



## **LEAGUE OPERATION RULES PLAYERS**

All **WESTERN WASHINGTON PREMIER LEAGUE (WWPL)** soccer players on **WWPL** team rosters will be registered with the Washington State Adult Soccer Association (WSASA) in the Premier Player category. All WWPL soccer players must possess and upon request present proof of registration by displaying their WSASA Player Card prior to participating in an WWPL soccer match. All WWPL soccer players will compete as amateur athletes and will not receive any monetary compensation whatsoever for playing soccer in WWPL soccer matches.

## **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**

WWPL does not tolerate discrimination, prejudice, bias or harassment of any kind by its clubs, players, coaches and staff. All WWPL club soccer players, coaches and staff will hold themselves to a high standard and embrace unity, respect, fair play, equality and acceptance.

## **CLUBS/TEAMS**

Each WWPL club will be allowed to have an UNLIMITED league team roster, however game day rosters cannot exceed 18 players. Clubs will maintain and update their team's roster, which will include first and last name, date of birth and WSASA player number which must be. Clubs will be unlimited in their ability to add/remove players from their 25-player team roster. In addition removed players can be added back to a club's roster.

Roster changes must be made no later than Thursdays at 11:59 pm for Saturday/Sunday matches or 18 hours prior to a weekday match. Signed players can be removed from the roster and replaced with another player via a declared release to the league and proof that the new player is registered in the WSASA Premier Player category. Any WWPL club proven to the league to have played an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit the game concerned and the opposing club will be awarded the three points. Clubs must have home and away soccer kits consisting of a jersey with number on back, shorts, socks, shin guards and appropriate footwear. It is highly recommended but not required that player numbers be on the front of jerseys and/or shorts. Scrimmage vests, pinnies or bibs are not acceptable active match play. Home and away clubs must use different color socks during a match. All goalkeepers must have several different color kits available at home/away matches. The home club must advise the away club of its kit color at least three days prior to a match. The away club must provide the home club with their match day player list with names and jersey numbers at least 24 hours prior to a match. Clubs should identify their players as ACTIVE 11, BENCH 7 and IN-ACTIVES. A team's match day roster will consist of 18 rostered players and teams must start match play with at least 11 rostered players.

## **HOME RESPONSIBILITIES**

The home club will provide at least three match-quality soccer balls, with the FIFA APPROVED, FIFA INSPECTED or IMS logo or designed and manufactured in accordance with FIFA specifications. It is the responsibility of the home club to provide proof that their match balls meet the above requirements when it is called into question by a match referee, visiting team or league officer. The home club will have a printed copy of the WWPL League Operation Rules available at each home match venue for review by assigned referees, home/away clubs and league officers. The home club will provide home/away secure locker room access at least 75 minutes prior to a match. The home club will provide home/away access to the pitch at least 60 minutes prior to a match, if not in use or provide an equivalent warm up area to prepare for the match that is equal to or better than the warm up space utilized by the home team. The home club will provide a playing ground that has a high quality surface of either natural grass or

synthetic turf that complies with FIFA standards regarding size, markings, post/crossbar and net and corner flags. The home club will provide player benches, adequate lighting for night matches and other professional amenities like spectator stands, wash rooms and toilets. The home club will provide match ball retrievers that are at least 10 years of age. The home club will brief Referees on the match day events and sequences. The home club is required to pay the Referee and Assistant Referees for their services in accordance with procedures established by the league's referee assignor. Both teams must forward a copy of the referee's match report via email to the League President at [harboryouthdirector@outlook.com](mailto:harboryouthdirector@outlook.com) as soon as possible after a match.

### **PLAYER DISCIPLINE**

Serious foul play, violence and fighting will not be tolerated by the league. Any abuse or assault of a Referee, Game Day Staff or Fans will be handled by the WSASA/USSF and may result in a Player Card suspension or revocation by WSASA. In addition, assaults may be referred to the local police authorities as well. Teams are fully responsible for the conduct of their in-active players who are.

