



WOODRIDGE SOCCER ASSOCIATION



IN-HOUSE PROGRAM RULES and REGULATIONS

Section I: Registration

- A. Programs will consist of boys and girls participating on the same team. The following birthdate ranges determine a player's division:

Micro I Division	Sept. 1, Yr 1	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 2
Micro II Division	Sept. 1, Yr 2	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 3
Junior Division	Sept. 1, Yr 3	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 4
Intermediate Division	Sept. 1, Yr 4	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 5
Senior Division	Sept. 1, Yr 5	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 6
Super Senior Division	Sept. 1, Yr 6	-->	Aug. 31, Yr 7

Age on Sept. 1 of fall season: ,

Yr 1	=	5	Yr 5	=	12
Yr 2	=	7	Yr 6	=	15
Yr 3	=	8	Yr 7	=	18
Yr 4	=	10			

- B. A player may be promoted to an older division with written parental permission provided they are in the last year of a division. Further promotion will require approval of the Executive Council. A player may not play in a younger division without the approval of the Executive Council.
- C. No player may register without the written consent of a parent or guardian and the approval of the WSA Executive Council.
- D. A player shall become an official team member only after payment of a required registration fee.
- E. A late registering team member is eligible to compete when the WSA Director of Registration receives a duly completed registration form and acknowledgment that the WPD has received the appropriate fee.
- F. Refund of registration fee:
1. Prior to the first game: if uniform is assigned to another player, refund is full registration; if uniform cannot be re-assigned, refund is one-half of the registration fee and the player keeps the uniform.
 2. After the first game, refunds are subject to approval of Executive Council.

Section II: Teams

- A. Team names shall bear no reference to race, religion, or nationality.
- B. Each team shall have a minimum of eleven (11) registered players (eight in the Micro Divisions), and shall not exceed sixteen registered players (twelve in the Micro Divisions).
- C. A game shall not be started with less than two (2) players below the playing format for the Micros, three (3) players below the playing format for the Juniors and four (4) players below the playing format for the Intermediate and Senior divisions. The opposing team is not required to reduce their number of players.

After the game is started, it shall continue provided both teams can field the minimum number of players stated above. The match shall be ruled a forfeit if a team cannot field the minimum number of players by fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time of the match. When a team is playing with less than the playing format, late arriving players may enter the game when signaled onto the field by the referee.

Section III: Transfer of Players

- A. Only by approval of the WSA Board.
- B. In-house player can be transferred to traveling team provided he/she has the coach's approval and pays appropriate fees and has the approval of the WSA Board. The Director of Traveling must coordinate with the Director of Registration.
- C. After the close of registration, Traveling Team players may be transferred to an in-house team through the waiting list mechanism only.

Section IV: Competition

- A. Standings are recorded for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions only - standings are not recorded for the Minor division.
- B. The standing of teams in their respective divisions shall be computed by total points awarded. Points are awarded as follows: three (3) points to the winning team, and one (1) point to each team playing to a tie game, and zero (0) points to the losing team. Divisional standings shall also include goals in favor (GF), goals against (GA), and goal differential (DIF). The goal differential (DIF) will be determined by goals in favor (GF) less goals against (GA). One (1) point will be subtracted from the winning team after a six-(6) point goal differential in a game.
- C. All games count for standings with the following exception: All of each week's scheduled games in a division must be played in order for those games to count in the standings. If one or more games in a division are canceled and not made up before the end of the season, then no games from that week will be included in that division's final standings.
- D. If, at the end of the season, two (2) teams are tied for any place, the first tie breaker will be based on head to head competition during the season. If teams do not play each other and a tie for a place exists, they shall be declared co-holders of that place. The second tie breaker used, if necessary, will be the goal differential (DIF).
- E. In case of a postponed game, the WSA shall have full power to reschedule said games.
- F. In case of a failure to play a regularly scheduled game, the offending team shall forfeit the game by a score of 1-0.

Section V: Duration of Games

- A. Four equal quarters shall be played:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Periods per Game</u>	<u>Minutes per Period</u>
Micro I & II	6	7
Junior Division	4	12
Intermediate & Senior	4	15

- B. The half time interval shall be five (5) minutes. The interval between first and second quarters and the third and fourth quarters shall be two (2) minutes.

- C. No overtimes or tiebreakers are permitted.
- D. If the second half of a game has started, the game will be considered final at the time the referee stops play for safety. If a game is canceled prior to the beginning of the third quarter, the game is replayed from the beginning.
- E. The team kicking off the first quarter shall kick off the second quarter. Their opponents shall kick off the third and fourth quarters.

