

ARTICLE XVIII — ASSOCIATION SEAL

The Executive Committee may establish an Association Seal which shall appear on all correspondence and, in addition, shall be affixed to other items of the Association as determined by the Executive Committee. The seal of the Association shall, at a minimum, contain the words "Exeter - West Greenwich Youth Soccer Association", cut or engraved thereon.



EXETER–WEST GREENWICH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION RECREATIONAL LEAGUE HAND BOOK

Rules & Regulations

Code of Conduct

Guidelines

tion (Public Affairs Director) each committee shall be headed by a Chairperson responsible for the overall operation of said committee. The Chairperson shall be charged with the responsibility of reporting to the appropriate Director and/or Officer. Each Committee Chairperson shall be advised by the Director and/or Officer. Responsibilities of the committees are: The **Constitution and Regulations Committee** shall recommend changes to the existing Constitution for membership approval. In addition, the committee shall explore, draft and recommend rules for governing the operation and administration of the Association.

The **Finance Committee** shall explore and recommend proposals for the growth and direction of the Association. It shall recommend and promote means of acquiring additional income to further the activities of the Association in addition to private, local and national contributions. Each year, this committee shall recommend membership fees for approval.

The **Nominating Committee** shall provide a slate of candidates to fill Board of Director and Officer Positions as set forth in Article XIII. Special committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee as the need arises.

ARTICLE XV — RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Executive Committee shall determine, with the advice of the Constitution and Regulations Committee, and the President shall enforce a set of Association Rules and Regulations through which the functions of the Association shall be accomplished. The Rules and Regulations shall be amended by the Executive Committee as required to conduct the on-going business of the Association.

ARTICLE XVI — AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The Constitution may be amended at a meeting of the Membership by two-thirds of the voting members present. The proposed change must be submitted to the Finance and Planning Director in writing. Amendments for consideration must be submitted and approved no later than the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Semi-Annual or Annual General Meeting. The proposed amendment must be available to all members at the meeting.

ARTICLE XVII — DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall after payment of necessary expenses thereof be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws, or to the Federal government or State or local government for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Rhode Island. It is the intent of the Association that all remaining assets shall be turned over to an Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District athletic program to be determined by the Executive Committee. It shall be the right of the last remaining Executive Committee member to dissolve the Association pursuant to the provision of this article.

annual general meeting. All decisions, except as outlined in Article XVI, shall be made by a simple majority vote of the voting members attending.

Special Meetings - Special meetings can be called by the President or the Executive Committee or upon the written request of at least 25% of the Association Membership. Requests for Special Meetings, including an Agenda, shall be filed with the Secretary. Special Meetings shall be scheduled by the President. A minimum of two-thirds of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide any issue which is presented.

2. Meetings of the Executive Committee - The Executive Committee meetings shall be held as events dictate. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the general Membership. Meetings may be held electronically (by email, chat, teleconference, etc.) provided that a quorum is met (as outlined in Article X Paragraph 1) and either minutes are kept or a transcript is saved so that it may be made available to the membership upon request.

3. Committee Meetings - Committee meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee or Chairperson. Meetings of the Executive Committee or the Membership shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIII — ELECTIONS

The Public Affairs Director shall appoint a Nominating Committee from the Association Membership. Said nominating committee shall meet for the purpose of recommending a slate of candidates to fill Board of Director and Officer Positions that have reached the end of the term of office. The voting membership shall be notified of the name of the Nominating Committee Chairperson, no later than May 1 of each year. Nominations may be made in writing to the Nominating Committee Chairperson no later than 10 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. These shall require the signature of the nominator and one Member of the Association. Prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee the slate of candidates. There will be no nominations accepted from the floor. Elections for positions shall then be held and be voted upon by closed ballot. Positions for which there is no nominee may be voted upon after asking those who were not elected via a contest if they are interested in being nominated. If the answer is affirmative a vote will be held for that position by closed ballot. New members of the Board of Directors and Officers shall assume their duties at the next Executive Committee meeting after the election, but no later than August 1.

ARTICLE XIV — COMMITTEES

In addition to the elected offices, there shall be Committee Chairpersons (see Article X) appointed by the appropriate Director or Officer. The standing Committees of the Association by the Director and/or Officer indicated shall be: Constitution and Regulations (Secretary) Finance (Treasurer) Nomina-

General Information:

The Exeter-West Greenwich youth soccer association (EWGYSA) serves Exeter, West Greenwich, and nearby communities in rural south-central Rhode island. The goal of our association is to provide a safe and productive environment that enables children to learn and apply the principles of teamwork, discipline, dedication, and sportsmanship. We facilitate the development of strength and character in every child that participates. We welcome all children, regardless of race, creed or national origin. EWGYSA promotes respect for other players, coaches and officials, as well as teamwork and safety.

EWGYSA offers recreational soccer during the fall and spring seasons, run with a non-competitive foundation so that every child will have the maximum opportunity for fun and enjoyment, no scores or standings are kept. The objective is for all members of a team to participate with equal amounts of practice and play time in the weekly games. Each player receives a participation award at the end of each season. EWGYSA also offers competitive indoor soccer during the fall and winter fall and competitive (travel) soccer during the spring.

Volunteerism is the heart of this association. All are encouraged to seek opportunities to provide the best program for the players. All are encouraged to kick in and help the association reach that goal.

EWGYSA in run by a board of directors, elected annually who hold monthly meetings. All board members, committee members and coaches are volunteers and accept no compensation for their services. The current list of board members and their contact information is located in the appendix and on our website www.EWGsoccer.org.

