
RULES AND REGULATIONS

WESTCHESTER YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

SPRING 2026

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WESTCHESTER YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS – SPRING 2026

The Rules and Regulations of the Westchester Youth Soccer League (the “WYSL” or the “League”) have been developed to benefit the youth soccer players who participate in the League. The rules contained herein shall govern the members of the League in all instances in which they are applicable. *These Rules and Regulations complement and supplement the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (“ENYYSA”), United States Youth Soccer (“USYS”) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF) rules, and the Rules of Play modify in certain respects the Laws of the Game as published by IFAB/FIFA.*

It is suggested that coaches bring a copy of these Rules and Regulations to all League games. All forms referred to in these Rules and Regulations are available on the League’s web site. Any matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Rules and regulations governing open enrollment or other programs may be determined by the Board of Directors.

I. COMMUNITY & CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Personnel Required of Clubs.** Each club must have the following persons:

- A. *Club Representative.* A designated representative (usually the president or travel commissioner) who will act as the club’s official liaison with League officers. All communications with the League should be channeled through the club representative. All designated representatives must supply up to date contact information to the League including address, phone numbers and an e-mail address. (If someone other than the particular club’s designated representative contacts the Referee Assignor or League Scheduler, the particular club will be subject to a fine of \$100.) The designated club representative will be notified of League meetings. If the club representative or substitute is not present at a League meeting, the club will be fined \$100; if the club representative or substitute is not present for two or more consecutive League meetings, the club will be fined \$200 for the second and any subsequent such consecutive meeting. Each club will have the number of votes at the League meeting determined in accordance with the By-Laws of the League.
- B. *Registrar.* The club registrar will be the sole contact with the League Registrar with respect to registration matters, unless otherwise arranged with the League Registrar. Coaches and parents may not come to the League office unless pre-approved.

- C. *Field Coordinator.* A field coordinator for each season.
- D. *Club Referee Coordinator.* The club referee coordinator has the overall responsibility for recruiting, retaining and managing club referees (that is, referees who live in the area served generally by the primary club in the area and/or who play or coach or otherwise have some affiliation with the club). Specific duties: (i) coordinate and assist the WYSL Referee Assignor with coverage for any uncovered home games (or games that should have a 3-referee crew but do not). **IMPORTANT:** Only when asked by the WYSL Referee Assignor or in last minute situations when the WYSL Referee Assignor is not available, the club referee coordinator may assign referees to uncovered home games; (ii) make recommendations to the WYSL Referee Director for improvements to the referee program; (iii) oversee the recruitment of club referees; (iv) coordinate with the WYSL Referee Director with respect to club referees' education, mentoring and development; (v) help to make refereeing fun and desirable so those who take the course referee and those who referee continue to referee; (vi) report successes and challenges to club referees to the WYSL Referee Director; (vii) attend all required WSRO and WYSL meetings that pertain to rules and referees; (viii) coordinate the club referees' evaluation process; (ix) coordinate club referee participation in referee courses and clinics with the WYSL Referee Director; (x) stay abreast of changes to the Laws of the Game and relevant WYSL rules and share this information with club referees as appropriate; (xi) attempt to meet and get to know the club's referees and – with younger referees – try to know their parents; (xii) intervene as needed, especially if there is anything bordering on abuse of referees, and make sure the appropriate persons are informed; and (xiii) where possible and appropriate, help to judge referee ability and make recommendations to the WYSL Referee Director for appropriate referee placement or advancement.

The name and contact information of the president, registrar, field coordinator and referee coordinator for each club will be listed on the League website. The field coordinator or referee coordinator may, but need not, be or act as the designated representative referred to in (A) above.

- 2. **Registration.** Each club has the responsibility to insure the proper registration of its players and teams and payment of all fees, and to comply with the registration requirements established by the League or the League Registrar.
 - A. *Failure to Adhere.* Failure to adhere to the registration schedule will subject the nonconforming club to the imposition of late registration fees. A fine of \$500 per club will be imposed by the League if registration is not completed by the deadline date set by the League. Teams will not be registered for League play without permission from the League if they

miss the registration deadline date established by the League Registrar. A complete registration is considered:

- 1) a roster, indicating players that have not been registered previously with the League and, for such players, including a picture, birth certificate or other proof of age acceptable to the League Registrar (if new to the League) and other registration and seeding forms prescribed by the League Registrar, for each team being registered, indicating, in the case of U8 teams, whether they will be playing in specially designated 7v7 divisions consisting entirely of U8 players (“Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions”), including a head coach with a currently effective risk management registration and at least the following minimum number of players listed: for teams in the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions, U9 divisions and U10 divisions, seven (7) players; for U11 and U12 division teams, nine (9) players; and for all older teams, eleven (11) players;
 - 2) such documents and electronic files detailing field availability, teams lists, rosters and other similar documents as may be required by the League, the League Registrar, or the League Scheduler;
 - 3) a head coach with a currently effective registration through ENYYSA/USYS (including compliance with all of ENYYSA/USYS’s and WYSL’s risk management, injury/concussion management and other requirements); and
 - 4) full payment of registration money, as determined from time to time by the Board; if a team or club drops out of the league after the preliminary schedule has been posted, the team and/or club will not receive a refund or a credit of any registration fees paid.
- B. *Full Compliance.* Lineup cards will not be made available by the League Registrar unless all registration requirements have been fully met and fees and fines have been paid. Access to a Lineup card by the League Register shall not excuse or exculpate a team or club for registration irregularities.
- C. *Deadline for Roster Changes.* Registration of a new player for Travel League play will be allowed up until the Monday of the last week of the season.
- D. *Registration.* ENYYSA/USYS requires that registration be completed in order for a player to be officially registered to a team.
- E. *Bound to a Team.* **Upon the completed registration being submitted online, but effective no earlier than June 15 (for the following Fall season), a player will officially become committed to and a registered**

player of that Travel team for all purposes, including but not limited to, the Rules below entitled “Transfers”, “Practices” and “Tournaments”. Subject to the exceptions expressly set forth in this Rule I-2-E and Rule I-2-F, the Travel team to which a player is registered is the team that player will be required to remain on for the entire seasonal year, unless the player becomes a transfer player or shall be voluntarily or involuntarily released. (A seasonal year is defined as August 1 through July 31.) This rule does not apply to intra-club movement of players, players registered to a team solely for a High School mini-season, certain tournament players (see Rule I-2-I), or players on open enrollment or recreation teams. No team can solicit, accumulate or accept at any time more players than it has available roster slots. No team in any age group may register a player until the player actually makes the team.

- 1) **Permission Required to Move.** A player desiring to move between Clubs during the seasonal year requires the consent of the Board of Directors. Consistent with the rules and regulations of ENYYSA/USYS, a transfer request will not be unreasonably withheld for a player in good standing.
- 2) **Removal; Release.** Once registered to a team, a player cannot be dropped or otherwise removed from the roster by that team during the seasonal year, unless the player moves beyond a reasonable travel distance, misbehaves in a manner detrimental to the team or otherwise violates rules of the League or ENYYSA/USYS, has a parent who misbehaves in a manner detrimental to the team, has a season ending injury or owes money to the player’s club, or unless permission in writing is granted by a parent or guardian of the player. If a player is removed from a team in accordance with this paragraph, or if the player resigns from a team, the player must be removed from the on-line roster.

F. *Transfers.*

- 1) **One Team.** A player can only be registered to one WYSL team at a time.
- 2) **5-Player Transfer Rule.** No team may register more than five (5) transfer players in any seasonal year. Players are free to “move” until they register with a Travel team. Once a player has been registered to a team, he/she can only move between teams if he/she is counted as a transfer player and has his/her club president’s written permission to move, except
 - (i) certain tournament players (see Rule I-2-I, Tournaments, below),

- (ii) players registered to an open enrollment or recreation team,
 - (iii) summer transfers contemplated by paragraph 4) below, and
 - (iv) for transfers of a player within a club, the League may accept alternative forms of consent of the club president (e.g., telephone or email)
 - (v) the maximum five player transfer rule may be exceeded if a team player is transferring from a team that has been disbanded prior to the time of league registration and if the player or players are transferring onto a team that is entered into the US Youth Soccer Championship series or ENYYSA Challenge Cup those players can only be added to the US Youth Soccer Championship series or ENYYSA Challenge Cup rosters before they are frozen and if they DO NOT exceed the five-player transfer rule.
- 3) **Transfer Form.** For a transfer to take effect, a League-issued form (on the League's website) must be completed by both teams/clubs involved, and a transfer fee of \$50 paid by the receiving club (except in the case of transfers between teams in the same club). The form must be completed for all transfers of a player from one Travel team to another Travel team, including intra-club transfers, except certain summer transfers described in clause 4 below.
- 4) **Summer Transfer.** Any player transferred from one team to another team during the period from July 1 through August 31 of any year shall be considered as a member of the team the player has transferred to for the League's ensuing playing period (September 1 through June 30). Such a player will not be considered as one of the five (5) players per team permitted under paragraph 2) above to transfer to any one team during a seasonal year and a transfer form will not be required for such player nor will transfer fees be assessed. But if a player desires to play for a new Travel team before such Fall registration due date, a transfer form or guest form is required. However, if a transferring player is from another league or desires to play in a game for the Travel team to which he/she has transferred before the date in July that Fall registration materials are due the League office, a transfer form is required unless the player is a guest player.
- G. *Practices.* No registered player may practice with a team from another club, without a Guest Player and Practice Release Form (available on the League's website), except in an open tryout permitted under Rule I-2-I. Failure to comply with this rule will incur the following minimum penalties:
- 1) First offense, a \$500 fine per player plus two (2) game suspension for the coach.

- 2) Second and subsequent offense, a \$1,000 fine per player plus four (4) game suspension for the coach.
- 3) All fines will be assessed to the club. Failure to remit payment or to observe a suspension will subject that club to further disciplinary action. A practice release form will not be required, and penalties will not be assessed, for a player registered to a team for the preceding playing season practicing with a different team after the date in July that Fall registration materials are due to the League and before September 1 if the player becomes registered to and plays with the different team in the Fall.

H. *Tournaments.*

- 1) **Tournament Passes.** Players seeking tournament passes or approval to play with a League team must register as a tournament player with such team. Tournament passes/authorization may only be used for up to such period of time as shall be approved by the League Registrar, up to eight (8) weeks, and, in the case of passes, must be returned immediately after the expiration of such approved period. If a tournament pass is not so returned, the passes for the rest of the team will be held up or recalled.
- 2) **Registration of Tournament Team.** The following types of teams shall, to the extent possible, have their players registered, as guest players or otherwise distinguished from regular registration, so that players are not considered players registered to the team, nor bound to such teams for the next season:
 - (i) team registered for the High School mini-season playing in a tournament during such season and/or prior to the following January 15th,
 - (ii) a team registered for a tournament after the last game of the Spring season and before the following September 1, or
 - (iii) another "Tournament Team".

In furtherance of this, to the extent controlled by the League, the minimum number of players necessary to be rostered to register such a team for a tournament shall be seven (7) players. For League purposes, no such players shall be bound to such "Tournament Team" beyond the registration deadline for the next season for such age group.

