



Washington Youth Soccer
Regional Club Subcommittee
Regional Club League
Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition

1.1 Introduction

In order to provide an environment under which the development of youth soccer players is maximized, a Regional Club league (hereafter known as the RCL) has been formed for qualified Clubs with youth Academies and teams in ages U11 through U18. It is administered by the Regional Club Subcommittee of Washington Youth Soccer.

(a) The Washington Youth Soccer Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents. Modifications to the Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition have been made expressly for RCL competition. The Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition contained herein shall govern the conduct of the RCL.

(b) The RCL shall be for chartered Regional Clubs qualified by the specified criterion and comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with Washington Youth Soccer Member Associations or Districts, provided such Clubs entering and their teams, Academies, Associations or Districts are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and that the team is in compliance with and has not violated any of the rules of Washington Youth Soccer.

1.2 Administration

(a) The Regional Club Subcommittee has been established by Washington Youth Soccer. This committee manages soccer operations of the regional club league and issues directly related to the Regional level of play as specified in the Regional Club Subcommittee Charter.

(b) The Coaching Directors of Regional Clubs may create subcommittees to formulate best league structures and best developmental practices to maximize the potential of youth development on a player by player basis.

1.3 League Structure

(a) The league size for each age and gender division is based on the number of qualified teams.

(b) The RCL Fall season will be September through November. No games will be scheduled on the weekend after Thanksgiving Day unless necessary for final league evaluation. The RCL Spring season will be February through May. Todd – change based on calendar work?

(c) If teams drop, fold, or forfeit their right to play, the league will be played as scheduled with a 'bye' inserted where games were previously scheduled, unless a new team is

inserted by the Subcommittee approval. Multiple drops by clubs in consecutive years will be subject to fines.

(d) All league games will be scheduled on the most appropriately sized and conditioned fields available, properly marked, equipped and netted.

1.41 Team Eligibility

(a) Teams must be current with all Club, League, Association, and District fees and fines from the prior season before their participation will be allowed.

(b) All team seeding in the league must meet the following “team roster” criterion for returning players: eight returning players from the prior season’s final league roster.

(c) Clubs provide data towards the league criterion based on the last full seasonal year, state cup play and league placement tournament play for established teams meeting the roster requirement. For new teams, or teams not meeting the roster criterion, clubs provide data towards the league criterion based on current year and limited applicability of results of prior seasonal year or state cup play.

1.42 Staff Eligibility

Membership in the league requires adherence to the highest ethical standards of competition. Coaches, administrators and club officials that demonstrate a lack of integrity or consistent inappropriate behavior will be removed from participation for a period of time as decided by the Committee, not to exceed State or USSF limitations on suspensions.

1.50 Fee and Fine Structure

(a) All league fees for the RCL will be determined by management need as assessed by the RCL Committee. Please see the attached schedule.

(b) During league play, any team having an unexcused forfeiture, as determined by the RCL Committee, will be fined \$1000 for the first occurrence. A second unexcused forfeiture will constitute a withdrawal from the RCL, and the team’s Member Association will be fined an additional \$500.

(c) During league and Cup play, any coach receiving a red card or composite yellow card send off will be fined \$200 for the first offense, \$400 for the second offense and a Disciplinary Committee review, and suspension from the league for a third offense.

1.6 League Standings/Tie Breaker

(a) A scoring system to be determined by the recommendations of the Coaching Director subcommittee on competition and the RCS, using either an RPI based on strength of opponents played and results, or W/T/L point formats, or some combination, will be adopted according to the needs of the league.

(b) If any ties exist in Division standings, the following criteria will be used for ranking those ties (except as qualified elsewhere in this document):

- (1) Head to Head
- (2) Best Goal Differential.
- (3) Fewest Goals allowed.

1.7 Recognition Awards

Recognition of winning teams will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Coaching Director’s Committee and RCS. Awards for developmental leagues are not consistent with the mission statement.

