

West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League

Parent's Handbook



Mission/ Vision

The purpose of West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League (WCCYSL) shall be to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer among youth without regard to race, religion, color, creed, sex, national origin or playing ability. WCCYSL is committed to providing the highest quality game and playing environment at all levels. This includes providing education for the coaches, maintaining equipment/ fields and supporting all players. WCCYSL believes appropriate sideline behavior is crucial to a positive playing environment and the enjoyment of the game. Referees and field marshals play an important role in the success of the league, and are fully supported in their roles.

The guiding coaching principles are:

- To develop a love of the game in our players
- To strive to succeed on the field, with a balance between the "win" and sportsmanship
- For all players, coaches and spectators to respect the referees and the game
- To develop a sense of confidence in our players by helping them "master" the skills of the game

West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League

Clubhouse:
5161 Sobrante Ave.
El Sobrante, CA 94803

Business Mailing:
P.O. Box 216
Pinole, CA 94564
Hotline 510-758-5288

www.wccysl.com

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This handbook contains information about many of our league rules, why we have them and who enforces them. It is intended to give you as a parent some insight into the complexity of the league and the philosophy behind its structure and operation.

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Board Members of West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League (WCCYSL), I welcome you to the most popular sport in the world and now the most popular youth sport in the United States.

WCCYSL is operated entirely by volunteers. We are able to offer this program to your child because parents and other concerned people in the community volunteer their time as coaches, referees, field crew, board members, and in many other various support activities. Local schools, municipalities, and businesses support the league with fields and donations. They recognize that youth soccer represents a safe, healthy, positive recreational opportunity desperately needed in the community. We're all concerned about the proper physical and mental development of our children. WCCYSL rules are based on these concerns and intended to foster a positive, encouraging sports environment in which each player can develop physically and emotionally.

The most important thing we provide is fun. Fun is made up of many different things: the joy of play, the camaraderie of friends, the fulfillment that comes from commitment to a team, the self esteem that comes from effort and improvement and the gratification of accomplishment.

Soccer requires a team effort while encouraging individual excellence. The best trained team can lose to the inspiration and creativity of a single player given a moment of opportunity. The most gifted player may never get that moment of opportunity without the support and play of his team.

Please consider the commitment required in team sports. I ask that you make every effort to get to practices and games. Honor the commitment and effort of the other players on the team; the commitment of the coaches, of the referees and all the others who work to make this program possible. Support your player - If she's not at practice, she won't improve. If he's not at the game, he can't excel. We want your family to get the greatest benefit possible from this program.

We need you. There are many things that have to happen for the league to function. In these increasingly difficult times, we count on our members to help us keep the kids on the fields. If you can spare a couple of hours, please contact us about volunteering. It's a way to make a difference in your community right here, right now.

Ken Cole, President - WCCYSL Board of Directors
President_wccysl@comcast.net

General Information

West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League is affiliated with the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and US Club Soccer. Our geographic boundaries extend from the towns of Crockett and Port Costa, south to Richmond. We are a nonprofit organization offering Fall and Spring Soccer Programs to youths aged 4 through 18. WCCYSL is a 501(c)(3) corporation certified by the IRS and State of California. All donations are tax deductible.

In 1978, WCCYSL was formed to provide the youth in this area the opportunity to play soccer. At that time, the League consisted of six teams with a total of 60 players. Our average annual registration is now over 1,000 players.

We never know until registration is complete how many players will sign up for any particular age group. We will make every effort to give EVERY child who signs up with WCCYSL an opportunity to play soccer. Our ability to do this is completely dependent upon the number of volunteers we get. We need assistance from parents. At registration, please indicate the area in which you would like to assist: e.g., as coach, assistant coach, team coordinator, referee, field setup and takedown, publicity, special events, or any of the other areas where help is needed.

Registration

Our primary registration takes place in March and April when parents sign up their children for the Fall Season. Registration consists of filling out a registration form, paying the fee, and submitting the necessary proof of identification.

- Every player must have a copy of their birth certificate on file with the league. New players are required to provide a copy at their initial registration. We will keep this copy on file as long as the player continues to participate in WCCYSL.
- Every player must provide a photo in which the player's face is roughly the size of a nickel. A new photo is required at each successive Fall registration.

Early registration for our Spring League shall occur at the end of the Fall Season in November and another registration in the following January or February.

Check our website: www.wccysl.com for information on current fees or call the league hotline, 510-758-5288 for more info.

Recreational (In-League) and Competitive Teams

WCCYSL provides two basic levels of play:

- CYSA Division 4 (Recreational Level) is open to all applicants, and all registered players are guaranteed to play at least one half of every game contingent upon the availability of volunteer coaches. These teams play primary within WCCYSL.
- CYSA Division 1 & 3 (Competitive Play) is open to all applicants. Players must compete to win a place on a team. There is no guarantee that a particular player will play in any game or for any minimum time. These teams travel and compete outside WCCYSL against other teams and leagues in the County.

Refund Policy

Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the Executive Board of Directors. An email request made to any member of the Executive Board shall suffice.

A full refund will be granted where the league is unable to place a child on a team roster in accordance with the rules for team formation. No request is necessary – unplaced registrants will be notified by the league.

Prior to August 1st for competitive players or September 1st for recreational players, refunds will be granted routinely for cause only. If player paperwork has been submitted to District 4, a \$20 fee will be withheld. Acceptable cause is limited to:

- player injury or health reasons – doctor's statement may be requested for verification.
- Moving out of WCCYSL service area.

Prior to August 1st for competitive players or September 1st for recreational players, refunds without cause are subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors with the following limitations:

- All no-cause refunds will have \$50 withheld to cover paid fees and processing.
- If player paperwork is submitted to District 4, no-cause refunds to competitive players are subject to an additional \$50 processing fee.

Refunds after commencement of play (August 1st or September 1st) may be obtained for extraordinary circumstances only and require approval by 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors. All such refunds will be prorated.