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Vice President shall: actively share in the management of the Association by advising the President; manage the Recreation Program; and perform duties as assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

3. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall: maintain current records of all financial transactions of the Association; maintain the Association bank accounts in an accountable manner; assist in preparing a budget proposal for the membership prior to the Annual General Meeting of the membership; sign all checks drawn for payment by the Association; provide monthly and annual reports of previous balance of Association accounts and expenditures since the last report; receipts since the last meeting; and the present balance of Association accounts; assist committee Chairpersons in the formulation and submission of committee budgets and requests; prepare grants and yearly budget request forms to be submitted to local towns; maintain a list of all gifts to the Association; and perform duties as assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

4. Registrar - The Registrar shall: maintain a current listing of all Members; properly register all players in the Association with the SSA; recommend membership selection and matters related thereto; coordinate with the Public Affairs Director to publicize, advertise, and report all events relative to membership registration in the Association and perform duties as assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

5. Secretary - The Secretary shall: record, keep and make available to the membership the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and Association Membership; conduct all correspondence of the Association; maintain written record of any proposed changes to the Constitution; and perform duties as assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII — MEETINGS

1. Membership Meetings

Annual General Meeting - The members shall meet in June of each year at such time and place as may be established by the Executive Committee, but no later than June 30 of each year, for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the association. The meeting shall include, at a minimum, minutes of the previous meeting, reports of the officers and committees, old business, election of directors and officers, approval of the proposed association budget, changes to the constitution, and new business. An agenda shall be established by the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. All decisions, except as outlined in Article XVI, shall be made by a simple majority vote of the voting members attending.

Semi-Annual General Meeting - The members shall meet in November of each year at such time and place as may be established by the Executive Committee, but not later than November 30 of each year, for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Association. With the exception of election of directors and officers, the meeting shall include the same matters as the

Facilities Director shall manage all Association facilities to include equipment, buildings, fields, and ancillary resources.

Fundraising Director shall co-ordinate and organize all fundraising activities.

Public Affairs Director shall manage the program to publicize, advertise, coordinate and report matters related to the Association and membership, design and maintain website.

Training Director shall manage the Association's Recruiting and Training Program in respect to players, coaches, and referees.

3. Officers - The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar, and Secretary. The Officers shall be charged with conducting the daily business of the Association. Officers shall be Members, as defined in Article IX, not serving on the Board of Directors. Elected Officers shall serve a term of two years, with no Officer serving more than two successive terms in the same office unless no other qualified candidates stand for the position. Officers' terms shall be staggered so that no more than three offices are up for election in any year. To that end, the Secretary, Registrar, and Vice-President shall be elected in the same year, and the Treasurer and President shall be elected in the following year. At the Annual General Meeting of the Membership, the Members shall elect individuals to fill specific vacant Offices. Upon leaving office, the incumbent President may voluntarily join the Board of Directors as the President Emeritus to provide advice and guidance as gained through experience in the office of President. The President Emeritus shall have the right to vote on all decisions. Officers may be removed by a vote of the Executive Committee. Should an Office be vacated by resignation or Executive Committee action, the President shall nominate a replacement member to serve for the remainder of the term of the office being vacated. The President Emeritus position should not be filled if vacated.

ARTICLE XI — POWERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. President - The President shall: manage the affairs of the Association through enforcement of this Constitution and the Association's Rules and Regulations. The President shall: preside over all meetings of the Association Membership and Executive Committee and shall have the authority to call additional meetings as necessary; cast the deciding vote in the event of a deadlocked vote among members of the Executive Committee; ensure that the books, reports, statements, and certificates required by law are properly kept; approve all checks of the Association as drawn for payment by the Treasurer; represent the Association before agencies unless an individual is designated by the President; and perform duties as assigned in this Constitution or by the Executive Committee.

2. Vice President - The Vice President shall, upon consent of a majority of the Executive Committee: assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the President's absence or resignation. In addition, the

The senate resolution requires that any person deemed in violation of the "no tolerance" policy be asked to immediately leave the soccer complex. Refusing to leave, or a subsequent violation at a future game by that person, will result in banishment from the association for the remainder of the season and possibly longer, depending on the nature of the offense.

Code of Conduct

The Rhode Island general assembly has asked all youth organizations to develop a "no tolerance" policy to prevent misbehavior by spectators at youth sports events. The senate resolution was prompted by incidents elsewhere of spectators "badgering, humiliating, embarrassing, cursing, or otherwise communicating in some negative fashion" with players, coaches, referees or fans of the other team. The resolution was sparked by many incidents nationwide where abusive behavior by parents has led to fights, injuries and even death.

A code of conduct for coaches, players and spectators is consistent with the philosophy of the Exeter-West Greenwich youth soccer association, which stresses sportsmanship, skill development and fun. Parents agree to abide by our philosophy by signing their child's registration form. They also agree to follow the association's rules and regulations, which are distributed to coaches at the start of each season. All participants should be familiar with these guidelines to prevent conflicts and to assure the smooth operation of our recreational and competitive programs.

As required by the senate resolution, the executive committee of EWGYSA states that it will not tolerate any behavior deemed offensive or in violation of the association's rules and regulations. Behavior will be held up to community standards. If a coach, referee, player or parent deems that behavior by a spectator is threatening, abusive or demeaning, it will be viewed as such. Each parent is a member of the association and has a voice in how EWGYSA is run.

