

COWLITZ YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Introduction

The Cowlitz Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) plays and operates according to the rules of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA). In short, FIFA administers and legislates on the international level, USYSA on the national level, and WSYSA on the state and local level. WSYSA'S general procedures and rules of competition appear in the WSYSA Operating Procedure Manual. CYSA rules of competition will conform to WSYSA rules of competition. CYSA league games are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Laws of the Game are available at the FIFA website (<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame/index.html>). To the extent that FIFA allows modifications for ages U12 and below, CYSA has adopted local modifications.

SECTION 1: GENERAL GUIDELINES

Rule 1 – Seasonal Year

The seasonal year of CYSA shall be September 1 to August 31.

Rule 2 – Classification of Team Formation

Teams shall be formed according to equal age grouping for all competition unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. See the CYSA website for the age chart for the current season. Only officially and properly registered players may participate in a game scheduled by CYSA. Infringement of this rule is subject to disciplinary issues and may result in forfeiture of a game by the team playing unregistered players.

Rule 3 – Player and Team Registration

- a) Member clubs shall have a registrar responsible for proper registration of players within the club, including team affiliation and obtaining proof of age of players. Each child who wants to play in CYSA must supply a photocopy of valid birth certificate, passport, or a certificate issued by the INS.
- b) No team shall have more than eighteen players rostered.
- c) CYSA teams will no longer play outside the CYSA league. Individual clubs will not transfer CYSA teams outside of CYSA league.
- d) Divisions will be divided by sex whenever possible.

Rule 4 - Field Layout

- a) Recommended field sizes shall be as set forth in Rules of Competition Chart attached hereto. (Note: Whenever possible clubs should maximize field sizes within the guideline provided, however, dimensions may be altered by 5 yards either way.)

Rule 5 – Player Equipment

a) Each team must field players wearing a basic uniform to include:

- 1) Shorts
- 2) Top of Basic Team Color
- 3) Shoes (Soccer shoes as deemed safe by the referee)
- 4) Socks
- 5) Shin Guards under socks shall be mandatory and shall be solid plastic or reinforced.
- 6) All players with shoulder length or longer hair are required to have their hair pull back for safety reasons.
- 7) No jewelry of any kind may be worn.
- 8) Goalkeeper must be in a color which distinguishes them from the field colors.
- 9) Any material, at the discretion of the referee, considered to be dangerous will not be worn during the game.
- 10) Knee pads may be worn only by the goalkeeper, or for the protection of an injured player.
- 11) For age brackets U9 and up, casts are permitted and may be worn during a regularly scheduled game pursuant to WYSA Rule MR-5.3 which states, “Protective orthopedic devices, prosthetic devices and any equipment, gear, appliance or apparatus that is protective for a known medical condition may be worn during a regularly scheduled game provided that the referee determines that the device can be used safely.” The game official shall always have the final authority regarding whether a protective device/cast can be safely worn during a game.

b) Home team shall be responsible for wearing contrasting color.

c) When the weather is inclement, players may wear tight fitting tights or sweatpants tucked into socks, shirt underneath their uniform, gloves, and stocking caps at the discretion of the referee.

SECTION 2: RULES OF COMPETITION

See attached Rules of Competition Chart.

Rule 1 – Scorekeeping and Team Standings U-11 and above

- a) Conference and/or division standings shall be based on the award of two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.
- b) The Association Statistician will be the official keeper of the Association standings. He or she shall publish, on a periodic basis, the official results of the league divisional standings.
- c) It shall be the responsibility of both team coaches to call the score into the Associations’ statistician within seventy-two hours in order to be tabulated in the official standings. Corrections to published standings will only be accepted within 72 hours of publication.

Rule 2 – Cancellations, and Forfeiture

- a) All games should be played on the day and time scheduled. To declare a field unplayable due to adverse weather conditions will primarily be the referee’s prerogative. They will notify the CYSA Scheduler upon cancellation.
- b) If both teams are properly notified of their scheduled match, and one team fails to show up,

following a fifteen minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team with a score of 1-0. If both teams fail to show, both teams will forfeit by a loss of 1-0.

c) Any delay of a game over fifteen minutes, man-made or by the act of nature, shall cause the game to be cancelled.

d) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be cause for game cancellation. A substitute referee shall be chosen upon mutual agreement of both coaches, and all decisions of this chosen official will be final. The visiting team shall have the first option of supplying a substitute referee.

