

West End Soccer League
Rules and Regulations of Play
Revised July 2015

W.E.S.L. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the W.E.S.L. include:

1. Encourage the children to have fun.
2. Teach the children good sportsmanship.
3. Teach the game of soccer and soccer skills.

GENERAL RULES

The rules shall be in accordance with the laws of the game prepared by FIFA, except as modified or clarified by EPYSA, LVYSL, or the WESL. It is strongly recommended that all board members, coaches, referees, parents and players read these rules and regulations as they apply to everyone involved in WESL.

FIELDS

1. The board shall determine field size each year, based upon the age groups playing that year and available fields.
2. All goals shall have secured nets with anchors or weights on back bar.
3. The fans, players and coaches shall remain at least 3 yards from the sidelines. Nobody is permitted to stand behind the goals. The referee shall stop the game to remove anyone from behind the goals that is distracting players.
4. When applicable the home coach will provide corner cones/flags, and a soccer ball for the game.

BALL SIZE

1. The ball size shall be established each year by the board.
2. Ball size 3 for ages 5, 6, 7, and 8; Ball size 4 for ages 9, 10, 11, and 12; Ball size 5 ages 13-14, and 15-18.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. The total number of players assigned to a team, birth date cutoffs, as well as the minimum number of players to field a team will be determined annually, per age group, by the board.
2. If any team cannot field the established number of players for their age group required that the coach of the opposing team decrease his/her number of players to equalize play during the game. (Please also see Rule # 2 under Late Arrivals for further guidance).
3. Only rostered players may play in a game
4. Only players rostered on participating teams may play for their team. Rosters shall be established by the designated Division Representatives at the June meeting. The method to establish team rosters will be the responsibility of the division representative and will consider the number of experienced players, number of players by age, siblings, school commitments, and number of players by gender. The children of coaches, one assistant coach, and sponsors will be assigned to their respective and designated teams. Assignment based upon location of residence, transportation problems and other reasons will not determine team assignment. Any violation of the placement of players on a specific team for reasons not permitted by the league will be reviewed by the board and could result in suspension of the team managers involved.
5. Transfer of players to other teams is only done by the Division Representatives.
6. Note that the number of core players (coach and sponsor children) should not exceed three (3). Circumstances that increase the number of core players beyond three (3) should be reviewed by the league board.

COACHES

1. Coaches of WESL are responsible for knowing and upholding the rules and regulations of the league, and are required to acknowledge by signing forms to this effect.
2. Anyone coaching
 - A. Is required to attend a coach's clinic. If coach has an E or D license they may provide a copy to the League secretary and will be exempt from attending a coached clinic.
 - B. **All** coaches must also attend either the June or the July coaches meeting.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to complete all required paperwork for the team and submit completed forms back to the league. Final scores are to be reported back to the Division Representatives within 24 hours of the match for age groups 9 yrs. old and older.
4. As a volunteer coach/assistant coach for WESL you are expected to uphold, promote, and represent the WESL objectives, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Conduct. All reports of misconduct and/or words or action opposing WESL Objectives, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the board and can result in immediate removal of the coach/assistant coach from the team.
5. In accordance with EPYSA policy, all coaches must read EPYSA Policy on Concussion Procedure and Protocol. Coaches must also complete EPYSA on-line Concussion Training and Test. At completion coaches will be able to print a certificate. Coaches must print the certificate and present it to the league prior to receiving their team roster.

