

Whitpain Recreation Association

Travel Soccer

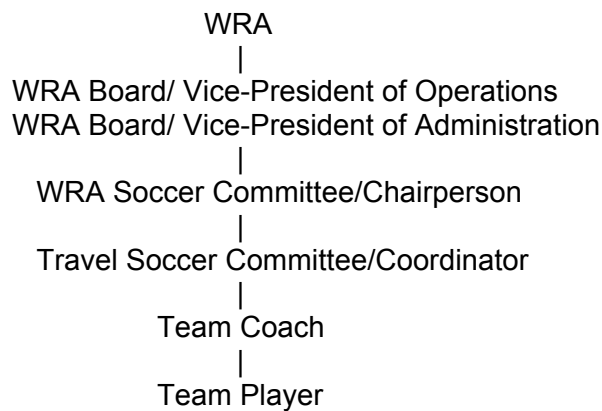
Rules and Guidelines

I. Objectives

- A. The purpose of the travel soccer program is to implant firmly in the boy/girl of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so that he/she may grow to be a well-adjusted, decent, trustworthy, honest, strong, and happy young person.
- B. To achieve this objective, all coaches, parents, and spectators should display good sportsmanship and display an encouraging demeanor at all times.
- C. The primary ideal is to be a part of a team, make new friends, learn the fundamentals of soccer, and have fun all in the spirit of competition. Winning is the secondary ideal.

II. Organizational Structure

- A. The WRA Travel Soccer program is organized in the following manner:



- B. **All** grievances, complaints, etc. need to go through the above listed person[s] in the proper chain of command sequence from the bottom of the list to the top.
- C. All exceptions need to be approved **prior** to taking action by the Travel Committee.
- D. The WRA Soccer and Travel Committees reserve the right to change and/or amend these rules and guidelines.

III. Tryouts

A. Notice

1. A list of the scheduled dates, times, and locations of each of the tryouts to take place for each division grouped according to age and sex is published in the WRA newsletter at approximately early March of each year.
2. These newsletters are mailed home to any child residing in the Wissahickon School District.
3. The newsletters are also displayed at the Whitpain township building, Wentz Park, each of the Wissahickon schools, and various other public locations throughout the township and the immediate surrounding areas.
4. The schedule is also displayed on the local cable TV announcement channel at the same time the newsletter is available.
5. For any questions or concerns, anyone can call the WRA hotline [(610) 834-4WRA] to leave a message for the appropriate person.

B. Ages

1. Teams are based on the date of birth based on an August 1 to July 31 calendar.
2. A player may not become of age before July 31 of the intended playing season.
3. All players must try out at the age appropriate division.

For example, for the 2000 - 2001 season:

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Must be born</u>
U-09	August 1, 1992 or later
U-10	August 1, 1991 - July 31, 1992
U-11	August 1, 1990 - July 31, 1991
U-12	August 1, 1989 - July 31, 1990
U-13	August 1, 1988 - July 31, 1989
U-14	August 1, 1987 - July 31, 1988
U-15	August 1, 1986 - July 31, 1987

C. Dates/Times/Locations

1. The general time frame for these tryouts to take place is April to early May.
2. The dates and times of each of the 3 tryouts are selected on a limited basis by the individual coach[es] assessing the players at each age division.
3. These dates and times can NOT be changed without the express approval of the Travel Soccer coordinator or Soccer Committee chairperson.
4. This time of year experiences various types of weather. In the case of inclement weather, everyone should call the WRA hotline or contact the coach.
5. Locations of the tryouts are limited to the fields and space available. These locations are generally: Shady Grove Elementary School, Stony Creek Elementary School, Wissahickon Middle School, and Wentz Run Park.

D. Minimum

1. Three tryouts are held for each age division.
2. A minimum of 2 tryouts **must** be attended to be considered for selection. Attendance at all three tryouts is strongly recommended.
3. Any two of the three tryouts may be attended.
4. A player must be present for a majority of the scheduled time to be considered as attending. [i.e., not arriving late or leaving early.]

IV. Selections

A. Coaches

1. A soccer resume and letter of philosophies must be submitted to be considered as a Travel team coach. The travel committee and soccer committee will review all candidates for referral to the WRA Vice-President of Operations for appointment.
2. A returning coach need only to update his/her credentials if applicable and to submit a letter of intent to return.
3. A coach's selection is up for review on an **annual** basis.
4. Any gross misconduct, unfair play, behavior tangent from that of the WRA philosophies, or consistent non-compliance with the WRA, Soccer/Travel Committee, or league rules and guidelines subjects the coach for review by the WRA Vice-President of Operations and Soccer Committee for possible dismissal or non-approval.

