

Woburn Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

Rules

Revised: November 2002

It is the intent of the Woburn Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) that all rules, regulations, and actions affecting WYSA help provide for the safety, well being and enjoyment of all players.

WYSA will provide two types of youth soccer play: Travel team play and City team play. City team play will match teams with players of similar age that do not travel outside the city limits against each other. Travel team play will match teams with players of similar age from other cities or towns. WYSA will not sanction out of town play or tournaments for city league teams.

I. ADMITTANCE

To participate in WYSA a youngster or non-player staff must belong to the WYSA as defined in the WYSA Constitution or be a player as defined in Rule III. Players who have submitted a completed entry form together with full payment before the deadline set by the Board will be guaranteed a playing position on a team in accordance with Rule VIII. (This does not apply to U-16 through U-19 Travel teams.) Non-player staff will be admitted as a member in accordance with the constitution of WYSA.

All Players must reside in the City of Woburn, Massachusetts unless otherwise approved by a majority vote by the WYSA Board of Directors.

II. AFFILIATIONS

WYSA will assure that all players and members are affiliated with the appropriate state organization. This affiliation is required in order to provide the proper liability coverage. In the event that affiliation with a state organization is no longer possible, all players and associates must be registered and covered under a separate liability coverage plan. In either case it is the responsibility of the player and associate to make sure that WYSA receives the required information to provide affiliation or registered coverage.

III. PLAYER AND MEMBER REGISTRATION

A player is considered registered if he/she has submitted all forms and

payment as required by the WYSA Registration Director. To be accepted, all forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions issued, and must be received by the Registration Director no later than the date set by the Board of Directors for the season the player wishes to participate. Any player that registers after the last day of registration will be charged a late fee.

Registrations will be allowed after the draft. An additional late fee shall be charged. If a player registers after the draft, and that player played the previous season, that player shall be placed on his/her previous team provided there are openings on that team. If the player did not play the previous season, he/she shall be placed on the next team as established at the draft. There shall be a committee that sets the openings per team (see Rule # X). Team roster numbers shall be balanced. A difference of one or two is acceptable.

In order to be eligible for playoffs in the City League, a player must be registered before the seventh (7th) game of that season.

Each team is allowed one Head Coach (Coach) and one Assistant Coach (Assistant), except for Travel team play, where two assistants are allowed. Each Coach and Assistant must be approved by the Coaches Sportsmanship Committee before assuming their position. Once approved, it is the responsibility of the Coach or Assistant to notify the Registration Director of his or her appointment and provide all the information required to assure affiliation or registration. Other non player members in WYSA: referees, Directors, or other volunteers; must contact the Registration Director and notify him/her of their function and supply all required information to assure affiliation.

Failure to comply with the above registration procedures will eliminate the player or member from participating in the WYSA and may limit the players or members coverage under any liability coverage obtained by the WYSA.

IV. ROSTERS AND TRANSFERS

For each team a current roster must be on file with the respective Director. Rosters are due before the start of play for the season. Unless otherwise specified by the Board, rosters must contain a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 players. (Except in U-10 where it shall be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 12). No Coach, City or Travel, will be required to carry more than 16 players.

The U7D Division rosters shall contain a maximum of 10 players.

Players may not be transferred from one team to another after the rosters have been finalized on the night of the draft. Due to extenuating circumstances only, changes may be made with the approval of both Coaches, the Age Director, The Commissioner, and the Registration Director.

At a Coaches request, a Coach that wants a player outside his/her age division to move up must submit a letter to the Board of Directors. The Coach will be notified if the request is or is not approved.

V. COACHING POSITIONS

Anyone interested in an appointment as a Coach or an Assistant, must be at least 21 years old, and must submit his/her name in writing to a member of the Board of Directors, and fill out the required forms.

Coaches are appointed for one season, e.g., Fall or Spring. Each season, coaches must submit a "Request to Coach Form", to be approved by the Sportsmanship Committee, in order to be invited to return as a Coach.

Coaches may choose one Assistant Coach, and that Assistant Coach's child will be a protected player. As long as that protected player is on that team, a Coach cannot protect another player by choosing a new Assistant Coach. A Coach may choose a new Assistant Coach, but the new Assistant's child will not be protected.

VI. PLAYING TIME

The WYSA requires that all players, including Travel team players, will be afforded the opportunity to play at least one half of the available playing time during any game that each player attends.