REFEREES

1. Referees are to be treated with respect and should not be subjected to abuse and /or questions from the sidelines. Improper conduct will be reported to the league for disciplinary action. It should be noted that this conduct includes actions performed at anytime while the referee is present. Any person(s) who in any way threatens a referee or linesman will be brought before the league for disciplinary action.
2. In the event that no referee is present for the game, the league suggests that the game be played. A substitute referee shall be selected using the following procedure:
 - A. Coaches should attempt to agree on a substitute.
 - B. Each coach should nominate one person to do half a game, flip a coin to see who does first half.
 - C. If coaches feel that they are the only ones qualified to be referee, each coach should only do half.This procedure should begin immediately at the scheduled game time if no referee is present. **DO NOT** wait 10 or 15 minutes in hope that a referee will show up.
3. In the event that no mutually agreed upon referee is selected, your division rep must be contacted and the game must be rescheduled.
4. Upon arrival of a late referee, the official referee will take over at the next stoppage of the game.
5. The referee determines playability of the field, considering equipment, lining and weather conditions. Soccer is not regarded as a fair weather sport.
6. Games should continue if possible. Blinding rain, hail, large puddles in goal mouth, excessive snow and lightning are examples of good reasons for delaying or rescheduling a game.
7. The referee is encouraged to keep time on the field, but may choose to use a volunteer on the sideline. Only the referee may add time to a game for lost time due to injury, or the ball out of play beyond a reasonable distance, etc. Only the referee may stop a game.
8. Game reports should be mailed within 48 hours of the match. If a player was injured in a match, or a yellow/red card used, a call to the referee assignor should be made as soon after the match as possible.

PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES AGAINST A REFEREE

1. Deliberately hitting a referee, or trying to (i.e. hand or foot)
 - a. First offence: 1 year
 - b. Second offence: 2 years minimum
2. Throwing a soccer ball at a referee
 - a. First offense: 2 games
 - b. Second offense: 4 games minimum
3. Throwing other objects at a referee
 - a. First offense: 2 games
 - b. Second offense: 4 games minimum
4. Spitting at a referee
 - a. First offense: 4 games
 - b. Second offense: 8 games minimum
5. Verbally threatening a referee or using flagrant profanity
 - a. First offense: 2 games
 - b. Second offense: 4 games minimum
6. Obscene gestures at a referee
 - a. First offense: 2 games
 - b. Second offense: 4 games

LINESMEN

1. Volunteer linesmen are to be provided by each team and **MUST** be older than the players on the field.
2. Linesman will show no bias by word or action.

GAME LENGTH

1. Game length, by age group, shall be established each year by the board.
2. If one half (1/2) or more of the game is completed and cannot continue for any reason, the game is considered complete.

POSTPONEMENTS

1. In the event of severe weather, the Division Rep may cancel all games on his/her field and will contact all coaches in his/her division and the Referee Assignor.
2. Such cancellations shall be made at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled start of the first game of the day. After this time, it is the Referee's decision as to postpone an individual game due to weather or poor field conditions. If no referee is present at the field to start the match, at the scheduled start time, the home team coach may cancel the match due to weather or poor field conditions. In the event the referee declares the field unplayable prior to the beginning of the match, the referee shall be paid half the appropriate fee and will report the incident to the Referee Assignor. The coaches shall then reschedule according to the procedures detailed in item #3. In the event the Division Representative has not canceled the game(s) 2 hours in advance, both teams will report to the field. Any team not showing up will forfeit.
3. If a game is to be postponed / rescheduled by a coach, the following procedure must be followed:

A. Call Division Representative to cancel the game at least two hours prior to game time. Division Rep will contact the referee assignor.

B. Contact the opposing coach and agree upon a date for rescheduling. The game must be rescheduled within 48 hours and played within 3 weeks or prior to the last scheduled game of the season (whichever is earlier). If the Division Rep is not notified within 2 days of the rescheduled date, the game will be considered a forfeit by the home team.

C. Call the Division Rep with the rescheduled date within 48 hours of postponement. The Division Rep will then submit that information to the referee assignor.

D. If a date cannot be agreed upon by the two coaches, the Division Rep will arbitrate the disagreement and will have the final say as to when and where the game will be played.

4. If both teams do not show at the field, and no calls were made to the referee assignor, the referee will be paid the entire match fee. The referee will note a no show by both teams on his/her report, and the Division Rep. will record the match as a loss for both teams. The match will not be rescheduled.

LATE ARRIVAL

1. There will be a maximum of fifteen minutes allowed for lateness, after which the referee may declare a forfeit to the late team.