- 3) **Guest Players.** A team is permitted to utilize guest players for tournament competition. To take a guest player to a tournament, the borrowing coach must first contact the player's coach of record (before contacting the player) to obtain permission to take the

player to the tournament and to obtain the player's pass, if applicable. No registered player may participate as a guest player at a tournament with a team from a different club, or participate in related practices with the "guest" team, without a guest player and practice release form (available on the League's website). This form must be completed by both coaches and signed by the League. Failure to comply with this Rule will incur the following minimum penalties:

- (i) First offense, a \$500 fine per player plus two (2) game suspension for the coach,
 - (ii) Second and subsequent offense, a \$1,000 fine per player plus four (4) game suspension for the coach.
 - (iii) All fines will be assessed to the club. Failure to remit payment or to observe a suspension will subject that club to further disciplinary action.
- 4) For players registering for tournament play, the League will charge \$30/player, plus an additional \$5 if the player requires pass.
- A. *Tryouts.* No Pre-Tryout Registration. No team shall register a player as a condition of or in connection with such player attending or participating in a tryout. Players rostered to the team during the last season it played in the League may be allowed to register to the team prior to the tryout. A club may require prior registration for tryouts provided that registration for tryouts does not in any way constitute registration, or require or commit that player to register, for that team.
- K. *Withdrawal.* If a team withdraws after registering with the League, the club of such withdrawing team will be fined an amount equal to a season's registration (i.e., if a team is registered for a full year, one-half of such full year's registration fee), unless relief shall be granted by the Executive Committee.
- L. *False Statement.* A player registration form containing a false signature or false statement will subject the club and the individuals involved to disciplinary action by the League.
- M. *Lost Passes.* To the extent passes are issued, all player and coach passes are League property and must be returned to the League in connection with registrations and transfers or if the player or coach is no longer active. The League will charge a fee of \$20 for each new player or coach pass (including a transfer pass) issued to replace a lost, stolen, destroyed or otherwise unreturned pass.
- N. *Intra-Club Borrowing Program.* This optional program gives clubs the ability to allow players to guest play in league games on another

age-appropriate team within the same club. For purposes of this rule, a team is “age-appropriate” for a player to be “shared” with if that player could legally play in the age group that the receiving team is playing in, regardless of the age group the player’s regular team plays in. For example, a player that is registered to a U13 team, but is young enough to legally to play for a U12 team, may be borrowed by a U12 subject to subsection 2) below.

- 1) U11 and younger teams are free to share players in league games on any age-appropriate team within the same club so long as: (1) the receiving team is in same age group as the age group that the borrowed player is legally eligible to play for without regard to whether the borrowed player is playing up an age group (example: a U10 eligible player playing on a U11 team may be borrowed by any U10 team) or (2) the receiving team is in an older age division than the player’s team.
- 2) U12 and older teams (including high school teams) are free to share players in league games on any age-appropriate team within the same club so long as: (1) the receiving team is in same age group that the borrowed player is legally eligible to play for AND in the same or higher division as the player’s team or (2) the receiving team is in an older age division than the player’s team. (Examples of permissible transfers include a player on a U12 division 2 team playing on a U12 division 1 team or a player on a U12 team playing on any U13 team.) A player playing up an age group can play for any team that the player is legally eligible to play with, but may only play on the Club’s highest ranked team in the eligible age group. Example, a U12 eligible player playing on a U13 team can be borrowed by the Club’s U12 division 1 team, but not that Club’s 12 Division 2 team.

This program aims to give clubs more authority and responsibility to manage their teams and develop their players. Clubs may use this program to: test and evaluate their players at different levels/teams, fill in rosters when a team is short for a weekend and/or evaluate player performance prior to a transfer.

The League expects the clubs to use this program in a responsible and discretionary manner and to consider the potential impact that the use of guest players could have on existing player playing time and development. In addition, the program should not be used to alter the level of competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, no WYSL team may borrow a non-WYSL registered player for a League match.

In the Spring season, all WYSL teams will be permitted a maximum of three (3) age-appropriate players (“guest players”) from another team within the same club at any League game played prior to Memorial Day and four (4) guest players at any League game played after Memorial Day. An official from the club must approve the guest player. In the Fall season, all WYSL teams will be permitted a maximum of four (4) guest players from another team within the same club at any League game played prior to Columbus Day and three (3) guest players at any League game played after Columbus Day. An official from the club must approve the guest player. The total number of players on the official game-day rosters must remain within the league’s roster limits for that age group. A player may only participate as a guest player four (4) times during a single season. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the four (4) game per season limit shall not apply to players who play as guest players in the U8 divisions, provided that in no event shall such a guest player be permitted to play in more than two (2) games on a single day. In addition, all absent player names are to be crossed out.

The mechanics of the WYSL borrowing process have been revised. The borrowing of a guest player can only be initiated by certain approved club administrators. A team official shall coordinate with the applicable club’s administrator in the event such team wants to use a guest player so the club’s administrator can complete the online borrowing process. Once the online borrowing process has been properly completed, the League will approve the guest players, and the approved guest players will be appear on the appropriate roster.

The online borrowing process is the only way guest players will be approved. The deadline for submitting the online borrowing request is Friday at noon prior to that weekend’s games. All approved guest players will be automatically removed from the borrowing team’s roster by the League each Monday following such weekend’s games.

Clubs are responsible that their teams follow the Intra-Club Borrowing Rules. Improper player borrowing (e.g, a D1 player playing for a D2 team) will be an automatic game loss and a suspension for the listed team head coach.

- O. *Guest Teams.* The League may also register “guest teams”, which are teams from clubs which are not members of the League, but only in accordance with the provisions of this Rule I-2-O.
 - 1) The League may agree or decline to register guest teams at its sole discretion.

- 2) Guest teams shall only be approved by the League with the approval of the Membership Committee of the Board and the President. Approval of guest teams shall apply for one soccer year only (fall and following spring seasons) or just for the spring season, provided that the League may decide, in its sole discretion, to discontinue admission of a guest team between the fall and spring seasons. Generally, clubs with three or more teams in the League should meet the requirements for, and should apply for, membership in the League, but the League may make exceptions to this general rule. The Board shall approve the continuation of any guest teams beyond the soccer year for which they were approved.
- 3) Guest teams, including their coaches and players, must register on the WYSL's registration platform unless explicitly exempted from this requirement by the League.
- 4) Coaches of guest teams shall be required to obtain the same certification and attend the same coach orientation course as coaches of member teams unless explicitly exempted from this requirement by the League, provided that the League may allow a grace period of up to one year for coaches of guest teams to comply with these requirements.
- 5) The Rules and Regulations of the WYSL shall otherwise apply to guest teams as appropriate under the circumstances, subject to specific provisions/exceptions made herein for guest teams. While the club with which a guest team is affiliated is not a WYSL member club, that club shall bear full responsibility for that guest team under these Rules as if such club was a WYSL member club.

3. Monetary Obligations.

- A. Deposit.* All new clubs must make a \$500 deposit with the League. The deposit will be maintained by the League. The deposit will remain with the League until a club (and all of its teams) withdraws from the League. Withdrawal must be in writing and forwarded to the President of the League. Any club that fully withdraws from the League will receive a return of the deposit (but no interest thereon) less fines assessed by the League.
- B. Fines.* All fines levied against a team or club will be automatically deducted from the club's deposit, unless the fine is paid within 30 days.

4. Fields; Travel Directions. Each club must have one home field for the full playing day for every six teams entered in the League, at the times and of a size or sizes relevant to the teams registered. Each club with U9, U10 or U11 teams, or

U8 teams playing in the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions, must have a pair of 7 x 21 goals or 6.5 x 18.5 goals or 6 x 18 goals at 7v7, 8 v 8 and 9 v 9 fields. (See Section IV.4. for specifics.)

- A. *Seasonal Information.* Prior to each season, each club must furnish electronically to the League information detailing its available fields, the length and width in yards, and the dates and times of availability for Sunday games. If current directions to the fields are not already posted on the League web site, the club should provide current driving directions by email to the League office or update the directions on the League website.
- B. *Field Conditions.* The home club shall be responsible for the size and condition of its fields, the proper marking of fields and the installation of corner flags, goals and goal nets as described in IFAB/FIFA's Laws of the Game. It is mandatory that all equipment be installed well before the scheduled start of the game.
 - 1) Referees have the authority to declare a field unplayable, and the League has the right to inspect and restrict the use of fields.
 - 2) Violations of these rules by the home club may result in the declaration of a forfeit and the imposition of fines, and repeated violations may subject the club to loss of home field games and forfeiture and expulsion from the League.
 - 3) Clubs will be notified in writing by the League of any violation and fine.

SPECIAL EXEMPTION RELATING TO PROPER MARKING OF FIELDS. *The Board of Directors has received concerns from certain club presidents that the owners of the fields used by such club will not permit additional lines to be placed upon such fields. Accordingly, these clubs cannot properly line fields for the U12 and under age groups. These clubs have requested that they be allowed to use temporary markings, such as tape products, to mark the fields. The Board has decided to allow this manner of marking fields for the U12 and under age groups, so long as the temporary markings do not compromise player safety and give a relatively clear demarcation of the relevant line. Any club that needs to employ temporary markings should make a request to the League outlining which fields are impacted, how fields will be marked and demonstrating the safety of the proposed marking system.*

- 5. **Conduct.** The home club shall be responsible for crowd control. Failure to provide control and safety to referees, players, coaches and spectators shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the League.

Each member club shall be responsible for the conduct of its officers, club members, managers, team officials, adult supervisors (coaches, trainers, etc.),

players and spectators both on and off the field, in all matters. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including cautions, ejection, and suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of this League.

6. **Play in League.** All member clubs are required to have all of their teams play in the League to the extent the League has an age group competition for the team, except to the extent that the League has granted a specific exemption. A member club must get permission from the League's Seeding Committee before any of its teams can enter another league.
7. **Risk Management.** In addition to coaches and other individuals required to complete risk management registration under Rule II-2, the following ENYYSA/USYS policy and rule apply to all member clubs:

"Policy 10.05 Risk Management. The Organization is committed to a safe environment for its Members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. The ENYYSA/USYS Risk Management Policy has been adopted by the Board.

<https://www.enysoccer.com/safesport/>

All club coaches and administrators shall comply with the Risk Management Policy prior to and during their participation in club activities."

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II. COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Conduct.** EACH HEAD COACH AT THE FIELD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER CONDUCT AND THE CONDUCT OF HIS/HER ASSISTANTS, PLAYERS, THEIR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS. EACH COACH SHOULD INSTRUCT ASSISTANTS, PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS NOT TO SUBJECT REFEREES, OPPOSING PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS OF OPPOSING TEAMS TO VERBAL ABUSE, THREATS OR PHYSICAL ASSAULTS. MISCONDUCT BY A COACH, PLAYERS, PARENTS OR SPECTATORS MAY RESULT IN THE HEAD COACH RECEIVING A YELLOW OR RED CARD AND FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION, INCLUDING SUSPENSION, AGAINST THE CLUB, THE TEAM, THE COACH AND PLAYERS. REFEREE ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
2. **Coach Licenses; Risk Management.** All rostered head coaches and rostered assistant coaches in the League (other than coaches of League-approved guest teams as described below) must (i) obtain a USSF 7v7/9v9 coaching certification or a League-approved equivalent, (ii) attend a new coach orientation course sponsored by the League, (iii) complete a currently effective registration through WYSL Coach Central which includes the risk management application on ENYYSA/USYS's on-line system and required injury/concussion management training, and (iv) attend a live PCA (Positive Coaching Alliance) virtual session every two years. Coaches who have previously obtained a USSF Level 2 diploma or higher shall not be required to obtain a USSF 7v7/9v9 coaching certification.

In addition, the head coach of any team playing in a U13 or older division will be required to have received a USSF 11v11 coaching certification or league recognized equivalent. A coach who coached in the WYSL in the Spring 2017 season or earlier and who met all then applicable coaching license requirements will be "grandfathered" and will not be required to obtain the USSF 11v11 coaching certification to qualify. Games may be played even if a team does not have such a coach present; exceptions, limitations and fines for non-compliance will be determined by the Arbitration Committee.

The following rules shall apply to all divisions except as stated herein.