Although the Coach is not expected to keep exact track of the amount of time each player plays during a game, the Coach is responsible for assuring that all players are provided the opportunity to play one half of the game.

VII. COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

Each Coach is responsible for verifying that all the players are properly registered and qualified to play on the team.

If it is determined that a team has used an unregistered, overage, or otherwise unqualified player in a game, that game shall be considered a forfeit. In addition, the Sportsmanship Committee may suspend the team, Coach, and / or the player for a number of games or a period of time. Any

player who misrepresents his / her age will be suspended for the remainder of the season. A Coach or Assistant knowingly using an overage, suspended, or otherwise unqualified player will be automatically suspended and only readmitted to the WYSA after applying in writing to the Sportsmanship Committee. The Sportsmanship Committee's decision concerning Coaches and Assistants can be changed only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors during a meeting of the Board, at which a quorum exists.

VIII. AGE GROUPS

WYSA will have age groups for

Travel: U19, U18, U17, U16;

Travel and City: U14, U12, U10;

and City: U8 and U7.

Travel age groups will be adjusted according to the Travel League WYSA affiliates with. A player must turn the minimum age before August 1st of the year in order to play in the fall season and a player must turn the minimum age by August 1st of the year in order to play to play in the Spring season. Players will only move from one age group to the next in the Fall season.

IX. PLAYER REGISTRATION COST

The cost per player will be set by the Board in accordance with the WYSA Constitution and will be made known at least one month prior to the start of registration.

X. PLAYER PLACEMENT

In each age group, except U-16 and above, which is Travel only, and U-8 and U-7 which are City only, there will be two groupings of teams, Travel and City. Each of those groupings may be arranged into further Divisional levels.

A committee consisting of at least the President, Commissioner, Registration Director, and Travel Director will determine the number of Travel teams to be formed. (All Age Directors shall be invited to attend the meeting to set the numbers of teams each season.) The number of Travel teams determined will include but not be limited to the following:

A. City Team requirements over Travel team registrations.

- B. Total number of qualified players requesting to play a travel team by age group.
- C. Availability of Travel team coaches.

Players returning to the same age group as the previous season within a City team will remain with the same team except as provided by in section III.

All players requesting placement on a Travel team for the Fall season must participate in two tryouts specifically for Travel teams and be drafted by a Travel team. Any player in this group not drafted by a Travel team will either:

- A. Return to the same City team they played for the previous season.
- B. If they played Travel in the previous season or are changing age groups, they will be placed in the draft for a City team. No second year player on an existing Travel team can be demoted from that team other than voluntary and or disciplinary reasons subject to approval of the Sportsmanship Committee or fails to register in a proper manner as stated in Rule III or fails to meet the requirements as stated in Rule XI. They can only be promoted.
- C. Travel team players who sign up to play in the Spring and who played Travel in the Fall will return to the Travel team they played for in the Fall, unless the Disciplinary Board rules otherwise.

If more than one Travel team per age group is to be fielded, each team will be designated in succession starting with One (1), Two (2), etc. Players who have met all qualifications to play for a Travel team may be drafted by one Travel coach. The Travel coach or the designee will draft only from the list of qualified players. The order of draft will be determined by the team designation starting with the team designated number One (1) and will not proceed until the coach or designee has drafted a full roster the size of which is governed under Section III. The WYSA Board may adjust the number of players per team to balance the rosters.

When there are two or more teams to be rostered for U16 – U19, in order to be considered for placement on the number One team, potential players must attend tryouts.

When the total number of players exceeds 18, 36, 54, etc. the coaches shall be asked to take the maximum number of eighteen (18) players per team.

All players not drafted for placement on a Travel team and all players

changing a team in the City League will be placed in a draft by their age group. The order of draft to be used by the coaches will be determined by the Age Director. To be placed in this draft the player must have participated in tryouts. The name of any player in this section who did not participate in tryouts will be placed in a “hat” and be drafted by being picked out of the “hat”.

