

**CHAPTER THREE
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER
ASSOCIATION AND ITS AFFILIATED LOCAL PLAYING ASSOCIATIONS AND
LEAGUES.**

3.1 REGISTERED PLAYERS

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this association or its affiliated members. Teams which uses unregistered players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said players have participated, and be subjected to other sanctions decided by the division Vice President.

3.2 UNREGISTERED/NONSANCTIONED PLAY

Youth and Amateur players who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall void their registration and must re-apply for reinstatement to their appropriate Division VP. Application for reinstatement must be directed to the WVSA office along with any refilling fee as set by the BOD.

3.2.1 Unsanctioned Play Shall Include, But Not Be Limited To:

1. Outdoor League not sanctioned by WVSA or another USSF affiliate.
2. Outdoor Tournament not sanctioned by WVSA or another USSF affiliate.
3. Any game (friendly or scrimmage) with a non-USFF affiliated team.
4. Any outdoor, match, league or tournament with a non-USYS member of USSF without the permission of WVSA in advance.
5. Any outdoor, match, league or tournament with a USYS member of USSF without the permission of WVSA in advance

3.2.2 Application by the team/player to the WVSA office to engage in an unsanctioned game or games may be approved under certain conditions that may be determined to be in the best interest and enhancement of the game.

3.2.3 Any appeal concerning the refusal of permission to play in a non-sanctioned event shall be made directly to the WVSA A&D Committee and shall be acted upon such complaint within fifteen days.

3 FRIENDLY GAMES

Friendly Games Shall Be Defined As Games Which:

- 3.3.1 Are not associated with any other games either played or to be played and they do not lead to any championship.
- 3.3.2 Do not lead to any trophy or other award.
- 3.3.3 Do not require a fee to be paid by any player to sponsor.
- 3.3.4 Are organized in a spontaneous fashion.

3.4 SUSPENSIONS

The WVSA and its affiliated members shall honor any and all order of suspensions of player, coaches, referees issued by WVSA or its affiliates. A team, which used individuals under suspension, shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated. Member associations which use

individuals (coaches or referees) under suspension shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or to be declared not in good standing with WVSA.

Individuals who participate, or allow someone to participate, while under suspension may be subject to disciplinary action.

3.5 REFEREES

In compliance with USSF rule 1203, all referees serving WVSA and its affiliated member associations shall be registered with the USSF and WVSA in accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.

3.5.1 The use of unregistered referees is approved only in emergency situations; then the captains or coaches of two competing teams may decide someone agreeable to both of them to officiate. In these circumstances, the decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he were a registered referee.

(1) A member association of WVSA who attempts to circumvent the spirit of this rule by continually relying on rules 3.5.1, or the excuse of referee unavailability as a reason not to insist upon the proper training and registration of all their referees, may be put on thirty days written notice by the Division VP that it may be found not in good standing with WVSA. If it does not take immediate, positive steps to completely comply with this rule, the association may be held not to be in good standing after a hearing before the BOD.

3.5.2 All USSF referee training for certification will be under the direct supervision of the state referee committee and state director of referee instruction. No referee instructors other than those specifically trained and certified by USSF or the state director of referee instruction are approved as instructors for basic referee clinics.

3.5.3 Member associations that desire to free registered referees for higher-level competition may allow the coaches of recreational under 6, under 8, and under 10 teams to each officiate one-half of their own games.

(2) A member association of WVSA who attempts to circumvent the spirit of this rule continually relying on rule 3.5.3, or the excuse of referee unavailability as a reason not to insist upon the proper training and registration of all their referees, may be put on thirty days written notice by the Division VP that it may be found not in good standing with WVSA. If it does not take immediate, positive steps to completely comply with this rule, the association may be held not to be in good standing after a hearing before the BOD.

3.6 AMATEUR TRAIL GAMES (SENIOR)

3.6.1 A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of amateur games without losing his eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the Vice President of Youth. The youth coach or other team official must, in writing or by form, request permission from the appropriate Vice President of Amateur. When the above clearance and permission have

been granted, the appropriate Vice President of Amateur has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play amateur games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures for which this will be implemented. The youth player shall be listed as a “provisional” amateur player.

- 3.6.2 Any youth player playing for an amateur team without the approvals of the Vice President of Amateur and Vice President of Youth may be declared ineligible for youth games. Any youth team using such ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which the player took part and the coach, manager and or club administrators may be subject to disciplinary action. It is not necessary to drop an ineligible player from the roster.
- 3.6.3 Any amateur team, coach or administrator that used a youth player not in accordance with the he above rules may be suspended for up to one year.
- 3.6.4 A youth player may appeal his youth coach’s or authorized team official’s denial to play amateur games with the Vice President of Youth.

