



# WMYSA Rules and Regulations

## Contents

- A. Purpose and General Structure..... 2
- B. WMYSA Code Of Conduct ..... 4
- C. Coaches, Referees and Managers ..... 5
- D. Player Registration..... 7
- E. Team Roster Limits..... 9
- F. Rules, Game Procedures ..... 9
- G. Player Pass Card System (PCS)..... 13
- H. Discipline ..... 14
- I. Game Protests ..... 17
- J. Injuries ..... 17
- K. Uniforms ..... 18
- L. Home Team Responsibilities ..... 18
- M. Schedules, Cancellations and Forfeits ..... 18
- N. Practice and Scrimmage Frequencies ..... 20
- O. Standings and Championships ..... 20
- P. WMYSA Premier..... 21
- Q. Due Process..... 21
- R. Interleague Play with GVSA and CASL ..... 22
- S. MSYSA Rules and Regulations and Matters Not Provided For..... 22
- T. Pleas of Ignorance..... 23



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



## A. Purpose and General Structure

West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA) will provide a competitive experience for players whose skills qualify them to participate. WMYSA will continue the development of skilled players and will provide a framework for competitive soccer in West Michigan.

1. WMYSA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Communications, Statistician, Clinic Coordinator and two At-Large Members. A paid administrator(s) performs Registration, Scheduling, Academy coordination, Player camp coordination, and many other tasks and communications with member clubs. The Board will strive for high quality, competitive and fair soccer for youth in West Michigan. Within the context of this broad principle, the Board may interpret the rules and regulations with discretion where appropriate. WMYSA will sponsor fall and spring seasons.
2. WMYSA is affiliated with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). WMYSA, through its affiliation with MSYSA, will provide insurance to registered players and officials of member teams and leagues. (See Section I).
3. WMYSA, upon request, will provide copies of its Bylaws to all first time participants. WMYSA will make these rules and regulations available to coaches and team managers via posting on its website ([www.wmysa.org](http://www.wmysa.org)).
4. The WMYSA Board of Directors must approve all applications for new clubs to join the league. Clubs affiliated with WMYSA are expected to meet the following requirements. Exceptions may be granted only by specific vote of the WMYSA Board.
  - a. Member clubs should have fielded at least 4 teams in WMYSA during the prior year or have specific goals and plans to field at least 4 teams within 2 years of initial application.
  - b. Member clubs shall hold open tryouts for at least 4 teams for a coming year. Tryout dates must conform to the WMSYA guidance and the MSYSA Rules and Regulations and be announced by May 1 of each year. No more than two tryout locations may be used by an individual club during a year.
  - c. All WMYSA fees and fines outstanding are to be paid in full by November 30 and June 30 of each year.
  - d. In an on-going fashion, member clubs shall update GotSoccer club accounts providing contact information of all club officers and indicating the registrar/community representative to the league. A club officer must submit acceptance of the Affiliation Agreement agreeing to abide by MSYSA and WMYSA Rules and Regulations and WMYSA Board policies and decisions. This can be done electronically or by mail.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



- e. Member clubs shall file with WMYSA initial copies of club by-laws and an indication of status as being for-profit or non-profit plus tax and incorporation status. This information shall be updated annually if it changes.
  - f. Fulfillment of requirements a through e above combined with abiding by MSYSA and WMYSA Rules and Regulations during a current year shall be defined as being in good standing. Membership of clubs not in good standing may be reviewed by the WMYSA Board of Directors at any time and membership may be sanctioned or revoked at any time for failure to maintain good standing, although teams currently registered shall be allowed to complete any current seasonal competition.
5. WMYSA requires open published tryouts be held each year for its member clubs. All players must have an equal opportunity to try out for a team. All tryouts are subject to the WMSYA guidance and MSYSA tryout date guidelines.
- a. Tryouts for WMYSA's premier teams should be concluded before any tryouts are held for WMYSA non-premier club teams. The schedule for tryout dates will be established every year by the league at least 120 days prior to the earliest MSYSA guideline tryout date.
  - b. Tryouts must be fair and equitable and should use neutral evaluators for each team. Tryouts should include assessments of individual skills and performance in game situations. Players not chosen must be informed within 10 days of the last tryout date of the club. All players trying out must be listed on the tryout roster to be covered by insurance.
  - c. Tryouts for all WMYSA Premier players for the fall and/or spring sessions of the seasonal year currently may not be held before the date assigned by MSYSA for open tryouts. Select tryouts will be scheduled beginning Monday following Premier tryouts. For high school age boys' teams playing only in the spring session, tryouts may be held from the date assigned by MSYSA for open tryouts until August 15<sup>th</sup> and after November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Conflicts over tryout dates or sites between clubs which are registering their teams with WMYSA for the coming year can be mediated by the league.
  - e. WMYSA will not register any player from clubs that hold tryouts before the earliest MSYSA tryout date allowed.
6. The Assistant Administrator (referred to as Scheduler) will organize the teams into appropriate age groups divisions, following USYSA age groupings whenever possible. The Scheduler may divide the teams into two or three divisions when more than 9 teams are in an age group. Teams may apply for one division or the other and the WMYSA Administrator



will assign each team to a division based upon the team's previous record, the team's player roster, and/or the club's performance history.