- A. **Coaching Passes.** All coaches (other than coaches of League-approved guest teams not on the WYSL's registration system) must submit a photograph to the League in accordance with League requirements. All coaches must have a WYSL/ENYYSA/USYS Pass in addition to being included on the Lineup Card. The League may refuse for good reason, as determined by the Board, to issue a coaching pass or include such coach on a team's Lineup Card to a prospective coach requesting a pass or inclusion on a Lineup card (even if the prospective coach takes the required licensing and League-administrative courses and submits a risk management application). Coaches who coach multiple teams, whether in

the same club or in two different clubs, may be issued multiple passes by the League. A carded coach must be listed on the roster in order to be on the sidelines with the players.

- B. *Each Team Needs a Licensed Coach.* Each team must have at least one licensed coach. No coach may act as a licensed coach for more than one team, unless all but one of the teams with which he/she is associated has another coach who has complied with the “licensing; risk management” rule set forth above.
 - C. *Absence of Licensed Coach.* If none of the designated coaches for a team can be present for a game, any other ENYYSA and WYSL licensed coach from the same club may substitute and coach the team at a League game. If no licensed coach of the club can be present for a game, the game will be forfeited.
 - D. *Special Limitation for Coaches of Special Teams.* Any person who acts as a coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team manager of a WYSL Select Team, or another “special event” team, cannot act as a coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team manager of a WYSL team of the same age and gender, or coach or participate in tryouts for a WYSL team of the same gender that is one year older for the following year. (For example, a coach of a boys’ U-12 WYSL Select Team cannot coach a WYSL boys’ U-12 club team, or participate in tryouts for or coach a WYSL boys’ U-13 club team the following year.) Exceptions to this rule require approval from the League’s Board of Directors.
 - E. *Coaching Teams at Two Clubs.* A coach shall not be registered with the WYSL to coach WYSL teams with more than two clubs. If a coach desires to register with the WYSL to coach WYSL teams with more than one club, both clubs must acknowledge in writing. If the League office finds the coach is coaching WYSL teams at a second club without that club getting agreement from the first club, the coach will only be allowed to coach for the first club. A coach shall not be the head coach for more than two teams playing a regular League schedule in any season or “mini-season” (for the avoidance of doubt, “tournament”, recreational, school and other teams not playing a regular WYSL season are not included in this limitation).
 - B. *Concussion Training.* All head and assistant coaches are required to have taken the online concussion course required by ENYYSA/USYS.
2. **Game Day Roster with Pictures.** Each coach is responsible for providing the Game Day Roster with Pictures for every game to the referee for inspection prior to the game. If a player or coach who was suspended for such game (as a result of a prior red card or otherwise) or was not properly registered (e.g., a coach that had

not completed the background check process) participates in the game using a fake Game Day Roster then the fine shall be \$500.00 and the coach submitting such Game Day Roster shall be subject to no less than a five-game suspension from all WYSL games.

Only coaches listed on the Game Day Roster are allowed on the sidelines with their team. A team manager may be listed on the Game Day Roster, but a manager is not allowed on the sidelines with the team. A team may have no more than three (3) coaches on the sidelines with the team.

FAILURE TO PRESENT THE TEAM'S GAME DAY ROSTER WITH PICTURES WILL CAUSE A TEAM TO FORFEIT.

The Game Day Roster with Pictures must be filled out completely and must include proper jersey numbers, the names of all coaches on the sidelines and guest players (which can be written in by hand).

Coaches must have in their possession a valid Coaching Card that includes their full name, picture, and the Season must state 22/23.

3. **Ball.** The home team shall provide a properly inflated game ball and must have an extra game ball available if the referee decides to use another ball.
4. **Position of Team and Spectators at Match Site; Maximum Number of Coaches.** Rostered Players and coaches from both teams are to be on the same touch line. A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed from each team. The coach's technical area is to be between midfield and a line extending from the penalty box, leaving a "buffer zone" of approximately 10 yards at midfield to be reserved for player substitutions. Spectators, including parents and trainers, are to be on the touch line opposite their team. The home team shall have the choice of sides and ends for the positioning of their players and coaches, and such choices are to be maintained for the entire game. The coach shall be responsible for making sure that his/her team, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and spectators are on the correct side and end of the playing field. All spectators, coaches, trainers and players are required to maintain a distance of approximately three (3) yards clear of the touchline. NOTE: This rule shall not apply to the U8 4v4 divisions; positions of teams, spectators and others for such competitions shall be as directed by the Field Marshal.
5. **Coaching.** Coaching from the sidelines for the purpose of giving directions to one's team on points of strategy and position is permitted provided that:
 - A. No mechanical devices are used;
 - B. The tone of voice is informative and sportsmanlike; and

- A. No coach or assistant coach may use profanity or in any manner incite disruptive behavior.
- 6. **Confirmation of Uniform Colors.** The home team coach shall be responsible for identifying visiting team uniform colors. (See Rule V-2.)
- 7. **Travel Directions.** Each visiting team coach shall be responsible for obtaining travel directions to an away game (from maps, the League web site or from the home team coach).
- 8. **6-Goal Differential Rule.** No goal differential in excess of six (6) goals is acceptable.

If any club, taking into account all teams comprising that club, exceeds a six-goal differential, the following will be the case:

- 1st Offense - warning to the club.
- 2nd Offense - \$100 fine to the club.
- 3rd Offense - \$200 fine to the club.

If any individual team exceeds a six-goal differential, the following will be the case:

- 1st Offense - warning to the coach and the club.
- 2nd Offense - one game suspension for the coach.
- 3rd Offense - one season suspension for the coach.

This rule shall not apply in the Premier Divisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a goal differential in excess of six (6) goals in any game will not be included as part of a team's aggregate goal differential for purposes of determining Premier League standings.

- 9. **No Referee**
 - A. *Procedure if No Assignment.* If the League's Referee Assignor cannot provide a referee, the home club has the right to find a WYSL referee and notify the Referee Assignor that he/she has done this.
 - B. *Procedure if Referee Fails to Appear.* If a referee is not assigned (and not obtained by paragraph A above) or the assigned referee fails to appear, the game must be played, except in games involving boys High School (including U15) and boys U14 division teams (see Rule VI-3, Postponements and Unscheduled Games). With respect to boys U14

division teams only, under such circumstances, either team may decline to play without an assigned referee, but such game if not so played must be re-scheduled as a make-up game. The coaches of the opposing teams may agree upon a referee for the game. The substitute for the referee need not be an official licensed referee. In the event the coaches cannot agree upon a referee, each team shall select a substitute referee for one half of the game. The home team's selection will officiate during the second half. The substitute referee shall have those prerogatives granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game, as published by IFAB/FIFA and amended by the WYSL. The coaches of each team are responsible for checking the Lineup Card of their opponent. The coach of the home team must furnish the League with a complete report and the team Official Team Lineups/Referee Reports for both teams which are filled out by the opposing coach.

- C. *Reporting Score.* The home team is responsible to report the score of each game by going to www.wyslsoccer.com and clicking on "Report Scores Here". The score of each game must be entered before 5pm on Tuesday immediately following the game. Failure to report the score by the required time shall result in a \$15 fine to the offending Club, with each Club receiving one warning before a fine is assessed. Enter the Pin Number distributed by the league's Registrar and then locate the game using the game 7-Digit game number or using the search filters provided. Enter the score and click "Save". If a mistake is made in entering the score, such mistake can be corrected within 48 hours. After this time, you will need to request a change from the League. In this event, or in the event of a score discrepancy, email ldargenio@wyslsoccer.org.

10. **Enter upon Field by Invitation Only.** No club official, club member, team manager, adult supervisor, player, or spectator may enter the field of play regardless of the circumstances, unless they have been given permission by the referee. If this is disregarded, they shall become subject to disciplinary actions by the League's Arbitration Board.
11. **Suspended Coach.** Any coach who has been placed on suspension is not permitted to participate in any manner whatsoever in any match or match-related activities of the League during the suspension and, if and to the extent determined by the Arbitration Board, any other activities of the League during the suspension, including team practices. The suspended person is not permitted to be present at the site of a match or areas immediately adjacent.
12. **Suspended Player.** A player who has been suspended is not permitted to dress for any League match during the time period of his/her suspension but may attend and sit with his or her team on the sidelines (out of uniform).

13. **Joint or Multi-League Divisions.** In the event of joint divisions formed by the WYSL and another league, the rules of play may differ from these Rules. Special Rules for joint divisions may be attached as Appendices to these Rules.

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III. REFEREE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Specific Responsibilities.** Each referee has the responsibility:

- A. *Enforce Rules.* To enforce the Laws of the Game as prescribed by IFAB/FIFA with those modifications published in these Rules and Regulations, including Rule II-5 pertaining to location of teams, coaches and spectators;
- B. *Inspect Field.* To inspect the field on which he/she is to officiate, including the goals to ensure goal safety and size. If there are unsafe conditions, the referee may NOT allow the game to be played. This violation will be reported to the League office on the referee's report. A forfeit by the home team will be declared by the League unless there are extenuating circumstances. If there are unsafe conditions including but not limited to improper or inadequate anchoring of the goals, the referee may NOT allow the game to be played.
- C. *Check Passes / Lineup Cards.* To check and verify the identity and passes, if applicable, of the coaches, assistant coaches and players, and to verify these against the Official Team Lineups/Referee Report. If the authorized head coach, assistant coach or other coach from the same club in accordance with Rule II-2-C, or League-approved substitute coach, is not present, the referee may NOT allow the game to be played. This violation will be reported to the League office on the referee's report. A forfeit will be declared by the League. In the event that, pursuant to Rule II-2(b), a coach presents a physical current staff pass issued by ENYYSA/USYS that does not include the WYSL logo or reference the WYSL, that coach shall be allowed to coach without his/her team forfeiting and the referee should indicate the use of such a pass in his/her match report. A Team Manager identified as such on a match day card/team roster is not allowed on the sidelines.
- D. *Furnish Match Report.* To provide the League with an online report of the game as described below. The referee should also indicate in his/her game report that an Intra-Club Borrowing Guest Player Form was submitted and shall retain a copy of such form until one month after the end of the relevant season.
- E. *Bad Weather.* At the first sound of thunder or sign of lightning, coaches and referees should pull all players off the field and seek shelter in nearby buildings or vehicles. Games and practices should not restart until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder or lightning.

2. **Referee Compliance and Timeliness.** Referees should also note:
 - A. *Send in Match Reports.* Official WYSL Team Lineup/Referee Reports must be completed, including a list of all cautions (yellow cards) and all ejections (red cards) made during a match. This information from the report must be submitted online, following the instructions on the League website, no later than the Tuesday following a weekend game or 48 hours after a weekday game. Failure to submit a completed game report in a timely way may result in a loss of assignments. Failure to submit a report by the Friday after the last scheduled game of the season will incur an administrative fee of 25% of the game fee (rounded up to the nearest dollar) for each game not reported. A copy of the Team Lineup/Referee Reports should be retained for the referee's records. The Referee Report should indicate if a digital Lineup Card was presented to supplement a hard copy Lineup Card or to avoid a forfeit.
 - B. *Ejected Players and Coaches.* A listing of ejected players or coaches must be included in the Referee Report.
3. **Club Linespersons.** In accordance with IFAB/FIFA LAW 6, the club Linespersons shall only be responsible for indicating when the ball goes over the touch line, by raising the flag; direction shall not be indicated, nor should any other calls be signaled. Club Linespersons shall not call off sides or have any other function.

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IV. RULES OF PLAY

The Rules of Play for all contests sanctioned by this League shall be the most current Laws of the Game as published by IFAB/FIFA, with the modifications noted within these Rules and Regulations, unless specifically excepted by authorization of the Board of Directors. The rules of play for the U8 through U11 divisions regarding heading are further modified by the terms and conditions of Appendix C, which also contains rules which shall apply to players younger than 11 playing in a division where heading is otherwise allowed.