3.7 YOUTH PLAYER IN AMATEUR PLAY

3.7.1 A youth player playing an amateur game shall be considered a provisional player and therefore, cannot take part as a team member in league playoff games, league championship games or state or

national tournament.

3.7.2 If a youth player is denied the right to play amateur games by his youth coach or authorized team officials and the Vice President of Youth, he may appeal to the state appeals and discipline committee.

3.7.3 Should a player eligible to compete in youth competition decide to forego his youth eligibility and register as an amateur player, he must:

(1) Make application to the VP Youth

- 1. The Vice President of Youth will ensure that the player is not under suspension or probation and then relay all information and original request to Vice President of Amateur.
- 2. A youth player after receiving the proper clearance from the appropriate amateur commissioner then may register, as an amateur player.

3.7.4 An amateur team, coach or administrator that used a youth player not in accordance with the above rules may be suspended for up to one year.

3.8 AMATEUR REGISTRATIONS

Players may only register with one team at any given time.

A player may register on as many teams as he coaches as long as these teams do not play each other in any competition.

Note: Youth registration, transfers, etc. are covered under the rules for registration of youth players.

3.9 PLAYING AGE

Except where prohibited by USSF rules, youth players may participate in older divisions but may not playing younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the WVSA Board of Directors.

3.10 YOUTH CONTRACTS AND RELEASES

- 3.10.1 No coach, assistant coach, trainer or team representative may practice or play with any player that does not appear on his current WWSA roster if he is not considered to be a free agent by current WWSA rules and regulations, unless permission is granted by the player's coach. (Note: the above does not include indoor soccer. (11/94)) Unregistered players may not participate in any manner. (11/93)
- 3.10.2 Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer, and/or team representative being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not more than one year.
- 3.10.3 If the complaint is inter-association then the complaint will follow the member association's rules for filing complaints. Any appeal from a member association's decision would then follow the ordinary process of appeals from member associations.
- 3.10.4 Should the complaint be inter-association matter, and then the complainant will file his complaint directly with the Vice President of Youth, who shall hold a hearing. Either party may then file an appeal with the state appeals and discipline committee of WWSA according to the By-Laws of WWSA
- 3.10.5 Any player desiring to be free of his contractual obligations before the end of the seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) must obtain a written release from the team with which he is currently registered. Any player requesting and failing to receive said release within seventy-two hours may request his release directly from his playing association, who must render a decision within seventy-two hours. The member association's decision may be appealed directly to the Vice President of Youth, who shall render his decision may be appealed directly to the WWSA Board of Directors to be acted upon immediately.
- 3.10.6 Before any person may discuss joining a team with a player or the player's representative or answer questions they must inquire if the player is presently rostered to any other team. If the player is rostered to another team then there can be no communication with the player until permission is given, in writing, by the player's present team or a release has been obtained on a PTS form. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending party being suspended from all soccer activities.
- 3.10.7 No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player or parent may approach any player to leave his present team or club without the express written consent of the present coach. Persons denied such permission may appeal to the division commissioner. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending party being suspended from all soccer activities.
- 3.10.8 Complaints of violations of section 3.10 shall be made in writing to the WWSA office. The complaint shall be investigated and forwarded to the Division VP who shall hold a hearing prior to any disciplinary action being taken. Any decision may be appealed to the WWSA A&D Committee.

3.11 RULES OF PLAY

Except as otherwise specified herein, rules of play of the USSF and its respective divisions, Amateur and Youth, will apply in all completions under the jurisdiction of the WWSA and its affiliated members. Any affiliated member association may operate the "Quarter System" of substitution

for Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, and Under 12 age divisions only. However, the board of Directors shall have the right to approve special rules of the competition agreed upon by two or more member associations conducting a “special” competition.

3.12 AGE GROUPING FOR PLAY

AGE GROUPING FOR WVSA AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS PLAY SHALL BE:

AMATEUR
UNDER 19
UNDER 16
UNDER 14
UNDER 12
UNDER 10
UNDER 8
UNDER 6

THE AGE OF A PLAYER FOR PURPOSE OF LEAGUE PLAY SHALL BE THE PLAYER’S AGE ON AUGUST 1 OF THE CURRENT SOCCER YEAR. THE CURRENT SOCCER YEAR BEGINS O SEPTEMBER 1 AND ENDS AUGUST 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

3.13 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

The division VP’s shall be responsible for the registration of all players under their jurisdiction.

3.13.1 Each division shall develop its own procedures for player registration and submit them to the Board of Directors for its approval. These procedures shall be listed as separate chapters of this document.

3.14 PROOF OF AGE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A valid player pass card with picture shall be sufficient identification of player age and registration.

