Regional Club League

Rules and Regulations

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1. Administration

The Regional Club League (hereafter known as the RCL) was formed for youth soccer players for qualified Clubs with youth academies and teams in ages U9 through U19 to develop youth soccer players. The RCL is managed by the RCL Board of Directors (hereafter known as the "RCL Board" or "Board") under the Washington Youth Soccer ("WYS") Bylaws and RCL Bylaws.

1.1. The RCL shall be for chartered Regional Clubs qualified by the specified criterion of fielding correctly registered youth players affiliated with WYS Member Associations, provided such Clubs and Associations entering their teams and academies are in good standing and compliance with WYS.
1.2. WYS has established the RCL Commissioner to manage soccer operations of the Regional Club League and issues directly related to the Regional level of play.
1.3. Affiliated Club Select and Non-Regional Clubs may qualify teams into the RCL by the specified criterion and comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with WYS Member Associations, provided such Clubs and Associations entering their teams and academies are in good standing with WYS and have not violated any rules of WYS or the Select Agreement.

2. Team Placement

Before each Seasonal Year, all club directors must attend the placement meeting for U9-U19 league play. A placement review will also be conducted in December of each seasonal year.

2.1. Team Placement Meeting:
  2.1.1. The agenda will review automatic movement, 7v2 matches, exceptional team qualifiers, affirming teams currently rostered to the Regional Club, and field requests for team placement where applicable.
  2.1.2. Team placements will be determined from the results of this meeting and confirmed before the schedule is posted.
2.2. Placement Review:
  2.2.1. There will be a review period, where U9-U14 teams can request a move up or down a division.
  2.2.2. The game data will be reviewed on the team requesting to move, including record, goals for, goals against, and goal difference.
  2.2.3. These requests will only happen if there is a team (from the requested division from the team wanting to move) to switch with that also has data that supports their move up or down a division.
  2.2.4. Any team/Club in these positions will be contacted, and the moves will be discussed; however, final movement will be at the discretion of the RCL commissioner and facilitated by the league scheduler.

3. Team Eligibility

3.1. Teams must be current with all Club, League, Association, and District fees and fines from the prior season before their participation will be allowed in the new season.
3.2. Teams must carry the minimum number of players required to fill all positions allowed on the field (e.g., 14 for 11-aside, 11 for 9-aside, 9 for 7-aside, and 6 for 4-aside).

4. Staff Eligibility

4.1. Membership in the league requires adherence to the highest ethical standards of competition. Coaches, administrators, and Association or Club officials who demonstrate a lack of integrity or consistent inappropriate behavior will be fined, remediated, suspended, and/or terminated by the Board.

4.2. All adult personnel that routinely work with children, or around the children, or with children's personal information must pass the WYS Background Check (i.e., RMA).

5. League Fee and Fine Structure

The Board determines and enforces all fees based on the needs of the business needs of the league and fines based on the merits of the violation(s).

5.1. Any team submitted for placement in the RCL that withdraws after scheduling may be subject to a fine.
5.2. Any team with an unexcused forfeiture during league play may be fined as determined by the RCL Board. Repeated unexcused team forfeiture will constitute a withdrawal from the RCL, and the team's Member Club or Association may receive an additional fine.
5.3. Recovery of expenses for forfeiture and/or failing to appear at a scheduled game may result in a fine (not to exceed $300).
5.4. During league and State Cup Tournament play of a seasonal year, any coach shown a red card removal from the match or persistent yellow cards may be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee for fine(s) or suspension from RCL operations.
5.5. Fines associated with the sanctioning of a member club.

6. Match Protest

WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Manual Policies No. 6 and Procedures No. 6P:

6.1. All match protests. The coach must notify the center referee at the end of the match, and the center referee must make notes on the match report copies.
6.2. All match protests must list the rule violated by the referee.
6.3. All match protests must be filed within 48 hours of the match's conclusion, with the appropriate fee and paperwork to the League Commissioner.
6.4. In general, all referee decisions will be upheld; however, in the event of an egregious error accompanied by video evidence, the Board may choose to review the incident.

7. League Standings/Tie Breaker

If any ties of two or more teams exist in Division standings, the following criteria will be used for ranking those ties (except as qualified elsewhere in this document):

7.1. Head to Head (wins, ties, and losses)
7.2. With more than two teams, the head-to-head performance is measured by the team records within the pool of tied teams. Highest performing records are organized in order of finish, and if the tie(s) is/are not resolved, the rest of the tiebreakers are:
  7.2.1. Best Goal Differential between tied teams
  7.2.2. Best Goal Differential in division play
  7.2.3. Fewest Goals allowed
  7.2.4. Coin Flip

8. Recognition Awards

Recognition of winning teams will be reviewed annually by the RCS. Winning teams for each division are noted in the WYS Annual Report.

9. Rules of Play

All league play, tournaments, and other USYS-sanctioned events (for example, the National League or USYS Pro League) under the jurisdiction of the RCL shall be conducted following the current WYS Rules of Competition, except as modified herein.