1. Duration of the Game and Ball Size.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
Varsity and JV	2-40 minute halves	No. 5
U15	2-40 minute halves	No. 5
U14 and U13	2-35 minute halves	No. 5
U12 and U11	2-30 minute halves	No. 4
U10 and U9	2-25 minute halves	No. 4
U8 (7v7)	2-25 minute halves	No. 3

If the game is abandoned for any reason before the beginning of the second half, the game is postponed and will be replayed in full. If the second half has started, it is considered a complete game.

There shall be no overtime periods in regular League competition.

2. **Age Groups.** For purpose of these Rules, age categories shall be determined as follows for Fall 2025 / Spring 2026

Birth Year	Age
2018	8
2017	9
2016	10
2015	11
2014	12
2013	13

2012	14
2011	15
2010	16
2009	17
2008	18
2007	19
2006	20

Varsity- 1/1/2006 to 12/31/2009

- o **JV- 1/1/2010 to 12/31/2011**
- o **U15- 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011**
- o **U14- 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2012**
- o **U13- 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013**
- o **U12- 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014**
- o **U11- 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015**
- o **U10- 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016**
- o **U9- 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017**
- o **U8- 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018**

**Generally, the U15 divisions are intended for teams with players who will turn 15 as well as players who will turn 14 in 2020. Teams with all or substantially all players turning 15 during 2020 are encouraged to play in the JV division.*

3. Number of Players.

- A. *Match Play.* A match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eleven (11) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper, except that (i) in the U8 4v4 divisions, Appendix B shall govern, (ii) in the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions, U9 divisions and U10 divisions, the team shall consist of not more than seven (7) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper, and (iii) in the U11 and U12 divisions, the teams shall consist of not more than nine (9) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- B. *Minimum Number of Players.* A minimum number of players shall be required for a scheduled match. Should a team not have at least the minimum number of players within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time, it shall forfeit the game. The minimum number of players shall be as follows: (i) for teams in the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions and the U9 and U10 divisions - five (5); (ii) for U11 and U12 division teams - six (6), and (iii) for teams in all other divisions - seven (7). In addition, a game will also be stopped and a forfeit declared if an injury or send-off

results in a team having fewer than the required minimum number of players on the field. (A referee may temporarily pause a game when a team drops below the minimum to allow a player to leave the field to clean blood, fix equipment, or for other transient reasons.)

- B. *Start at the Scheduled Time. At the scheduled time for the match, the minimum number of players specified in these Rules and an eligible coach will constitute a team. Therefore, the match will start at the scheduled time if at least the minimum number of players are present. In this situation, the specified waiting period (15 minutes) cannot be used by a team in order to wait for additional players to arrive at the game site.*

- C. *Roster Size.*

<u>Division</u>	<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Minimum Roster Size</u>	<u>Standard Roster Size</u>
U8 (7v7), U9	7 v 7	7	14
U10	7 v 7	7	14
U11, U12	9 v 9	9	16
U13	11 v 11	11	18
U14 and older	11 v 11	11	18

Notwithstanding the Standard Roster Size set forth above, any team may have a roster of up to 26 players with the consent of such team's Club President provided that such team pays a \$30.00 registration fee per player added over the Standard Roster Size and provided further that no more than 18 players may be included on the roster for any given game, with exception that the U15, JV and Varsity divisions may have up to 26 players on the roster for any given game.

4. **Field of Play.**

The field of play for 11v11 play shall conform to IFAB/FIFA Law I and the field of play for U12, U11, U10 and U9 divisions and the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions shall conform to any applicable USSF or ENYYSA/USYS requirements to the extent possible, as required by the League, and shall otherwise have the following dimensions:

<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Length</u> (yards)	<u>Width</u> (yards)	<u>Recommendations</u> (yards)	<u>Goal Size</u> (feet)
7v7	55-80	35-50	60 x 40	7 x 21*

8v8	55-80	35-50	70 x 45	7 x 21*
9v9	70-80	40-55	75 x 50	7 x 21*
11v11	100-130	50-100	100-110 x 55-65	8 x 24

*Clubs may use 6.5 x 18.5 foot or 6 x 18 foot goals or smaller (e.g., 6 x 12 foot for younger teams) in lieu of 7 x 21 foot goals, provided that the goals at both ends of the field are the same size.

The League recommends that clubs try to line at least one field with smaller dimensions appropriate for 7v7 and/or 8v8 formats to the extent possible.

The penalty spot is ten (10) yards from the goal line for U12 and younger players, and twelve (12) yards from the goal line for all older players.

USSF 7v7 Standards of Play with respect to build-out lines shall apply to the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions and the U9 divisions. Fields used for such divisions are required to have a build-out line marked on each half of the field, which should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line. While it is preferred to mark the build-out line with the normal field lining used for the touch lines and end lines, the build-out lines may be demarked by chalk or other temporary lines. In the absence of such markings, the build-out lines may be created by placing a pair of cones or comparable objects on opposite sides of the field, more than a yard outside of the respective touch lines, such that each build-out line would consist of the points between the pair of cones, inside of the touch lines. Whether temporary markings or cones or other objects are used, the referee must determine that such marking or objects do not adversely impact the safety of the field and are sufficiently visible to apply the applicable Standards of Play.

A club may apply to the Board of Directors to use a field with dimensions other than those required as per the above. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the club may use such field with the dimensions approved by the Board.

5. IFAB/FIFA and USSF Exceptions.

C. *Substitution Rules.*

- 1) Unlimited. A team may make an unlimited number of substitutions during a game, upon any stoppage of play, with permission of and at the discretion of the referee.
- 2) Yellow card. The coach may decide, at his discretion, to substitute for a player receiving a yellow card when the referee stops play to write up that player. The referee may require a substitution of the player receiving the yellow card, if, in his opinion, this will serve the best interest of the game.

- 3) Permission Required. The coach must alert the referee and obtain his/her permission before substituting a player.
- 4) Substituted Player Must Leave Field First. The player leaving the game must do so before the substitute may enter the field of play unless otherwise instructed by the referee. The Substituted Player may leave the field by returning to the team's technical area as opposed to leaving the field at the closest touchline.
- 5) Enter at Mid-Field. All substitute players must enter the field at the center of the field, after having received permission from the referee to enter. Any player entering the game without the permission of the referee may receive a caution (yellow card) as per the Laws of the Game.
- 6) No Substitution for Ejected Player. Substitutions cannot be made for any player ejected ("red-carded") from the game by the referee. The violating team must play short-handed.
- 7) Injury Substitution Procedure.
 - (i) If a player is injured, a coach, doctor or parent may come on to the field to attend to the player **only after the whistle is blown and permission to enter is granted by the referee**. The player may be substituted for, leave the field without being substituted for or, unless a coach, doctor (or other health care professional) or parent comes onto the field, left in the game. If the player is substituted for, that player may return under the normal substitution procedure. If the player leaves the field and is not substituted for at that time, the player may re-enter only with the referee's permission.
 - (ii) If a player is injured and needs medical attention and a coach, doctor (or other health care professional) or parent comes onto the field to help or treat the player, that player (except for the goalkeeper) must leave the field and not return until the next substitution is allowed. In the case of an injured goalkeeper, judgment should be applied by the referee when it comes to having the keeper leave the field if the keeper would otherwise not have to.
 - (iii) If the player is bleeding, the player must be removed; the bleeding must be stopped; the wound must be covered; no blood may be on the uniform. The player may return only after the referee determines all conditions are met.

- (i) Notwithstanding the foregoing, injuries involving the head shall be handled in accordance with Appendix C.

B. *Three Referee Teams for U13-P and U14-P Divisions.* The League will endeavor to utilize a three-referee team for U13-U14 Premier Division boys' and girls' games in addition to all U15, JV and Varsity games. All other rules concerning the refereeing of games shall apply.

C. *New Rules.* All coaches are expected to be familiar with the Laws of the Game. These are published by IFAB/FIFA and available on FIFA's web site (www.fifa.com). New rules are discussed in detail along with practical interpretations.

D. *Build-Out Line and Goal Kicks.* The FIFA rule regarding goal kicks has been changed. The ball is now put into play from a goal kick as soon as the ball is kicked and clearly moves. The ball must no longer have to leave the penalty area to be in play. Accordingly, a player may now kick the ball to a teammate who is in the penalty area.

The build-out rule remains the same. The opposing players may move back over the build-out line following a goal kick as soon as the ball is put into play. However, because the laws governing goal kicks have changed, and the ball is now put into play as soon as it is kicked, the opposing players no longer need to wait until the ball leaves the penalty area; rather, they may now move back over the build-out line as soon as the ball is kicked.

Opposing players must be outside of the penalty area prior to the goal kick but can enter the area once the ball has been put in play.

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V. UNIFORMS

Uniforms. Teams must be in uniform attire at all games. Players who are not properly attired will be ordered off the field of play by the referee.

- A. *Jerseys.* The uniform shirts must have numbers on them, except as provided in situations requiring a change of shirt by the home team due to conflict of colors. The goalkeeper must wear a different colored shirt from teammates, opposing players, and the referee(s).
- B. *Pants.* Goalies may wear long pants at any time. Field players may wear long pants only when the temperature is at or below approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The referee's decision as to the temperature shall be final. Field players must wear regular gym shorts, without long pants, at all other times. A player who is switched from goal to the field may continue to play with long pants.
- C. *Logos.* A logo of a commercial sponsor or other commercial endorsement may be placed on a uniform only with the prior approval of the League.
- D. *Shoes.* Soccer cleats must have molded soles. Screw-in or metal cleats and cleats from other sports – baseball, football, track, etc. – may not be used.

Confirmation of Uniform Colors. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to check and verify the colors of the visiting team with the opposing coach. Where the colors of the uniforms of the competing teams are similar, the home team must effect a change of colors that are distinct from those of the visiting team. T-shirts or pinnies, with or without numerals, will be permitted as an alternative uniform.

- 2. **Equipment.** In addition to the authority granted to the referee under IFAB/FIFA Law V to determine the safety of a player's equipment, as defined in IFAB/FIFA Law IV, the following shall be applicable.

Shinguards. All players must wear shin guards. Knee-high stockings must be worn over the shinguards and shall cover them.

Jewelry. No jewelry may be worn; tape over jewelry, such as earrings, does not enable the player to wear the jewelry; excuses that the ears were recently pierced is not a valid reason to allow the player to wear jewelry. A medical bracelet, securely taped to the body, is the only exception.

Glasses. Prescription eye glasses only may be worn; lenses made of glass, rather than plastic are not permitted; metal-framed glasses are not permitted; plastic-framed glasses, providing they are strapped around the head, and sports goggles (wrap-around type, made of plastic) are

permitted; any other type of eyewear that the referee deems could be dangerous to the player or other players is not permitted.

Hats. Hats for goalkeepers may be worn, providing that they are not dangerous, such that the brim is made of soft material; baseball-type caps are allowed.

Headgear, Face Masks, Etc. A player may use equipment other than the basic equipment provided that the sole purpose is physical protection and it poses no danger to any player. Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Mouthguards. Field players may wear mouthguards without lanyards. Goalies may also use “Shock Doctor” mouthguards with breakaway lanyards.

Casts, Braces and Prosthetics. Hard casts must be covered in sufficient soft (foam) material that the referee is satisfied that there is no danger to other players who might contact the cast. Generally, ¼ inch of foam is the guideline. Braces and splints must have no protrusions, including buckles or metal parts. All braces (especially knee and ankle braces) must be completely covered by protective material such as a neoprene sleeve. Prosthetic devices will be approved by a League official prior to use in any League event. So long as the prosthetic device is worn in the manner approved by the League, the player using the prosthetic device may not be prevented from participating in any League events.

Notwithstanding anything in this Rule, the referee has the authority not to permit any article to be worn if he or she determines that it presents a danger to the player wearing it or the other players. If the referee finds that a player is wearing articles not permitted by the Laws of the Game or these rules, the referee shall order the player to remove them. If a player fails to carry out the referee’s instructions, the player shall not take part in the match. The decision of the referee in these instances shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal.

