

# **Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Boys and Girls State League Policies and Administrative Procedures**

## **RULE #1 NAME**

These leagues shall be named the Wisconsin State Leagues and shall be referred to as the Boys State League and the Girls State League. Each league will have a Premier, a First Division and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Division where needed.

## **RULE #2 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Wisconsin State League (Boys and Girls Premier, 1st Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division) shall be to provide the highest level of competition for the U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, and U19 youth teams within their age division.

## **RULE #3 AUTHORITY**

The Wisconsin State Leagues are authorized by the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors to operate as the Official State League. It shall be administered by the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, through the respective League. The Boys League will be managed by the Boys League Board of Directors and the Girls League will be managed by the Girls League Board of Directors. The State Leagues shall be properly affiliated with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, Wisconsin Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer.

## **RULE #4 LEAGUE OFFICE**

The official league office shall be the same as the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, located at 10201 West Lincoln Ave, West Allis WI. 53227 Phone # 414-328-9972 Fax # 414-328-8008 Toll free # 1-888-328-9972

## **RULE #5 BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association President shall appoint the League Director with input from the State Vice President and the League Board of Directors. The League Board shall consist, where at all possible, of one Director from each participating District. Each District will elect/appoint its representative to the Board. Should the District fail to nominate a representative, the Vice President and the League Director will appoint individuals to each Board as needed. The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association State League Boards of Directors, the League Director, and the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Vice President shall be responsible for establishing and enforcing league rules and policies. The Boards of the State Boys League and the State Girls League along with the Vice President, League Director, and an at-large member will participate on an equal voting basis to select teams for participation in the State Leagues. The groups shall meet at least twice a year to approve the placement of teams in the league and make any other rule or policy changes.

## **RULE #6 LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

The President shall appoint the League Director. The League Director shall be responsible for the organization and operation of the league in accordance with the established league rules and policies. The League Director shall be responsible for the appointment of the League at-large member with the approval of the League Board of Directors.

## **RULE #7 BUDGET AND FEES**

The League Director, working with the League Administrator, will prepare a budget for the League subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors. The budget will be submitted to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Executive Director. The League Board of Directors shall determine the league fees and set performance bonds as needed. The League Director and the League Administrator shall be responsible for the collection of league fees from all participating teams and to include all items in the league operating budget. All funds collected must be made payable to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and presented to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association for deposit in Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Accounts.

## **RULE #8 APPLICATION TO THE LEAGUE**

Teams that are members of affiliated Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association clubs may apply for entry to the State League. All applications must be made to the State Association in accordance with established deadlines. The league application will be due on or about July 5th for fall league participation and no later than January 5th for spring league participation. All league fees and

performance bonds, along with a completed league application will be reviewed by the Boards of Directors of each league. All league applications will be done online and paper copies of the application will not be accepted. Team placement will be determined by the Board of Directors of each league. The dates of the league placement meetings are posted on the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association activity calendar. The team placements will be posted on the Wisconsin Youth Soccer web site ([www.wiyouthsoccer.com](http://www.wiyouthsoccer.com)) following the league placement meetings. Teams will have 48 hours to request an explanation of their placement. Teams that elect to appeal their placement will have 24 hours from the time of the response to their inquiry by a league representative. Please understand the time starts when the information is posted and not from when you review the posting. The WYSA appeal fee of \$125 must be received in the State Office before the scheduled appeal hearing. If this fee is not received or the procedure is not followed with regard to the appeal, before the scheduled hearing date/time, the team's appeal will not be heard or considered.

If after participating in the Premier or 1st Division a team does not participate in the State League for any reason, the team must reapply to the State League. Teams returning from Midwest Regional League play will be allowed to return to the Premier Division. Acceptance will be determined based on the criteria in League Rule #9.

New teams may be considered for placement between the fall and spring season at the U12, U13 and U14 from their respective District Classic League. **First consideration for placement will given to undefeated/untied teams. District League champions are not guaranteed acceptance midseason and teams will only be accepted if space is available.** Teams may be asked to submit a resume of their accomplishments to support their application for State League.

If a club earns a spot the previous year and State Championship results are favorable, that spot remains with the club at that age level in the next year as long as the club selected team applies and meets criteria for inclusion in the league. This rule applies to State League participation only.

Under extraordinary circumstances additional teams from existing leagues/divisions may apply for admission for state league play. Those teams must submit a vita to the program administrator at the time of application so the placement committee can evaluate their viability for state league play. Consideration will be given to league champions, teams that play up and age group and W-L record.

