

# West Central Suburban Soccer Federation

## Rules and Regulations

### Updates as of August 2017

#### Rule 1: The West Central Suburban Soccer Federation ("WCSSF")

1.1: The WCSSF is an interclub competitive league designed to provide the Recreational Plus Player 10U through High School (ages 8-19) as well as the Recreational Adult (ages 18 and up) a competitive experience, while focusing on equitable fair play and good sportsmanship while providing venue for the players to have fun.

1.2: The WCSSF does not practice the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any recreational-plus team on the basis of talent or ability. These practices are strictly prohibited. Teams accept as participants any and all eligible youths.

#### Rule 2: Clubs within the WCSSF

2.1: As of August 2016 the WCSSF is comprised of several clubs which consist of Beech Grove, Ben Davis, Clay, Danville, Franklin Township, Lebanon, Mill Creek, Montgomery, Plainfield, Putnam, Speedway, Tri West, USAi, Westside United, and Zionsville.

2.2: Any new club coming into the WCSSF must be voted on by the WCSSF board before registering.

2.3: The individual clubs are responsible for paying an annual club fee of \$50 as well as the individual team fees. These fees are due by the time the final schedules are posted. The exact due date for these fees will be sent to the club administrators as well as posted on the WCSSF website under "Important Dates."

2.4: The individual clubs are responsible for securing, assigning and paying the referees for all home games. The clubs are also responsible for ensuring that the referees uphold the rules and regulations of the WCSSF.

2.5: The individual clubs are responsible for dividing up the teams as evenly matched as possible.

2.6: The individual clubs are responsible for communicating information from the WCSSF to the coaches and teams within their clubs.

2.7: The individual clubs are responsible for ensuring that the WCSSF's Rules and Regulations are being adhered to by the players, coaches, assistants coaches, and team managers.

2.8: The individual clubs are responsible for upholding any disciplinary action handed down by the WCSSF board.

2.9: The individual clubs are responsible for ensuring that the player and coach passes are signed and laminated by the third weekend of play.

2.10: The individual clubs are responsible for sending a board representative with voting powers to the WCSSF's annual meeting which is held in January.

#### Rule 3: Laws of the Game & WCSSF Administrative Rules

3.1: The FIFA "Laws of the Game" as interpreted by the United States Soccer Federation and further interpreted by the Indiana Soccer shall govern all play with the exception that any duly adopted Rules of The WCSSF will supersede in the case of a conflict.

#### Rule 4: Coaches, Assistant Coaches, & Team Managers

4.1: All coaches, players, managers, trainers, and teams managers, shall be in good standing with the United States Soccer Federation and Indiana-Soccer.

4.2: The WCSSF recommends that coaches obtain a US Soccer E License.

4.3: Each team must register all coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and trainers with Indiana Soccer through GotSoccer. However, only three (3) official Indiana Soccer Registered pass/card holders that serve as either coaches, assistant coaches, team managers or trainers, are allowed on the bench during a given game. Anyone that is on the bench and is not a pass/card holder on the official roster will be asked to leave the bench area during the game. This includes family members.

- Head coaches who are involved with multiple teams should indicate which teams should be scheduled together. Reasonable accommodations will be extended, but not guaranteed.
- In extenuating circumstances, if the registered coaches, assistant coaches, or team managers are unable to attend a game, a substitute coach may be used. However, that person MUST be able to show a current valid player pass issued by Indiana Soccer or valid proof of background check.

4.3: Teams will use the roster given from the Indiana Soccer software program as the official roster. No hand written rosters will be accepted. Player passes and rosters must be presented to the referee at each game.

4.4: Coaches must complete the WCSSF Code of Conduct form by the third Saturday of both fall & spring season.

4.5: Coaches are responsible for fan and player conduct.

4.6: If a coach receives two (2) negative referee reports, a WCSSF commissioner will visit coach at a game. One more (1) negative referee report after WCSSF visit, will result in a one (1) game suspension. Continued negative referee reports will result in season suspension and review of coaching status by WCSSF for next season.

4.7: Coaches must turn in scores and reports within three (3) days. If they fail to do so, they will receive a friendly email from the WCSSF Board and his/her coordinator will be copied in on it. Coaches who fail to fill out reports within an additional 48 hours of the notice, that game will be recorded as a forfeit. Any team whose coach has not submitted a report for every game played during the season, the team will not be allowed to participate in the end of the season tournament. (Assistant coach or Team Managers may submit these reports.)

4.8: Any coach that is asked to leave the field due to unbecoming behavior during a game will automatically receive at least a one game suspension beginning the next game. The suspension will be for the next game that team plays. The WCSSF will then review all the game reports to see if additional disciplinary action is needed.

4.9: The WCSSF is a recreational soccer league. Player development and enjoyment of the game are the primary goals of the league. Every effort should be made by coaches to ensure that players participate in at least 50 percent of the game.

## Rule 5: Playing Equal Strength Guideline

5.1: The WCSSF uses "Playing Equal Strength" rule. This pertains to all regular season games within the WCSSF, unless a red card has been issued to a player and that player is "sent off"/ejected from the game. (During tournament play, the equal strength guideline does not apply.) Then that team must play down a player for the rest of the game. All teams are to comply, failure to do so could result in the suspension of the coach for one or more games or other disciplinary action as decided by the WCSSF Board.