1.8 Rules of Play

(a) All league play, tournaments, and special competition under the jurisdiction of the RCS shall be conducted in accordance with current Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition, except as modified herein.

(b) Field of Play - If a field is not properly marked, equipped and netted, the referee will have the option to NOT allow the game to be played

1.9 Player's Equipment

Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional. Home team must change if colors conflict with visiting team.

1.10 Game Sheets and Club/Player Passes

(a) Prior to a league game, coaches must provide the referee with a roster/game sheet (on the approved form) and valid player passes for all players. A valid player pass is a US Youth Soccer / Washington Youth Soccer, or Bonzi generated player pass for the player's current team that is signed by the player, has a recent identifiable photo of the player, and is laminated. Players must be listed on the game sheet and have a valid player pass to be eligible to play in the game.

(b) Any player that exceeds the weekly game allotment to a Club Player Pass will not be permitted to participate in that match.

(c) Teams that routinely appear at matches with incomplete sets of player cards or rosters that are not complete will put the club at risk of disciplinary sanctions.

(d) All misconduct incident reports must be reported through the RCS Disciplinary Committee.

1.11 Coaching/Sideline Conduct

(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) All coaches, substitute players and other bench personnel are to remain within the "coaching area" (two yards behind the touch line and not within eighteen yards of the goal line).

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

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

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

(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 incident report to the Washington Youth Soccer office, attn: League Disciplinary Committee.

(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 incident report to the League Disciplinary Committee.

(h) If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written incident report of the game abandonment with the League Disciplinary Committee

(i) 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.

1.12 Player Release and Transfer/Player Identification

(a) All teams participating in RCL competition are eligible in US Youth Soccer sponsored events. Therefore, the player release and transfer rules applicable to US Youth Soccer competition shall prevail with the exception noted below:

i) Players with outstanding club balances will not be allowed to move between clubs, nor return to competition until all balances are resolved. Proof of resolution must be provided for the Committee to review on request in case of dispute between clubs.

ii) Clubs may not add fees to the players balance after the player submits to leave the club.

iii) Club/Player Passes utilized for player development cannot violate the State roster limits for team play.

(b) Both US Youth Soccer and Washington Youth Soccer have a seasonal year defined as September 1st through August 31st. The RCS reserves the right to adjust league play according to the needs of the players.

(c) Team rosters must be completed by August 31st.

(d) Roster limits for minimum and maximum players will adhere to the State guidelines.

(e) A team shall be limited to a total of three (3) players from outside the club received by transfer per seasonal year.

(f) Team rosters are frozen in accord with State regulations prior to any competitive Cup format. No additions or transfers, except for utilization of the Club Pass during league play, will be allowed after the State mandated cutoff date.

(g) Players being transferred or added to a team may not play until they have a player pass for their new team. The completed transfer or add form is not a replacement for the player pass.

1.13 Scheduling of Games

(a) Regularly scheduled league games shall have priority over any and all competition entered into by Regional Club teams.

(b) The RCS is responsible for the league. The RCS has final authority to determine seeding and league structure, however tasks may be delegated to administrators for operations and follow through.

(c) The Home team determines field location, sideline policy and kick-off time. Teams must provide their Member Association Representatives with home game and requested kick-off time information:

(1) League games should be scheduled to begin no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 5:00 PM, unless agreed to by the visiting team in writing (includes fax and E-mail) at least two (2) weeks prior to the game.

(2) Double header weekends: Saturday games should not be scheduled to start before 2:00 PM and Sunday games should start no later than noon, unless agreed to by

the visiting team in writing (including fax and E-mail) at least two (2) weeks prior to the game.

(3) Teams traveling more than 2.5 hours for one game need to have time to travel in the same day. These games should not start before noon or after 3:00 PM. The Association address of the traveling team to the scheduled game field determines travel time.

(4) Failure to schedule game start times within the prescribed guidelines may result in a mandatory game reschedule at the discretion of the Hosting Administrator.