2. Seven players are required for large-sided games to start play. Five players are required for small-sided games of 8v8. A match must not start nor continue if fewer than the minimum players are available for either team.

3. In the event of a forfeit, the referee shall be paid half the referee fee by the team present at the field (FIFA referee only). The league will pay youth referees.

4. In the event of late referee arrival see referee section.

APPEALS

1. Judgment decisions made by the referee may not be appealed. An incorrect application of the laws of the game may be appealed only if the misapplication of a law results in, (1) a goal or (2) the disallowance of a goal, which is scored as an immediate, direct result of this misapplication of the law.

2. A written appeal must be made within 72 hours of the completion of the game to the Player Rep and President of the league. All appeals will be accompanied by a \$20 fee, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld, and forfeited if denied. The board will review protests and render a decision at their earliest convenience.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

1. For 6, 7, and 8 year olds no division standings are kept. These ages are regarded as instructional, and teams should be kept as small as possible to increase player touches on the ball and involvement with play.

2. For 9 year olds on up, divisional standings are kept. A point system will be used for each game. Win-3 pts. Tie with goal(s) scored -2 pts. Scoreless tie-1 pt. Loss-0 pts. A season end playoff is recommended to determine a divisional champion for a trophy supplied by the league.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Footwear: sneakers can be worn, cleats are recommended. (No metal cleats allowed)

2. Players must wear shin guards covered by socks for all games and practices

3. Substitutions are allowed by either team during the following breaks in play.

A. Prior to throw-ins (team in possession of the ball)

B. Prior to Goal kicks

C. Prior to kickoffs

D. To replace an injured player.

5. If an injury occurs, and the coach enters the field, the player must leave the field and be replaced by a substitute and may not reenter until a legal substitution can be made. Please remember that the health and safety of our children is more important than any soccer game.
6. There shall be no harassing of the other teams' players, coaches or the referee.
7. Players and fans on sidelines shall be under the control of the coach at all times.
8. There are NO PETS and NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS allowed on any of the field areas used by W.E.S.L.
9. PARK IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS at all locations utilized by W.E.S.L. The Pleasant Valley School Board insists that these rules are strictly enforced. Infractions of these rules may result in the loss of use of PVSD fields and facilities.
10. Profanity is strictly prohibited.
11. Players must not hang on the goals as serious injury or even death can occur.
12. Coaches will not leave the players at the field after the games and practices when there is no responsible adult present to provide supervision. Lateness of pick up could lead to suspension.
13. Slide tackling from the side or from behind is prohibited in every game of soccer. It should be regarded as serious foul play, and a red card given by the referee. A front slide tackle is allowed in the higher skilled matches such as in our Travel League. Due to the higher risk of a serious injury, even front slide tackling will not be allowed in our Recreational League. A front slide tackle shall be treated as a trip or an attempted trip. In addition to the awarding of a direct free kick, we recommend that the coach pull the player during a legal substitution and explain this rule to the offending player. A second offence for front slide tackling shall result in a yellow card. A third offence would be a second yellow/red card. If any front slide tackle is thought by the referee to be a dangerous play, at their discretion, the referee may use a yellow card on a first offence or a red card for first offence if the action was regarded as serious foul play.

NOTE: Front slide tackling is permitted in FIFA rules. Coaches in age groups with licensed referees should make the FIFA referee aware of WESL's ruling in our recreational division prior to the game.
14. All children shall play at least half of the game. Coaches not playing all players at least half the game could be suspended. Two acceptable reasons that a player is not involved for half of a game would be, if a player is injured, or if the coach is taking disciplinary action. Disciplinary action, if contemplated prior to the game, must first be discussed and approved by the Division Representative. Disciplinary action taken during a game must be reported to the Division Representative and President within 24 hours of the match.
15. A player wearing a cast will not be allowed to play unless it is a soft cast and the player has a note from both doctor and parent allowing him/her to play.
16. Wearing of any jewelry is not allowed in both game and practice (rings, watches, earrings, necklaces, etc.).
17. Only registered players may participate in practice and games for insurance reasons.
18. All players must wear a team jersey that is visible to the referee. Goalkeepers shall wear a jersey in contrast with his/her own team's colors.
19. During the fall soccer season, due to the possibility of scheduling conflicts, players may participate in either the W.E.S.L. Intramural or Travel programs, but not both.
20. Additional assistant coaches, beyond the one assigned initially, may be identified only after team rosters are complete.
21. Coaches and players for both teams will occupy one sideline and spectators will occupy the other. Coaches should stay between their side of the halfway line and the penalty area, 3 ft. behind the touchline. This rule will