SECTION 3: RULES OF PLAY

Rule 1 – Officiating

a) CYSA will supply a certified referee as available for the duration of the game per CYSA rules. Youth Micro/Mod certified referees (per CYSA guidelines) may be assigned. If there are no certified referees assigned, the home team shall supply the referee for the first half and the visiting team shall supply the referee for the second half.

b) Referees shall report to the Disciplinary Committee all coaches who violate the rules and all coaches and players receive a red or yellow card. The referee will prepare and deliver to the Disciplinary Committee a misconduct report for all players that have been carded and for all coaches that have been warned or shown off the field. The report must be filed within one day of the event.

c) Referees shall be of legal voting age (18) or be USSF certified (or have taken the referee clinic and passed the USSF test within the previous 12 months), remain USSF certified, and be two (2) years older than the group they are refereeing. Volunteers may also referee but must also be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are refereeing.

d) A game may not be refereed by the coach of one of the teams or a member of the immediate family of one of the players unless mutually agreed in advance by both teams.

Rule 2 – Coaches/Rostered Volunteers

a) Rostered volunteers include coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers that have received RMA clearance and are listed on the official team roster.

b) For all U12 and above coaches it is recommended to have completed the USYSA “E” clinic before the current season; “F” clinic is recommended for all U11 and below.

c) It is the responsibility of the coach to take all precautions necessary before, during or after a game, including ending the game, to protect the safety of the players, public and private property on which the game takes place.

d) Each team must have a coach or designate an RMA cleared volunteer at the field through the entire game. The team failing to do so will forfeit the game.

e) Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents, including but not limited to, foul or abusive language, either on or off the field. All coaches shall ensure that players on their teams who are not on the playing field, and their parents as well, shall stay at least 2 yards behind the touchlines. No coach, player, or spectator will be allowed behind the goal line during the game.

f) It shall be the responsibility of the coaches or manager to furnish a game ball to the

satisfaction of the officiating referee.

g) Coaching shall be done by no more than 3 persons from each team from the same side of the field. The coaches cannot be closer than 18 yards from the corner of the field. Coaching is understood as giving advice and directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position. The tone of voice is to be informative and no coach is to make derogatory gestures or remarks to the referees, players, or spectators.

h) A coach that is sent off the field by the referee must be out of sight and sound of the playing field. If a coach receives a red card and another coach isn't rostered for that team, another RMA cleared adult will NOT be allowed to step in for the coach and the game will be called at that time.

i) Coaches are required to obtain RMA clearance and provide documentation of completed Sudden Cardiac Awareness training annually.

j) Coaches will accept all rostered players assigned to their teams.

Rule 3 – Number of Players Under-12 and Above

a) Games can be played with a minimum of 7 players. In the event a team cannot field 7 registered players within 15 minutes of the official starting time, the team shall forfeit the game.

b) If a game is started and injuries cause one team to lose players below the 7 player minimum, that game shall be forfeited.

c) If a team loses players below the 7 minimum because of penalties, that team shall forfeit the game.

Rule 4 - Build Out Lines U6 through U10

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting.

a) Goal Kicks

U6/7 - Goal kicks will be taken by the defending team at the top of the arc when the whole of the ball has passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the offensive team and a goal is not scored. The team that is NOT kicking the ball will stand behind the half line which, at this age level, is the build out line. They may re-enter the half as soon as the kicking team has kicked the ball. Any player from the kicking team may take the goal kick.

U8 - Goal kicks will be taken by the defending team at the top of the goal box when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the offensive team and a goal was not scored. The team that is NOT kicking the ball will stand behind the half line which, at this age level, is the build out line. They may reenter the half as soon as the kicking team has kicked the ball.

