2025-2026
YOUTH Soccer Leagues

CLUBS AND COACHES HANDBOOK



Wide World of Indoor Sports

http://www.wwois.com

MONTVILLE, CT

Wide World of Indoor Sports
Youth Soccer Leagues
2025-2026

Youth Soccer League Policies & Procedures

****** By registering your team into the Wide World Youth Soccer League, your club is in automatic acceptance of the League rules, policies, and procedures ******

The WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE is designed to provide the most appropriate atmosphere for game play to assist the clubs and associations in Southern New England to provide an optimal development environment for their players. As such, all participants must always conduct themselves to the highest standard. Adult participants – coaches and parents – are expected to be role models for the young players involved in this league and should exhibit good sporting behavior regardless of the result. It is expected all Clubs and Associations will register their teams in developmentally appropriate divisions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Wide World of Indoor Sports will be open during inclement weather unless there is a state of emergency declared by the state (Connecticut for Montville). During inclement weather, Wide World of Indoor Sports will be open, and all games will run as scheduled. There will be no makeup games due to inclement weather. If you feel it is unsafe to travel even though we are open, please feel free to stay home. If your team chooses not to come to your game, please call us and let us know you will be forfeiting so we can give a courtesy call to the opposing team.

RECRUITMENT POLICY

The WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE has introduced a code of ethics to cover the recruitment of players:

1. Coaches/Club Operators are not allowed to contact any players from any other WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE club during the indoor season of play.

2. If a player/parent initiates contact with a coach during regular season play, the coach must ask the player/parent to inform their current club of their intent to communicate with another club. The WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE's expectation is that clubs will communicate clearly and honorably throughout this process.

If a WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE member is alleged to be in violation of these ethics, they will be required to stand before the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE Management. Any coach, manager or club official who is found to be guilty of breaching the code of ethics risks their entire club or associations being suspended from participation in all WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE activities for the current and subsequent season of play and all fees forfeited.

ELIGIBILITY

All teams must be registered with the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE and have their official WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE team roster at all games. Rosters must be completed by Game #3. Once the third game has started, the team's roster is frozen. No modifications to rosters can be made unless approved by the League Administrator.

Maximum Roster Sizes: 7v7 (18)

Eligibility to PLAY is open to all youth irrespective of race, nationality, color or religious affiliation or non-affiliation. All players must have a valid Wide World "Membership". Players are permitted to be double rostered on a maximum of two teams NOT in the same division and only by written management approval if in the same age division. No player may participate if his or her name and picture are not on an approved roster prior to the start of a game.

Eligibility to COACH is open to all adults irrespective of race, nationality, color or religious affiliation or non-affiliation. Clubs are responsible for selecting coaches. Coaches must adhere to the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth by the league. The LEAGUE is not responsible for the selection process or for providing coaches for the Clubs and Associations and for their backgrounds checks and SafeSport Certification. The coach must have reached the minimum age of 18 years old to coach teams up to U14 and 25 years old to coach up to U19. A Coach must be present throughout the entire match, or the match will be terminated and forfeited by the opponent, 3-0. A maximum of three (3) coaches are permitted on the team's sideline per match.

Guest players are NOT permitted in the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE play.

LOCATIONS OF FIELDS

All locations house a full snack bar, free Wi-Fi, mezzanine viewing, and full bathroom facilities.

Montville: 2 Sachatello Industrial Drive, Montville, CT – (860-444-1234) infomv@wwois.com

RULES OF PLAY

All WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE competitions are played in accordance with the most current FIFA laws of the Game and the modifications noted within these rules. It is the responsibility of all coaches and referees to be thoroughly familiar with and abide by the FIFA laws and these modifications.

WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE Rule Modifications

- Format will be 7v7 with one who shall be the Goalkeeper.
- Offside infractions will be called using the RED LINE to balance the standard rules of the game with the developmental aspect of indoor play.
- It is strongly recommended ALL players get equal playing time to ensure development.
- All merged age groups will play at the older age group rules (ball size, heading, build out line, etc.) unless agreed upon by both coaches prior to the start of the game with the referee.
- Both Home and Away teams should come prepared with a properly inflated game ball.
- Duration of game: 2 – 25-minute halves (2 Minute Half Time).
- There shall be no overtime periods in regular WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE competitions.
- All substitutions are done on-the-fly and players enter the field in front of their bench. Retreating player must leave field before substitute player enters the field of play.
- No SLIDING! – Sliding is NOT permitted. GKs are permitted to slide provided the slide emanates from within their own box and at the discretion of the referee the momentum forced the GK outside the box.
- Rostered players must participate in 50% of their league games to be eligible to play in the league Playoffs.
- Any player or coach that has been given a RED CARD must immediately leave the field and the premises. Any RED CARD issued will be reviewed by WWIS Staff and communication regarding suspensions will be made to the player and / or coach.
- Any ball that hits the support beams and changes directions shall be ruled an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the point of direction change as determined by the referee. Skimming the netting does not constitute the ball changing directions.

