



# Women's Premier League Rules



## Registration and Fees

All teams and players interested in participating in the WPL must be registered with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. The team registration form must be submitted annually by May 1st. The current team registration fee is \$150.

Teams will also be required to pay a \$200 returnable bond fee and player registration fees of \$35 per player by June 1, annually. The player registration fee includes: secondary medical insurance, administrative services from WYSA and a white league t-shirt. Additional fees payable to WYSA include the \$100 WPL Cup entry fee. Teams are also responsible for providing dark uniforms, referee payments of \$60 per team per game and field reservation fees for three home games. Referee payments: \$60 Center/\$30 AR/\$30 AR.

## Roster Size, Club Passes & Guest Players

All teams must register a minimum of 12 players by June 1<sup>st</sup> and may dress a maximum of 24 players for the WPL games and the Cup tournament. Our goal is to get as many women as possible to play against quality competition. The team roster is full after you reach 24 players. Teams may drop players from their roster mid-season due to nonparticipation or injury. If you add players during the season, you must submit a new roster listing each of the permanent players added. The deadline for player registrations is two weeks prior to the end of league play or approximately July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If a club has two or more teams competing in the WPL, one team in Premier Division and a second team in the First Division, then a club player pass may be used between these two teams. First Division players may club pass up to the Premier roster. Premier players may NOT club pass down to the First Division roster. A team may elect to have up to 4 CLUB PASS players added to the game day roster. The game day roster may not exceed 24 players for a league game. No guest players are allowed for any league games or playoff matches. Guest players are allowed at the Ray Schommer WPL Cup.

## Dual Player Registration

All players remain registered with their youth clubs if they play with a U16 to U19 team. Players can then dual register for the WPL, a women's open league. Players can be registered for a youth team and the WPL in the same season because they are two different leagues or two different levels of play. There is no need for a player to transfer from one youth club to another to play in the summer WPL.

## Coach Licensing Requirements

All coaches for WPL teams must meet current Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association requirement guidelines. The WYSA requirements are: all coaches working with U15 and older classic, competitive and premier level teams are required to have, at minimum, a "D" level coaching license. All coaches must have a valid WYSA coach pass with them for games and practices.

## Forfeits & Fines

Games may not be started with less than 7 players. A forfeit will be issued if seven players are not ready to play within ten minutes of the designated start time of the game. Any team(s) forfeiting a match will be assessed a \$100- \$200 fine which will be debited from your team bond fee. This fine pays for the referee fees, and if an away game is forfeited, an additional fine may be assessed to cover the field rental.

## **Game Times & Location**

All home teams must submit a home field location by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to get the schedule out to everyone in time for the start of the summer season in June. When scheduling the games, most teams receive three home games and three away games. Sometimes the travel distance requires the league to assign a neutral field at a midpoint location. When that occurs the league pays the field reservation fee.

League games, with less than 60 minutes of travel time, will be played on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. Teams traveling more than 60 minutes for a match may request for the match to be played on a Sunday afternoon with First Division games at 3:00 pm and Premier Division games at 5:30 pm. To further accommodate teams with longer travel times an additional weekend game may be scheduled on Saturday or two games may be played on a Sunday. All teams will play a 6 game league schedule between June 1 and July 20. Please indicate any block out dates on your team registration form (due May 1).

Premier Division teams will have longer travel times, as long as 2 hours, to some away games as the teams in the Premier Division come from all three regions in the league: North, West and South. The majority of the Premier Division games will be played on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 pm to accommodate travel.

## **Match Regulations**

1. The officials must be present with the following items prior to the start of the match:
  - a) Player passes
  - b) An official WYSA player roster
  - c) A game report by the hosting team
2. All teams must have a registered coach or trainer present as required by the WYSA. The coaches must also meet the requirement of D level coach license, as set forth by the WYSA.
3. The hosting team is responsible for corner flags, securing the goals, and making sure the field is appropriately lined.
4. The Home team is recommended to wear their home white top provided by the league. The home team should have an alternate color jersey available in the case of uniform conflicts.
5. The home team is also required to provide the officials with 3 match balls.