Nothing in this Rule is meant to detract from the ultimate responsibility of players and their parents to determine whether to play with an injury, with or without protective equipment. Parents are urged to obtain medical advice if there is any doubt, and the League or any club or team may ask for doctors’ letters before permitting players to play.

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I. SCHEDULING, FIELD PULLS, POSTPONEMENTS, FORFEITS

1. Scheduling.

- A. *General.* League games are scheduled by the League Scheduler using fields and times provided 6 weeks before the League season by the clubs. All scheduled League games are on Sunday. Premier League games may be rescheduled with the agreement of both teams and a definite date, time and field communicated two-weeks in advance to the League at ldargenio@wyslsoccer.org. A preliminary schedule is posted three weeks before the season and the Final schedule one week before the season. If any team is scheduled in an incorrect division and the League is not informed by the applicable Club before the final schedule is circulated to the Clubs, such Club shall pay additional scheduling fees at an amount determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- B. *No changes.* Except as expressly set forth herein and in in VI-1-C below, games - once scheduled - do not change date, time or field unless they are postponed, delayed, or canceled when the field is pulled by the town or governing body in advance of the game or by the referee at game time or postponed as approved by the league. (See Field Pulls, below). Clubs can change fields with no time changes with the approval of the League. Postponements are permitted for a limited number of special cases (VI.3.a. below). Teams can agree to change any scheduled game for any reason to any time or date they like so long as both teams agree on a new definite date/time/field and the league is notified before the first game of the season is played.
- C. *Requests.* At least one month before the season, teams can make schedule requests (e.g., coach coordinations, early or late games on specific days, general schedule requests to avoid religious conflicts, etc.) Requests to coordinate with other sports are not accepted. Teams are expected to be available to play on Sundays for the entire period on Sunday when their age group plays.

The League Scheduler may selectively prioritize the requests submitted. Some requests may not be possible or may not be granted.
- D. *Game times.* Subject to exceptions approved by the league, teams will be scheduled for a nine or a ten-game season. The earliest game start time is 9:00 AM and the latest game start is 6:00 PM.

- E. *Final weekend.* Some divisions with 9 games will have no scheduled game on the last weekend of the season.
- F. *TBS games.* Divisions (other than U8 4v4 divisions) with an odd number of teams will have “bye” Sundays (no scheduled game). Those divisions will have added “TBS” games to make up for the byes. These games are scheduled by the teams like TBA games (as set forth in Rule VI-3-E. below) and should be set (a scheduled date, time, field) by the Friday before the third game of the season (the “Initial Deadline”) except that, in the case of TBS games (as opposed to TBA games), if the home team fails to get the game scheduled by the Initial Deadline, the away team shall become the home team for the TBS game in question and shall have three weeks to schedule the game, failing which the game shall become a double forfeit for failure to comply with this deadline. All TBS games must be played – including for the Specially Designated 7v7 Divisions and the U9 and U10 divisions – by the end of the season.
- G. *Field Pulls.*
- 1) By the Referee. A referee may pull a field at game time if s/he determines that the field is not safe for play. If a field is pulled, the game is postponed. (See postponements below.) Teams and clubs should try to find an alternate field and play on the scheduled day if possible.
 - 2) Early Field Pull. If a field is pulled before 5:00 PM on Friday, the home club is to inform the League Scheduler and League office. The League Scheduler will note the field pull on the website and emails will go out to the clubs, teams, and referee assignor(s). The club/team may suggest to the League Scheduler alternative fields. The League Scheduler may suggest alternatives or that the teams should try to find a field.
 - 3) Late Field Pull.
 - (i) If a Club pulls a field or a game is forfeited after 5:00 PM on Friday: all information is to be emailed to the League office at ldargenio@wyslsoccer.org and the Referee Assignor at assignor@wyslsoccer.org.
 - (ii) The home team has the responsibility to notify the visiting team by phone. If unable to reach the visiting team by phone a club member must remain at the field from 30 minutes prior to game time until 15 minutes after game time to inform the visiting team of the change of field or postponement.

(Note that late notifications between teams require communication by cell phone, or acknowledgement that a text message was received. Sending an email is not sufficient.)

- (iii) Late Field Pull rescheduling. The responsibility for getting the game rescheduled and played shifts to the teams/clubs with all late field pulls. It is best to find an alternate field on the scheduled day and play the game.

Failure to abide by this rule will result in a fine of \$50 per offending team being assessed against the club in addition to any applicable referee fees.

If the home club has another field and the game can start within half an hour of the originally scheduled time, the game officially moves and plays. The home team must make sure everyone (both teams, the referee assignor, and the referee if possible) is notified. If that is not 100% certain, post someone at the original field to redirect people to the new field.

If the new time is more than half an hour or the replacement field is at the away club, either team may decline the offer to play and the game becomes a TBA make-up game.

DIY. Neither the League office nor the League Scheduler should be relied on for advice, approval, or email notification; and referee coverage for games rescheduled on game day will be uncertain. Contact the referee assignor and the club referee coordinator for assistance. Follow the procedures in the WYSL Rules if there is no official referee.

Later games. If a referee determines that the field is not playable and will not be playable for later games, it is the responsibility of the home club to notify the coaches of visiting teams and the referees who are scheduled for later games either by telephone or by having a club member remain at the field.

- H. *Notice to League.* In addition, if there is general inclement weather, the home club **MUST** post an update the Field Pull Google Doc (or his/her designee) on Sunday morning between 8:00 – 9:00AM .
- I. *Appearance at field.* In bad weather, teams should not assume that a game will be cancelled. The team must appear at the field of play regardless of weather conditions, unless the team's coach has been notified that the field is pulled and the game cancelled.

3. Postponements and Rescheduling of Games; Unscheduled Games.

A. *General.* Teams must play all games. Games may be postponed or rescheduled:

- 1) For field pulls. If the field permit is revoked by or on behalf of the owner (town, school district, community group, etc.) or pulled by the referee of the game.
- 2) For away games in State Cup competitions approved by the League Board.

WYSL teams may not postpone a regularly scheduled game for home Cup matches, unless the match is a semifinal or final. Home Cup matches are to be played on Saturday. If a team is required to play a home Cup game on a Sunday, it must play both the scheduled league game and the Cup game. The League President may make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances.

- 3) For a college showcase, ODP Tryouts or ODP Tournaments involving four or more team players so long as the League and the opposing team are given one week's notice.
- 4) For a school event, religious holiday or religious service involving four or more team players so long as the League and the opposing team are given one week's notice. (Note that celebrations of religious events e.g. bat and bar mitzvah parties, wedding party, etc. are excluded.)
- 5) In boys High School Divisions games (i.e., boys U15, JV, Varsity) or BU14, if the assigned referee does not appear for the game or if no referee was assigned, as per Rule II-10-B above.
- 6) As otherwise approved by the League Board (or a committee of the Board authorized to act with respect to such matters) to address exceptional circumstances.

B. *Younger teams.* The League does not require that postponed games in divisions U10 and lower be made up, but encourages teams to do so with an assigned referee. Teams may also choose to play a friendly with no assigned referee and no league notification.

C. *Request form.* All requests for postponements or rescheduling of a game must use the Game Change Request Form, name the four or more players involved, and include official documentation of the event. Each team is allowed only one approved postponement/ rescheduling per season. To get League approval, the form must be emailed or faxed to the League office

by 3:00 PM at least 10 business days before the game (or such shorter period contemplated in VI-3-A), except that, if teams receive less than 10 business days' notice of a Cup, ODP, or other qualifying event, the Form must be sent as soon as is practicable. The home team is responsible for submitting the makeup form.

- D. *TBA games.* League required postponed games (aka TBA make-up games) must be scheduled (i.e., the date, time and field set) within three (3) weeks of the postponement or by the end of season (whichever is sooner) including unscheduled holiday weekends, and must be played by the last Sunday of the season.
- E. *Reasonable Dates; 4 Days' Notice.* For TBA make-up games and TBS games, teams are expected to try to work out a mutually convenient date, time and field for the game. If the coaches cannot agree, the home team must provide the visiting team with two reasonable dates and times within the required time period, and the visiting team must select between the two dates or it will forfeit. Such "two reasonable dates and times" would normally consist of two Saturdays at different times of the day.

Weekday make-ups may be suggested if the game times are reasonable in light of the age of the players, travel distance and school and other recognized conflicts.

Playing two games on a league Sunday for make-up, TBS, and cup games should be rare and requires the agreement of the teams and the permission of the League.

Switch of home team. For TBS games, the away team shall become the home team if the home team fails to get the game scheduled by the Initial Deadline, as set forth in Rule VI-1-F. above. For TBA games, if the home team fails to provide two reasonable dates and times in a timely fashion, the away team may, upon its request and at the discretion of the League Registrar, become the home team for purposes of this rule and provide two reasonable dates and times.

- F. *Referee coverage.* To schedule coverage for a TBA or TBS game, the League office must be notified via fax or email four (4) days before the game (i.e., Tuesday before a weekend game). Later notification may result in no referee coverage.
- G. *Failure to provide dates.* Failure of the home team to provide two reasonable dates or failure of the visiting team to select one of the two dates may result in a forfeit against the offending team. Failure by both teams to make a good faith effort to schedule the game, may result in a double forfeit. In the case of potential forfeits and disputes over

responsibility, copies of correspondence may be required by the League office.

- H. *Status.* Once a make-up or TBS game has been scheduled through the League office, it has the same status as a regular League game, and cannot be rescheduled except for reasons permitted by Rule VI-3-A.
- I. *Notifications.* If permission has been granted to reschedule or postpone a scheduled game and if there is sufficient time, the League will notify the Referee Assignor and the teams involved. The home coach should also contact the opposing team.

Postponements of games (field pulls) occurring after 5:00 PM on Friday, must be handled by the teams, clubs, club referee coordinator, and league referee assignor. The league office is closed and the League Scheduler may be unavailable. The goal is to get the game played if at all possible.

- J. *Need for Referee.* Teams can agree to play a makeup or TBS game without an assigned referee except as prohibited for older boys teams (see Rule II-10-B).
- K. *Unapproved Postponement or Rescheduling.* Any team or club that postpones or reschedules a game without League approval will be fined \$100 and a forfeit will be declared against the offending team(s).

4. Forfeits

- A. *Option to Forfeit.* A team may forfeit in advance of a scheduled match. The opposing team does NOT need to appear at the field if 1) they have been informed prior to the game by the forfeiting team, and 2) an email notice of the forfeit has been sent to the League Registrar, the League Scheduler and the referee assignor (assignor@wyslsoccer.org) by the coach of either team (with a copy to coach of the other team).
- B. *Fines and Disciplinary Action for forfeits.* If a team forfeits a match (for any reason), the club will be assessed a \$150 fine for each forfeit, provided that the League may impose a fine of up to \$500 for last-minute cancellations or postponements not permitted by these rules that could have been avoided or less disruptive if handled in a timely fashion. If the team informs the league office, League Scheduler, referee assignor, and the opposing team by email before Wednesday 3pm prior to the match, the fine will be \$100. Multiple forfeits may subject the club and team to disciplinary action, including additional fines and expulsion of the team from the League.

If it is determined that a team forfeited a game in order to attend a tournament without League approval, the fine will be a minimum of \$500,

and the League, at its discretion, may initiate further disciplinary action, including expulsion of the team. Clubs will be held responsible for all fines.

- C. *Both Teams Fail to Appear.* If both teams fail to appear and there is no notice to the League and referee assignor, and the Referee rules the ground playable, both teams will be assessed a forfeit.
- D. *Ineligible Player or Coach.* A forfeit will be declared on all games in which an ineligible or suspended player and/or suspended coach participates. Sanctions in addition to the game forfeit fee may be levied.
- E. *Other forfeits.* The league may declare a forfeit in other instances including but not limited to: field not ready, teams with fewer than the minimum number of players, unruly fans, team refusing to take the field, and violation of other rules as determined by the board.

