

WEST SPRINGFIELD YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1

GAME RULES: WSYSC teams will abide by the rules of play set forth by the specific league in which they play. Leagues include the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League (PVJSL), the Massachusetts Premier League (MAPLE) and the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League (PVSSL) as enumerated by their By-Laws shall govern the play of the teams of the West Springfield Youth Soccer Club (WSYSC), with exceptions and amplifications as noted hereafter.

ARTICLE 2

TEAM REQUIREMENTS: All WSYSC teams shall be represented by a coach of at least twenty-one years of age. All WSYSC teams shall carry a roster of at least two players more than the number of players on a field in a game in their particular age group.

ARTICLE 3

WSYSC TEAM PHILOSOPHY: The WSYSC encourages a philosophy of team cohesiveness and positive spirit through programs for player and coach development and by providing skill appropriate levels of competition. In general, additions to team rosters shall be made through advertised, open tryouts. It is the intent of the WSYSC, to the extent possible, to provide a minimum of a fall and a spring season of outdoor soccer programs to all male and female members in the age groups provided by the PVJSL.

ARTICLE 4

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (Residency and Age):

(4a) U9 and U10: U9 and U10 teams must be composed entirely of players, who reside, or at least one parent or guardian resides, in West Springfield or player goes to school in West Springfield. Requests for waivers of this rule should be made to the WSYSC BOD at least two weeks in advance of the PVJSL roster submission date in order for the WSYSC to act in a timely manner on the request. Waivers may be granted where the hometown club releases the player, and the waiver would not conflict with state rules.

1 **U11 and Up:** Same rules apply as in 4a above. In addition, teams are limited to two players receiving a waiver.

(4b) Out of Town Waiver Requests: Conversely, upon the request of another town to roster a West Springfield resident player, a waiver to the other town will not be denied where no appropriate openings on a WSYSC team exist. The opinion of the applicable team(s) coach (es) will be considered by the BOD when determining whether an appropriate opening exists.

(4c) Age: Players must meet PVJSL age requirements to be placed on a team roster. In addition, for U14 and younger teams, the WSYSC restricts each team from placing on a roster more than two players who are one age bracket below the oldest player's age group on the team. No players may be on a roster if they are more than one age bracket below the oldest player's age group. Coaches are advised to exercise caution in allowing a player to "play up", keeping in mind the long-term best interests of the player. Birth Certificates must be verified prior to rostering on any team.

Exceptions: Exceptions to rule 4c may be made in the circumstance where no age appropriate team (or an age appropriate team with openings) is currently available for a player to join or where it's necessary to form a team in an older age group. Exceptions must be approved by a majority vote of the BOD.

ARTICLE 5

TEAM FORMATION/TRYOUTS: In June of each year, tryouts will be conducted as follows: All teams U9 through U14 will hold mandatory open tryouts. These tryouts will be advertised so the maximum number of potential players can attend. The coach from each team (If no coach is available a BOD member) will conduct drills set fourth by the BOD. Two or more evaluators with no connection to the players trying out will rank the players using the WSYSC evaluation form. The players will be ranked on their performance. The top ten players will make up the core of the teams roster. The head coach will then use input from the evaluation form, their past experience with the player and observations while conducting the drills during the tryout to recommend to the BOD the remaining roster spots. The BOD will determine the remaining roster spots using the head coach's roster recommendations as a guide. A maximum of 2 teams will be formed for each age group. In the event were there are not enough players to make a team for each age group the BOD can decide to combine age groups of teams to maximize the number of players benefiting from PVJSL play. The BOD will intend to have all coaches selected, the rosters formed, and players notified of their roster status within 2 weeks following the last day of open tryouts. It is totally within the discretion of the BOD to allow players who did not attend mandatory tryouts to play for the WSYSC. Any player who did not attend tryouts must show "just cause" for missing the tryouts to the BOD to be considered eligible for a WSYSC roster spot.

Players must try out in their age bracket determined by MYSA rules, an exception is made for players that are in a higher school grade, they can choose to tryout with their classmates.

ARTICLE 6

PLAYER TRANSFERS: Player transfers between established WSYSC teams may occur as enumerated below, subject to PVJSL and MYSA player transfer stipulations. Any such transfers must be completed prior to the first game of a season. In all situations involving player transfers the best interests of the player should be kept in the forefront and no legitimate request for a transfer from a player's parent or guardian shall be unnecessarily withheld unless such transfer is deemed to be contrary to the interests of the teams and the integrity of the Club.