- Specifically, the EC will not tolerate disorderly, demeaning, belligerent, obnoxious or otherwise distasteful behavior.
- Parents are not allowed to berate or humiliate players, coaches, referees or other volunteers overseeing the games.
- Parents must stay in the areas designated for spectators.
- Parents cannot give players instructions that are in conflict to those of the coach.
- Profanity of any type will not be tolerated.
- Pets of any kind are not allowed at the soccer complex.
- Tobacco and/or alcohol are not allowed on the fields, parking lot or surrounding grounds.

Team Definitions

- **Recreational team:** any team
- **Developmental team:** any team U10 and below for which the players are selected on the basis of talent or merit or any team for which tryouts are held.
- **Competitive team:** any team u11 and above for which the players are selected on the basis of talent or merit or any team for which tryouts are held.
- **Tournament team / Indoor team:** A EWGYSA's rostered team which may include guest players and is put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament / indoor session of other sanctioned, non-league competition. A tournament / indoor team exist only for the duration of the tournament / indoor session. Team shall follow procedures outlined in "tournament play".

Recreational Philosophy

EWGYSA recreational philosophy is to promote fun, skill development and good sportsmanship. All are of equal importance; however, good sportsmanship goes a long way. It teaches more than field behavior and extends into daily life in the form of good personal relationships. The association and all its members should set the example for the players by displaying good decorum at all times. This experience is for fun: no scores, no standings, and a rewarding learning experience.

Developmental Philosophy

EWGYSA developmental philosophy shall be to provide players the opportunity to develop skills at an elevated level for the purpose of self-improvement and compete against the developmental soccer programs offered through other similar associations. The EWGYSA developmental program shall be: non-result oriented, 50% playing rule applied to all players, and strong emphasis on player participation at various positions. Such participation will benefit the EWGYSA and increase interest in the game of soccer.

Competitive Philosophy

EWGYSA competitive philosophy shall be to bring together the most skilled players of the EWGYSA to compete against the competitive soccer programs offered through other similar associations. Such participation will raise all the participants' skill levels, the level of play, and also contribute to the success of the school district's athletic program. The EWGYSA competitive soccer program shall endeavor to assemble and train the strongest teams possible for each division to best represent the EWGYSA. It is the

ARTICLE X — GOVERNMENT

1. Executive Committee - The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Board of Directors and the Officers of the Association. The Executive Committee shall be charged with adjudicating all questions of misconduct by Members, Officers, Directors, and the President Emeritus. Misconduct shall be defined as a violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Association and/or failure to fulfill the duties of the position that is held. The Executive Committee has the responsibility and authority to approve or disapprove, by vote, a nomination by the President to fill any vacant Executive Committee position. Each committee member shall cast one vote in all matters properly presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has the right to request a committee member to abstain from voting if it can justify a conflict of interest. Six or two thirds, whichever is less, of the Executive Committee must be present to constitute a quorum. A minimum of two-thirds of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide any issue presented.

The Executive Committee shall be charged with governing the Association by setting overall policy, in addition to such other responsibilities as are set forth in this Constitution. The Executive Committee shall appoint committees as it deems to be necessary to conduct the business of the Association. The Committee shall have the power to ratify, alter, or reject decisions and policies of any Committee, Officer, or member of the Board of Directors. Individual Executive Committee members may create subcommittees as needed to accomplish functional responsibilities.

2. Board of Directors - The Board of Directors shall be comprised of six members and the President Emeritus (if sitting) of the Association. Nominees for the Board of Directors shall be members of the association as outlined in Article IX. All Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association by vote of the Membership, as outlined in Article XIII. Elected members shall serve a term of office of two years, with no Director serving more than a total of three successive terms unless no other qualified candidates stand for the position. The President Emeritus shall not serve more than one term in that capacity. Terms of office must be staggered so that the terms of no more than three Directors shall expire in any year. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed by a vote of the Executive Committee. Should there be a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the President shall nominate a replacement member to complete the unexpired term. Each Director shall serve in a capacity, determined by and among the Directors with first choice based on seniority, as identified as follows:

Concessions Director shall manage Concessions (food and apparel) of the Association.

Developmental/Competitive Director shall manage the Developmental/Competitive Program in compliance with the Competitive Rules and Regulations of this Association and the SSA.

Soccer Association (USYSA) Sanctioned State Association (SSA) (hereinafter known as SSA) may become a member of this association, and participate in all Recreational activities. For the purpose of participation in Developmental and Competitive activities, the territorial limits for this association shall be bound by the guidelines of the SSA.

ARTICLE VI — ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

The official address of this association shall be P. O. Box 615, Exeter, RI 02822.

ARTICLE VII — COLORS

The representative colors of the Exeter-West Greenwich Youth Soccer Association, Inc. shall be red, black, and white.

ARTICLE VIII — AFFILIATION

This association shall be affiliated with and comply with the rules and authority of the SSA and through such affiliation shall be affiliated with USYSA and the U.S. Soccer Federation, Inc. (USSF).

ARTICLE IX — MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

There shall be four classes of membership in the Association:

1. *Playing Members* - Any properly registered youth on any Association team shall be considered a playing Member. Playing Members shall not be permitted a vote in the Association unless categorized in another class of membership.

2. *Regular Members* - Parents or legal guardians of any Playing Member shall be regular Members and shall have one vote per parent or guardian, with no more than two votes per family. The Association shall recognize the parents or legal guardians as recorded on the registration documents of a Playing Member.

3. *Administrative Members* - The head coach of any Association team shall be an Administrative Member and shall have one vote.