5.2: In accordance with the "Playing Equal Strength" guideline, teams MUST play even strength (11 v 11, 10 v 10, etc.) throughout the entire game. If a team with 11 or fewer players (8 or fewer for 12U) elects to hold players out to use as substitutes, the opposing team is not required to play the same number of players (Team fields 9 players with 1 substitute, opposing team can play 10 players). If a team with no substitutes has a player leave the field due to injury or another reason, the opposing team must remove a player until the injured player can return.

## Rule 6: Injuries

6.1: If an injured player requires the attention of a coach, assistant coach, trainer or team manager, the player must be substituted for and may not return until the next substitution opportunity. There are two exceptions: (1) If a player can be quickly treated on the field, they do not have to leave the field. (This is at the center referee's discretion of 'quickly'. However, the 'Advice to Referees' gives twenty seconds as a guideline.) (2) The goal keeper, who is allowed to stay on the field even though he/she requires the attention of a coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team manager (unless it is an obvious blow to the head).

6.2: If a player receives an injury to the head during the game (a blow to the head that causes the player to go to the ground), the player must be substituted for and must sit out of the game until a parent or medical personnel has visually seen and talked with their child. See CONCUSSION GUIDELINES for further information.

## Rule 7: The Players & Passes

7.1: Player eligibility at games will be determined by possession of an official Indiana Soccer roster and player pass Issued by the Indiana Soccer. **ALL** players must be entered into the Indiana Soccer through GotSoccer and placed on a team within the system prior to participation in a game. Players must have a laminated player pass with picture and signed by a State Registrar. Passes must be in order by the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Saturday of both fall & spring season. **ALL** coaches, assistant coaches and team managers **MUST** also have a laminated pass with picture and signed by a State Registrar.

The Registrar for each club is required to abide by the guidelines set forth by Indiana Soccer. This includes but is not limited to collecting and verifying birth certificates, verifying player pictures, etc.

7.2: No Club Passes will be allowed in WCSSF soccer season.

7.3: You must carry the original player pass for each player on your team. Neither Xeroxed copies nor player passes accessible by a smart phone will be permitted. (NOTE: The Indiana Referee Administration has only approved the use of accessing player passes by a smart phone for the ISL games. The WCSSF has **NOT** approved this technology for use in any of the WCSSF games or tourney.)

7.4: There will be a three-week grace period at the beginning of each season for this requirement if the team has not yet received its passes from Indiana Soccer, to complete the player passes (i.e.- pictures, signature), and players can play without cards under extraordinary circumstances (i.e. theft of cards, fire, and car accident). However, players **MUST** be listed on the official roster of a specific team and the team **MUST** be registered with Indiana Soccer before the first game.

The WCSSF will post a date for which the player passes **MUST** be completed by. After that date, if the player passes are **NOT** completed the teams will forfeit all games until it is completed -- without exception. The teams may play friendlies but the game will officially be recorded as a forfeit. (Remember, that before this date, all players **MUST** still be listed in GotSoccer and placed on a team, so they will appear on the game card.)

7.5: A player must appear on the roster of the team playing as a primary or secondary player and have a player card to match. Players must appear on the official Indiana Soccer roster of his/her assigned team to be eligible to play.

7.6: A team will only be permitted to have two secondary **travel** players on their roster, and are subject to the Indiana Soccer guidelines for double rostered players.

7.7: WCSSF does not allow a guest player of any kind to play for a team during the season. A guest player is defined as a player who does not does not play with the team in question normally, does not appear on the roster and does not have a player card with the team in question.

7.8: Using a guest player during a regular season game or during a tourney will result in a forfeit. If this happens during the last game of the regular season, they will be suspended from the first game of the tourney.

7.9: Indiana Soccer age cutoffs will be followed. No overage players are allowed.

7.10: High School players are allowed to play only if they were enrolled in a High School at the beginning of the current school year. In addition, Middle School and Junior High players may play up and roster on a High School team. Home School players are also eligible to play in the WCSSF League. However, if the club has more than one High School team, the High School players must be evenly distributed between the teams.

7.11: For the Adult Summer League, only those High School players that have graduated high school may participate.

7.12: Players within the WCSSF may double roster as long as the player is double rostered within different divisions within the WCSSF. [For example, a 12U girl can play on 12U girls' team as well as a 12U boys' team; a 12U boy can play on both a 12U boys' team and a 15U boys' team; 15U girl can play on a 15U girls' team & a High School team.] A player may not double roster within the same division within

the WCSSF. [Example: a 12U boy may not roster on two 12U boys' teams from a single club within the WCSSF, nor a 15U boy may not roster on a 15U boy's team from one club and another 15U boy's team from another club within the WCSSF.]

7.13: A double rostered player may play for both team's tourney.

7.14: All players must follow the rules of Indiana Soccer on IHSSA players:

Students may participate in team sports contest as members of a non-school team provided that no more than the following numbers of students who have participated in the previous year as a member of one of their school teams in that sport are members of the non-school team at the same time. Soccer-6.