(e) The Administrator must approve all schedule changes. A schedule change request must be agreed to by both teams and must be submitted to their Administrator prior to the scheduled game date on the "Game Reschedule Request" form. If the request is approved, the home team is responsible for rescheduling the field and the officials. If a team fails to show, on this date, that team will receive a loss for that game. If both teams fail to show, both teams will receive a loss for that game, zero points for both teams.

(f) If a referee declares a field unplayable at kick-off time or the field is closed by the field administrator, both coaches must report the postponement to their Hosting Administrator. The home team is responsible for rescheduling the game with the approval of the visiting team. If the teams cannot agree on a reschedule date, their Hosting Administrator will determine the reschedule date and location. The designated home team will be responsible for any field rental and referee expenses. If a team fails to show, on this date, that team will receive a loss for that game. If both teams fail to show, both teams will receive a loss for that game, zero points for both teams.

(g) If a game is not played because there was no referee and a substitute could not be agreed upon, subject to the approval of the respective Host Administrator, the visiting team may have the choice of rematch date and location. If there is no referee at the rescheduled game and a substitute cannot be agreed upon, the respective Hosting District Administrator will reschedule the game at the expense of both teams.

(h) If both teams have been notified of the game location and kick-off time, and one team fails to show up for the game, following a fifteen (15) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team with a score of 1-0.

(i) If both teams have been notified of the game location and kick-off time, and both teams fail to show up for the game, both teams will receive a loss for that game, zero points for both teams.

(j) All league games must be played by the final weekend of the league season unless approved in advance by the respective Hosting District Administrator.

1.14 Responsibilities of Coaches/Managers

(a) The following are the responsibilities of the assigned "home team":

(1) Marking the field-of play;

(2) Providing a proper game ball;

(3) Providing nets and corner flags;

(4) Providing adequate directions to the opposing team to the "home team's" venue as soon as game time and location are scheduled by the local scheduler, and at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the game.

(5) Communicating the sideline policy to the opposing team, and the match referees.

(b) Visiting teams must confirm receipt of the above "directions" by no later 48 hours prior to the game.

(c) Failure of the “home team” to properly notify the visiting team of game time and location or failure of the “visiting team” to acknowledge receipt of the game time and location information will result in a fined forfeiture of \$100.

(d) Weather conditions and field closures are the exception to the aforementioned game notification and confirmation rules.

(e) The Coach or Manager of both teams (regardless of win, loss, or tie) must report the final game score to the Hosting District Administrator by Monday following the game. Teams that do not report their score may be fined \$25 for each occurrence.

(f) Any coach, assistant coach, team manager, or other party having direct contact with players must be in compliance with Washington Youth Soccer’s Risk Management Policy.

1.15 Reporting Scores

(a) Teams must report the game score as directed by the RCL web administrator.

(b) If a game was not played as scheduled for any reason, this information must be reported to the Hosting District Administrator.

(c) If a game is rescheduled, the score must be reported to the RCL web Administrator following the actual game.

(d) If a game was abandoned, this information must be reported to the RCL web Administrator.

1.16 Officiating

(a) A referee shall be assigned to officiate each game with the authority assigned as specified in the “Laws of the Game” (FIFA).

(b) If possible, the Referee Assignor will be responsible for scheduling properly registered and qualified referees and assistant referees.

(c) If assistant referees cannot be scheduled, each team must provide one (1) person to act as club linemen, if the referee wishes.

(d) Referees who are also coaches, team managers, or relatives of players-of-record in a given age group of the RCL shall not be assigned matches in that age and gender group. Other individuals should disqualify themselves if there is a conflict of interest in that age and gender group.

(e) Failure of a referee to show up within fifteen (15) minutes of a scheduled game time will constitute grounds for a rematch. A substitute official may be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and the substitute’s decisions will be final.