No refunds shall be given for spring season.

Volunteer Vouchers

Each coach will be given up to three volunteer vouchers each worth \$10 WCCYSL credit. These vouchers are intended for the Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager as recognition of their service to the league. In addition, vouchers may be given by Board Members to any volunteer assisting the league in any capacity requested through the Director of Volunteers. Vouchers can be used for credit at registration the following season or to purchase league apparel items.

Soccer Seasons

Practice for the Fall Season begins in early August, with the League play running from September through mid November. There is also a Spring Season from March through June for players aged 4 to 13. Winter play may be available through other CYSA affiliates. Ask your Director of Teams for more info.

Age Group Determination

Your playing group is determined by your child's age at the beginning of fall season. Playing groups are U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19. If your child's age is four or five on or by July 31st of the year, he/she will play in the U6 group for the fall season. If six or seven by July 31st, he/she will play in the U8 group, etc. All spring players play in the age group in which they played, or would have played, the preceding fall.

Your child may not play below their appropriate age group. There are no exceptions. A child who shows advanced skills and abilities may be allowed to play up to an older age group with approval from the Board.

Formation of Teams

U6 and U8 teams are formed by the Director of Teams and the League Registrar. They group the players according to schools, neighborhoods and/or cities and try to balance the teams as fairly as possible. U10, U12, and U14 Div 4 teams are formed by the League Registrar, Director of Teams and the coaches. The players are grouped according to city and a modified blind draw is used. Div 1 and 3 teams are formed by the Competitive Director and coaches based on tryouts that occur in March and April. Tryouts are announced in the newsletter, website and by voicemail. Any player of a qualifying age (U10 and up) is encouraged to tryout for the competitive program. All players interested in playing on a Div 1 or 3 team MUST attend at least one of the try out sessions.

Due to the time and effort needed to form teams, you are not allowed to choose a coach when you register. However, you may stipulate without cause that you do not want to be placed with a specific coach.

Member Communications

The website at www.wccysl.com, league news mailings, and CallingPost (automated voicemails) are the Board of Directors' ways to keep the League well informed. In them you will get:

- the time, place, and cost of registration
- when and where coaches' meetings and clinics are to be held
- the time and place of the General Meeting for the election of the Board of Directors
- information concerning Opening Day, photo day and scheduling
- when and where referees' meetings and clinics are to be held
- issues that have a major impact on our League.

Our mailing and voicemail lists include the coaches, referees, team coordinators, parents/guardians of registered players, and the Board of Directors. Please notify the Publicity Director of a change of address anytime during the year (c/o P.O. Box 216, Pinole, CA 94564 or phone 758-5288). Contact info for the Publicity Director is on page 29.

The Board of Directors is committed to providing the best league experience possible given the resources available. If you have an idea, concern or just a question, please contact a Board Member. You can leave a voicemail at the league phone, or email a Director. Our email addresses are on our website and listed at the end of this handbook. We look forward to hearing from our members.

Calendar

Fall Registration	March, April
Referee's Entry Level Clinic	January, February
Competitive Team Tryouts	March & April
Coaches Clinics & Meetings	March, July, August
Fall Season Begins	1 st Saturday after Labor Day
Opening Day Ceremony	1 st Sunday after Labor Day
Pictures	September
Annual Board Election	November
Fall Season Ends	Mid-November
Spring Registration	November, January
Spring Season (U6 to U14 Recreational)	Late March - Mid-June

Registration Fees

Our registration fees are kept as low as possible while providing a level of service requested by our members. In 2009, the basic registration fee is \$130 for U6 players, \$140 for U8 and \$150 for all other players. There is a \$10 discount for each additional player in a family. U10 players placed on a competitive team will be assessed an additional \$90 competitive fee and U12+ players an additional \$140 which will be collected by the Competitive Director when the team is formed. Competitive players may be required to pay additional fees based on level of play and training desired by the team parents. Be sure to discuss these fees with your prospective coach if considering competitive play.

Please contact the Executive Board if you need help with fee payments or would like scholarship info. All such requests are kept confidential.

League Finances

WCCYSL is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of California. The money to run the league comes from you, via registration fees and fund raising activities, along with some donations from local businesses. Over the last several years, approximately 98% of our cash income has come from registration fees. The balance of our income comes from our fundraising, contributions, and interest income.

Your money is used exclusively to fund league activities. The following represents the average portion of your basic registration fee that goes toward various league expenses.

- CYSA membership and league registration costs (17%)
- Fields – rentals, maintenance and setup (10%)
- Equipment – balls, trophies, goals, storage (12%)
- Referees (12%)
- Development – player and coach training (16%)
- Volunteer Support – vouchers, gifts (4%)
- Events – Opening Day, All Star Games (2%)
- Communications (6%)
- Rent, insurance, taxes & affiliation fees (17%)
- Supplies and other (4%)

The additional fees for Div 1 and Div 3 play are managed separately and pay for additional playing fees outside WCCYSL, field rentals, enhanced training and team participation in one tournament and a state level tournament. These expenses are incurred only by Div. 1 and 3 players.

Equipment

Required items your child must have to play soccer include:

- Uniform - Recreational players U6 thru U10 shall purchase a reversible blue/white jersey with league logo on the front and number on the back and plain black shorts. Check with your coach or on our website for details about the stores that sell uniforms. Uniforms for U12 and older are available through the league Apparel Coordinator (See Board listing on page 29.)
- Soccer shoes (Cleats) - MUST be worn at ALL practices and games; the shoes should be sturdy with vinyl or leather tops (not nylon) to protect the feet. Rubber or plastic cleats should provide for enough traction to change direction and make sudden starts and stops. No toe cleats (football/ baseball) are allowed for safety reasons.
- Shin guards - MUST be worn at ALL practices and games. These must be the appropriate size and quality for the player.
- Socks - Should be knee length, heavy duty and must be worn over the shin guard for lower-leg protection. It is suggested the player purchase practice socks as well as game day socks. Most teams have the team coordinator buy these all in the same color, so check with that person before you purchase these for the game.
- Soccer ball - U-6 and U-8 use a Size 3, U-10 and U-12 use a Size 4, and U-14 and up use a Size 5.

