

Warren Youth Soccer League

Rules of Play

(Revised 3/1/2016)

Section 1: Rules of Play shall be the “Laws of the Game” as published by F.I.F.A.

Special modifications as permitted for local associations and youth soccer shall published by the association under separate cover.

All contests sanctioned by this association shall abide by the “Laws of the Game” and the modification as published by this association.

Section 2: After the season has been declared open by the league

All games played by members of the league shall be under the jurisdiction of the league.

No team or registered player thereof, can participate in any inter-league game or scrimmage unless the league commissioner gives permission.

Intra-league scrimmage is permitted without the permission from the league commissioner.

Competition between different age groups is prohibited.

Section 3: W.Y.S.L. shall play all its games according to F.I.F.A. rules, except for the following:

Length of game, ball size- weight and dimension, tie-breaking rules for each age group

W.Y.S.L. will use the following chart:

AGE GROUP	GAME LENGTH	CUP & TOURNAMENT OVERTIME	BALL SIZE	BALL CIRC.	BALL WEIGHT
Under 19	Two 45 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves	5	27-28”	14-16
Under 16	Two 40 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves	5	27-28”	14-16
Under 14	Two 35 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves	5	27-28”	14-16
Under 12	Two 30 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves	4	25-26”	11-13
Under 10	Two 25 min. halves		4	25-26”	11-13
Under 08	Two 20 min. halves		3		
Under 06	Two 20 min. halves		3		

Section 4: Start of Game

All team coaches must provide their ID/Risk Management cards and/or player Identification cards upon the request of the referee or the opposing team's coach. Failure to comply may result in the forfeiture of the game.

Section 5: Misconduct

Referee will notify the Commissioner of any ejected player, coach, manager. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure that the player/person sits out the required number of games for the offense. Failure of the coach to comply will result as playing an ineligible player; refer to Section 26, Appendix 1.

If any player is ejected from the game for any reason (red card), the team plays the duration of the game with no substitute for the ejected player or players.

If a player receives a yellow card, that player must leave the field of play. A substitute is allowed for the yellow-carded player only. Said player may return to field of play at the next legal substitution.

Section 6: Competing player

A player listed on the official line-up sheet shall be considered as a competing player, whether he/she played or not.

Section 7: Any team protesting a game must:

Through its manager or coach, initiate such protest in writing (in duplicate). A copy of the protest must be sent to the Secretary of the W.Y.S.L.

The original shall be sent to the Commissioner of the W.Y.S.L. within three (3) days after the game, accompanied by a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in a check which shall be forfeited should the protest not be sustained.

The team winning a protest will be awarded the game points.

The Commissioner shall rule on all protests except a judgmental decision by a referee on the field of play of which he/she is the sole judge and may not be protested.

Protest based on ineligible players:

Shall be filed with the referee on the field and recorded on the back of the line-up sheet
The compliant must be dated and signed by the referee at the field.

The protest will be sent to the Commissioner of this league and a copy to the league Secretary with-in twenty-four (24) hours of occurrence.

Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be assessed with a forfeit for all games before that point including the game played for that season.

Section 8: Teams tied for the League Champion:

The winner will be determined on a point basis arrived by head to head competition in the games these teams played against one another.

If still tied, the championship will be determined by the goals scored by the tied teams in head to head competition, again in the games played by these teams.

If still tied, dual Championships will be awarded.

Section 9: Substitutions:

Unlimited substitution in all games.

A substitute must report at midfield to the referee before he/she is allowed to Participate. The referee must allow the substitution before the player is allowed to participate.

Substitutions may be made at:

1. Prior to a throw in, in your favor.
2. Prior to any goal kick.
3. After a goal by either team.
- 4) after an injury by either team.
- 5) Half time.
- 6) A yellow carded Player (carded player only).
- 7) Referee's must be notified if a goalkeeper is changed.

Under 6 and 8 have free substitution at any time, as long as team with the Advantage substitutes first. (On all throw-ins and drop & goal kicks).

A player for whom a substitution is made can return to the same game at next legal substitution.

