appropriate footwear is required during practices and games regardless the age.
- c. For spring Super Liga and tournament play in the U16 and U19 divisions, players can play with a league approved alternate uniform.

14. SELECTION OF PLAYERS

- a. Selection of players will follow the evaluation ranking.
- b. If the top rated team in a particular age group loses a player, the next higher rated player from the lower rated team will be afforded the opportunity to move up with the approval of the Competitive Coordinator(s) and the Executive Board.
- c. All players must sign the player code of conduct agreement, when established and presented to them.

15. PREMIER PLAYERS

- a. A Premier Player trying out for Competitive Soccer must first be informed that when playing Fall or Super Liga and/or playing at a sanctioned league or facility, that player is required to play on an Anchor (A Division) team per Soccer Rhode Island. The Competitive Coordinator(s) shall speak to the parents/guardian of the Premier Player.
- b. If the Head Coach determines that his/her team is not capable of competing in the Anchor (A Division), then said Coach must advise the Competitive Coordinator(s). After discussion with the Head Coach, the Competitive

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Coordinator(s) and the Player Agent, a decision will be made as to the most suitable Division placement for the team.

- c. If a team is placed in a Division other than Anchor (A Division) and a Premier Player has tried out for the team, then the Competitive Coordinator(s) will contact the Premier Player and inform the Premier Player that they will not be eligible to play for that particular season for West Warwick Soccer Association.

16. COMPLIANCE

- a. All coaches, players and parents must be familiar and comply with the competitive guidelines.