Optional equipment for your player includes:

- Sweatshirts and sweatpants – stay warm in cold weather while standing on the sidelines during games and after practices.
- T-shirts - a white one and a dark colored one for scrimmages and practice games.
- Towels - to wipe off dirt and mud after practices and games. before the players get in the family car.
- Gym bags – easier transport of equipment and keeps wet or muddy gear from messing up the car.

We encourage the purchase of league apparel with the WCCYSL logo. All apparel sales provide a small profit to the league and promote WCCYSL in the community. While appreciated, no such purchases are required for participation in the league.

Be sure to write your child's name on all equipment for easy ID.

Coaches

Every year we need volunteer coaches to make the league work. Many begin with, "I'll do it, but I don't know much about soccer!" Most find that you don't need a soccer background to be a coach. If you have a willingness to learn and enjoy kids, it's great fun! We provide CYSA licensed coaching clinics at no charge. This training gives most new-to-soccer coaches the basics to run a practice. In addition, the league contracts with professional high-level soccer organizations to provide training for both coaches and players. This training is structured to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for all participants to grow in the game. The league also maintains a free library of soccer training and coaching DVDs which are available to all of the coaching staff.

We ask for your understanding and your support as we grow in soccer together. Your child's soccer coach will make mistakes. With understanding, support and communication, most situations can be addressed in a fair and timely manner. We encourage you to get to know your child's coach and help out whenever possible. Year after year, the most successful teams are the ones with the highest parent involvement.

Coaches are responsible for following "Coaches Code of Conduct" at all times. They must maintain their behavior as role models showing leadership and good sportsmanship. Violations of the "Coaches Code of Conduct" will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. Continued inappropriate behavior can result in suspension from the League.

Coach's Responsibilities

- Attend the League Coaches' clinic and meetings
- Contact each child on his/her roster by August 1 for Fall Season
- Hold a team meeting with the parents, establish open, two-way communications, request help through assistant coach(es) and a team coordinator, and provide a team roster to all parents.
- Establish a practice schedule to begin on or after August 1 (League recommends once a week for U6, twice a week for U8 and up)
- Try to have at least two adults at each practice (in case of injury)
- Assure the first-aid kit and medical releases (registration forms) are at all practices and games. **This is mandatory.**
- Learn, teach, and abide by the Laws of the Game and WCCYSL Modified Rules of Play
- Play each child at least half the game and in various field positions
- Enforce the practice of sportsmanship by all team members, their parents and other spectators

- Care for the League's equipment and the community's fields
- Advise parents of canceled practices or games.
- Remain after practice until all the children have been picked up by their parent or guardian.
- Encourage and support other teams' players as they would want other coaches to encourage their players

Player Discipline by Coach

It would be unrealistic to expect all children to be on their best behavior all the time. However, continuous, serious misbehavior will not be tolerated; the safety of all players and an orderly encouraging practice and game environment is a fundamental expectation of every member. Minor infractions may be disciplined in an appropriate, consistent manner. Serious infractions could lead to loss of playing time in future games. If a player is having trouble maintaining proper behavior at practice, the coach has the right to require that a parent stay for the entire practice. If the problems persist, the Director of Teams should be contacted by the coach or the parents, and the child could be suspended from further participation.

Dissatisfaction with Child's Coach

Talk to your child's coach and explain your concerns; chances are that other parents have the same concerns. Should you be unable to resolve a problem, contact your Director of Teams or the Executive Board regarding your issue.

Responsibilities of Parents and Players

Soccer is a team sport and WCCYSL is a volunteer organization. Things work better if everyone cooperates and abides by certain expectations. Here are a few expectations of players and parents to make the season run more smoothly:

Players are expected to:

- Treat each other with respect; that is, no fighting, hitting, pushing, foul language, throwing rocks, dirt or other objects at each other.
- Follow the coach's directions to the best of their ability at practices and games
- Do their best at each practice and game to support their team.

Parents are expected to:

- Get their players to practices and games on time and pick them up on time.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Support their child's coach and other team volunteers.
- Do your fair share of volunteer work for the league.
- Support the League in the community at during fundraising.

Referees, Team Coordinators, and Field Coordinators

If you aren't ready to take on the considerable obligations required of a coach, consider positions like referee, team coordinator, assistant coach, or field coordinator. The time commitment is less and you are still contributing to your child's soccer program.

Our referees are all United States Soccer Federation (USSF) licensed. After a 18-hour class on the soccer laws, referee candidates must score 75 or better on a 100-question test. The class and uniform fees are eligible for reimbursement by the League. WCCYSL pays referees per game at a rate set annually by the Board and dependent on age group. Contact the Director of Referees if you are interested. This is an excellent opportunity for teenage soccer players. They can earn money and give something back to their soccer program at the same time. Please visit www.wccysl.com – Referee's page for more information.

Team coordinators help the coach with "administrative items:" assigning responsibility for team refreshments (snack schedule), helping with pictures, coordinating rides, team party, etc. Don't wait for your coach to ask -- VOLUNTEER!

Assistant Coaches are needed for each team. Every coach needs help. You might start here and give yourself a promotion to Head Coach next season. Take a coaching clinic now and prepare for the future.

Field coordinators are assigned a specific field and are paid for their service at the end of the season. The coordinators will arrange for volunteers to serve on field crews as needed for setup and takedown, which includes painting the field, moving the goals, attaching nets, and placing corner flags. Contact the Director of Fields if interested.

It's possible to do more than one thing. Many of our coaches are also referees. All of our Board members appreciate help. The Publicity Director needs more hands for labeling, we always need field marshalls and the list goes on. . .

