



West Chester Soccer Club



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Instructional Division Rules & Modifications

Instructional Commissioner: **Tim Brown** and Instructional Referee Coordinator: **Andrew Boehner**

- Rule 1.** The purpose of this division is to learn the game of soccer and have FUN! **This rule supercedes all others.** We are here to make these kids first experience with soccer an enjoyable one. This league is for the KIDS...not the coaches or parents!
- Rule 2.** Field of play will measure approximately 50yds. x 30 yds.
- Rule 3.** Teams will use a size #3 ball, which the game ball is to be supplied by the scheduled home team.
- Rule 4.** **Players & Substitutions** – The league allows six players on the field at one time. Each team should begin play with four (4) players in an offensive position and two (2) playing defense. **The defensive players should be encouraged to move out toward the midfield as much as possible, even allowing them to cross the half line when they have possession of the ball.** We want the kids to score goals! There will be **NO GOALIES** and the referees will encourage defensive players to move off of the goal circle. Coaches may freely substitute for any player during a dead ball situation, with the consent of the referee. Every player **must** play a minimum of two (2) periods of each game, except in the case of illness or injury. In most cases, it should be very easy to get all the players three periods of playing time. One coach from each team may be on the field during play to assist the kids with positions. An assistant may be positioned behind the goal. **(Not on the field)**
- Rule 5.** **Player Equipment** – All players must wear shinguards. Soccer cleats are recommended but not required at this level. Baseball cleats are not permitted due to the toe cleat. No player will be allowed to wear jewelry and/or a hard cast. No hard billed hats can be worn during play.
- Rule 6.** **Referees** – Each game will be officiated by two (2) WCSC approved referees. The referees will be in charge of all elements of the game and will enforce proper conduct. Each referee is to be paid \$10.00 by the scheduled home team. In the event that only one referee is present, he/she will be paid the entire \$20.00. **Coaches are not permitted to change the rules in this league at any time.** Only the Instructional League Commissioner may change the rules and will do so through the referees. **Remember, this is also an instructional league for referees! Compliments are appreciated...but berating these kids will not be tolerated!**
- Rule 7.** **Duration of the Game** – A game will be made up of four (4) periods lasting eight (8) minutes. There will be a one (1) minute interval between periods and a five (5) minute break at halftime. **Teams will change sides of the field only after each half.** In the event that a game should be cancelled due to inclement weather before halftime, the game will be rescheduled. Only the Instructional League Commissioner can reschedule games, and coaches will be notified of the date and time.
- Rule 8.** **Start of Play** – A coin toss will determine choice of goals to defend and first possession. Visiting teams will call the toss and the winning team will choose the goal to defend. The losing team will take the first kick.
- Rule 9.** **Ball In & Out of Play** – The ball is out of play when it crosses the touch line or goal line, or if the referee stops play for any reason. As instructed by the referee, the ball will be put back in play via a throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, or drop ball. If a player makes a mistake on a throw-in, they will be allowed a second chance. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, the ball will be turned over to the opposite team. If a goal kick is awarded, that kick can be taken from anywhere along the goal circle.
- Rule 10.** **Fouls & Misconduct** – It is not expected that discipline will be a factor at this level, however, the referees will enforce rules infractions representing rough play and/or unsportsmanlike conduct. The referees will address these issues with the coach prior to any disciplinary action. All rules infractions will result in an indirect kick.
- Rule 11.** **Rescheduling of Games** – If for any reason (weather or school conflicts) a game needs to be rescheduled; please contact the Commissioner. Games can not be rescheduled without their approval. Rescheduling works best when the home and visiting coaches choose a mutually convenient date and contact the WCSC Scheduler to ensure field availability. Email Rosenston@fuse.net to arrange for referees and fields.
- Courtesy Rule:** **Lopsided scores:** Just because you can doesn't mean you should! Please don't run up the score! If the goal differential of the match reaches 4 goals, the team behind in the score will be allowed to bring one (1) additional player into the match. Once the goal differential is reduced to three (3), that extra player must be removed from the field.

There will be no scores or standings kept for this division. The main objective is to provide a fun introduction to the game of soccer. HAVE FUN, TEACH SOCCER SKILLS, AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!