7.15: The player passes and a copy of the official state roster, shall be given to the referee, who shall have sole discretion to determine a player's eligibility to play based on the referee's determination of the validity of the player pass of any player.

7.16: Prior to or as the teams are being checked in by the referee, the team parent (manager) or coach of the opposing team shall review their opponent's roster and player cards.

7.17: The right to protest a game based on illegal players is waived if a team forgoes checking the opponent's roster and passes.

## Rule 8: The Team

8.1: Clubs are responsible for registering their teams for the season into GotSoccer. The deadline for registration will be posted on the website for each season.

8.2: All club and team fees are due by the posted deadline for each season. A \$25 late fee will be assessed weekly per club.

8.3: If a club drops a team after the last day to register a team, the club forfeits half of the registration fee. Dropping a team may also result in the team being ineligible to participate in the league for a period of time to be determined by the WCSSF Board.

8.4: A team shall have an Indiana Soccer carded team manager, assistant coach, and/or coach rostered from that team, who must be present at all games.

8.5: Absence of an Indiana Soccer carded team manager, assistant coach, and/or coach rostered from that team is an automatic forfeit of game by the offending team.

8.6: If neither team has an Indiana Soccer carded team manager, assistant coach, and/or coach rostered from their teams present, both teams forfeit.

8.7: No team shall be accompanied at the sideline by more than three (3) adults Coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, or trainers with valid Indiana Soccer passes and rostered on the team playing.

8.8: The minimum number of players that must be rostered to register:

- For clubs registering one team within a division: the team must have enough players needed to field a team [10U – 7; 12U – 9; 15U – 14; High School – 11 (spring only); 19 – 7 (fall only)].
- For clubs registering two or more teams within a division: the teams must have the following minimum number of players rostered on each team: 10U—9; 12U—11; 15U—14; High School Fall—9; High School Spring—15.

8.9: The maximum number of players that can be rostered:

- 10U: 14
- 12U: 16
- 15U: 18
- High School (20U): 14 (fall only)
- High School (20U): 22 (spring only)
- Adult Summer League: unlimited

8.10: High School teams can roster up to 22 in the spring season, but only 18 can dress & sit on the bench for games and must have a game day roster to present to the Referee Staff. For the Adult Summer League can roster an unlimited number of players, but only 12 can dress and sit on the bench for games.

8.11: Teams must have a minimum number of players to begin the game: 7 @ 15U, High School (spring only); 6 @ 12U; 5 @ High School (fall only). If a team cannot field a MINIMUM team then the game will be a forfeit and the score will be recorded as a 4-0 game.

8.12: 10U teams will not be allowed to move up and participate into the 12U division.

8.13: Registration will be open to all individuals regardless of skill level.

8.14: In the Fall, the teams cannot be more than half of the roster from the previous year (Fall-Spring) unless the club only has one team in a particular division. [Current counts based on current roster limits from Indiana Soccer would be for 10U – 7 players; 12U – 8 players; 15U-High School (Spring) – 9 players; High School (Fall) – 7 players.]

8.15: In the Spring, teams will be based on the fall team roster with new players being divided equitably among the previously formed teams.

8.16: All players (after the half that is going to be carried over) must go into the pool of players so that teams can be equitably formed each fall.

8.17: Teams must be divided as equally as possible either by club software program or by taking the following steps:

- Based on information from previous coaches when at all possible;
- Older players should be divided equally among the teams.

8.18: Teams will not be taken in under the WCSSF league umbrella if the team is not formed according to WCSSF or Indiana Soccer rules. Violations in team formation by clubs may result in disciplinary action and clubs may be ineligible to participate in the league for a period of time to be determined by the WCSSF Board.

## Rule 9: Uniforms & Players Equipment

9.1: A Team must wear the same color shirts with a unique jersey number on the back. If there is a conflict in jersey color, the home team must either wear pinnies or change to an alternate colored jersey.

9.2: A Team must wear the same color shorts. (Adult Summer League is exempt)

9.3: A Team must wear the same color socks. (Adult Summer League is exempt)

9.4: Shin-guards must be worn under the socks and completely covered by the socks; this includes the ankle guards and straps. Nothing can show.

9.5: Mouth guards are strongly recommended but not mandatory.

9.6: A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). Taping is not permitted.

9.7: No jewelry can be worn during a game.

9.8: A player, who wears eye glasses, including sunglasses, must wear a safety strap during all matches.

9.9: A goalie must wear a different color shirt or pinnie from either team, and does not have to match his team with shorts or socks. However, once the goalie changes positions on the field, he must match the team entirely.

## Rule 10: Rosters

10.1: Teams must be registered with the WCSSF through Indiana Soccer, GotSoccer, for the current season by the posted WCSSF registration date.

10.2: Clubs are responsible for finalizing the team rosters and completing the player cards for their teams by the third weekend of the season.

10.3: The rosters will be frozen at 7:00 PM on the Monday immediately following the third weekend of the season. At this time players **MUST** be listed on the official Indiana Soccer roster by that time to be eligible to participate in future games.

10.4: Clubs seeking to add additional players to a team after the roster freeze **MUST** receive **prior** approval from the WCSSF Board and will be subject to a \$25.00 fine per team.

