



POACHING POLICY

Poaching is considered a serious offense by this Association and any club or individual found to have committed a poaching violation shall be subject to a significant sanction as determined by the WYSA Executive Director. Such sanctions may include financial penalties, loss of coaching privileges, and/or ineligibility to participate in WYSA authorized programs or events including sanctioned tournaments, President's Cup, the Wisconsin State Championships, the Midwest Regional League, or any other appropriate sanction. Any club or team which through its responsible officers or representatives,

1. Has direct contact with a player to promote their club and solicit the player's participation will be considered a poaching violation. (Player contact includes, but is not limited to text messages, phone calls, emails, social media, and other written communication and/or in person conversations.)
2. Attempts at any time outside of the WYSA Period of Open Promotion of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent/guardian) of any team, any team as a whole, or any club, under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation before the end of the current seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.
3. Attempts at any time outside of the WYSA Period of Open Promotion of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent/guardian) of any team, any team as a whole, or any club, under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation for the following seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.

Responsible representatives may include parents of team members, team managers, coaches, club board members, directors of coaching and others perceived as an agent of the club. The appropriate response to parent/guardian initiated contact is to provide basic information about the club, which could not be considered a solicitation of the player's participation. Any recommendation for the player to attend training, tryouts or any other team or club soccer event by the representative would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present soccer organization. A club publicly advertising their organization, programs or services, including on their own website is not considered poaching.

All players have the right and opportunity to choose which team and club tryouts they wish to attend. No team or club, may violate, infringe or restrict this basic right for players in any manner. Players, parents and coaches must also recognize that players are bound to the team for the entire seasonal year once a written acceptance occurs and a parent/guardian completes the player registration, subject to the policies of WYSA.

While players are obligated to their club for the seasonal year, WYSA acknowledges the demand for programming outside of one's home club exists. A player may wish to pursue additional opportunities outside of their club such as indoor play, individual training, training with other WYSA affiliated clubs, and Tournament Guest Play.

The following are guidelines for the above defined interclub contacts (player and club):

- Indoor play – written permission is required to participate in a sanctioned indoor activity of another club (Currently, closed team trainings and futsal are the only indoor activities sanctioned by WYSA.)



- Individual training – players and coaches are not restricted from contracting individual player training, however any attempt to solicit player participation in a different club as a result of the contract session will be construed as a poaching violation.
- Training with other WYSA affiliated clubs – a player registered with any WYSA affiliated club may not train with another WYSA club unless they obtain express written permission from their home club. This includes a “player tryout” for an impending player transfer request.
- Tournament Guest Play – requires written permission from the player’s home club, as well as applicable WYSA notification form.

Allegations of poaching should be sent directly to the WYSA Executive Director, must be in writing and include specific details related to the complaint including names, dates, club affiliations, plus all related documentation which substantiates the claim. (Examples of such documentation would include copies of emails, text messages, social media communications and/or written statements from a parent/guardian.)