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RULES AND REGULATIONS

WESTCHESTER YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

FALL 2011

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# WESTCHESTER YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## RULES AND REGULATIONS – FALL 2011

The Rules and Regulations of the Westchester Youth Soccer League (the “WYSL” or “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 Eastern New York Youth Soccer (ENYYSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF) rules, and the Rules of Play modify in certain respects the Laws of the Game as published by 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 with 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 \$50. 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. *Score Reporter.* A score reporter to enter ALL scores on line on the League’s website by Monday 9:00 a.m. Failure to report all the results, or reporting after such Monday deadline, will subject the club to a \$40 fine for each missing or unexplained score.
- E. *Club Referee Coordinator.* A coordinator to develop a pool of “back-up referees” to help cover unassigned home games. These “back-up referees” may be currently certified referees who do not want to travel or commit to a regular schedule, recreation or AYSO referees, former or current coaches, formerly certified referees, high school players, or other similarly qualified persons. Club presidents can be responsible for this process, or may appoint a separate person to handle this function.

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

**2. Registration.** Each club has the responsibility to insure the proper registration of its players, 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 registration requirements will be subject to the imposition of late registration fees. A fine of \$100 to \$500 per club will be imposed by the League for registration that is submitted after the deadline date set by the League. Teams will not be registered for League play if they miss the registration deadline date established by the League Registrar by ten (10) days, without permission from the League. A complete registration is considered:
  - 1) a roster, indicating players passes needing to be made and 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, including a head coach with a currently effective risk management registration and at least the following minimum number of players listed: for U9 and U10 division teams, eight (8) players; for U11 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, etc. as may be required by the League, the League Registrar or the League Scheduler;
  - 3) a head coach with a currently effective registration through the on-line risk management system of the ENYYSA; and

- 4) full payment of registration money, as determined from time to time by the Board.
- B. *Full Compliance.* Passes will not be issued by the League Registrar unless all registration requirements have been fully met and fees and fines have been paid. Issuance of passes 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 third scheduled Travel League game of the season (i.e., the September 25 game) provided all required registration materials have been submitted by the preceding Friday and provided, further, that the League Registrar may require an earlier submission if a player pass is required by that date, *except that the deadline for freezing rosters of U19 Boys' and Girls' teams will be the first game of their age group's State Cup competition.* A registered team that is not playing in the WYSL, but is only playing in tournaments or other leagues, may continue to add players after week three of the season, provided that the added players are not and have not been registered to another WYSL team in that season.
- D. *Registration.* The USYSA and ENYYSA require 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 submitted online, but effective no earlier than June 15 (for the following Fall season), the player will officially become committed to and a registered player of that Travel team for all purposes, including but not limited to, Rules below entitled "Transfers", "Poaching", "Practices" and "Tournaments".** 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 September 1st through August 31st.) This rule does not apply to intra-club movement of players, players registered to a team for a High School mini-season (see Rule I-2-F(5), High School Registration), certain tournament players (see Rule I-2-I), or players on open or 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 solicit or register a player until the player actually makes the team.
- 1) *Permission Required to Move.* The only way a player can move between clubs during the seasonal year is with the express written permission of the player's club president on the League's Transfer Form or by e-mail from the player's club president containing the same information (see Rule I-2-F, Transfers.)

- 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 (September 1 – August 31), unless the player moves beyond a reasonable travel distance, misbehaves in a manner detrimental to the team or otherwise violates rules of the League, ENYYSA or USYSA, 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 dropped player’s pass must be returned to the League office by the club registrar and the player must be removed from the on-line roster.

F. *Transfers.*

- 1) One Team. A player can only be registered to one USYSA team at a time.
- 2) 5-Player Transfer Rule. 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)

A team shall be limited to a total of five (5) transfer players during any one “seasonal year” (September 1 to August 31) and still be able to participate in the ENYYSA State Cup. A transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player to a roster or a player who returns to the same roster. A player transferring from one Travel team to another Travel team within the same club is considered a transfer for League and State Cup purposes. If a player is registered to a Travel team that disbands (whether in the Fall or otherwise), that player will be considered a registered player and count as a transferred player on such player’s new team during such seasonal year.

- 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 with the old player pass attached, 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, but except certain summer transfers described in Rule 4 below. Before a transfer is approved by the League, the player must be in good standing with the player's prior club. This means the player must be current in the player's registration fees and/or team/club dues. For transfers between clubs, the transfer shall become effective thirty days after the transfer is approved by the League.
  