4. *Honorary Members* - Any interested person over the age of 18, who in the opinion of the Executive Committee, has made a meaningful contribution to the Association shall be considered an Honorary Member. Honorary Members shall be permitted a vote in the Association. All Regular, Administrative, and Honorary Members shall be considered Voting Members. No member may cast more than one vote. All Members shall be permitted to nominate candidates for election to Association offices and propose amendments to the Constitution of the Association. Regular, Administrative, and Honorary members shall be eligible for nomination as candidates for Association offices. In order to be an eligible candidate, a member may not occupy any SSA Office or Board of Director position.

objective to strive to win but provide each player playing time, since participants will not improve without playing.

Recreational Team Creation

Recreational teams are formed based on the number of players that register for a particular season. Attempts are made to accommodate the individual wishes of the player to be placed on the same team as a friend, relative or neighbor. Competitive and/or higher skilled players will be identified via evaluations by previous coaches and/or by the board of directors. These players will be distributed among the recreational teams in order for the team to be balanced. The age grouping and the total number of players that register for EWGYSA determine the number of players per team. Finalized rosters are given to the coaches with the names and phone numbers of the team players. The coaches are to call the players to inform them about practice, game schedule, medical release forms and uniforms prior to the beginning of the season.

Recreational Player Selection

No tryouts are held for recreational teams and all teams will be reselected each seasonal year. any parent who wishes to have their child moved up to an older age division than the child's chronological age, must notify the registrar prior to the registration deadline for that given soccer season. The registrar will consider each request on an individual basis and parents will be notified of the decision. A player may not move to a lower division than the child's chronological age according to uses regulations.

Recreational Coaches Role

The role of the youth soccer coach is to provide every player with the opportunity to reach his or her maximum potential development for enjoyment of the game of soccer.

How the coach exercises his role depends upon the age and experience of the players as well as the nature of the playing competition. For example, for very young and inexperienced players, the coach needs to provide different game formats so that the players simply have fun while improving their skills. on the other hand, for older and experienced youth players, the coach must evaluate each player's strengths and weaknesses such as physical qualities (size, speed, strength, and endurance), technical qualities (ball control), and tactical qualities (ability to read and understand the game).

For beginning players, the coach's primary objective should be to provide an atmosphere in which the players will learn to enjoy soccer. This objective applies equally well to teenage players as to very young players, although

the methods to achieve this objective will obviously differ. A secondary objective is for the coach to teach the players the necessary skills for full enjoyment of the game. Elementary techniques such as kicking and dribbling the ball should be demonstrated. But the coach must always remember that beginning players learn most from doing, not from watching or listening. Demonstrations at the beginning of practice sessions should be short and to the point so that the maximum time possible is spent playing.

Actual playing develops beginning players faster than any other method. Thus, the coaching methods for beginning players must emphasize games where the players have good opportunities to contact the ball. Small-sided games such as 3v3 are best until the players develop basic skills.

Most games should be designed so that the game is fluid and each player feels free to be anywhere on the designated field (e.g. use small goals and no goalkeepers). For very young players, games such as tag with each player dribbling a soccer ball are fun and educational. The players should be rotated through all playing positions so that the players gain maximum experience and avoid premature stereotyping to a particular position. Modern soccer demands a player to be proficient in all attacking and defending skills. Goalkeepers also need field playing experience to understand the flow of the game as well as to develop basic skills.

As the players increase in skill, the techniques used for experienced players can be phased into use. Coaches must always recognize the age and maturity of their players, however, and must avoid pressure tactics for young players.

The primary objective in coaching experienced players is to increase each player's physical fitness, technical ability, and tactical knowledge to the maximum extent possible. With these attributes maximized, an effective team can be organized to compete in high-level soccer.

The soccer fitness training for youth soccer must be soccer-related drills with the ball. Most fitness training is done through small-sided tactical games. Playing 2v2 for five minutes in the penalty area without goals would accomplish a higher level of endurance along with 10 minutes of lap running or 10 consecutive wind sprints.

Recreational Coaches Training

Formal training and licensing is available upon request. There are licensing and certification programs available through various state and national organizations for referees and coaches. For details on any of these programs, contact the training director or the vice president/rec director, the competitive director or the training director of the EWGYSA.

EWGYSA Constitution as Amended 28-Nov-2008

ARTICLE I — TITLE

The title of this association shall be "Exeter - West Greenwich Youth Soccer Association, Inc.". It shall also be known as "EWG Soccer".

ARTICLE II — ORGANIZATION

The Exeter-West Greenwich Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (Association) shall be established as a non-profit organization under the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service and operate pursuant to the laws of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and the United States Of America. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under IRC 501(c) (3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Tax laws. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the organization, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the organization), and no member, trustee, director, or officer of the organization or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the organization's assets on dissolution of the organization. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by IRC 501(h)) or participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidates for public office.

ARTICLE III — PURPOSE

The purpose of this association is to promote and advance the game of soccer on the youth level. This association shall provide soccer instruction and competition focused on improvement of skills through recreational, developmental, and competitive activities. While the Association shall provide equal opportunity to all players, its primary focus will be to develop players within the Exeter/West Greenwich Community. This Association shall operate for nonprofit purposes only, and shall engage in any lawful activity reasonably necessary to achieve the foregoing purpose.

ARTICLE IV — PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of this association shall be to: Promote equal opportunity for all players. Advance the skill level of the players participating in this association. Emphasize sportsmanship and enjoyment in all activities.