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VI. VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Discipline. The League shall have the right and authority to suspend or otherwise discipline any member club and/or its officers, members, managers, team officials, coaches, trainers, managers and players.

Player Red Cards. Any player who is ejected (“red-carded”) from a game shall leave the field of play and will automatically be suspended for at least the next League game played. This is not the same as “weeks played.” Whether a player suspended from League play due to a red card can play in a Cup game and other competitions is to be determined under the rules of the Cup or other such competitions. Forfeits and rain-outs do not count as games played. The Arbitration Board shall have discretion to modify this automatic sanction for players in the U8, U9 and U10 age groups, and with respect to cards issued by a substitute referee in accordance with Rule II-10-B. The Arbitration Board may assess more than a one-game suspension after review of the referee’s report. It is the responsibility of an officer of the club or club registrar for a red carded player to call the League office to find out about the length of the suspension and to retrieve the pass when the suspension has been served. All red cards carry over from season to season. Any appeal of a one-game suspension for a red card must be received before 5:00 PM on the Monday following such game.

Accumulation of Yellow Cards. Any player or coach receiving yellow cards in three (3) games within a season will automatically be suspended from the League game following the game in which he/she receives the third yellow card. The Arbitration Board may assess more than a one-game suspension after review of the referees’ reports for the three games. (For purposes of the yellow card rule, yellow cards issued in a game from which the player or coach is later ejected will not be counted.) Yellow cards given during a season, including the Fall mini-season, do not carry over into the next season for accumulation purposes. Yellow card offenses for coaching staff will incur a \$100.00 fine. A referee has the option to issue a pocket yellow card.

Multiple Ejections. Any player who is ejected from two games in the same season may not participate in further League games until the Arbitration Board holds a review. The Arbitration Board will impose sanctions, which, at a minimum, will be a two-game suspension. The Arbitration Board can also impose additional sanctions, including expulsion for the remainder of the season or for a period greater than the remainder of the season.

Special Rules for Red Card(s) Issued to Coach. Any coach receiving a red card must leave the field and its vicinity for the remainder of the game, will receive a minimum fine of \$250.00 for the first offense and will be suspended for a minimum of one game played to its completion. The referee issuing the red card shall keep the coach’s pass, if applicable, and turn it in to the League office. Any coach that has been issued more than one pass in accordance with Section II.2.A hereof shall have an obligation to return all of his/her passes to the League by the Wednesday immediately following the game in which the coach received the red

card and such coach may not coach any team in any game until approved by the League. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in the event a coach has multiple passes relating to multiple clubs, all passes must be returned to the League in the event of a red card and not only the pass relating to the team or club that the coach was coaching at the time he or she received the red card. Failure to comply with this procedure will be subject to discipline by the Board, which may include a season-long suspension. The coach may not coach any game until approved by the League, including another subsequent game on the day the red card is issued. During the duration of this suspension, the red-carded coach may not coach, assist or participate on the sideline of any other game until the original suspension has been completed, and the League has approved the coach's return. The League will notify the club president in writing of the offense, and the club will be responsible for paying the fine. A second red card violation in the same season against the same coach will result in a minimum of a \$200 fine and suspension for the remainder of the season. The League reserves the right to impose additional penalties against the club or coach that will be determined by the Arbitration Board. A referee has the option to issue a pocket red card.

Referee Assault and Mistreatment. The League will address any referee assault cases, verbal or physical, in accordance with ENYYSA/USYS's Disciplinary Procedures:

<https://usys-assets.ae-admin.com/assets/945/15/USYS%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>

In addition to referee assault, after a game has concluded and the players and coaches have thanked the referee, there should not be any further interaction with the referee by any coach, player, parent or manager. Referees must be allowed to depart the field of play unobstructed. Any violation of this rule will result in a five game suspension.

MISTREATMENT OF REFEREES REMAINS A PROBLEM FOR NOT ONLY THE LEAGUE, BUT THROUGHOUT YOUTH SOCCER AND YOUTH SPORTS. ENYYSA AND US SOCCER HAVE ADOPTED POLICY 531-9 (THE "REFEREE PROTECTION POLICY") EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2025. THE REFEREE PROTECTION POLICY REMOVES JURISDICTION FROM THE LEAGUE TO ENYYSA TO HANDLE CLAIMS OF REFEREE ASSAULT AND MISTREATMENT. THE MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR REFEREE ASSAULT AND MISTREATMENT HAVE BEEN GREATLY INCREASED. THE REFEREE PROTECTION POLICY IS ATTACHED HERETO AS APPENDIX D.

Unsatisfactory Sporting Conduct. To address the situation of unsatisfactory behavior on the part of a coach, player or parent of a particular WYSL team, specifically when the behavioral infraction or infractions have not drawn a

specific red card but have been recurring, serious behavioral problems that are in need of remedy, the Board has adopted the following procedure:

Notice of Unacceptable Behavior. The Arbitration Committee is to conduct a review of all communications to the WYSL on the sporting behavior of all coaches in the WYSL. The purpose is to specifically identify coaches whose behavior falls below the minimum acceptable sideline behavior for a coach in the WYSL. The Arbitration Committee may send any coach a letter, in care of or copied to the club president, requesting that the club president meet with and address this situation with this coach, thereby putting this coach ON NOTICE, warning the coach that his or her behavior will be monitored during the season and that the coach needs to improve, if he or she is to continue to be a licensed coach of the WYSL. Alternatively, the Arbitration Committee may determine that the behavior of a coach (or a player or a parent, for that matter) should be monitored, in which case the Committee should inform the appropriate referee through the League Referee Assignor.

Appearance Before Arbitration Committee. Whether or not a letter has been sent to a coach, if the WYSL receives communications or other indications of serious unsporting behavior by this coach or his or her team, the coach may be summoned before the League's Arbitration Committee. The purpose of the Arbitration Committee will be to personally address this coach on the positive behavior the League is expecting from a WYSL coach, players and parents. This will serve as the coach's FINAL WARNING. No suspension or fines are to be issued from this meeting, unless the coach fails to attend.

Disciplinary Action. If the League's Arbitration Committee receives what it believes is an additional infraction from this coach within the current or following seasonal year, the League shall take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action to consist of fines, suspension or immediate termination of coaching privileges, if and to the extent deemed warranted in the discretion of the League.

Principles of Positive Coaching. Any coach who receives an unsporting behavior yellow card, unfavorable referee reports or other indication of serious unsporting behavior by this coach or his or her team during the season may receive via email a letter, copied to his club president indicating that the Arbitration Committee is disappointed to receive this report and explaining how important and influential a coach's behavior is for his or her players and parents, outlining the principles of positive coaching and building character through sporting activity. The Arbitration Committee may require such a coach to meet with his or her club president concerning this report. The Arbitration Committee may also communicate with coaches and clubs on an informal basis regarding issues of concern.

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VII. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Arbitration Board. The Arbitration Board of the League shall manage all matters requiring arbitration which pertain to League sponsored competition(s). The Arbitration Board will administer game protests and behavioral incidents. At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Arbitration Board will attend to any matter not specifically addressed in the By-Laws or these Rules. The Arbitration Board has the authority to suspend or fine any player, coach, team, team official, club official, parent or other team and/or club supporter. The Arbitration Board has the authority to fine any member club. The rules pertaining to the administration of the Arbitration Board are set forth on Appendix A (which is available from the League's office and on its website). As more fully set forth on Appendix A, if a coach or player is awarded a red card, the Arbitration Board is entitled to require the red carded coach or the red carded player and the coach of the player's team to appear in person at an Arbitration Board hearing of the case. In such event, the coach of the red carded player must accompany the player to the hearing.

Protests and Disputes. All questions relating to the qualification of competitions or interpretation of the rules or any dispute or protest whatsoever shall be referred to the Arbitration Board of the League. Protests and disputes are filed by member clubs, who bear responsibility for adherence to the rules regarding disputes and protests and guarantee all fees and fines. An incorrect ruling of a referee may be protested, but no judgment call by a referee may be the subject of a protest. A club, through its president, may file a protest alleging a violation of League rules which does not involve a judgment call by a referee.

Validity and Eligibility. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must:

- 1) Be accompanied by a protest fee in the amount of \$50, in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Westchester Youth Soccer League.
- 2) Describe in full detail the grounds for the protest and bear the signature of the club's president, as well as the signature of the coach of the team initiating the protest.
- 3) Be accompanied by copies of any information to be presented by witnesses and/or supporting documents, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses that the protesting team or club may wish to present. All hard copies are to be provided along with all supporting information and documents, and electronic copies available in electronic form.
- 4) Be provided to the League office by first class mail and post-marked, as well as (with respect to copies available in electronic form) e-mailed, no later than midnight of the second business day following the game or incident from which the protest

arises to the Chairman of the Arbitration Board at the League's offices, to LDArgenio@wyslsoccer.org and to the coach of the opposing team. A protest alleging a violation of League rules which are not game-related must be filed with the League within a reasonable period of time after becoming aware of such alleged violation (but need not be filed within such 2-business day period), and a copy of such protest, together with all supporting materials, also be forwarded, by e-mail, to the president of the opposing club.

- 5) Pertain to a League sponsored competition.
- 6) Be initiated by a party directly involved in the incident under protest. An involved party, as used throughout this Rule, is defined as the team coach or club president.
- 7) Include all information necessary to allow a fair and just decision.

Non-Conformance. Protests not filed within the required time limit or which have been submitted without written details or without remittance of the fee, or without a copy being sent to the coach or club president of the opposing team or club, or otherwise not in full conformation with Rule VII-2-A, may be rejected without consideration.

Hearing; No Lawyers. The Arbitration Board may, at its discretion, ask for a response from the opposing team or club and may, in the discretion of the Chairman of the Arbitration Board, conduct a hearing. Hearings generally will not be held for match ejections (red cards), unless the Chairman determines that the circumstances are unusual. Reasonable notice shall be given to involved parties and those others invited to aid in the Arbitration Board's deliberations and/or to present relevant information, no later than two business days prior to the scheduled meeting. An Arbitration Board proceeding or hearing is not a legal proceeding or hearing. Involved parties may not be represented by legal counsel. However, on reasonable prior written notice to the League, a party may be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at a hearing, including the assistance of legal counsel, if desired.

Ignorance of the Rules. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the League is not sufficient grounds for the filing of a protest or dispute.

Forfeiture of Appeal Rights. An involved party failing to appear before the Arbitration Board after having received proper notice shall forfeit all rights to appeal.

Basis of Decision. The Arbitration Board shall render a decision on any protest or dispute on the basis of any information, from any source that it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Protest Fee Forfeited. The protest fee shall be forfeited to the League in the event the protest is not upheld or not heard.

Conflict of Interest. If a member of the Arbitration Board is connected with the division or with either of the clubs involved in the protest, he/she shall recuse himself from participating in the protest hearing.

Appeal. Decisions of the Arbitration Board shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided for in these Rules. A club may appeal a decision of the Arbitration Board only to the Appeals Committee of the League in accordance with these Rules.

Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee of the League shall be responsible for hearing appeals pertaining to decisions rendered by the League's Arbitration Board or Arbitration Review Board. The Appeals Committee has the authority to suspend or fine any player, coach, team, team official, club official, parent or other team and/or club supporter. The Appeals Committee has the authority to fine any member club. The rules pertaining to the administration of the Appeals Committee are set forth on Appendix A.

Appeals. Appeals of a decision rendered by the Arbitration Committee or Arbitration Review Board are filed by member clubs, who shall be responsible for adhering to the rules regarding appeals and guarantee all fees and fines. The rules pertaining to appeals are set forth on Appendix A.