- 4) **Summer Transfer.** Any player transferred from one team to another team during the period from July 1st through August 31st (the League's player registration period for the Fall season) 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 1st through June 30th). Such a player will not be considered as one of five (5) players per team permitted to be accepted by any one team during a seasonal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following calendar year). A transfer form will not be required, and transfer fees will not be assessed, for a Travel player transferring to a new team after the registration due date for the following Fall (typically in July). 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. *Poaching.* No Travel team – through its coaching staff, players, parents or guardians, responsible officers or any other representatives – is permitted to induce a player registered to a League Travel team to leave his or her team to transfer to and play with another WYSL Travel team during the current soccer year. This is called poaching. The current soccer year shall be defined as the first day the player is registered (see E, Bound to a Team) through the last day of the WYSL spring season. Allegations of poaching shall be subject to a hearing by the Arbitration Board of the WYSL. Penalties for violation of this rule shall be set by the Arbitration Board. Without limiting such rule, the Board has adopted the following interpretations:

- 1) “Poaching” occurs when impermissible contact is made, not when the player actually moves.
- 2) An invitation to join a team or a similar contact (other than as a result of participation in a permitted open tryout), shall be considered a recruitment contact, to induce a player to transfer to that team during the current soccer year, even if play is for any or all of the next soccer year.
- 3) A team desiring to contact a player from another club shall be responsible to ask the player if the player is a registered player. Coaches are also encouraged to contact the League Registrar to ascertain whether the Registrar has current registration materials with respect to a particular player. If the player indicates that the player is not a registered player and the League Registrar indicates that she does not have current registration materials with respect to a particular player, the coach shall be entitled to presume that the player is not a WYSL registered player, absent knowledge to the contrary.

H. *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.J(1). 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 1st if the player becomes registered to and plays with the different team in the Fall.

I. *Tournaments.*

- 1) **Tournament Passes.** Players seeking tournament passes to play with a League team must register as a tournament player with such team. Tournament passes 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 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 1st, 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. In order 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. No registered player may participate as a guest player at a tournament with a different team from the same club as his team or 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 \$25/player.

J. *Tryouts.*

- 1) Fall Play. Open, advertised tryouts (advertised in a non-targeted manner) for Travel teams for play in the Fall season (other than the High School mini-season) may only be conducted from and after the Tuesday following the Memorial Day weekend and until July 15, and for the High School mini-season may only be conducted from and after such Tuesday; provided that a continuing team may have such open, advertised tryouts outside of such window only with the prior approval of the President of the League, on a showing of hardship or other good cause or due to the limited nature of the tryout.
- 2) Spring Play. Open, advertised tryouts (advertised in a non-targeted manner) for Travel teams that will only play in the Spring season may only be conducted between October 15 and January 15; provided, that High School Division and U15 teams may commence tryouts at the end of the League's preceding spring season. A continuing team may have such open, advertised tryouts outside of such window only with the prior approval of the President of the League, on a showing of hardship or other good cause or due to the limited nature of the tryout.
- 3) Recruitment Contact Windows. Recruitment contacts may occur between a coach/team and a player in all U9-U14 age brackets, and U15 age brackets playing in the Fall, after the last game of the spring season until the sooner of August 31st or the recruiting coach/team is aware or should be aware that the player is registered to another Travel team. With respect to boys and girls playing in U15 and older age brackets with teams formed for play in the Spring, direct contact may occur up to the sooner of March 15th or until the coach/team is aware or should be aware that the player is registered to another Travel team.
- 4) 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 shall be entitled to register to the team prior to the tryout.

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.* 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.

**3. Monetary Obligations.**

- A. *Deposit.* All clubs must maintain a \$250 deposit with the League and all new clubs entering the League must pay a \$250 deposit. The deposit will be maintained by the League. In the event a club's deposit falls below \$250, the club must deposit with the League a sum sufficient to restore the required deposit back to \$250. Failure to restore the deposit back to \$250 will result in the forfeiture of all remaining games of the club or other sanctions imposed by the League until this requirement is met. 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 must have 7 x 21 goals at 7 v 7 and 9 v 9 fields.

- 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 Condition.* 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 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.
5. **Conduct.** The home club shall also be responsible for crowd control. Failure to provide control and safety to referees, players 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, it is recommended that all club officers and directors, and each coach, manager, trainer and other supervisor having regular supervisory responsibilities for or contact with players, whether or not rostered or having a pass, complete and maintain a currently effective registration through ENYYSA's on-line risk management system.