9.1. RCL Jr competitions will modify the 8U US Youth proposal for their jamboree competitions by adding a goalkeeper that rotates among field players and condenses the periods of play to two (2) to execute the Jamborees.

*Effective 23-24 season, 7v7 and 9v9 games will use the half line to determine offsides.

10. Field of Play

10.1. The RCL is committed to the best experience of its players. Each Club is required to provide an age-appropriate game field as outlined in US Soccer Player Development Initiatives, including:
- 10.1.1. Field dimensions;
- 10.1.2. Goal size;
- 10.1.3. Adequate goal netting;
- 10.1.4. Proper markings;
- 10.1.5. Corner flags;
- 10.1.6. Safe playing surface.

10.2. Restroom access is required at all RCL game day venues.

11. Player Uniform

Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible, and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional. The home team must change if colors conflict with the visiting team.

12. League Structure

The league shall be a promotion/relegation league from U13 through U17 and a placement league from U12 and below. Division size will be recommended by the RCL scheduler and approved by the Board before the final schedule posting. Exceptions may be granted to create a bracket of 9 or more teams as approved by the Board:

12.1. All first-place teams in a division are promoted.

12.2. All last-place teams in a division are relegated.

12.3. For high school-aged teams U15 and U16 and Fall teams U12-U14, the second-place team in a lower division has a playoff against the second-to-last-place team in the division above to determine which team is promoted or relegated. That match is played in the last week of the season and noted in the schedule release.

12.4. If a team wins its division in league play and the State Cup in its age group, it has demonstrated that it is an exceptional team. That team then may choose to move up in age for the following season.

12.5. If a team folds or withdraws from league play, the 'last team down' that is relegated to the division below that one will have the first opportunity to be promoted back up.

13. Membership Passes

A Membership Pass (player card) is required to participate in all RCL-sponsored events.

13.1. A Club-Player Pass shall be executed for Regional clubs in all league play to facilitate the development of players without using transfers. This Pass moves players within the same RCL club between teams. Details of player eligibility and movement are outlined in the RCL Player Pass Rules. The procedure is implemented, refined, and reviewed by the RCL.
13.2. An Association-Player Pass shall be executed for Regional clubs and participating select clubs in all league play to facilitate the development of players without enacting permanent transfers. Details of that roster procedure are implemented at the Association level, pending RCL approval for league play.
13.3. A Dual Registered player may be listed with a Regional Club team while, at the same time, participating and playing in a Recreational League only.

14. Player Release and Transfer/Player Identification
All teams participating in RCL competition are eligible for US Youth Soccer-sponsored events. Therefore, the player releases and transfer rules applicable to US Youth Soccer competition shall prevail.

Once a player has registered with a club in the Regional Club League, they are expected to honor their agreement to play for that club for that club season. Any player must get Director approval to be released by the original club after registration is signed and paid. Clubs must agree for any player to move from one club to another at mid-season.

14.1. Players with outstanding club balances will not be allowed to move between Clubs nor return to competition until all balances are resolved per the guidelines of each Club. Proof of resolution must be provided for the Board to review on request if a dispute remains between the Clubs.
14.2. Clubs may not add fees to the player's balance after the player submits to leave the Club.
14.3. A reasonable player refund policy for withdrawing from a Club during the current season should be established by each Club and communicated to parents and players at the time of tryouts and Club sign-up.
14.4. Association/Club/Player Passes utilized for player development cannot violate the WYS roster limits for team play.
14.5. US Youth Soccer and WYS have a seasonal year from September 1st through August 31st. The RCS reserves the right to adjust league play according to the needs of the players and other circumstances.
14.6. Roster limits for minimum and maximum players will adhere to WYS guidelines (e.g.,15U and older teams may roster 22 players, with 18 only eligible on game day).
14.7. Team rosters are frozen for State Cup Tournament play according to WYS regulations before any competitive State Cup Tournament format. No roster additions or transfers, except for using the Club Pass during league play, will be allowed after the WYS-mandated cutoff date.

15. Online Game Sheets and Membership Passes
Before a league game, coaches must provide the referee with a roster/game sheet, valid membership passes, access to their online roster, and cards from Affinity.

15.1. A valid Membership Pass is a US Youth Soccer / WYS, Affinity-generated, or Stack sports-generated card for the player's current team that has a recent identifiable photo of the player and is laminated.
15.2. Players must be listed on the official match sheet from Affinity (not handwritten) and

have a valid Membership Pass (player card) to be eligible to play.

15.3. Online match sheets incorporate the Player Card information for the referee and qualify as a valid Membership Pass.
15.4. Teams that routinely appear at matches with incomplete sets of player cards or rosters will put their Club at risk of disciplinary sanctions.
15.5. All misconduct incident reports must be reported to the RCS Disciplinary Committee through the Affinity and Registrar websites.
15.6. Players using the Association or Club-Player Pass for development must be noted on the team roster only using the Affinity system. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture.