## Rule 11: The Referee Staff

11.1: United States Soccer Federation (USSF) licensed officials must run centers.

11.2: Only Grade 8 referees or lower will center for the WCSSF Rec Plus games. Grade 9 referees may only line 10U and 12U WCSSF games only. It is HIGHLY recommended that all referees obtain their grade 8 license within one year of receiving their grade 9 license.

11.3: The WCSSF recommends that the center referee be at least two years older than the age group playing; while the assistant referees are at least the same age as the youngest player in that age group. For the Adult Summer league, the center referee should be at least 25 years old and the AR's should be at least 16 years old.

11.4: For all 12U and up ages the three-man system (referee, two assistant referees) must be used for all games, or the game will be declared a no contest.

11.5: Licensed assistant referees are strongly encouraged. In the event of a no-show a non-licensed (club) assistant referees may be used to call out-of-bounds only. They cannot call offside or fouls. They are not to be paid.

11.6: The home team is responsible for providing and paying officials, unless otherwise agreed.

11.7: Referees **MUST** check **ALL** rosters and player passes for each player and coach on both teams prior to game time. This is to be done both during regular season games and tournament play.

11.8: The referee should return the rosters and player passes after checking in the teams.

11.9: Center referees must file the Referee Report of each WCSSF game within 24 hours of game completion.

- Any referee that does not file a game report within 24 hours will be sent a friendly reminder. The assignor will be included on the reminder.
- Any center referee that has not filed two (2) game reports will not be eligible to referee in any tournament.
- -Any center referee that has not filed three game reports for the season will be referred to the DRA.

11.10: Referees **MUST** file the name of the player that receives a yellow or red card and any coach ejection that occurs; and submit the information in the game report. (If there is a save issue then the report may be sent directly to the WCSSF) \*\*\*Referee **MUST** hit SAVE twice during the process.

## Rule 12: Cautions/Yellow cards/Sending Off/Ejections/Red Cards

12.1: A player who is sent off (ejected) from a game is suspended for the next succeeding game.

12.2: A player receiving two sent offs (ejections) during a season shall be suspended for the next two succeeding games after the second ejection and will be reported to the WCSSF Disciplinary Committee to determine what further action may be necessary.

12.3: A player receiving three ejections shall be suspended for the balance of the season, including ALL WCSSF tournament games.

12.4: A player receiving three cautions (yellow cards) during the course of the season will be equal to an ejection (red card) with all penalties involved.

12.5: If an ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the player's next season WCSSF sanctioned game, whether it is in WCSSF regular season game or end of season tourney. All ejections are reported to WCSSF & Indiana Soccer.

12.6: The WCSSF board will notify the next opposing team of the ejection and mandatory sit-out.

12.7: Referees shall not keep player, coach, or team manager cards after an ejection, but will return them to the participant's team.

12.8: Any minor that is sent off due to a red card must be accompanied by an adult until that player is picked up at the facility.

### **Rule 13: Ejections/Sending Off**

13.1: Any person other than a player who is sent off (ejected) from a game shall be suspended for the next two succeeding games. "Person" for purposes of this rule shall include, but not be limited to, coach, manager, trainer, spectator, or any other person attending the game.

13.2: A person ejected for the second time during a season will appear before the WCSSF Disciplinary Committee prepared to show-cause why he or she should not be suspended for an indefinite period.

13.3: If an ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the person's next WCSSF sanctioned game. All ejections are reported to Indiana Soccer.

13.4: If an ineligible player plays or if a coach knowingly permits an ineligible player to participate in a WCSSF sanctioned game, the player, the coach and the entire team may be suspended for a period to be determined by the Executive Committee.

13.5: Players are ineligible if they were sent off (red-carded) in the previous game. An "ineligible player" is a player who is not registered with Indiana Soccer, is illegally registered, or who has been suspended by the WCSSF or Indiana Soccer.

### **Rule 14: Physical Assault**

14.1: Physical-assault by a player or any other person on a referee or other game official shall result in expulsion of that person for at least a one year minimum, pending a hearing by the WCSSF and Indiana Soccer disciplinary committee.

14.2: Physical-assault by a player or any other person on another player, coach, or team official shall result in the expulsion of that player for the remainder of that season and up to two years, pending a hearing by the WCSSF and Indiana Soccer disciplinary committee. WCSSF will hold an emergency meeting within 72 hours to determine the appropriate course of action.

14.3 Physical assault by a player will be reported to Indiana Soccer.

### **Rule 15: Zero Tolerance Policy**

As a member of Indiana Soccer, the WCSSF is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting our participants and insuring their safety and well being while involved in sponsored activities.

To this end, we have established the following guidelines of behavior and procedures for our staff, volunteers and participants. As members of this organization, we will as parents, spectators and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

15.1: The use of profane language of any type is not allowed by players, spectators, coaching staff or team managers.

15.2: Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. This means we do not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators.

15.3: Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are starkly prohibited within our organization.

15.4: Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as profanity, yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sex or age.

15.5: We are committed to providing a safe environment for our players, participants and staff. We do so by appointing all coaches, officials and volunteers – and anyone else affiliated with our organization -- as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting to the Club Risk Management Director and/or President, any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling or spectator.

