

### ***Wooster Soccer Association***

The Wooster Recreation Youth League is a recreational league that is meant to be instructional in nature. Each season many participants have never played soccer before. This means that at the beginning of the season you will see officials allowing teams to have second chances on throw in's and officials explaining the calls to help teach these young athletes how to play the game of soccer. By the end of the season the number of additional tries will be reduced to zero because it is important that the athletes are playing the game and executing the skills correctly.

#### **Opportunities for higher level play**

If there are any communities who think that you may have teams that are ready to play in a more competitive league please reach out to me to discuss it. We can put you in touch with a representative from Wooster Soccer Association to begin the discussion of the possibility of entering a team into the Travel League.

This is a competitive 8 week league that takes place in both the fall and the spring and consists of 4 home games and 4 away games each season. We could host all "home" games at the Wooster Soccer Complex. These games have a certified official for all games and would take place on Sundays.

Likewise any communities who have individuals interested in playing travel rather than an entire team can also reach out to me as we are always looking for players to join our existing teams.

#### **Officials**

**NO OFFICIALS. MEANS NO GAMES. PERIOD.**

Many of the officials in our league are area high school students who have or are currently participating in our leagues. The only way we can offer this league to our communities is if we have enough individuals who are willing to officiate. Some of the officials who are scheduled for these games are USSF certified and have taken the time out of their schedules to learn more about the rules of the game and increase their knowledge to be a better official. However, it is human nature to make mistakes no matter their age, experience or certification. When mistakes are made, no matter the impact on the game, it is not appropriate for anyone on the sidelines, coaches or spectators to confront the individual officiating, especially not in a disrespectful and demeaning way. Not only is the behavior inappropriate and not welcomed in our league, it adds stress to an official trying to make the correct calls later in the game.

#### **Coach/Parent and Spectator Behavior**

What we all should be focused on is the example we are setting for the youth in our programs. It is up to the adults to show our children what appropriate interactions look like. It is ok to not agree with a call. It is ok to express discontent with something that you believe to be wrong; however it is up to you to address those feelings in an respectful and polite nature.

Behavior that is exhibited today by parents, players and coaches predicts behavior of parent, players and coaches in high school sports and beyond. It is our responsibility to set an example for our children that we can be proud of.

### **Soccer Supervisor**

Each Saturday there is a supervisor scheduled to be up at the complex to handle any issues that may arise. They are a representative of Wooster Soccer Association and the City of Wooster and are there in the event that you have an incident that needs immediate attention, to assist with any injuries that happen, and to handle any issues that occur on or off the field i.e. official not showing up or addressing an incident on the field.

If you have an issue or incident that needs immediate attention please bring it to the supervisor in a respectful and polite manner. These individuals will provide you with the answer if they can and if they are not able to give you an answer they will pass your concern or the issue along to the director of the soccer program.

Any other issues, questions or concerns including in response to this follow - up should be brought to the attention of the area representative first, and they will then bring it to the director of the soccer programs attention.

### **Ohio High School Athletic Association Parents and Adult Fans: The Biggest Challenge Facing High School Sports Today**

An article released last week speaks to the importance of spectator and parent behavior both at games and at home in between games and practices. Please take the time to read this article and share it with as many individuals as you possibly can. I know that it is speaking to high school fans however this can be looked at through the lens of a youth sports fan as well.

<https://ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/parents-and-adult-fans-the-biggest-challenge-facing-high-school-sports-today>