Paying Volunteers

Other leagues have tried using only volunteers for referees and field setup. They had many problems with no-shows, poor officiating and unprepared fields. We are pleased with the results of our system. WCCYSL is recognized for one of the top Referee programs in the Bay Area. We have implemented the "pay" method for field setup, with the same success we have had with our referees.

Safety

Your child's safety before, during, and after practices and games depends on three groups of people: you, team officials (coaches and coordinators), and your child. It is your responsibility as a parent/guardian to provide transportation for your child to and from practices, insure your child is dressed per league requirements in clothing appropriate for the weather, and to make sure the coach knows of any alternate arrangements for pick-up ahead of time.

It is the coaches' responsibility to see that the children warm up and cool down properly, practice with proper equipment, and do not wear jewelry (earrings must be removed, not taped) or watches while playing. It is their responsibility to provide first aid as needed, accompany a child (along with his/her medical release) to the hospital if necessary, notify parent/guardian of discipline issues and to create an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and teamwork.

It is your child's responsibility to report to the coach anytime he/she is injured, to initiate and do warm-up exercises when arriving late for practice, to drink some, but not too much water at break or halftime, and NEVER initiate violent contact with other players.

NEVER leave your child at a practice or game field without being absolutely positive a coach or team coordinator is there and aware of your child's arrival. The practice could have been changed to a different time or field, or canceled. These cases are very rare, but have occurred.

Injury to Player

At the referee's discretion, play is stopped until the injured child can leave the field or is able to continue playing. Parents are not allowed on the playing field. Coaches may only step onto the field with the permission of the referee.

Medical Care and Insurance Claims

Proper warm-up and coaching directives help prevent these types of injuries from happening, but there are still a number that occur. Injuries requiring medical care will be covered by CYSA insurance as a secondary carrier, after your own insurance as the primary. There is a \$100 deductible. Each coach has an insurance claim request form in his CYSA manual. The form is also available at www.cysanorth.org.

Sportsmanship

Youth soccer provides opportunities for players to have fun and to learn good sportsmanship, self-reliance, and teamwork. At WCCYSL, participation and self-improvement are emphasized and WINNING IS SECONDARY. This philosophy was developed by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and is endorsed by the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and WCCYSL. To encourage sportsmanship, CYSA has developed:

Commandments for Parents

- Emphasize enjoyment and fun!
- Praise effort as well as improvement.
- Avoid heckling, jeering or distracting players.
- Applaud positive performance by either team.
- Appreciate a good play – no matter who makes it.
- Always encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.
- Relax and enjoy the game whether your team wins or not.
- Attempt to understand and be informed of the rules.
- Avoid criticizing players, coaches or referees for the loss of the game.

Commandments for Players

- Treat opponents with respect. Be a good sport!
- Control your temper at all times.
- Play hard, but play within the rules.
- How you play is far more important than winning or losing.
- Where the rules apply, try to understand them and stick to them.
- Play for the "fun of it", not just to please your parents or coach.
- Win without boasting, lose without excuses and never quit.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions without argument.
- Always remember it is a privilege to represent CYSA and your community.

Please discuss these with your children. We also expect our coaches and spectators to behave in a sportsmanlike manner. Our Rules of Play state that "...spectators shall not make profane or derogatory remarks or gestures, dissent from referees' decisions, or incite disruptive behavior." Our policies state that each coach is responsible for the behavior of those on his/her sidelines. Coaches should instruct the parents in proper game behavior prior to the start of the season. Players appreciate positive, enthusiastic cheers from their families, friends, and all spectators. Cheer good plays by either team, just as you would those by your child. Screaming or negative comments is always counterproductive; it interferes with your coach's efforts and detracts from the fun. Allow your child to play his/her own game.

Choice of Field Side for Spectators

The home team will have the choice of which side of the field to use. The visiting team will be on the opposite side of the field when space permits.

Disruptive Spectators

Speak to the coach and then to the spectator. Point out the disruptive behavior and the possible consequences if it continues. Many times, parents get "caught up" in the excitement and don't realize how disruptive they have become. A friendly request to tone it down is usually all that is needed. However, according to our Rules of Play, "If a spectator fails to respond to a team official's request to desist from improper behavior, the referee is empowered to either eject the spectator(s) or terminate the match." In such event, a decision as to the disposition of the match and disciplinary action will be decided upon by a Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

Disagreements with the Referee

It is against the Laws of the Game to disagree with the referee's decision by word or action. We all disagree with the referee from time to time; after all, everyone can make mistakes. However, becoming upset and yelling at the referee is unsportsmanlike, illegal, and will get you removed from the sideline. Like our players, many of our referees are learning. If you feel the referee has erred, please contact the Director of Referees and discuss the matter with him. If you are not satisfied with the result, you may contact the Board in writing. But stop to consider: what would the game be like if you didn't have any referees at all? Are you ready to take the place of the referee you're complaining about?

Disciplinary Committee

The Board of Directors may appoint a Disciplinary Committee, which has the responsibility for investigating, recording evidence, and taking or recommending action to the Board for any unsportsmanship like conduct by players, coaches, or spectators, which violates CYSA/FIFA, or WCCYSL Rules of Play or WCCYSL Policies. The Committee will be comprised of League members who will meet on an as-needed basis. Should you as a League member feel a disciplinary issue has occurred, please contact the Director of Teams for your child's age group who will take the necessary information and inform the Executive Board. Violent behavior should be reported directly to the Executive Board immediately.

Game Days

Game days have traditionally been Saturday. In order to accommodate more players and to use fields more efficiently, the League may schedule some Sunday games as necessary. On game day, being on time requires players to be in uniform and on the field 15-30 minutes before game time. This allows time for warm-ups, team talk, player pass and equipment check by the referees, and the coin toss. Game day is the time for parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and friends to show their appreciation for the players' efforts.

