

Wilson County Soccer League

Adult League

Administrative Guide

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1. REGISTRATION, FEES AND PROOF OF AGE

- 1.1. **Method of Registration.** All players must be registered with the WCSL. Registrations will be taken on a first pay, first serve basis until Teams are full.
- 1.2. **Date of Registration.** Player shall be considered registered at the point in time when Registrar has in his / her possession:
 - 1.2.1.A registration form, of the type normally utilized by WCSL, that has been properly completed, signed and must be submitted **for processing no later than ten (10) days prior to the first game of the season.** Players who fail to meet the deadline shall not be allowed to register,
 - 1.2.2.The birth date of the player has been verified,
 - 1.2.3.The payment of fees has been received.
- 1.3. **Payment of Registration Fee.** Payment of registration fees consists of the applicable fees for the current season as determined by the WCSL Governing Board.
 - 1.3.1.The Governing Board shall establish the player fee no later than the July meeting of each year and the due date of fees for each season.
 - 1.3.2.Players whose payment was received before the deadline but whose account has insufficient funds shall not be allowed to participate nor have a uniform shirt/ Jersey purchased until payment is received.
 - 1.3.3.The Governing Board shall establish the processing fee for insufficient fund prior to the beginning of each seasonal year. A notice for the current fee amount will be posted during registration at the specified location and may also be included on the registration form.
- 1.4. **Registration Information.**
 - 1.4.1.**Registration Information (Fall & Spring)** is due to the WCSL Governing Board, by the next scheduled board meeting or not later than one week after final fall registration period, which ever is closer, and must include:
 - 1.4.1.1. A correctly prepared and readable diskette or, if submitting by hard copy, either a roster or a copy of each registration form of all registered players;
 - 1.4.1.2. All applicable registration fees collected and
 - 1.4.1.3. A reconciliation list (by name, amount, cash or check number) of all registered players for each season prepared by the Registrar/Adult League Commissioner.
- 1.5. **Proof of Age.** Proof of age shall consist of a certified or verified birth certificate, a current Driver's License, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of birth is required).

2. TEAM FORMATION AND ROSTERING

2.1. WCSL's emphasis is on recreational soccer, this program is designed for the participation and enjoyment of novice and intermediate adult players (men and women) to have a place to get together and play some soccer. It is for those players that would like to learn the game of soccer or who prefer a more recreational play.

2.2. Team Rostering:

2.2.1. **Small Sided Games** – The roster is limited to a maximum of twelve (12) registered players playing seven (7) players on a field per side. The roster **must consist of at least five (5) women** and no more than seven (7) men.

2.2.2. **Full Sided Games** - The roster is limited to a maximum of eighteen (18) registered players playing eleven (11) players on a field per side. The roster **must consist of at least six (6) women** and no more than nine (9) men.

2.2.3. **Roster size:** No team shall be allowed a roster size more than the maximum number of specified registered players at any given time.

2.2.4. **Frozen Rosters** – All rosters will be frozen after first game of each season is played. This is defined as no additions or subtractions of players can be made after the first game.

2.3. **Team Formation** – A system of rostering players in a recreational league or for recreational play shall be employed for the purpose of creating fair and balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating in a league. This system will continue to be used as long as competition remains reasonably fair and even. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others. However, teams that are consistently better or dominating based on uneven distribution despite the random rostering system will be re-rostered to create fair recreation play.

2.3.1 **Age.** To be eligible to play in the Adult Coed Soccer program, a player must meet below listed criteria.

2.3.1.1. Must be 18 years of age or older

2.3.1.2. Must not be currently enrolled in High School

2.4. **Team Captain or Representative** – Shortly after teams are formed, each team must identify or select a team captain or representative who is responsible for representing his/her team regarding issues brought before WCSL. Other responsibilities include paperwork, finances, and communication with players.

2.4.1. Captain's and/or representative meetings are mandatory. Notice of all meetings will be sent to each captain or representative at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

2.4.2. Amendments to the Rules and Policy may be made in accordance to WCSL By-Laws. Seasonal meetings will be held at the end of each season, as needed to review and recommend changes to any rules written herein.

3. GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

3.1. Except as otherwise noted in this policy, FIFA Laws will govern the play of all games in WCSL Competitions.

- 3.2. Any player who practices or plays while associated with the League assumes all risk for possible injury to his/her person or property and agrees to indemnify the League for all damages or costs suffered by the League. This is a condition of League membership.
- 3.3. **Inclement Weather** – Although our sport is known for playing in all types of weather; thunder, lightning or electrical storms are show stoppers no matter how intense or important the match. The decision for postponing or canceling due to approaching or current weather conditions is the responsibility of WCSL officials. In a game/match situation, this is a referee decision. At no time will the team captain or representative determine on their own to cancel their game/match.

3.3.1. Rainout Procedures:

- 3.3.1.1. In case of inclement weather, a decision will be made at the earliest possible time, no later than 3:00 pm on the weekday and 12:00 pm on Sunday, to determine if games will be postponed (delayed for an hour) or cancelled.
- 3.3.1.2. Once it is determined games/matches are to be postponed or cancelled, WCSL officials will utilize the organizational phone tree to contact and notify all our team captains or representatives and referees.
- 3.3.1.3. The captain or representative of each team must then notify the players as soon as possible of the situation. Timely notification of their players will prevent anyone from having to drive to the fields.
- 3.3.1.4. Weather in the state of Texas can be unpredictable. If weather is questionable and WCSL officials have not announced a postponement or cancellation notice, teams **MUST** show up for their game/match.

3.3.2. Rescheduling or Postponement of Games – Other than for inclement weather, WCSL discourages the rescheduling of games. The rescheduling of a game/match may be allowed for inclement weather or emergency case only.

- 3.3.2.1. If a game/match is suspended by the referee, because of inclement weather, before the second half has started, it shall be replayed in its entirety. If a game/match is suspended after the second half has started, it shall be considered to be final. The referee will make the decision as to the playability of the field based on the condition of the field at the start of the game/match:

3.3.2.1.1. Conditions of the fields - Due to a large amount of rain the fields are not in playing shape.

3.3.2.1.2. Weather at Game Time - Referee will cancel due to lightning in the area or it begins to rain heavily.

- 3.3.2.2. An emergency is not, one or more players not able to attend the scheduled game because of some other reason. Should any of the games need to be rescheduled for play then the team captain or representative requesting to reschedule the game will comply with the following:

3.3.2.2.1. The team captains or representatives of the game must agree to the postponement. If there is no agreement, the game cannot be postponed.

3.3.2.2.2. A two (2) week notice is necessary before a game can be postponed.

3.3.2.2.3. The Adult League Commissioner must be notified and approve of this

postponement. If disapproved, the game cannot be postponed.

3.4. **Abandonment of Game** – If a game is abandoned, team captain or representative removes his/her team from the field prior to the end of the game, that team will forfeit the game regardless of the score at the time. The game will not be rescheduled.

3.5. **Player Check-in** – Players **must** be ready to check in with referee **15 minutes** prior to their game time. The players must check in **individually** and dressed to play (Appropriate shin guards placed on the shins, playing shoes, etc.)

3.5.1. If a player arrives late for check in, it will be their job to check in with the referee when they enter the field of play. If a player fails to check in properly, then the referee may issue a yellow card.

3.6. **Sportsmanship** – In the spirit of good sportsmanship and within the League, when a team is ahead by 5 goals, **PLEASE EASE UP**. If your team chooses to continue to run up the score, the team captain or representative will be given a written warning from the Adult League Commissioner.

3.7. **SPECIAL RULES OF PLAY – RECREATIONAL PROGRAM - EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO FIFA LAWS**

3.7.1. **Law 1 - The Field of Play.** The Wilson County Soccer League which controls the fields shall determine the location of the teams, players, coaches, fans and supporters in relation to the field and each other.

3.7.1.1. Fields:

3.7.1.1.1. Size: 40 to 60 yards wide by 60 to 80 yards long.

3.7.1.1.2. Center Circle: 8 yards in radius

3.7.1.1.3. Penalty Area: 14 yards by 34 yards.

3.7.1.1.4. Goal Area: 6 yards by 18 yards

3.7.1.1.5. Penalty Spot: 12 yards and perpendicular from the midpoint of the goal line.

3.7.1.1.6. Corner Arc: A one (1) yard radius quarter-circle inside of the playing field from each corner

3.7.1.1.7. Flag Posts: Not less than five (5) feet high, with a non-pointed top and a flag, placed at each corner.

3.7.1.2. Goals: 21 feet to 24 feet wide by 7 to 8 feet high.

3.7.2. **Law III - Number of Players**

3.7.2.1. Each adult Coed team during a game shall play with no more than seven (7) male and female field players on the field at a time, including a goalkeeper. A keeper may be either male or female. There **shall never** be more than four (4) male field players. There may be up to six (6) female field players provided the goalie is a male.

