

## **DISTRICT 6**

### **WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

#### **RULES OF COMPETITION**

Adopted by District 6 per minutes of 03-10-91 Board Meeting.

Amended by District 6 per minutes of 02-09-92 Board Meeting.

Revised by action of the District 6 Board of Directors on 03-24-96.

Revised by action of the District 6 Board of Directors 04-20-97

Revised by action of the District 6 Board of Directors 03-26-25

Revised by action of the District 6 Board of Directors 01-20-08

**DISTRICT 6**

**WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

**RULES OF COMPETITION**

	PAGE
Section 1. Objective	3
Section 2. Organization and Administration	3
Section 3. Entry Forms and Fees	3
Section 4. District 6 League Season & Cup Tournament	3
Section 5. League Formation	4
Section 6. Rules of Play	4
Introduction	4
Rule 1 -- Rules of Play	4
1.1 Field of Play	4
1.2 Game Duration, Overtime Periods and Ball Size	4
1.3 Number of Players	5
1.4 Substitutions	5
1.5 Player's Equipment	5
1.6 Officiating	6
1.7 Charging the Goalkeeper	6
1.8 Coaching	7
Rule 2 -- Scheduling of Games	8
Rule 3 -- Player Release and Transfer	8
Rule 4 -- Responsibilities of Coaches & Managers	8
Rule 5 -- Protests, Appeals And Administrative Hearings	9

## DISTRICT 6

### WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

#### DISTRICT 6 RULES OF COMPETITION

**Definitions:**

**District 6:** All references to District 6 in this document means Washington State Youth Soccer Association District 6 as defined in Washington State Youth Soccer Association Bylaw Article XVI and Washington State Youth Soccer Association Rule 101.

**WSYSA:** All references to WSYSA in this document mean Washington State Youth Soccer Association.

**Section 1 -- Objective:**

- a) The District 6 League (Select) is an inter-association league (IAL) for District 6 affiliated teams in age groups U-12 through U-19.
- b) This league provides a competitive environment for individuals who are seeking a more challenging caliber of play.
- c) The objective is to provide an environment where a youth player can achieve personal goals in team soccer.

**Section 2 -- Organization and Administration:**

- a) The District 6 Competition Committee shall consist of the Director of Competition, Association Directors of Competition and any approved persons designated by the Director of Competition.
- b) The District 6 Competition Committee will administer the program with the consent of the District 6 Board of Directors.
- c) The organization of teams and coaches is the responsibility of the member associations.
- d) The Director of Competition shall be the District 6 League Director. The responsibilities of the Director of Competition are:
  - (1) act as liaison between the Board and the league in all administrative and organizational matters.
  - (2) coordinate and activate a full schedule for Inter-Association League play within the District.
  - (3) assure that the administration of the league is consistent with the regulations as set herein and within the District 6 and WSYSA Bylaws, Rules of Competition and policy guidelines.
- e) If a situation arises that is not covered by the District 6 rules and regulations, or if an interpretation of the rules and regulations is necessary, the District 6 Board of Directors shall provide the administrative direction.
- f) If a District 6 rule or regulation inadvertently conflicts with a WSYSA Bylaw or Operating Procedure, the WSYSA Bylaw or Operating Procedure will apply. The District 6 Board of Directors will take corrective action to resolve a conflict with WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures whenever one is identified.

### **Section 3 -- Entry Forms, and Fees:**

- a) Entry Forms: District 6 Inter-Association League (IAL) team entry forms are provided all participating associations by the District 6 Director of Competition. Each association shall complete and endorse a form for each team entering the Inter-Association League and shall submit all forms together by mail to the Director of Competition on or before the deadline established prior to each season by the District 6 Board of Directors. Each association shall certify that all team players are registered and rostered according to the regulations of their state national youth soccer association and of the USYSA.
- b) Team Fee: A full-seasonal league team fee is established annually by the District 6 Board of Directors per Article IV, Section 3 of the District 6 Bylaws. League team fees are the responsibility of the associations; league fees shall be paid at or before the league scheduling meeting.

### **Section 4 -- District 6 League Season & District Cup Tournament:**

- a) The league season will be split with a fall season ending the last weekend in October running ten (10) games in duration. In addition, a spring season will run to Memorial Day eight (8) games in duration. All IAL games must be completed within that time frame.
- b) A District 6 Cup tournament may be held in each age bracket. Ideally the boys' tournament will be held the first weekend of play in the fall, and the girls will be held the first weekend of play in the spring.
- c) All District 6 tournaments will be planned at the regular District 6 meeting each January. Member associations are encouraged to host certain age brackets of the District tournament annually.