B. Teams

1. Each male and female age division shall have at least one team, if at least 14 players can be selected for a travel team of the same sex and age group [11 for U-09 and U-10]. If there are more than 18, but less than 28 players that are selected from the tryouts, there will be no second team.
2. The core age groups are: male U-09 through U-15, female U-10 through U-15, but not limited to these groups.
3. All core age groups male and female will be represented through the tryout period; all age groups may not be registered as a team due to insufficient player interest, lack of a qualified coach, or any other unforeseen problem.
4. Decisions to have or not to have a team or teams will be made jointly by the travel coordinator, travel committee, and soccer committee with input from the coach[es] running the tryout for that age division. All efforts will be made to have at least one team per age division male and female.
5. Each age division male and female with more than one team, shall be numbered '1', '2', etc. for the sake of identification only.

C. Players

1. All tryouts are OPEN tryouts.
2. There are no pre-selected or pre-determined players selected prior to having three completed tryouts.
3. The appointed coach[es] shall run the tryouts in a manner in which each individual player is evaluated fairly and equally.
4. The coach[es] shall then select the players for their respective teams. Each player shall receive a telephone call or other appropriate form of communication in a **timely manner** [after the last tryout session and before the first WRA soccer registration occurs] as to whether that player has been selected or not.

V. Coaches

A. Training

1. Within one year's time the coach must have attained at least an EPYSA approved 'E' coach certification or equivalent to remain as a coach, if the coach is not certified at the time of his/her appointment.
2. All further licensing and certification is welcome and supported by the WRA.

B. Conduct

1. All coaches must show sporting behavior before, during, and after all games and practices.
2. Non-compliance of any of the WRA by-laws, WRA soccer, EPYSA rules, or UBSL rules subjects the coach to disciplinary action by the WRA, EPYSA, or UBSL.
3. Any coach displaying unsporting behavior is subject to disciplinary action by the league and the WRA. Unsporting behavior shall include, but not all inclusive of:
 - a. physical contact of any kind
 - b. spitting
 - c. abusive language
 - d. any of the penal and/or technical fouls of the game
4. The referee, the players, and the opponent must all be treated with respect.
5. Coaches are responsible for their team and its spectators. Coaches are expected to control the sidelines and to put an end to any detrimental behavior. This includes the line up and shaking of hands at the completion of each game. Coaches are also expected to address any problem the referee notes.
6. The field must be left clean after each game.
7. Any fine[s] handed down by the league [UBSL] for any of the above infractions or forfeited games will be paid by the coach[es] or the responsible parties.
8. Scheduled practice fields and times must be adhered to unless the involved teams reach an agreement prior to the practice.

C. Tryouts

1. All tryouts will be run as OPEN tryouts.
2. Last year's team member shall not have any advantage over any other player at the tryouts.
3. All players must be evaluated fairly and equally.
4. **All players must attend at least 2 complete tryouts to be considered for selection.**
5. A roll call sheet **must** be signed by each player at each tryout. These sign up sheets shall be submitted to the travel coordinator at the completion of the tryouts after selections have been made.
6. All efforts should be made to run the tryouts in a joint effort when more than one coach selecting is involved [i.e., two teams]. The dates and times will be selected by the coach[es] at a meeting prior to the WRA newsletter publication.
7. Coaches making the selections **must** make every effort to attend each of the three tryouts. Each coach may have and is recommended to have assistant coaches or others in aiding with the evaluations.
8. Tryouts must be run according to the published schedule. The only exceptions must be approved by the travel coordinator. In this event, a representative must be present at the scheduled time to notify the public.
9. Players should be given a telephone number of a contact person in case of a question or concern. This should preferably be the coach[es].
10. The complete roster must be selected at the time of tryouts. No space can be held intentionally for possible add-ons at a later time.

D. Selection of Players

1. Selections will be made in a timely manner [after the last tryout session and before the first WRA soccer registration occurs].
2. All players must be notified as to whether he/she was selected or not selected.
3. Team #1 coach[es] will select a full rostered team first.
4. In the case of multiple teams per age division, a list of the remaining players will be turned over to the team #2 coach[es], who will then select players for a full rostered team.
5. All players must attend a minimum of 2 full scheduled tryouts.
6. A player selected to play on a particular team has the right to accept the offer from the coach or not.
 - a. If the player does not accept the offer, he/she **cannot** play on another team in that age division. The player then has the option to play in the intramural program **or** not to play within the WRA program at all. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
7. A list of the selected players identified by team, the players not selected, and the roll call sheet from each of the tryouts must be submitted to the travel coordinator prior to the first WRA soccer registration date.
8. Once tryouts are held, no player outside of the candidates eligible to be selected can be selected as a member of the team. The only exception will be in the case of extenuating circumstances and with the Travel Coordinator's approval.