15.6: We recommend that every activity sponsored by our program put a Buddy System in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere – to the bathrooms, locker rooms or other location – without his or her buddy.

15.7: To further protect our youth participants, as well as our coaches and volunteers, we strongly advise that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child (other than their own) or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, we recommend that the coaches or other adult members of this organization:

- Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car.
- Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other private room.
- Provide one-on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's Buddy.
- If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of a private office.
- Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with the participants outside of sponsored activities.

15.8: We recommend that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be 1:8 – one (or more) adults for every eight children, with a minimum of two adults for every activity.

15.9: When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of the same gender and similar age group, with chaperones in separate, but nearby rooms.

15.10: We want players to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns and fears are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.

15.11: We encourage parents to become as active as possible in sponsored activities, games, practices and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.

15.12: We will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's Risk Management Director and/or President. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly. Indiana Soccer will be copied on all correspondence.

15.13: Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person, who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to the reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.

15.14: We promote good sportsmanship throughout the organization and encourage qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators. We advocate building strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully other around them.

## **Rule 16: Failure to show**

16.1: If the visiting team fails to appear at the game site within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled kickoff and fails to notify the other team of the delay, the offending team Forfeits the game 4-0.

16.2: If the home team fails to appear at the game site within fifteen minutes of the scheduled kickoff, it forfeits the game 4-0.

16.3: If the home team fails to provide a Center referee within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled kickoff, it forfeits the game 4-0.

- If referees are not present fifteen (15) minutes BEFORE kickoff, the home team coach should contact the assignor, director or Rec Plus coordinator immediately.
- However, if the referee crew is onsite but finishing a previous game that has gone over, the home team coach should notify the away team coach, that the game will begin as soon as the referees are available.
- There are other situations that may arise that cause the referees to be delayed. Each club should have a procedure set in place for such incidents. If the delay is lengthy due to weather, game incidents, etc., the game may be rescheduled if both coaches agree.

16.3: If the aggrieved team plays the game, the right to a forfeit is waived.

## Rule 17: Fields & Field of Play

17.1: All fields used by league teams shall have well-defined markings two (2) yards or six (6) feet back from each touchline that no one shall be allowed to be within. Only linesmen are allowed in this area.

17.3: One side of the field will be designated for spectators. The opposite side will be designated for the teams.

17.4: On the team's side of the field, twenty (20) yard markings shall be placed on each side of the centerline of a full field, and twelve yard marking shall be placed on each side of the centerline of a small-sided field.

17.5: No coach or team member will be allowed to stand further than twenty (20) yards from the center line on his or her designated end of a full field, or twelve yards on a small-sided field.

17.6: Coaches are allowed to coach within reason from the sidelines. A coach is to remain two (2) yards from the touchline and between the centerline and twenty (20) yards from the centerline on his or her designated end of a full-sided field, or twelve yards on a small-sided field.

17.7: Air horns and whistles are not permitted during WCSSF games. Clubs may be utilizing one of these noise makers to warn participants of an emergency. The referees, club representatives, or WCSSF Board member may temporarily ban the use of other artificial noise makers such as vuvuzelas, cow bells, etc., at a game if they are disruptive to the referees and/or players.

## Rule 18: Field & Goal Sizes

### 18.1 10U Fields

- Maximum Field Size – 40 yards by 60 yards
- Minimum Field Size – 30 yards by 45 yards
- Indiana Soccer's Recommended Field Size as of August 2016– 90 yards by 141 yards

### 18.2 12U Fields [& High School in Fall Only]

- Maximum Field Size – 55 yards by 80 yards
- Minimum Field Size – 45 yards by 70 yards Center Circle – 8-yard radius
  - ↳ Penalty Area – 14 yards by 34 yards (14 yards from each goalpost).
  - ↳ Goal Area – 4 yards by 14 yards (4 yards from each goalpost).
  - ↳ Goals – 6 feet by 18 feet (goals up to 7 feet by 21 feet may be used).
  - ↳ Penalty Spot – 10 yards from Goal Line.
  - ↳ Penalty Arc – 8-yard radius from Penalty Spot for area outside Penalty Area.
- Indiana Soccer's Recommended Field Size as of August 2016 – 141 yards by 225 yards

### 18.3 15U Fields [& High School in Spring Only]

- Maximum Field Size – 80 yards by 120 yards
- Minimum Field Size – 55 yards by 100 yards

- Indiana Soccer's Recommended Field Size as of August 2016 – 225 yards by 336 yards

#### 18.4 Goal Sizes

- 10U Recommended Size – 6.5 x 18.5; however cannot be smaller than 6x12
- 12U Recommended Size – 6.5 x 18.5; however, cannot be smaller than 6x18
- 15U-High School Recommended Size – 8 x 24

### Rule 19: 12U Free Kicks

19.1: Players from the opposing team must be at least 8 yards away from the ball on free kicks.

### Rule 20: Suspended Games

20.1: Games suspended by weather or darkness shall be deemed an official game if the contest has reached halftime (even if the halves have been shortened by agreement of both coaches). Games suspended prior to that point shall be rescheduled and replayed from the beginning.