16. Regular Season Schedule

The Regional Club League Scheduler is responsible for assigning league match dates and publishing the RCL season schedule(s). Regularly scheduled league games shall have priority over any competition entered by Regional Clubs (e.g., showcases, leagues other than the RCL, tournaments, and the like). Any

16.1. All league games must be played by the final weekend of the league season unless the RCL Commissioner approves a different schedule in advance.
16.2. All Home teams control their field schedules that are balanced with their Club's fiscal and logistical limits and, as such, determine field location, spectator access, and kick-off time. Teams must provide their Member Association Representatives with home game and kick-off time information. Failure of the home team to properly notify the visiting team of each game time and location or failure to acknowledge receipt of the game time and location information may result in a fine and/or forfeiture of the match.
16.3. League games should be scheduled to begin no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 6:00 PM. Failure to schedule game start times within the prescribed guidelines may result in a mandatory game reschedule by the RCL Scheduler at the direction of the RCL Commissioner.
16.4. Double-header weekends for teams traveling across the State: Saturday games should not be scheduled to start before 2:00 PM, and Sunday games should begin no later than noon unless agreed to by the visiting team in writing (including email) at least two weeks before the game.
16.5. For all matches, not double-header weekends, the shortest mapped travel time between the visiting team's Club address and the home team's field address via Google Maps shall be used to determine game start times for traveling teams, plus 30 minutes for warm-up. Game start times may not create a travel start time earlier than 7 a.m. or travel end time later than 10 p.m. without approval from the opposition. The Club address of the traveling team to the scheduled game field determines travel time.
    16.5.1. For example, a team leaving Yakima to travel to Bellingham would travel 3.4 hours. The match should not be scheduled to start before noon to allow for team warm-ups.
    16.5.2. Intra-club matches ("A" team versus "B" team from the same Club) should not be scheduled during the last 50% of the league season.

17. Rescheduling

When the RCL game schedule is posted for the upcoming season by the RCL Scheduler, the published dates are the intended dates of play. In instances of conflict, games may be rescheduled in advance, but once clubs agree to dates, locations, and/or times in Affinity, the details should not be changed- the game is considered scheduled. Every effort should be made to play games evenly across the season. Teams should avoid pushing games out to later dates or more than one game per weekend during the season unless necessary due to travel distance. Once game dates and times are set in Affinity:

17.1. A reschedule change request must be agreed to by both teams and cleared in Affinity before the scheduled game date. Priorities for reschedules (in order):
  17.1.1. Field availability (due to weather conditions or uncontrolled events)
  17.1.2. Player availability (due to illnesses or uncontrolled events)
  17.1.3. Coach availability (due to conflicting schedules or an uncontrolled event). Clubs should try to use substitute coaches to allow games to be played as scheduled.
17.2. Away teams that require a new game date must submit a reasonable number (at least three (3)) alternative dates for consideration by the home team.
17.3. If no alternative game date can be found between the teams at least two (2) weeks before the match is played, the issue should be escalated to the Directors of Coaching of the Clubs for resolution.
17.4. The match is played as scheduled if no alternative date can be found after escalation.
17.5. If the match passes its scheduled date without an agreed-upon rescheduled date, it is listed as an “unplayed” match with no points for either team. In a weather event or crisis that prevents the match from being executed, the teams may notify the RCL Commissioner and reschedule within forty-eight (48) hours of the event without the match relegating to “unplayed” status.
17.6. A referee declares a field unplayable at kick-off time, or the field administrator closes the field. The designated home team will be responsible for any field rental and referee expenses for that game. If a rescheduled date and time cannot be mutually agreed upon, both clubs must report the postponement to the RCL Commissioner through their respective club director(s), and the RCL Scheduler will determine the rescheduled date and location.
17.7. A game was not played because there was no referee, and a substitute could not be agreed upon. Home teams failing to provide referee coverage cannot force the away team to accept replacement referees. The match will be replayed if the away team declines the replacement referees. The designated home team will be responsible for any field rental and referee expenses for that game. If a rescheduled date and time cannot be mutually agreed upon, both clubs are required to report the postponement to the RCL Commissioner through their respective club director(s), and the RCL Scheduler will reschedule the game and location at the expense of both teams.
17.8. The designated home team would be responsible for any field rental and referee expenses if a game was not played due to travel restrictions. If a rescheduled date and time cannot be mutually agreed upon, both coaches must report the postponement to the RCL Commissioner through their respective club director(s), and the League Scheduler will determine the rescheduled date and location.

18. Failure to Appear

18.1. If a team fails to appear for the match on the agreed-upon date and time within a 30-

minute grace period, that team will receive a loss (0-1) for that game. Any team failing to appear for a match may be fined.

18.2. If both teams have been notified by the RCL Scheduler of a rescheduled game location and kick-off time, and one team fails to appear for the game following a thirty (30) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team with a score of 1-0. If both teams have been notified of the game location and kick-off time and fail to appear for the game, the match resolves as unplayed. Any team failing to appear for a match may be fined.

19. Club Communication(s)

19.1. Home teams shall provide adequate directions to the opposing team to the home team's venue at least ninety-six (96) hours before the game.