## 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 must (i) obtain a certificate of participation in a League-sponsored coaching course or an USYSA "F" license, (ii) if a new coach, attend a new coach orientation course sponsored by the League and (iii) complete a currently effective registration through ENYYSA's on-line risk management system. All rostered adults must also complete such risk management registration. Coaches must be licensed by the Spring season; no new coaches will receive temporary passes in the Spring season. Temporary coaching passes issued in the Fall must be returned after the season. No extension of a temporary pass will be issued. Coaches will only be issued a temporary pass once. The minimum age to be a rostered head coach is 21. Persons under the age of 21 who have passed the League-sponsored coaching course or an USYSA "F" license course and completed a currently effective registration through the ENYYSA's on-line risk management system may be issued a junior coaching pass. The privileges appertaining to junior passes may be determined by the Board from time to time.
  - A. *Coaching Passes.* All coaches must submit a photograph to the League in accordance with League requirements. The League may, in its discretion, issue passes to coaches. The League may refuse for good reason, as determined by the Board, to issue a coaching pass to a prospective coach requesting a pass (even if the prospective coach takes the required licensing and League-administrative courses and submits a risk management application).
  - 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 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, at least four (4) business days in advance of a League game, the coach must submit to the League Office a completed Coach Substitution Form (available on the League's website), identifying the person who will serve as nominee coach for that game, and a receipt for a currently effective registration through ENYYSA's on-line risk management system. The President of the League may waive such four-day period on a showing of hardship or other good reason shown. The League Office will notify the Referee Assignor who will notify the

referee and permit the team to play with that substitute coach. This privilege will be extended to a team only once during the season. The failure of a team to have a licensed coach present and acting at any time during a match will result in a forfeit.

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, Y League Team, ODP Team, Empire State Team or another other “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. *Two Clubs; One Pass.* A coach shall not be registered with more than two clubs, and may not have more than one coaching card. If a coach desires to register with more than one club, both clubs must acknowledge in writing. If the League office finds the coach is coaching 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. If a coach coaches for two clubs, both clubs will be noted on the coach’s pass. 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, premier, “tournament”, recreational, school and other teams not playing a regular WYSL season are not included in this limitation).

**3. Passes; Line-ups.** Each coach is responsible for bringing player and coaches passes to every game; for providing the passes and an Official Team Lineup/Referee Report to the referee for inspection prior to the game; and for obtaining the return of the passes at the end of the game. **FAILURE TO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE PLAYER AND COACH PASSES AND OFFICIAL TEAM LINEUP FORM WILL CAUSE A TEAM TO FORFEIT.** The Official Team Lineup must be filled out completely and must include proper jersey numbers and the coach’s signature. All passes issued by the League shall be the property of the League and must be returned when the coach or player is no longer active.

**4. 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.

**5. Position of Team and Spectators at Match Site.** Registered players, coaches, trainers and spectators from both teams are to be on the same touch line, each between midfield and a line extending from the penalty box, leaving a “buffer

zone” of approximately 10 yards at midfield which will be reserved for player substitutions. Spectators, including parents and trainers without cards, are to be on the touch line opposite the teams. Each coach shall be responsible for making sure that his/her team, and its coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and team spectators are on the correct side of the playing field. The home team shall have the choice of sides and ends and, except for the players on the field changing direction for the second half, such choices shall be maintained for the entire game. The clubs are responsible for keeping their spectators, coaches, trainers and players a reasonable distance (approximately three (3) yards) clear of the touchline.

6. **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
  - C. No coach or assistant coach may use profanity or in any manner incite disruptive behavior.
7. **Confirmation of Uniform Colors.** The home team coach shall be responsible for identifying visiting team uniform colors. (See Rule V-2.)
8. **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).
9. **6-Goal Differential Rule.** No goal differential in excess of six (6) goals is acceptable. If any team exceeds a six-goal differential, the following will be the case:
  - 1st Offense - warning to coach and club.
  - 2nd Offense - one game suspension for the coach and a \$100 fine to the club.
  - 3rd Offense - one season suspension for the coach and a \$200 fine to the club.
10. **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 U14 division teams (see Rule X, Postponements). 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 FIFA and amended by the WYSL. The coaches of each team are responsible for checking the passes 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.

11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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).
14. **Joint or Multi-League Divisions.** In the event of joint divisions formed by the WYSL and another league, the rules play may differ from these Rules. Special Rules for joint divisions may be attached as Appendices to these Rules.

### 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 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.

- C. *Check Passes.* To check and verify the identity and passes of the coaches, assistant coaches and players. If the authorized head coach, assistant coach 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.
- D. *Furnish Match Report.* To provide the League with an online report of the game as described below.
- E. *Treatment of Passes of Ejected Players or Coaches.* Not to return the pass of any ejected player or coach at the end of the game and to submit the pass of the ejected player or coach, along with a report and the Official Team Lineups/Referee Report, to the League as described below.