#### **RULE #9 ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

U12 teams that apply for entry into the State League shall be granted entry to the Premier, 1st Division or 2<sup>nd</sup> Division based on the following criteria. The selection of teams will be determined by the League Board of Directors.

1. District Classic League Champions will be given priority in placement into the State League.
2. The team won-loss record in league play
3. The team won-loss record in State Championship Tournament play (U13-U18 only) and the opponents they defeated
4. The sportsmanship and fair play performance of the team in league and state championship tournament

U12 and above teams that did not participate in the Boys or Girls State League may apply for entry. Acceptance will be based on performance in their District Classic League. Teams will only be considered for first division or 2<sup>nd</sup> division (where available) placement. There are more District Leagues than there are positions available in the Wisconsin Boys and Girls State Leagues. The placement will be determined by the League Board of Directors, with consideration given to the District League top division champion. In addition to the four criteria listed above, the performance of the team in State Championship Tournament play will also be considered.

#### **RULE # 10 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

League participants in the U12 through U18 will be promoted and relegated based on the performance record in the State League. The Premier Division, First Division and Second Division will be made up of minimum of eight teams with a **maximum of 10 team**; teams one through six will be protected and will remain in the league the next scheduled season. If eight teams are not available the State League Board reserves the right to select six or seven teams. If the League has fewer than eight teams the State League Board reserves the right to protect as many teams as the State League Board deems qualified. Teams that finish in position seven and below will be considered for relegation to the 1st Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> division. In the event of a tie for position six and below the following criteria will be used to determine placement.

1. Head to Head results
2. Goals differential- goals scored minus goals allowed
3. Goals scored
4. Goals allowed
5. Sportsmanship and fair play points
6. Play off game (at the discretion of the League Director)

Teams that finish league play in position one or two in its division (1<sup>st</sup> division, 2<sup>nd</sup> division) will be considered by the Board of Directors for Promotion. The Board of Directors may consider additional teams for promotion if needed. The same criteria listed will apply in the event of ties. There will be no limit to the number of teams considered for application to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division or where available a 2<sup>nd</sup> division. The number of teams promoted into the 1st Division or 2<sup>nd</sup> division and relegated from the 1st Division or 2<sup>nd</sup> division may exceed two teams per age group when necessary as long as 50% of the teams that participated in the league the previous season remain in the league. Teams that have been promoted to the Premier Division are included in the number retained for the purpose of this calculation.

Regarding the U12, U13 and U14 age groups, there will be promotion and relegation between the Premier, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division (where available) of the State League between the Fall and Spring seasons. (The acceptance criteria stated in Rule #9 will be used as criteria upon which teams will be considered for promotion. Teams may also be asked to submit a resume of their accomplishments to support their mid-season promotions between the State League divisions).

Under extraordinary circumstances teams from the existing divisions may be accepted for admission for state league play. Those teams must submit a vita to the program administrator at the time of application so the placement committee can evaluate their viability. If, because of improvements to an applying team occurs during tryouts and the team is seeking to replace a team already placed in the state league, the club seeking improve it placement to state league must produce a written release of the state league spot in order to be considered a replacement for that team.

#### **RULE #11 USYSA REGION II LEAGUE- MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE (MRL)**

The Midwest Regional League placement is offered to State League teams that have demonstrated proficiency in the State Championship Tournament and the Wisconsin Boys or Girls State League. The application to the league is reviewed by the Wisconsin State Technical Committee. The State Technical Committee is made up of the State Director of Coaching, Associate Director of Coaching, Vice President, State Boys League Director and State Girls League Director. The Wisconsin Youth Soccer State League Administrator will act as the coordinator of this committee. The MRL Operating Committee and MRL Technical Committee will determine league placement based on the recommendations of the State Technical Committee. The MRL operates under a system of promotion and relegation, MRL First Division teams may be sent back to the State League Premier Division.

Placement in the State League will be determined by the State Technical Committee.

League application is password protected and the State will provide application information to teams that qualify for MRL placement.

Criteria for consideration will include – State Championship Tournament Champion; Finalist, Semi-Finalists of State Championship Tournament, State League Premier Division Champions and teams already placed in MRL League.

If a club earns a spot the previous year and MRL results are favorable, that spot remains with the club at that age level in the next year as long as the club selected team applies and meets criteria for inclusion in the league. This rule applies to State League participation only. If a club elects to maintain a team only in the MRL and then elects to substitute a team in its State Premier League league spot, it must provide a rational and vita of the teams credentials in order for the placement to be approved.

