

WESTERN COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION 2011 – 2012 RULES & REGULATIONS



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WCDA SOCCER FOUNDATION
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I. ORGANIZATION

A. Overview: The Western College Development Association (“WCDA”) is a regional competition that will be conducted and administered by Northwest Champions, L.L.C. (the “WCDA Staff”) The WCDA consists of regional games, showcase events and special competitions such as the WCDA Finals.

B. WCDA Staff: The WCDA Staff will be responsible for organization of the WCDA, all administrative functions of the program, including amending these Regulations, and any other functions not expressly assigned to other bodies in these Regulations.

C. Soccer Advisory Board: The Soccer Advisory Board shall consist of coaching directors from participating WCDA Clubs. The Soccer Advisory Board will be responsible for providing guidance and direction over the composition of the WCDA and its competitive format.

D. Discipline Committee: The Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the Soccer Advisory Board subject to the requirements of the Disciplinary Code. The Discipline Committee shall have the responsibilities set forth in the Disciplinary Code.

E. Definitions: The following definitions apply to these regulations:

“WCDA Club” – means an youth soccer organization that operates a U13-U14, U-15, U-16, U-17 or U-18 team in the WCDA.

“WCDA Game” – means any game played between two WCDA Teams as part of a WCDA competition.

“WCDA Player” – means an individual registered with and playing soccer in the WCDA.

“WCDA Team” – means a group of soccer players registered with the WCDA and playing together for a WCDA Club in a division in the WCDA in either the U-13, U14, U-15, U-16, U-17 or U-18 age group.

“Home Team” – means the WCDA Team designated as host of a WCDA Game.

“Visiting Team” – means the WCDA Team designated as guest for a WCDA Game.

II. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

A. Criteria for Selection: Clubs will be chosen based on the following criteria: (1) philosophy of player development; (2) player development curriculum; (3) history of elite youth player development; (4) history of success in elite competitions; (5) geography; and (6) other criteria as determined by the Soccer Advisory Board.

B. Withdrawal of a Club: In the event a WCDA Team withdraws from the WCDA without finishing its scheduled games, the WCDA Club shall forfeit its membership and performance bond, and the following regulations will take effect: (1) if at least half of the full schedule of games has been played, all resulting scores stand as validated by the WCDA Staff, any unscheduled remaining games shall be recorded as a forfeit victory for the opponents; (2) if less than one-half of the full schedule of games has been played, these completed games will be

deleted from the standings; (3) the WCDA Staff may, at its discretion, reschedule any or all remaining games.

C. Termination: The WCDA Staff reserves the right to terminate the membership of an WCDA Club should they fail to adhere to the terms of their Affiliation Agreement or act against the best interest of the WCDA as determined by the WCDA Staff in its discretion. WCDA Clubs may also have their membership terminated should they violate any of the WCDA Rules and Regulations.

III. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES (NON-FINANCIAL)

A. Compliance with Rules & Regulations: WCDA Clubs are required to comply with these Rules and Regulations and any other rules adopted for the WCDA.

B. Affiliation Agreement: Each WCDA Club must provide a signed copy of their Affiliation Agreement for the following season by an authorized officer by July 1 of each year.

IV. CLUB FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Performance Bond: Each WCDA Club may be required to post a cash performance bond of \$1,000 at the beginning of each season to be used as a deposit for any fine or penalty incurred during the WCDA season. Any remaining balance will be applied to future seasons or returned if so requested. All payments must be made out to "Western College Development Association" and be sent to Western College Development Association, 7350 Cirque Dr. W, Suite 201, University Place, WA 98467.

B. Travel Costs: All costs associated with the travel to competitions are the responsibility of the individual WCDA Clubs. Should the WCDA obtain favorable rates with hotels, airlines or car rental suppliers, the WCDA Staff will try to make these rates available to the WCDA Clubs.

C. Referees: The WCDA will be responsible for compensating referees at regional games, showcase events and the WCDA finals.

D. Other: Unless otherwise indicated in these regulations, all expenses related to a WCDA Team shall be borne by the participating WCDA Club.

V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

A. Eligible Players: Each WCDA Club shall ensure that all players shall be eligible for participation in the WCDA Club in accordance with the relevant WCDA and FIFA regulations.

B. Registration: In addition to registration with US Club Soccer, the WCDA Club must submit a signed Waiver and Indemnification Form for each WCDA player.