(f) Coaches may file a letter of concern on a referee to the Washington Youth Soccer Youth Referee Administrator.

(g) It is the responsibility of the Member Association or Club to send a complete RCL game schedule to the Referee Coordinator responsible for scheduling referees for their RCL games at the earliest opportunity.

(h) Before the start of each game, the referee will ensure the home team’s sideline policy is followed.

(i) If any player has been sent off the field of play by the referee for violating the “Laws of the game”, the referee must file a written report following the completion of the game to the Hosting District Disciplinary Committee. (Contact information will be available on the RCL and Host District websites.)

(j) Before the start of each game, the referee will obtain a game sheet and collect the player passes from each team. Players not listed on the game sheet and not possessing a valid player pass will not be allowed to participate in the game. At the end of the game, the referee

will note on the game sheet: the final score, misconducts issued, and any other information deemed appropriate. The referee will return one copy of each game sheet to each team, and if misconducts were issued or other problems noted, return or fax the white copy to the Hosting District Disciplinary Committee office. (Contact information will be available on the RCL and Host District websites.)

(k) Player passes are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. The referee will return ALL passes to the coach at the conclusion of the game. The passes will be used to copy accurate information to the referee's misconduct report.

1.17 Game Abandonment

(a) If it has been determined that a league game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators or any combination thereof, NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.

(b) Furthermore, if at the time of the abandonment:

(1) The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.

(2) The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.

(3) If the score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.

(4) If it has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams.

1.18 Disciplinary

(a) Clubs participating in the league shall approve a Coaching Director who together shall form the Disciplinary Committee. This Committee shall be staffed by Coaches and Administrators from regional clubs.

(b) This Committee will review only challenged disciplinary cards each week on Thursday evenings (unless otherwise notified), written reports submitted by referees, and forwarded to them for processing, any misconduct at league games played the weekend previous to the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the coach, or listed alternate, to contact their District office or Disciplinary Committee Director to obtain notification of action taken.

(c) The Disciplinary Code is covered in the Washington Youth Soccer Governing Document titled "Disciplinary Penalty Code."

(d) Players that accumulate three yellow cards during the league season will be ineligible to compete in their next scheduled league game. Yellow card totals will be carried over from the league season to other events.

(e) Players receiving a red card will be ineligible to compete in their next regularly scheduled game after the next regularly scheduled Disciplinary Committee hearing. A more severe penalty may be applied by the Disciplinary Committee under established guidelines.

(f) Penalty points will be accumulated over the seasonal year. Yellow cards will be accumulated at one (1) point each, red cards at three (3) points each.

(g) Players that accumulate seven (7) points from red and/or yellow card accumulation during the seasonal year will be suspended and be required to petition the Disciplinary Committee for reinstatement of eligibility to compete on any Washington Youth Soccer team. Upon reinstatement, the Disciplinary Committee will set the terms and conditions of probation. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of probation may cause those player(s) to be suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year.

(h) A coach of a team receiving a red card will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, which will determine appropriate action. Failure of the coach to appear after notification will cause the coach to be suspended, and require written petition to the Disciplinary Committee for reinstatement of eligibility to coach this or any Washington Youth Soccer team.

1.19 Disputing Misconduct Reports

(a) All protests must be handled according to the published Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition.

1.21 Ethics

(a) The purpose of this league is to set the highest standards to develop youth players to their fullest potential – both physically and emotionally. As such, participants must conduct themselves to that same highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this league - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat.

(b) All participants in the Regional Club League (RCL) are members of Washington Youth Soccer and therefore must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules and policies as well as to their intent. All coaches, managers, players and spectators will adhere to the RCL Code of Conduct and the Washington Youth Soccer Code of Ethics (Rule 608).

Notification of Receipt of Rules

I, _____, have read completely and understand the rules of the RCL as presented and will adhere to them as instructed by the Director of Coaching.

Coach Signature: _____ Date _____

DOC/Technical Director Signature: _____ Date _____