**NOTE:** District 6 officially prohibits tournaments that would involve District 6 IAL teams, except the District 6 Cup tournaments, during March, April and September of each year. District 6 also officially discourages any tournaments scheduled for play during May and October that would involve District 6 IAL teams. All tournaments scheduled during May and October require the approval of the District 6 Commissioner with the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

It shall be the official policy of District 6 that IAL games will not be re-scheduled so as to allow IAL teams to travel and play in tournaments during the IAL schedule. Should a team elect to travel to said tournaments, their regularly scheduled District 6 IAL games will be forfeited. Should both teams of a scheduled District 6 IAL game desire to travel to said tournaments, both teams will forfeit. Forfeit fees will apply.

District 6 IAL teams must understand that when they join the Inter- Association League, they have a responsibility to all teams in that league to compete as scheduled by the District.

### **Section 5 -- League Formation:**

- a) District 6 leagues in all age groups between U-12 and U-19 will be formed for the benefit of the member associations.
- b) No team may enter the District 6 league for the spring season if it participated in the Premier League of the WSYSA during the prior fall season, or if four or more of its players were rostered on a team which participated in the Premier League of the WSYSA during the prior fall season.

## Section 6 -- Rules of Play:

### Introduction

- a) All competitions shall be governed by the Rules of Play as stated herein in all cases where they are applicable and where they are not in conflict with the District 6 and WSYSA Bylaws or WSYSA Operating Procedures.
- b) All affiliated member associations shall be governed by these Rules of Competition.

### RULE 1 -- RULES OF PLAY

- a) All games and competitions under the jurisdiction of District 6 and WSYSA shall be conducted subject to the "Laws of the Game" as published or authorized for publication by FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), with those modifications published by District 6 and WSYSA.

#### 1.1 FIELD OF PLAY

- a) The following specifications are applicable to all competitions administered by District 6. These District 6 standards are recommended for league play administered by Member Associations; they are not mandatory.
- b) Recommended field dimensions: 50 yards wide x 100 yards long minimum
- c) Acceptable deviations from Law 1 of the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA) for goal-posts shall be: plus/minus 6-inches in width; plus/minus 3-inches in height from inside measurements.
- d) Corner flags and goal nets are recommended for all games.

#### 1.2 GAME DURATION, OVERTIME PERIODS AND BALL SIZE

Age Group	Game Duration	Ball Size	Circumference	Weight
Under-19	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-18	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-17	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-16	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-15	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-14	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-13	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27" - 28"	14-16 oz
Under-12	Two 30 min. halves	#4	25" - 26"	11-13 oz

#### Overtime periods: (For tournament play only)

U-18 two 15 min. halves	U-19 two 15 min. halves
U-16 two 15 min. halves	U-17 two 15 min. halves
U-14 two 10 min. halves	U-15 two 15 min. halves
U-12 two 10 min. halves	U-13 two 10 min. halves

#### Tie-breaking Rule:

The tie-breaking rule applies to tournament play only. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the procedures as outlined in the WSYSA Operating Procedures will be followed.

### **1.3 NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- a) Each team will have a limit of eighteen (18) registered players. No team shall be allowed to have fewer than eleven (11) registered players. (Exception: WSYSA General Procedures, Rule 204.9).
- b) Any coach, manager or official found guilty by District 6 or a member association board of directors or a WSYSA disciplinary or ethics committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (overage, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all District 6 activities not to exceed the current and subsequent seasonal year.

### **1.4 SUBSTITUTIONS**

- a) Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee during any stoppage in play.
- b) The number of substitutes shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this District determines otherwise. Special competitions may be more restrictive.
- c) Players not on the field of play, and all spectators, must remain two yards behind the touch line and not within 18 yards from the corner of the field.