19.2. Visiting teams must confirm receipt of the above directions no later than seventy-two (72) hours before the game.

19.3. Teams that do not communicate changes or respond to changes promptly may be subject to fines. Valid attempts to communicate to the Manager/Coach/Director of Coaching are (in order of priority):

19.3.1. Phone call (not voice mail)

19.3.2. Affinity update

19.3.3. Email

19.3.4. Text

19.4. The Coach and/or Manager contact must be confirmed on any proposed schedule change through the Affinity platform (preferred) and through written confirmation.

19.5. Once the schedule is published in Affinity, teams must reach a mutual agreement for any change to the scheduled dates. Times and location are at the discretion of the home Club, but once confirmed by the away team seventy-two (72) hours before the match, mutual agreement on any further change must be reached. Please follow Affinity's directions for updating home fields and match times.

19.6. Before plane tickets are purchased to fly to an away match date, the away team must disclose the pending purchase to the home team before confirming the date and time. No rescheduling will be considered if this disclosure is not documented.

19.7. Communicating the sideline policy to the opposing team and the match referees.

19.8. Communicating any specific facility rules to spectators

19.9. The Coach or Manager of both teams (regardless of win, loss, or tie) must report the final game score in Affinity within twenty-four (24) hours of the match conclusion. Teams that do not report their score in Affinity may be fined for each occurrence. This policy ensures that the RCL League can promptly contact players and coaches on disciplinary issues before their next match.

19.9.1. Teams must report the game score, players scoring, and cards issued in the Affinity system.

19.9.2. If a game was not played as scheduled, this information must be reported via email to your club representative as described by Club policies or the League Commissioner if no such Club policy exists.

19.9.3. If a game was abandoned, this information must be reported via email to your club representative as described by Club policies or the League Commissioner if no such Club policy exists.

20. Conflict Resolution

20.1. Conflicts between teams regarding scheduling that cannot be resolved two (2) weeks before the match date must be immediately escalated to the Club Directors of

Coaching to resolve. Failure to resolve the issue at the Director of Coaching level escalates the issue to the RCL Board for final instruction/decision. Please note that all communications must be responded to promptly for resolutions.

21. Officiating

A referee shall be assigned to officiate each game with the authority as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (IFAB).

21.1. If possible, the Referee Assignor will be responsible for scheduling registered and qualified referees and assistant referees.
21.2. If assistant referees cannot be scheduled, each team must provide one (1) person to act as club linesman if the referee wishes.
21.3. Referees who are also coaches, team managers, or relatives of players-of-record in each age group of the RCL shall not be assigned matches in that age and gender group. Other individuals should disqualify themselves if there is a conflict of interest in that age and gender group.
21.4. Failure of a referee to show up within thirty (30) minutes of a scheduled game time will constitute grounds for a rematch. Both coaches may choose a substitute official upon agreement, and the substitute's decisions will be final.
21.5. Coaches may file a letter of concern on a referee to the WYS Director of Referee Development.
21.6. The Member Association or Club is responsible for sending a complete RCL game schedule to the Referee Coordinator responsible for scheduling referees for their RCL games at the earliest opportunity.
21.7. Before the start of each game, the referee will ensure the home team's sideline policy is followed.
21.8. If the referee has sent any player off the field for violating the "Laws of the Game," the referee must file a written report to the Regional Club Disciplinary Committee following the game's completion. (Contact information will be available on www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org under the Leagues tab.)
21.9. Before the start of each game, the referee will obtain an official game sheet roster and review the Membership Passes from each team (paper or digital). Players may not be handwritten on an official game sheet. Players not listed on the official game sheet roster and not possessing a valid Membership Pass (paper or digital) will not be allowed to participate in the game. At the end of the game, the referee will note the final score, misconducts issued, goals scored, and any other information deemed appropriate. The referee will list the cards and score and return one completed copy of each game sheet to each team.
21.10. Membership passes (paper or digital) will be presented to the referee before each game.

22. Game Abandonment

If a league game is abandoned by the referee due to the actions of the coach, players, spectators, or any combination thereof, NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.

22.1. Furthermore, if the opposing team is ahead at the time of the abandonment, the score will be the final score.
22.1.1. If the team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited, and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
22.1.2. If the score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited, and a score of 1-0 in

favor of the opposing team will be awarded.

22.1.3. If it has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, the match will be considered un-played and not re-schedulable with zero points for both teams.

23. Conduct

23.1. All coaches, substitute players, and other bench personnel must remain within the "coaching area" (two yards behind the touchline and not within eighteen yards of the goal line).

23.2. No player, coach, substitute player, or other bench personnel are to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators.

23.3. No player, coach, substitute player, or other bench person is to use profanity.

23.4. No player, coach, substitute player, or other bench person is to incite, in any manner, or engage in disruptive behavior.

23.5. If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. The referee may file a written incident report to the WYS Soccer office, Attn: League Disciplinary Committee.