20.2: Every reasonable effort will be made to complete games suspended due to weather or field conditions. Games may be terminated at the point of suspension upon agreement of both coaches if the second half of the game has started and the score is not tied. If terminated, the score at the point of suspension will be the official result.

20.3: If a game is cancelled or suspended due to weather, the coaches are responsible for arranging a new date for the game. The WCSSF scheduler will move the game to a temporary date in GotSoccer to give the coaches ample time to reschedule.

### Rule 21: Scheduling and Reschedule Policy

21.1: Each team is allowed two blackout dates for the season. The blackout dates must be entered into GotSoccer when the team is registered or by the deadline date posted for the season.

21.2: Games must be rescheduled through the home referee assignor, home field coordinator, the Rec Plus Coordinator, and the league scheduler/age-group commissioner. Once the final schedule has been posted, games may only be rescheduled for the following reasons:

- Fields or referees are unavailable on the designated day/time;
- School functions will prevent your team from having the minimum number of players to play the game (academic functions, not other school sports);
- One-time special events of other social or religious groups will prevent your team from having the minimum number of players to play the game; or
- Weather or field condition related cancellations.

21.3: With the exception of weather or field condition related cancellations, reschedules must be requested at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled playing date. Games canceled due to weather should be rescheduled as quickly as possible so that standings are correct for tournament seeding.

### Rule 22: League Standings:

22.1: Scoring teams will only be given a four (4) goals margin when in a win occurs.

22.2: Running up the score is considered un-sporting.

22.3: If a team has a four (4) goal advantage the team is to stop the attack by the primary players and control the ball without making it known to the other team. See guidelines for changing the attack.

22.4: Teams that continually "run up" the score without making a purposeful effort to stop the attack of primary players will result in sanctions against the coach.

22.5: Teams receive three (3) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie and zero (0) points for a loss.

22.6: If all teams play an equal amount of games, standings will be based on total points earned if teams do not play an equal number of games, standings will be based on percentage of possible points earned  $[points/(games\ played \times 3)]$

22.7: If two (2) or more teams have the same number of points or equal percentages, ties will be broken on the following:

- Games Won
- Head-to-Head Results
- Divisional Record (if divisions were used)
- Goals Allowed
- Coin Flip

22.8: If three (3) or more teams tie for a position and all teams involved in the tie have the same number of wins, all three teams must have played an equal number of games against each other for head-to-head to be considered. If not, skip to Divisional Records. If so, the total number of points earned in these games will determine the winner of the tiebreak.

- Example – Three Teams
- Team B defeats Team A
- Team C defeats Team B
- Team A ties Team C
- Team A – 1 point (0-1-1)
- Team B – 3 points (1-1-0)
- Team C – 4 points (1-0-1)

22.9: Team C wins the tiebreak. The two-team tiebreaker may now be used between Teams A and B, with Team B winning the tiebreak on Head-to-Head.

## Rule 23: Substitution

23.1: Unlimited Substitutions may be done by either team on the kick off, goal kick or throw-in.

23.2: Both teams may substitute on a throw in as long as the team with possession has a substitute to come in. Players ready to substitute MUST take a pinnie unto the field and hand it off to the player that they are replacing on the field.

23.3: Substitutions may also be given on an injury (one for one).

23.4: Substitutions shall be with the consent of the referee at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in in your teams favor
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After any goal
- At half-time
- If a team has a substitute player ready on their own possession as described above and the opponent also has a player ready for substitution, both teams may sub.

23.5: For the referee to consider a player(s) ready to substitution, the player(s) MUST be at the Half Way line ready to enter the field PRIOR to the ball leaving the field.

23.6: Substitution of a cautioned player is no longer mandatory, but voluntary.

## Rule 24: Tournament Procedures

24.1: An end of the season tourney will be conducted at the end of each season. The tourney will be single elimination based on the standings throughout the season.

24.2: All the rules and regulations for the season will apply during the tourney with the exception of the 4-Goal Guideline and the Equal Strength Rule. In addition, a winner must be chosen for each game; therefore no game may end in a tie.

24.3: All teams in good standing (all reports filed) that participated during the season are eligible to participate in the end of the season tourney.

24.4: Only those players that meet the following criteria will be eligible to participate.

- The player MUST be listed by the freeze date on the official roster from Indiana Soccer.
- The player MUST have a laminated player pass including a proper picture and registrar signature or stamp.
- The player MUST be in good standing. (i.e. - not currently under suspense due to a red card or other disciplinary action.)

24.5: All teams playing will be required to check in their teams the week prior to the tourney. The dates of the check in will be posted on the WCSSF website under "Important Dates" before the beginning of the season. If there are problems at the check in with the roster, player passes or coaches cards, the team will have until Thursday before the tourney to meet with a WCSSF board member to show that they are in compliance in order to be able to play in the tourney.

24.6: The WCSSF will determine the tourney sites prior to each season. Clubs may submit their request to WCSSF to host a tournament. The clubs must have concessions available in order to host a tournament. See the WCSSF Tourney Host Guidelines for further details.

