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**SOCCER RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**OF THE WATERFORD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE**

**Updated 11-17-25**

This body shall be known as the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department (WPRD), also known as the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department Youth Soccer League (WPRDYSL).

The purpose of the WPRDYSL is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of area youth through the sport of soccer at a recreational level. The WPRDYSL shall provide the governing structure to administer youth soccer in Waterford and shall provide a vehicle to communicate information to players, parents, coaches, referees and other interested parties.

All rules, guidelines, regulations and amendments will be subject to approval of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board.

**Article 1: Coaches**

- A. Coaches will be expected to honor all the rules of the game, as well as obey them.
- B. Coaches will be subjected to a background check of their character.
- C. Good sportsmanship and responsible examples shall be displayed at all times when with their teams.

**Article 2: General**

- A. The WPRD will establish playing rules provided they do not conflict with the rules of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association by-laws or constitution.

**Article 3: Team Formation, Player Regulations and Registration**

- A. Players will be assigned to teams by the WPRD
- B. Players will be assigned to teams in the order of the following protocol:
  - 1. Age: The age of the player **determined by birth year** of the current year will be the eligible age for that seasonal year of soccer (per USYSA and MSYSA). **Boys and girls will play on separate leagues; except U6 & U8 Division will be coed.**
  - 2. School Attended: Every effort will be made to place the player with other players from their school
  - 3. Geographical Location: The area the player lives in.
  - 4. Players can play on only one house team in this league during any season. Players, if selected, can also play on a Premier Team in a Premier League; but the Premier Team will be the primary team for games and practices. All

pertinent registration procedures for dual registration will be followed with MSYSA. Premier players will be equally distributed among the House Teams, with no House Team in any age division having more than one Premier player, until all teams in that division has at least one Premier player.

- C. Normally, once a player is assigned to a team, the player will be required to remain on that team. Players will be allowed to change teams only with the permission of the League Director and Parks and Recreation Supervisor. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to change teams later than two weeks after rosters have been issued.
- D. Roster sizes: Under 6 1/2 – 6-7, Under 8 1/2 - 10-12, Under 10 1/2 - 11-14, Under 12 1/2 - 15-20 and Under 14 1/2 - 15-20. Roster sizes maybe adjusted to accommodate the number of players registered.
- E. The WPRD will be responsible for setting all registration dates and collecting all registration fees. Players will register each season - Spring and Fall.
- F. **Player Fees and Waivers.** A signed player waiver with parent’s signature(s) and player fee must be turned into the WPRD before any player will be allowed to participate in practices or games. **This includes all Waterford Warrior teams.**
- G. Teams will be formed in the Fall and Spring of each year. The seasonal year will commence on **August 1<sup>st</sup> and end on July 31<sup>st</sup>** the following year.
- H. Teams formed in the Fall will remain together through the Spring season. Players not playing in the Fall and registering to play in the Spring will be placed on an existing FALL team if that team is in need of players or on a new team. Every effort will be made to move the players along with the same Coach when the team moves up in age divisions from year to year.
- I. Players will play in the age groups as designated by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.
- J. Any player or parent who willfully falsifies their registration for a team will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.

#### **Article 4: Rules of Play**

- A. All games will be governed by the rules as approved by FIFA except as amended herein.

B.	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>	<u>Field Size</u>	<u>Players</u>
Under 6 ½	#3	6x12	35x30 yards	4
Under 8 ½	#3	6x12	30x50 yards	5
Under 10½	#4	7x21	50x70 yards	7
Under 12 ½	#4	7x21	50x 80 yards	9
Under 14½-16½	#5	8x24	60x100 yards (max)	11

- C. Length of games:
- Under 14½: Two 35-minute halves
  - Under 12½: Two 30-minute halves
  - Under 10½: Two 25-minute halves
  - Under 8½: Four 10- minute quarters
  - Under 6½: Four 10- minute quarters
- D. Substitutions: Substitutions can be made at any stoppage in play or dead ball with the referee's permission.
- E. Goal kicks: Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ - opponents must be 6 yards off. All other age groups - as directed by FIFA.
- F. Corner kicks: Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ - **indirect (no goal may be scored directly)**. All other age groups – direct, a goal may be scored.
- G. Free kicks: Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ - all are indirect. **All other age groups – direct or indirect based on the reason for the start or restart of play.**
- H. Throw In: Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ - there will be one re-throw in on a throw in. All other age groups – conform to FIFA rules.
- I. **Heading the ball: No player in the U12, U10, U8 and U6 divisions will be allowed to head the ball.**
- J. Goal Differential:
- 1.) If there is a 3 goal difference: team up goals must pull 1 player.
  - 2.) If there is a 5 goal difference: team down goals adds 1 player.
  - 3.) Once 3 goal difference is reached, team down goals pulls the added player.
  - 4.) Once 1 goal difference is reached, team up goals returns to normal number of players on field.
- K. Rules for Goalkeepers:
- 1. Goalie Restart – Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ does not apply. All other age groups - goalie has eight seconds to put the ball in play. A corner kick will be awarded to the opposing team if the goalie takes longer than (8) seconds.
  - 2. One finger on a dead ball constitutes possession by the Goalkeeper.
  - 3. Charging the Goalkeeper will not be allowed in any age group.
- L. Individual playing time: All players will play at least one-half of the game. However, players arriving late for games or who miss two or more consecutive practices immediately preceding their game will play at their coach's discretion. Please inform the referee and opposing coach if you with holding players time.