Rules Modifications for U8:

- No scores or standings are kept for this age group in adherence with USYS Guidelines for this age group.
- Size #3 Soccer Balls
- Opposing players are to retreat into their own half of the playing field on goal kicks.

- Intentional heading of the ball is not allowed in adherence to USYS Guidelines for this age and results in an indirect kick.
- Punting and drop kicks are not allowed. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the centerline.

Rules Modifications for U9-U10:

- No scores or standings are kept for this age group in adherence with USYS Guidelines for this age group.
- Size #4 Soccer Balls
- Opposing players are to retreat behind the red line of the playing field on goal kicks and goalkeeper distribution.
- Punting and drop kicks are not allowed. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the centerline.
- Intentional heading of the ball is not allowed in adherence to USYS Guidelines for this age and results in an indirect kick.

Rules Modifications for U11-U12:

- Size #4 Soccer Balls
- Intentional heading of the ball is not allowed for U11 age groups in adherence to USYS Guidelines for this age and results in an indirect kick. In the event of a combined age group, the U12 rules will apply and it is the responsibility of the coach to police the intentional heading of non-age appropriate players.

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Uniforms

All field players on a team shall wear similar colored jerseys, shorts, and soccer socks. A legible non-duplicating number on the back of each field player and goalkeeper's jersey is required. Players and substitutes shall not change numbers or remove their jerseys prior to the completion of the game without specific permission of the referee. The color of a team's jerseys may be different from the color of the team's shorts and or soccer socks. At each game, both teams shall be able to make a change of jersey color. If both teams wear similar colored jerseys, the home team shall be required to change. Goalkeepers shall change jerseys as the referee directs, regardless of the home/visitor status.

Shin Guards

Shin guards are **REQUIRED** equipment for all players and are to be worn at all matches. Shin guards are to be covered entirely by the players' socks. Shin guards are to be made of suitable material, rubber or plastic to provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Safety Equipment

In addition to the authority granted to the referee under FIFA Law V to determine the safety of a player's equipment as defined in FIFA Law IV, the following shall not be permitted:

1. Hair control devices with any hard parts;
2. Earrings or any other jewelry, regardless of covering.

In addition to the authority granted to the referee under FIFA Law V, the following shall be permitted:

1. A soft splint or a soft cast, provided that the match referee has determined that it is not a danger to themselves or another player;
2. A brace, joint or prosthetic device, provided that the match referee has determined that it is not a danger to themselves or another player;
3. Sports Spectacles: Protective sports spectacles or plastic prescription frames sports spectacles with the lenses fully contained with the frame, and held on by an elastic strap are expressly permitted. Any eyewear containing glass, metal or any sharp edges are prohibited.
4. Headgear: Soft foam headgear for goalkeeper, Full 90 type headgear for player, provided that the referee has determined that it is not a danger to themselves or another player

If the Referee finds that a player is wearing articles not permitted by the Laws or this Rule, the Referee shall order the player to remove them. If a player fails to carry out the Referee's instruction, the player shall not take part in the match.

COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES

Coaching from the Team sidelines is permitted, so long as one is giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy, tactics, and position provided that the following conditions are complied with:

1. No mechanical devices are used
2. The tone of voice is informative and sportsman like

Coaches MUST remain in their coaching box (in the bench area) at all times during the game, unless summoned onto the field by the referee. Leaving the coaching area may result in a yellow card.

SCHEDULE & STANDINGS

Standings and Schedules can be found at the Wide World Website and clicking on Standings and Schedules. Standings are kept for all u11-u19 Divisions and are determined by the following point system: Win = 3 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points.

Play-off Games: In the event of divisional ties in the standings at the completion of the season's regular game schedule, the order will be decided by the following tiebreakers, in order:

- Head-to-Head (2-Teams), Goal differential (4 Goal Max), Goals For (4 Goal Max), Goals Against (4 Goal Max), Shutouts

If the teams are tied after all tiebreakers, A flip of the coin will determine the order of finish.

PLAYOFF FORMAT

All teams in the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE will advance to the playoffs with the playoff format being determined when all team registrations and divisions are created. In each division, the three highest seeded teams will move directly to the semi-finals. The lower seeded teams will be involved in 25-minute play-in games to determine the fourth spot for Semi-Finals (no overtime, straight to five player PKs). The two Semi-Final and Final games will be full two 25-minute halves (5-minute "Golden Goal" overtime and then on to five player PKs if necessary.) The WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE Management reserves the right to modify playoffs to ensure the highest level of development and competition with all teams involved.