23.6. If compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall issue a red card and ask the offending party to leave the playing area; this is a send-off. The referee must correctly note the issued card on the game roster (digital or paper) before returning it to the team managers and filing a written incident report to the League Disciplinary Committee.

23.7. If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written incident report of the game abandonment with the League Disciplinary Committee.

23.8. It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each Club shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators of their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field. Reference the RCL Sideline Conduct Policy

24. Disciplinary

In conjunction with WYS Judicial and Ethics Policies and RCL governing documents, all member club staff, coaches, players, and/or spectators are expected to uphold the values of WYS and RCL and remain disciplined in their conduct and representation. Offendable behavior(s) shall be investigated by the RCL Disciplinary Committee as deemed necessary by the Board. All fees, remediation, suspension, and/or termination of member clubs, staff, coaches, players, and/or spectators shall be recommended to the Board for approval. All decisions will be final except when the Board grants appeals.

24.1. The referee must note All Cards issued on the match report copies (or digital records in Affinity) for both teams.

24.2. All Cards issued on the match report must be listed by the team managers in Affinity within twenty-four (24) hours of the match.

24.3. The managers may notify the RCL Commissioner of its intent to request a hearing with the RCL Disciplinary Committee on Disciplinary Cards issued within 24 hours of the match.

24.4. For all reports listed for the first of two double-header matches in a weekend, the Director of Coaching, Executive Director, or other person appointed by the Club may ask for an accelerated hearing for the cards issued so that the hearing may be

resolved before the next played match. Clubs participating on the RCL Board shall approve a Coaching Director or Administrator eligible to participate on the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will review disciplinary cards issued weekly (before the end of the day on Wednesday) through the Affinity system. Written supplemental reports submitted by referees into other referee reporting systems must be:

24.4.1. Filed (complete) within the appropriate time frame of 24 hours following the match.

24.4.2. Labeled appropriately to the Regional Club League

24.4.3. The coach, or listed alternate, shall be responsible for contacting their Club Director to obtain a hearing process or notification of any action taken.

24.5. Card Accumulation

24.5.1. Players who accumulate four (4) yellow cards during the league season will be ineligible to compete in their next scheduled league game (a required sit-out). League yellow card totals will not be applied toward other non-league events such as State Cup Tournaments. Players who accumulate a second set of three (3) yellow cards during the league season will be ineligible to compete in their next three (3) scheduled league matches.

24.5.2. Players receiving a red card will be ineligible to compete in their next regularly scheduled game unless a disciplinary hearing absolves the card issuance. At the next Disciplinary Committee meeting, a more severe penalty may be applied by the Disciplinary Committee under established guidelines and according to the supplemental reports filed/evidence submitted.

24.6. Card Accumulation Points System

24.6.1. Penalty points will be accumulated over the seasonal year. Yellow cards will be accumulated at one (1) point each, and red cards at three (3) points each.

24.6.2. Players

24.6.2.1. Players who accumulate seven (7) points from red and/or yellow card accumulation during the seasonal year MAY be suspended and required to petition the Disciplinary Committee for reinstatement of eligibility to compete on any WYS team. Upon reinstatement, the Disciplinary Committee will set the terms and conditions of probation.

24.6.3. Teams

24.6.3.1. Teams that accumulate fifteen (15) points from red and/or yellow card accumulation during the seasonal year MAY be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee to review the conduct of the team and set conditions for future violations.

24.6.3.2. Cards issued to the coaching staff will count towards team totals.

24.6.4. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Disciplinary Committee may cause those player(s) and/or team(s) to be suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year.

24.7. Sending off at an RCL Double Game weekend

24.7.1. If a player/coach is sent off on game 1 of a double-game weekend, the player/coach can play/coach the next game as long as they follow these steps:

24.7.2. Email your club DOC and RCL Commissioner immediately following game one (1) and before game two (2) and request a hearing.

24.7.3. Do not report game stats in Affinity until the Monday after the game.

24.7.4. If a player or coach receives a red card on the Saturday of a double-game weekend, the player or coach will not be able to play or coach on Sunday's game if the Sunday is part of the last weekend of the RCL season or the final match of

their season.

24.8. Player Misconduct Reports – Requesting a Hearing

24.8.1. Club managers and/or staff may notify the RCL Commissioner to request an RCL Disciplinary Committee hearing on all disciplinary cards issued within twenty-four (24) hours of the match. This request does not constitute a Match protest, which is a separate procedure (see 1.5.2), nor is it an appeal, which occurs after the CL Disciplinary Committee has posted its decision.

24.9. Coach Sending Off

24.9.1. A team coach receiving a red card must notify the RCL Disciplinary Committee of their intent to ask for a hearing on the card within 24 hours of the match. Match reports that do NOT include the red card listing for the coach will be accepted as a failure of the referee to notify the coach properly of their removal from the game, and the card will not be admissible.

24.9.2. Member Club Directors must review the circumstances and frequency of coaches who are cautioned and/or ejected from the game. The RCL Disciplinary Committee may investigate egregious or repetitive behavior.