**2. Referee Compliance and Timeliness.** Referees should also note:

- A. *Send in Match Reports.* Official WYSL Team Lineup/Referee Reports must be completely filled out, including a list of all cautions (yellow cards) and all ejections (red cards) made during a match. This report must be submitted online, following the instructions on the League website, no later than the Monday following a weekend game or 24 hours after a weekday game (or a loss of pay may result). The original Team Lineup/Referee Reports should be retained for the referee's records, except in connection with ejected players as described below.
- B. *Complete Sporting Behavior Evaluation.* The League's Sporting Behavior Program is dependent on the referee's thoughtful completion of the Sporting Behavior evaluation of the Referee Report. Referees are encouraged to be consistent each game, and from game to game, in assessing Sporting Behavior. Failure to complete the Sporting Behavior evaluation of the Referee Report may result in the referee's loss of pay for that match.
- C. *Send in Passes of Ejected Players and Coaches.* Passes of ejected players or coaches, together with the original Team Lineup/Referee Report for the affected match, must be sent to the League's office postmarked not later than the Tuesday following a weekend game or 48 hours after a weekday game. Failure to send in passes of players or coaches ejected by postmarked mail by the Tuesday following the match (or 48 hours for a weekday match) may result in the referee's loss of pay for that match.

**3. Club Linespersons.** In accordance with 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.

#### 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 FIFA, as modified by ENYYSA for Under 9, 10 and 11 play, with the modifications noted within these Rules and Regulations, unless specifically excepted by authorization of the Board of Directors.*

##### 1. Duration of the Game and Ball Size.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U19 and U17	2-40 minute halves	No. 5
U16 and 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

\* See Rule 5.C of this Article.

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 2011/Spring 2012

U19	August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993	U14	August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998
U18	August 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994	U13	August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999
U17	August 1, 1994 to July 31, 1995	U12	August 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000
U16	August 1, 1995 to July 31, 1996	U11	August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001
U15	August 1, 1996 to July 31, 1997	U10	August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002
		U9	August 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003

##### 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 in the U10 and U9 age divisions the teams shall consist of not more eight (8) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper, and in the U11 age division 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: for U10 and U9 division teams - five (5); for U11 division teams - six (6); and in all other divisions - seven (7).

- C. *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.
- D. *Roster Size.*

<u>Division</u>	<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Minimum Roster Size</u>	<u>Maximum Roster Size</u>
U9, U10	8 v 8	8	14
U11	9 v 9	9	Div. 1 16 Other Div. - 18
U12 – U13	11 v 11	11	Div. 1 -18 Other Div. - 22
U14 and older	11 v 11	11	22

U11 teams not playing in Divisions 1 may register up to 18 players; U11 teams playing in WYSL Division 1 are limited to 16 registered players. Teams playing in U12 and older age groups, including teams registering for the High School mini-season, may register up to 22 players; provided, that U12 and U13 teams playing in WYSL Division 1 are limited to 18 registered players. Any of the foregoing roster limits may be waived by the President for good cause following application by the Club President. U12 and U13 teams that register more than 18 players WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE “OPEN” STATE CUP OR NATIONAL CUP, but may be eligible for the “Challenge” cup – see ENYYSA rules.

**4. Field of Play.**

The field of play for U12 and older divisions shall conform to FIFA Law I and the field of play for U11, U10 and U9 divisions shall conform to the ENYYSA rules, as follows:

<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Length</u> (yards)	<u>Width</u> (yards)	<u>Recommendations</u> (yards)	<u>Goal Size</u> (feet)
8v8	70-80	40-50	70 x 50	7 x 21
9v9	70-80	40-50	80 x 50	7 x 21
11v11	100-130	50-100	100-110 x 55-65	8 x 24

The League recommends that clubs try to line at least one field at 50 X 80 yards for U11 (9 v 9) play that can also be used for U10 and U9 play.

The penalty spot is ten (10) yards from the goal line for U11 and younger players, and twelve (12) yards from the goal line for all older players.

A club may apply to the Board of Directors to use a field with dimensions outside 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. FIFA and USYSA Exceptions.**

### *A. 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. This includes, without limitation:
  - (i) At half-time,
  - (ii) Following a stoppage of play for an injured player, but only for the injured player. **The opposing coach may also substitute a player at this time.**
  - (iii) 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. If the coach of this player or the referee elects to effect a substitution, the opposing coach may also substitute a player at this time. If any player is substituted for by way of this rule, that player may return under the normal substitution procedure.
- 2) Permission Required. The coach must alert the referee and obtain his/her permission before substituting a player.
- 3) Substituted Player Must Leave Field First. The player leaving the game must do so before the substitute may enter the field of play.
- 4) 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.

