

WEST SPRINGFIELD YOUTH SOCCER CLUB BY-LAWS

WSYSC (West Springfield Youth Soccer Club) is a non-profit 501c3 organization run by an all volunteer staff that provides an opportunity for competitive soccer for the youth of West Springfield, Massachusetts. WSYSC develops soccer players and teams to play against other town travel teams in Western Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 1

GAME RULES: WSYSC teams will abide by the rules of play set forth by the specific league(s) in which those teams play in.

ARTICLE 2

TEAM REQUIREMENTS: All WSYSC teams shall be represented by at least one coach of at least twenty-one years of age. All WSYSC teams shall carry a rosters within the minimum and maximum sizes for their particular age group. (See Minimum and Maximum roster requirements in Article 9 of bylaws.)

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 primary town travel league in Western Mass (Roots Soccer League) from U8 thru U14.

ARTICLE 4

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (Residency and Age):

U8-U14 Teams: WSYSC teams are composed of players, who reside or at least one parent or guardian resides, in West Springfield, or attend school in West Springfield. In both situations, WSYSC considers those players equally in terms of eligibility for a team, and thus are both referred to as “in town players”. Players who go to a West Springfield school but live elsewhere will need a waiver to be completed for to play on a WSYSC team in the RSL league, and thus a request needs to be made to the BOD at least two weeks in advance of the Roots Soccer League roster submission date in order to create and process the waiver.

(4a) Requests for players outside of West Springfield to play for WSYSC teams: In order for a player who both lives and goes to school in another town (referred to as an “out of town player”) to play for WSYSC, they will also need a waiver to be completed for the RSL league, and also a request made to the WSYSC BOD. The WSYSC BOD will consider “out of town players” for WSYSC teams, however if they are to play on a WSYSC team they must do so without preventing an in town player from the opportunity to play. Thus there ideally needs to be an open spot when the player inquires that was not created from cutting a west side resident player. The BOD will make the final decision on whether the player will or will not be granted a waiver.

(4b) U15-U19 Teams: This age bracket is one where our club has not had teams formed yet. However, if there is an opportunity for a West side coach and minimum 4 players out of the total who are residents of West Springfield to form a team, the club will consider allowing that team under to play under WSYSC even with several out of town players.

(4c) Out of Town Waiver Requests for West Springfield Players to play elsewhere:

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 for that player. The opinion of the applicable team(s) coach(es) will be considered by the BOD when determining whether an appropriate opening exists or not. The WSYSC BOD can deny a player a waiver to play for another town travel league in RSL if they feel the reason to play elsewhere is counter-productive.

(Example: An in-town player is offered a spot on an existing WSYSC team but does not take it due to their not liking the team. They instead try to join another town travel club in the Roots League. The WSYSC BOD can deny a waiver for the player within the RSL league and thus they will not be able to play for that club in RSL. The player can of course play either Park and Rec in any town, or Premier Level soccer, without a waiver.)

(4d) Age: Players must meet RSL bracket age requirements to be placed on a team roster. No players may be on a roster if they are two or more age brackets below the oldest player's age group. The BOD will exercise caution in allowing a player to “play up” one age bracket, as club principles are that players play their age/grade on a WSYSC team. Birth Certificates must be verified prior to rostering on any team thru US Club Soccer Pass requirements.

Exceptions: Exceptions to Article 4 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

TRYOUTS & TEAM FORMATION:

(5a) Tryouts: In June of each year, all brackets U8 through U14 will hold mandatory open tryouts. All 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 or delegated volunteer) will conduct drills set forth by the BOD. One evaluator will be either the existing head or assistant coach for that bracket. There will be two or more additional evaluators with no connection to the players trying out. The evaluators will score the players and also rank the players for that tryout based on using the WSYSC evaluation form. All evaluation data received during tryouts shall remain confidential. Only BOD members may view data other than coaches for their brackets during the roster determination process. Any outside help to consolidate the data requires prior approval by the BOD. Rankings for players cannot be communicated to parents, that will be a breach of confidentiality.

The players will be evaluated on their performance in key categories such as Soccer Skills, Speed/Aggressiveness, Movement/Positioning, and any other category determined by the BOD, on a 1-5 scale. The players scores from each tryout day from all the evaluators will be added together and a mean ranking shall be given to each player for the day. The same shall occur on the second day, and the two rankings are then averaged and a final ranking for each age bracket is determined. Under no circumstances will the rankings be changed.