Section VI: Substitutions

- A. All players shall be scheduled equal playing time. For example, if the duration of the game is 4 periods, all players must play 3 periods before any player is allowed to play 4 periods. Likewise, if the duration of the game is 6 periods, all players must play 4 periods before any player is allowed to play 5, etc. Coaches may reduce playing time by 1 period for disciplinary reasons, however, a player may not be restricted to playing less than half of the game without prior approval of the WSA Executive Board. If an absent player arrives before the end of half time, that player will play at least 1 period.
- B. Players may be substituted only between periods, except for health reasons or injuries. Players receiving their first yellow card shall be substituted immediately and for the balance of that quarter, except when no substitutes are available. If two players from the same team receive a yellow card in the same quarter, the first player may return only if there are no more substitutes.
- C. A player shall be charged with having played in any quarter that he/she starts, even if no completed because of an injury or a yellow card penalty.
- D. Only the WSA Board may suspend a player. Players receiving two yellow cards or a red card will be suspended (will not be allowed to play the following game). The referee shall report to the Director of Officials any cards that were given. The coach of the carded player shall report the same information to the Director of Coaches.
- E. Players may be suspended by the WSA Board for other reasons (e.g., lack of attendance at practice).
- F. All non-active players shall remain at the team area.

Section VII: Season Schedule

- A. Practice may not begin before the published date.
- B. The official season shall be approved and scheduled by the WSA Executive council. Games shall not be rescheduled without the approval of the Vice President.

Section VIII: Uniforms

- A. Required uniforms include jersey and socks provided by the WSA, and solid black shorts provided by the player. Any logos on the shorts shall be no greater than 2"x3".
- B. The full uniform, jersey, shorts, and socks, must be worn at all games. During cold weather, warmer clothing such as sweatshirts and long pants may be worn **underneath** the jersey and shorts a parental discretion. Spandex or bicycle shorts can be worn provided they are solid black and do not extend below the knee.
- C. All players must wear shin guards or they will not be allowed to participate in the games or practice sessions. Shin guards shall be worn underneath the socks provided by the WSA at all scheduled

games.

- D. Eye Glasses shall be secured by a strap going around the back of a player's head or the player will not be allowed to participate in the games.
- E. Only soccer shoes with rounded cleats or flat-soled shoes such as tennis or gym shoes will be allowed. Screw on cleats or any sharp edged cleats (rectangular, square, or triangular) **will not be allowed**.
- F. Jewelry shall not be worn. Any medically required items must be taped down. It is strongly recommended that children wearing braces use a mouth guard.
- G. Failure to adhere to rules B - F will result in the child not being allowed to play. If a team is left short handed because of one or more such violations, the opposing team will not be penalized and forced to play short handed also.
- H. Jackets with attached hoods are highly discouraged unless tied tightly, or the hood is tucked under the shirt.
- I. Caps of any kind are not recommended, but may be worn in cold weather, provided they contain no hard or dangerous materials (e.g., baseball cap brim or buttons, etc.).
- J. Rules D, E, F, H, and I also apply to practice sessions.
- K. Players names or the team name may be placed on the jersey provided all players on the team do the same. The rule is "all or none." No other names, symbols, or logos are permitted.

Section IX: Equipment

- A. For each field, the coaches of the first team listed in the schedule for that day's games are responsible for picking up equipment from the equipment bin. The coaches of the last team listed that day are responsible for returning equipment to the equipment bin at the end of the day or earlier if that day's games are canceled.
- B. For each field, coaches for both of the teams scheduled to play the first game of the day will set up the equipment. Coaches for both of the last teams to play on the field will take the equipment down.
- C. Game balls shall be provided by WSA.
- D. For games, the division shall use the ball sizes listed below:
Micro #3
Junior #4
Intermediate #4
Senior #5

Section X: Officiating

- A. Referees shall be assigned by the Director of Officials.
- B. Referees shall officiate games according to the WSA Rules of Play as contained herein.
- C. Only currently certified referees will be assigned to WSA matches.