E. Primary/Secondary/Guest Players

1. All players must be primary to WRA.

2. No player can be primary and secondary to teams in the same age division.
3. Secondary players:
 - a. A separate secondary pass and form must be completed and submitted to the travel coordinator for approval and submission to the EPYSA.
 - b. A secondary player must fulfill his duties to his/her primary team prior to participation with the secondary team.
 - c. A team must have a minimum of 14 players [U-11 through U-15] to carry a secondary player.
 - d. A team must have a minimum of 11 players [U-09 through U-10] to carry a secondary player.
4. The guest player must be selected from the 'B' team first. If a 'B' team player is not available, then the intramural players may be selected.

F. Playing Up

1. Any player or coach can request a player to be considered for playing up to the next age division.
2. **A player may play up provided:**
 - a. the player has demonstrated at least one year in the WRA travel program of playing experience
 - b. the present age coach gives written approval
 - c. the present age +1 year coach gives written approval
 - d. the travel committee gives approval

This process must take place during the tryout selection time period. Once the players are registered with WRA and/or the UBSL, no player may play up. The player must continue to play at his/her age team. The player may play as a secondary player with the approval of the present age coach, the age +1 coach, the travel committee, and the parents.

If there is not a consensus among the two coaches, the information and circumstances will be brought before the soccer committee for a final decision.

G. Add-on/Dropped Players

1. Any player added to a team roster after tryouts are held is considered an add-on.
2. If adding a player on to complete a roster due to extenuating circumstances, the space should be filled with first the 'B' team players if applicable, then the tryout candidates.
3. An add-on player can only be added to the team roster if:
 - a. authorized by the travel coordinator
 - b. due to extenuating circumstances [i.e., injuries, dropped players, etc.].
 - c. the player has registered with WRA and all registration fees are paid.

H. Playing Time

1. All rostered players [primary or secondary] present for a game must play a minimum of 25% of the time allotted for a game. Final decisions are up to the coaches discretion to allow for exceptions such as injury or disciplinary action. Considering equity in deciding playing time is always strongly encouraged.

I. Assistant Coaches

1. All teams must have at least one assistant coach, who will register with the league, identified and submitted to the travel coordinator prior to registration.
2. Only one assistant coach can **register** with the league along with the coach and players.
3. A team may have more than one assistant coach to help with the team.

J. Fees

1. Any and all monies need a check requisition form [supplied by the Travel Coordinator; see Attachment 1] to be completed. The form shall contain the details of the team and coach requesting the monies, to include: the reason, amount, payee, and either a receipt, copy of a canceled check [in the case of reimbursement], or a copy of the tournament application attached. In the case of a tournament, the name, date[s], location, sponsor, and contact person is also required. These forms are to be submitted to the Travel Coordinator by the **10th** and **25th** of each month. The Travel Coordinator will approve and submit the requisition to the WRA's Treasurer for disbursement on a bi-monthly basis. The forms will only be submitted to the WRA on a bi-monthly basis. If the date is missed, the requisition will not be submitted to WRA until the next submission date.
2. Referee Monies - The WRA will provide the referee fees required for each game played during the currently registered fall season only. To obtain these monies a Referee fee receipt needs to be completed and submitted to the travel coordinator at the end of the season [see Attachment 2].
3. Tournament Monies - The WRA will provide fees for two tournaments for each individual team. If the monies are not used in the current registered season, the monies will be forfeited. To obtain the fees, a check requisition form [see Attachment 1] needs to be completed and submitted to the travel coordinator.
4. Coaches who do not comply with the rules and guidelines of the WRA will forfeit all tournament fees.

K. Fund-raising

1. No fundraising in the name of WRA may be solicited without the express authorization of the WRA Vice-President of Administration.
2. There will be no solicitation of funds which could be misconstrued as a WRA sanctioned fund-raiser without the approval of the Administration V.P.