## **Laws of the Game**

The WPL will follow all FIFA rules.

## **Substitution(s)**

Substitution is unlimited. All substitutes must enter from the half field line when acknowledged by the line person and the official. Both teams may substitute on injury, on their own corner kick or on a throw-in as long as the team in possession of the throw-in is substituting a player.

## **Playoffs/League Championship (mid-July)**

All Premier teams will compete in a seeded, single-elimination playoff on Saturday with winners advancing to the league championship game on Sunday. The top placing 6 teams in the First Division will compete in a separate, seeded, single-elimination playoff on Saturday. The winners will advance to a Division Championship game on Sunday. The First Division Champion and the First Division Runner-Up are eligible for promotion to the Premier League the following season. (Playoff seeding is determined by a team's performance during the six-game WPL season.) Each playoff match will be 90 minutes with a ten-minute half time, two overtime periods of 15 minutes each and penalty kicks if needed to determine a winner. The WYSA will pay the referee fees for the championship game only. A trophy will be awarded to the league champion.

### **Ray Schommer WPL Cup (third weekend of July)**

All teams, Premier and First Division, participating in the WPL are affiliated with Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and eligible to participate in the Ray Schommer Cup. Participating teams **MUST** be fully registered with their state association and may carry a full roster of 24 players for the tournament. All players must be registered with their respected association and have a valid player pass. Guest players are permitted for the Ray Schommer WPL Cup.

A \$200 cup entry fee and a \$200 cup bond, is due July 1 annually for all WPL teams or invited teams. The fee is set at \$400 total to deter teams from forfeiting on the day of the cup. If you participate as scheduled, your \$200 Cup bond fee is returned. If a WPL team forfeits its cup games, then that team forfeits its \$400 cup entry fee plus its WPL annual league \$200 bond fee. The WPL has to pay the referees for all forfeited cup games and will use both bond fees to meet those expenses.

All teams will participate in a round robin, balanced format with a three-match guarantee to qualify for the championship. The top two teams will advance to the final match on Sunday. All group matches will be 2 x 30-minute halves with a 5-minute half time. Sunday's semi-final and championship games will be 90-minutes with a 10-minute half time, two overtime periods of 15-minutes each a penalty kicks if needed to determine a tournament champion.

Yellow card accumulation rule: Players who are shown the yellow card in two (2) of three (3) group play matches will be suspended from the semifinal game. Players shown three (3) yellow cards in the group play matches will be suspended from the semifinal and final match.

The WPL will pay only the semi-final and championship game referee fees for the Ray Schommer WPL Cup. Participating teams need to pay the referees \$50/\$25/\$25 for the shorter, 60 minute cup games. There will be a trophy awarded to the first and second place teams.

### **WPL Structure**

The league will seek to maintain three regions of four teams per region in a First Division: North Region (Fox Valley), West Region (Madison) and South (Metro Milwaukee). Once the WPL exceeds four teams per region, a Premier League (2008) will be created by promoting the previous season's top seeded teams.

All newly registered teams should play their first season in the First Division of the WPL. Any team finishing league play in first or second place in the First Division may be offered promotion to the WPL for the following summer. Also note that any WPL team finishing in last place for league play may be relegated to the First Division for the next season. (See promotion/Relegation below). The First Division will allow new teams to acclimate themselves to the higher level of competition played in the WPL, while allowing summer competition for more teams. First Division players may also play up in the WPL. Premier level players cannot play down in the First Division. Any club having more than one team in the WPL may use up to four Club Passes per game for its players.

### **Promotion / Relegation**

The First Division Champion and the First Division Runner-Up as determined in July at the playoffs/Division Championships may be eligible for promotion to the Premier League for the following season. Any First Division team may decline the promotion if a Premier Level team from their same club already exists. For example FC Green Bay has one team in the Premier League and a second team in the First Division. If FC Green Bay's First Division team wins the Division Championships, they should decline the promotion to the Premier Division.

Any Premier League team that fails to compete successfully in the Premier League, accumulates multiple forfeits during the six league games or fails to participate in the playoffs may be relegated to the First Division for the following season. All promotions and relegations will be reviewed by the WPL Commissioner.