

# Washington Youth Soccer DISTRICT 7

## STANDING RULES & REGULATIONS

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Revised 4/14/2013

# I. GENERAL RULES

## ARTICLE 1. GOVERNING OF LEAGUES

1.1 The organization of District 7 sponsored leagues and competition shall be governed by the Standing Rules and Regulations (SR&R) set forth herein, unless rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.

## ARTICLE 2. SEASON

2.1 The seasonal year of District 7 is defined by Washington Youth Soccer (WYS). All league seasons are determined by the Director of Competition on behalf of the District 7 Board (Board).

## ARTICLE 3. CHANGES TO STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS

3.1 Proposed changes are to be provided to Board members at least 45 days before consideration by the Board.

3.2 Changes to the SR&R may be made at any regular Board meeting by a majority vote, subject to the notification and quorum requirements.

3.3 Changes to these SR&R shall not be made retroactive.

3.4 The approved version of the SR&R will be posted on the District 7 web site.

## ARTICLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS

4.1 In the interests of consistency, clubs shall notify, either directly or through their association, referee associations and/or referee assignors that the District 7 SR&R are posted on the District 7 website. Clubs shall also ensure that their coaches are informed about the SR&R.

## ARTICLE 5. COMMUNICATION

5.1 A web site will be maintained for communication of District 7 information.

5.2 Each association, club, and team must provide and maintain an active email address and telephone number for District 7 communication.

# 2. PLAYERS/TEAMS/LEAGUES

## ARTICLE 6. REGISTRATION

6.1 The term 'youth player' shall mean an amateur player who was born within the age requirements defined by WYS. This includes all players not yet 19 years of age on the last day of July immediately preceding the start of the seasonal year.

6.2 A recreation team is one formed without the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively.

6.3 A competitive or select team is one formed through the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively.

6.4 Age classifications will be defined in accordance with WYS rules.

6.5 The Director of Competition will, prior to the beginning of each playing season, determine the age groups of individual league divisions based on fairness, balanced competition and registered team numbers.

6.6 On application from individual clubs the Director of Competition may (but is not obliged to) grant waivers to roster players to teams below those players' age groups. In making such determination the Director of Competition will have regard to fairness and need and will factor alternative reasonable opportunities (if any) for these overage players within their community. Medical based play down requests will be submitted for decision to WYS.

6.7 All Member Associations shall have an Association Registrar, who shall oversee the proper registration of players, coaches, assistant coaches and other volunteers within that Member Association and liaise with WYS on matters related to registration, player and team verification and risk management. Association Registrars must be afforded full access to the registration information of all clubs in the association.

6.8 All players participating in District leagues and competition must be registered at least once in the seasonal year through a member association or one of its clubs in accordance with WYS and applicable Association Standing Rules and Regulations, unless specific provision is made for guest player participation.

6.9 No club or team may allow unregistered players to participate in competition.

6.10 A recreational team playing eleven-a-side in a District 7 league may have no less than 11 players and no more than 22 players registered to it at the beginning of the season or at any point during the season if it is u16 or older and no less than 11 players and no more than 18 players if it is u12 through u15 (subject to 6.11 below).

6.11 If a recreational team has more than 18 players on its roster, its club registrar must inform the District 7 Director of Competition of the number and the reason for the excess. A waiver for good cause for District 7 competition may be granted at the discretion of the Director of Competition.

6.12 When applicable to District 7 leagues, roster sizes for age levels with small-sided games shall conform to the WYS guidelines regarding small-sided games. Requests for variances may be submitted to the Director of Competition.

6.13 A full field team may not play more than 18 players during a District 7 game in league or other competition.

6.14 Competitive or select teams playing eleven-a-side shall not roster more than eighteen players unless permitted by the league or competition administrators.

6.15 Team registration shall be in the form prescribed by District 7 prior to the season.

6.16 A team will be considered defunct if it fails to maintain at least seven registered players during the league season or if the responsible association or club officers determine that the team has disbanded.

6.17 Any team playing a player who is over-age, or otherwise ineligible to play, as a result of improper or late registration, judicial action, or other suspension, shall forfeit any game(s) in which the player has taken part.

6.18 Any coach, club or Member Association officer who knowingly allows an ineligible or over-age player to participate in any league, cup or tournament match without prior approval of the Director of Competition shall be subject to disciplinary action.

6.19 Willful falsification of records by any person shall be grounds for suspension from future participation in District 7 sponsored leagues and/or competition.

## ARTICLE 7. PLAYER MOVEMENT

7.1 Each Member Association shall have the authority to assign youth players according to its own bylaws and operating procedures provided they do not violate those of higher authority.