- 5) 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.
- 6) 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 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 parent comes onto the field to help or treat the player, that player must leave the field and not return until the next substitution is allowed. An exemption is made for the goalkeeper. 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.
- B. *Drop Ball*. Where a stoppage of play would under FIFA’s Laws of the Game result in a drop ball inside the penalty box, the drop ball shall be taken at the nearest point outside the penalty box.
- C. *Small Sided Program*. For the U9 and U10 age groups, there will be a voluntary pilot program that will include a small-sided element, as follows. If agreed by the coaches, approximately the first 25 minutes of the standard time block for U9/U10 games may consist of two small-sided games run across the field, using small goals, cones, flags or other objects to create the goals. Following the small-sided session, there will be a five-minute break, and then a “real” 8 v 8 game lasting approximately 25 minutes.

6. **Silent Sundays.** This season, Silent Sunday will be in effect for the games to be played on the fourth scheduled Sunday of the season. The principles of Silent Sundays are attached as Appendix A.
7. **New Rules.** All coaches are expected to be familiar with the Laws of the Game. These are published by FIFA and available on its web site ([www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)). New rules are discussed in detail along with practical interpretations.

## V. UNIFORMS

1. **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 and opposing players.
  - 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 cleats and cleats from other sports – baseball, football, track, etc. – may not be used.
2. **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.
3. **Equipment.** In addition to the authority granted to the referee under FIFA Law V to determine the safety of a player's equipment, as defined in FIFA Law IV, the following shall be applicable.
  - A. *Shinguards.* All players must wear shin guards. Knee-high stockings must be worn over the shinguards and shall cover them.
  - B. *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.

- C. *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.
- D. *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 allowed.
- E. *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.
- F. *Mouthguards.* Field players may wear mouthguards without lanyards. Goalies may also use “Shock Doctor” mouthguards with breakaway lanyards.
- G. *Casts and Braces.* 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. Any brace or splint 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.

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.

## **VI. FORFEITS**

- 1. Teams Must Play.** Teams must play all games.

2. **Fines and Disciplinary Action for Failing to Play.** The club will be assessed a \$100 fine for each occasion that a team forfeits a scheduled match, except that if the forfeiting team notifies the league office, the League Scheduler and the opposing team by email on or before Wednesday 3pm prior to the scheduled match, the fine will be reduced to \$50. More than one forfeiture 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 (contrary to Rule X-1), 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.
3. **Failing to Have Minimum Number of Players; Kick-Off Rule.** A minimum of seven (7) players shall be required for a U12 or older game, a minimum of six (6) players for a U11 game, and a minimum of five (5) players for U9 and U10 games. If a team does not have this minimum number of players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of a game, the referee will call the game and report this to the League. The game will also be stopped and reported to the League by the referee if, following the commencement of the game, an injury or send-off results in a team having fewer than the required minimum number of players available for play. A forfeit will be declared against the team responsible for the calling or stoppage of a game for failure to field the minimum number of players unless the League determines otherwise for what it deems to be good reason, in its sole discretion.
4. **Option to Forfeit.** A team may exercise the option to forfeit in advance of a scheduled match. The opposing team does NOT need to appear at the field and kick off if they have been informed prior to the game by the forfeiting team, and if an email notice to that effect has been sent to the League Registrar, the League Scheduler and the referee assignor ([wsroassignor@gmail.com](mailto:wsroassignor@gmail.com)) by the coach of either team (with a copy to coach of the other team).
5. **Both Teams Fail to Appear.** In the absence of advanced notice, in the event both teams do not appear for a scheduled match, and the Referee rules the ground playable, both teams will be assessed a forfeit.
6. **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.

## VII. VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **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.

2. **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 State Cup and other competitions is to be determined under the rules of the State Cup or other such competition. 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 U9-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.
3. **Cumulation 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.
4. **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.
5. **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 \$100 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 coaches pass and turn it in to the League office. The coach may not coach any game without his pass, including another subsequent game on the day the red card is issued. During the duration of this suspension, the red carded coach will not have a coach’s pass and he therefore may not coach, assist or participate on the sideline of any other game until the original suspension has been completed, and the coach’s pass has been returned to him/her. 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.

6. **Referee Assault.** The League will send any referee assault cases, verbal or physical, directly to the ENYYSA Arbitration Board.
7. **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:
  - A. *Notice of Unacceptable Behavior.* The Sporting 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 Sporting 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.
  - B. *Appearance Before Sporting Review Board.* 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 Sporting Review Board. The purpose of the Sporting Review Board 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.
  - C. *Disciplinary Action.* If the League's Sporting Review Board 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.
  - D. *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 Sporting 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 Sporting Committee may require such a coach to meet with his or her club president concerning this report. The Sporting Committee may also

communicate with coaches and clubs on an informal basis regarding issues of concern.