XI. TRYOUTS

- A. All children must be registered to tryout.
- B. Registration will close on a day to be determined by the Board each season.
- C. Tryouts will be two Travel tryouts followed by one City tryout.
- D. A third Travel tryout is allowed at the discretion of a coach for any age travel team with the approval by the President and / or Age Director.
- E. These tryout rules do not apply to U-16 and above. (see Rule I)

TRAVEL TRYOUTS

- A. This tryout will be run by a Board member, who will oversee the schedule for the tryout, take attendance of the players trying out, keep the tryout to a maximum of 120 minutes, and be in charge of getting volunteers to help run the tryout, if necessary.
- B. All players must attend these tryouts if they are to be considered for a Travel team. Second year players rostered on a number one travel team the previous season are not required to attend these tryouts.
- C. Any reasonable excuse for not attending these tryouts must be presented to a Board member in charge, prior to the tryout. The preference is that this be in writing.
- D. For the Spring Travel season, if any Travel team has three or more openings, a tryout is necessary. If there are less than three openings on any team, a tryout is not necessary.

CITY TRYOUTS

- A. Tryouts will be overseen by a Board member, preferably the Age director.
- B. All registered players are required to attend.
- C. Those who do not attend will be placed as a “hat” pick for the draft.

XII. RED CARDS

Any player / coach who violate the rules or spirit of the game may, at the discretion of the referee, be issued a red card. The player issued the red card shall be ejected from the game and may not return to the game. The team will continue to play the game shorthanded. In addition, the player may not play in the next game his / hers team plays. The player must be in attendance at the next game, in full uniform, and remain on the sidelines for the entire game. If a red-carded player does not attend the next scheduled game the suspension follows him / her until he / she does attend a regularly scheduled game. The team does not play this game shorthanded unless this player is the only player available.

A player who received a red card for fighting must attend each of their suspended games in uniform and on the sideline or else their suspension continues until they do so.

Any coach and / or assistant issued a red card by a referee must leave the field and surrounding area, far enough to the satisfaction of the referee. They cannot participate in the coaching of the team for the remainder of the game or the next game. Based on a decision of the Coaches' Sportsmanship Committee, the coach and / or assistant may or may not participate in future games.

For further clarification on player suspension, see WYSA Rules of Play Rule 12.

XIII. RESCHEDULING GAMES

When a coach cannot field a team to play a scheduled game for a legitimate reason, specifically, not enough players, the coach shall notify and receive the approval of the Age Director at least 48 hours prior to the game.

XIV. POSTPONING GAMES

The President or the Commissioner will hold the sole authority to postpone Saturday games. If in the opinion of the President and / or Commissioner, the field(s) are unplayable, either due to weather or some other cause, the Age Directors will be notified that the games are postponed. The Age Directors will have the authority to postpone weeknight games, if necessary. The Age Directors will notify the coaches of any postponements.

If, in the course of a game, the field becomes unplayable, the referee will at his / her discretion suspend play in accordance with FIFA Law. In no case is

a coach to postpone or suspend a game on his / her own.

XV. MAKE UP AND RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

WYSA is interested in providing youngsters with every opportunity available to play soccer; therefore all games postponed or canceled will be rescheduled and made up as soon as possible. There are to be no forfeits in City league.

XVI. FIELD OF PLAY

Proper field markings, corner flags, and goal nets are mandatory. Corner flags and goal nets will be picked up and brought to the field by the designated home team. The home team must assure that the nets and flags are at the field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

The designated away team will collect the nets and flags and return them to the storage container.

The referee maintains the power to declare the field unplayable if the marking or equipment is unsuitable under FIFA rules.

XVII. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

All players must wear commercially available shin guards. Players may wear footwear consisting of cleats, as long as the footwear does not have a "toe cleat" as is found on baseball cleats.

WYSA will provide all teams with uniforms consisting of numbered shirts, shorts and socks. All players are required by WYSA to wear the uniform as issued by WYSA. The only exception being the goalkeeper whose shirt must be a different color than any other player on the field during the game.

All players are responsible for the replacement cost of any part of the uniform that is lost.

XVIII. REFEREES

All referees are urged to attend a certified training class and to become USSF licensed referees. Referees shall be paid at game rates set by the Board.

WYSA, through the Referee Director, will attempt to provide a referee for all games within the city. If a referee has not appeared for a game 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the game is to be played with a referee agreed upon by both coaches. WYSA will provide payment to the substitute

referee at the game rate as set by the Board.

Referees must be 13 years old or older. Thirteen year old referees are to referee U-8 and U-7 games.

