

# **WVSA Country Roads State League**

## **General Information, Rules, Policies, and Procedures**

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**Game Scheduling:** All games **will** be scheduled by the **February 16th** for both the Mountain Division and the Rivers Division.

**Seeding:** Seeding for the State championships will be done via the league standings for the Rivers Division. A committee from the State Championships will decide any teams not playing in the WVSA Country Roads State League but playing in another league. Everyone planning on playing for the State Championships is encouraged to play in this league.

**ODP Player Conflicts:** The league fully supports the ODP Program and understands that conflicts do arise and that ODP takes precedence over the league. Players missing for an ODP event should not be a reason for cancellation. If this occurs check with the commissioner for prior approval or it will be listed as a forfeit.

**Game Cancellations:** Games can be cancelled only with the Commissioners approval!!!! This includes weather, field, referee, or any other reason. All other incidents will be classified as forfeits.

**Forfeits:** **Teams that forfeit a match will be subject to a fine of \$100 plus the total referee game fee. Fines and fees must be paid prior to the team's next match. Teams that fail to pay fines and fees will be subject to being placed in bad standing, which will prevent participation in any WVSA or US Youth Soccer event.** Teams should be ready to play the match with at least the minimum # of players 15 minutes following the regularly scheduled game time. Exceptions should be made for situations where the teams call and are temporarily held up by unforeseen circumstances. The referee should note every game that starts after 15 minutes or is not played on his game report. The league commissioner will make the final decision about a forfeit.

**Referee Payment:** **Referees will be assigned by the State Games Assignor through the WVSA office and paid by the teams for the Rivers Division. The Mountain Division will be assigned by the local certified assignor for the host club, with the assistance of the SGA and will be paid by the teams before each game.** Each team will provide ½ of the cost for the referees. The cost for the referees shall be determined prior to each season.

**Three Man System:** All games must use the diagonal system of control. (No Two Man Games) Should only one or two referees show up then a club Linesman can be used.

**Referees No Show:** **If no referees appear for the match then your club should first contact the local assignor. After that contact the league commissioner ASAP.**

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**Red/Yellow Cards:** Cards are shown to players. Coaches either receive verbal warnings or are sent off without showing a card. The referee will keep the player or coach's name to be included in his report, which must be sent into the WVSA office before payment is sent out to the referee. A record of all red, send offs and yellow, cautions will be kept by the league.

Referees will only keep player pass cards for violent conduct, or for assault or abuse of a referee. In these cases the referee will mail the cards immediately to the State Office with the game report. The coaches will be held responsible to insure that no player or coach participates in a match when a match suspension should be served under league or WVSA rule # 4.2.2.1.

All game reports will be reviewed by the league and WVSA. Any disciplinary action by the league will be reviewed by WVSA and if warranted a hearing will be held and disciplinary action can be imposed outside of league play.

**Four or more cards in a season:** If a player accumulates four yellow cards or a coach receives four verbal cautions in a season of league play the player or coach will receive a one game suspension. The next and following yellow cards or verbal caution for a coach will be reviewed by the league commissioner with possible further disciplinary action being imposed.

**Violent Conduct:** This is an automatic two game suspension and may result in a hearing that can add additional games. Serious foul play can be confused as violent conduct and vice versa. Here is the definition:

- a) It is serious foul play when a player uses excessive force when challenging for the ball on the field against an opponent. There can be no serious foul play against a teammate, the referee, an assistant referee, a spectator, etc.
- b) It is violent conduct when a player is guilty of aggression (excessive force or deliberate violence) towards an opponent when they are not competing for the ball. It is also violent conduct if the excessive force is used when the ball is not in play or if it is directed at anyone other than an opponent (e.g., teammate, referee, assistant referee, coach, spectator, etc.).

**Issue Resolution:** Please use the following method to resolve any league related issues. Contact your club president/director first. They will then contact the appropriate person to see what can be done to resolve your issue. If after a reasonable period of time your issue still has not been resolved contact the league commissioner. Please do not contact the league commissioner or state office until after you have talked to your club director.