Exhaustion of Remedies. Except for Section VII, 6 (Referee Assault and Mistreatment), no WYSL club, team, player, coach, official, administrator, referee or other representative may invoke the aid of ENYYSA/USYS or an appeal to ENYYSA/USYS without first exhausting all available remedies within the League, nor invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a State without first exhausting all available remedies within the League and ENYYSA/USYS, and as provided with the USSF. This rule does not apply to the enforcement of a decision rendered in an arbitration proceeding commenced under League rules. For a violation of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to the League for all expenses incurred by the League and its officers in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following: (A) court costs; (B) attorneys' fees; (C) reasonable compensation for time spent by League officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; (D) travel expenses; and (E) expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the court action.

Line of Authority. The line of authority for an appeal of a decision rendered by the Appeals Committee shall be:

B. ENYYSA

C. USYS

D. USSF National Appeals Committee

Appeals following the line of authority listed above are made directly to each level. The fee for an appeal is prescribed by each level of appeal and payable to each level.

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VIII. TEAM DIVISIONS AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

1. Team Divisions.

Divisions. Each age group will be divided into divisions. The composition and number of teams in each division will be determined by the Seeding Committee.

Moving Up in Age. Any WYSL Premier division winners, teams that play in another premier league or premier teams that are comprised of players from multiple communities may be required to move up to the next age division, and will not be seeded in the U8, U9 and U10 non-competitive age groups. U10 and older Division 1 champions are normally moved up into WYSL Premier divisions where available.

Additional Divisions. The League reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of divisions and to place any team in any division. The League will endeavor to create divisions with even numbers of teams in order to minimize byes and make-ups. The final placement of teams in divisions will be decided by the Seeding Committee.

Teams in Each Age Group. Each club is limited to two teams per age group for U12 and older teams and three teams per age group for U9, U10 and U11 teams; provided, that a club may register a greater number of teams per age group upon a showing by the club to the Board of Directors with respect to the number of fields and referee support by the club, and that the continued registration of such additional teams shall be subject to review by the League of each team's competitiveness after one year.

Recognition Awards. Divisional winners will be decided on a points system (win=3 points, tie=1 point, loss=0 points). All players in the U11 through U14 age groups who are divisional winners will receive recognition awards (i.e., trophies, medals). Divisional winners shall be determined by the President in the event there has been an unequal number of games played or other unusual circumstances affecting one or more divisions. The League will not publish or post standings or award trophies for U8, U9 and U10 age divisions.

IX. TOURNAMENTS

1. **League Participation.** No money will be allocated for club teams to play in any tournament except as may be determined by the League's Board of Directors.

2. **Member Tournaments.** No member club may hold a tournament on a day when League Travel games are scheduled. Permission to hold a tournament must be obtained from the WYSL and ENYYSA/USYS.
3. **Permission to Travel Instructions.** WYSL teams are permitted to play friendly games or tournaments wherever permitted by the WYSL and ENYYSA/USYS.
4. **Hosting Tournament Instructions. (US, Canada and Mexico).** Please submit to the League Office a completed Application to Host a Tournament or Games form and a completed Tournament Hosting Agreement. Both forms are available on the League website. Any application submitted less than ninety (90) days in advance may be charged a late fee.
5. **Foreign Travel or Hosting Foreign Teams.** Contact League office for instructions.
6. **Tournament Printed Passes for WYSL Teams.** WYSL Teams entering events that require individual printed passes can have them printed by the League office for a fee of \$5.00 per pass. A minimum of a five-day notice is needed.
7. **Tournament Players.** Players not currently registered in the WYSL seeking to guest play in a tournament-type event may register as a *tournament player* for a specified team within the League and obtain an individual player pass for a registration fee of \$30.00

Protests and Appeals

1. **Arbitration Board.** The Arbitration Board of the League shall manage all matters requiring arbitration which pertain to League sponsored competition(s). The Arbitration Board will administer game protests and behavioral incidents. At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Arbitration Board will attend to any matter not specifically addressed in the By-Laws or these Rules. The Arbitration Board has the authority to suspend or fine any player, coach, team, team official, club official, parent or other team and/or club supporter. The Arbitration Board has the authority to fine any member club.

Composition. There will be no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members of the Arbitration Board, including the Chairman. The League's President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall select the members, including the Chairman, of the Arbitration Board for a one- or two-year term. The Chairman shall be a member of the Board of Directors; the other members may but need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Voting. Each member of the Arbitration Board, including the Chairman, shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Chairman may cast a vote the same as other members. A minimum of three (3) members, including the Chairman, is required to hear a case and render a decision. No member of the Arbitration Board shall participate at any other level of appeal or discipline.

Participants. The Arbitration Board reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Arbitration Board meeting.

Convene Arbitration Board. The Arbitration Board will convene at the discretion of the Chairman.

Possession of Cards. If applicable, the League shall be entitled to retain in its possession all cards (ENYYSA/USYS player registration pass or coach pass) until a decision is rendered and/or a suspension has been served.

Club Will Be Assessed Each Time a Coach is Issued a Red Card. In the event that a coach or player is issued a red card, the Arbitration Board will notify the club president in writing of the offense. The club will be assessed a fine each time a coach is issued a red card.

Coach and Player to Appear at the Arbitration Board Hearing. In the event that a coach or player is awarded a red card, at the discretion of the Arbitration Board, the red carded coach or the red carded player and the coach of the player's team, will be notified by the Arbitration Board to appear in person at an Arbitration Board hearing of the case. The coach of the red carded player must accompany the player to such a hearing.

- 1) The Arbitration Board will notify the coach of the date, time and location of the hearing.
 - 2) If applicable, the pass of the red carded coach or player will remain in the possession of the League until said coach, or the player and coach, appear at the hearing.
2. **Protests and Disputes.** All questions relating to the qualification of competitions or interpretation of the rules or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred to the Arbitration Board of the League. Protests and disputes are filed by member clubs, who bear responsibility for adherence to the rules regarding disputes and protests and guarantee all fees and fines. A decision of a referee may be protested, except that no judgment call by a referee may be the subject of a protest. A club, through its president, may file a protest alleging a violation of League rules which does not involve a judgment call by a referee.

Validity and Eligibility. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must:

- 3) Be accompanied by a protest fee in the amount of \$50, in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Westchester Youth Soccer League.
- 4) Describe in full detail the grounds for the protest and bear the signature of the club's president, as well as the signature of the coach of the team initiating the protest.
- 5) Be accompanied by copies of any information to be presented by witnesses and/or supporting documents, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses that the protesting team or club may wish to present. All hard copies are to be provided along with all supporting information and documents, and electronic copies available in electronic form.
- 6) Be provided to the League office by first class mail and post-marked, as well as (with respect to copies available in electronic form) e-mailed, no later than midnight of the second business day following the game or incident from which the protest arises to the Chairman of the Arbitration Board at the League's offices (and to "LDArgenio@wyslsoccer.org" and "arbitration@wyslsoccer.org"), and to the coach of the opposing team. A protest alleging a violation of League rules which are not game-related must be filed with the League within a reasonable period of time after becoming aware of such alleged violation (but need not be filed within such 2-business day period), and a copy of such protest, together with all supporting materials, also be forwarded, by e-mail, to the president of the opposing club.

- 7) Pertain to a League sponsored competition.
- 8) Be initiated by a party directly involved in the incident under protest. An involved party, as used throughout this Rule, is defined as the team coach or club president.
- 9) Include all information necessary to allow a fair and just decision.

Non-Conformance. Protests not filed within the required time limit or which have been submitted without written details or without remittance of the fee, or without a copy being sent to the coach or club president of the opposing team or club, or otherwise not in full conformation with Rule VIII-2-A, may be rejected without consideration.

Hearing; No Lawyers. The Arbitration Board may, at its discretion, ask for a response from the opposing team or club and may, in the discretion of the Chairman of the Arbitration Board, conduct a hearing. Hearings generally will not be held for match ejections (red cards), unless the Chairman determines that the circumstances are unusual. Reasonable notice shall be given to involved parties and those others invited to aid in the Arbitration Board's deliberations and/or to present relevant information, no later than two business days prior to the scheduled meeting. An Arbitration Board proceeding or hearing is not a legal proceeding or hearing. Involved parties may not be represented by legal counsel. However, on reasonable prior written notice to the League, a party may be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at a hearing, including the assistance of legal counsel, if desired.

Ignorance of the Rules. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the League is not sufficient grounds for the filing of a protest or dispute.

Forfeiture of Appeal Rights. An involved party failing to appear before the Arbitration Board after having received proper notice shall forfeit all rights to appeal.

Basis of Decision. The Arbitration Board shall render a decision on any protest or dispute on the basis of any information, from any source that it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Protest Fee Forfeited. The protest fee shall be forfeited to the League in the event the protest is not upheld or not heard.

Conflict of Interest. If a member of the Arbitration Board is connected with the division or with either of the clubs involved in the protest, he/she shall recuse himself from participating in the protest hearing.

Appeal. Decisions of the Arbitration Board shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided for in these Rules. A club may appeal a decision of the Arbitration Board only to the Appeals Committee of the League in accordance with these Rules.

3. **Appeals Committee.** The Appeals Committee of the League shall be responsible for hearing appeals pertaining to decisions rendered by the League's Arbitration Board or Arbitration Review Board. The Appeals Committee has the authority to suspend or fine any player, coach, team, team official, club official, parent or other team and/or club supporter. The Appeals Committee has the authority to fine any member club.

Composition. There shall be no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members of the Appeals Committee, including the Chairman. The League's President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall select the members, including the Chairman, of the Appeals Committee for a one- or two-year term. The Chairman shall be a member of the Board of Directors; the other members may but need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Voting. Each member of the Appeals Committee, including the Chairman, shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Chairman may cast a vote the same as other members. A minimum of three (3) members, including the Chairman, is required to hear a case and render a decision. No member of the Appeals Committee shall participate at any other level of appeal or discipline.

Participants. The Appeals Committee reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Appeals Committee meeting.

Convene Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will convene at the discretion of the Chairman or any two (2) members.

4. **Appeals.** Appeals of a decision rendered by the Arbitration Committee or Arbitration Review Board are filed by member clubs, who shall be responsible for adhering to the rules regarding appeals and guarantee all fees and fines.

Validity and Eligibility. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each appeal must:

- 1) Be accompanied by an appeal fee in the amount of \$100, in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Westchester Youth Soccer League.
- 2) Be submitted with the approval of the member club. The submittal must describe in full detail the grounds for the appeal and bear the

signature of the member club's president, as well as the signature of the affected coach of any team.

- 3) Be accompanied by three (3) copies of any information to be presented by witnesses and/or supporting documents.
- 4) Be provided to the League office by first class mail and post-marked, as well as (with respect to copies available in electronic form) e-mailed, no later than midnight of the tenth (10th) calendar day after the date of notice of the decision of the Arbitration Board giving rise to the appeal to the Chairmen of the Appeals Committee at the League's office, with email copies to the coach of the opposing team and the president of the opposing club.
- 5) Pertain to a decision rendered by the Arbitration Board.
- 6) Be initiated by a party directly affected by the decision under appeal. An affected party, as used throughout this Rule, is defined as a team coach and/or a club president who was party to the decision under appeal.
- 7) Include all information necessary to allow a fair and just decision.

Non-Conformance. Appeals not filed within the required time limit, or which have been submitted without written details or without remittance of the fee or without a copy being sent to the opposing team or club, or otherwise not in full conformity with Rule VII-4-A, may be rejected without consideration.

No Lawyers. An Appeals Committee hearing is not a legal proceeding. Involved parties may not be represented by legal counsel. Attorneys may appear before the Committee only as affected parties in an individual capacity and not as legal counsel.

Ignorance of Rules. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the League is not sufficient grounds for the filing of an appeal.