(6a) Solicitation: A WSYSC coach may not initiate recruiting contact with players on existing teams. When contacted by parents or players of an existing team, such as a prospective coach should defer and call the coach of the existing team.

(6b) Joint Coaches Approval: Where both WSYSC coaches involved agree in writing to a player transfer, the transfer shall be allowed after a review and vote by the BOD.

(6c) "For Cause" Transfers: In the situation where a parent or guardian wishes to transfer his or her player to a different team due to the perceived shortcomings of the coaching staff or such other reasons as they shall enumerate, such parent or guardian shall provide to the BOD a signed written statement requesting such a transfer and detailing the area of the Club's By-Laws and/or the MYSA Coaches Code of Conduct that have been allegedly violated, or other such reasons as they shall specifically enumerate. If in the majority vote of the BOD such request has merit, then a "for cause" transfer will be deemed to have occurred and the Club will honor the transfer request without penalty on the player. In such a situation the coach (es) of the transferring team must respond in writing to the request if they intend to object to the transfer. In this case, BOD majority rules.

ARTICLE 7

SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES: Activities sanctioned by the WSYSC include all soccer related activities involving players and coaches that are currently registered with the MYSA. The participation of a single youth not affiliated with the MYSA in an activity causes the entire event, and all other participants at the event, to be considered unsanctioned. Soccer related activities include meetings, practices, clinics, scrimmages, games, tournaments and travel to and from these activities held in Massachusetts. Soccer activities outside the state of Massachusetts are not sanctioned by the WSYSC without written "Permission to Travel" approved by the MYSA. Coaches understand they will be assuming full liability for all participants when organizing and leading unsanctioned activities.

ARTICLE 8

COACHES' AND TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES: WSYSC coaches are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with the PVJSL Coaches Code of Conduct. Coaches are also held responsible for the sportsmanship of their players and will sign a Zero Tolerance form in accordance with the rulings of the PVJSL

(8a) Financial Responsibilities to WSYSC: The membership fees will be due to the WSYSC Treasurer two weeks before the Club's required submission date of fees to the PVJSL. All players fees are payable to the WSYSC, not individual coaches. No exceptions. Coaches are responsible for any fines levied by the leagues, organizations, or tournament organizers on their teams, or so levied on the Club due to actions by their team. Failure to meet financial obligations to the WSYSC is cause for expulsion from the Club. Parents who are financially unable to meet fee obligations may apply to the Treasurer, through their coach, for a waiver requesting reduction of season's fees.

(8b) Additional Obligations to WSYSC: A coach or the assistant coach is required to attend all pre-season and post-season meetings of the BOD as requested and attend and participate in the club tryouts. If both the coach and assistant coach are unable to attend, a team parent representative must attend in their place. All WSYSC coaches are required to complete at least a level F license coaching course within the first year of being accepted by the BOD to coach a team. Coaches are also required to maintain a current CPR certification. Coaches are obligated to participate in the scheduled care of Club field equipment, i.e., corner flags, and if through their inaction such equipment is lost or stolen, shall be held responsible for its replacement cost.

(8c) Coaches Duties and Obligations to Players and Parents: The coach shall schedule the frequency and extent of practices, scrimmages, tournaments, and other soccer activities of the team. Coaches must schedule a minimum of one practice per week. Two practices a week are recommended. The coach shall determine individual playing time, positions on the field and all other matters related to the play of the game. (Exception for U9 and U10 players who are expected to receive equal playing time as long as they attend practices and maintain a positive attitude.) Decisions of the coaches may be based not only on the skill of the player, but upon the player's attitude, sportsmanship, practice and game attendance, and overall contribution to their team. Prior to each season, coaches should review with their team the rules of play of the League, the FIFA rules of the game and the elements of good sportsmanship. The coach is a role model to the children and total respect is to be displayed to opposing coaches and referees at all times.

(8d) Players Duties, Obligations: Players participating in the WSYSC are expected to attend practices as scheduled by their coaches. Respect must be given to coaches, referees, and opposing players on the field at all times. Disrespect in any fashion will not be tolerated and disciplinary actions will be taken in the event where an unacceptable situation occurs.

ARTICLE 9

MODIFICATION TO BY-LAWS: The By-Laws of the WSYSC may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the WSYSC.

These By-Laws approved and accepted majority vote of the BOD on 11/13/08