Section 10 Player/Team Withdraw

Players deserting the team which they are registered and leaving the jurisdiction of the league, upon his/her return is recognized as the property of the team which he/she deserted and cannot register with any other team in the league.

No team shall be allowed to withdraw from the league during the season without obtaining permission from the Executive Board.

In case a team disbands, the games played shall not count for or against the opposing teams.

Section 11 Failure to Appear for a Scheduled Game:

A team, which refuses to play or fails to appear at a scheduled game, shall forfeit the game unless extenuating circumstances can be proved to the satisfaction of the Executive Board.

A team must field seven (7) players, if a team has less than seven (7) players they will be assessed a forfeit. (U-6 & U-8 & U-10 refer to Section 21 & 22 & 23)

All games shall start at the scheduled time. After 15 minutes delay, the tardy team will forfeit the game.

In the event, both teams fail to show for a scheduled game and the referee rules the ground playable, and then both teams shall be assessed with a loss.

Section 12 Player's Identity Questioned:

In the form of his/her identification card, can be requested and obtained by any manager or coach through the referee. A team failing to comply with this requirement shall forfeit the game.

Section 13 Goal keeper Possession:

Goalkeeper has possession when he/she has one hand on the ball.

Hindering or attacking a goalkeeper while he/she is in possession of the ball prohibited.

Section 14 Uniform Colors and Player Equipment:

When a color of two (2) competing teams is similar, the home team must change.

Home teams failing to change colors in compliance with the referee's request will be assessed with a forfeit.

Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from the other players and referees.

All players must wear soccer shoes. The W.Y.S.L. also directs that no player shall wear metal cleats of any kind or style during participation in any game in any age group, held by the W.Y.S.L.

All players must wear shin guards which are covered by socks.

Section 15 **Field of Play:**

Coaches, non-participants, officials or spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the referees.

If the referee deems it necessary to stop further play due to the failure to comply, offending teams or teams will suffer forfeiture regardless of the score at the time of stoppage.

Section 16 **Coaches:**

Each coach is responsible for supplying two (2) corner flags

Coaching from the sidelines and giving to one's own team on point of strategy and position is permitted. No mechanical devices shall be used and the tone of voice must be informative and not harangue.

No coach is to be anywhere except on the sidelines between the 18 yard lines during the game. Coaches with their teams and parents will be on the same side of the field and the opposing coaches, players and parents on the opposite side of field. Home team coach will have priority as to which side his team and parents will be on.

It will be the coach's responsibility to keep players and spectators within the appropriate zone area.

Infraction to these rules constitutes ungentle men like conduct and is subject to disciplinary action.

Section 17 **Language:**

Use of language other than English by coaches, officials, or participants will not be permitted. (Yellow card offence)

Harassment by players, coaches, assistant coaches toward the referee will not be tolerated. Violators will be called before the Executive Board and if found guilty the team and coach will be penalized by a minimum of one (1) game suspension.

Section 18 **Home Team Responsibility:**

The home team is responsible for supplying the game ball and 2 corner flags. Failure to comply without a reasonable cause will result in a forfeit.

Section 19 **Cancellation of games Due to Weather Conditions:**

All canceled games will be governed by the referee and/or City of Warren and any Executive Board Member.

Section 20 **Players Under 6 through Under 12 Only:**

Pursuant to the directive issued by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association effective immediately as of February 22nd 2016, regarding heading; ***no player in these age groups may head the ball.*** If such infraction is noted the referee is to award an indirect free kick to the opponent at the spot of the infraction.

Section 21 **Under 10 Teams Only:**

Eight (8) players per side including goalkeeper.

A team must field five (5) players, if a team has less than five (5) players they will be assessed a forfeit.

Section 22 **Under 8 Teams Only:**

Penalty kicks allowed.

Throw-ins, two (2) tries (referee will explain what was done wrong on first try).

Seven (7) players per side including the goalkeeper.

A team must field five (5) players, if a team has less than five (5) players they will be assessed with a forfeit.

Section 23 **Under 6 Teams Only:**

Seven (7) players per side including goalkeeper.