### **LEAGUE COMPETITION STANDINGS WIN**

- = Three Points WIN
- = One Point TIE
- = Zero Points LOSS

At the end of a scheduled season of competition, the team who has accumulated the highest number of total points in the final standings will be declared the seasons' league champion (winner). When two or more teams are tied in final standings on total points, the following tiebreakers will be used:

1. Total Number of Wins
2. Head-to-Head Points
3. Goal Differential (GD) - between the tied teams – not weighted home/away goals.
  4. Goals For (GF)
  5. Road Goal Differential
  6. Road Goals For
  7. Home Differential
  8. Home Goals For
9. Coin Toss (2 teams) or Drawing of Lots (3 or more teams)

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULING**

The official schedule of a seasons' competition shall be published on the WWPL website showing match dates, venues and kick-off times and will only be changed with written league consent. Clubs/teams requesting changes to the schedule must first obtain written consent from the opposing team affected by the change and then submit a Schedule Change Request to the League Administrator. The League Administrator will review and approve/dis-approve the Schedule Change Request based upon the availability of qualified match referees and other considerations. Schedule Change Requests must be submitted no less than 10 days before the originally scheduled match.

## **DISCONTINUED SEASON OF COMPETITION**

If a team ceases to operate in the league before the conclusion of the seasons' competition schedule, all games played by the team who ceased operating will be removed from the standings and all points are zero. The team ceasing to operate will be placed at the bottom of the league standings table.

## **PROTESTS**

All clubs filing protests related to misapplied WWPL league rules or FIFA Laws of the Game must do so in writing and must contain the specific grounds and details on which their protest is founded. The protest can also include still and/or video images. The protest must be lodged with the League Administrator and accompanied by a fee of two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars. The protest must be emailed and/or postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the match of which it 6 | Page pertains to. The protest fee shall be forfeited in the case that the protest is not sustained. All protests will be reviewed by the League Competition Committee whose decision shall be final.

## **LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The league will provide a schedule of competition and its administration through coordination, facilitation and promotion. The league will compensate a Referee Assignor/Coordinator to assign referees to all EPLWA matches to ensure that they are officiated by appropriate level certified referees from the State Referee Association (SRA) in compliance with state, national and FIFA standards/rules. The league will publish its operation rules, Bylaws and competition standings in the form of a website on

the Internet. The league is not responsible for paying any municipal, county or state fines incurred through the violation of venue policies and regulations by players, coaches, club staff or spectators. The league will provide and award the league champion (winner) of a season of competition with an appropriate trophy or cup award, which will be returned by the league champion for presentation to the next year's champion. The league will also provide an appropriate individual award item to players on the league champion team. The league will provide and award the league player with the greatest number of goals scored with an individual trophy for his permanent retention. **MATCHES** All matches will be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. Teams will be allowed to make UNLIMITED substitutions. Referees will complete a written game report which will include but not be limited to the game results, goal scorers, yellow and red cards, which will be signed by both home/away coaches. The game report will be photographed and forwarded by the home side via email (smartphone photo) to the League Administrator at [harboryouthdirector@outlook.com](mailto:harboryouthdirector@outlook.com), or other designated official immediately as soon as possible after a match.

### **MATCH SAFETY & SECURITY**

The home team has the duty of care to reasonably ensure the safety and security of players, coaches, referees, staff, spectators and the home venue. Pyrotechnics that produce heat, light, gas, smoke and/or sound are prohibited from use inside of all WWPL match venues.

### **WAIVERS**

League clubs/teams can apply for and be granted waivers of specific non-competition related league rules, requirements and guidelines upon approval by the league Operations Committee. Requests for waivers must be made in writing to the League Administrator. **CONFIDENTIALITY** All league and team communications (electronic, email, text, verbal or written) regarding operations, rules, discipline, protests or waivers are confidential, unless noted otherwise or distributed via league news release or published on the league website.