WCSA RULES OF PLAY

2026- 2027 SOCCER YEAR

WCSA follows Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules as adopted by United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and except where noted herein under Small-Sided Games Summary and WCSA Amendments to the Rules of Play.

A comprehensive document of FIFA rules can be found on FIFA's website: FIFA.com

WCSA Amendments to the Rules of Play *(*= denotes a revision from the previous version)*

FIFA Rules

Federation Internationale de Football Association rules govern with amendments noted herein and apply equally to men's and women's soccer unless specifically adopted to the contrary. See WCSA Amendments to Rules of Play—Small-Sided Games (RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES) for U5 through U12.

Amendment to Law I-The Field of Play and the Goal

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

B. For U13 and above, the field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 120 yards or less than 60 yards, and its breadth not more than 75 yards nor less than 40 yards. For U13 and above, the goal shall be 8 feet x 24 feet.

Amendment to Law II-The Ball

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

B. The ball shall be provided by the home team and shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the referee.

C. For U13 and above, the ball size is #5.

Amendment to Law III-Number of Players

A. For age groups U5 through U12, refer to RULES OF PLAY-SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12 for number of players on the field. For U13 and above, the minimum number is 7 players.

B. Teams will be subject to random roster checks during the season.

C. If a game starts with one team playing short, both teams must field an equal number of players. Players arriving late may be introduced to the field only with the referee's permission. Both teams may add players to maintain equal numbers until the maximum number of players allowed under Law III is reached.

D. Each player shall play an equivalent of a half game in each match unless prevented from doing so by illness, injury, or ejection.

E. Substitutions may occur at the end of the quarter or half, on goal kicks, throw-ins by the team in possession of the ball, kick-offs, or injuries. Substitutions occur with the approval of the referee. Substitutes must wait at the center field line and enter play on signal by the referee. Exiting players must leave the field at the center field line.

F. If a player is injured on the field of play, the referee may allow a substitution for the injured player. The opposing team, in U9 and above, also has the right to substitute a player at that time. The referee shall utilize a temporary stoppage of play for the substitution. The coach must adhere to the half game play rule for all players when possible.

G.* Players ejected from the match by use of a red card may not return to the match and must leave the field of play. A player ejected from a match by use of a red card shall not be permitted to play in the next succeeding match. If a red card is issued in the last match of an outdoor season, the first match of the next outdoor season in which the player is enrolled is considered the next succeeding match. Two yellow cards in a match equal a red card offense. The team must play short 1 player for each ejected player for the rest of the match. The assigned referee center issuing a red card or two yellow cards in the same game shall report the offending player to the VP of Officials who in turn will report the player to the VP of Play-Boys or the VP of Play-Girls within 48 hours of the end of the game in which the offense occurred. If the red card is called for an act that is deemed to be deliberate, malicious, or violent, a report will be delivered to WCSA’s Judiciary Council who may assess further penalties against the violating player.

H. If a team does not have more than the maximum number to play (no subs) then both teams may elect to field any number of players between the minimum and maximum allowed for the age division with mutual agreement between both teams' coaches and notification of the referee. Both teams must field an equal number of players. Both teams must remain at the agreed upon number of players for the entire game, except should additional players arrive late, which is handled as outlined in Amendment to Law III - Number of Players, Section C.

Amendment to Law IV-Players' Equipment

A. Commercial type shin guards must be worn for all WCSA-sponsored activities: games, scrimmages, and practices.

B. All recreational players shall wear the uniform issued by WCSA. In cases of exception, the jersey and shorts must be worn over all other clothing. **NO jewelry of any kind may be worn during play. Earrings covered by band-aids are NOT allowed. This includes but is not limited to rings, earrings, facial piercings, bracelets, wristbands, and hair accessories (beads, hair rings, charms, barrettes, and clips).**

C. Players shall wear gym shoes, tennis shoes, or soccer boots. The soccer boots must be of soft toe type. Molded or approved screw-in cleats are acceptable. **No toe cleats will be accepted.**

D. Players shall keep socks pulled up over shin guards and keep shirt tucked into shorts at all times.

Amendment to Law V & VI-Referees and Assistant Referees

A. See RULES OF PLAY-SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12. U7 through U8 matches may be conducted using only a center referee. U9 and above matches shall be conducted using a 3-person system unless otherwise permitted by the Vice President of Officials. For all such matches, the center referee shall be a USSF-certified referee unless otherwise permitted by the Vice President of Officials, and there shall be 2 assistant referees, which may be club linesmen in age groups U9 and above.

Amendment to Law VII-Duration of Game

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

B. In all matches played with halves, U9-U19, the half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.

C. U13 and up shall play 35-minute halves.

D. Time may be extended only for the taking of a penalty kick at the end of either half.

E. The referee has the authority to suspend play in the event of inclement weather. If a game reaches half time and is canceled due to inclement weather, it will be considered a valid game, and the team that is leading at the time shall be declared the winner.

Amendment to Law VIII-Start and Restart of Play

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

B.* League-wide heat-related breaks ("water breaks") shall be implemented as outlined in WCSA's Weather Policy.