### **1.5 PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**

- a) All player equipment shall conform to the requirements of Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, and the District 6 Rules of Competition.
- b) It is the duty of the referee, pursuant to Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, to enforce the Laws of the Game and the District 6 Rules of Competition concerning player equipment.
- c) All players on the field must be attired in matching uniforms to the satisfaction of the referee. A proper uniform consists of shorts, jersey, socks, shin guards and footwear. In case of a color conflict, the designated home team will change jerseys. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players.
- d) All teams playing in District 6 regular season games and in District 6 tournaments are required to wear numbers (minimum size 6" x 4"). These numbers must be readily discernible from the side lines and must be securely attached so as not to create a playing hazard.
- e) All or any member(s) of a team are permitted to wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects, provided that:
  - (1) The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and
  - (2) Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; however, the goalkeeper may wear a softbilled hat; and
  - (3) Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose providing a means of retaining body heat.
- f) Protective orthopedic devices, prosthetic devices and any equipment, gear, appliance or apparatus that is protective for a known medical condition may be worn during a regularly scheduled game provided that the referee determines that the device conforms to Law 4 of the Laws of the Game.

### **1.6 OFFICIATING**

- a) Associations shall provide and assign USSF certified referees (and linesmen, if possible) for all home matches.
- b) A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game with the authority assigned to him as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA). Officiating of all games will be governed by the Rules of Play and the Rules of Competition.
- c) Each team must have one person available to act as a linesman at all matches.
- d) Referees who are also coaches or team managers of record in a given age division of District 6, shall NOT be assigned to matches in that age division.
- e) Coaches may file a misconduct report on a referee.
- f) It is the responsibility of the District 6 Director of Competition to send a complete game schedule to each member association participating in the league at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the season for the purpose of assigning officials.
- g) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling the match. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and his decisions will be final.
- h) Before the start of each game, the referee may request the home team to choose the side of the field the team and parents will occupy. The visiting team and their parents are required to occupy the opposite side of the field.
- i) If one or both teams fail to show on a properly scheduled field, the referee will notify the District 6 Director of Competition within 24 hours. The referee shall report a forfeit on the official game sheet in the event one team fails to show.
- j) Scores are reported to the Director of Competition by the referee by using the IAL game sheets or posted via the District 6 web site. Said game sheets are to be mailed within 24 hours of the completion of any game.
- k) It shall be the responsibility of the referee to issue cautions and sendoffs (yellow and/or red cards), as appropriate, to players when in the judgment of the referee, the "Laws of the Game" as specified by the USYSA, WSYSA and District 6 have been violated.
  - (1) Players and coaches receiving sendoffs or cautions are subject to the penalties defined in the WSYSA Rules of Competition (outlined herein as Rule 5).
  - (2) It is the responsibility of the referee who sends off any player, to send a written report within 24 hours to the District 6 Disciplinary Director.

### **1.7 Charging the Goalkeeper**

- a) The following Rule applies to all competitions under the jurisdiction of District 6.
- b) No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper within the goal area, harass the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this special Rule, an indirect kick shall be awarded.
- c) Note: Also included in "having control of the ball" is, if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

### **1.8 COACHING**

- a) Coaching from the sidelines - giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position - is permitted provided:
  - (1) Neither mechanical nor electronic devices are used;
  - (2) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;
- b) Each coach, substitute or player is to remain within the "coaching area" (2 yards behind the touch line, and not within 18 yards from the corner of the field.)
- c) No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators;
- d) No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity;
- e) No coach, substitute or player is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
- f) If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. The referee may file a written report with the Judicial Director after the match.
- g) In the event that compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall caution or send off the offending party. If this request is made, the referee must file a written report with the Judicial Director within 24 hours following the match. If offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written report of the game abandonment within 24 hours with the Director of Competition.
- h) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team, club or IAL director shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.
- i) All coaches participating in District 6 League play should strive to adhere to the objectives of this league and shall abide by its rules and regulations. Violations by coaches are subject to reports for investigation by the Judicial Director and will be dealt with accordingly. Any coach receiving a red card shall be suspended from league competition, and shall require the recommendation of his member association to the District 6 Judicial Director to be reinstated. Any coach receiving a second red card during the seasonal year shall require a hearing by the District 6 League Judicial Committee to be reinstated. In any case, coaches receiving yellow or red cards, shall be subject to the penalties outlined in Rule 1.6 K(1) above.
- j) The following summarizes the main aspects of ethics, conduct and common sense which are considered the responsibility of District 6 League coaches during all competitions:



- (1) Coaches must be familiar with the FIFA "Laws of the Game" and the WSYSA Rules of Competition, Bylaws and Operating Procedures as well as the special District 6 League Rules of Competition. Compliance with these rules is expected.
  - (2) Coaches are responsible for teaching all players good sportsmanship, fair play and the rules of the game. Emphasis should be placed on teaching soccer skills as well as sportsmanlike conduct, rather than winning at all costs;
  - (3) Coaches shall refrain from using abusive and derogatory language at all times, be supportive, and encourage players by using constructive criticism towards improvement of their game. Coaches' behavior in using constant criticism of players for mistakes or lost games is not considered beneficial to our youth soccer program;
  - (4) Coaches are responsible to assure players' and parents' respect towards all officials (referee) and abide by their decisions, whether they agree with them or not; (Note: Judgment call decisions by referees are not cause for protest.)
  - (5) Coaches shall take necessary action to control spectators' conduct during all games, including harassment of officials or members of both teams.
  - (6) Coaches should discourage parents from projecting their own emotional feelings towards team members which may adversely affect them. This trend should be monitored and parents be advised accordingly.
  - (7) No coach or player will have in their possession weapons, possess or consume alcoholic beverages or drugs during sanctioned District 6 League play.
- k) Coach's Equipment. During all District 6 League games, each coach is required to have the following materials available for presentation to the referee:
- (1) A current copy of his/her team's roster as issued by their local youth soccer association.
- l) District 6 League coaches are encouraged to further develop their coaching skills by attending either WSYSA or USYSA conducted coaches clinics. Each coach age groups U-13 through U-19 is encouraged to hold a minimum of an USSF "E" level license.

## **RULE 2 -- SCHEDULING OF GAMES**

- a) The Director of Competition is responsible for scheduling all games for the Inter-Association League (IAL). Since District 6 covers so many associations and so much area, details of scheduling shall be left to the direction of the Board of Directors and MAR representatives decided upon at regular District 6 meetings. The rationale here is that requirements may change with every season and the District needs to be flexible enough to handle them instantly. Each association and/or club is responsible for having a representative at both the Fall and Spring District 6 scheduling meeting. Any association and/or club dropping a team after the District 6 scheduling meeting is subject to a \$200 fine. Teams may request one bye/blackout weekend for the fall session and one for the spring but requests are granted at the discretion of the Director of Competition.
- b) Rescheduling is to be kept to the minimum and will be at the discretion of the Director of Competition. Games may be rescheduled only with the consent of both coaches and the home association, and must be made prior to the first match of the season. All changes must be reported to the director of competition for final approval. Teams failing to follow this procedure, or failing to reschedule a match at all, are subject to a \$200.00 fine.
- c) To declare a field unplayable due to adverse weather conditions will be the prerogative of the referee at the scheduled time of the game. When this condition prevails, the referee shall report the postponement to the home association's IAL Coordinator, who shall in turn, report the postponement to the Director of Competition. The Director of

Competition shall coordinate the rescheduling of such games. (That may include instructing the home team coach to arrange the rescheduling. The game must be played not more than fourteen (14) days from the published scheduled date unless a further delay is approved by the District 6 Director of Competition.)

- d) If the coaches affected by a postponed game cannot mutually agree on a rescheduled date, the District 6 Director of Competition will direct the rescheduled date. Failure to comply will result in a recorded loss to the team which refuses to appear at the time and field scheduled. If both teams fail to comply, it will result in a recorded loss to both teams.
- e) If, in the event of a schedule change, both teams have been properly notified and one team fails to show up, following a twenty- five (25) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team with a score of 1-0.
- f) Member associations are subject to a \$750 fine for any of their teams that forfeits a game. Any team that incurs a second forfeit during the season will be dropped from the schedule, and not participate until the next year (after September 1).
- g) Member associations will not have their teams scheduled for the following season unless all fines are paid and league fees are current.

### **RULE 3 -- PLAYER RELEASE AND TRANSFER**

- a) All WSYSA teams participating in District 6 League competition are eligible for participation in WSYSA sponsored events. Therefore, the player release and transfer rules applicable to WSYSA competition shall prevail.

### **RULE 4 -- RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND MANAGERS**

- a) The following are the responsibilities of the assigned home teams:
  - (1) Marking of the field of play;
  - (2) Providing a proper game ball;
  - (3) Providing adequate directions to their home ground to the opposing coach five days prior to the match.

### **RULE 5 -- PROTESTS, APPEALS AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

All protests, appeals and administrative hearings are governed by WSYSA Rule 602 as published in the WSYSA Administrative Handbook.