L. Reporting Scores

1. All game scores and/or results, regardless of win, lose, or draw, must be called/e-mailed to the Travel Coordinator by Sunday at 7:00 PM of that reporting weekend.
2. The details of a scheduled game that is NOT played must also be called in with the reason for not playing [i.e., rain, forfeiture, etc.].
3. If the score is not reported or is reported late, the coach will be fined in the amount of the fine which is assessed to WRA by the league in which we play in [currently = \$5.00 per game by the UBSL].

M. Re-scheduled Games

1. If the game is not played because of rain or any other reason that requires a re-scheduling, the coaches of the two clubs involved may agree on a mutual date to re-schedule. This agreed upon date must be reported to the Travel Coordinator no later than the Sunday prior to the game date. The league is responsible for the time.
2. Each team has 2 weeks from the receipt of the game schedule to request any change. **NO CHANGES** may be made after the start of the season.

N. Administrative

1. Paperwork is a big part of the coach position [i.e., player passes, communications between parents, players, and WRA, tournament applications, etc.] The paperwork must be kept up for the program to stay organized and compliant. Do not hesitate to solicit the aide of the assistant coach or a team parent. Parents like to be involved; this is a good way to get them involved and to alleviate your responsibilities. The coach is still ultimately responsible.
2. To be registered as the official coach or assistant with the UBSL, a pass must be completed for submission to the UBSL. This pass should be completed at the WRA soccer registration along with the team players.

VI. Players

A. Tryouts

1. All players must attend a minimum of 2 full scheduled tryouts.
2. A player selected to play on a particular team has the right to accept the offer from the coach or not.
 - a. If the player does not accept the offer, he/she **cannot** play on another team in that age division. The player then has the option to play in the intramural program **or** not to play within the WRA program at all. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

B. Registration

1. All players selected for a travel team must attend one of the WRA soccer registration dates.
2. At registration each player must provide : a small [1"x2"] photo* of him/herself, a copy of his/her birth certificate, and the registration fee.
*A photo may be available to a returning player who participated in the last season's picture day.
3. At registration, each player will also be sized for a uniform. The company providing the uniform will require a small deposit at this time.

C. Uniforms

1. Uniforms will be paid for by the individual player.
2. For the 1998-99 season, every player will need to purchase a new uniform.
3. After the 1998-99 season, a returning player will have the option of purchasing a new uniform or wearing the one from the previous year. Each returning player also has the option of just purchasing a particular item of the complete uniform.

D. Playing Time

1. All rostered players [primary or secondary] present for a game must play a minimum of 25% of the time allotted for a game. Final decisions are up to the coaches discretion to allow for exceptions such as injury or disciplinary action.

E. Primary/Secondary Players/Guest Players

1. All players must be primary to WRA.
2. No player can be primary and secondary to teams in the same age division.
3. Secondary players:
 - a. A separate secondary pass and form must be completed and submitted to the travel coordinator for approval and submission to the EPYSA.
 - b. A secondary player must fulfill his duties to his/her primary team prior to participation with the secondary team.
 - c. A team must have a minimum of 14 players [U-11 through U-15] to carry a secondary player.
 - d. A team must have a minimum of 11 players [U-09 through U-10] to carry a secondary player.
 - e. A secondary player must fulfill his duties to his/her primary team prior to participation with the secondary team.
4. The guest player must be selected from the 'B' team first. If a 'B' team player is not available, then the intramural players may be selected.

F. Conduct

1. Non-compliance of the WRA by-laws, WRA soccer rules, EPYSA rules, or UBSL rules can result in disciplinary action by the WRA, EPYSA, or UBSL.
2. Each player is responsible for following the direction of the coach. Any consistent non-compliant behavior can warrant disciplinary action by the coach.
3. All players must show sporting behavior before, during, and after all games and all practices.
4. Any player displaying unsporting behavior is subject to disciplinary action by the league and the WRA. Unsporting behavior shall include, but not all inclusive of:
 - a. physical contact of any kind
 - b. spitting
 - c. abusive language
 - d. any of the penal and/or technical fouls of the game
5. The referee, the coach, and the opponent must all be treated with respect.
6. Players are responsible for their own actions. This includes the line up and shaking of hands at the completion of each game.
7. The field must be left clean after each game.

G. Equipment

1. All players must wear the team uniform. The shirt must be tucked in.
2. All players must wear shinguards. The socks must cover the shinguards completely.
3. No jewelry of any kind. [One exception: a medical alert bracelet, if taped properly.]

