

300 OUTDOOR/FIELD INTRODUCTION

All competitions shall be governed by the RULES as stated herein in all cases where they are applicable and where they are not in conflict with the WSYSA Bylaws. All affiliated members of WSYSA shall be governed by these Rules of Competition.

Rule 301 RULES OF PLAY

All games and competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA shall be conducted subject to the "Laws of the Game" as published or authorized for publication by FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), with those modifications published by WSYSA. In all cases where a game has been postponed or abandoned by a referee due to inclement weather, league and tournament directors shall determine whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or whether the score at the time of postponement or abandonment shall stand and the game be counted as a completed game.

301.1 Field of Play

(a) The following specifications are applicable to all competitions administered by the WSYSA. These WSYSA standards are recommended for league play administered by Member Associations; they are not mandatory.

Recommended field dimensions

Under-11 and below: 50 yards wide x 90 yards long minimum

Under-12 and above: 50 yards wide x 100 yards long minimum

(b) Acceptable deviations from Law 1 of the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA) for goal posts shall be: plus/minus six (6) inches in width; plus/minus three (3) inches in height from inside measurements.

301.2 Game Duration, Overtime Periods, and Ball Size

Age Group Game Duration Ball Size Circumference Weight

Under-19 Two 45 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-18 Two 45 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-17 Two 45 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-16 Two 40 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-15 Two 40 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-14 Two 35 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-13 Two 35 min. halves #5 27" – 28" 14-16 oz

Under-12 Two 30 min. halves #4 25" – 26" 11-13 oz

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Overtime periods

U-19 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves

U-18 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves

U-17 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves

U-16 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves

U-15 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves

U-14 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves

U-13 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves

U-12 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves

301.3 Number of Players

(a) Each team will have a limit of eighteen (18) registered players, unless a variance for good cause has been granted by the Association Registrar, the District

Commissioner, and the WSYSA Registrar. No team shall be allowed to have fewer than eleven (11) registered players. (Exception: General Procedures, Rule 204.9).

(b) Any coach, manager or official found guilty by a WSYSA, District, or Member Association Board of Directors or a WSYSA Disciplinary or Ethics Committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over-age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all WSYSA activities not to exceed the current and subsequent seasonal year.

301.4 Substitutions

(a) Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage in play.

(b) The number of substitutes shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this Association determines otherwise; special competitions may be more restrictive.

(c) Players not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touch line and not within eighteen (18) yards from the corner of the field.

301.5 Player's Equipment

(a) All player equipment shall conform to the requirements of Law 4 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, and the WSYSA Rules of Competition. All players are required to wear shin guards with socks covering the shin guard completely.

(b) It is the duty of the referee, pursuant to Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, to enforce the Laws of the Game and the WSYSA Rules of Competition concerning player equipment.

(c) All players must be attired in matching uniforms to the satisfaction of the referee. A proper uniform consists of shorts, jersey, socks, shin guards, and footwear. In case of a color clash, the designated home team will change jerseys. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players.

301.6 Officiating

(a) A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game with the authority assigned to him as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA). Officiating of all games will be governed by the Rules of Play and the Rules of Competition

(b) All referees assigned to any game of the Commissioners' Cup or the State Championships must be assigned by a licensed referee assignor through a recognized referee association/chapter.

(c) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling the match. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and his decisions will be final.

301.7 Charging the Goalkeeper

(a) The following Rule applies to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA:

(b) In all Under-11 age groups and below: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever.

(c) In all Under-12 age groups and above: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper WITHIN THE GOAL AREA, harass the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this special Rule, an indirect kick shall be awarded.

(d) Note: Also included in "having control of the ball" is, if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

301.8 Coaching

(a) Coaching from the sidelines - giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position - is permitted, provided:

- (1) Neither mechanical nor electronic devices are used;
- (2) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;

(b) Each coach, substitute, or player is to remain within the "coaching area" two (2) yards behind the touch line, and not within eighteen (18) yards from the corner of the field).

(c) No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.

(d) No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.

(e) No coach, substitute, or player is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.

(f) If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. The referee may file a written report with the Board of Directors responsible for the match.

(g) In the event that compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall ask the offending party to leave the playing area. If this request is made, the referee must file a written report with the Board of Directors responsible for the match. If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written report of the game abandonment with the Board of Directors responsible for the match.

(h) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team, club or league official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

301.9 Restarting Play After An Injury

In the case of a temporary suspension due to an injury or any unusual situation, if one team is clearly in possession of the ball, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or any unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead.

301.10 Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

Where WSYSA, District or Member Association administered competition rules require there be a winning team after a match has ended in a draw, teams shall then play age appropriate overtime periods. If no goal is scored during the overtime periods, the match is then to be decided according to the FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" procedure.

Offside Position

It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

- he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent

A player is not in an offside position if:

- he is in his own half of the field of play or
- he is level with the second last opponent or
- he is level with the last two opponents

Offence

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- interfering with play or
- interfering with an opponent or
- gaining an advantage by being in that position

No Offence

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in
- a corner kick

Infringements and Sanctions

In the event of an offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Law 13 – Position of Free Kick).

For further clarifications or questions regarding the rules of play please contact your Clubs' President or Coaching Director.