Forfeiture of Appeal Rights. An affected party failing to appear before the Appeals Committee after having received proper notice shall forfeit all rights to appeal.

Basis of Decision. The Appeals Committee shall render a decision on any appeal on the basis of any information, from any source that it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Appeals Fee Forfeited. The appeals fee shall be forfeited to the League if the Appeals Committee does not uphold the appeal.

Conflict of Interest. If a member of the Appeals Committee is connected with the division or with either of the clubs involved in the appeal, he shall rescue himself from participating in the appeal.

Participation in Meetings. Appeals shall be heard in person or by telephone conference call at the Chair's discretion; it shall be closed to the public. The Appeals Committee may set time limits for oral argument, if any, as deemed appropriate by the Appeals Committee.

Burden. The appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decisions being appealed from is clearly erroneous.

Hearing. The Appeals Committee shall be convened by the Chairman at his or her discretion. Notice shall be given to affected parties, the Chairman of the Arbitration Board, and others invited to aid in the Committee's deliberations and/or to present relevant information, no later than two business days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Evidence. No new evidence may be presented to the Appeals Committee unless circumstances have materially changed, or new facts are discovered that were unavailable at the time of the original hearing. In such case, the Appeals Committee may allow that such new evidence be presented to it provided all parties to the appeal have been given notice and are prepared to respond to the materially changed circumstances or previously unavailable or undiscovered facts.

Stay of Arbitration Board Decision. A decision rendered by the Arbitration committee from which an appeal is taken may be suspended by the Appeals Committee only upon written application by the appellant which accompanies the Notice of Appeal and the finding by the Appeals Committee of good cause shown. Good cause shown may only be made upon a unanimous vote of the Appeals Committee and a written decision which specifically states that there is a strong likelihood of success upon the appeal and that circumstances are present which clearly show that the appellant will suffer irreparable harm unless the decision from which the appeal is taken is suspended pending the determination of the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee regarding suspension of the decision pending determination of the appeal shall be final and may not be further appealed.

Limit of Relevancy. No decision which arises out of the application of the rules of competition that is made in the course of the competition, and has no consequence beyond the competition as herein defined, shall be appealable. For the purposes of this policy, the term "competition" may include games, tournaments, league play or a regular season.

Timeliness of Decision. The Appeals Committee shall render a decision within ten (10) business days of the completion of the appeal hearing. Failure to render a decision within this period shall entitle the party filing the appeal to submit the appeal to the next level of authority without determination and the appeal fee submitted shall be refunded.

Notification of Decision. All parties to an appeal shall be notified in writing of the decision rendered by the Appeals Committee within fifteen (15) business days of the completion of the appeal hearings.

Appeal. Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided for in these Rules.

Rules Relating to Heading and Concussion Management

1. Heading

- a. Deliberate heading is prohibited in games in all divisions U11 and younger.
- b. When a player playing a game in one of these divisions heads the ball deliberately, in the opinion of the referee, the referee should stop play and award an indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team from the spot where the heading occurs. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area of either team, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the heading occurs.
 - i. Heading the ball is NOT a violation of the Laws of the Game; it does not constitute a foul or other infraction of the Laws of the Game.
 - ii. Accordingly, the only consequences for deliberate heading are as set forth in this Rule.
- c. If a player playing in a division U12 or older is younger than 11 at the commencement of the season, such player should not head the ball during games and practices until such player turns 11.
- d. Referees should enforce these rules by age group division and should not assess the age of individual players on the field.
- e. In the U8 divisions playing 4v4, the Field Marshal shall exercise the responsibilities assigned in this section 1 to the referee.

2. Game management of injuries involving the head

- a. Referee and Coach Training.
 - i. Referees of WYSL games shall have all concussion awareness and management training required of USSF licensed referees.
 - ii. WYSL coaches shall have all concussion awareness and management training required of WYSL coaches under WYSL rules.
- b. Referee discretion. Referees shall have the discretion to make determinations under these Rules, and are advised by the League to err on the side of caution and player safety. Coaches, players and others are expected to respect and not argue with referees' determinations in carrying out the language and spirit of these rules.
- c. Game stoppage.
 - i. The referee shall immediately stop the game if the referee (x) observes or otherwise becomes aware of a forceful bump, blow or jolt to a player's head or a hit to the body that results in rapid movement of the head (as a result of direct contact with another player or equipment or the ground or otherwise), or (y) becomes aware that a player is complaining about or is

showing signs or reporting symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion or other traumatic brain injury¹.

- ii. If a player's coach (x) observes or otherwise becomes aware of such a bump, blow, jolt or hit, or (y) becomes aware that a player is complaining about or is showing signs or reporting symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion or other traumatic brain injury, and the referee does not promptly stop the game, such coach shall attempt to get the referee's attention (without violating applicable League rules and the Laws of the Game) and advise the referee accordingly.

d. Removal of player from game.

- i. If the referee or a player's coach becomes aware that a player is complaining about or is showing signs or reporting symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion or other traumatic brain injury, whoever becomes so aware must remove that player from that game. To avoid any doubt, the referee and coach do not need to agree; if either becomes aware of these facts, the player must be removed from the game.

Unless there a health care professional onsite who, complying with ENYYSA/USYS safety guidelines (<https://www.ensoccer.com/headsup/>) determines that the player in question did not suffer a concussion or other traumatic brain injury and clears the player to resume play by completing and signing the Return to Play form prescribed by the League, any player so removed shall not return to play in that game. For purposes of these rules, a "health care professional" is, as defined in the US Soccer Guidelines, a licensed professional, such as an athletic trainer certified (ATC) or physician (MD/DO), with skills in emergency care, sports medicine injuries and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.

- ii. When a player is removed from a game, the referee shall (x) make a note on both the Lineup Card and the Referee's Report that the player is suspected of having sustained a head injury (noting the input of any onsite health care professional conveyed to the referee), and (y) retain such player's pass and send it to the League office no later than the next business day following the day of the game.

- e. Return to play in WYSL games. Any player so removed from a game shall not be permitted to play again in a WYSL game or other WYSL-sanctioned competition unless and until such player is cleared by a health care professional to resume play by completing and signing the Return to Play form prescribed by the League.

- f. Interpretation. These rules are based on ENYYSA/USYS rules and guidelines and the specific requirements stated here are intended to be interpreted to require no less than what is required under such rules and guidelines.

¹ See [Concussion Signs and Symptoms](#) on the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Appendix C

Rules Relating to the New York State AED Law

New York State has enacted legislation S.7424/A.366A requiring camps and youth sports programs to establish automated external defibrillator, or AED, implementation plans and to have at least one person trained to properly use the AED at camps, games and practice.

This legislation applies to the WYSL and all of our Clubs. Accordingly, all Clubs will be required to have an AED present at each practice and game in close proximity of the playing field (along with someone able to use the AED).

Each Club shall be required to adopt an AED Implementation plan and to certify prior to each season that such plan has been adopted and that an AED will be available at the applicable field(s) or that there shall be reasonable access to an AED at such field(s).

Based on NY's AED law, we encourage all visiting coaches to confirm with the home team that an AED is available in close proximity of the field. If the home team does not have an AED but the visiting team does, the game may proceed. Otherwise, the match may not be played. The home team must notify the referee that there's no AED available.

Landscape

ENYYSA and US Soccer POLICY 531-9 Effective March 1, 2025				
Coaches, Bench Personnel, Players, Managers, Trainers - Non- Physical Abuse				
Level	Description	Examples	Minimum Penalty	Jurisdiction
Level 1: Verbal Taunting	Speech or gestures that belittle the referee, damage credibility, or undermine authority.	• "Do you even know the rules?" • "Did you forget your glasses?" • "What's the other team paying you?"	2-game suspension [†]	ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing*
Level 2: Harassment/Intimidation	Language or body language meant to make a referee feel unsafe, without explicit threats of violence.	• Using expletives ("That call was complete \$h*t!") • Personal attacks ("You're a F-ing joke!") • Getting in the referee's face	4-game suspension [†]	ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing*
Level 3: Threats/Derogatory Language	Aggressive, attacking, derogatory language, cyberbullying, doxing, or threats of violence.	• "I'll see you in the parking lot." • "You better watch your back!" • Social media posts attacking the referee	6-game suspension and/or 6-24 months [†]	ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing*

Level 4: Offensive or Discriminatory Act	Discriminatory or derogatory words or actions based on race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, or religion.	• Racial/ethnic slurs • Offensive gestures • Homophobic or sexist language	10-game suspension and/or 12-24 months [†]	ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing*
[†] For 2 nd time offenses penalty is doubled. If the referee is a minor the penalty is tripled.				
*The League is free to add additional fines or penalties for violations of the league's rules or codes of conduct. The League is free to assess other penalties for non 531-9 issues such as parents insulting players or coaches arguing with each other...etc				
Coaches, Bench Personnel, Players, Managers, Trainers - Physical Abuse				
Level	Description	Examples	Minimum Penalty	Jurisdiction
Level 1: Minor or Slight Touching	Unwanted but minor physical contact with the referee.	- Tapping the referee's shoulder to get their attention. - Touching the referee's chest with a finger. - Lightly bumping into the referee.	3-game suspension and/or 1-6 months [†]	*ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing
Level 2: Intentional Confrontation	Using physical contact to intimidate or provoke a confrontation, or causing property damage.	- Shoving the referee. - Forcefully grabbing the referee's arm or jersey. - Throwing a water bottle near the referee. - Dumping the referee's bag into a trash can.	10-game suspension and/or 6-24 months [†]	*ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing

Level 3: Violent Contact	Malicious, violent physical contact meant to cause harm.	- Punching, kicking, elbowing, or spitting on the referee. - Choking the referee. - Throwing objects at the referee with intent to hit. - Intentionally tackling the referee.	12-game suspension up to a lifetime ban [†]	*ENYYSA Arbitration Hearing
[†] For 2 nd time offenses penalty is doubled. If the referee is a minor the penalty is tripled.				
*The league is free to add additional fines or penalties for violations of league rules or codes of conduct. The league is free to assess other penalties for non 531-9 issues such as parents insulting players or coaches arguing with each other...etc				

Parents - Spectators - Fans - Verbal/Physical Abuse				
		Minimum Penalty to Club		
**Gross mistreatment as defined by US Policy 531 for Verbal abuse	1st Offense	Adult Referee - \$250 Minor Referee - \$500		League
	2nd Offense	Adult Referee - \$500 Minor Referee - \$750		League
	3rd Offense	Reported to ENY		*ENYYSA Supervisory Hearing
**Gross mistreatment as defined by US Policy 531 for Physical abuse		Adult Referee - \$750 Minor Referee - \$1500	Reported to ENY	*ENYYSA Supervisory Hearing

Additionally - Additionally, if it is determined that the team officials (coaches, managers, club officials, etc.) either failed to act appropriately to control the sidelines or failed to control the sidelines after instructions from a referee, the coach will be suspended for 3 games. Organizations sanctioning the match may impose additional penalties such as game forfeit, point deduction, etc.

*WYSL is free to add additional fines or penalties for violations of CJSJL rules or codes of conduct.

*WYSL is free to assess other penalties for non 531*9 issues such as parents insulting players, coaches arguing with each other, player vs player incidents...etc

****Gross Mistreatment (USSF Definition)**

Gross mistreatment refers to deliberate, non-contact behavior that harms a referee. It includes actions that don't qualify as assault or abuse but still cause harm. Examples include:

Severe harassment (e.g., hate speech, discrimination based on race, gender, etc.).

- Extreme verbal attacks that could cause emotional harm.
- Aggressive confrontations when a referee arrives or leaves a venue.
- Cyberbullying, such as spreading false information, doxing, or public ridicule.
 - Questioning a referee's integrity or impartiality.
 - Yelling insults, taunts, or belittling remarks.
 - Ongoing efforts to undermine a referee's authority