Carpooling for Practices

At the first team meeting (usually held as a "parents only" meeting by the coach before the first practice) you should make arrangements for car pooling. An example would be for one person to take the players to practice and another person to bring them home.

Unattended Players

NO children will be left at the practice field unattended. The coach or team coordinator will either wait until someone comes or take the child home. (This should be discussed at the organizational meeting)

Glasses

If your child wears corrective lenses, we recommend that he/she wear sturdy safety glasses (or sports glasses) and a strap that wraps around the player's head to prevent them from falling off during play. However, glasses are allowed in play under USYS and CYSA rules.

Headguards

In Sept 2003, CYSA adopted FIFA's position on permitting modern, protective equipment. We recognize the importance of offering the safest environment possible for all of our players and protective headguards are something parents might consider for their child: "The Full90 Performance Headguard provides soccer players a heightened level of protection by reducing risks associated with head-to-head or head-to-foot contact, without affecting their style of play." Headguards are not required wear at this time.

Field Usage Rules

We are considered guests at all fields since this league owns none. We must abide by all field rules, which include:

- NO dogs allowed on any field and not on the sidelines.
- NO alcohol and no smoking at any field
- Everything brought in must be taken off the field (no trash left behind)

Bad Weather

Games are usually canceled or postponed if the field is in unplayable condition. WCCYSL follows a 24 hour rainout policy – if there is significant rain within 24 hours of game time, please watch for potential cancellation of the game. Game cancellations due to weather will posted on the league website, www.wccysl.com and recorded on the hotline – 758-5288. You should show up for games and practices unless otherwise informed by your coach.

WCCYSL MODIFIED RULES

FIFA Laws of the Game are modified for youth soccer and the rules change with each age group. Referees control the field while the coaches are expected to control their sidelines. All spectators must stay at least three (3) feet back along the touchline and no one is allowed behind the goal line. All coaches are to stay within 10 yards of the center line along the touchline (the Technical Zone). Many fields will have the technical zone marked. No one is permitted onto the field unless called on by the referee (and then only the coach and players). Good sportsmanship should be practiced and encouraged at all times. Positive words of encouragement are always appropriate. Cheer for your team but allow the coach to do the coaching so as not to confuse the players.

No jewelry or hard casts are permitted. Safety equipment such as soccer shoes and shin guards must be worn at all times with the shin guards covered by the athletes' socks. Substitutions are allowed at quarters, at halftime, prior to a throw-in by your team, prior to a goal kick and after a goal has been scored. Substitutions may be made after play has been stopped for an injured player by either team. All substitutions are made with the permission of the referee. On a kickoff, goal kick or free kick, the kicker may not touch the ball again until it is touched by a second player. The REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL in all cases.

If a team (Div 4 recreational play) is more than 5 goals ahead of an opposing team, adjustments to their line up MUST be made in the interest of good sportsmanship. "Blowouts" are NOT condoned.

U5 & U6 Div 4 Recreational (House) Soccer – Small Sided Games

The goal is to have FUN and play SAFELY. This is a learning year for the children and the parents. Small sided games for the U5/6 program are designed to give each player more playing time and "touches" on the ball. There is no referee on the field. One coach from each team may be permitted on the field.

- 8 minute quarters with 2 min substitution breaks & 5 min halftime
- No throw-ins, no direct kicks, no penalty kicks, no offsides
- No goal may be scored from a kickoff
- 3 players on the field
- No designated goalkeeper
- Size 3 ball

U7 & U8 Div 4 Recreational (House) Soccer

- 10 minute quarters, 2 min. breaks and 5 min. halftime
- No direct kicks, no penalty kicks
- 1 retake on incorrect throw-ins
- Only blatant offsides apply.
- No goal may be scored from a kickoff
- 7 players on the field including the goalkeeper
- Size 3 ball

U9 & U10 Div 4 Recreational (House) Soccer

- 12 minute quarters, 2 minute breaks and 4 minute halftime
- No direct kicks, no penalty kicks
- Blatant offsides apply
- Goal may be scored from the kick off
- 8 players on the field including the goalkeeper
- Size 4 ball

U12 Soccer

- 30 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime
- Direct kicks and penalty kicks apply
- Offsides apply
- 11 players on the field
- Size 4 ball

U14 Soccer

- 35 min halves with a 5 minute halftime
- Size 5 ball

U16 Soccer

- 40 min halves

U19 Soccer

- 45 min halves

Simplified Laws of the Game

The FIFA laws presented here are NOT COMPLETE and are intended only as an overview. For more information, see the website for information on the laws or contact the Director of Referees.

LAW NO. 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY

The field is longer than it is wide, varies in size depending on the age group, has a goal at each end, a center line, and a center circle.

LAW NO. 2 - THE BALL

A regulation ball shall be used of a size appropriate to the age of the players as stated above.

LAW NO. 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

All players must be registered and have a player pass. The number of players (on the field during a game) varies according to age. An ejected player may not be replaced. Unlimited substitutions are allowed, WITH THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION, at the following times: Prior to a throw-in for your team, prior to a goal kick (either team), after a goal (either team), after the referee stops play due to an injury (either team), after the referee stops play to caution a player (cautioned player only), at halftime (or at quarters, if applicable) either team. Referee should be notified prior to substituting the Goalkeeper.

LAW NO. 4 - PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

The uniform shall consist of a jersey, shorts, shin guards, calf socks, and soccer (cleated) shoes. The shin guards must be worn under the socks and be completely covered by the socks. The goalkeeper must wear a different color jersey than the rest of the team. **NOTHING POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO ANOTHER PLAYER MAY BE WORN.**

LAW NO. 5 - THE REFEREE

The referee is in charge of all game activity. It is the referee's job to keep the game clock, enforce the laws, and stop the game for injuries. They will refrain from penalizing in cases where they believe that awarding a penalty would give an advantage to the offending team. They can eject players from the field or eject coaches or spectators from the sidelines. **THEY CAN TERMINATE A GAME IF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED. ALL DECISIONS OF REFEREES ARE FINAL!** Ejections and reports of dissent are subject to disciplinary action.