7. All club representatives are responsible for identifying playing and practice sites in their communities together with requested or required scheduled game days and times. Maps and directions for playing sites must be provided to the WMYSA Scheduler. While schedules are typically balanced with equal numbers of home and away games for all teams, the WMYSA Board may require games to be played at alternative or opposing venues if fields are judged as not playable, do not meet size requirements, lack of referee availability, or if the number of home games on a balanced home-away schedule cannot be reasonably scheduled at the home field facility.

## **B. WMYSA Code Of Conduct**

### **Responsibility to Players**

- Coaches shall not place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
- Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching unsporting behavior to players.
- Coaches shall not encourage players to violate any Law of the Game or any rule of competition established by WMYSA (West Michigan Youth Soccer Association).

### **Responsibility to Opponents**

- Coaches shall not encourage, condone or permit any player to engage in conduct with the intent of causing an injury to an opponent.
- Coaches shall not engage in any physical or verbal confrontation with on opposing player, coach or supporter.

### **Responsibility to the Game**

- Coaches shall be aware of the laws of the game and shall adhere to the spirit of the laws of the game.
- Coaches shall accept responsibilities of team leadership and shall be accountable for the conduct of the players, team officials and spectators affiliated with their teams.

### **Responsibility to Officials**

- Coaches shall extend respect and courtesy to match and competition officials.
- Coaches shall not incite players, team officials, or spectators into conduct towards officials that is contrary to the rules of the game.
- Coaches shall employ only methods authorized by WMYSA or the rules of the competition, to pursue review of decisions by match or competition officials.

### **Responsibility to WMYSA and other Member Organizations**

- Coaches shall become aware with and comply with the rules, policies and procedures established by WMYSA and the governing organization(s).



- Coaches shall refer disputes, appeals, and disciplinary reports to proper authorities as designed by WMYSA and the governing organization(s).

### **Responsibility Regarding Player Communication**

- Coaches shall comply with rules and policies pertaining to registration and player recruitment.
- Coaches shall not engage in any recruiting activity at any event sponsored by the Olympic Development Program (ODP) or any WMYSA sponsored activity.
- Coaches shall not solicit or encourage the transfer of any player currently registered to another member organization.
- Coaches shall not knowingly, recklessly or negligently misrepresent or defame programs associated with a particular coach, team or member organization.
- Coaches shall not promise or provide any compensation to a player as an inducement to register or play with a particular team or member organization.
- Coaches shall not allow any surrogate to engage in recruiting activities prohibited by WMYSA.

## **C. Coaches, Referees and Managers**

1. Member clubs are responsible for selecting coaches for their teams. Head coaches must have at least a USSF 'E' license or its equivalent Youth Level course from NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) and be registered with MSYSA. A one-year exemption to obtain a coaching license is allowed for coaches who have not previously coached a team registered with WMYSA. The coach is expected to obtain an "E" license or its equivalent via NSCAA during this grace period. If the head coach is not at least 18 years of age, an adult team manager must be registered with WMYSA.
2. A team must register one head coach plus up to three assistant coaches and/or managers with WMYSA. A maximum of 4 individuals per team may be issued WMYSA pass cards and be listed on the certified USYSA roster. The fourth assistant coach/manager will be assessed a registration fee. A maximum of three registered individual team officials with pass cards issued by WMYSA (or Indiana equivalent) may be on the coaching sidelines during games. At least one registered coach or manager with a WMYSA pass card must be on the coaching sidelines for a game to start or continue.
  - a. Club Coach Pass: Each WMYSA member club may designate one club affiliated individual to receive a WMYSA Club passcard as the "Club Official" (hereafter referred to as the "Club Official"). The individual designated as the Club Official must be officially registered on at least one of the club's team rosters as a team official (hereafter referred to as their "designated team") which receives one of the four WMYSA passcards.



## West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



- b. The Club Official will be issued a unique card separate from their designated team's passcard by WMYSA designating them as the Club Official, and will include their photo and a league stamp/signature. For any game in which the Club Official participates as one of the three permitted team officials, they must be listed on the official game report for that game in addition to any other team officials and present their WMYSA passcard for their designated team.
  - c. A team which already has three or four registered team officials with passcards may determine which two of the team officials may also be on the team sideline. A Club Official who receives a red card/send off while acting as the Club Official will surrender their designated team passcard (not the unique Club Official card) to the referee team and must serve any resulting suspension during their designated team's next game(s).
  - d. A Club Official may not serve a suspension during any other game but their designated team's next game(s). See also WMYSA Policy Document 02 for additional information regarding the Club Coach Pass.
3. All individuals who serve as coaches or team managers must have a coach/manager card indicating "KID SAFE" AND a specific risk management card through MSYSA or IYSA. Proof of current risk management certification must be maintained in GotSoccer. Included in this requirement is the certification of participating in concussion training per Michigan law.
  4. WMYSA asks its member clubs to pay attention to broad areas of coaching qualifications when selecting a coach, including formal soccer coach training, suitability for work with the age group, soccer background and the ability to communicate and teach. All clubs should annually evaluate their coaches. The WMYSA Board has the right to reject a nominated coach.
  5. Coaches are responsible for their team's conduct at practices and at games. Coaches who have been reported in violation of the FIFA Code of Conduct or the Rules and Regulations may be subject to disciplinary hearings and may be suspended. Dismissed coaches may not serve in any official capacity with a team in WMYSA or in any other capacity with WMYSA until the term of suspension is completed. Coaches are also responsible for their team's parents. Parents and others are not allowed to make derogatory remarks to players or referees. Any individual in a non-coaching capacity who may be reasonably construed to be associated with a team, such as a relative or spectator, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the league. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) who violate WMYSA rules and who, in the opinion of the disciplinary committee, is a supporter of that team.
  6. Each team must designate an individual to serve as the primary contact person with WMYSA when direct communication may be needed. This individual should provide an e-mail address that is regularly checked for messages.