XIX. EQUIPMENT CHECK

The referee will check each player on both teams to assure that all players meet the requirements to play. The referee will check to make sure that: each player is wearing the proper uniform, including a numbered shirt, shorts and socks; that team colors are separate and distinct; that the goalkeepers have distinctive shirt colors; and that no player is wearing footwear with a toe cleat.

The referee must also assure that all jewelry, watches, necklaces, rings, earrings, and bracelets are removed. The referee will not allow a player to play with a cast (either hard or soft) to participate in the game.

XX. TEAM NO-SHOWS

Teams shall be present at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time. The referee may suspend the game fifteen (15) minutes after game time if one team cannot field seven (7) players: six (6) players plus a goalie.

Note: U-8 and U-7 shall be six (6) players: five (5) players plus a goalie.

Suspended games shall be made up as per Rule XV.

XXI. GAME RULES

FIFA Laws of the game shall be in effect except as noted in these rules and in the WYSA Rules of Play issued by WYSA.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u># OF PERIODS</u>	<u>TIME OF PERIODS</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U-7D	4	10 minutes	3
U-7	4	10 minutes	3
U-8	4	12 minutes	3
U-10	2	25 minutes	4
U-12	2	30 minutes	4
U-14	2	35 minutes	5
U-16	2	40 minutes	5

XXII. SUBSTITUTIONS

U7D:

- A. At the end of each time period (five minute mark).
- B. At the end of each period.
- C. At the time of injury. After an injury, the player may return during any stoppage of play. e.g., corner kick, goal kick, ball out of bounds.
- D. No player is to play more than two consecutive periods unless the team is limited to two or less substitutes.

U-8 and U-7:

- 1. At the end of each period.
- 2. At the time of injury. After an injury, the player may return during any stoppage of play. e.g., corner kick, goal kick, ball out of bounds.

U-10, 12, 14:

- A. After a goal is scored.
- B. Before a goal kick by either team.
- C. On a team's own throw-in.
- D. On the other team's throw-in only if they are substituting.
- E. At the time of an injury.

XXIII. SUPERVISION

For each team an approved coach / assistant shall be present during the entire game. If no such coach is present, or if the coach is ejected or leaves the game, the referee may accept another person (not a player) as the substitute coach. The game will not be played or continued if the referee, at any time, decides that there is no proper supervision present.

Each coach and assistant should set a proper example of sportsmanship and goodwill while conducting him / her self properly, and by supporting the referee and assisting in maintaining order before, during, and after a game. Failure to comply with said rules may result in a review of the coach to determine the problem and be handled accordingly.

Each team in the U10, U12 and U14 Age Groups must use one side of the field for their bench positions, one team on one side of the midfield line and the opposing team on the other side of the midfield line. Substitutions must remain in the designated team bench area. The parents must remain behind the opposite sideline of the teams until the Referee signals the end of the game.

Coaches may coach or instruct from the team sideline. They may walk up and down the sideline between the midfield line and the 18 yard-line on their half of the field. Coaches are not allowed to coach or instruct from within the penalty area or behind the goal line or from the other side of the midfield line.

XXIV. PROTESTS

Protests relating to a specific game may only be made by a coach of a team playing in the game and only within 48 hours following the game. All protests must be filed in writing and given to their Age Director. Protests will usually be denied if:

- A. It is not based on a clear violation against one of the Laws of the game or playing rules of WYSA.
- B. It is based on a judgment call by the referee.
- C. It is not based on a specific incident.

XXV. REPORTING GAME RESULTS

The winning coach shall call the Age Director on the day of the game to report the game results. In the event of a tie, both coaches should call the Age Director with the results.

XXVI:SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE

The Woburn Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) Sportsmanship Committee (the Committee) shall oversee the conduct of all WYSA Coaches. Any Coach who violates the Coach's Code of Conduct, or who doesn't adhere to the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Coach's Responsibilities and General Guidelines, the Coach's Handbook, and the WYSA Rules is subject to review by the Committee. The Committee shall meet upon any report of violations and take whatever action is deems appropriate.

Coaches may appeal the Committee's decision to the full Board of Directors of WYSA (the Board). The appeal must be made in writing within seven (7)

days of the Committee's decision and given to the appropriate Age Director. The Board will meet on the appeal at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The decision of the Board is final.