LAW NO. 6 – ASSISTANT REFEREE

Two assistant referees may assist the referee in calling out of bounds, offsides, and enforcing the Laws. They can be overruled by the referee. Dissent or disrespect to the Assistant Referee carries the same penalties as it does to the Referee.

LAW NO. 7 - GAME DURATION

The game length varies depending on the age. U-6, U-8 and U-10 games are divided into quarters; all others are divided into halves.

LAW NO. 8 - START OF PLAY

A kickoff shall start play at the beginning of the game, after halftime, and after each goal is scored. The ball is kicked from the center spot into the opponents' half of the field. The kicker may not touch the ball twice. A goal may be scored from a kickoff in U10 and older play.

LAW NO. 9 - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play when the entire ball is completely over the entire goal line (end line/ goal) or touchline (sideline) or when the referee stops the game.

LAW NO. 10 - GOAL SCORING

A goal is scored when the entire ball crosses the entire goal line between the posts and under the crossbar.

LAW NO. 11 - OFFSIDES

A player is offside when he is in the opponent's half of the field AND closer to his opponents' goal line than the ball AND there are not two defenders (one may be the goalkeeper) between him and the goal line WHEN the ball is last kicked, AND he is involved in the play (now interpreted as "playing or touching the ball"). The referee will not call offside if the player receives the ball directly from a throw-in, a corner kick, a goal kick, or when it has been dropped by the referee. More information may be obtained from the Director of Referees or the WCCYSL website.

LAW NO. 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Note: The following may be applied differently for younger age groups. If any of the following ten acts are committed INTENTIONALLY against an opponent, the referee can award a direct free kick to the offended team:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for goalkeeper within own penalty area)

If any of the following occur, an indirect free kick shall be awarded:

- Plays in a dangerous manner; i.e., high kick, heading a low ball
- Impedes the progress of an opponent (obstruction)
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands
- Commits any other offense not previously mentioned
- If the goalkeeper
 - takes more than 6 seconds while controlling the ball with their hands
 - touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player
 - touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
 - touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

A player, coach or spectator shall be cautioned (yellow card) if he/she:

- Is guilty of unsporting behavior
- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Delays the restart of play
- Fails to respect the required distance when a play is restarted with a corner kick or a free kick
- Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

A player, coach or spectator shall be ejected (red card) if he/she:

- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (does not apply to goalkeeper)
- Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- Uses offensive, or insulting or abusive language and/ or gestures (including foul language)
- Receives a second caution (yellow card) in the same match

LAW NO. 13 - FREE KICKS

A goal may be scored directly from a Direct Free Kick. An Indirect Free Kick must touch another player (from either team) before passing into the goal.

LAW NO. 14 - PENALTY KICKS

A penalty kick is awarded in lieu of a direct free kick when one of the major fouls is committed inside the penalty area. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper must stay outside the penalty area and penalty arc until the ball is kicked.

LAW NO. 15 - THROW IN

After the entire ball passes over the entire touch line, the team opposite the team that last touched it shall restart play by throwing the ball in as follows: Both feet must be on or behind the line, touching the ground. With both hands on the ball, start behind the head and deliver the ball directly over the head.

LAW NO. 16 - GOAL KICKS

A goal kick is awarded to the defensive team when the offensive team puts the ball out of play over the goal line but not into the goal.

LAW NO. 17 - CORNER KICKS

A corner kick is awarded to the offensive team when the defensive team puts the ball out of bounds over their own goal line but not into the goal. The ball is kicked from the corner nearest to where it went out of bounds. A goal can be scored directly; the kicker cannot touch the ball twice in a row. No one can be offside if receiving a ball directly from a corner kick.

For complete information on the Laws of the Game, please see the link on the WCCYSL website. FIFA issues interpretations of laws to clarify certain situations. Our referees are apprised of these interpretations at annual clinics and inservice meetings.

Law NO. 18 – DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE ARE FINAL! Despite any belief you may hold to the contrary, no disagreement with the judgement of the referee will ever be upheld in your favor. NO decision of an acting referee will be reversed based on a complaint from a coach or spectator – EVER! Any actions taken on the field or off to demonstrate dissent with a referee's call will be cause for disciplinary action by the Board of WCCYSL. If you believe a referee is continually in error, you may contact the Director of Referees to RESPECTFULLY request the referee be assessed by a mentor. Any such action is solely at the discretion of the Director of Referees.

Board of Directors – Who does what?

Every November, WCCYSL holds its General Meeting to elect the following year's Board of Directors. Those eligible to participate and vote at this meeting are coaches, assistant coaches, referees, team coordinators, the sitting Board members and all parents/guardians of the League's registered players. In September or October, the Board of Directors requests candidates for next year's Board Members. Throughout the year, the League Newsletter advises anyone who wants to join the Board of current openings. Members may place a name in nomination for any Board position by contacting the Executive Board in writing at anytime during the year. At the General Meeting, all nominees are asked to briefly tell about themselves and why they are running for a Board position. At present, there are 26 Board Positions. In the absence of opposing candidates, BOD members may be seated by acclamation.

The Board of Directors is organized by functions which fall under Executive and General duties. Executive Board members are those whose primary duties include interpreting and implementing rules or requirements imposed on the league by outside agencies or organizations. These positions include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Competitive Director and Director of Referees. All other functions are included under the General Board.

The Board of Directors has at least one Board Meeting every month. These meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month in the league clubhouse at 5161 Sobrante Ave., El Sobrante. Meetings start at 7:00 PM November through March, 7:30 PM April through October.

The following page begins a list of the Board of Director positions and a brief description of their duties.