(5b): Team Formation: Once roster size has been determined by the BOD for teams, the top 2/3rds ranked players based on these evaluations will automatically make up the core of the teams' roster for teams chosen in the A-B format. The head coach will then use input from the tryout evaluation rankings, past coaches rankings from the previous fall season (if applicable), 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 then determine the remaining roster spots using the head coach's roster recommendations as a guide. If there is a coach's recommendation that one of the top 2/3rds player is thought to be a team hindrance due to behavior, the BOD will hear the case and may

decide to remove the player from the roster. Also, if a player does not attend tryouts due to injury or “just cause”, the player will receive a “No Rank” and be at the bottom of the rankings – thus not in the top 2/3rds of players for their age bracket. However, they can still be considered and recommend by the coach to the BOD as one of the players on the remaining roster. Example of “Just Cause” include a planned family vacation or other sport game conflicts where the player cannot miss. In any “Just Cause” case, the player must have clearly indicated their interest to play prior to tryouts by pre-registering and paying the soccer fee. Otherwise WSYSC can choose to not consider them for a team.

In the event 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 league 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. 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. Players must try out in their age bracket determined by the RSL league, with the only exception being for players that are in a higher school grade who can choose to tryout with their classmates. Only unless the BOD grants an exception can a player try out in a higher age bracket.

(5c) Team Composition by Age Range

- **U8 and U9 Bracket:** If there are multiple teams in the age bracket, even weighted teams will be formed using the tryout rankings as a guide. As a Club we discourage teams to be formed specifically by other factors like family friendships, location in town, or prior playing on teams. Forming even teams will be communicated to parents prior to tryouts by the BOD.
- **U10 Bracket:** A decision will be made prior to tryouts on whether teams will be formed in an even weight, or via an A/B Split. That decision will be made by the BOD, with all coaches in that bracket providing input. Once the decision is made, it will be communicated to parents prior to tryouts. If no decision is made or communicated prior to tryouts, the default will be even weighted teams.
- **U11 thru U14 Brackets:;** teams will be made using the A/B split and rankings as a guide – described in section (5b).
- **Notes on Even Weighted Teams:** At U9 and U10, it is important that teams incorporate new players and different players each year. Thus WSYSC discourages teams remaining exactly the same year on year. It is part of our philosophy to ensure kids within the age brackets experience playing together as a whole rather than in just one smaller 7 v 7 team that does not change over 2-3 years.
- **Age Bracket Definition:** Brackets to form WSYSC teams are defined as per the Roots Soccer League standards which closely follow grade ages. See bracket definition for 2019-2020 Season

U8: Birthdates within 8/1/11 – 7/31/11 Typically 2nd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U9: Birthdates within 8/1/10 – 7/31/10 Typically 3rd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U10: Birthdates within 8/1/09 – 7/31/09 Typically 4th grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U11: Birthdates within 8/1/08 – 7/31/08 Typically 2nd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U12: Birthdates within 8/1/07 – 7/31/07 Typically 2nd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U13: Birthdates within 8/1/06 – 7/31/06 Typically 2nd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

U14: Birthdates within 8/1/05 – 7/31/05 Typically 2nd grade for 2019-2020 School yr

(5d) Team Additions Outside of Tryouts prior/during the fall season: As above, any player to be added who did not attend or did not show “just cause” for missing tryouts can be added as follows:

- In a bracket with an A and B split, the player shall enter on the B team, if one exists, and remain there for that season. If there is no B Team, plus a roster spot still available on the A team, and there were no cuts made in that age bracket after tryouts, a player then may be directly added to the A Team.
- In a bracket with even teams, a player may be added directly to either team if there are roster spots available, as long as approved by the BOD. The BOD will require coaches of all teams in that age bracket to be informed of adds to any team.

(5e) Team Additions Outside of Tryouts post Fall season: Any addition directly to an A team rosters after the fall season must be presented to and approved by the BOD. Our principles for spring teams is to ensure that there are options to play for as many WSYSC players that are interested in competing in the league, thus players can be added directly with BOD approval.

ARTICLE 6

PLAYER TRANSFERS & PLAYER PASSING WITHIN WSYSC TEAMS: We discourage player transfers after team formation to prevent mass movement between WSYSC teams. If there is a proposal for a player to move from one team to another, or a player trade, the coaches involved must present reasoning and justification for the transfer. The BOD will make the decision based on keeping the best interests of the players in mind. Examples of requests for player transfers are.

(6a) 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.

(6b) “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 or 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, the BOD majority rules.