7. Due to an on-going shortage of USSF registered referees, all clubs must conduct an annual recruitment campaign to encourage older club players and, parents of club players, and other potential interested parties to attend the required courses and become registered referees. When there are insufficient referees located near a particular club's home fields to cover the club's home games of the balanced home-away schedule, the WMYSA Board may require games to be played at alternative or opposing venues. Clubs in smaller communities should work with the WMYSA Administrator to coordinate home games between multiple club teams and/or consider working with the referee association(s) to utilize a travel premium for referees from other locations to work the club's home games and avoid WMYSA's need to potentially move games.

## **D. Player Registration**

1. WMYSA will set a calendar each season for deadlines for team commitments and for meeting the minimum registration number for team formations. The deadlines for the team commitments are especially important for development of game schedules, which must be completed and provided to referees' associations well in advance of the season. Deadlines may be extended only with the approval of the WMYSA Scheduler.
2. All players must be registered with WMYSA, which will, in turn, register them with MSYSA and USYSA. Players must provide WMYSA with copies of official birth certificates, passports or driver's licenses unless previously on file. Certificates issued by hospitals are normally not acceptable. Players/Parent must fully complete a WMYSA registration paper or electronic form. It is recommended using the online registration in GotSoccer. Photos (head shot style) provided in GotSoccer will be printed on the player cards. If no headshot photo provided in GotSoccer then the club needs to attach a recent 1" x 1" photo to the card before the card is considered valid. OR provide a photo in GotSoccer. All players will get a USYSA identification card to be kept by the coach or the team manager.
3. Age is defined by the player's age on August 1st; e.g. a player who will still be under 14 years of age on July 31st may play on a U-14 team during that fall and the following spring seasons.
4. A team age bracket is to be defined by the age of the oldest player registered on the team. Teams may be comprised of players covering two-year age brackets up through U14. (U15 and older players may play up through U19 without restrictions or play-up request.)
  - a. A player below U15 and not in 9th grade may be allowed to play up two age brackets (i.e. a U14 player on a U16 team). If a three year play up is requested it can only be done with the approval of WMYSA Board. A player who is a U14, but is in 9th grade, may play on an U15 through U19 team without restrictions or play-up request.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



- b. An U8 player may play on an U9 or U10 team. No U7 players may be rostered on any WMYSA team.
  - c. Up to 3 players age U15 may play on an U14 age division team if the player is still in 8th grade during the season. Such teams will be regarded as U15, but will play in the U14 division. A U15 player in 8th grade playing U14 for a half season is required to transfer to an U15/16 team if fielded by the team's club.
  - d. A Request to Play in Older Age Bracket, together with an additional Waiver of Liability, must be filed for any registration of a player to play three or more years above the appropriate age of the player for players U14 and below (see exception in WMYSA Rule D.4.a. For example, an U10 player must file a special request to play on an U13 team.) Requests to play up 3 years will require WMYSA Board review and approval.
  - e. Hardship exceptions will be considered such as allowing siblings with a three year age differential to play on the same team.
5. Player cards will be checked by the referee before every WMYSA game and will be immediately returned to the coach. Players who have not been registered by WMYSA (or by IYSA for Indiana-based teams) may not play. Should the player have a valid card, but the card is not present at the game, for whatever reason, the following procedure should be used:
- a. The opposing coach should be notified and the player is open to "Challenge". If the opposing coach desires to play under "Challenge" (not to be confused with Protest), he must notify the referee and the other coach prior to the start of the game.
  - b. If the game is to be played under Challenge, the referee should note this on the FRONT of the game report and the reason - that a player has played without his/her card.
  - c. The referee should then record the player's name and birth date on the back of the game report and have the challenged player sign the back of the game report.
  - d. Upon completion of the game, the game report should be sent to the Administrator who oversees game reports following normal procedure.
  - e. The challenging coach should notify the WMYSA Administrator if a game has been played under Challenge and provide the details.
  - f. When WMYSA gets the game report, WMYSA will verify that the player is listed on the team's official roster. If the player is properly registered to the team, the game will be declared official. If the player is not properly registered on the team, the game will be forfeited by the team using the ineligible player and the coach and player may be subject to sanctions per paragraph D.6 below.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