#### **RULE #12 REGISTRATION**

To participate in the State League, a team must be affiliated with a recognized Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association club in "Good Standing" status. All players may only be placed on one official State roster, players used as club pass players must appear on a permanent team official State roster.

#### **RULE #13 TEAM CREDENTIALS**

Each team must have validated and laminated USYSA player passes, a validated USYSA team

roster, and each coach and team administrator must register with the State Office and have in his/her position a valid coaching pass. All team coaches must have on file with the State Office a completed and signed Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association disclosure statement. Medical release forms must be available at league games. Players can only be registered to one team per season. All State League coaches must have in their possession a current Wisconsin Youth Soccer Coach Pass. A minimum "D" level license is required for all U15 and above State League coaches and a minimum "E" level license for coaches at the U12, U13 and U14 age levels. All coaches will be expected to comply with this requirement.

#### **RULE #13a 22 PLAYER ROSTER**

The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and all recognized leagues within the Association shall recognize roster limits of up to 22 players on the official State roster for players at the U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 age group levels. An official State team roster, showing roster size must be approved by the Association; it is also a good idea to have a copy of the official State roster present for all recognized competitions. A game day roster, authorized by the League, shall be prepared and submitted to the competition authority (referee crew) at a time designated by the game authority.

This game day roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of seven players.

On the days of League competition each team shall be required to provide a game day roster to the officiating crew listing the 18 players eligible for the game; this roster may include club pass players. Players must be age appropriate (or younger) for the age group in which the team is competing. Players must have a current and valid laminated player pass card which includes the player's photo, player's signature, and the registrar's stamp. In the event there are questions or concerns regarding a player's eligibility, the referee must submit a detailed supplement report, along with the game report, to the competition authority citing specific concerns regarding the player's eligibility.

Each team participating at the U16, U17, U18 and U19 age group levels, who also chooses to participate in the National Championship Tournament, shall be eligible to utilize roster limits of up to 22 players on the official State roster. Each team participating at the U15 age levels, who also chooses to participate in the National Championship Tournament, shall be eligible to only utilize roster limits of up to 18 players on the official state roster. Even though WYSA allows a 22 state player roster for U15 teams the National Championship Tournament only allows a 18 player state roster limit for teams competing in State Championship/National Championship Series.

For Regional Championship Tournament play a game day roster (U16, U17, U18, U19) shall be prepared and submitted to the competition authority not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championship Tournament play. This game day roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of seven players.

#### **RULE 13b CLUB PASSES**

A State League or Classic League may elect to have up to four club pass players added to the League game day roster. The club pass is designated as an intraclub player arrangement and is not intended to be used as an interclub arrangement between two different clubs. Club player passes may only be used for State or Classic level League play and may not be used for recreational level league play without the consent of the State Board of Directors. For older age groups the maximum number of players on the sidelines and allowed to participate in league games shall not exceed 18. In cases where club passes are utilized by younger age group teams, the maximum number of players shall not exceed the allowable number of players as designated by State policy. Teams that make use of club passes must designate on the official game report (or game day roster) the names and player registration numbers, it is also a good idea to have a copy of the official State roster present for all recognized competitions. Players rostered to the U14 and younger age groups may not be allowed to play up more that two age group levels ( U12 registered players cannot play at the U15 level) unless the player is originally rostered to the higher aged level team roster. **At the State League level players may only play up or laterally in age and competition levels. State League does not allow for a player to play down a competition level. At the Classic level players may also move down one competition level, if allowed by the competition authority. (Classic A may play down at B, B to C.) East Central District has not adopted the allowance for playing down a competitive level.**

No male players will be allowed to participate in a female league unless designated as a co-ed league which permits male and female players on the same team and within the same league. All tournaments sanctioned by the Association have been encouraged to recognize player club passes. In the event that a tournament allows the use of club passes, those players shall not count as guest players for the event. Guest players are generally from any other club and are countable against the maximum number of guest players allowed in a tournament. For teams utilizing club passes for the National Championship Tournament rosters would be frozen in accordance with the State Associations freeze date. National Championship Tournament competition rules of play would be followed and do not allow for roster changes after the designated freeze date. A player would be eligible to play for only one team during the State, Regional, and National Championship events.

#### **RULE #14 SCHEDULE OF GAMES**

The League Director and the League Administrator shall be responsible for preparing the league schedule of games. The League Director shall set the parameters of the dates that the league games will be played. The schedule will be prepared with dates and field locations. This first draft will be forwarded to the club or facility field assignor who will add times and return the draft to the scheduler. The schedule complete with dates, locations, and times will be sent to the designated Regional Referee Assignor for assignment of referees. A master schedule will be prepared and presented to the League Director for approval. The completed schedule will then be distributed to the team. All games must be played as scheduled, the scheduling priorities are as follows; State Championship Tournament play dates – including final and semi final dates, Midwest Regional League play dates and mediated play dates. Teams are reminded to split the referee fees at all league games.

