

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE RIVER VALLEY SOCCER CLUB**

## RVSC Philosophy

It is the intent of the River Valley Soccer Club to provide young people a means for recreation and enjoyment and an opportunity to achieve excellence through participation in the game of soccer. The principles governing competition (among it's members) shall include development of physical fitness, mental alertness, leadership and good sportsmanship. All members shall recognize and adhere to the principle that the manner of play outweighs the victory. It shall be the responsibility of the coaches to encourage courtesy, sportsmanlike conduct and respect.

The River Valley Soccer Club plays and operates according to the rules of the Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA) and the laws of the Federation Internationale de Footbal Association (FIFA) as well as the North Central Youth Soccer Association (NCenYSA). In addition, the Club, through it's Board of Directors, has passed some rules and regulations to cover local play. When playing with the Club, the Club rules and regulations shall be upheld.

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## **Article I: Registration**

### Section 1: Registration Period

Registration for RVSC will begin the first day of August each season. Closing dates for Fall and Spring seasons will be determined by a vote of the Board of Directors. No player registration will be accepted after the season's registration has been sent to WSYSA, except for those players who have moved into the geographical boundaries of Omak, Okanogan and Brewster after the close of registration.

### Section 2: Registration Fees

Each year the Board of Directors, by majority vote, will establish the registration fee prior to the registration period. The RVSC will provide the official forms for all players.

### Section 3: Registration Age(s)

A player will be assigned to a division on the basis of the player's age as of August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. The minimum age will be five (5) years by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. Exceptions may be made by the Board of Directors for players turning four (4) by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season at the request of the parent. The maximum age will be eighteen (18) by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. No player will be nineteen (19) or older by August 1<sup>st</sup> except if participating on a high school team.

## **Article II: Teams**

### Section 1: Team Members

The Registrar will assign players to all teams on the basis of a draw. Once a player has been assigned to a team, the player may not be reassigned by the Registrar except in cases described in Article II, Section 2: Player Transfer. Only officially registered players may be assigned to teams. Infringement of this rule is subject to RVSC Board review and may result in forfeiture of matches by the team playing the unregistered player(s). Boys and girls will be combined within all age groups unless NCenYSA has established gender specific teams. No player will play below his or her age bracket. No player shall play on more than one team in any regular season except for special competitions that occur during the open season and approved by the RVSC Board of Directors. A player becomes an official team member and is eligible to compete only after payment of the required registration fee, proof of birth and the acceptance of the registration by the Registrar.

### Section 2: Player Transfer

Any player assigned to a team is bound to that team until:

- A. The team is disbanded by RVSC;
- B. The player, at the time of registration, requests that he/she be reassigned. The player must submit in writing to the Registrar the

reason why he/she cannot participate on his/her assigned team. The Registrar may then, if it is his/her opinion that the transfer is warranted, add the player's name to the draw. If the player is not satisfied, he/she may appeal to the RVSC Board of Directors in writing.

- C. A written request is submitted to the RVSC Board describing all the reasons for requesting an in-season transfer. The RVSC Board will review all such requests and, if approved, direct the Registrar to reassign the player. Until that reassignment is made, the player shall remain on his/her original team.
- D. A player has been reassigned by the Registrar because he/she was assigned to a team in an incorrect age group.

### Section 3: Team Size

Team size will be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with guidelines established by the WSYSA. A team may have a maximum of eighteen (18) players. Team size will be established by NCenYSA in consultation with all clubs in the association.

### Section 4: Team Dissolution

If, during the current season, a team feels it cannot complete its schedule because of the lack of participation of players, the team may request the Registrar to assign its remaining players to the remaining teams.

### Section 5: Team Age Grouping

Team age groups will be established by NCenYSA in consultation with all clubs in the association.

## **Article III: Rules of Play**

Team competition shall be governed by FIFA rules and their current interpretations as found in the publication Laws of the Game and Guide to Referees, except as modified in this Article.

### Section 1: Number of Players

Matches can be played with a minimum of 7 players unless playing modified size teams. In the event a team cannot field 7 players within 15 minutes of the official starting time, that team shall forfeit the match. If a match is started and injuries cause one team to lose players below the 7 minimum, that team shall forfeit the match. A reasonable amount of "suspended" time shall be given in the case of injuries to determine if the player can return to the match.

## Section 2: Substitution

In all divisions free and unlimited substitutions are allowed *with the consent of the referee* at the following prescribed intervals:

- A. By either team only
  - 1. After a goal is scored;
  - 2. At half-time;
  - 3. When making a goal kick.
- B. By the team
  - 1. Making a throw in;
  - 2. With an injured player;
  - 3. When the opposing coach substitutes, done without a delay in the match;
  - 4. Receiving a caution, for the cautioned player only.

## Section 3: Rescheduling and Forfeiture

It shall be mandatory to play a regular NCenYSA match. A match may be rescheduled upon 72 hours notice, mutual agreement between opposing coaches and subject to referee and/or field availability. In case of a failure to show up at a regularly scheduled RVSC match, the offending team shall lose the match by a score of 1 to 0. A match may be postponed at the field site if in the referee's opinion the weather conditions are too hazardous for play if both teams appear at the field site. The age group representative will assist in the rescheduling of the postponed match with the coaches and the Referee's Association.

## Section 4: Duration of Game, Ball Size and Home Team Responsibilities

Game duration for each age division will be established by NCenYSA in consultation with all clubs in the association. Ball size is determined by the specifications in the current WSYSA Coaches Handbook. When the proper ball size is not available, the ball present at the match will be used. The home team will always be listed on the schedule first and will be responsible for providing the ball for the game and ensuring the goals, corner flags and nets are properly set up. The home team is further responsible for ensuring all equipment is put away at the end of the match.