6. If an ineligible player plays or if a coach knowingly permits an ineligible player to participate in a WMYSA sanctioned game, the player and/or coach may be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the WMYSA Board. Players are ineligible if they were sent off in the previous game, if they are not registered or if they were illegally registered.
7. The league will not allow Dual Roster Players.
8. Players are permitted and encouraged to play in other developmental soccer programs in their communities providing those teams are not registered with MSYSA.
9. The submittal of a player registration form signed by the player and his/her parent or guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) and at a minimum, the MSYSA player fee, binds the player to that team for the seasonal year unless granted a transfer or release approved by WMYSA. A player may transfer from one club's team to another club's team between seasons during the MSYSA transfer window with the approval of both club's president or his/her delegate and WMYSA. A player may transfer from one team to another team within a club (intra-club) during the seasonal year. A coach may involuntarily release a player only after notifying the player of an intention to release (if possible) and filing a Release Form and receiving approval due to valid reasons. Any attempt prior to June 8 to induce a player to change teams for the current seasonal year OR any attempt at any time prior to June 8 of the seasonal year to induce the player to leave their team for the following seasonal year is defined as poaching and is in violation of MSYSA Rule 3.7.

## E. Team Roster Limits

In order to commit a team to play as a WMYSA sponsored team, the team can be formed with no more nor fewer than the following:

AGE LEVEL	ROSTER MIN	<sup>1</sup> ROSTER MAX	GAME MIN	TEAM FORMAT
U9-U10	8	12	5	7v7
U11-U12	10	15	7	9v9
U13-U19	13	<sup>2</sup> 22	7	11v11

## F. Rules, Game Procedures

1. All WMYSA games will be played according to the FIFA "Laws of the Game", as modified by USYSA and MSYSA for youth players. USSF referees and (to all but the youngest

<sup>1</sup> Indiana based teams may follow the IYSA roster limit of 12 players. All 12 players may be listed on the roster and participate regardless of game venue.

<sup>2</sup> Roster maximum for bench during any game may not exceed 18.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



divisions) assistant referees (AR) will be assigned, using the diagonal system of control. The dual system is not permitted. If one AR does not show up, use a club assistant referee or club linesman, on one side. The one AR should call offside on his/her end and the center referee should call offside on the other end.

## 2. Youth Rules for U9-U12 Games: WMYSA follows the “USYSA Rules for Small Sided Games.” Significant notes from these rules are:

- a. For direct and indirect free kicks opponents are at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play.
- b. The ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- c. If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent’s goal, a goal is awarded.
- d. If a free kick is kicked directly in to the team’s own goal a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.
- e. Penalty kicks for U9–U10 are taken from 8 yards from goal. Penalty kicks for U11-U12 are taken from 10 yards from goal.
- f. For U9-U10 there is no Offside Rule. For U11-U12 we follow FIFA laws of the game for offside, there is offside rule.
- g. At the U9-U12 level, substitutions are allowed at any game stoppage and are unlimited. For small-sided games, substitutes may enter the field before the player has exited with the referee’s permission. See also WMYSA Policy Document 03 for additional information regarding the substitution procedure.
- h. Punting and/or drop kicks are allowed by the goalkeeper. However, an indirect kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks a ball in the air all the way from one penalty area into the opponent’s penalty area. Throwing the ball into the opponent’s penalty area by the goalkeeper is permitted.

## 3. Game Day Procedures Include:

- a. The home team will have the field prepared for play at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



<u>Age Bracket</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Field Size</u>		<u>Goal Size</u>
			<u>Length</u>	<u>Width</u>	
U9, U10	25 minute halves	#4	50 – 65	40 – 50	6 X 18
U11, U12	30 minute halves	#4	80 – 85	55 – 60	6 X 18
U13, U14	35 minute halves	#5	100 – 130	50 – 100	8 X 24
U15, U16	40 minute halves	#5	100 – 130	50 – 100	8 X 24
U17, U18, U19	45 minute halves	#5	100 – 130	50 – 100	8 X 24

- b. *Before every game*, both coaches shall provide the referee with a current official roster and game card indicating the team lineup and providing for referee reporting and player pass cards.
- c. The referee must check player pass cards against the official team roster. With the exception of those players being utilized under the Pass Card System (PCS), players not listed on the official team roster will not be allowed to play.
  - i. Each coach utilizing players under the PCS must inform the opposing team and present the player’s primary player card to the referees and ensure they are listed on the game day game card.
  - ii. Players without pass cards having been issued may not play. *Note: A player who has been issued a card and is listed on the WMYSA Official Roster (which includes the WMYSA Registrar signature) does not have to be in possession of his/her card in order to play. Any player included on the game card under the Pass Card System MUST have their primary player card in order to play. Any player listed on the WMYSA Official Roster without a pass card must provide their name, signature, and date of birth for the referee to place onto the back of the game report. Referees shall return player cards to the teams after players are checked in.*
- d. The home team coach shall also provide a stamped envelope addressed to the WMYSA statistician. These envelopes are provided to each team at the beginning of the season.
- e. A proper size game ball.
- f. The Referee and Assistant Referees must be paid by the home team before the start of the game according to the fee schedule agreed upon by the referees and WMYSA. **Teams are expected to have exact cash (no check) payment for each individual referee and assistant referee. Referees should not be expected to make change.** If one of the assistant referees does not show, the center official does not receive additional compensation. If neither assistant referee shows, the center official should be paid at the rate of the single official listed above. Also, if one of the assistant referees does not show, use a club assistant referee or club linesman, with the single asst referee calling