- M. Positioning on sidelines of coaches, parents/spectators, and players:
- Under 6 ½ & Under 8 ½ - coaches are allowed on both sides of the field and by their own goal. Opposing teams' parents/spectators and their players should be on opposite sides of the field. Home team has choice of side.
  - Under 10 ½ - coaches are allowed on both sides of the field and by their own goal. Opposing teams' parents/spectators and their players should be on opposite sides of the field. Home team has choice of side.
  - Under 12 ½, 14 ½ and 16 ½ - Opposing teams' parents/spectators and their players should be on opposite sides of the field. Home team has choice of side.
  - No Coach or substitute is to be anywhere except outside the touchline between the 18yard lines.
  - Players should remain at least two years back from the touchline during games.
- N. Spectators: The behavior of spectators will be their teams' coaches' responsibility. That coach can be cautioned for the behavior of his teams' spectators by the Referee officiating that game.
- O. Coaches must furnish a league roster on demand of the Referee officiating their game.
- P. Both coaches and referees will sign the score card at the end of each game.
- Q. All games will be played as scheduled by the league. Games cancelled due to adverse weather will be rescheduled as soon as possible and all coaches will be notified in time to call their players with the new game time. Teams must play rescheduled games as assigned by the WPRD
- R. If at the start of a game a team does not have enough players to start the game, coaches should agree to do one of the following:
- A) Teams agree to play with the same number of players - or B) Team that is short players will borrow players from their opponent.
- S. Player Equipment:
1. All players must wear shin guards **and the guards must be covered by socks.**
  2. Metal cleats or spikes may not be worn. Screw-in cleats may be worn, as long as the screw is part of the cleat.
  3. Any player wearing anything the referee deems to be dangerous to anyone on the field will be unable to participate until the item is corrected to the referee's satisfaction.
  4. The Waterford Parks and Recreation Department will provide uniforms (shirts). All players will wear the same shirt.
  5. **No jewelry can be worn. All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Plastic or rubber studs are acceptable.**

6. **Following MHSAA protocol:** Casts must be wrapped and a written doctor's note clearing the player to play must be presented. Player **MUST** not use in a dangerous manner.
- T. Ejection's and Cautions:
1. Any coach or player ejected from a game will leave the area to the referees' satisfaction.
  2. If a referee or representative of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Dept asks a parent to leave the area of a game for any reason, said parent must leave the area immediately.
- U. Rain Out Procedures:
1. The referee for each game will decide (after his own inspection of the field and weather conditions), whether a game will be played on a particular field at the scheduled time.
  2. Because of the variable ground and weather conditions that may exist from one field to another, some fields may be playable and other may not.
  3. All teams and coaches will be responsible for arriving at their scheduled games unless notified by the WPRD.
  4. Under no circumstances will a game be played or continued when thunder or lightning is present or a tornado watch is posted.

#### **Article 5: WPRD Coaches Guidelines**

- A. All representatives of the WPRD should keep in mind that youth soccer is a service to the community. It can only prosper if we keep the welfare of the players first.
- B. All coaches and managers must be at least eighteen years of age. Assistants may be younger.
- C. A coach is expected to keep their team the full seasonal year.
- D. A coach is expected to teach the players the laws of the game along with good sportsmanship.
- E. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is NOT allowed. All such incidents reported to the WPRD will be investigated and will take appropriate action.
- F. Leading a team to victory should not be the foremost in the mind of a coach, if it is done in such a way that denies a team member the right to play. The WPRD will not tolerate this type of conduct.
- G. A referee is vital to the league. Accordingly, they should be treated with respect. They will perform better if they are not under pressure from a coach. Honor their decision and encourage your players to do likewise. Harassment by players, coaches and spectators is improper and will not be tolerated.

**Responsibility for Discipline:**

General Cases. In general terms, the WPRD shall be responsible for governing those persons associated within their operation and shall establish procedures for doing so.

**Line of Authority:**

Should any person, team, or League want to appeal any adverse decision, the line of authority shall be from the League Director to the Waterford Parks & Recreation Supervisor to the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board.

Coaches or team officials who use insulting, abusive or threatening language and or gestures toward other coaches, players, or League officials shall be required to appear before the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action shall be handled on a case - by - case basis.