Executive Board:

The Executive Board of Directors comprises officers who regularly interact with agencies outside the league. Executive Board members are charged with interpreting law, policy and rules of outside agencies which have an effect on the operation of the league, and establishing league philosophy, policy and procedure necessary to abide by those interpretations. The Executive Board is expected to meet monthly and keep the league in compliance with all regulations governing corporations, soccer leagues and soccer play. The Executive Board is responsible for developing and maintaining the league's annual budget and for bringing a budget forward for annual approval by the Board of Directors. The Executive Board is responsible for all disciplinary matters brought to the Board.

General Board:

The Board of Directors comprises all those duly elected officers of the league responsible for those functions necessary to league operation as stipulated in WCCYSL's Bylaws, Policies and Procedures. Individual Directors have responsibility for some aspect of league operations and may have budgetary management responsibilities as part of their duties. All Board Members have nominal discretionary funds at their disposal. The Board of Directors is required to meet quarterly but usually meets in full on a monthly basis.

The following is a general description of the duties assigned to each Director and is intended as an information guideline only. The duties of any individual director include, but are not limited to, what is set forth in each description. As needs arise or positions are vacated, each Director may be called upon to fill a necessary opening temporarily.

1. President – **(Executive Director)** The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors. The President shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the Office of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The President shall attend

the California Youth Soccer Association quarterly meetings (District IV) and shall report to the Board the goings-on of CYSA local chapter. He shall represent WCCYSL and its Board of Directors at the CYSA Annual General Meeting and act in the league's behalf. The President is authorized to enter the league into formal contracts with the approval of the Board of Directors. The President has oversight on all budgetary matters and expenditures within the league. The President is charged with maintaining the league's compliance with all external governing statutes and regulations affecting league operations and representing the best interests of all WCCYSL members in all fiduciary matters.

2. Vice President – **(Executive Director)** In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have the powers and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors and shall be the District IV representative for Division IV play and WCCYSL Director for Division IV play. The Vice President has oversight on all budget and operational matters related to the Div IV program in WCCYSL and has final authority on all training implemented for the Div IV program.

3. Treasurer – **(Executive Director)** The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and will report all financial activity to the board at regular intervals. The treasurer shall insure that bills are paid promptly and that the monthly bank statements are reconciled. Treasurer shall maintain the annual budget on a monthly basis and provide a final annual accounting to the Board. The Treasurer has budgetary oversight on all expenditures made by the league. Treasurer is the official liaison between the Board and hired league accountants. The Treasurer is responsible for filing league state and federal tax forms and paying associated fees as appropriate.

4. Secretary – **(Executive Director)** The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of the minutes of each Board meeting and

distribute copies of the minutes to each board member. The Secretary will convey to the Board any correspondence addressed to the WCCYSL and will respond as may be prescribed by the board. The Secretary is the primary conduit for league-wide communication between the Board and league members. This position is responsible for updating the league hotline with rainout instructions when necessary and coordinating league informational announcements with the Director of the Website. The Secretary or designee may produce and distribute flyers, newsletters or other special announcements to the membership periodically as directed by the Board. The Secretary may nominate a Communications Coordinator who maintains CallingPost phone trees and implements messages to the general league or selected subsets of the members as directed by the Board. The Secretary has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, for materials and infrastructure required to implement necessary league communications.

5. Director Referees – (Executive Director) The Referees Director shall secure a network of referees and schedule them for all league games. This officer’s duties may include offering a referees clinic for all referees and securing payment for their work. He/she shall attend and represent WCCYSL at the District IV Referee Coordinators meetings. The Referees Director shall keep abreast of all FIFA and CYSA rule changes and provide interpretation and implementation of those changes to the league’s referees and teams. The Referees Director will periodically evaluate referees to assure they are qualified to the highest level possible and appropriately assigned. The Referees Director may nominate an assistant(s) as deemed necessary and has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to pay referees, buy equipment, and run clinics, etc.

6. Director Competitive Teams DIV I & III – (Executive Director) The Director of Competitive Teams shall represent WCCYSL at the District IV Competitive and Golden State Soccer League, and Norcal Premier meetings and shall administer the program of the league-sponsored teams in the District IV Competitive League, GSSL and Norcal Premier in accordance with those procedures. The Competitive Director is the final authority in matters of

competitive team staffing, rosters and team flighting for WCCYSL. The Competitive Director has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to pay outside league fees, tournament fees, etc. The Competitive Director has oversight on all budget matters related to the Div I and Div III program in WCCYSL. Director of Competitive coordinates with the Director of Scheduling to schedule all Div 1 and Div III games on WCCYSL fields and also schedules all reserved practice field time for Div I and Div III teams. The Competitive Director has final authority on all training implemented for the Div I and Div III program. Competitive Director’ may nominate Competitive Boys and Girls Coordinators to fulfill designated duties with the Competitive Director retaining final authority in all matters.

7. Director Fields (Facilities) – The Director of Fields shall secure field permits as directed by the Executive Board and arrange for fields to be set up and taken down as scheduled. The Director of Fields also secures permits for other non-league venues as directed by the Executive Board. The Director of fields has oversight for the condition and maintenance of secured fields and also for general condition of the clubhouse and notifies the Board of any necessary maintenance or expenditures required. The Director of fields has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to secure fields or venues and pay for routine setup of fields and nominal maintenance required to keep fields playable. This budget includes supplies for flags, striping paint and equipment and clubhouse upkeep. Director of Fields may nominate a Facilities Coordinator to fulfill designated duties with the Director of Fields retaining final authority in all matters.

8. Director Equipment – The Director of Equipment shall purchase and distribute equipment to coaches for practice and games. Routine equipment for teams shall include practice balls, game balls, practice pennies, cones and a first aid kit. The Director of Equipment also shall order and distribute awards for place and participation to teams, coaches and other volunteers in the Div IV program. The Director of Equipment has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, for the procurement of necessary equipment. The Director of equipment may make other purchases of necessary equipment as directed by the Board.