24.10. Appeals of the Disciplinary Committee Ruling

24.10.1. A Notice of Appeal Request must be emailed or delivered to the RCL Commissioner within seventy-two (72) hours from the decision being appealed. Excluding weekends and holidays. Refer to Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedure Manual Policy No. 2 and Procedure No. 2P

25. Ethics

25.1. This league aims to set the highest standards to develop youth players to their fullest potential physically and emotionally. As such, participants must conduct themselves to that same highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this league - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat.

25.2. All participants in the Regional Club League (RCL) are members of WYS and, therefore, must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules, and policies and their intent. All coaches, managers, players, and spectators will adhere to the RCL Code of Conduct.

26. Safe Soccer Framework

Every coach, assistant coach, team manager, director, or other party having direct contact with players or acting in the Club's official capacity must comply with WYS's Risk Management Policy. WYS is committed to making soccer the preeminent sport in the United States by serving athletes, our members, and their fans. WYS Safe Soccer Framework, which incorporates policies mandated by the USS Olympic Committee and the USS Center for SafeSport, represents a foundational structure for building a soccer community where all participants, be they athletes, coaches, referees, parents, administrators, or volunteers, play an active role in creating a soccer atmosphere free of all forms of emotional, physical and sexual misconduct.

27. Reporting Concerns

WYS has zero tolerance for abuse or misconduct of any kind. As part of this Framework, WYS encourages a culture of respect and open communication in which all participants feel comfortable reporting concerns, whether the concerns involve suspected abuse or any other misconduct. RCL Personnel are reminded of their obligation under the Federal Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017 (the "SafeSport

Act") to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement authorities within 24 hours of becoming aware of such information.

In addition, RCL Personnel must promptly report to WYS any matter reported to law enforcement and any other alleged violation of the Safe Soccer framework. Failure to promptly report may lead to removal from the RCL.

Concerns can be raised to WYS. Hotline at report to the US Center for SafeSport at https://www.safesport.org/. Reports will be handled as discreetly as possible. If WYS receives a report that implicates a reporting obligation to law enforcement or the Center for SafeSport, we will make the report directly and/or work with you to make the report.

WYS and the RCL do not tolerate retaliation of any kind. No individual who makes a good faith report will be subject to retaliation, including harassment or any adverse employment consequence, because of making a report.

28. Travel

By entering the Regional Club League, teams agree to make every effort to play all of their games.

Safety is always our number one priority. It is not required nor expected for teams to take an alternate route much farther than the original direct route to make a game. It is impossible to cover all situations that may arise due to inclement weather; therefore, any case not covered below will be referred to the RCL Board to determine further action.

28.1. Inclement Weather Travel Policy Road Closures

28.1.1. If a roadway necessary to reach a game location is closed either twenty-four (24) hours before game time when teams are staying overnight or six (6) hours before game time when teams are traveling the day of the game, per the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for reasons other than regularly scheduled maintenance closures, then the game will need to be. If the game cannot be rescheduled, the program committee and/or staff program manager for the state-sponsored tournament/league will flip a coin to decide the game results if results are needed for advancement.

28.2. Chains Required

28.2.1. If roadways are open, but chains are required, a team may opt not to travel. These games must be rescheduled at the original home team's site as soon as possible. If either team refuses the reschedule, the team refusing will accept a loss for the game. It will be recorded as a 0-1 loss and any unrecoverable game expenses the other team incurred for the unplayed game may be submitted to the WYS office for review to be reimbursed by the team opting out of travel. In addition to reimbursing the opponent for the unrecoverable game expenses, the team declining/refusing to reschedule may also be subject to forfeit fees as determined by the RCL Board.

28.2.2. If roadways are open 6-24 hours before game time with no requirement for chains per WSDOT, and a team does not travel to the game, they will be issued a forfeit loss (0-1). The team earning the forfeit loss will not advance in the league; additionally, the team may be subject to fines per the RCL Board. Any unrecoverable game expenses the hosting team incurred for the unplayed game may be submitted to the RCL Board for review for reimbursement by the team opting out of travel.

28.3. Reimbursement

28.3.1. Unrecoverable match expenses include field and referee fees. These fees will vary across the state; therefore, reimbursement for unrecoverable game expenses shall not exceed $300.00.

28.3.2. Additionally, a team refusing to reschedule may be fined by the RCL Board for the original unplayed game. It is the team's responsibility to pay the invoice within thirty (30) days. If payment is not received within thirty (30) days, the RCL will invoice the team's Member Association for the unpaid balance. Team penalties for outstanding balances will include ineligibility for the specific team to compete in any current or future state-sanctioned competition until payment is received. Association penalties for outstanding team balances will include probation or suspension of participation of the Association's teams in future state-sanctioned competitions.

28.4. Unplayable Fields

28.4.1. Declared by Facility or Local Soccer Administration

28.4.1.1. The hosting team is required to notify the traveling team as soon as possible. It is recommended that the home team makes every effort to find an alternate playing field for the originally scheduled game time and maintains contact with the away team during the process.