7.2 Release and transfer of a player shall be in accordance with WYS and applicable Member Association procedures.

7.3 Players may be deleted from a team after the team has been registered in accordance with WYS regulations.

7.4 Any team (whether through its coach, assistant coach, manager, club or association officer, representative, parents, or players) attempting to induce a registered player from another team under the jurisdiction of District 7 or WYS to transfer from their team, while that team is still engaged in competition, shall be deemed to have committed a poaching offense, and shall be subject to disciplinary action by the District 7 Board.

## 3. RULES OF COMPETITION

### ARTICLE 8. SCHEDULING

8.1 All teams in leagues and competition governed by District 7 shall be subject to these rules unless specific provision is made for alternative rules.

8.2 All league matches must be played on the date and time approved by the Director of Competition.

8.3 Request for rescheduling of any match must be submitted to the District 7 Director of Competition or, if delegated by him/her, to an appropriate committee or the District Scheduler.

8.4 A team shall forfeit a District 7 League match if, 15 minutes after the properly scheduled game start time, the minimum number of players required to legally start the game are not on the field ready to play. The game will be forfeited in favor of the showing team with a score of 1 – 0 recorded unless the on-time team agrees otherwise, and the referee agrees to officiate. Should both teams fail to appear or fail have a sufficient number of players to start, both teams will be deemed to have forfeited the game and will receive no league/competition points.

8.5 A u12 to u19 team may not play more than 18 players during a game without forfeiting the game. There will be no additional penalties or discipline for playing more than 18 players, as long as all participating players are properly registered and rostered to the team (subject to the flexibility provided by the player pass regulations).

8.6 Requests to reschedule will be submitted by the requesting coach to the opposing coach and to the Director of Competition or, if delegated by him/her, to the District Scheduler. Such requests must be submitted at least seven days prior to the game.

8.7 If a reschedule request is approved, all arrangements (fields, referees) are the responsibility of the home coach. The coach who requested the reschedule is responsible for informing the other coach.

8.8 If a game is rescheduled and played without following the procedure above, one or both teams may be penalized by having league points related to that game withdrawn.

8.9 All disputes related to rescheduled games will be decided by the Director of Competition, whose decision is final.

8.10 Saturday and Sunday games will not begin before 9:00 am unless agreed to by both teams. All games will end no later than 10:00 pm. Exceptions may be approved by the Director of Competition in special circumstances. League and competition scheduling will take account of travel distance for the visiting team.

#### ARTICLE 9 LEAGUE FORMATION

9.1 These guidelines for scheduled games shall be used by the Director of Competition, but he/she may depart from these guidelines with the approval of the Board.

9.2 The number of scheduled league games for any team in the fall or spring season shall be eight for eleven-a-side play.

9.3 The number of scheduled league games for any team in the modified soccer season(s) shall be eight.

9.4 Game schedules shall be compiled and posted on the District web site.

9.5 The Director of Competition will assign teams to minimize competitive imbalance in the leagues or other competition. This will include identifying probable team strength, approving divisions with mixed ages and the reassignment of teams to an alternative division if necessary.

9.6 Teams that play down into younger age brackets may be assigned to play without standing.

#### ARTICLE 10 POINT SYSTEM FOR STANDINGS IN LEAGUES

10.1 In leagues for which the District keeps standings, points will be awarded as follows: each win (three points) and each tie (one point). No points will be awarded for a loss, and a forfeit will result in three points to the non-forfeiting team. The district may offer leagues with no standings kept.

10.2 In standings leagues, the division champions and second placed teams will be decided by the number of points accrued during the season as outlined in 10.1.

10.3 If teams are tied on points, results from head to head competition will be used as a tie breaker (based on number of games won versus lost, not based on combined goals scored versus conceded).

- Should a tie still remain, standings will be decided by the tied teams performance against all teams in the division and in the following order of decision:
  - a) the least number of goals conceded, then
  - b) points based on a formula for goals scored and shutouts (one point for each goal scored, to a maximum of three per game, and one point for each shutout).
- If still tied, the teams will be deemed joint 1<sup>st</sup> place or joint 2<sup>nd</sup> place as appropriate.
- When breaking ties amongst three or more teams, once a tie is broken in favor of one team, the remaining tied teams start at the first tie breaking rule again, excluding the resolved team from the consideration.

10.4 If a playoff game is tied at the end of regulation time, two overtime periods will be played in accordance with WYS guidelines or as prescribed by the Director of Competition, followed, if necessary, by FIFA Kicks from the Mark.

## ARTICLE 11 SEASON SCHEDULING

11.1 The Director of Competition is responsible for ensuring the league schedule is posted on the District 7 website and for notifying teams. The Director of Competition may delegate these roles, but not the responsibility.