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



offside on one end and the center referee calling offside on the end with the club assistant referee or club linesman. **DO NOT USE THE TWO-MAN SYSTEM TO REFEREE WMYSA GAMES!**

4. Teams shall take opposite sidelines for their benches. Home teams have choice of preferred sidelines. Parents and spectators must take the same sidelines as their respective team, unless the facility prevents this. It will be the responsibility of the coach to educate, and to control their spectators on their side of the field, and see that their fans or spectators behave in a proper and respectful manner. Adults without ID cards may not be within the team bench area or participate with coaching in any fashion in the bench area.
5. Teams should not play without a certified referee. In emergencies when no certified referee is available, teams have the option of either rescheduling the game or playing the game with a non-certified/non-scheduled referee. If they elect to play without a certified referee, then both coaches must agree, indicate this and sign on the back of the game sheet prior to the start of the game. This information should include a statement indicating you both agree to allow and to abide by the results making this an official game. If a non-certified referee cannot be agreed upon, the game will need to be rescheduled following the Game Reschedule Process.
6. Substitution Procedure for Full Field Games (U13 through U19 age groups) AND U12 Elite Division Games played at WMYSA Home Fields. In accordance with MSYSA Rule 4.5, Substitutions may be made by either team at the following times:
  - a. Prior to a throw-in, with the following exception: If the team taking the throw-in does not substitute then substitution is prohibited.
  - b. Prior to a goal kick.
  - c. After a goal is scored.
  - d. After an injury, when the referee stops play.
  - e. At half time.
  - f. After a Caution (a Yellow card), the carded player(s) may be substituted, and if substituted, the opposing team may substitute a like number of players.
7. During the game, no coach or substitute or player is to be anywhere except on their respective touchline between the top of the penalty area and the halfway line during the game.
8. After the completion of the game:



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



- a. Both coaches must sign the game sheet report at the conclusion of the game to confirm the reported score.
- b. The center referee will place these forms in the envelope provided by the home team and mail them to the Statistician. PLEASE USE STAMPED ENVELOPES PROVIDED BY WMYSA TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS.

## 9. Reporting Scores for Standings

- a. The winning coach / manager must report the game score to the statistician through the WMYSA GotSoccer reporting procedure.
- b. In the event of a tie, the home team is responsible for reporting the score.
- c. Teams playing in interleague Elite should report all scores in the WMYSA GotSoccer event.

10. The scores and standings will be posted on the WMYSA website.

11. Any game score not reported by the winning team will be recorded as a 0 - 0 draw if it is not reported within 10 days -no exceptions.

## **G. Player Pass Card System (PCS)**

1. Concept ~The PCS provides an environment where coaches may move players within their own club during the season. This will:
  - a. Allow coaches the opportunity for development of multiple players.
  - b. Allow players the opportunity to experience a higher level of competition.
  - c. Allow for a larger pool of players to fill team needs.
2. Eligibility ~ A PCS player may only be used within their own club where they are rostered as a primary player during WMYSA league sponsored game. Teams playing in Elite (Interleague play between GVSA, WMYSA & CASL) may utilize the PCS. If a club has premier teams, select registered players may utilize the PCS to a MSPSP team only if the MSPSP team is sponsored by WMYSA. The PCS does not apply to tournaments, Region II, National Leagues, State Cup, non-sponsored MSPSP teams, etc.
3. Direction of Play ~ Direction of play is based upon both age and the division the player is rostered as a “primary player”. PCS players may only play at a “higher level” of competition;



no more than up to two years from their official league age group through U14. U15 and older players may play up through U19 without age restrictions.

4. Additionally, PCS players may only play at a higher division of play than they are rostered as a “Primary Player”. For purposes of ranking division of play, WMYSA first looks at the division age. For example, U12 division is considered a lower division of play than an U13 division. Next we look at the division itself where we rank lowest to highest as being: Select C, Select B, Select A, Elite, Premier, etc.
5. For PCS purposes within a combined age division: WMYSA considers the division of play based on the higher of the two combined age divisions. For example: WMYSA PCS considers a U15/U16 Division as an U16 Division.
6. Restrictions:
  - a. Teams may not utilize more than three PCS players a game.
  - b. Players may not utilize PCS more than twice a week. (Sun-Sat)
  - c. Players cannot play in more than two games in one day.
7. Process:
  - a. All PCS players must be counted towards the game day roster numbers.
  - b. Prior to start of game, coaches must inform the opposing team of the existence of PCS players.
  - c. PCS players must have their primary team card. They cannot simply sign the game day report.