## VIII. 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. The rules pertaining to the administration of the Arbitration Board are set forth on Appendix C (which is available from the League's office and on its website). As more fully set forth on Appendix C, 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.
  
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. 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.
  - A. *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.
- B. *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 2(A) of this Part, may be rejected without consideration.
- C. *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 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.
- D. *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.

- E. *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.
- F. *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.
- G. *Protest Fee Forfeited.* The protest fee shall be forfeited to the League in the event the protest is not upheld or not heard.
- H. *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.
- I. *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 Sporting 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 C.
- 4. **Appeals.** Appeals of a decision rendered by the Arbitration Committee or Sporting 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 C.
- 5. **Exhaustion of Remedies.** No WYSL club, team, player, coach, official, administrator, referee or other representative may invoke the aid of ENYYSA or appeal to ENYYSA 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, 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.

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

- A. ENYYSA
- B. 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.

## **IX. TEAM DIVISIONS AND RECOGNITION AWARDS**

### **1. Team Divisions.**

- A. *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.
- B. *Moving Up in Age.* Any Division I winners, teams that play in a 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 U9 and U10 non-competitive age groups.
- C. *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.
- D. *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.
- E. *Non-WYSL League Play.* Any team's request to play in another league must be authorized by the Seeding Committee.

### **2. Recognition Awards.**

- A. *Match Scoring for Standings.* 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, which may if there has been an unequal number of games played or other unusual circumstances affecting one or more divisions adopt uniform criteria for determining divisional awards not based on actual total points. The League will not publish or post standings or award trophies for U9 and U10 age divisions. These teams must still report scores of their games.
- B. *Sporting Behavior.* The League has a Sporting Behavior Program for all divisions. All teams will be rated on their sporting behavior by the referees. The Team Lineup Form has a section for referees to rate the behavior of the players, coaches and parents at each match. Results will be posted on the League website. Sporting Behavior winners will receive recognition awards (i.e., patches, chevrons). Further information about the Sporting Behavior Program is set forth on Appendix B.

## X. POSTPONEMENTS

- 1. **Postponement Procedure.** All games must be played as scheduled, with only the following specific postponement exceptions:
  - A. If the field permit is revoked by or on behalf of the owner (town, school district, representative thereof, etc),
  - B. ENYYSA State Cup away game,
  - C. College showcase, ODP Tryouts or ODP Tournament involving four or more team players,
  - D. School event, religious holiday or religious event involving four or more team players.

ENYYSA State Cup games are coordinated by the ENYYSA. They are not coordinated or approved by the League Scheduler. WYSL teams may not postpone regularly scheduled home games for home State Cup games without the specific approval of the League President. The League President has authority to make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances. If a team must play a home State Cup game on a Sunday, it will be encouraged to move the State Cup game to a Saturday or play both games rather than postpone the League game.

Any requests for postponements for college showcase, ODP, School or Religious events must be made on the Game Change Request Form and must name the four or more players involved and provide documentation of the proposed event. Each team will be allowed only one approved

postponement per season. In order to obtain League approval, the Form must be emailed or faxed to the League office by 3:00 PM at least 10 business days in advance of the game, provided, that if teams receive less than 10 business days' notice of a State Cup or ODP event, the Form must be faxed or emailed as soon as is practicable. Unapproved postponements will result in a fine of up to \$500.

2. **Failure of Referee to Appear for High School Game.** In boys' High School Division (i.e., boys' U15 and older) games, if the referee (the "person in the middle") does not show up for the game, the game will not be played and will be rescheduled. For U14 boys, either team may decline to play without a referee and the game must be rescheduled – see Rule II-10.
3. **Make-up of Postponed and TBS Games.** League approved postponed games, other than U9 and U10 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 comes first (this includes unscheduled holiday weekends), and must be played no later than the last Sunday of the season. The home team is responsible for submitting the game makeup form within three weeks. TBS games must be scheduled by the Friday before the third game of the season and played by the end of the season, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors. Postponed games for U9 and U10 divisions need not be rescheduled or made up. However, both teams may elect to reschedule and make up a postponed game as a "friendly", without notifying the League or obtaining a League-assigned referee.
  - A. *Provision of Two Reasonable Dates; 4 Days Notice.* For make-ups and TBS games, if the coaches cannot agree on a date, the home team must provide the visiting team with two reasonable dates and times, and that notification must be given to the visiting team within the applicable three-week period, and the visiting team will select between the two dates. Such "two reasonable dates and times" would normally be two Saturdays, although weekday make-ups may be scheduled with the consent of both teams provided that the times of the games are reasonable in light of the age of the players, travel distance and school and other recognized conflicts. In the event that the home team fails to provide two reasonable dates and times in 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. In the case of potential forfeits, copies of correspondence may be required by the League office. To schedule referee coverage for the actual make up or TBS game, the League office must be notified four (4) days (i.e., Tuesday before a weekend game) before the game via fax or e-mail.
  - B. *Failure to Provide Two Reasonable Dates.* Failure of the home team to provide two reasonable dates or failure of the visiting team to select one of the two dates and times may result in a forfeit against the offending team. Failure of either team to make a good faith effort to play the game, may

result in a double forfeit. Dates for make-up and TBS games are normally Saturdays, but weekdays can be used by mutual agreement as provided in paragraph A above. Sundays can be used for make-up and TBS games only in unusual circumstances and with approval of the teams included and with the permission of the League.