## ARTICLE 12 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARKING AND SETTING UP FIELDS

12.1 It shall be the responsibility of each home team/club to provide properly marked fields.

12.2 All fields must have appropriate and safe goals. Goals should be properly netted and anchored/weighted.

## ARTICLE 13 GAME RESULTS AND STANDINGS

13.1 Game results must be reported by each coach or other team representative no later than twenty-four hours after the match. Results must be reported for all games, including those in non-standings leagues, unless otherwise decided by the Director of Competition.

13.2 The Director of Competition will resolve any conflicting reported scores; his/her decisions on such matters are final.

13.3 Current standings will be posted on the website as scores are received unless the Director of Competition designates the league/competition as non-standing.

13.4 All abandoned matches will be replayed in their entirety, forfeited, or score at abandonment let stand as determined by the Director of Competition unless specified otherwise in these rules and regulations. All replays must be approved in advance by the Director of Competition.

13.5 If a match is abandoned due to the misconduct of one of the teams or a member of one of the teams, that team shall not profit by the abandonment.

13.6 Penalties and fines may be assessed by the Director of Competition; appeals against any such fines or penalties will be considered by the Board or a subcommittee appointed by the Commissioner.

# 4. MATCH PROCEEDINGS

## ARTICLE 14 REFEREES

14.1 The home club or association is responsible for assigning referees.

14.2 Upon arrival at the field, the referee shall inspect the marking/equipment on the field and the field's condition to determine suitability for play.

14.3 If the Referee determines that the field is not properly marked for play, or does not have goals, or is hazardous, the match will not proceed and the circumstances must be reported by email to the Director of Competition by the home coach within 24 hours.

14.4 A referee may be called upon by the District 7 Director of Competition or his/her representative to explain the circumstances contributing to his/her decision to abandon a match.

14.5 If, after a fifteen minute grace period, a scheduled referee has not announced his/her presence at the game, the visiting team has the option to play the game with a

volunteer referee(s) or to require a reschedule of the game at the visiting team's field at a time/date to be approved by the Director of Competition. If the game is rescheduled, the field/referee costs will be borne by the original home team's club. The visiting team may decline this option and play with a volunteer referee.

14.6 In the event of a problem with an official, a detailed report shall be written to the Director of Competition. A copy will be forwarded to the assigning Member Association and any relevant Referee Association.

## ARTICLE 15 RULES OF PLAY / GAME CONDUCT

Article 15.1 Unless exceptions are approved by the Director of Competition, District 7 administered leagues and competition will be subject to Federation International de Football Association, as modified by United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association and/or Washington Youth Soccer.

Article 15.2 Coaches and teams are expected to respect the spirit of the recreational game and not run up large score differences against weaker teams. Teams which fail to respect this expectation (reflected in more than 2 games with goal differentials of ten or more) during the same season may be moved to a higher level (based on skill or age) without the benefit of league points accumulated prior to the change.

## ARTICLE 16 COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

16.1 All coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) must be in good standing with WYS and risk management cleared.

16.2 Coaches are responsible for their players, substitutes, and spectators.

16.3 Prior to the match, coaches shall identify themselves to the referee, and one coach shall identify him/herself as the head coach, the others being assistant coaches.

Coaching from the sidelines, giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and positioning, is permitted in all District 7 play providing the coaching is by not more than two coaches already identified to the referee as required.

16.4 In the judgement of the referee, coaches who are excessively loud and belligerent, harangue and/or berate their players, and/or otherwise bring the game into disrepute by their behavior and/or words may receive cautions for their misconduct. Clubs and coaches will ensure they understand the definitions of sideline misconduct and abuse of referees, and they will take proactive measures to avoid both.

16.5 The home coach will choose which side they prefer, the visiting team must take the opposite side if field conditions permit.

16.6 A coach's failure to comply with the requests of the referee may result in his/her ejection.

16.7 All coaching must be done from one side of the field. If both teams occupy the same side of the field, coaches must confine themselves to their half of that side of the field. In any case, no team may have coaches on both touchlines.

16.8 Coaches will ensure a minimum two yard gap between the touchline and any team personnel, players, or spectators. Failure to maintain this gap may be grounds for a caution. The coach is responsible for this on his/her own touchline if each team is on different sides of the field, or on his/her own half of the touchline if both teams are on the same side.

16.9 Team coaches and assistants will ensure that any person asked to leave a match shall immediately leave the playing field area.

16.10 If a coach has been disqualified for any reason, the coach will be ineligible to coach until the disqualification has been reviewed by the District 7 Disciplinary Committee or as provided by WYS rules on automatic suspension periods.

16.11 Any coach who removes his/her team from the field prior to the completion of a match must provide a written report to the Director of Competition. The Director of Competition may refer the matter, as he/she deems appropriate, to the Board or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner for further action.

16.12 Upon request from the referee, the coach shall be required to give his/her name, and/or the name of any assistant, player, substitute or spectator (known to him/her).