ARTICLE V — TERRITORIAL LIMITS/BOUNDARIES

Any youth player residing within the State of Rhode Island or otherwise eligible to play for a member association (or club) of the United States Youth

EWGYSA Board

position	email
President	president@ewgsoccer.org
President Emeritus	presidentemeritus@ewgsoccer.org
Vice President & Rec Director	vicepresident@ewgsoccer.org
Registrar	registrar@ewgsoccer.org
Treasurer	treasurer@ewgsoccer.org
Secretary	secretary@ewgsoccer.org
Competitive Director	competitive@ewgsoccer.org
Competitive Coordinator	competcoord@ewgsoccer.org
Concessions Director	concessions@ewgsoccer.org
Facilities Director	facilities@ewgsoccer.org
Fundraising Director	fundraising@ewgsoccer.org
Public Affairs Director	publicaffairs@ewgsoccer.org
Training Director	training@ewgsoccer.org
Referee Coordinator	refereecoord@ewgsoccer.org

Team Managers

Team managers are strongly recommended for every team, as the coach cannot do all the necessary work involved in running a team. Coordination of many activities such as team pictures, providing a drinks or fruit at half time, or assisting in training, may be some of the responsibilities of team managers.

Recreational General Rules & Regulations:

- The recreation program has a linkage to the developmental/ competitive program. However it is managed separately.
- All participants (players, coaches, and spectators) will exhibit exemplary sportsmanship. Endorsement of good sportsmanship is a priority of our association.
- Drivers should be cautious when entering and leaving the parking area, as children do not always pay attention.
- Pets are not allowed in the soccer complex.
- Tobacco and/or alcohol are not allowed in the soccer complex, including the parking lot and surrounding fields.
- All litter will be disposed of in the proper containers.
- In order to protect property, there shall be no hanging from goals, digging up of the fields or any other malicious activities.
- Players and coaches should be on one side of the field and spectators on the other side. The exception to this is the under 5 games where spectators may watch from any side of the field. For all age groups, no one will view any game at the goal ends of the field.
- The executive committee establishes registration fees. The committee will consider requests to adjust the fee on a case-by-case basis.
- A player is considered registered when the registrar has received a completed registration with payment in full. Players not registered by the team formation date will be placed on a waiting list and assigned to teams with vacancies, if available.
- A player's parent/guardian may request that he/she play up an age group but not down an age group. The executive committee can assign a player of limited skills or physical limitations to a lower age division, if the parent/guardian requests it.
- Players will be objectively assigned to teams within each age group, as equitably as possible, based on their previous experience and/or rating from the previous season. Inexperienced players will be assigned randomly, with some consideration for age and gender. The association's

intent is to create teams that are equal in quality thereby providing the most benefit to recreation, sportsmanship, reward, growth and competitiveness.

- Parents and coaches cannot recruit, trade, or assign players to a team. The registrar and the vice president must approve all player assignments.
- Parents and spectators will show good sportsmanship at all times.
- Parents and spectators are not allowed on field.
- Parents and spectators will refrain from confrontation.

All EWGYSA members have the right to bring concerns to an executive committee member. The EC meets every other Tuesday during the season (less frequently out of season) and will address the concerns as quickly, and fully, as possible.

Rules & Regulations for Players:

- Players will be required to remain with the team and coach throughout the duration of the games and practices unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- For safety reasons, players will practice and play games with protective and covered shin-pads.
- Players will insure proper dress and appearance for all games. This includes and is not limited to shirts tucked in shorts, shin pads inside soccer socks. Red shirts are for home games; gray shirts are for away games. Black shorts are preferred for all games. Hats are not allowed. Exemptions will be made for unseasonably cold weather and medical conditions.
- Players will not wear any jewelry during games and practices.
- Cleats (if worn) will be rubber (no metal spikes) and have no cleat on toe of shoe. Cleats are not required; athletic shoes (sneakers) are acceptable.
- Players will be fully equipped prior to the start of the game and evaluated by the referee. The referee will evaluate late arrivals at a convenient time before allowing them to participate in any game.

Guidelines for Players:

- Players are to arrive 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- Players should bring a water bottle and ball to games and practices.

a-johns) that are required for playing soccer in all weather conditions. Games will be played unless notified. the only time that EWGYSA will cancel games for the day is if conditions develop which present a danger to the kids (lightening, standing water) or to the fields (when significant damage will result due to standing water, or loose turf). It is possible that only select games maybe canceled due to varying conditions throughout the day. Game cancellations will be posted on the EWGsoccer.org website or via mass email.

The decision to close the field for the day will be made by the president of the EWGYSA, or the board member who is on duty at the concession stand that day. Coaches are not allowed to decide to cancel a game. Parental discretion should always be used to determine whether their child should play on any particular day. People should remember however, that their decision affects not only the families on their team, but also those of the opposing team. If you decide not to play, you may also be deciding that the opposing team will not play as well

Sponsorship

EWGYSA has solid connections within our local community and in order for all families to be able participate in our recreational programs we must keep our costs at a minimum. In this economy, that can be quite a difficult task, so we look into the community and ask local businesses to help us keep our costs down by becoming sponsors. Making a tax deductible donation to our association allows EWGYSA to cover yearly expenses as well as repair and improve our fields and facilities throughout the year. In return for the generous donations, we offer the sponsors the opportunity to reach out to the community using the EWGYSA website and by advertising at our fields. Contact public affairs or fundraising for more info.

**parents trained in first aid or licensed as a health care provider should make themselves known to the association so their skills can be called upon should a serious injury occur.*

Concession Stand

The concession stand is open on game days and provides an important source of income for EWGYSA. Parents, players and coaches are encouraged to patronize the concession stand.