24.7: Games suspended by weather or darkness shall be deemed an official game if the contest has reached halftime (even if the halves have been shortened by agreement of both coaches). Games suspended prior to that point shall be rescheduled and replayed from the beginning.

24.8: Players in a division may not officiate within their own age division for a tournament.

24.9: The center referee is charged with following the WCSSF rules of the game for tournament play, having final say of the game.

## Rule 25 Tournament Tie Breakers

25.1: During the tourney, a winner must be chosen for each game; therefore no game can end in a tie. If the game is tied after regular play has ended, the game will go directly to "Kicks from the Mark."

25.2: After a two-minute break, the Kicks from the Mark will begin immediately according to FIFA rules. The referee will be responsible for conducting the Kicks from the Mark according to the FIFA rules stated below.

- Each team selects 5 players currently on the field to participate in the Kicks from the Mark.
  - Players MUST remain on the field, no substitutions are allowed at this time. Only the players on the field when the overtime ended, including the goalie, may participate in the Kicks from the Mark.
  - Either the current goalie or a player from the field may be the goalie for the Kicks from the Mark.
  - Coaches are NOT allowed on the field, but must remain at their bench or in the coach's area. The players not on the field MUST remain on the bench.
  - Teams must be of equal number of players on the field when the Kicks from the Mark start.
  - The referee will conduct another coin flip to determine which team starts. The players alternate between both teams until all five players have completed the Kicks from the Mark.
- If the score is still tied at the end of the Kicks from the Mark, the kicks from the mark will proceed in **single pairs**, alternating in the same order as the Kicks from the Mark. (Please be aware, although the Kicks from the Mark will proceed in **single pairs**, the referees will call for 5 players to participate in order to keep the flow moving.) At this point, kicks from the mark are stopped and one team is declared the winner if that team has scored in its pair but the other team has not.
  - All players on the field must participate before a team can use players from the bench.
  - After all the players on the field have had a turn, the coach will select a player from the bench until each has kicked with each team using equal number of players (i.e. team 1- has 7 players on bench, Team 2 – has 4 players on bench: 4 players from each bench will take kicks before players take a second kick.)

## Rule 26: Duration of the Match

- 10U: 25-minute halves; 5-minute halftime.

- 12U: 30-minute halves; 5-minute halftime.
- 15U: 35-minute halves; 10-minute halftime.
- High School (20U): (Fall Season only) 35-minute halves; 10-minute halftime.
- High School (20U): (Spring season only) 45 minute halves, 10-minute halftime.
- Adult Summer League: (Summer only) 35-minute halves; 10-minute halftime.

## Rule 27: Game Protests

27.1: During the regular season game protests or appeals shall be made in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completion of the game to the WCSSF Board. (Please see rule 27.5 for game protests during the end of the season tourney.)

27.2: **All protests or appeals must be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee.** If the protest is not upheld by the WCSSF Board, the fee is forfeited to the League. However, if the protest is upheld by the WCSSF Board, the fee is returned to the club.

27.3: **Protests based on the basis upon the referee officiating will not be considered.** The referee decisions are considered final. The only protests that will be considered will be protests based upon the basis that the WCSSF rules & Regulations were not followed properly throughout the game. (i.e. - The WCSSF's equal strength rule was not upheld during the game.)

27.4: If the WCSSF Board President deems it necessary, the WCSSF Board will set a time to hear the game protest.

- All hearings are private and there will be no children or parents present. Only coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, or team managers listed on the roster may be present. In addition, a club representative such as the Rec Plus Coordinator or club president may be present.
- A neutral mediator/timekeeper will be used during any hearing.
- The team filing the game protest will have 30 minutes to present their case and what action they want taken; they must be present and present their own case.
- The opposing team will also have 30 minutes to rebuttal; they must be present and present their own case.
- The WCSSF Board may take an additional 30 minutes for questions of both parties.
- The representatives from both parties will leave the room while the WCSSF Board discusses the protest and come to a decision. If necessary, the WCSSF may delay the decision to gain additional facts.

27.5: During the end of the season tournaments, special procedures must be followed when filling a game protest.

- The Host Coordinator or the WCSSF Board member at the field **MUST** be notified within 30 minutes after the completion of the game that a game protest is being sought.
- The coach then has an additional 15 minutes to submit the official request in writing along with the game protest fee of \$50.
- The Host Coordinator or the WCSSF Board member will initially contact a club representative (i.e. - Rec Plus Coordinator) to confirm that the game protest is allowed by the coach's club. Once approved, the Host Coordinator or the WCSSF Board Member at the field will contact the opposing coach or team to inform them that the game is under protest.
- **Game protests based upon the officiating of the game will not be considered because the referee's decisions are final.** Only game protests based upon procedural aspects of the game will be considered.
- The Host Coordinator or the WCSSF Board member will contact the Executive Committee of the board and if necessary arrange for the WCSSF Board to meet with both coaches and follow the steps listed in Rule 27.4. However, the times may be adjusted to fit within the tourney schedule.
- WCSSF Board Members associated with either team may not vote on the game protest.

27.6: The appropriate action depending on the situation will be decided upon by the WCSSF Board. The decision of the WCSSF Board will be considered final and no further protests will be allowed.