A team must field five (5) players, if a team has less than five (5) players they will be assessed with a forfeit.

No penalty of direct kicks allowed.

No off sides.

No cherry-picking (restart with indirect kick)

One coach or person per team who has risk management identification is allowed on the field to provide minimal instruction. The person on the field is allowed on the whole field 18 to 18 yard.

No one is allowed behind or inside or behind of the 18-yard box.

Section 24 General Cases:

In general cases, the league shall be responsible for governing those persons associated with their operation. However, it is the duty of all officials and coaches to report immediately any infraction outlined in Section 2.

Section 25 Line of Authority:

Should any person, team or the league want to appeal any adverse decision, the line of authority shall be:

- From the League to the Delegate to M.S.Y.S.A.
- From M.S.Y.S.A. League Delegate to the Board of Directors of the M.S.Y.S.A.
- From the M.S.Y.S.A. Board of Directors to the United States Youth Soccer Association

Section 26 Referral by the League Delegate:

If the League Delegate chooses not to hear a case, he/she, if desires, can refer the matter directly to the Board of Directors of the M.S.Y.S.A.

Section 27 Disciplinary Rulings and Minimum Punishments:

All disciplinary actions will be dealt with by the Executive Board after a fair hearing at which time the accusing party and the offender shall appear, each side shall have the opportunity to produce witnesses on their behalf.

- A. The Executive Board must hold any such disciplinary hearing with-in ten (10) business days of the offense or compliant. In the event, a hearing is not conducted within the above said period of time, without consent of all parties for a delay, said compliant or offense will be dropped. Either party may appeal decisions by the Executive Board to the M.S.Y.S.A...
- B. All penalties and punishments set forth in this section are *the minimum* punishments, and it is noted that all cases are different and *a more flagrant offense may deserve a more severe punishment and the Executive Board may assess the penalty as deemed necessary.* (See Appendix 1)
- C. All accused persons must receive a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours (3 days) notice that a hearing is to be conducted. Any accused person who after due notification fails to appear in their defense shall be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the offense and the Executive Board at that time shall deal proper punishment. If the accuser fails to appear at such hearing the charge will be dropped.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

APPENDIX 1

PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL OFFENSE	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE
Fighting before, during or after a game	2 game suspension	6 game suspension	1 calendar year suspension
Using Profane Language either by word or sign towards referee, players, coaches, League Official, or any spectator	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	6 game suspension
Making threatening gestures toward players, coaches, referees, spectators or any League Official	2 game suspension	6 game suspension	1 calendar year suspension
Striking a coach, League Official, referee or spectator	1 calendar year suspension	Life suspension	
Any player sent off field of play by the referee for any misconduct	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	1 calendar year suspension
Coaches or team officials who fight at any time	1-year suspension and may be referred to the State Board	Life suspension	
Coaches or team officials who use profane language toward or in the presence of players and/or spectators	2 game suspension	6 game suspension and may be referred to State Board	1 calendar year suspension
Any player or coach receiving three (3) yellow cards in one season.	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	1 calendar year suspension
Two (2) red cards in any one season.	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	1 calendar year suspension
Playing an ineligible player	Forfeiture of that game and all preceding games. Also placed on probation for remaining of present season and the following season.	1 calendar year suspension	Life suspension
Poaching	1 calendar year suspension		
Failure to provide lineup sheet to referee.	Forfeiture of that game	Forfeiture of that game	Forfeiture of that game

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES (continued) APPENDIX 1 (continued)

PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIALS OFFENSE	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE
Failure to field a minimum of players for the age group. 7 for U14 and U12 5 for U6 thru U 10	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game
Failure to appear at a regularly scheduled game	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game	Team shall be disbarred and ineligible for further play in that season
Any team who is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for a scheduled game.	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game
Charging the goalie in any game if cautioned or sent off field by the referee.	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	6 game suspension
Failure of the home team to change uniforms when ordered to do so by the referee in the event that both teams' colors are too similar or are the same	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game	Forfeiture of game
Coaches, players, or team officials entering field of play without permission of the referee if such incident is reported by referee	Forfeiture of game or 1 game suspension	Forfeiture of game or 1 game suspension	Forfeiture of game or 1 game suspension

