

West Brookfield Youth Soccer By-Laws

General Guidelines

WBYS shall provide a fall soccer program. It will support those individuals interested in entering a spring program by providing the use of equipment, facilities and some funding as approved by the board. The fall program shall be primarily a developmental and recreational program. The spring program is developmental but more emphasis may be put on competitive soccer depending on Divisions entered. The spring program differs in that teams are selected by interested coaches who, in general, select their teams. Teams will be fielded as coaches, fields and equipment allow. Attempts will be made to accommodate all players who have signed up. The goal of the fall program will be player and coach development. This will be done through the use of small sided games and an atmosphere of training.

Specific Guidelines

Provide for all-girl teams playing in all-girl divisions beginning with the U9 age level.

Where unable to comply with the general guidelines, seek other opportunities for play.

BY-LAWS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES OF PLAY

Rules of Play

Current FIFA International rules shall govern play with exceptions as noted. If a team is playing in another league, the team shall abide by the constitution and by-laws of that league as appropriate.

AGE GROUPING

Age groupings will follow MYSA regulations. The cutoff date to be used is August 1.

BALL SIZES

Under 14 - Size 5

Under 12 - Size 4

Under 10 - Size 4

Under 8 - Size 4

Under 6 - Size 3

UNIFORMS

Players shall wear uniforms selected or approved by the Board. Shin guards must be worn during practices and games. No jewelry of any type will be worn during practices and games.

REFEREE SUPPORT

The coaches shall provide support to the referees at all times. No criticism or abuse of the referee will be tolerated by players or coaches during the game. The coaches should remember that they are the role models these kids look up to. It's only a game.

EJECTIONS

If a player or a coach is ejected from the game by a referee, they will not be allowed to play/coach in the next game played by his/her team. This applies to all games.

UNBECOMING CONDUCT

Player, coach, or referee behavior that is judged unbecoming or inappropriate shall be referred to the Board for review and action.

GRIEVANCES

In the event a parent feels their child is not being treated fairly by the coach in the program, the following procedure is recommended;

Talk with the coach and try to resolve the differences.

If not satisfied, contact the President or Vice-President who will follow up with the coach and report back to the parent. If necessary a meeting of the Board will be convened to resolve the situation.

FEES

Fees for participation shall be decided by the Board and shall be due and payable at registration. Children whose parents do not have the means to pay for registration will be allowed to play upon approval by the Board on a case by case basis.

EQUAL PLAYING TIME

All players shall play at least one-half of each game. Coaches will do their best to insure that this is accomplished. Coaches have to follow the rule except in the event of poor attendance at practices and games, or in the event of needed discipline. The coaches must remember that the fall league is a recreational league and was started to let ALL kids play.

PARTICIPATION

Players are expected to participate in practices and games. Parents are expected to participate by insuring that their children are on time and picked up for both practices and games and that they have their equipment with them. If a player cannot be present for a scheduled game or practice, the coach should be notified in advance. Parents should support the coach, help maintain discipline and promote good sportsmanship.

REGISTRATION DATES

Registration will take place in the month of May on a date agreed upon by the Board. A cutoff date in the middle of June will also be set. Anyone signing up after the cutoff date will only be accepted if there is room on a team. The Registrar will assign late sign ups to teams that have openings. Families moving into town during the summer are the exception.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

Promote good sportsmanship.

Do not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players or spectators.

Promote good soccer through the development of ball and game skills.

Be present for practices and games and schedule at least one practice per week.

Maintain player ratings.

SELECTION OF COACHES

The following guidelines are intended to be used by the WBYS Board to determine who, in their opinion, would best represent the interests of the participating children and also best represent the philosophy of the Youth Soccer program. Any other relevant information that comes directly to the board's attention may also be considered in the appointment of coaches even though it may not be specifically listed below.

The WBYS Board considers coaching positions to be a privilege and not a right. All discussions of individuals as they pertain to coaching positions will take place at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. For these meetings only elected members of the Board will be allowed to attend and vote. For all positions where more than one qualified candidate exists and expresses an interest in applying for the coaching position, a vote of the board will determine who will be assigned. It will take a majority vote of the board in order to assign a coach. In any and all cases the Boards decision will be final.

Items to be considered when evaluating coaching candidates are given below. No order of importance is intended in the sequencing of the following items. A majority vote of the

board can either add or remove items to be considered as they become relevant as determined by the board.

- Any written complaints received by any member of the board or directly to the board as a whole.
- Any verbal complaints received directly by a board member. Complaints received second or third hand will not be considered.
- Any yellow or red cards that the coach has received.
- Any ejection's from games that the coach has received.
- Coaching licenses.
- Attendance at WBYS sponsored clinics.
- Past experience as both a coach and player.
- Experience at the age level of the position.
- Must be eligible and maintain eligibility with MYSA.
- Treatment of WBYS equipment and uniforms; i.e. equipment and uniforms returned in a timely manner and in reasonable condition.

DIVISION DIRECTORS

The President will name one coach per age group to be a Division Director. This person will maintain a practice schedule for each team so there are no conflicts. The Division Director will take care of lining up help to prepare the field to be used, setting up goals, painting the lines, or anything else that is necessary.

SELECTION OF PLAYERS

Teams will be formed according to the following:

An equal number of ability ranges will be found on each team to help ensure that teams will be as equal as possible in strength. Player ratings according to ability/potential as demonstrated in the previous season will be used. Players will be categorized as 1. good to excellent; 2. fair to good; 3. needs improvement. Ratings will be kept confidential and will be returned to the president after the team formation meeting. The only exception to this is when teams are playing in a league which recognizes various levels of play; i.e. Division 1, 2 3 etc.. If two teams are playing in the same Division within the same league however, the team will be selected according to the criteria above.

Teams will as much as possible be divided equally with boys and girls until the U9 and U10 levels. At this time, the rules governing the specific league being played in will be followed.

On each team there should be an equal division of older players and younger players.

ADOPTION AND REVISION DATES

These bylaws were revised in November, 1997 and adopted in April, 1994.

WEST BROOKFIELD YOUTH SOCCER



BY-LAWS