C. Player Pool. If an eligible player is a member of a WCDA Club and is rostered on any WCDA Team, then such player is eligible to play for any other WCDA Team within his WCDA Club, subject to any age requirements. For example, if a WCDA Player is rostered on a U15 WCDA Team, that player is also eligible to play on his club's U16 WCDA Team.

D. Developmental Players: Each WCDA Club may submit a list of developmental players for each WCDA Team to participate in WCDA games. A developmental player must be a

currently registered player on a WCDA Club's non-WCDA team. Developmental players may not be registered with any two different clubs at the same time during the WCDA seasonal year (e.g., between August 1 and May 31). A developmental player may appear in a maximum of five (5) WCDA Games per season. Developmental players may change their status to full-time during the WCDA season. A status change must be made by Wednesday at 12 p.m. Pacific time before a weekend match.

E. Roster Size and Match Reports: Only 18 players from the WCDA Team's master roster will be eligible to participate in each game. The official match roster shall be presented to the referee prior to the game. WCDA Teams are responsible for verifying the accuracy of match rosters and reports.

VI. COMPETITION

A. Overview: The WCDA Staff will place WCDA Teams in geographically-based conferences and create a schedule. The WCDA Staff reserves the right to adjust game scheduling.

B. Postponement: Whenever a game is postponed or canceled, the home team must provide to the WCDA Staff a written notice via email of why the game was not played.

C. Rescheduling a Postponed Game: The two teams must consult regarding rescheduling of any postponed game and attempt to reschedule within seven (7) days of the original game date. If a game is not rescheduled within seven (7) days, the game may be rescheduled by the WCDA Staff. Any games not played during the season will result in no points being awarded to both teams and the game will be recorded as a non-played game.

D. Standings: The WCDA Staff shall post the official WCDA standings online. Official WCDA standings include wins, losses, ties, goals scored for, goals scored against and total league points. All standings are generated by the match report submitted by the Referee within 24 hours of the completion of the game.

Point System:

Three points for a win

One point for a tie

Zero points for a loss

Forfeit = 0-3 loss

Teams have 24 hours to verify their game results with the WCDA Staff.

Division Tiebreakers: The ranking of each team in the Division will be determined as follows:

- a) greatest number of points obtained in all Division games;
- b) greatest goal difference in all Division games; then
- c) greatest number of goals scored in all Division games.

If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the Division games between the teams concerned;
- e) greatest goal difference resulting from the Division games between the teams concerned;

- f) greater number of goals scored in the Division games between the teams concerned; then
- g) drawing of lots by the WCDA Staff.

VII. LAWS OF THE GAME, DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, DISPUTES, PROTESTS & APPEALS

A. Laws of the Game

1. General: Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all WCDA Games shall be played according to the rules and regulations set by FIFA/ USSF except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

2. Game Length and Competitive Format:

U13 play 2x35 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U14 play 2x35 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U15 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U16 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U17 play 2x45 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U18 play 2x45 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

3. Substitutions: Either team may substitute up to 11 players at a time. Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage.

3.1 Field Players. With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted as follows: First half: no re-entry. Second half: one re-entry.

3.2 Goalkeepers. With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted as follows: First half: One re-entry. Second half: One re-entry.

3.3 Illness/Injury/Bleeding or Blood on Uniform.

3.3.1 Players whose injury was caused by an opposing player who was cautioned or ejected in conjunction with the injury may be substituted for and re-enter the game in any period (after being beckoned by the referee) at any stoppage of play or at any of the allowable times for normal substitutions. Neither the injured player nor the substitute shall be charged with a substitution.

3.3.2 Players instructed to leave the field of play because of a bleeding injury or blood on the uniform may be substituted for and re-enter the game (after being beckoned by the referee) at any stoppage of play or at any of the allowable times for normal substitution, providing the appropriate medical personnel have given clearance. Neither the injured player nor the substitute shall be charged with a substitution. However, if the injured player replaces a player other than the original substitute, that player shall be charged with a substitution. (**Exception:** *After a goal is scored or between periods, providing it is done in a timely manner, substitutes are not required to "be ready" before the period begins or the kick-off to restart the game.*)

3.3.3 Field players who are substituted for when leaving the field of play for normal illness/injury may not re-enter the game in that same period. (**Exception:** *Players are permitted one re-entry in the second period only.*)

3.3.4 Field players who are not substituted for (team plays short) when leaving the game for illness/injury may re-enter the game (after being beckoned by the referee) during the run of play or at any stoppage of play, including times for normal substitutions.