Coach's Code of Conduct

The Board of Directors of Woburn Youth Soccer Association and the leaders of the affiliated leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels.

We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them and you may need to be forceful and direct from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.

- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your league. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.

We stress two points:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting or even accepting your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage or allow your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Woburn and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

Player's Code of Conduct

Woburn Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) has instituted a Player's Code of Conduct for the Travel Program. All players who elect to try out for a travel team are expected to agree to a commitment to the WYSA Travel Program. This commitment will include attendance at practices and games, as determined by each team's coach. This commitment also includes an agreement by each player to conduct themselves in a proper manner in regards to respect and sportsmanship to all coaches, players, referees, parents, and spectators at all times while representing WYSA.

Infractions of the Player's Code of Conduct shall include but not be limited

to: missing practices; missing games; disruptive behavior, disrespectful behavior, and poor sportsmanship, whether at games, practices, or any other time while representing WYSA.

A coach who feels a player on his/her team has violated the Player's Code of Conduct has the option of reporting that player to the Travel Director for action by the WYSA Travel Program Disciplinary Board. Action by the Travel Program Disciplinary Board may include the player receiving reduced playing time, a suspension, and or expulsion from the team.

Players have the right to appeal the Travel Program Disciplinary Board's decisions. Appeals must be made in writing to the Travel Director within seven days of the Travel Program Disciplinary Board ruling. The Travel Program Disciplinary Board will schedule a hearing within seven days of receipt of the written appeal. The result of the appeals hearing will be made known as quickly as possible, with a written response to the player following the decision. If a player is still not satisfied, they may submit a written appeal within ten days to the Travel Director for appeal to the WYSA Board of Directors, which will hear the appeal at their next scheduled monthly meeting. Any decision by the WYSA Board of Directors is final, and the result shall be forwarded to the appealing player in a timely fashion.

Zero Tolerance Rule

All persons responsible for a team and all the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all of the other participants and spectators. Consequently, WYSA has adopted the following rule.

No one is to address the referee during the game!

The Coach and Assistants responsible for a team have the following exceptions during the Game:

- Responding to the referee initiating a communication.
- Making Substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

At half-time or at the end of the game a coach/assistant coach can ask the referee to explain rule(s) in a polite and constructive way or may also give polite and friendly feedback to the referee.

Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment and or intimidation directed to the referee will be tolerated.

Penalties:

- 1st Minor Infraction: Referee should ignore.
- 1st Serious Infraction: Caution or Ejection on the seriousness of the infraction.
- 2nd Minor Infraction: A verbal warning shall be given.
- 3rd Infraction: Caution (yellow card).
- 4th Infraction: Ejection (red card).

The referee shall file a written report to the Referee Director immediately following the game. The Referee Director shall give this report to the Sportsmanship Committee within 48 hours.

Spectators

All spectators have the following exceptions during the game:

- Responding to the referee initiating a communication.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction: Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator(s).
- 2nd Infraction: A verbal warning to the coach. The referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator(s) that the next infraction will result in the coach receiving a caution (yellow card) and an ejection of the spectator(s).
- 3rd Infraction: The referee shall stop the game and instruct the coach to direct the spectator(s) to leave the field. The referee shall issue an ejection (red card) to the coach and abandon the game if the spectator(s) does not leave the field.

The referee shall file a written report to the Referee Director immediately following the game. The Referee Director shall give this report to the Sportsmanship Committee within 48 hours.

XXVII: Minimum Number of Players:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Goalkeeper</u>
U7D	4	5	No
U7	5	6	Yes
U8	5	7	Yes
BU10	7	9	Yes
GU10	7	9	Yes
BU12	7	11	Yes
GU12	7	11	Yes
BU14	7	11	Yes
GU14	7	9	Yes
U16, U18, U19	7	11	Yes

XXVIII: TIE BREAKERS

This is the criteria to be used in the event that at the close of the city season, two teams are tied for placement in the standings by having the same number of total points.

The tie breaker determination is made in this descending order until a winner is determined:

1. The record of each team in head to head competition during the season.
2. The least number of goals yielded in head to head competition.
3. The least number of goals given up during the year.
4. A separate match between the two teams is made. In extreme circumstances or weather conditions, such as excessive heat, cold, darkness, rain, time of year, etc. the President shall have the authority to decide to use an alternative method in determining placement.