U9-10 - Goal kicks will be taken by the defending team at the top of the goal box when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the offensive team and a goal was not scored. The team that is NOT kicking the ball will stand behind the build out line. They may re-enter the area as soon as the ball is in play. The

ball is in play once it leaves the penalty area/box. If the ball does not leave the penalty area or is touched by a player before it leaves the penalty area, the kick is retaken.

b) Goalies

U8 through U10 - When the goalie has picked up the ball inside the goalkeeper box, the opposing team shall go behind the buildout line until the goalie has thrown the ball back into play.

c) Goal Zone

For U6/7 There is to be a “goal zone” marked by a two (2) yard arc in front of each goal. The zone is placed to show a boundary for players not to be in unless the ball is within the zone and is to encourage movement on the field rather than one player camping out in the goal. This is so defensive players use defensive skills and do not serve as a goalkeeper and move with the play of the ball, as well as for offensive players to learn not to “cherry pick” for goals. The penalty if a defensive player is in the goal zone prior to the ball crossing into the zone is an offensive indirect kick at the half line. The penalty for an offensive player being in the goal zone prior to the ball crossing into the zone is a defensive indirect kick at half line. Incidental stepping into the zone does not result in a penalty kick.

Rule 5 - Restarts

a) A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored. Corner kicks will be taken from the closest corner area nearest to the point where the ball went over the goal line.

b) The throw in is taken by the opponents of the player that last touched the ball before the whole of the ball crossed the touch line.

i) Proper thrown-ins require both feet remain on the ground and both hands release the ball from behind and over the head.

ii) A goal cannot be scored by a throw-in.

Rule 6 – Substitutions

Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee:

a) On any dead ball.

b) Prior to a goal kick, in either team’s favor.

c) After a goal by either team.

d) After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team.

e) At halftime.

f) When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game

g) For U6/7 following the designated interval substitution times, play will restart with the team that had possession prior to the whistle doing a throw-in nearest to where the play was stopped. A kick-off is not required unless a goal is scored.

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

Rule 7 - Fouls and Misconduct

- a.) No direct kicks U6-8
- b.) For all free kicks, the required distance for a defending player will equal that of the age-appropriate center circle (radius).
- c.) Deliberate heading of the ball is not allowed for U12 and under and will result in an indirect free kick.
- d.) Offsides is loosely applied at U9 and U10. Cherry picking will be called. FIFA rules apply for U11 and up.
- e.) NO Penalty Kicks through U8
- f.) NO Slide Tackling through U10
- g.) Throw-ins
 - i.) Through U8, if there is a throw-in infraction, the throw-in shall be retaken. Instruction shall be given by the referee.
- h.) Presentation of Yellow and Red Cards
 - i.) All participants, as defined by Washington Youth Soccer, who receive either warnings (caution/yellow card equivalent), or dismissals/ejections (sendoff/red card equivalent) will be shown the appropriate card by the referee.
 - ii.) U6-10 will not issue or present yellow and red cards to players. Referees may suggest a player be substituted and provide a cooling off period. The referee or parent will contact the referee assignor for coach or parent problems.
- i.) Hand balls may be called when the player intentionally touches the ball with the hand or arm.
- j.) In the event of a call, an indirect kick is awarded to the opposing team at the point of infraction.

Rule 8 - Player Time in Games

Every player that is suited up will play approximately one half of each half of the game except for disciplinary reasons and under the guidance of the member club.

Rule 9 – Tie Game

Tie games will not be played off during the regular season.

Rule 10 – Charging the Goalkeeper

- a) In all age groups U12 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.
- b) In all age groups U13 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. This includes the goalkeeper holding the ball on the ground with one or both hands. For infringement of this rule, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the defending team.

Rule 11 – Spectators

The referee, either assigned or volunteer, may instruct the coach to ask a spectator to leave the area of the playing field because of their conduct. If a spectator refuses to leave the area of the playing field and remains in sight of the field, this action may result in the coach of the team which the spectator is supporting being removed of the field. Spectators asked to leave the area of play are subject to disciplinary action.

Rule 12 – Home side of the field

For all ages within CYSA, both teams will be on the same side of the field with the spectators on the opposite side.

Rule 13 – Rules and Regulations Changes

Once the playing season begins, the rules and regulations shall not be subject to change until the conclusion of that season.

All other rules of US Soccer and FIFA shall apply.

Micro Youth Referee Policy

- 1) Clubs will attempt to provide a youth referee for Micro soccer games.
- 2) All youth referees will be 12 or older.
- 3) All youth referees will attend a CYSA micro referee clinic and pass a micro referee test yearly before referring any games.
- 4) Coaches who receive a youth referee agree to respect that referee's decisions and to enforce good sportsmanship from the spectators**