28.4.1.2. If an alternate field cannot be found, the unplayable match must be rescheduled through the appropriate tournament/league representative as soon as possible. If a team has already traveled less than one hundred (100) miles one-way to the original unplayable game site and an alternative field is unavailable, the match will be rescheduled at the Home Team's facility. If the team traveled over 100 miles one way to the original site, the game will be rescheduled at a neutral* field to minimize travel. The home team will not be responsible for hotel/travel costs incurred by the away team if a facility declares the fields unplayable. If the game cannot be rescheduled, a predetermined representative for the RCL will flip a coin to decide the game results if the results are needed for advancement.

28.5. Declared by Referee Crew

If the field is not declared unplayable by the facility, the assigned referee crew for the game may declare the field unplayable fifteen (15) minutes – one (1) hour before game time. The referee crew must be onsite and will consult with the referee assignor and/or field scheduler to determine if alternate options are available (i.e., relocation, delay) before declaring a field unplayable. If the game cannot be played, the game needs to be rescheduled through the appropriate tournament/league representative as soon as possible. If a team has already traveled less than one hundred (100) miles one-way to the original unplayable game site and an alternative field is unavailable, the game will be rescheduled at the original Home Team's facility. If the team traveled over 100 miles one way to the original site, the game will be rescheduled at a neutral* field to minimize travel. If the match cannot be rescheduled, a predetermined representative of the RCL will flip a coin to decide the game results if the results are needed for advancement.

*A neutral field is defined as a field outside each team's Association boundaries that provides close to or equal travel distance and is agreed upon by both teams.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

The RCL Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations are the governing documents. Ethical violations are treated as more grievous offenses and subject to censure and possible disbarment at both an individual and Club level. All Clubs are encouraged to consider the behavior of all adults within their organization as role model-specific.

2. Ethics Policies

This league aims to set the highest standards to develop youth players to their fullest potential physically and emotionally. As such, participants must conduct themselves to that same highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this group of chartered clubs - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat. All participants in Regional Clubs and the Regional Club League (RCL) must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules, and policies and their intent. All coaches, managers, players, and spectators will adhere to the Regional Club Code of Conduct and Sideline Policy. In addition to those stated bylaws, rules, and policies, adult members of the Regional Clubs shall abide by the following:

a. Will not recruit players – the definition of “recruit” for purposes of this league shall be: Approaching a player who is registered to and actively playing for another team within WYS and asking them to either try out or play for any other team without first receiving prior written permission from the players’ current Club Director of Coaching – even for purposes of guest play (email is considered acceptable written permission). The only "open period" is the week between the US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships and the start of tryouts for their gender/age group. During this week only, players can attend other clubs’ training sessions without approval from their current Club Director of Coaching. Players must initiate interest, and the coach should have an email thread from the players (or parents) expressing their interest. They must have this before a player comes to practice. If a player/parent calls the coach, they can talk and agree to join a training session but must email them as well. Players cannot be offered spots at the practices. These open training sessions cannot be advertised. There can only be two practices per team.
b. Will not acquire teams from outside their Club unless said teams are released from their clubs by the Operating Documents rule regarding Coach and Player movement. [Club mergers (in which boards are combined under the advisement of the RCL Board, rules, regulations, developmental plans, resources, and players are brought together in one Association) or Association mergers that accomplish the same task are not considered individual team

acquirements.]

c. Will not engage in behavior to be suspended by any WYS or RCL disciplinary body and/or acquire enough game-day cautions to be required to stand before any WYS or RCL disciplinary body;
d. Will not unnecessarily hamper the playing of any scheduled match at its originally scheduled time and place or cause undue hardship should the reschedule of a match become necessary;
e. Will encourage and exhibit good sportsmanship before, during, or after any sanctioned match or practice;
f. Will not accept players from another Club who have outstanding fees to another member of WYS;
g. Will not hire a coach from another Regional Club and allow said coach to coach the same age and gender as their previous association without prior approval from the Directors of Coaching of both Regional Clubs. Regional Clubs may not hire coaches from other WYS organizations into the same age and gender groups they coached at non-Regional Clubs unless released by their current clubs under the Operating Documents rule regarding Coach and Player movement;
h. Will not practice, host events, or function outside of their Association boundaries without prior approval from the Association and Regional Club Director of Coaching that resides in that area;
i. No coach/player will have in their possession or consume alcoholic beverages or tobacco during any RCL competition or training.

3. Direct Marketing and Advertising.

Clubs will not directly market or advertise their Club outside their Association boundaries using the following:

a. Local/ community newspaper or newsletter, School Flier or direct school mailer, email or mailing list, Youth clubs, Flyers, Banners, Yard signs; or
b. Any other advertising that is deemed inappropriate by the Commissioner or RCS under the spirit of the rules.