## ***Recreation Soccer Rules***

1. Duration of game-1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> -2 twenty-five halves, with a two-minute half time break. Regional -2 thirty minute halves, with a five minute half time break. Clock runs except for extended injuries. The clock does not stop for substitutions or out of play. \*If there are any circumstances (weather etc.) that cause a referee to shorten the game, he/she may do so as long as both coaches are notified.
2. The Ball-1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will use size # 3 ball (provided by Wooster Recreation), 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> will use a size #4 ball. Regional will use a size #5.
3. The Players-Maximum number of players for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4 plus a keeper, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> -7, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> -9 and Regional-11. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> ages the total number of players on the field includes a keeper. A minimum number of players will be determined by the referee prior to or during a game. Substitutions are unlimited. Coaches may substitute during any stoppage of play. Goalies may be substituted for during any stoppage of play.
4. Playing time – This league is recreational in nature and it is the expectation that all individuals on the roster are awarded equal playing time. This is for both the youth and regional level.
5. Coaches and Spectators-***Each player must play an equal amount of time.***  
Non-participants (coaches and players) will be 1 yd from the sideline and located on the opposite side of the field as spectators. Spectators should be 5 yds. from the sideline. Coaches and Spectators will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Only two coaches will be permitted on the bench side of the field, unless there has been a mentor assigned to their team from either the girls or boys high school soccer team, then three coaches will be permitted on sideline. Only adult coaches, who have turned-in a volunteer application to Parks and Rec will be permitted to coach. During a game coaches must stay on their own side of the field. They should never cross the mid-field line. The only exception would be if an injury has taken place.
6. GoalKeeper-Must wear a separate jersey. Goalkeeper may not use hands outside of penalty area. A goalkeeper cannot use hands on a kickback from another teammate. Goalkeeper has 6 seconds to put ball in play. **Goalie may no longer punt or drop kick the ball.** On saves they can throw the ball or put it on ground and play using their feet.
7. Players Equipment- Each player (except goalie) must wear The same color. Goalkeeper jerseys must be easily distinguishable from the other player's jerseys. Nothing dangerous may be worn. Jewelry may not be worn. If cleats are worn, they must be of a molded bottom. Shin guards are mandatory.
8. The Referee-In charge of all game activity while insuring that the game is played fairly,

cleanly and in the spirit of friendly competition. Every call does not have to be made, a referee may call out “play on” to keep play in progress without giving an unfair advantage to either team. Referees should verbalize and use hand signals when making all calls. This will give children instruction and clarification as to what actually occurred. The decision of the referee is final!

9. Start of play-To start play there is a kick off. This happens at the start of the game, quarter and after a goal has been scored. A forward player standing near the center line kicks the ball to a fellow player. After the ball moves forward or backwards the game is officially started. The kicker may not touch the ball until it has been touched by another player. Possession of the ball at the start of the game is determined by a coin toss. Kickoffs will then alternate each half.
10. Ball in and out of play-After the whole ball has crossed the sideline or goal line it is out of play. Any ball striking a referee, goal post, corner posts and remaining on the field is in play. The ball is in play until the referee stops play.
11. Goal scoring-A goal is scored when the whole ball has crossed the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar. The result of a soccer game is determined by the margin of goals scored. The game results are final-there are no tie breakers.
12. Offsides-While going toward an opponent’s goal the offensive team may not have a player ahead of the ball unless there are two defending players present. The exception to this statement is when the ball is in the players own half of the field of play or if the ball was last touched by an opponent. The referee has the right to call the offsides infraction depending upon whether the offending player is seeking an unfair advantage. There are no offsides on throw-ins or corner kicks until a player touches the ball on the field. Offsides will not be called at the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Level.
13. Fouls and Misconduct-may result in a direct or indirect kick.

Prohibited acts which a referee may award a direct kick (an attempted goal or pass to a player):

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|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Kicking           | 6. Holding              |
| 2. Tripping          | 7. Pushing              |
| 3. Slide Tackle      | 8. Handling the ball    |
| 4. Violent Charging  | 9. Charging from behind |
| 5. Striking opponent |                         |

Acts which the referee may award an indirect kick (a kick that must touch another player before a goal is scored):

1. Dangerous playing (high kicking)
2. Charging away from the ball
3. Charging the goalkeeper when he doesn’t have the ball
4. Opponent obstruction
5. A goalkeeper takes more than 6 seconds to put ball in play

6. A goalkeeper using his/her hands on a kickback from another teammate.

14. Penalty Kicks-A penalty kick is awarded after a serious rule infraction (#12) takes place in the penalty area. It is a direct kick taken twelve yards from the goal line. All players except goalie and kicker must stay outside of the penalty area. The goalie must stand on the goal line and may not move until the ball has been kicked. Once the ball has been kicked, all players may move into penalty area. The kicker may not kick the ball a second time until touched by another player.