On game days, there will always be a EWGYSA member of the board on duty at the concession stand. The member on duty is there to handle all problems: schedules, referees, fields, etc. there are first-aid kits and a phone in the concession stand for emergency use.

Equipment

Player equipment is one of the smallest cost items in the overall program. A pair of shin guards, a ball, shorts, and footwear and the child is ready to play. Players must wear shin guards, socks pulled up over the shin guards, and footwear. Players are not required to wear soccer shoes, although it is recommended in the older age groups. Shoes must have soft rubber cleat with no cleat at the toe end of the shoe. No jewelry of any kind is allowed—no earrings, no watches, no barrettes, no bracelets, and no chains.

No hard brimmed hats are allowed. Cloth ties, rubber bands, headbands, wristbands and gloves are allowed. The younger age groups may be allowed to wear long pants during the games in cold weather. The game shirt must be worn on the outside of all other clothing and tucked into the shorts during the game. The players are encouraged to bring water to games and/or practice, as continual hydration is important to the health of a young athlete.

It is the coach's responsibility to see that each player complies with the rules. It is expected that all players wear the EWGYSA issued shirt, shorts, and both socks for all games. For older players, a sports equipment bag to carry all of the players' gear is encouraged. As with all personal items, each should have the players' name clearly marked on it.

The EWGYSA had a supply of various items such as pinnies and cones available for use during practices. All equipment borrowed should be returned at the end of the practice. First aid supplies are available at the concession stand on league play days.

Adverse Weather Policy

Soccer is a sport that is played in both good and adverse weather conditions. EWGYSA will provide the facilities (fields, referees, parking, and port-

Rules and Regulations for Coaches:

- All coaches must complete a risk management form (see risk management form) authorizing a background check prior to assuming control of a team. Any issue that surfaces as a result of the background check will be administered by the risk management manager and adjudicated by the executive committee in an executive session.
- In reference to a player injury, referees will signal to the coach to administer to the player.
- Coaches should change the method of play whenever there is a four-goal differential in the score. methods may include removing a player (for the team in the lead), adding a player (for the team not in the lead) or making three passes prior to taking a shot on goal (for the team in the lead). Other accommodative methods may be used.
- Coaches will insure that team member's play at least 50% of the time during a game. This may be altered for disciplinary problems or injuries only.
- Coaches are responsible for setting up the goals and flags if their team is scheduled for the first game. Likewise, coaches are responsible for removing the goals and flags if theirs is the last game scheduled.
- Coaches will counsel players when it is perceived that un-sportsmanlike conduct is exhibited, including behavior on the sidelines. Examples include slide tackling from behind, holding or pushing, tripping, taunting or any other actions considered to be unnecessary and/or un-sportsman like.
- Coaches will refrain from arguing calls or otherwise delaying the play of the game. Questionable calls or actions by the referee should be directed to the referee coordinator by completing a referee evaluation form or to an executive committee member at the field immediately after the game. All concerns should be directed to an executive committee member after the completion of the game.
- Coaches and players will shake hands at the end of the game.
- All coaches are required to notify the risk management manager of all injuries requiring visits to the doctor's office, emergency room or hospital. All association players and coaches are insured for injury.

Guidelines for Coaches:

- Coaches should hold 1 practice per week. Any additional practice sessions are not encouraged. Coaches should refer to the guidelines for practice sessions or contact the training director for information.
- Practice length guidelines: U5 – 20 minutes, U6 – 45 minutes, U8 and above – 60 minutes.

- Coaches should provide every player the opportunity to play every position on the field. This is recreation soccer and is to be fun yet challenging. The opportunity to play numerous positions teaches the players the importance of each position and provides a better understanding of the game. However, coaches should never force a player to play a particular position or punish a player for refusing to play the position.
- Coaches should insure that their team leaves no debris, clothing or equipment on the sidelines after a game or practice.
- Coaches should check their mailboxes before their games on a weekly basis at the information/concession stand and distribute the contents of the folder as required. Items to be picked up include (but are not limited to) fundraising events, game time changes, policies and procedures, team pictures, EWG sweeper newsletters, etc.
- Coaches should return any forms requesting information or a confirmation of information in a timely fashion to the folder or individual indicated on the form.
- Coaches cannot cancel games due to inclement weather. The decision to cancel is made only by the executive committee. The game cancellation hot line number is 397-4308 and the website is www.EWGsoccer.org. Coaches must make every effort to get their players to scheduled games, despite weather conditions. If games are canceled, coaches must relay this to their players.
- Coaches should decide when practices are canceled and how this information is relayed to players and parents.
- Coaches should establish a system to manage snacks, fundraising, etc. for the team prior and during the season. Recruitment of one or more parents to assist or manage these tasks is recommended.
- Coaches should provide input or information to the association through written suggestion or by speaking to an executive committee member.
- Coaches should explain association policy to parents whenever needed. When not possible, coaches should direct the parent to an executive committee member.
- Coaches may attend age specific training conducted and/or endorsed by the United States youth soccer association (USYSA) sanctioned state association (SSA). A copy of the certificate and a request for reimbursement must be submitted to the EC for consideration.
- Coaches may receive local training as publicized in the EWG sweeper newsletter or by calling the training director.

Injury Policy:

The association has adopted a policy for injured players to make clear the responsibilities of the referee, coaches, players and parents should a player be injured on the field. The new policy is in keeping with FIFA (federation international de football association) law 5, from *laws of the game*, the rulebook that governs competitive soccer play for all ages worldwide. The following EWGYSA policy is modified to recognize the less stringent standards of the recreational soccer program.