3.4 U13-U15. Notwithstanding the above, U13 through U15 WCDA Teams will be permitted unlimited substitutions.

B. Disciplinary Matters: The WCDA Staff shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify players, team officials, or competing clubs for violating league rules or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the WCDA. The WCDA Staff has the authority to act on behalf of the league regarding any breach of regulations or rules.

C. Ejection of Player or Coach. The sending off of a player (i.e., red card) will result in a minimum of a one game suspension. A send off as a result of two cautions will result in the player being suspended for the next match. However, if the sending off occurs during an away WCDA game, at the discretion of the offending player's coach, the player may serve the suspension at the next WCDA home game. Games sat out that weekend can count against the suspension, as long as noted on the Roster and/or Referee Match Report as such. The home team shall notify the league office within 24 hours of the send off. Any coach or bench personnel ejected from a game cannot participate in the next regularly scheduled WCDA game, or, if the offense occurs in the final game of the season, in the first scheduled WCDA game of the next season

D. Accumulated Cautions. Any WCDA player or coach(es) who has received a total of five (5) cautions in one season shall be suspended and shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled game. Each three additional cautions shall result in additional one-game suspensions. If the total is reached in the final game of the WCDA season, the player(s) or coach(es) shall not participate in the first scheduled game of the next season. Moreover, if the next regularly scheduled game is not played for any reason (and is later declared a forfeited game), the forfeited game shall not satisfy the game requirements for suspended players or coaches. Suspended players or coaches shall serve their game suspensions in an actual contest. Further, a player(s) serving a game suspension(s) shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel from the start of the contest to its completion, including all overtime periods and penalty-kick tiebreaker procedures. Any game in which a suspended player or coach participates illegally shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

E. Disputes: Parties shall try to resolve all disputes in connection with the WCDA by negotiation. In compliance with USSF Bylaw 707, member clubs, players and other officials may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law. If a decision is subject to appeal, it shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the WCDA Staff.

F. Protest & Appeals

1. Overview: For the purpose of these regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on games.

2. Time: Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Referee or faxed to the WCDA Staff within 12 hours of the conclusion of the game in

question and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the WCDA Staff. Otherwise, protests will be disregarded.

3. Eligibility: Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for games shall be submitted in writing to the WCDA Staff no later than 24 hours after the game.

4. Field Conditions: Protests regarding the state of the field, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts or soccer balls) shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the game by the WCDA coach or Team manager lodging the protest. If the field's playing surface becomes unplayable during a game, the referee shall have the sole right to determine whether to delay or postpone the game.

5. Referee's Decisions: No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

6. Frivolous Protests: If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the WCDA Staff may dismiss the protest.

VIII. UNIFORMS AND PLAYER SAFETY

A. Uniforms. When the colors of two competing teams are similar to the point of confusion during play, as judged by the referee, the home team shall change shirts. In the event that a team's uniform conflicts with the uniform of the referee and the referee elects not to change, the conflicting team MUST change to its alternate uniform.

B. Player Safety. A player may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including jewelry in accordance with FIFA Law IV. Shin guards are mandatory for all players in all WCDA competitions.

IX. GAME OFFICIALS

A. Match Officials. All matches will use referees certified by the United States Soccer Federation.

B. Assignment. Match officials shall be assigned by each member Club's Referee Assignor.

X. CODE OF CONDUCT

A. General Principles. Please use common sense and courtesy. Respect the game of soccer and do not damage the reputation of the WCDA, US Club Soccer, USSF, your club, your team, yourself or your family. Be reasonable, respectful and flexible.

B. Scandalous Conduct. The WCDA Staff may suspend for an indefinite period and/or impose a fine on any officer, director, player, or employee of a member club guilty of gross misbehavior in public, including intoxication, drug use, fighting, indecency, or other scandalous conduct whether on or off the playing field when such conduct is, in the league's opinion, prejudicial to the best interests of the sport of soccer or the Association.

XI. COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNING BODIES

All players, officers and directors of the participating clubs shall undertake to comply fully with the regulations and decisions taken by the WCDA Staff, Soccer Advisory Board and the Discipline Committee.

XII. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The WCDA Staff shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise. These instructions shall form an integral part of these regulations.

XIII. MATTERS NOT ADDRESSED

Matters not addressed or provided for in these regulations and cases of *force majeure* shall be decided by WCDA Staff. All decisions shall be final.