VII. Playing Rules

A. Adherence of the rules is primary to WRA and secondary to UBSL.

B. Equipment - All players must wear the following:

1. Shinguards; covered completely by the socks.
2. Uniform consisting of matching shirt, shorts, socks.
3. Unique numbers on the shirts of each team member.
4. Two game balls must be available by each team [home and away] at every game.
 - a. Size #4 ball for U-09 through U-12.
 - b. Size #5 ball for U-13 through U-15.

C. Field

1. The home team is responsible for the field being properly lined, corner flags being posted, and goals being secured and safe.

D. Time

1. Each game consists of two equal halves.
 - a. U-09 and U-10: two 25 minute halves.
 - b. U-11 and U-12: two 30 minute halves.
 - c. U-13 and U-14: two 35 minute halves.
 - d. U-15: two 40 minute halves.
2. Half-time should be about 5 minutes.

E. Referee

1. The referee is '**never wrong**'.
2. No coach, player, fan, or spectator shall confront, abuse, or comment on the referee.
3. All referees are to be treated with respect.
4. No calls made by the referee shall be questioned, except by the team captains in an appropriate manner.

F. Substitutes

1. An unlimited number of substitutes and substitutions is permissible.
2. All substitutions must be made with the referee's consent.

G. Players

1. Number of players
 - a. A minimum of 14 and a maximum of 18 on each team U-11 through U-15.
A minimum of 11 and a maximum of 14 on each team U-09 and U-10.
 - b. A minimum of 7 [6 players and 1 goalie] and a maximum of 11 [10 players and 1 goalie] can be on the field at any one time for team U-11 through U-15.

VIII. Game Time

A. Hospitality

1. The home team may provide an after-game snack to the visiting opponent.
2. Try to have someone provide a half-time and after-game snack for your own team.

B. Rain-outs

1. Home team responsibility
 - a. Only the Travel Coordinator [in conjunction with the Township Field Manager] can cancel the games prior to the first scheduled game of the day in accordance with the league rules. The travel coordinator will call each of the coaches scheduled to play that day. The coach then must call the coach of the opposing team in a timely manner.
 - b. Only the referee can cancel, declare a forfeit, terminate, or postpone a game once the first scheduled game of the day has been started. The coach must then call the travel coordinator with the results and/or explanation and any agreed upon dates for re-scheduling.

2. Away team responsibility

- a. The team **must** show unless the opposing team's coach or travel coordinator calls to notify you of a cancellation and the reason. The coach must call WRA's travel coordinator immediately to confirm and to report any agreed upon dates for re-scheduling.

C. Appearance of the field

1. Leave the field even cleaner than you found the field. Do NOT leave any trash. Pick up after the team; make the team responsible.

IX. Grievances

A. WRA - for grievances within the WRA arena, the following protocol should be followed:

1. Player

- a. first; player goes to the coach
- b. second; coach goes to the travel coordinator/committee
- c. third; T/C goes to the soccer chairperson[s]/committee
- d. fourth; soccer chairperson goes to the WRA V.P. of Operations

2. Coach

- a. first; coach goes to the travel coordinator/committee
- b. second; T/C goes to the soccer chairperson[s]/committee
- c. third; soccer chairperson goes to the WRA V.P. of Operations

3. Parent/Spectator

- a. first; person[s] goes to the coach/team
- b. second; coach goes to the travel coordinator/committee
- c. third; T/C goes to the soccer chairperson[s]/committee
- d. fourth; soccer chairperson goes to the WRA V.P. of Operations

B. League [UBSL]

1. Procedure

- a. All grievances [game, referee, etc.] are to be coordinated with the travel coordinator.
- b. The travel coordinator in conjunction with the person filing the grievance must put a letter in writing and file with the appropriate person[s] within 24 hours of the incident.

X. Current Demographics:

Club: Whitpain Recreation Association
P.O. Box 64
Blue Bell, PA 19422
[610] 834-4WRA

Whitpain Soccer Travel Coordinator[s]:

Marty Wolner

League: Inter Ccounty Soccer League
www.ICSLsoccer.org

Philadelphia Area Girls Soccer
<http://www.pags.org/>

Affiliation: Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association
[215] 657-7727

Attachment 1

WRA Travel Soccer

Check Requisition

Team: _____

Coach: _____

Reason for disbursement * : _____

[Please attach a: receipt,
or copy of application for tournament,
or copy of canceled check for reimbursement.]

Amount : _____

Payee: _____

* If reason is Tournament, please list :

Name of Tournament : _____

Date[s] : _____

Place : _____

Sponsor : _____

Contact Person: _____