## H. Discipline

**Cautions and Send-Offs:** WMYSA expects its players and coaches to conduct themselves within the rules of WMYSA, the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship. MSYSA Rules & Regulations govern these violations: All suspensions must be served in succeeding games where the coach(s) or player(s) are listed on official rosters at the time of the offense. Players and coaches will not be allowed to be added to another team’s roster until the discipline has been served. MSYSA Rules & Regulations govern these violations:

1. Player Fighting ~ Players guilty of fighting before, during or after games shall receive a two game suspension.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



2. Player Profanity ~ A player guilty of using profanity, either by word or sign, against another player, coach, spectator, or any league official shall receive a two game suspension.
3. Player Threats ~ A player guilty of making threatening gestures or racial insults against another player, coach, spectator, or any league official shall receive a two game suspension.
4. Player Striking Official ~ A player guilty of pushing or striking any coach, referee, assistant referee or club linesman, or any league official shall receive a one-year suspension.
5. Player Ejection. Players sent off by the referee shall receive a minimum one game suspension.
6. Misconduct toward a Referee. Any player, coach, manager, or official committing some misconduct as defined by USSF Policy 531-9 shall be dealt with in accordance with that policy. Reporting procedures are included in the policy.
  - a. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting on bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
  - b. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: Using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.
  - c. Referee assault involves physical contact with the referee, or the referee's uniform or personal property.
7. Coach Threats. Coaches or team officials who make threatening gestures or use threatening language to other players, coaches, or league officials shall be disciplined: first time = two game suspension; second time = the offender shall appear before the MSYSA Board and be suspended for a minimum of four games; third time – the offender will be suspended for not less than one year.
8. Coach Fights. Coaches or team officials who fight at any time shall be disciplined: first time – the offender shall appear before the MSYSA Board and shall be suspended for a minimum of one year; second time – the offender shall be suspended for not less than three years.
9. Coach and Fan Misconduct. Any coach allowing a suspended player to play shall be suspended for two games. His team forfeits the game. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in MSYSA Playing Rules & Regulations and as set by USSF including cautions, send offs and standard suspensions. If an individual (coach, team official or spectator) who supports a team abuses or assaults a referee or player, such action shall be deemed loss of control by the coach and other team officials. Upon review of reports of the incident, the disciplinary committee shall determine if a charge of abuse or assault shall be sustained. Should such a charge be sustained, a financial bond of



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



up to \$1000 will be required within 5 days for the team to be allowed to continue to play. If a second such offense occurs within two years, the initial bond will be forfeited and a second bond required within 5 days. A third such offense involving any supporter of the same team within two years shall result in the forfeit of the bond and suspension of the team. Outstanding bonds not forfeited shall be returned to the team through their club after two years.

10. Falsifying Records. Clubs, players, coaches, managers or any Club/team official who alters a tryout roster, official team roster, falsifies a birth certificate or affix a wrong photo to a player registration form or player ID card shall receive up to a seven-year suspension.
11. Tournament Suspensions: The following applies to suspensions associated with USSF-sanctioned tournament play.
  - a. Red card suspensions issued on the final match of a tournament shall be carried forward to the team's next USYSA match. Red card suspensions issued in the final match of the team's final tournament of the season shall be carried forward to the next WMYSA league match (carried forward to the following league season if necessary).
  - b. WMYSA league suspensions must be served during WMYSA league play. WMYSA suspensions cannot be served during a tournament game unless approval is received in advance from the WMYSA Statistician. If approval is received from the WMYSA Statistician, the coach must provide the WMYSA Statistician written evidence, signed by a tournament official, which documents the suspension was served.
  - c. WMYSA Penalties. Players, coaches, managers or team officials receiving three cautions during a playing season shall be suspended for the next game. Players sent off twice during a season are suspended pending an appeal to the Disciplinary Committee. Any team receiving 2 red cards in one game or 5 red cards in a season is considered on probation. Its coach shall provide a statement to the Disciplinary Committee regarding actions taken with players and/or coaches to improve team discipline and behavior. Sanctions include restricted tournament play. WMYSA recommends (but does not require) that players be substituted when cautioned (yellow cards). A sent off (red carded) coach may attend the next game as a spectator in the spectator areas only. Players sent off may attend the next game as a spectator and may not be in team uniform. The suspended player may be within the team bench area. Suspensions carry over to the next season.
12. Pass Card System Player Suspensions: The following applies to suspensions associated with WMYSA and Elite games.
  - a. Red card suspensions issued to a player while utilizing the PCS can only be served on the team in which the offense occurred and will be treated like any other suspension.



- b. Any players utilizing PCS who receive a red card suspension is ineligible for participation in the WMYSA PCS until the suspension is served with the primary team.

## **I. Game Protests**

Protests must be submitted to the League Statistician within 72 hours and must be accompanied by a completed WMYSA Referee Evaluation form. Only factual errors which can be shown to have altered the match win/loss outcome may be protested. Judgment calls will not be considered. Concerns involving referee decisions or behavior which do not meet the above protest threshold should be documented via a Referee Evaluation form and submitted to the appropriate Referee's Association per form instructions. Matches for which a protest is upheld as determined by the Disciplinary Committee shall be rescheduled.

