WHITFIELD COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
FALL 2017

1. Purpose

The Whitfield County Youth Soccer Program is organized to provide a wholesome recreational activity for the youth of Whitfield County. The program is designed for the following purposes:

a. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
b. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of soccer.
c. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character.
d. To teach good attitudes and discipline.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Governing Authority

1. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Parks & Recreation Department and the Recreation Board.

B. Governing Rules

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Soccer League will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Associations, with the exception of the local league rules, which supersede any rule in the current edition of the Georgia State High School Association.
2. The League rules will be developed by the Recreation Board and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

C. Coaching Requirements

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of soccer.
3. A coach should never use profanity; drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use tobacco during any activity with players.
4. A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
6. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player (especially the weaker players) interested and participating throughout the season.
7. A coach should put the program first, and not focus on situations that could cause harm to the program and the participants involved.
8. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved coach present.

9. Each coach should attend the NYSCA Clinic online @ www.nays.org. All-Star coaches must be NYSCA Certified to participate in GRPA tournaments.

III. Eligibility Requirements

A. Age control date for soccer is age prior to August 1st of the current year. A legal aged player participating in the W.C.R.D. Soccer program may "Play Up" one (1) year beyond their age and must be approved by the W.C.R.D.

B. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.

C. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.

D. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.

E. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks & Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

IV. Park Conduct

A. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game or the program.
B. There should be no smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages permitted.
C. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for their teams and fans conduct.
D. Any coach ejected from a game for abusive language or conduct will be out for the rest of that game and the following two games. They will not be allowed to attend the games any capacity (eg. Parent or Spectator).Player ejected will be out for the rest of that game and the following game.
E. Parents and Spectators must stay in the designated spectator area and not around the sidelines. Failure to do so will result in removal of fan.
F. Coaches may hold players out for disciplinary reasons, but must be announced to the officials and opposing coach. (eg. player not attending practice).

V. Activities

A. There will be three activities allowed per week including games and practices, plus one activity on Saturday. No workouts will be allowed on Wednesday nights or Sundays. Practices should be limited to 1 ½ hours and be finished by 9:00 p.m.
B. Practice sessions shall not be scheduled on PTA or Open House night.
C. Violations of the practice rule will not be tolerated.

VI. The Game

A. There will be **Two** equal halves of 15 minutes each for U-6
There will be **Two** equal halves of 18 minutes each for U-8
There will be **Two** equal halves of 20 minutes each for U-10
There will be **Two** equal halves of 20 minutes each for U-12

1. If one complete half or more has been played in a game it may be called because of conditions and this is counted as a regulation game. If less than on half of the game has been played the game will be re-scheduled.
2. A Goalie will be used in the U-8 and above. They are the only players allowed to use their hands.

B. **The Ball:** The size of ball that will be used in each age group is listed below.

U6 #3
U8: #3
U10: #4
U12: #4
U14: #5

VII. Number of Players

U-6	6 x 6 (Coaches can agree to put more than six)
U-8	6 x 6 (Can play 7 x 7 if coaches agree)
U-10	8 x 8 (Can play 9 x 9 if coaches agree)
U-12	8 x 8 (Can play 9 x 9 if coaches agree)

You may start a game with 1 less than number required to play without being a forfeit with age groups that keep standings.

1. The goal choice will be determined by a coin toss. There will be an exchanging of goals after each half.
2. A goal is counted as one (1) point.
3. A goal is scored when the entire ball passes legally beyond the goal line between the goal post under the crossbar. A ball on the goal line is not considered to have crossed the goal line.
4. A goal may be scored during normal play directly from a:
   a. Direct Free Kick
   b. Penalty Kick
   c. Corner Kick
   d. Drop Kick
   e. Kick Off
   f. Goal Kick
5. A goal may not be scored during a normal play directly from:
   g. Throw In
   h. Free Kick into a teams own goal
6. After the kickoff, the ball may be played by any player except the one who kicked off until it has been touched or played by another player of either team. **Penalty**: Indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the foul.
7. At no time may a player attempt to kick, strike, jump or trip another player. A player shall not hold, push or impede an opponent with hand (s) or arm (s) extended from the body. A player shall not place a hand (s) or are (s) extended from the body in a manner to deceive the opponent. A player shall not place a hand (s) on an opponent in an effort to reach the ball. **Penalty**: Direct Free Kick
8. All players must wear approved shin guards in all games.

U-6 Soccer Division

A. No officials will be used in the U-6 Division. The coaches will help control the game and keep the time. This age group is for fun and participation; please make sure all players get equal playing time.

B. The #3 soccer ball will be used in the U-6 division. Each coach will receive two balls to begin the season. Coaches must turn balls in after the season.

C. No Goalie will be used in the U-6 Division.

D. The recommended number of players on the field should be 6 x 6. Coaches may choose at the beginning of each game to add more players to help get more playing time. This must be agreed on by both coaches involved in that game.

E. The game will start with the home team getting the ball on their side of the field. The defensive team cannot go after the ball until the ball reaches mid-field to begin a game only.

F. If the ball goes out of bounds the coaches will rule which team kicked it out and give the ball to the other team.

G. Players should not touch the ball with their hands, and they should try to keep their hands to their sides. If this occurs or the game begins to get too rough, the coaches should stop play and restart them.

VIII. Recreation Contacts

WCRD Office: 706-226-8341 or wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com

Director: Brian Chastain/ Email- bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com

Athletic Coordinator: Ryan Hollingsworth/ Cell- 706-980-1722 or Email- rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com

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