#### **LEAGUE GAMES MAY ONLY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:**

1. Direct conflict with same day State Championship Tournament games
2. Direct conflict with Midwest Regional League games
3. Weather
4. Catastrophic Circumstances
5. As determined by the League governing body

Teams will be provided the opportunity on the league entry form to "BLOCK OUT" the following number of dates: Fall – Boys and Girls U12 – U14 = four dates, Girls U15 and above = four dates and Spring Boys and Girls U12 and above = four dates.

The State Championship Tournament does not count against the designated number of dates, if you select yes on the league application and declare you will play in the Wisconsin State Championship Tournament. The Wisconsin State League will make all efforts to avoid scheduling games on the State Championship Tournament weekend. Girls, U15 – U18, games are played in the fall over two weekends in September. The U13 and U14 girls along with the U13 – U17 boys games are played over the Memorial Day holiday weekend and the subsequent weekend.

#### **RULE #15 SCHEDULE OF FINES**

Teams that fail to play a league game or drop from the league shall be fined as follows:

1. Drop before August 1 for the fall season – forfeit entry fee
2. Drop after August 1 for the fall season – entry fee plus \$25.00 per game
3. Drop before March 1 for the spring season – forfeit entry fee
4. Drop after March 1 for the spring season – entry fee plus \$25.00 per game
5. Unauthorized reschedule of league game - \$50.00 per team
6. Use of ineligible club pass player – forfeit game plus \$100.00 plus coach suspension
7. Failure to provide game official with league game report - \$10.00 per violation
8. Forfeit League State League/SECL game - \$150.00

The club will assume the responsibility to see that the team pay any fines assessed, in the event the fine is not paid the league will request the club be placed in "not good standing" status by the State Association.

#### **RULE #16 GAME RESCHEDULING PROCEDURE**

Teams that fail to play a game as a result of one of the five reasons listed under rule #14 will be expected to adhere to the following reschedule procedure. All games must be rescheduled and played within 14 days of the original scheduled play date. In the event the reason for a game reschedule is approved by the League Director the coach or manager of the team or club requesting the change must provide in writing to the League Administrator the following information:

1. Name of the league, division, age level, and name of person making the request

2. Date, time, and location of rescheduled game
3. Name of the club field scheduler
4. Name of the Regional Referee Assignor
5. Name of opposing team contact who agrees to the change
6. Confirmation that fields and referees have been assigned and approved

In the event the teams cannot agree to reschedule the League Administrator or League Director will assign a date. Under no circumstances will teams be permitted to make a game change without written permission from the League. Should the league discover this has occurred; both teams will forfeit that match and be subjected to league approved fines. This action may result in suspensions for teams, coaches, and administrators.

Teams that forfeit one State League game in a season may be relegated to the next lowest division. Teams that forfeit more than one State League game in a season may be relegated out of the State League for the next competitive playing season. The schedule of fines can be found in RULE #15.

#### **RULE #17 FIELDS**

It is the responsibility of the home team to have corner flags and nets for all home games. It is also the home team's responsibility to make sure that the field is properly marked (lined). The participating club must provide fields that meet the standards at these age levels.

#### **RULE #18 UNIFORMS**

It is the responsibility of the home team to change uniforms in case of a color conflict. Each player on a team must have shirts of the same color, and each player must have a different jersey number. Each player on a team must have shorts of the same color. A player may wear a long-sleeve shirt under the uniform jersey. A player may wear leggings under the uniform short provided the color of the leggings is the same as that of the uniform shorts. All players must wear matching socks. No hard casts, braces or jewelry are allowed.

#### **RULE #19 GAME REPORTS**

Prior to the start of each league game each team is to provide the referee with a State League Game Report, referee payment, player passes and the coach's pass. All sections of the report are to be completed with the current player identification number, player's jersey number, and coach's identification number. Club pass players must be listed with all requested information, failure to provide requested information on club pass players will result in fines and forfeiture of the game. Please see list of fines in RULE #15.

The referee will complete the "fair play and sportsmanship" grid of the official game report and enter the final score. The referee is expected to mail the completed report to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Office within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The league will recognize the score provided by the referee as the official result. The referee must also note any yellow or red cards shown during the course of the match.