9. Director(s) Teams Div IV – At the direction of the Vice President, Director(s) of Teams secures quality coaches and assistant coaches for each Div IV team and oversees rostering of players to individual teams within the pertinent age group(s). The Director of teams is the primary contact for coaches, player and parent business with the league and the channel for routine information going out to coaches, players and parents within the age group. The Director of Teams coordinates with the Registrar to assure all coaches and players have completed registration with WCCYSL as prescribed by the Board and league policies. The Director of Teams coordinates with the Executive Board on all disciplinary matters arising from play in the age group. Nominal age group distinctions are U6, U8, U10+ Boys and U10+ Girls.. Age group distinctions may be divided further depending upon registration in group.

10. Director Scheduling – The Scheduling Director is in charge of scheduling location, time and dates for all Div IV games for the spring and fall seasons. The Director of Scheduling will work with ACCYSL and Benicia as appropriate to schedule cooperative games when the WCCYSL flight for the age group is too small to allow internal play alone. Director of scheduling will coordinate with the Director of Competitive to schedule Div I and Div III games on WCCYSL permitted fields. The director of Scheduling may be asked to help schedule special events periodically. Director of Scheduling is responsible for maintaining the League calendar of events and notifying the Executive Board in a timely manner of upcoming events that require agenda items for planning. The Director of Scheduling also tracks availability of the league Clubhouse for the Board, teams and membership.

11. Director Publicity/Fundraising – The Director of Publicity notifies local media of upcoming league events at the direction of the Board. The Publicity Director works to establish relationships between the league and local businesses that increase league membership or resources and improve recognition of the individual businesses among the league membership. The Director of Publicity may work in conjunction with the Secretary or Communications Coordinator to improve dissemination of information throughout the membership. The Publicity Director

has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to purchase media, maintain communications channels and improve community relations.

12. Director Website – The Website Director is in charge of the league website as the primary channel for league information to both the members and the at large community. The Website Director will ensure all content is implemented and maintained on the website as directed by the Board. The Website Director will maintain infrastructure, applications and provider services necessary to ensure the website remains fully functional and has features appropriate to the operation of the league and intent of the Board. The Website Director has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to maintain the website and associated equipment and software. The Website Director coordinates with the Secretary or Communications Coordinator regularly so that information necessary to the general membership is kept up to date and easily accessible. The Website Director advises the Executive Board on new web issues and features available to improve league communications and operation.

13. Director Events – The Events Director is responsible for setting up special events that have become tradition within the league. Traditional events include Opening Day festivities, Picture Day, Div IV All-Star Game Day and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The Events Director may be asked to facilitate other special events at the discretion of the Board. The Events Director coordinates with the Director of Fields to secure venues and the Secretary to publicize events to the membership. The Director of Events is responsible for securing the necessary volunteer help from the membership to accommodate league functions. The Director of Events has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to provide for equipment, facilities and consumables necessary to put on the stipulated events. The Director of Events may nominate a Volunteer Coordinator to manage resources with the Director of Events retaining final authority in all matters.

14. Director Field Marshalls – The Field Marshalls Director is responsible for securing volunteers to observe the behavior of coaches, players and parents at WCCYSL fields during regularly scheduled WCCYSL games. These Field Marshalls shall monitor behavior and be a visible reminder to those attending that the Board supports appropriate positive behavior and is aware of the playing environment. The Director of Field Marshalls coordinates with the Events Director to secure volunteers, and the Director of Referees to assure games of interest are observed. The Director of Field Marshalls has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, to procure identifying apparel and necessary equipment to support the Field Marshall program.

15. Immediate Past President: This officer shall be a non-elected position filled by the immediate past president of WCCYSL. He/she shall be responsible for acting as liaison for the sitting President and providing historical information that the Board of Directors may find useful. The Immediate Past President shall have voting privileges except if he/she holds concurrent offices at either the District or State organizations.

16. Registrar – The Registrar is charged with holding public registrations and performing all registration procedures as stipulated by CYSA North, GSSL and US Club Soccer. The Registrar attends all meetings of the Board of Directors to advise the Board of registration status and all matters related to registration. Registrar may divide duties into Club Registrar (Div I & III players and teams) and League Registrar (Div IV players and teams). Registrar(s) advise the Executive Board on requirements, fees and procedures for all membership registration with the Executive Board retaining final authority on all matters. If paid, the Registrar is a non-voting position acting in an advisory capacity to the Board and is paid annually under contract based on the number of registered players in the various age groups and programs.

17. Director –Coaches/ Player Development (Technical Director) - Technical Director is charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive training program for league players and coaches. Technical Director is responsible for defining and applying a

training curriculum across all player age groups and playing levels within WCCYSL. Technical Director shall evaluate Comp coaches in cooperation with the Competitive Director to determine proper assignment of professional trainers and coaches to the individual teams. Technical Director shall secure proper staffing and schedule appropriate training for all playing Divisions in accordance with directions from the Executive Board. The Technical Director may be a non-voting position paid under contract as amenable to the Board. If paid, the Technical Director attends all Board meetings in the capacity of a contractor providing the specified services and advising the Board on general training matters. The Technical Director has a discretionary budget, approved by the Board annually, for the procurement of contract trainers and coaches assigned within the training program. If paid, the Technical Director reports to the Competitive Director and Vice President who retain full authority over program and budgetary matters.

WEBSITE LINKS

West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League

www.wccysl.com

District IV of California Youth Soccer Association

www.district4soccer.com

Golden State Soccer League (D4 & D3 Competitive Playing League)

www.goldenstatesoccer.com

California Youth Soccer Association - North

www.cysanorth.org

Referees – California North District IV (Referee Clinics are posted here)

<http://www.d4ra.com>

– Visit WCCYSL.com for a current list of Board Members –



Non-Profit
Organization
Permit # 47
Pinole

West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League
P.O. Box 216
Pinole, CA 94564