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**A) GENERAL**

1. FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply except as amended herein.
2. Lack of knowledge of these WVCRL rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in this league from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. **ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS, AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN WVSA COUNTRY ROADS STATE LEAGUE PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES.**
3. The USYS Player / Coach Pass is for the seasonal year, September 1 2008 to August 31, 2009
4. **A commissioner appointed by the WVSA President will administer the WVCRL. The WVCRL Commissioner may appoint division and or age group commissioners as needed.**

**B) AFFILIATION**

WVSA Country Roads State League shall be affiliated with the West Virginia Soccer Association (WVSA) or their successor organization with respect to United States Youth Soccer (USYS).

**C) REGISTRATION**

1. The official State Association Team Roster shall be used for WVCRL play. The roster shall be submitted to the State Registrar using the YLUSA system. Every team must designate at least three (3) participating adults to assume responsibility for the team.
2. For U-13 through U-19 the team rosters can have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. The game day roster shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) players. Every roster shall have a minimum of seven (7) players on the roster at all times.
3. For U-9 and U-10 6 vs 6 through U-11 and U-12 8 vs 8 a maximum of fourteen (14) eligible players may be listed on a roster at any one time. For U-12 11 vs 11 a maximum of 22 players may be listed on the roster at any one time.
4. **An ineligible player is one who has been suspended by WVCRL for violation of any of the provisions of league rules or has been otherwise suspended by action of their club or WVSA.**
5. A team official is any non-participating person whose name appears on the Official State Roster.
6. Any player in WVCRL must have a valid and current USYS Player Pass.

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### D) STANDINGS AND AWARDS

1. A team's standings in its division will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the season. Points will be awarded as follows:
  - Three (3) points for a Win
  - One (1) point for a tie
  - Zero (0) points for a loss
2. In the case of a tie at the end of the regularly scheduled season, final standings will be determined on the basis of the following tiebreaker sequence:
  - a. Head to head\*
  - b. Most wins
  - c. Fewest goals allowed
  - d. Goal differential
  - e. Fewest red cards
  - f. Co-champions/co-runners-up
    - \*If three (3) or more teams are tied then the team that earns the most game points in matches between the tied teams shall be the winner. If two (2) teams play each other more than once, the tiebreaker will be normalized (point average per game).
3. At the end of the season, if a division is unable to complete its matches for whatever reason, final standings will be determined by points per game.
4. Team awards will be given to the first and second place teams in each age group.
5. If a team withdraws or is asked to leave during the WVCRSL season of play, all scores and point records shall be nullified and all games played or scheduled to be played shall be recorded as 0-3 loss for the opposing team.

### E) TEAM OBLIGATIONS

1. The host team Coach/Official is responsible for contacting the opposing coach/team official at least 72 hours prior to the game to verify location, time, and uniform color.
2. If there is a color conflict in the uniform, the home team, prior to the game, shall be responsible for changing jerseys. The uniforms must have a clearly displayed unique number for each player except the goalkeeper. The home team for each match shall provide game balls.
3. The host club is to provide a PROPERLY LINED AND CUT FIELD, nets, corner flags and lights (when required).

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4. A club is responsible to ensure that all fields and goals are in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game and WVSA rules. FIELD SIZE WILL NOT BE A MATTER FOR PROTEST.
5. Competing teams, with their CARDED coaches and CARDED team officials (maximum of four (4) per team), shall take the same side of the pitch, each on either side of the midfield line. No uncarded individual may be on this side of the pitch. Any team in willful violation of this rule may be subject to disciplinary action. Spectators for both teams shall take the opposite side of the pitch. The game officials will be responsible for enforcing these rules. All coaches, team officials and substitutes will be restricted from the 18-yard line to their side of midfield line. THE REFEREE OR ASSOCIATE MAY, AT ANY TIME, RESTRICT THE SIDELINE MOVEMENT OF COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS.