3.7.2.1.1. Should there not be enough female registered players to fill the team's roster, only then can the maximum number of field male players be exceeded.

3.7.2.2. Substitutes: Substitutions shall be unlimited with no minimum playing time per player on the team. Although the three (3) minimum female field players cannot be replaced by men. The team must field three female players at all times.

3.7.2.3. The prior permission of the referee is required in order to make any substitution at

any time, except at the resumption of play after the half time break:

- 3.7.2.3.1. ** On a throw-in (by the team in possession)
- 3.7.2.3.2. ** On a goal kick (by either team)
- 3.7.2.3.3. ** After any goal (by either team)
- 3.7.2.3.4. ** After stoppage of play for an injury (either team)
- 3.7.2.3.5. ** After a caution (the player receiving the caution)

3.7.2.4. Forfeits for too few players: *Coaches/managers/representatives shall accommodate the situation to insure that the game is played by sharing players or playing with a small number of players on the field at game time, there shall be no forfeit.*

3.7.3. Law IV – Equipment

- 3.7.3.1. All players will wear shin guards which are commercially produced and specifically designed to provide protection to the shins to every game and practice. Hard surfaces of shin guards must be covered with socks.
- 3.7.3.2. No player will be allowed to play with any jewelry, metal devices, or a hard cast (padded or otherwise), nor will any player be allowed to play with any brace (knee or otherwise) that contains exposed metal or hard plastics, unless it is wrapped with a minimum of ½ inch high-density foam wrapping or the manufacturer's recommended protective coating.
- 3.7.3.3. No player may wear shoes with front cleats (i.e., no baseball or football shoes), except if the front cleat is cut it off. Only soft-cleat soccer shoes or tennis shoes are allowed; metal cleats are not allowed.
- 3.7.3.4. Players may wear sliding, bike, cyclist or tight fitting pants which do not protrude below the top of the knee and are the same color as the shorts. This does not prohibit players from wearing loose fitting, long-legged sweat pants or tights when it is cold or goalkeepers from wearing goalkeeper pants which may be tight and have padding.
- 3.7.3.5. Caps, Headbands or Bandannas of any style may not be worn during any game. Players may not wear a bandanna either on their heads, legs or arms. Exceptions may be made for medical reasons.

3.7.4. Law V – Referees

- 3.7.4.1. The referee's judgment decisions shall be final in all matters concerning the rules governing the playing of the game, the playability of the field and the appropriateness of the uniforms. He or she shall also have the power to postpone the actual commencement of the game or to interrupt the game for short periods of time, or to cancel the game, in the event of inclement weather or accidents on or around the playing field.
- 3.7.4.2. Referees shall have the right to issue red cards and eject any player, coach, or team representative guilty of using profanity, either by word or action, against other players, coaches, team representatives, spectators, referee, or any WCSL officials.
- 3.7.4.3. It shall be the duty of the referee to *insure that the game is played and accommodate the situation to avoid* declaring a forfeit in the event that a team has less than the required minimum number of players on the field ready to play within 15 minutes after the game was scheduled to start. In the event that the referee rules that the field is not playable, then he should note these facts on the game report and have each coach sign it.

3.7.4.4. Upon completion of the game, the referee shall completed and ensure the accuracy of the game report (card) before signing his / her name to the report. Disputes must be noted on the referee's game report with a complete description of the incident. This card will, at a minimum, contain the following:

- 3.7.4.4.1. ** Age group, date, game start time.
- 3.7.4.4.2. ** Team names
- 3.7.4.4.3. ** Final score (optional)
- 3.7.4.4.4. ** Cautions (yellow cards) or ejections (red cards) issued, by team with player number.

3.7.4.5. After the completion of the match, the referee shall submit the game report (card) to a WCSL representative by mail or hand delivery, within seven (7) days of the game.

3.7.5. **Law VII - Duration of the Game**

3.7.5.1. The duration of the adult games shall be as follows:

- 3.7.5.1.1. Two 30-minute halves
- 3.7.5.1.2. The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.

3.7.6. **Law VIII – Start and Restart of Play:** Women will take all drop balls for the resumption of play.

3.7.7. **Law XI - Offside:** The FIFA Offside Rule shall apply.