Section XI: Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches

- A. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each coach to:
1. Conduct him or herself in a manner becoming a member of the WSA as described in the Coach's code of Ethics of the WSA (see Coaches' Handbook).
 2. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
 3. Train and coach their team to the best of his/her ability.
 4. Participate in positive coaching that instructs and encourages players during practices and between quarters of games. **Negative comments and complaints about refereeing cannot be allowed!**
 5. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their players and spectators, and are required to take all precautions to prevent spectators from shouting negative remarks and complaints toward the referees, players, other coaches, or spectators before, during, and after any game.
 6. Attend appropriate coaching clinics.
 7. Refrain from the use of all tobacco and alcohol products during practice sessions and games.
- B. Excessive coaching from the sideline will not be permitted. Both yellow and red cards shall be issued to a coach as appropriate. Coaches must remain in the coach's box on their end of the field except between periods of play.
- C. The referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and his/her decision shall be final. No protests, of any kind, shall be allowed during the game. Any complaints about any referee shall be directed to the Director of Officials or the WSA Executive Council at the regularly scheduled weekly review meeting.
- D. Each team will provide a linesman to assist the referee as needed. The linesman shall not coach from the sidelines.
- E. All coaches are required to follow all WSA and Woodridge Park District policies regarding practice and playing field usage, namely:
1. All In-House and Traveling teams will not practice on designated playing fields, including all Janes Avenue fields, Sunny Dale, Falcon Ridge, the Jefferson Junior High fields north of the school, or any field so designated in the future.
 2. All In-House and Traveling team coaches must honor all practice field assignments arranged through the WSA Vice President.
- F. In order that all players learn all relevant soccer skills, in-house coaches are required to rotate players through different field positions. All players should play on at least two different "lines" per game, with the fullback positions being defined as one line, the mid-field positions defined as another line, and the forwards as another line. For the purpose of this discussion, the goalie position is considered a fourth line.
- G. Coaches are required to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. One demonstration of this principle is taking suitable action to avoid embarrassing an opponent by running up the score differential. Appropriate measures include: moving strong offensive players to defensive positions and weaker players to the offensive positions; encouraging strong players to pass the ball to weaker players; letting weaker players take corner kicks, free kicks, and penalty kicks; resting strong players while observing the requirements of section VI; or requiring that some players remain on the defensive half of the field. The following are considered in violation of the spirit of good sportsmanship: leaving strong offensive

players in the forward positions, especially those who have already scored three or more goals; advancing all players (possibly including the goalie) into the offensive half of the field; or continuing to vocally encourage players to score more goals.

H. No team shall have 3 coaches assigned without every team having 2 coaches assigned without prior approval of the Executive Board of Directors.

Section XII: Game Rules

- A. The rules of play shall only be the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Laws of the Game, except as modified by the WSA in these rules.
- B. Prior to the coin toss both coaches and the referee shall complete the pre-game section of the game card.
- C. Everyone except active players and officials must remain at least three yards from touchlines and 10 yards from the end lines. No one shall sit or stand behind the goals.
- D. The following pertain only to the Micro Division:
1. Slide tackling is not permitted and will be penalized as a tripping penalty.
 2. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick.
 3. The attacking team within the defending team's goal box shall take no kicks.
 4. Two periods shall be the maximum any player shall play as goalkeeper per game. This same player is also required to play at least one period on the field per game in another position.
 5. An illegal throw-in will be allowed to be retaken once by the same player.
- E. The following pertain to the Junior Division only:
1. Slide tackling is not permitted and will be penalized as a tripping penalty.
 2. If a major foul is committed by the defending team inside the penalty area and is flagrant in the judgment of the referee, a penalty kick shall be awarded. If in the judgment of the referee the foul is not flagrant, a direct free kick shall be awarded.

Section XIII: Duties and Responsibilities of Players

Players shall conduct themselves as young gentlemen and young ladies at all times while at WSA games, practices, and activities.

Section XIV: Duties and Responsibilities of Parents

- A. It is each parent's responsibility to see that their child attends, is on time, and has transportation to practices and games.
- B. Parents should encourage cooperation with coaches and referees.

- C. Parents should discourage bad language, obscene gestures, foul play, and so on, at all WSA activities.
- D. Excessive coaching by the parents from the sidelines will not be permitted. **Parents shall stay on the side of the field opposite the players and coaches.**
- E. Spectators must remain at least three yards from the touchlines and between the penalty areas. **No one shall stand behind the goals.**
- F. Parents will be asked to evaluate the WSA Board, referees, and coaches at the end of the season.
- G. No alcoholic beverages of any kind may be brought to any scheduled practice or an actual game.

XV: Awards

- A. Awards shall be presented by the WSA to the leaders of each division, excluding Micros. Approximately one place trophy for each three teams in each division will be awarded; participation awards will be presented to each registered player. (Note: If two teams tie for first place, no second place trophy is awarded if only two trophies are to be awarded.)
- B. Other team or player's awards are permitted but should be handled privately.

XVI: Imposition of Penalties

In the unfortunate circumstance that the Board of Directors must address the issue of coaches who violate the rules described above and the spirit embodied by them, the Board shall have the option of choosing from among the following penalties: verbal and/or written reprimand, subtraction of one point from division standings record, forfeiture of a match, suspension from coaching duties for one or more games, removal from future consideration for a coaching position, or immediate removal from a coaching position. The Board must take positive action to uphold the principles of the WSA.

XVII: Rule Changes

These rules and procedures may only be changed or amended as stated in the Woodridge Soccer Association's Bylaws.

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