16.13 Before the game, each coach shall give the referee a roster with (at a minimum) each player's name, date of birth and shirt number.

16.14 Each player on a team participating in District 7 recreational leagues and competition who is in attendance, in uniform, physically fit and in good standing, is expected to play at least 50% of the match. Clubs and coaches are expected to reinforce the concept of fairness and inclusion which is an essential part of the recreational game.

16.15 It shall be the coach's responsibility to see that players are properly and safely attired, and assure that all player jewelry and other banned items are removed before his/her players take the field for practice or for games.

16.16 It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a game ball, properly inflated, at game time.

16.17 Spectators will not be allowed behind the goal area, or within two yards of the touch line, or beyond the top of the penalty box. Persons desiring to photograph the match from these areas shall obtain permission from the referee before the start of the match. Said person shall not coach, cheer or in any way distract the players or official.

16.18 Any spectator interfering with the progress of a match shall be asked to leave the field. The coach of the team concerned is responsible for removal of the spectator. A coach who fails to take responsibility for the removal of a spectator may be cautioned or ejected from the field as well by the referee. Failure of a spectator or coach to leave when requested to do so may result in an abandoned game. The club concerned shall take appropriate disciplinary action. A report of the action shall be sent to the District 7 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate Commissioner for review. The Board reserves the right to take additional or alternative action and is not obliged to await the decision of the club before deciding what action to take.

## 5. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

### ARTICLE 17. AUTHORITY

17.1 As a condition of participation in District 7 activities, players, coaches, parents and member clubs shall be subject to the authority of the District 7 Disciplinary Committee, the District 7 Board of Directors, Washington Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer and FIFA.



17.2 Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including cautions, ejections and suspensions. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the District.

17.3 A plea of ignorance to any published District 7, Association, WYS, USYSA or FIFA rule shall not be considered an excuse for violation. Coaches are responsible for educating themselves and their players on the rules for competition.

17.4 When a player or coach is sent off the field of play for any reason, he/she shall be ineligible to play or coach, at a minimum, in the next regularly scheduled game unless the sendoff/ejection is canceled or reduced to a caution on appeal. District 7 follows the WYS guidelines on automatic minimum penalties for misconducts.

17.5 Failure of an ejected coach to leave the vicinity of the field IMMEDIATELY following ejection may result in abandonment of the match and/or a three game suspension for the offender.

17.6 The referee concerned shall file a report of any caution or ejection within twenty-four hours of the match in the manner prescribed by the District.

17.7 A player or coach must give email notice to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner if he/she wishes to dispute a report or appeal a caution/sendoff/ejection within 48 hours of the event.

17.8 Penalties may be assessed for offenses committed by a player or coach before, during or after a match.

17.9 It is the responsibility of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner to notify, by US Mail or email, the coach, player and the Member Association of any disciplinary action.

17.10 Reported misconducts and concerns about behavior may be a referee misconduct report from a match, a game report entered on the website, an email or a letter of concern by a club or Member Association official, another coach, or a spectator. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner shall deal with all misconduct and reported concerns arising out of competition conducted by the District.

17.11 If an affiliated Member Association or one of its clubs fails to correct a problem of spectator, coach or player misconduct, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner for review and appropriate action.

17.12 The Disciplinary Committee shall assess penalties for misconduct in accordance with District 7 and WYS procedures.

17.13 All decisions by the Disciplinary Committee shall be recorded and sent by email to the Member Association, the club representatives, coaches, or players involved. Minutes will be kept on file, and made available for viewing to authorized parties on request.

17.14 The offender shall be notified of his/her right of appeal and the appeal procedure by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Commissioner.

17.15 All records and Disciplinary Committee decisions shall be part of the person's record as long as he/she remains affiliated with District 7. Repeat offenses may be dealt with more severely than a first offense.

17.16 Offenses involving abuse of referees will be referred to WYS as appropriate. The District reserves the right to take action pending consideration by WYS and will be especially vigilant in protecting young referees from abuse.

17.17. Any suspension from league matches will carry over to the next District or WYS sanctioned match.

17.18 Should a person named in a misconduct report fail to show for a hearing or to notify the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson of his/her inability to attend, the misconduct report may be acted upon in that person's absence.

17.19 Copies of misconduct reports and letters of concern will be available at the Disciplinary Committee hearing.

17.20 Appeals of decisions of the District 7 Disciplinary Committee may be heard by the District 7 Board. All appeals must be filed within forty-eight hours of receipt of notification of the Disciplinary Committee's decision. Notification may be by email, letter or in person immediately following a hearing.

17.21 All appeals must be in accordance with District 7 and WYS procedures.

17.22 No person hearing a matter may participate at a higher level for an appeal.

17.23 Any person, team or club desiring to appeal decisions of the District 7 Board of Directors following an appeal hearing must submit a written appeal as required by WYS.