**F) GAME CONDUCT**

**ALL AGE GROUPS**

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS. IF A SPECTATOR'S CONDUCT RESULTS IN AN EJECTION IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS AWARDED TO THEIR COACH.

1. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, OR HARASSMENT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The officials for the match will report such conduct on their game report. Any incident of a player or coach issued a red card for physical violence; assault or abuse directed against a referee or assistant referee will be subject to disciplinary actions. Carded team officials are prohibited from using tobacco products during a scheduled game.
2. The referee's are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart. The referee is empowered to rule on what equipment or accessories are considered dangerous; issue Yellow or Red cards during that entire period; terminate a game for coach, players, or spectator misconduct. The determination of the outcome of a game terminated will be the responsibility of the commissioner. Also, a referee may refuse to allow the game to be played if, in the referee's judgment, the field is unplayable due to the length of the grass, inadequate lines, or other impediments. Referees may depart the area certain of receiving their fee.

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**G) PROTEST & APPEALS PROCEDURES**

**1. PLAYERS, COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a. The referee's judgment in issuing a card is not grounds for protest and may not be appealed.
- b. A \$100.00 fee (cash, money order or certified check) for each protest/appeal, not to exceed \$300.00, and delivered to the commissioner by the second day following the game must accompany the written protest/appeal.
- c. Written statements may be gathered from other parties to include spectators. The person disciplined may be required to appear at an Appeal Hearing, and if so required, failure to appear will result in the rejection of the appeal. The appeal fee shall be refunded only if the committee reduces the initial award.
- d. Upon the receipt of an adverse decision, an appeal may be made to the next higher authority, which is WVSA with the appropriate appeal fee. Under no circumstances may a player take part in the following match while awaiting a decision regarding his/her appeal. A one game suspension is mandatory after a send off. In no case may the decision of the referee be modified after the game, as is clearly stated in law 5 of The Laws of The Game.

**2. PROTESTS OF GAME RESULTS**

- a. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:
  1. Must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site (except as noted in 4 below).
  2. Must be submitted in writing by mail, postmarked by the second day after the game, or personally delivered to the commissioner, by the second day after the game, along with a protest fee of \$100.00 (cash, money order or certified check) for each subject of protest and the reasons for the protest.
  3. Must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
  4. Any protest relating to the field, goal post, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if written objection has been lodged with the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the match.
  5. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient grounds for protest or defense.

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- b. If the commissioner deems the protest valid, he/she will notify the referee and opposing coach as soon as possible and organize hearing of the league A & D committee and request written statements from interested parties including referees and spectators. Written statements are the only evidence required to be considered by the Committee when rendering a decision, but the committee may accept verbal statements or other evidence at their option at the hearing. Action which may be taken are:
    - 1. Refuse the protest
    - 2. Cause a game to be replayed in its entirety
    - 3. Award a game to an opponent by a score set by the committee
    - 4. Allow the score of a game, whether or not completed, to stand.
    - 5. For misconduct of both teams, enter a loss for both teams in the standings of the affected Division.
    - 6. The Protest Fee will Be Returned Only If The Protest Is Upheld!
  
  - c. Matches terminated by a referee for reasons other than weather, act of God, or force of nature, (e.g., plane landing on field of play) may be reviewed by the league.
  
  - d. No player or team official may employ the aid of the courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available administrative remedies within the body of organized soccer to include the appropriate State Association, USYS, and USSF.
3. The league A & D Committee will be composed of a pool consisting of one (1) representative from each club in the Rivers Division and five (5) members selected from each conference in the Mountains Division and a chairperson as appointed by the WVSA President. Members will consider matters from their division only. Each panel will consist of three (3) members selected from the division pool as selected by the league A & D chairman.
- a. The league A & D Committee will hear all game protests and appeals of decisions by the commissioner on matters relating to player, coach or team discipline.
  - b. The league A& D committee may also hear disciplinary cases referred to it by the commissioner