C.* Any request to have water breaks during a game when the threshold in WCSA's Weather Policy has not been met must be made by the coach to the center referee before the start of the first or second half of play and must be agreed upon by the center referee and both teams' coaches. The timing and duration of the water breaks shall be implemented as outlined in WCSA's Weather Policy.

Amendment to Law X-Scoring

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12.

B. The referee card is the official game score record. It is the responsibility of the coach to review the information on the referee card for accuracy before signing it.

1. In the event a score cannot be retrieved from a referee card, the office will contact both head coaches requesting a score report. Coaches have 48 hours to fulfill this request before the game is recorded as "no contest" with no points being awarded to either team.
2. Requests to correct a posted game score must be emailed to the office (info@williamsoncountysoccer.com) within 5 days from the date of the game and include all of the following to be considered: game date, time, field number, both team names (including both the sponsor's name and coach name), and the correct score. No requests received more than 5 days from the date of the game will be considered. No score correction requests will be accepted for the last game of the season due to time constraints before Championship Night.

C. * Points for standings will be calculated, beginning at the U9 division and older, as follows:

1. Win: 3 points
2. Tie: 1 point
3. Loss: 0 points
4. Forfeit: 3 points (3-0 win)
    a. Weekly review of scores will occur under the supervision of the VP of Play, with recommendation of coaches that continue to abuse the sportsmanship of the game to the Judiciary Council with an escalation of step consequences for the coach up to and including removal as coach from the league.
    b. In the event all 8 games cannot be played, standings will be calculated based on the first 6 games only, regardless of schedule matchups.

D. At the end of the season, the two teams leading in points in each division will have a play-off game for the championship. If at the end of the season, two or more teams are tied for first

and/or second place, the following criteria will be used to determine the top two teams. The next step will not be reviewed if the teams are determined by the prior step.

1. Highest number of wins
2. Greatest goals with a maximum of (3) net goals per game.
3. Fewest goals allowed.
4. A FIFA style shootout will be conducted between the tying teams with timing, rules and results determined by the VP of Play

Amendment to Law XI-Off Side

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XIII-Free Kicks

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XIV-Penalty Kicks

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XV-Penalty Kicks

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XVI-Goal Kicks

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Amendment to Law XVII-Corner Kicks

A. See RULES OF PLAY—SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12

Miscellaneous Rules and Practices

Teams

The Williamson County Soccer Association generally forms teams based on a neighborhood or zone concept. New teams are formed for the fall season and requests for specific teams cannot be guaranteed.

The minimum number of players on a roster will be the number of players on the field for that age group plus two. This number may be adjusted according to the number of registrants but under no circumstances will the number of players on the roster be allowed to interfere with the "one-half play" rule.

A player may only be placed on one team at a time within an outdoor or indoor season. This applies whether within the same age division or across age divisions.

WCSA reserves the right to remove any player from an outdoor roster if said player does not show for practice(s) and/or game(s) and if after attempts to contact the registrant for an explanation of the absence(s), there is no response confirming the intent to play. No refund will be issued to the removed player (see WCSA's Refund Policy) and the empty roster spot may be filled with a player from the waitlist.

Practices

Practice may begin only after the rosters are distributed. Practices may only be held with a coach or an assistant coach present who has completed all risk management requirements. Practices are limited to 2 days a week prior to the beginning of the season and limited to one practice up to 1-1⁄2 hours per week after the season begins. If a team has a bye, 2 practices of 1-1⁄2 hours each are allowed the week of the bye.

Coaches

A. For age groups U7 and above, teams are allowed only the coach and assistant coach per field on the sideline (on opposite side of parents where possible). Split fields are considered one field. Coaches will take position one side of the halfway line. They shall remain on that side for the duration of the game and shall not cross into the other coach's side, subject to additional disciplinary action.

B. A coach who is ejected from a game will be reported by the center referee and will be contacted by the Directors of Coaching and/or Vice President of Play for an explanation of his/her conduct. A coach who is ejected from a match shall not be permitted to coach in the next succeeding match.

C. All instances of a coach volunteering to head coach more than two teams in a season will be reviewed by the WCSA Board for approval. WCSA reserves the right to limit the number of

teams any volunteer may coach. All head coaches of more than two teams must have a registered assistant coach on each team and each team must have a different assistant coach. WCSA does not guarantee game times will not conflict for head coaches of more than two teams.

Postponements

Rescheduling a match between recreational teams can be done only for inclement weather, lack of referees, scheduling errors, or upon approval of a designated league official, VP of Play Boys or VP of Play Girls. Once a scheduled match begins, it can only be stopped by the referee handling the match or a designated league official.

Forfeits

A. If one team does not have enough players to begin play (see amendment to Law III A) within 10 minutes after the scheduled game or field availability, the referee will declare a 3-0 win in favor of the team with the minimum number of required players. The two teams may agree to scrimmage for the remaining scheduled time.

B. A team may forfeit in advance via email to the office or the VP of Play. The opposing team will be awarded a 3-0 win.