3.7.8. **Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct** – In the event a male field player is sent off (red carded), the offending team will be limited to a maximum of three (3) male field players (a total of six field players). Should a second male field player be sent off (red carded), the offending team shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) male field players, and so on. The FIFA Law with respect to:

3.7.8.1. Charging of the goalkeeper. There shall be no charging of the goalkeeper, fairly or unfairly, in WCSL sanctioned competition. Any such act will be considered as “dangerous play” at the least and punished accordingly.

3.7.8.2. Slide Tackle. Since the Wilson County Soccer League is coed, for the safety of the players slide tackling will **not be allowed**. “Slide Tackling” is defined as an attempt by a defender to slide on the ground and kick the ball away from the ball handler. A slide tackle without a foul is considered a dangerous play. An indirect free kick will be awarded. Sliding to score or keep a ball in play without threatening another player will not be considered a dangerous play.

3.7.9. **Law XIII – Free Kicks:** Women will take all free kicks (Direct and Indirect).

3.7.10. **Law XIV – Penalty Kick:** Women will take all penalty kicks.

4. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

4.1. **Purpose.** Misconduct of players, coaches and fans continues to be a problem in soccer. More emphasis is needed to promote proper conduct and good sportsmanship and the following system is an effort to discourage violent play and misconduct.

4.2. Responsibilities of Team Captains and Players

4.2.1. **Maintain Control of Fans and Sideline.** Team representatives are required to maintain control of their players and the team's fans on the sideline. A team captain may be cautioned and / or ejected by a referee for the misconduct of a fan of the team.

4.2.2. **Penalty Points.** Team Captains are responsible for maintaining their individual penalty points and the individual penalty points of their players. Players are also responsible for maintaining their individual penalty points. WCSL will promptly send a suspension letter to individual(s) who have exceeded their maximum allowable penalty points. WCSL will provide the following information in the suspension letters:

4.2.2.1. "You have exceeded your maximum allowable individual penalty point total, and have been suspended. This means that you may not participate in any WCSL sanctioned or approved activity, including season games, friendly games or practices."

4.2.3. **Misconduct by Fan / Supporter.** The fans or supporters of any team by attending a WCSL sponsored event subject themselves to the jurisdiction of WCSL. As such, misconduct by a fan or supporter can be investigated and disciplinary action can be taken. Such discipline can include, but shall not be limited to, prohibiting the fan or supporter from attending any WCSL sponsored event, including games and practices for a period of time or indefinitely. The failure to comply with the discipline shall be cause for WCSL A&D Committee to discipline the player related to the fan or supporter; the team which the fan or supporter supports; and or the coach of such team.

4.3. **Penalty Points Awarded.** The point system is intended to represent minimum sanctions to be taken against individual players, team captains or managers and individuals. Additional suspensions and fines can be levied if, in the judgment of the Appeals and Discipline Committee, circumstances regarding an incident justify further action. Penalty points shall be awarded to all players and team captains only as follows:

4.3.1. **Recorded cautions:** 3 points per caution to the individual

4.3.2. **Recorded ejections:** 9 points per ejection to the individual.

4.4. **Disciplinary Action for Penalty Point Accumulation.** An accumulation of penalty points shall result in the following disciplinary actions:

4.4.1. **Nine (9) penalty points** - A team captain or player shall not attend or observe the next league match played by that team. The team captain or player shall not participate in warm-up or half-time activities of the match.

4.4.2. **Eighteen (18) penalty points** - A team captain or player shall not attend or observe the next two (2) league matches played by that team. The team captain or player shall not participate in warm-up or half-time activities of the next two matches.

4.4.3. **Twenty-four (24) penalty points** - Suspension for the remainder of the season.

4.4.3.1. Suspensions for one (1) or two (2) games cannot be appealed.

4.4.4. **Maximum accumulation** - penalty points in one game by a team captain or player shall be nine (9) points.

- 4.5. **Penalty Point Carryover.** Penalty points obtained by individuals during specific season's games shall not be carried over into the next season's games.
- 4.6. **Suspension Carryover.** Suspension shall carryover into the next season. If a player, team captain is suspended during one season, but because of the number of games remaining in that season, does not serve the full suspension, then the number of games suspended but not served shall be served in the first and, if required, the second game of the next season.
- 4.7. **Player Transfers.** If a player transfers to another team, he / she shall retain his / her individual penalty points thru the end of the seasonal year.
- 4.8. **Playing Ineligible Player.** Any team captain or representative who is responsible for knowingly playing an ineligible player will be subject to suspension from participation in any WCSL sanctioned program.