Youth Only

1. All players must have a valid player pass for any match, with the following exceptions: providing that the players are listed on the local club roster of the team for which they are playing.
 - A) Recreational games
 - i. The local league must certify to the referee that all players are properly registered and of the proper age, and are on the teams roster.
 - ii. Tournaments may require player pass cards.
 - B) In any match in which a waiver has been granted by WVSA.
 - i. A valid league or club roster must be presented
2. Any coach whose team does not have player pass cards at a match must present a roster to the referee except as noted in A & B.

- i. The referee shall forward a copy of the roster to the WVSA office.
- ii. The coach shall forward copies of the player pass cards to the WVSA office within 72 hrs of the match.
- iii. Any coach not having player pass cards may be suspended for not less than 3 matches or more than 1 year.

3.15 TEAM ROSTER LIMITATIONS

C= Competitive R= Recreation

3.15.1 Registered teams may have no more players than listed below.

AGE GROUP	MIN	MAX
U13 and above	7	18
U11C/U12C	7	18
*U11C/U12 8v8	5	14
U11 R	5	14
U9/10 All Teams	3	8
U5/6 All Teams	3	8

*Optional

3.15.2 Expanded Rosters

Travel teams U12 and above and recreation teams U16 and above may have expanded rosters of up to 22 players under the following conditions:

1. No more than 18 players may be on the match roster or the team bench area for any match.
2. All players and their parents must sign a release that they understand that they are on an expanded roster and only 18 players may dress for any such match.
3. Teams entering WVSA State Championship Cup must meet all roster rules and limits under cup rules. Teams entering WVSA State Championship Cup that wish to use this rule must contact the WVSA Executive Director prior to creating any rosters.

3.16 RULES OF COMPETITION

1. FIFA laws of the game modified
2. All inter league play for U8 and below, for instate and out of state competition, shall be non result competition.
3. The rules of play for Amateur and Youth competition of WVSA and its affiliated members shall be the FIFA laws of the game modified as to the following:

1. Size of Fields	For various age groups/Law I
2. Size of Ball	For various age groups/Law II
3. Number of players & substitutions	Varies from Law III
4. Linesmen	Allowing for certified associate referees/Law VI
5. Duration of game	For various age groups/Law VII

3.16.1 Law I – Field of Play

Realizing that we must generally accept and play on fields furnished by the various municipal parks departments, the following are recommended field and goal sizes.

C= Competitive R= Recreation

<u>AGE GROUPOUP</u>	<u>FIELD WIDTH</u>	<u>FIELD LENGTH</u>	<u>GOAL SIZE</u>
AMATEUR	MIN 70 YDS	MIN 120 YDS	8 FT X 8 YDS
UNDER 17-19	MIN 70 YDS	MIN 120 YDS	8 FT X 8 YDS
UNDER 15/16	MIN 70 YDS	MIN 120 YDS	8 FT X 8 YDS
UNDER 13/14	MIN 60 YDS	MIN 100 YDS	8 FT X 8 YDS
UNDER 11C/12C		MIN 60 YDS	MIN 100 YDS 8 FT X 8 YDS
*UNDER 11/12R		MIN 45 YDS	MIN 85 YDS 7 FT X 7 YDS
UNDER 9/10	MIN 35 YDS	MIN 45 YDS	6 FT X 12 FT
UNDER 7/8	MIN 20 YDS	MIN 25 YDS	4 FT X 6 FT
UNDER 6	MIN 20 YDS	MIN 25 YDS	4 FT X 6 FT

*U11C Optional

3.16.2 Law II – Size of Ball

Ball size for various age groups will be as follows:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
AMATEUR	#5
UNDER 19	#5
UNDER 16	#5
UNDER 14	#5
UNDER 12	#4
UNDER 10	#4
UNDER 8	#3
UNDER 6	#3

The home team will provide the game ball.

3.16.3 Law III – Number of Players & Substitutions

C= Competition R= Recreation

1. AGE GROUP	# of players on field
U13 and ABOVE	11
U11/ U12C	11
*U11/U12R	8

U9/10	6
U7/8	4
U5/6	3 or 4

*U11C Optional

2. SMALL SIDED SOCCER RULE

Under 12R and all U11 and below games shall be played in accordance with the associations Small sided games program. The association's small sided games rule shall be used for U11 and below competitions.

3. SUBSTITUTION RULES – YOUTH AND AMATEUR

- A. At a throw-in, by team in possession only
- B. Either team at a goal kick

- C. Either team after a goal is scored
- D. Either team at an injury when referee stops play
- E. When a cautioned (Yellow Card) is given, that player may be substituted for (does not apply in interstate games.) WWSA allows for the use of the “quarter substitution system” for those youth member associations who want to use it in the under 6, under 8, under 10 and under 12 age groups only. The referee will hold up the game for substitutions at a normal stoppage of the game (throw-in, goal kick, etc.) at a time nearest to one-half through each regular half time period.