C. *Status of Scheduled Make-Up and TBS Games.* 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 1 of this Article (i.e., field pulls, ODP, State Cup, school or religious events). Cancellations of these League scheduled makeups or TBS games are not allowed and will result in a forfeit or double forfeit.

4. **Certain Notifications.** In the event permission has been granted to reschedule or postpone a scheduled game, as provided above, the League will notify the Referee Assignor. The home coach will notify the opposing team of the change, unless otherwise determined by the President.
5. **Need for Referee.** Teams can agree to play a makeup or TBS game without an assigned referee (and shall so advise the League), provided the remainder of this Article X is complied with, and except for (i) boys' High School division games and (ii) boys' U14 division games at which the coach of either of the teams declines to play without a referee (see Rule II.10.B).
6. **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).

## XI. RAIN CONDITIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

1. **Objective is to Play.** The League will try to play all games, regardless of weather conditions, subject only to the health and safety of the players and excessive damage to the fields. 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 15-30 minutes has passed since the last thunder or lightning.
2. **Report Field Pulls.** The League's Executive Committee will be available on Sunday mornings to receive reports of field conditions from all clubs. Reports will be accepted from club presidents or league representatives.
  - A. *Call to League.* All clubs shall call the League scheduler's representative between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on game day morning to report field pulls. No games will be cancelled by the League after 10:00 a.m.

- B. *Teams Should Appear.* Teams should not assume that a game will be cancelled. Every team must appear at the field of play regardless of weather conditions, unless the team's coach has been notified that the League has cancelled the games.
3. **Termination by League.** In the event the League cancels the scheduled games, the League may authorize rescheduling the games as make-up games, provided that the Board or Executive Committee determines that rescheduling is feasible and practical. To make such determination, the Board may adopt such rules as it deems advisable. Generally, if more than 50% of a Sunday's scheduled games are cancelled, the entire slate will be cancelled and the games will not be made up. The League will not require that cancelled U9 and U10 games be rescheduled but will support coaches who wish to do so.
  4. **Termination at Field.** At the field of play, it is solely the referee's determination whether or not a game is to be played; only the referee can call a game, except that the Town (or other field owner) may pull a field at any time. If a game is cancelled by the referee or the field is pulled by the Town (or other field owner) either before or after its commencement, the game will not constitute a completed game, and the League will reschedule the game, unless otherwise determined by the President.
  5. **Notice to Coaches that Field not Playable.** If a referee determines that the field is not playable, it is the responsibility of the home club to notify the coaches of visiting teams who are scheduled for later games either by telephone or by having a club member remain at the field.
  6. **Late Field Pulls.** Sometimes fields are pulled by the Town (or other field owner) after the 9 a.m. cutoff or a field is changed on the day of or the day preceding the play date. The home team has the responsibility to notify (a) the visiting teams who are scheduled for games either by telephone or by having a club member remain at the field from 30 minutes prior to game time until 15 minutes after game time to notify the referee and visiting players of the field pull or change and (b) the Referee Assignor. Such procedure is applicable for every game played at the original field. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a fine of \$50 per offending team being assessed against the Club.

## **XII. 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 without the prior approval of the League. The League may grant a club permission to hold a tournament, provided it does not conflict with other League-sanctioned tournaments or Sunday League games. Permission to hold a tournament must also be obtained from ENYYSA.

- 3. Permission to Travel Instructions.** WYSL teams are permitted to play friendly games or tournaments within the 14 states making up USYSA Region 1 (i.e., all states north and east of Virginia) without obtaining “permission to travel” as required in the past. For play in other states, Canada or Mexico, ENYYSA has implemented an on-line Permission to Travel Procedure. See [www.ensoccer.com](http://www.ensoccer.com).
- 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.

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# Silent Sunday Fall 2011

Sunday, October 2, 2011

## *Goals of Silent Sunday:*

1. To emphasize that soccer is a “players’ game”.
2. To permit players to talk to each other on the field, free of sideline distractions.
3. To foster independent thinking of our players, letting the game be the teacher.
4. To support our youth referees by eliminating sideline interference and dissension.