## **J. Injuries**

1. All injury claims are handled directly by MSYSA. WMYSA requests a courtesy notification for injuries requiring medical care, to the WMYSA Administrator within 72 hours of the injury. This is a secondary insurance policy which only applies to those already covered by an existing insurance plan. All injuries from MSYSA or US Youth Soccer activities must be reported, in writing, to both the member organization and MSYSA via phone or email within 7 days.
2. All claims are required to first be made through member's primary insurance carrier prior to being submitted to MSYSA. Any claims not submitted to MSYSA within 30 days will be denied. Additional information can be found at <http://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org>
3. **Partial MSYSA Insurance Claim Checklist (as of 9/15/14)**
  - a. Claimant must be registered at time the injury took place
  - b. Claimant's injury must have taken place on an insured field location
  - c. Claim form must be submitted and received by MSYSA State Office no later than 30 days from date of injury. Once the actual claim is filed with MSYSA, an adjuster is assigned and communication between the parties exists on the need for multiple visits, surgery down the road, additional treatments, etc. Payment will be made for any expenses incurred up to 104 weeks from the date of injury.
  - d. \$500 deductible applies for all eligible claims
  - e. Include a copy of Permission to Travel approval (if injury took place outside Michigan)



## **K. Uniforms**

1. All players must be in full uniform: shirt (tucked in), shorts, socks (covering the shin guards), shin guards and shoes. When colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change to colors which are distinct from the opponent. Goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish them from all other players and referees. Headwear worn for religious purposes is acceptable providing a letter of notification has been sent to the WMYSA Administrator.
2. Numerals, at least six inches high, must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Numbers on goalkeepers' uniforms are optional on either front or back or both.

## **L. Home Team Responsibilities**

The home team must make sure its field is playable and meets minimum playing dimensions of 50 x 100 yards for U13 and older games. A field size of 45 to 55 x 60 to 80 yards is acceptable for U11 and U12. The field size for U10 and U9 should be 35 to 45 x 45 to 60 yards. The recommended goal size for all small-sided games is 6 x 18 feet. If a field is not playable, the referee must issue a report to the statistician, who then has the authority to rule if the game will be forfeited. The home team must have a first aid kit at the game site and provide a ball that satisfies the Laws of the Game. The home team must pay the referees.

## **M. Schedules, Cancellations and Forfeits**

1. Whenever feasible, the WMYSA Scheduler will arrange for at least eight games each in fall and spring. All teams are required to provide any requests for blackout dates through the online commitment process. Each team is limited to request up to 4 individual days for blackout per playing season. However, from time to time this may be limited to 3 based on number of days available in the season. They will be reflected in preliminary schedules. Only oversight errors (i.e. missed blackouts, incorrect home venue or missed coach integration) will be changed during the preliminary days. Once the preliminary days expire, the Scheduler will allow Game Reschedule Requests be made for a fee to the league.
2. The game reschedule procedure applies to any request to reschedule which occurs after referee assigning has begun during the scheduling process, unless there has been an error or oversight by the WMYSA Scheduler.
3. Games may only be rescheduled for valid reasons, such as a State Cup game, conflict with school or church activities affecting multiple players or all registered coaches and managers.



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



## 4. Team Responsibilities:

- a. Contact the opposing coach and agree on a new time and date. Choose a second option in case a field is not available for the first.
- b. Contact the WMYSA Scheduler to note the game cancelled and request for a new time and date. The WMYSA Scheduler will check field availability, referee assignor considerations, and must then approve the reschedule.
- c. The appropriate fee will be billed to the club of the team requesting the change. This form can be downloaded at [wmysa.org](http://wmysa.org).

## 5. WMYSA Responsibilities

- a. The referee scheduler will notify the referee assignor of a cancelled game.
  - b. The WMYSA Administrator will notify the referee scheduler of approved new dates and times for rescheduled games.
  - c. The referee scheduler will assign referees for the rescheduled games.
6. If a team requests to cancel a game and it is never rescheduled the team that cancelled the game will be required to forfeit it.
  7. If a game is cancelled due to weather and is never made up, the WMYSA Board will mediate a course of action. All teams are expected to make a sincere effort to reschedule.
  8. A fine shall be assessed through a team's club in the event of a forfeit or if a game is rescheduled and played without being reported to the WMYSA Administrator. This fine may only be waived upon appeal to the WMYSA Board.
  9. WMYSA requires that when lightning is observed or thunder is heard by the referee during a game, the game must be suspended and the playing field kept clear of participants until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning is noted; or it must be terminated. Suspended games may result in termination at the discretion of the referee if subsequent scheduled games require use of the same field or referees. If a game is terminated because of weather and one half of the game has been completed, the game will be considered complete and the score at the time of suspension will be recorded as the final result. If the game is terminated in the first half, it will be rescheduled and replayed. The home team must notify the WMYSA Administrator and the referee coordinator of the new date.
  10. If a team fails to appear for a scheduled game without prior notification of the opposing team and referees, a fine will automatically be imposed by the WMYSA Administrator. The fine will be set to cover referee fees, field rental if the home team appeared or travel



reimbursement if the visiting team appeared plus a basic penalty fee. The fee will be due from the team's club to WMYSA. WMYSA will then distribute the proceeds to the referees and visiting team as due.

11. Severe Weather Policy: If a severe weather "warning" or a tornado "warning" exists in the venue's area during game time or 2 hours prior to or 1 hour after the scheduled game time, the venue's management or either team's coach may reschedule the game to an alternative time and/or date without concern of forfeiture. If referees are assigned to a match that falls under these conditions, they may also be excused from officiating. The venue management, coach or official that elects to cancel a game due to severe weather or tornado "warnings" must contact all other parties to inform them of their decision prior to game time.