- A player who is injured and cannot continue should kneel, sit or lay on the field. Play continues until the referee stops it. All other players should keep their distance.
- The referee will allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if he or she considers the injury to be minor and if the player is not at further risk of injury. If the referee considers the injury serious, he or she will stop the match. If the referee does not see the injured player, the coach should bring the situation to his or her attention.
- Once play is stopped, the referee will allow the coach on the field to tend to the injured player. The referee may also allow on the field the player's parents or a licensed "first responder," such as a doctor, nurse, EMT, physical therapist or athletic trainer.* both coaches are responsible for keeping their players at a distance from the injured player.
- If the injury is considered minor the player should be escorted off the field as quickly as possible to minimize stoppage of play. The player must leave the field even if no further attention is required. First aid such as ice or a bandage should be done on the sidelines. A player bleeding from a wound can only return once the referee is satisfied the bleeding has stopped.
- If the referee, coach or parents consider the injury serious, they should request a bystander to call for medical assistance. A player unconscious or who may have sustained a head, neck or spinal injury should never be moved. Only a licensed first responder as described above should provide first aid to a seriously injured player.
- The referee will allow the coach to make an immediate substitution for the injured player.
- The referee will allow for the full amount of time lost through injury to be played at the end of that quarter's play.
- The coach must ask the referee for permission to return the injured player to the game. The referee can deny permission if he or she feels the injury was severe enough to warrant further medical attention. Coaches should use caution when deciding whether to put an injured player back in the game, especially if there is a chance of a concussion.

Modified laws for U14 (and older) play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 5

Number of players: 6, one player shall be designated as a keeper

Note: the association may increase the number of players when playing other associations or clubs.

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited. Players must enter the field of play at the mid field and only after being granted approval from the referee. Substitutions may be made:

- prior to a throw-in by the team in possession
- prior to a throw-in by both teams if the team in possession is substituting
- prior to a goal kick by either team
- after a goal by either team
- after an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team
- at half time

Substitutions are not allowed on corner kicks.

Substitutions must be made as quickly as possible. The referee should not allow substitutions to unnecessarily delay the game.

Duration: 2 halves of 25 minutes each

Start and re-start:

Direction of play - the direction of play will change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will be called. There is no offside on corner kicks or throw-ins

Coaches' positioning: coaches must remain on his or her half of the sidelines during the game. Coaches will be confined to the coaching box when it is designated.

Rules and Regulations for Referees:

- Referees must arrive at least fifteen minutes prior to the game.
- Referees will inspect the players and their equipment 10 minutes prior to the start of the game. Latecomers must be inspected at the referee's next opportunity before they are allowed to participate in the game.
- Referees will wear the proper uniform with shirt tucked in shorts and conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- Referees must have a whistle, stop watch, pens, and cards and, if applicable, flags. The cards should be kept in the pocket. Flags are required only if an assistant referee is needed to officiate the lines.
- Referees should have the appropriate size game ball with them.
- Prior to the start of the game, referees should have the coaches complete the "sign-in card". At that time, the referee should introduce himself or herself.
- Referees should check their mailbox prior to their first game every week. It will include the schedule as well as additional information.
- Referees will follow and employ all laws of the game and this association.
- Referees will provide clear direction and sound the whistle with authority.
- Referees will keep game time.
- Referees will insure the safety and security of all players at all times.
- Referees have the right and obligation to "card" for infractions in accordance with the laws of the game.
- Referees should refuse to discuss any call with spectators. They should always remain non-confrontational.
- Referees will remain at game field between quarters and halves (attending to exceptional requirements is acceptable). Personal items (a water bottle, etc.) should be kept off to the side for any break.
- Referees should remain impartial throughout each game. Objectivity is a paramount requirement. Personal correspondence with players, coaches and friends should be delayed until the game is over.
- Referees should comply with time requirements that being a two-minute break between quarters and five-minute break between halves. No overtime periods are authorized.
- Referees should show respect to all including players, spectators, coaches and other referees.

- Referees should maintain control, be assertive, use common sense, apply the laws of the game and exercise good judgment.

Referees should be aware that failure to comply with the above rules will result in forfeiture to officiate future games. The assignment to officiate games will be allocated based on a rotation that will include how the referee complies with the association's rules, performance, behavior and dedication to service.

Selection of Referees:

The executive committee will advertise for candidates to fill vacancies. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Number of vacant referee positions.
- Soccer experience.
- The candidate's association with EWG youth soccer association.
- Attending the appropriate training for certification and re-certification.
- Commitment to work all games assigned.
- Commitment to abide by the SSA's and EWGYSA's rules stipulated in the rules for referees section.
- Candidates must be at least 10 years of age.

New referees will obtain training and become certified as courses are available. All returning referees will obtain training for re-certification as courses are available.

Referees will be evaluated on a seasonal basis to insure that their skills and responsibilities are meeting the association's needs.

Referees are certified by the Rhode Island referees association through the United States soccer federation. They are paid on a graduated scale based on their role and age division.

Game Rules and Information:

All EWGYSA games will be played as scheduled. The executive committee determines the cancellation of games.

Coaches or referees may not cancel a game.