4. Code of Conduct Violation Procedures

Upon receipt of an allegation of violation of this code of conduct on the part of a Regional Club, the RCL Disciplinary Committee will first request that the involved clubs attempt to resolve the conflict. If a resolution cannot be reached, the Committee will require the Clubs to compile their evidence for submission to an RCL Board panel that reviews all submitted evidence and presents a resolution to the RCL Board for discussion and a vote. The decision of the RCL Board is binding. Repeated offenses may result in sanctions, fines, and/or removal from the RCL. Club officials, including the Director of Coaching, will be asked to attend a hearing by the Committee. At that time, the Club will be placed in the probation process. Subsequent failures to address persistent issues appropriately for one (1) year following the process's inception will result in review and remediation to address the specific issues, including leadership. WYS, the RCL Board, and the local Member Association will facilitate this review.

Regional Club Members alleged to violate these, or any other stated USSF, US Youth Soccer, or WYS Codes of Ethics, will be required to stand before the RCL Disciplinary Committee. Allegations of Code of Conduct violations will be made under USSF, USYSA, and WYS bylaws and operating procedures, with a copy sent to the RCL. A written decision of suspension by a WYS disciplinary body is automatically considered a written allegation of a Regional Club Code of Conduct Violation.

Notification of Receipt Rules and Regulations Document

I, _____, have read thoroughly and understand this document as presented and will adhere to it as instructed by the Director of Coaching.

Coach/Volunteer Name Printed:_____

Coach/Volunteer

Signature:_____Date___/____/_____

Club Director of Coaching/Technical Director/Executive Director

Signature:_____Date___/_____/_____

Parent Sideline Policy

1. If an adult person (“adult person” includes a parent, adult relative, family friend, or guardian) from an RCL team receives a red card, causes the coach to receive a red card, or is asked to leave a soccer game by a referee, that person is suspended for a minimum of three consecutive game weekends without appeal. If the incident occurs within the season's previous three games, the suspension shall carry over to the following RCL season.
2. A second offense will suspend that adult person from all matches for the remainder of the current season. If the second incident occurs within the last three games of the current season, the RCL Disciplinary Committee will review and determine the appropriate suspension extension into the following RCL season.
3. All parent or parent-caused coach ejections shall be reported to the RCL Commissioner by the Club’s Director of Coaching/Technical Director/Executive Director.
4. The adult person’s Club must enforce this rule. The Club shall notify the RCL Commissioner upon successful completion of the suspension. If the RCL Board or RCL Commissioner determines the Club is not fully enforcing the suspension or a parent/spectator fails to comply, the RCL Commissioner and RCL Board will conduct a review and take further action in the form of sanction(s) against the parent’s player, team, and/or Club.

Membership
Player Pass Rules

The spirit of the Player Pass rule is to provide developmental opportunities within a league season for players to move to a higher level of competition and temporarily replace players with documentable injuries and illnesses. Players using the Club/Player Pass should have a participatory target of 35 WYS-sanctioned matches in the league and State Cup play during that year.

1. Game Day Roster Maximums in Affinity:
   1.1. 7 aside – 12 players
   1.2. 9 aside – 14 players
   1.3. 11 aside – 20 players
2. Violating the spirit of the Club/Player Pass is considered any player movement to justify a result for a team **(e.g., prevent promotion/relegation or improve standings**). Violating the spirit of the rule will result in suspending the use of the Player Pass for that team and the possibility of a fine assessed by the Board.
   2.1. Please note that using the Digital Roster and Digital Player cards in Affinity avoids the problems of written roster copies and player eligibility questions due to yellow/red card accrual.
3. Any request to use the Player Pass must be approved by the opposing Club's Club Contact by noon Friday before the weekend matches.
   3.1. For 11 v 11, 9v9 and 7v7, no more than three (3) players may be moved via the Player Pass to a single team for any given match without approval from the Coaching Director of the opposing Club.
   3.2. Players may move up an age group at the same or higher team level but not move down a team level. (Example GU14 "B" team player can play up with the GU15 "B" team but cannot play with GU15 "C" team)
      3.2.1. Goalkeepers are exempt from moving down in the division but may only play in the goal in case of GK injury or absence.
4. Affinity Game Rosters must be noted for player pass use. **These cannot be handwritten** and **must be listed through Affinity** for the Pass to be used.
5. DO NOT transfer the player and have the player listed permanently (for the season) with the second team. If the player is transferred and listed on the roster of the second team, use of the Pass will be suspended since it cannot be determined how many times the player participated.
6. Agreement between the Director of Coaches from each Club may waive the requirements of

item two (2), and the game's results may not be contested.

7. Player Pass 19U Division Only - Allow a maximum of three (3) Club Player Pass (up or down in division) per RCL league game without opposing DOC approval if the total game day roster does not exceed fifteen (15) players. Opposing DOC approval is required for more than three (3) club player passes. Example: A 19U D1 player can club player pass on a 19U D2 team if the total game day roster does not exceed fifteen (15) players.

8. RCL Clubs with ENCL and Girls Academy (GA) teams ("ECNL/GA RCL Clubs"):
   8.1. Any player registered in the RCL with an active player card is eligible to play RCL games. These RCL players can also play an unlimited number of times at the ECNL/GA platform.

NOTE: Failure to follow these procedures will result in the forfeiture of the match