APPENDIX 2

GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

- Section 1 All representatives of the league should keep in mind that youth soccer is a service to the Community. It can only prosper if we keep the welfare of the players in mind first and not the coaches.
- Section 2 A coach is expected to keep his team for at least one year (fall to spring).
- Section 3 A coach is expected to teach the players the rules and regulations of soccer and good sportsmanship. Swearing is strictly prohibited. (fair discipline is important to growing players). Disputes on the field are prohibited.
- Section 4 Never turn down players for not being a good player, as long as there is room for them.
- Section 5 Leading a team to victory should not be foremost in the mind of a coach, if it is done in such manner that denies any player the right to play. The league encourages coaches to play all players.
- Section 6 Coaches are reminded that attacking or charging the goalkeeper, raising feet on goal kicks and ungentlemanly conduct is not permitted.
- Section 7 League games are to be played according to schedule. Only a referee or an Executive Board Member on the field can decide whether a game is to be played or not, in case of extreme weather conditions.
- Section 8 Drinking of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs during practices or games is forbidden.
- Section 9 A referee is a vital person to the league, therefore, should be treated with respect. He/she will whistle a better game if he is not under pressure. Honor his/her decision and teach your team to do likewise. Harassment by players, coaches and spectators is forbidden. Verbal abuse of referees will not be permitted and the proper disciplinary action will be taken.
- Section 10 If parents offer their help accept it. Team business, transportation and money raising can and should be done by the parents.
- Section 11 The Warren Youth Soccer League was formed to provide team play for youngsters and extra recreation for school age children, therefore, devoting time to the league by the coaches and parents is very much appreciated, needed and encouraged.
- Section 12 Game sheets will be provided to the coaches to provide game results to the scheduler and must be mailed as directed.
- Section 13 All games under the jurisdiction of the league shall be officiated by properly registered FIFA certified referees when available. Referees should wear the official uniform with the official uniform.

GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

(Continued)

- Section 14 In case the official fails to appear, a substitute referee should be appointed by mutual agreement between the representatives of the teams. The substitute referee is entitled to a fee established by the Executive Board. Should any referee become incapacitated during the game and not be able to continue he/she shall turn over control of the game to any other affiliated mutually agreed upon by the team representative, who shall conduct the game to its conclusion.
- Section 15 The fee for referees shall be set by the Warren Youth Soccer League for the season in which the game is played. The fee shall be paid in case any team fails to appear for a scheduled game.
- Section 16 Referees will inform the Commissioner of the W.Y.S.L. of any misconduct at the games.
- Section 17 The referee shall have full authority for contestants during the game only.
- The official referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and his decisions shall be final. Any complaints about the official referee shall be directed in writing to the Commissioner of the league with-in twenty-four (24) hours and a copy sent to the secretary of the league.
- Section 18 Every coach is responsible for the actions of its players and spectators. You must take all precautions to prevent spectators from threatening or assaulting referees or players before, during or at the conclusion of a game.
- Section 19 Any, team player official member or spectator proven to the satisfaction of the league to have been guilty of any violation. The violation of the “Laws of the Game”, the rules and by-laws of this league, or of the United States Soccer Football Association and the Michigan Soccer Youth Soccer Association shall be dealt with and disciplined according to the disciplinary actions under Section 27 of the “Rules of Play”.
- Section 20 All equipment furnished to teams by the league remains property of the league.
- Section 21 In an effort to provide character to the League and in conjunction with Section 8 above, it is requested that coaches and their spectators refrain from smoking during practices and games.
- Section 22 In conjunction with Section 4 above, and as the League is a Recreational League whose main objective is to provide the opportunity for any boy or girl to play; coaches cannot refuse to have new players added to their team if their team does not have a maximum roster.
- Section 23 A coach of the Warren Youth Soccer League is expected to meet all operational compliances that have been set forth by the Executive Board to include meeting attendance, registration processes and other operational compliances noted in the Leagues By-Laws. These compliances have been created to ensure proper and smooth League operations.