Call the EWGYSA hotline at 397-4308 or check our website at EWGsoccer.org for information:

All games will follow the laws of the game with the exceptions noted on the following pages for each age group:

Modified laws for U12 play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 4

Number of players: 6, one player shall be designated as a keeper

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited. Players must enter the field of play at the mid field and only after being granted approval from the referee. Substitutions may be made:

- prior to a throw-in by the team in possession
- prior to a throw-in by both teams if the team in possession is substituting
- prior to a goal kick by either team
- after a goal by either team
- after an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team
- at half time

Substitutions are not allowed on corner kicks.

Substitutions must be made as quickly as possible. The referee should not allow substitutions to unnecessarily delay the game.

Duration: 2 halves of 25 minutes each

Start and re-start:

Direction of play - the direction of play will change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will be called. There is no offside on corner kicks or throw-ins

Coaches' positioning: coaches must remain on his or her half of the sidelines during the game. Coaches will be confined to the coaching box when it is designated.

One field measuring 45 yards long by 30 yards wide. Soccer goals will be 4 feet high and 9 feet wide. Goals must be anchored properly to the ground prior to any training session or game. The field will have 4 corner flags or 4 cones and with all appropriate field markings: Midfield line, 5 yard radius Center Circle, a goal box-14 yards wide by 7 yards deep. There will be no penalty area marked on the field. (Provided by SRI)

Modified laws for U10 play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 4

Number of players: 6, one player shall be designated as a keeper

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited. Players must enter the field of play at the mid field and only after being granted approval from the referee. Substitutions may be made:

- prior to a throw-in by the team in possession
- prior to a throw-in by both teams if the team in possession is substituting
- prior to a goal kick by either team
- after a goal by either team
- after an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team
- between quarters and halves

Substitutions are not allowed on corner kicks.

Substitutions must be made as quickly as possible. The referee should not allow substitutions to unnecessarily delay the game.

Duration: 4 quarters of 10 minutes each

Start and re-start:

Direction of play - the direction of play will change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will be called. There is no offside on corner kicks or throw-ins

Coaches' positioning: coaches must remain on his or her half of the side-lines during the game. Coaches will be confined to the coaching box when it is designated.

Modified laws for U5 play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 3

Number of players: 3 field players, no goal keeper

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited and may be made at any time, even if play has not stopped, without the approval of the referee

Duration: 2 halves of 8 minutes each

Start and re-start:

- **Goal kick** – when a ball played by the attacking team crosses the goal line, whether or not a goal is scored, and a goal kick is awarded. The defending team must retreat to mid field until the ball crosses the mid field line.
- **Corner kick** – when the defending team plays a ball past their own goal line and a goal is not scored, a corner kick will be awarded.
- **Kick-in** – when the ball crosses the touch line a kick-in is awarded. Defending players must remain at least 5 yards from the player performing the kick-in.
- **Direction of play** - the direction of play will not change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will not be called

Defenders acting as goal keepers: a defensive player may not act as a goal keeper. A defensive player may not enter the goal box unless play is in the immediate area.

Coaches' positioning: coaches may position themselves on the field of play to provide guidance and support.

Modified laws for U6 play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 3

Number of players: 4 field players, no goal keeper

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited and may be made at any time, even if play has not stopped, without the approval of the referee

Duration: 4 quarters of 8 minutes each

Start and re-start:

- **Goal kick** – when a ball played by the attacking team crosses the goal line, whether or not a goal is scored, and a goal kick is awarded. The defending team must retreat to mid field until the ball crosses the mid field line.
- **Corner kick** – when the defending team plays a ball past their own goal line and a goal is not scored, a corner kick will be awarded.
- **Kick-in** – when the ball crosses the touch line a kick-in is awarded. Defending players must remain at least 5 yards from the player performing the kick-in.
- **Direction of play** - the direction of play will change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will not be called

Defenders acting as goal keepers: a defensive player may not act as a goal keeper. A defensive player may not enter the goal box unless play is in the immediate area.

Coaches' positioning: coaches may position themselves on the field of play to provide guidance and support for **only** the first 4 games of the season. After that, coaches must remain on his or her half of the sidelines during the game.

Modified laws for U8 play

Coaches and referees are to work together!

Ball size: 3

Number of players: 5, 4 field players and 1 goal keeper

Substitutions: substitutions are unlimited. Players must enter the field of play at the mid field and only after being granted approval from the referee. Substitutions may be made:

- prior to a kick-in by the team in possession
- prior to a kick-in by both teams if the team in possession is substituting
- prior to a goal kick by either team
- after an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team
- between quarters and halves

Substitutions are not allowed on corner kicks.

Substitutions must be made as quickly as possible. The referee should not allow substitutions to unnecessarily delay the game.

Duration: 4 quarters of 10 minutes each

Start and re-start:

- **Goal kick** – when a ball played by the attacking team crosses the goal line, whether or not a goal is scored, and a goal kick is awarded. The defending team must retreat **10** yards from the goal box.
- **Corner kick** – when the defending team plays a ball past their own goal line and a goal is not scored, a corner kick will be awarded.
- **Pass In (USYSA compliant)** – when the ball crosses the touch line a **Throw-in** is awarded. Defending players must remain at least **5 yards** from the player performing the **Throw-In. Referees will correct players in the proper manner of performing a throw in!**
- **Direction of play** - the direction of play will change for the second half of play.

Offside: offside will not be called. However, an attacking player may not enter the goal box unless play is in the immediate area.

Coaches' positioning: coaches must remain on his or her half of the sidelines during game play.

Center Kickoffs will take place after a team scores a goal.

U8 : 5 v 5 Format (Including Goal Keepers)

- Coaches are encouraged to have all players play goal keeper at least once throughout the course of the season.