1. A player guilty of fighting and /or violent behavior before, during of after games shall receive a minimum suspension of two (2) games.
2. A player guilty of using profanity or abusive language, either by word or sign directed against another player, coach, referee, spectator, or any League official shall receive a minimum suspension of two (2) games. Non-directed profanity shall result in a one (1) game suspension.
3. A player guilty of making threatening gestures against another player, coach, referee of League official shall receive a minimum of one (1) game suspension. A player who threatens a referee or any League official shall receive a minimum suspension of three (3) games. All incidents shall be reported to the League Director.
4. The referee or site director shall report any incident of physical abuse by a player coach or other individual against any referee or linesman to the League Director. These matters will be automatically referred to the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board for review and action. No player, coach or other individual may participate in any Waterford Parks and Recreation Department activity while their case is pending. A player, coach or other individual who physically abuses (pushes, strikes, or grabs) a site director or League Official or other individual must appear before the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board and shall receive a minimum suspension of five (5) years. Verbal abuse by any player toward any referee, linesman, League Official or Site Director must report be to the League Director who shall deal with each incident on a case-by-case basis.
5. Player Ejection: Any player or coach issued a red card by a referee shall be disqualified from the current game plus a minimum one (1) game suspension. A second red card will result in suspension from the League for the remainder of the season.
6. Inappropriate Behavior by Coaches: Coaches or team officials who use insulting, abusive or threatening language and/or gestures toward other coaches, players or League officials shall

- be required to appear before the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department Board for disciplinary action.
7. Coach Fights: Coaches or team officials who fight or otherwise physically abuse (push, strike or grab) another coach, team official, League official or player must appear before the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board and shall receive a minimum suspension of three (3) years.
  8. Coach and fan Misconduct: Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein and as set by the WPRDYSL, including cautions, ejection's and standard suspensions. Any other individual who may be reasonably construed to be associated with a team, such as parents, relatives and spectators, shall also be subjected to the jurisdiction of this association. A coach or team official may be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) who violate these rules and who in the opinion of the disciplinary authority is a supporter of that team.
  9. Authority of Parks and Recreation Supervisor in Disciplinary Matters: The Parks and Recreation Supervisor has the authority to require any player, coach, spectator, referee or other individual to appear before the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board and additional penalties other than those specifically outlined above may be imposed at that time. Failure to appear when requested shall result in the suspension of the offending individual from all WPRD activities until such time that compliance has been rendered.
  10. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein and set by the WPRDYSL, including cautions ejection's and standard suspensions. Any other individual who may be reasonably construed to be with a team, such as a parent, relatives and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of WPRDYSL. A coach or team official may be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) who violate these rules and who in the opinion of the disciplinary authority is a supporter of that team.
  11. Use of an ineligible player, whether accidentally, intentionally, or otherwise, shall result in forfeiture of game(s) in which the ineligible player participated and disciplinary action will be taken against the coach.

#### **Article 6: Use of Fields**

The WPRD will maintain and assign the playing fields. This can only be done with cooperation from the coaches and players who use them for games.

- A. Players should be discouraged from digging holes in the turf with their cleats, climbing on goals, littering, etc.
- B. Any dangerous field condition should be taken care of or noted and reported to the WPRD Representative.

#### **Article 7: Injuries**

- A. All injuries must be reported to the WPRD Representative, whether they happen to a player, coach or spectator.
- B. A basic first aid kit is recommended gear for all teams. This should include disposable latex gloves to be used when any fluids are present. The safety of the players will always be the number one priority.

#### **Article 8: Referees**

The WPRD will hire and train all referees.

#### **Article 9: Blood-Borne Pathogen Rule**

##### **OPEN WOUND AND BLOOD DISPOSAL PROCEDURE**

Should a player get an open cut or laceration?

- 1. The treatment of the open wound is not the responsibility of the WPRD or its staff. The player must leave the game and his coach or parent should treat the player or seek the necessary medical assistance. The game is only stopped for blood clean up.

Steps to be taken for removal of blood from equipment/playing surfaces:

- 1. Use latex gloves.
- 2. Antiseptic should be applied to a towel. Wipe the blood surface (e.g., the ball or goal post) completely clean with the towel soaked with antiseptic.
- 3. When playing surface is completely clean. Properly dispose of the towel. Place the blood-soiled towel in a plastic bag, tie the bag and place it in the proper garbage receptacle.
- 4. Before the injured player can return to the game, the bleeding must be completely stopped and the wound covered.
- 5. If there is any blood on the player's uniform, the blood-soiled uniform must be changed to a clean uniform before the player can re-enter.

#### **Article 10: Pleas of Ignorance**

A plea of ignorance to this set of Bylaws, Rules and Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the WPRD.

#### **Article 11: Situations Not Expressly Covered Above**

- A. The WPRD and League Director reserve the right to rule on any matter not expressly covered in the above rules, FIFA rules or MSYSA rules.
- B. All rule changes must be approved by the Waterford Parks and Recreation Board.



**Article 12: New goal kick law**

- A. Before the ball is kicked, players on the kicking team may stand anywhere on the field, including inside the penalty area.
- B. Players on the defending team must move beyond the penalty box and may not cross the box until the ball is in play.
- C. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. In other words, as soon as a member of the kicking team kicks or tries to kick the ball, and the ball visibly moves or begins to roll, the ball is in play. As soon as the ball is in play, other members of the kicking team may play it (inside the penalty area) and defenders may cross the penalty box.