GAME REGULATIONS

Start at the Scheduled Time: At the scheduled time for the match, the minimum number of players will constitute a team, and the match will start at the scheduled time. There is no permissible waiting period to wait for additional players to arrive.

No-Shows/Forfeits: A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up to a game agreed to by the teams. Penalties for no-shows are a forfeit to the opposing team: 0-3 loss. A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident or act of God should immediately notify the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE. Each situation shall be reviewed by the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE and determine if a make game is possible. All decisions are final.

Rosters and Team Using Illegal Player: An Illegal player shall mean any player who does not have a valid, unexpired, and age-appropriate Wide World "Membership" and listed on Approved Roster. Rosters for all leagues must be completed, and all players' passes finalized by the start of the team's third game of League Play. Players can be added to the roster to the maximum during league play but must meet the 50% game attendance to be eligible to participate in the playoffs. Any coach, manager or club official who is found to be guilty of utilizing an illegal player risks their entire club being suspended from participation in all WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE activities for the current and subsequent season of play and forfeiting all fees.

Suspended Coach or Player: Any Coach or Player who has been placed on suspension is not permitted to participate in any manner whatsoever in the activities of the League during the suspension. The suspended person is not permitted to be present at the site of a match or areas immediately adjacent.

Matters Not Provided:
Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE Management and the decisions so made shall be final and binding.

GAME DAY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Zero Tolerance – Players, Coaches, and Spectators are expected to always with good sportsmanship! There will be ZERO abuse (verbal or otherwise) of referees or league officials!
- ✓ Team balances must be paid before Game #2.
- ✓ Coaches are always responsible for their players, their parents, as well as themselves.
- ✓ Each team will be checked in by League Staff prior to each game to ensure rostered eligible players and coaches (maximum of three coaches) are allowed on the field.
- ✓ The Home Team is responsible for providing a properly inflated and size appropriate game ball.
- ✓ REMINDER: The OFFSIDE rule is in effect. DO NOT ARGUE OFFSIDE CALLS.
- ✓ All substitute players must be seated, and bags stowed against the wall for player safety.
- ✓ Coaches will not be allowed on the field of play unless called on to the field by the referee. Failure will result in an immediate yellow card.
- ✓ No intentional heading the ball in U11 divisions and below.
- ✓ No Punting or drop-kicks for U10 divisions and below.
- ✓ U8 must retreat to the centerline on Goal Kicks and Goalkeeper distributions.
- ✓ U9 through U10 must retreat to the RED LINE on Goal Kicks.
- ✓ Unlimited substitutions made from in front of the benches. Players must be off the field before substitution takes the field.
- ✓ Space given to free, corner, or indirect kicks shall be 5 yards.

- ✓ Any player or coach that has been given a RED CARD must immediately leave the field and the premises with at least a one-week suspension or one-game suspension, whichever is greater.
- ✓ Coaches and Players must leave the field of play immediately after the game (no team meetings on the fields.)
- ✓ Recording Devices which require a tripod are not allowed due to safety and space limitations.

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PLAYOFFS

PLAYOFF FORMAT

All U11-U19 teams in the WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE will advance to the playoffs with the playoff format being determined when all team registrations and divisions are created. In each division, the three highest seeded teams will move directly to the semi-finals. The lower seeded teams will be involved in 25-minute play-in games to determine the fourth spot for Semi-Finals (no overtime, straight to five player PKs). The two Semi-Final and Final games will be full two 25-minute halves (5-minute "Golden Goal" overtime and then on to five player PKs if necessary.) **The WWIS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE Management reserves the right to modify playoffs to ensure the highest level of development and competition with all teams involved.**

- ✓ Each team will be checked in by League Staff prior to each game to ensure rostered eligible players (played in at least 50% of regular season games) and coaches (maximum of three coaches) are allowed on the field.
- ✓ U11-Varsity Championship Teams will receive a Team Trophy and 1st Place Medals.
- ✓ All substitute players must be seated, and bags stowed against the wall for player safety.
- ✓ Coaches will not be allowed on the field of play unless called on to the field by the referee. Failure will result in an immediate yellow card.
- ✓ No intentional heading the ball in U11 divisions and below.
- ✓ Unlimited substitutions made from in front of the benches. Players must be off the field before substitution takes the field.
- ✓ Coaches and Players must remain in the Technical Area marked by the lines around the benches.
- ✓ Space given to free or indirect kicks shall be 5 yards.
- ✓ Any player or coach that has been given a RED CARD must immediately leave the field and the premises.
- ✓ Coaches and Players must leave the field of play immediately after the game (no team meetings on the fields.)
- ✓ Zero Tolerance – Players, Coaches, and Spectators are expected to always with good sportsmanship! There will be ZERO abuse (verbal or otherwise) of referees or league officials!