## Rule 28: Procedures for filing complaints to the WCSSF

- \$150 fee to file the complaint at which \$75 is refundable if you win your case. \$50 fee will pay the use of a neutral mediator/timekeeper.
- Hearing date will be set. All Hearings are private and there will be no children or parents present.
- A neutral mediator/timekeeper will be used during any hearing.
- The protesting party has 30 minutes to present their case and what action they want taken; they must be present and present their own case.
- The defending party has 30 minutes to rebuttal; they must be present and present their own case.
- The other club representatives have 30 minutes for questions of both parties.
- The two parties leave the room.
- The rest of the clubs discuss and vote on whether to accept, modify or reject the accusing party's course of action. Majority vote must be obtained. Each club will be allowed one vote per club. The accusing club/party and the club/party in question will be excluded from the voting process.
- The two parties will be brought back in and be informed of the decision made by the WCSSF.
- All decisions are final and any clubs not adhering to the decision will be suspended for play within the WCSSF for one season, but players will be allowed to participate in soccer with other clubs.
- In the case of a complaint against a coach, player, parent, club member, or board member, the one who the complaint is against must be the one that represents themselves. The above rules will still be enforced.

## Rule 29: WCSSF Rules & Regulations

- The WCSSF Rules & Regulations are to be adhered to by each club.
- Any change to the current WCSSF Rules & Regulations must initially approved by the WCSSF Board and then presented to the club representatives at the annual meeting. The rule must be approved by 75% of the clubs represented at the annual meeting.

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### **The WCSSF Sportsmanship Guideline (Previously known as the "4-Goal Guideline")**

Sportsmanship is one of the reasons why soccer is the most popular team sport. The idea of sportsmanship is basically 'playing the game of soccer fairly and cleanly.' Players who play with the spirit of the game in mind are giving a lot more respect as a leader than that of a player who is constantly bringing the game down by swearing, cheating, or fighting. When there is a presence of sportsmanship on the field, the game of soccer dramatically improves. You are then playing soccer for the love of the game without any intent of hurting the opponent.

The main objectives of the Rec Plus soccer program are to have fun and to help every child develop as a soccer player. If one team is greatly superior to the other in any match, these objectives are often lost. Therefore, the WCSSF board has adopted a "4-goal" guideline to encourage coaches to restore the objectives in games that are mismatched. The rule simply states, "If a team has a four goal advantage, the team is to stop the attack and control the ball." It is an easy rule, but is often misunderstood. The rule does not state that a team cannot score more than four goals or that there cannot be more than four goal difference between the two teams. The rule does imply that the coach should stop the team from attacking or going straight to the goal. The coach should slow down the scoring, and work on other skills with the team (see "Ways to Change the Attack" below). It is important for coaches to guard the dignity and integrity of the other team.

Beginning in the Spring of 2014, although the "Sportsmanship Guideline" is in effect for all divisions; the WCSSF has eliminated the 4-goal differential for the High School division. The coaches within the High School division should continue to exhibit good sportsmanship and not drive up the score unnecessarily when involved in a game with mismatched teams.

### **Ways to Change the Attack**

#### Methods to Hold down Scoring:

1. Move the offensive players to defense and vice versa.
2. Remove your main goalie and put in a player who is not a goalie.
3. Remove a player or two (play down). Never do this at the start of half time because it is too obvious. Wait until you sub and, for example, you will sub in 3 players but pull out 4 players. This one really makes the team have to play harder and smarter to keep the control of the ball when they are outnumbered on their offensive end.
4. Make all the players dribble only with their opposite foot.
5. Make all players shoot with the opposite foot.

6. Tell the team that all players must touch the ball before they can begin a drive to the goal.
7. Only allow one or two players to score (usually players who have not scored for the season). All other players must pass, cross, chip and etc. to these players if they want the team to score.
8. The team can only score off of Headers from crosses from their teammates. (NOTE: This one can really slow down scoring while still allowing the team to play hard yet work on an important set of skills – crosses and scoring headers.)
9. The players can only shoot outside of the 18 (Penalty Box). This one is not quite as effective in slowing down the scoring as #7 and #8, above, but if you have to slow down scoring for a large part of the game, this one can help mix it up a little bit for your team.
10. Make the team carry the ball to all four corners of the field before they can begin an attack. This method and #6, above can be used in conjunction with any of the other methods.
13. If all else fails, you can have your team shoot at a target behind and way off to the sides of the goal in order to still maintain the forward drive of the play while maintaining formation, support, and full normal team set up. Only use this one with select players during a game and not on the whole team.

### THINGS NOT TO DO:

If you are the coach for the team that is ahead...

1. Please don't yell out to your team that they can't score.
2. Please don't let your players make comments about not scoring or that they are changing the way they are playing.
3. As the coach, you are responsible for how your team handles this situation.
4. Sportsmanship is imperative. Everyone deserves to leave the field with their dignity intact.

If you are the coach for the team that is down...

1. Continue to encourage your players to play their best. Your players key off of your response to the score. We are here to build skills and have fun.
2. Please don't complain about the other team to your players.
3. Please don't complain that the other team has scored.
4. Don't allow your players to give up. (Sportsmanship is a two-way street.)