3.16.4 Player’s Equipment - Cup Rules Uniform Section #5

1. Each player must wear an official uniform with a number on the back of the shirt.
2. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.
3. Shin guards are mandatory for youth players.
4. Eyeglasses must have an elastic headband.
5. No hats or other headgear may be worn with the following exceptions:
 - i. Soft billed caps for goalkeepers per FIFA
 - ii. Religious headgear per USSF
 - iii. Soft caps (no bills) or headbands in cold weather.
 - iv. US Soccer and FIFA approved soft headgear**
 - v. Headgear for medical reasons under the following conditions:
 - A. Soft, closed cell material
 - B. US Soccer specific release sign by parents
 - C. Doctors permission
 - D. Approval in advance by WWSA
 - v. Any exception is with the approval of the referee.
6. **NO HARD CASTS OR BRACES** with exposed metal parts may be worn. Youth Only
Exception for travel players, U12 and older, while playing on a travel team, and teams playing in the WWSA Open Cup, with a doctors release to play soccer.
 - A. Hard cast must be padded and approved by the referee prior to the match.
 - B. Braces must be worn as intended by the manufacturer and approved by the referee prior to the match.**In A and B above the approval must be by a referee that is 18 years old or older.**
7. If due to inclement weather, the referee allows the wearing of sweatshirts they shall be the same color as the sleeves of the jersey. The jersey must be worn over the sweatshirt.
8. If due to inclement weather, the referee allows the wearing of sweatpants, they shall be the same color as the shorts of the uniform. The shorts must be worn over the sweatpants.

3.16.5 Referees *** NO CHANGES

3.16.6 Linesmen

Specifically trained and certified “Junior Linesmen” may be used by member associations or, if necessary, in state tournaments in place of the neutral referee; linesmen. Their infraction calling authority is limited to ball in and out of play, direction of throw-in, goal-kick and off side.

3.16.7 Duration of Game

C=Competition R= Recreation

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>LENGTH OF HALVES</u>	<u>LENGTH OF OVERTIME</u>
AMATEUR	45 MINUTES	TWO 15 MINUTES
UNDER 17-19	45 MINUTES	TWO 15 MINUTES
UNDER 15/16	40 MINUTES	TWO 15 MINUTES
UNDER 13/14	35 MINUTES	TWO 10 MINUTES
UNDER 11C/12C	30 MINUTES	TWO 10 MINUTES
*UNDER 11U/12R	25 MINUTES	TWO 8 MINUTES
UNDER 9/10	25 MINUTES	TWO 8 MINUTES
UNDER 7/8	4 x 8 MIN QUARTERS	NONE
UNDER 5/6	4 x 8 MIN QUARTERS	NONE
*U11C	OPTIONAL	

* SEE LAW III-NUMBER OF PLAYERS (SUBSTITUTIONS) FOR SPECIAL "QUARTER SUBSTITUTION SYSTEM"

3.16.8 Start of Play *** NO CHANGES

3.16.9 Ball in and Out of Play *** NO CHANGE

3.16.10 Method of Scoring *** NO CHANGE

3.16.11 Offside *** NO CHANGE

3.16.12 Fouls and Misconduct

1. It is not an intentional "Hand-Ball" offense for any player to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch or face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck from close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used deliberately to propel the ball.
2. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, I.E. cautions and/or ejections.

3.16.13 Free Kicks *** NO CHANGE

3.16.14 Penalty Kicks *** NO CHANGE

3.16.15 Throw-Ins *** NO CHANGE

3.16.16 Goal Kicks *** NO CHANGE

3.16.17 Corner Kicks *** NO CHANGE

NOTE: Amateur and/or youth teams which travel out of the U.S.A. for competition, especially tournaments, should be prepared to play pure FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME, including two to five maximum substitutions in a match with no re-entry after substitution, legal charging of goalkeeper in possession, etc.

3.17 INCOMPLETE GAME BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT

If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other contending teams, its management or its followers as determined by the respective authority, the respective authority shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

3.18 INCOMPLETE GAME – NO MISCONDUCT

If a game is not completed and neither team is at fault, the score shall stand if it is in the second half. Games terminated in the first half will be replayed.

3.19 GRACE PERIODS

3.19.1 Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten minute grace period. A minimum of seven players constitute a team.

3.19.2 Any team not ready to play after this grace period has expired shall be reported to the appropriate association, committee or commissioner. The game may be recorded as a forfeit.

3.19.3 Local associations and committees and divisions of this association may set appropriate fines for forfeitures.

3.20 PRECEDENCE OF RULES

Rules of the USSF, USYS and USASA supercede state rules.

3.20.1 Violations of any of the rules in this chapter shall be investigated by the Div VP and acted upon by the division or the WWSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Violations may be punished by suspension, fines, probation or any combination as the Division and or the Appeals & Disciplinary Committee shall determine.

3.21 These rules and regulations may be amended by the WWSA BOD or at any meeting of WWSA. A majority vote is required for adoption.