#### **RULE #20 YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

All yellow and red cards issued during the course of play will be reviewed by the League Director or League Administrator and recorded. The State League Director or League Administrator in association with the State League Compliance Officer will review all red cards and rule on suspensions. The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association President will appoint the State League Compliance Officer. The player pass will be held at the State Office until the player has satisfied all penalties issued by the State League Compliance Officer and be subject to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association appeals process.

#### **RULE#21 YELLOW CARD ACCUMULATION RULE**

Players who accumulate four yellow cards in a single competition period will be suspended for one State League game. "Competition Period" is determined by the age group of the team and defined as Fall and Spring for U13-U14 girls and boys, Fall only for U15-U18 girls, and Spring only for U15-U19 boys. For the U13-U14 age groups, suspensions will carry over from the fall to the spring season. Any player that receives six yellow cards within the same competition period will receive a two game suspension from League Play. Yellow Card suspensions will not carry over to the following competition period. In the situation where a player receives two yellow cards in the same game resulting in a send-off, those two yellow cards will count against the yellow card accumulation rule.

#### **Description of Codes:**

- C-1 Unsporting Behavior C-5 Encroachment
- C-2 Dissent C-6 Entry/Reentry w/o permission
- C-3 Persistent Infringement C-7 Leaves w/o permission
- C-4 Delaying the Restart

All suspensions are determined by the State Compliance Officer and the State Director of Leagues and are subject to the established Hearing and Appeals process described in RULE #24

## **RULE #22 RED CARDS**

Players that receive a red card during participation in a league game shall receive a minimum of one League Game suspension. This includes two yellow cards received in one contest equating to a red card. The League Compliance Officer may assess a longer suspension subject to the severity of the offense and prior history of misconduct of the offending player. Red cards include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Description of Codes**

S- 1 Serious Foul Play S-5 Serious Foul Play – Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity Foul punishable with a free kick  
S-2 Violent Conduct S-6 Language  
S-3 Spitting at any Person S-7 Receives 2nd Caution  
S-4 Serious Foul Play – Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity – Handball

All suspensions are determined by the State Compliance Officer and the Director of Leagues and are subject to the Hearings and Appeals process described in RULE # 24

## **RULE #23 COACH MISCONDUCT**

Coaches in the State Leagues are expected to exhibit the highest level of sporting behavior and are responsible for the attitudes and behavior of their assistant coaches, players and spectators.

In the event the referee determines the conduct of the coach is detrimental to the game, the referee may ask the coach to leave the immediate vicinity. Immediate vicinity shall be defined as sufficient distance from the playing field where the offending party cannot cause additional disruptions to the game. This is considered the "Out of Sight and Out of Sound principle."

In the event the referee completes a report of "Physical or Verbal Abuse" the matter will be directed to the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association President.

All coaches sent off by the referee may be required to complete an introductory referee training course subject to the severity of the reason resulting in the coach's dismissal from the game. This recommendation for the dismissal is a subjective determination of the League Director or League Administrator. All coaches will be placed on probation following any suspension. If the penalty of completing the referee training course is not completed in the established time frame, the coach may be suspended from further coaching activities and subject to additional sanctions.

## **RULE #24 HEARINGS & APPEALS**

Decisions of the League Director, League Administrator, League Compliance Officer or the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Vice President regarding suspensions assessed to players, coaches, administrators, and parents may be appealed in accordance with the Wisconsin State Leagues Hearing and Appeals Process followed by the Hearing and Appeals Process of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and in accordance with the Hearing and Appeals Procedures as outlined by US Youth Soccer and US Soccer.

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Policies and Procedures:

"(a)Appeals will first be addressed by the State League (b) then at the State Association level. The appeal fee at the State League level shall not exceed \$125.00. If the State Association wishes to establish an appeals fee, this fee shall not exceed \$125.00 per appeal. If the appeal is overturned, then the appeals fee shall be returned to the Appellant."

USYSA Bylaw 704, Section 1:

"No member of USYSA, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within USYSA."

For the violation of USYSA Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to WYSA and USYSA for all expenses incurred by WYSA or USYSA and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following:

- 1) Court costs
- 2) Attorney's fees
- 3) Reasonable compensation for time spent by WYSA or USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances
- 4) Travel expenses
- 5) Expenses for holding special State Board meeting or Special National Council meetings necessitated by court action

## **RULE #25 OTHER MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The League Director, League Board, Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association President, or Vice President/Competitions have authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts for matters not

otherwise provided for elsewhere in the State League's rules of play.  
Revised February 2010