15. The inbounds throw-After the whole ball has crossed the sidelines, the team that didn't touch the ball last shall be awarded the throw in. These rules should be remembered as part of the throw in regulations.

1. Both feet must be out of bounds when the throw is made (on or behind the sideline).
2. The ball must be thrown by both hands directly over the head.
3. Both feet must be touching the ground as the throw in is made.
4. On incorrect throws the ball is awarded to the opposite team.

16. Goal kicks-A goal kick is awarded when the ball (after being kicked by the offense) crosses the goal line but not within the goal scoring area. The ball is usually placed on the corner of the goal area nearest the side where the ball went out of bounds. The ball must clear the penalty area before it can be regarded as "in play". The kick is usually taken by the fullback or goalkeeper.

17. Corner kicks-A corner kick is awarded when the ball crosses the goal line, last touched by a defensive player, and doesn't result in a goal. One member of the attacking team takes the kick on the quarter circle nearest the corner flag post. A goal may be scored from this kick. Other important points:

- the opposing team must remain 10 yards from the ball as it is kicked.
- the kicker may not kick the ball a second time until touched by another player.
- short corner kicks when playing on a large field.
- Juniors may take a short corner kick.

18. Game scoring(team score differential)-The coach of a team that attains a 4 (four) goal lead in either half of a game must immediately remove one player from the field. If a team attains a 6 (six) goal lead in either half, the coach must immediately remove a second player from the field. The players may be replaced if the losing team scores a goal. The losing team may add players rather than remove only if the coaches of both teams agree. (This rule does not apply to 4v4 games)

19. Team Player Rosters/Waiver Form- No Player can be added to Team Roster after roster has been turned-in, without prior approval of League Director. No player can

participate without a signed waiver and name on a Team Roster that is approved by the league.

20. BUILD OUT LINES – A build out line will be used for all 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> age group games. This line located halfway between the midfield and the penalty box.

- Attacking players must retreat to behind the build out line either on a goal kick or once the goalie has the ball. They cannot move beyond line until the ball is released by the goalie.
- Goalie can play saved ball immediately, however doing that removes the rule of attacking players must be behind build out line.

21. Special Participation Rules- Travel and Club Players must play in the “A” Division, in all age groups, no exceptions. A player may only play two games on any given Saturday. Communities that are given the 1 ½ Team exemption, will only be permitted to have 3 players float between teams in the same division.

22. Special Registration Rules- Only recognized teams may register from a community. There will be no rogue teams permitted to register, unless the community has given Wooster Recreation Department its permission to do so.

23. Coaches Behavior- Any Coach who receives a “Red Card” will be suspended for a total of seven days, from issuance of Red Card. This includes all contact with Team(practices and games). In order to be reinstated the Coach must meet with the Soccer Director prior to re-instatement. Any Coach who receives a second “Red Card” during the calendar year (September through May) will be suspended for 12 months.

24. Parent/Spectator Behavior - parent/spectator behavior is a direct reflection of the team they represent. Parents/spectator are asked to refrain from shouting, yelling or coaching from the sidelines. Parents/spectator are permitted to cheer for goals and good plays as well as encourage the kids from the sidelines. Please be aware all parents/spectator are to sit on the sideline opposite of the player’s bench.

25. Headers- at the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> levels and younger we will not allow headers in games or practices. Please keep in mind this is for the safety of our children. Headers are ONLY allowed at the Regional Level.

26. Regional Teams – Play High School Rules.

***These rules will supersede FIFA rules, Otherwise FIFA rules will apply.***

***Updated: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019***