## **N. Practice and Scrimmage Frequencies**

Teams may practice as frequently as they wish. Teams may have as many inter-squad scrimmages as they wish. It is recommended all U9 teams practice no more than once per week. A scrimmage is defined as a game-like situation for which there are not sanctioned referees and where the final score is not recorded. WMYSA rules and regulations do not apply to indoor play. MSYSA insurance does apply to indoor games or indoor practices if the location has been submitted to WMSYA for inclusion under the MSYSA insurance policy.

## **O. Standings and Championships**

1. Each team is required to report the game score through the WMYSA Scheduling System (GotSoccer). A point system will be used to determine the standing of teams in each division according to the FIFA standard of awarding a winning team - 3 points, each team in a tied match - 1 point and a losing team - 0 points.
2. In addition, a team which forfeits a game gets a point deducted from its point total. The opposing team will have the game recorded as a 3-0 win (and will receive the full 3 points for the win).
3. Scores not recorded within 10 days of the match will be posted as a 0 – 0 tied.
4. At the conclusion of the WMYSA season, the team with the most points shall be declared the champion of its division. If two or more teams are tied on the basis of points earned, placement will be determined as follows: Most Wins, Goal Differential, Head to Head and then most shutouts. If two teams are still tied they will be declared co-champions. WMYSA awards championship teams with individual awards such as pins, t-shirts, etc.



## **P. WMYSA Premier**

Within the WMYSA league, players have the ability to develop through club/select, elite and premier programs within their local community. This arrangement is designed to offer a wide range of opportunity and options for players. Premier teams are sponsored by WMYSA and are then governed by MSPSP.

1. WMYSA will provide premier sponsorship to teams from WMYSA clubs based on the following criteria.
2. WMYSA will offer premier sponsorship for teams from any WMYSA member clubs in good standing for the coming year. All teams must have their club president's endorsement in order to be considered.
3. WMYSA will grant "automatic" approval for premier sponsorship for any team that finishes in the top half of the Elite Division of the Fall Season (or previous season for Boys U15 and older teams) contingent upon returning 50% of the roster, being from a WMYSA Club in good standing and submitting a request for premier sponsorship.
4. Teams not earning "automatic" approval for premier sponsorship may submit a detailed application for consideration by the WMYSA Board. These applications will be considered in the context of how many teams are already being sponsored for a given age group, the team league and tournament performance, and other criteria as determined appropriate. The approval via this approach will be considered an exception to the expected approach of earning it by participating elite division. The WMYSA Board of Directors will approve or reject all such applications at its discretion. It may appoint a committee to review such applications and recommend their approval or denial.
5. WMYSA will charge a fee for premier sponsorship which will cover the Got Soccer fees and administrative costs incurred for such teams.
6. Any WMYSA club placing 3 or more teams in premier must place their own tryout ad in the MSYSA tryout edition.

## **Q. Due Process**

In case of problems between teams or clubs, a team or club may contact the WMYSA Board, in writing, to describe the problem. Referees shall report problems to the WMYSA Scheduler on game reports. The Board will communicate its decisions to the coaches, clubs, and referees involved. If the Board reprimands a team and if the problem is not corrected, the offending team may be removed from WMYSA. Disciplinary actions may be appealed to the WMYSA Board, in



writing, within 7 days. Board disciplinary hearings shall follow the MSYSA Bylaws. A copy of these Bylaws is available, upon request, from the WMYSA Administrator.

## **R. Interleague Play with GVSA and CASL**

1. WMYSA will strive to organize inter-league play with the Grand Valley Soccer Association and the Capital Area Soccer Association each season for “elite” teams.
2. WMYSA will strive to promote up to 4 teams for play in the U12 elite divisions beginning each fall season. Teams will be selected by the WMYSA Administrator based upon performance during the prior season.
3. Continued eligibility for elite play shall depend upon elite division standings. Depending upon the number of teams in an elite division, from 1 to 3 of the lowest standing elite teams will be relegated after each season, regardless of league affiliation. WMYSA will then strive to promote one team from the A division.
4. Teams to be promoted to elite will be selected by the WMYSA Administrator. Such teams will typically, but not necessarily, be the winners of the A division the prior season. A team selected for promotion does not have the option to decline a promotion, but may appeal the selection to the WMYSA Board of Directors for review. Teams not selected for promotion that wishes to play elite or teams relegated that wish to remain in elite may express their desire to the WMYSA Administrator. After consultation with the other leagues participating in the elite division, these teams may be offered the opportunity to play elite if the particular division has less than 9 teams.
5. WMYSA divisions will generally not be reduced below 5 teams in order to provide teams for elite play.
6. Teams will not be promoted from one elite division to a higher elite division between the fall and spring season. For example, a WMYSA team finishing first in the U13 Elite division will not earn promotion to U14 Elite. The U13 Elite team may elect to play in the U14 WMYSA division, if they desire.

## **S. MSYSA Rules and Regulations and Matters Not Provided For**

These WMYSA Rules and Regulations are intended as a supplement to and not a replacement of the Rules and Regulations of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, which is the governing body. The MSYSA Rules and Regulations are available on the [www.michiganyouthsoccer.org](http://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org) website. Any matters not provided for in these Rules and



# West Michigan Youth Soccer Association



Regulations shall be determined by the WMYSA Board of Directors and decisions so made shall be binding.

## **T. Pleas of Ignorance**

A plea of ignorance to the Rules and Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of the Association.