## *Coaches:*

Please limit your coaching instructions to a minimum, shouting out tactical instructions only when absolutely necessary. For this day, let your players make their own decisions. Speak privately to individual players on the sidelines. Where possible communicate to the field through substitutions.

## *Players:*

Have fun and enjoy the freedom.

## *Parents:*

**Please participate.** Avoid comments that can be heard by the players, referees or opponents. When a goal is score please subdue your reaction to a low-key applause.

## *Referees:*

We hope that this weekend affords you a more respected and congenial refereeing experience, without facing any critical commentary from coaches, players or spectators. You should be free to concentrate on executing a fair game. We have not set up rules and penalties you must enforce. We are not asking you to be an enforcer of our requested sideline silence. No yellow or red cards should be issued for non-compliance. We hope that our teams and you will extract cooperation among their peers.

## *Implementation:*

This will be a voluntary program. There will be no yellow or red cards issued for non-compliance. This is a chance to see things differently, reflect on our actions, self-educate and come back to contribute in a new positive way. **It is all up to us.... let's do it.**

# Westchester Youth Soccer League

## Sporting Behavior Programs

### Program 1. **Pre-Game Coin Toss Ceremony** 9-10 yr. old AGE GROUPS

In addition to the referee calling for team captains for the coin toss, the referee will call for the assigned parent volunteer “Sportsmanship Director”. This parent should be assigned by each coach before the game. The coach may want to consider choosing a parent who is in need of sportsmanship direction.

Sportsmanship Director’s name should be filled in on the Referee Game Evaluation report. The Referee will point out and enlist the Director to encourage his side of the field to exhibit the sportsmanship behavior just gone over by the referee.

### Program 2. **Adoption of Club Sportsmanship Programs** 9-10 yr. old AGE GROUPS

Each Club will be encouraged to adopt their own Sportsmanship Program. After each game, as part of the post-game recap, the coach and the Sportsmanship Director will award a sportsmanship award, a pin to the player or players on their team that have exhibited good sportsmanship that week.

### Program 3. **Adoption of League Sportsmanship Program** ALL AGE GROUPS

Referee Game Evaluation Report: The game evaluation report shall include a section to specifically identify and grade sporting behavior exhibited during the game. An example question and format to be used is as follows:

Were parents/spectators for home/visiting team acting responsible and exhibiting sporting behavior by encouraging and supporting positive behavior on the field?

#### Scale:

+2	+1	0	-1	-2
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
Sporting	Sporting	Sporting	Sporting	Sporting
Behavior	Behavior	Behavior	Behavior	Behavior

League Program: The Referee Game Evaluation Report will be used in each division to select the team (including players, coaches and parents) that exhibit the best sportsmanship during the season. That team will be awarded a special patch to be worn on the players’ jerseys the next season. The League will supply such patches. The League will also make “Best Club” and “Best Team” awards each season.

## Westchester Youth Soccer League

### 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.
  - A. *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.
  - B. *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.
  - C. *Participants.* The Arbitration Board reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Arbitration Board meeting.
  - D. *Convene Arbitration Board.* The Arbitration Board will convene at the discretion of the Chairman.
  - E. *Possession of Cards.* The League shall be entitled to retain in its possession all cards (USYSA player registration pass or coach pass) until a decision is rendered and/or a suspension has been served.
  - F. *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.
  - G. *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) 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.

A. *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 (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..

- 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.
- B. *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 conformance with Rule 2(A) of this Part, may be rejected without consideration.
- C. *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 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.
- D. *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.
- E. *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.
- F. *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.

- G. *Protest Fee Forfeited.* The protest fee shall be forfeited to the League in the event the protest is not upheld or not heard.
- H. *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.
- I. *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 Sporting 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.

- A. *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.
- B. *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.
- C. *Participants.* The Appeals Committee reserves the right to determine the participants and number of participants that may attend an Appeals Committee meeting.
- D. *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 Sporting Review Board are filed by member clubs, who shall be responsible for adhering to the rules regarding appeals and guarantee all fees and fines.

- A. *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.
- B. *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 4(A) of this Part, may be rejected without consideration.
- C. *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.
- D. *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.
- E. *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.

- F. *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.
- G. *Appeals Fee Forfeited.* The appeals fee shall be forfeited to the League if the Appeals Committee does not uphold the appeal.
- H. *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.
- I. *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.
- J. *Burden.* The appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decisions being appealed from is clearly erroneous.
- K. *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.
- L. *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.
- M. *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.

- N. *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.
- O. *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.
- P. *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.
- Q. *Appeal.* Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding unless and until overturned under appeal as provided for in these Rules.