be enforced for all age groups using (FIFA) Lehigh Valley Referees, and should be used by age groups 8 and up.

22. Intramural coaches must be approved each year by the Board. Each Division representative shall present the names of coaches for his/her age division at a board meeting for approval.

23. High school students that are coaching for their senior project will need to be approved by the board as our needs are known, and must be placed with an experienced adult coach in age groups older than 7.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

1. In the interest of fairness, and good sportsmanship, the league will review any matters reported within 48 hours of an incident, to the president of the league, where players or adults are reported guilty of using offensive, insulting, or abusive language. The league will also investigate any reports of spitting at another person, violent conduct, or cases where a person continues unsporting behavior or shows dissent by word or action after a previous warning for such behavior at a WESL event, or match. That warning could come from the referee, coach and/or assistant coach of a match, or a board member at any event or match.

2. This review will be done by a panel of at least 3 board members, and they will meet with all parties involved, and their decision could result in up to a 2 game suspension. The panel's decision will be reported to the whole board as soon as possible. If the panel feels more severe punishment is warranted the panel will take their findings to a quorum of the board where more severe punishment may be levied.

3. An appeal may be made of the panel's decision to a quorum of the board, but it must be made in writing within 72 hours of the panel's decision, and sent to the league president. All appeals will be accompanied by a \$20.00 fee which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld, and forfeited if denied.

DISCIPLINE

*A player who receives three yellow cards over the course of a season shall be suspended for one game. The second accumulation of three yellow cards shall result in a minimum of 2 games suspension.

*Coaches cited in a game report by the referee, for misconduct will be reviewed by the board

*Any coach responsible for abandoning a match is subject to a 2 game suspension pending review by the board.

1. Coaches are responsible for their players' and parents' behavior.

A. At the referee's request, one or both team's coaches will talk to the offender. If unsuitable behavior continues, the offender will be requested to leave the field. The referee will stop the clock of the match, until the offender leaves the field by at least a shouting distance. Under no circumstances will anyone use any force to get someone to leave the playing area! If the offender refuses to leave the playing area, the game will be discontinued, and the referee will note all facts in their game report to be reviewed by the board.

B. Players, coaches and/or fans (i.e.) parents will be disciplined (suspended) as specified for the offense as follows:

1. Fighting (contact is made)

a. First offense: 2 games

b. Second offense: 4 games minimum

2. Trying to hit someone

a. First offense: 2 games

b. Second offense: 4 games minimum

3. Throwing objects (i.e. soccer ball) at people
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offense: 2 games minimum
4. Spitting at someone (including spitting on one's hand prior to shaking an opponent's hand)
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offense: 2 games minimum
5. Flagrant profanity
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offense: 2 games minimum
6. Verbally threatening someone
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offense: 2 games minimum
7. Obscene gestures at someone
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offense: 2 games minimum
8. All ejections
 - a. First offense: 1 game
 - b. Second offence: 2 games minimum

*The board shall review all cases of misconduct and may levy penalties more severe than listed above

We do not expect any of these penalties will need to be applied; but the WESL cannot and will not tolerate unsuitable behavior, especially in front of the children.

W.E.S.L

West End Soccer League RULES and REGULATIONS of PLAY

I _____ (Print Name) have read and understand the Rules and Regulations of the West End Soccer League and agree to abide by them.

(Coach's Signature)