(6c) NO RECRUITING RULE WITHIN WSYSC : A WSYSC coach may not initiate recruiting contact with players on other existing WSYSC teams to permanently switch rosters. When contacted by parents or players of another team, the prospective coach should defer and call the coach the player’s existing team to notify them of the request. Any attempts to recruit or actively influence team composition is a violation of the Coaches Code of Conduct – with consequences to the coach being expelled from the club.

(6c) Players playing games on other WSYSC Teams via Player Pass

It is encouraged for players to play games for other teams to get more playing time and game experience. In order for a player to play a game with another team, the following conditions must be met by the player and coach(es) involved:

- Game must not be in conflict with this own team games. Thus first priority for a player is to play the games with his existing team they are rostered with.
- Player must have the approval of his existing team coach to play the game. A coach of a competitive team (u11-u14) does have the right to say no if the alternative game is

BEFORE his game on the same day so as the player is not tired for his regular team game. But we encourage coaches to allow playing of games afterwards, and also we encourage players to play multiple games with U8-U10 teams

- Players can attend other teams practices as long as they do not interfere with their attendance at their own team practices and games, and it is cleared by their existing coach. Expectations are that a player first attends their own team practices, and then if they desire additional training, can attend another team's practice.
- If a WSYSC refuses to play with his regular team by not attending practices and games, and instead thru player pass practices and plays games for another team, that is a violation of these bylaws with a penalty being expulsion from the club for the player and family.

ARTICLE 7

SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES: Activities sanctioned by the WSYSC include all soccer related activities involving players and coaches that are currently registered with US Club Soccer. The participation of a single youth not affiliated with US Club Soccer 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, fundraisers, tournaments and travel to and from these activities. 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 our club Coaches Code of Conduct. Coaches are also held responsible for the sportsmanship of their players within the rules of the Roots Soccer League. They will also sign the WSYSC Coaches Code of Conduct document and abide by the spirit of the document.

(8a) Financial Responsibilities to WSYSC: The membership fees (player fees) will be due to the WSYSC Treasurer by tryouts in June. All players fees are payable to the WSYSC, not individual coaches. There are 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 coaches attend tryouts and post season meetings, it is typical for them to have a reduced fee level for the children they coach. The WSYSC BOD will communicate this reduced fee level to the coaches prior to tryouts. All WSYSC coaches are required to complete at least a level F license coaching course within the first two years 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, can be held responsible for its replacement cost. Team uniforms are chosen by the BOD and cannot be altered in any way for any reason. Parents are responsible for ordering uniforms through a vendor portal (which coaches reminding and following up) and parents will pay the vendor directly.

(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 U8, U9 and U10 players who are expected to receive minimum playing time equivalent to approximately 40% of each game they attend, as long as the player maintains a positive attitude with the team and coach.) Playing 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 respect is to be displayed to opposing coaches and referees at all times. In the event a player is injured during a practice, game, or sanctioned event, and outside medical treatment is required, it is the duty of the parent to notify the coach within 24 hours with a status of the player's health. The coach then will notify the BOD. If the injury is deemed serious, then the player must produce a Doctor's note prior to resuming play with the team.

(8d) Players Duties, Obligations: Players participating in the WSYSC are expected to attend practices and games as scheduled by their coaches. Respect must be given to coaches, referees, and opposing players on the field at all times. If they cannot attend practices or games, the expectation is that they notify their coach with a reasonable lead time prior to missing a practice or game. Disrespect in any fashion by a player to a coach, referee, or opponents coach, will not be tolerated and disciplinary actions will be taken in the event where an unacceptable situation occurs. Discipline can include game suspension or even being expelled from the club. Any issues that occur shall be brought to the BOD for advisement.

ARTICLE 9

ROSTER SIZES – All roster sizes are approved by the BOD. If there is a request to go lower than the minimum or higher than the maximum, that must be voted on by the BOD.

U8: 5 v 5 play: Minimum roster size is 5, Maximum roster size is 8.

U9 and U10: 7 v 7 play: Minimum Roster Size is 8, Maximum is 14. A team must have at least 10 players before kids are turned away.

U11 and U12: 9 v 9 play: Minimum Roster is 11, Maximum Roster is 16. Roster is recommended to be at least 13 players before cuts are made.

U13 and U14: 11 v 11 play: Minimum Roster is 13, Maximum Roster is 18. Roster is recommended to be at least 16 players before cuts are made. BOD can take a request to increase roster size to be higher than 18 from a coach, up to 22 players.

ARTICLE 10

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. Last modification amended by Board of Directors – unanimous vote concluded July 13, 2019

ARTICLE 11

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE BY-LAWS: Initial By-Laws of the WSYSC were approved and accepted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors on September 8, 2011.