## Section 5: Tie Games

Regular season games ending in a tie will remain a tie. Overtime (sudden death or shootout) will be used to break ties in tournament play. [To be outlined prior to tournament]

## Section 6: Player Time in Matches

Every player that has suited up will have the opportunity to play ½ of the game, except for those who are under disciplinary action or who

are unwilling to play half a game. This includes regular season, tournament and overtime play.

#### Section 7: Girls Play

As a measure of protection, girls are permitted to shield their chests by means of their hands or arms. However, any holding, throwing or pushing the ball with their hands or arms shall be penalized according to law 12 of the FIFA rulebook.

#### Section 8: Charging the Goalkeeper

The following rule applies to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA:

All age groups:

No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this rule, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the defending team.

U-13 age groups and above:

No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper WITHIN THE GOAL AREA, harass the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this rule, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the defending team.

Note: Also included in “having control of the ball” is if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

#### Section 9: Rule and Regulation Changes

Once the playing season begins, the rules and regulations will not be subject to change until after the season is completed.

#### Section 10: Safety

Any material at the discretion of the referee considered to be dangerous will not be worn during the match. (for example, watches, necklaces, earrings, hard casts, belts)

#### Section 11: Suspension of Players and Coaches

A player or coach given a red card shall be ejected. A red card will be given if:

- A. In the opinion of the referee he/she is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play;
- B. He/she uses foul or abusive language;
- C. He/she persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

A copy of the ejection report from the referee will be sent to the Age Group Representative and the Referee/Rules Coordinator. The Age

Group Representative will insure the player or coach is suspended from participation in the next regularly scheduled game. If a player or coach receives a second red card in season play, he/she shall be suspended from the RVSC until reinstated by the Board.

#### Section 12: Fields of Play

The dimensions of the fields of play for each age group will be established by NCenYSA in consultation with all clubs in the association.

#### Section 13: Uniforms

Each registered player shall be issued a jersey or t-shirt. In order to compete in the Club matches, a player must be dressed with the following:

- A. Issued jersey or t-shirt tucked into shorts or pants;
- B. Regulation soccer shoes, multi-purpose gym shoes or sneakers;
- C. Shin guards are mandatory, with socks covering.

When the weather is inclement, players may wear tight fitting tights or pants tucked into socks, a shirt underneath their jersey or t-shirt, hats and/or light gloves.

#### Section 14: Tournaments

All tournaments sponsored by the Club will play by the approved rules and regulations. Any special rules for the tournament must be in writing and delivered to the Referee/Rules Coordinator and all teams prior to the start of the tournament.

#### Section 15: Standings

Standings for NCenYSA will be determined on a total point basis with one (1) point awarded for a tie and two (2) points awarded for a win. No points are awarded for a loss. In the event of a tie between two teams for first place at the end of the regular season play, there will be dual champions. Standings will only be kept at U-12 level and above.

#### Section 16: Draw Procedures

After the registration period has closed, all proposed player registrations are divided by age group. They are further divided (name anonymous) by gender and experience. Coaches are allowed their own children. Players assigned to teams for fall play remain on that team for the spring season.

### **Article IV: Coaching and Officiating**

#### Section 1: Coaching Responsibilities

Each team must have a coach or designated adult at the field throughout the entire match and practices. Coaching is understood as

giving advice and directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position. Coaching shall only be done by a maximum of two (2) persons from each team from the same side of the field. The tone of voice is to be informative.

A coach may be suspended from coaching his team by the referee if he/she is in violation of any rules of competition warranting ejection. An assistant coach or responsible adult is permitted to continue coaching the team for the duration of the game.

If the coach has any questions to ask the referee he/she may do so before or after the game and only in a "gentlemanly" manner. Any questions for the referee during the game are allowed only by the team captain.

Members under the age of 18 may only serve as assistant coaches and must be approved by the Board.

All coaches will complete a Risk Management Form and submit it to the Registrar before practices begin. No coach will be allowed to meet with the children before the form is completed and submitted to the Registrar.

Coaches or players are NOT allowed to:

- A. Be behind the goal line during the match;
- B. Be closer than 18 yards from the corner, except on modified fields, or make derogatory gestures or remarks to the coaches or spectators;
- C. Use artificial devices as megaphones;
- D. Enter the field of play unless the players are acknowledged and the coaches are requested by the referee;
- E. Consume alcoholic beverages, drugs or tobacco products at any time during practices or competition or come to any practice or competition under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

(Violation of this rule will result in suspension and is subject to Article III, Section 11: Suspension of Players and Coaches)

Coaches are responsible for:

- A. The conduct of their players and parents on or off the field before, during and after the match;
- B. Keeping their substitutes and parents 2 yards behind the touch line;
- C. Having all their players at the match site 15 minutes prior to the start of the match;
- D. Being knowledgeable of the soccer rules;
- E. Communicating to the appointed RVSC age representative the match results before 9:00 p.m. of the next day for U-12 and above;

- F. Providing the referee with one linesman to assist the referee during the match.

### Section 2: Protests

The procedure for filing a protest shall be the same as in the NCenYSA by-laws.

### Section 3: Officiating

A referee shall be assigned by the Referee/Rules Coordinator to officiate each match with the authority assigned to him/her as defined in the Laws of the Game (FIFA). He/she shall have the authority to reject the linesman provided by the competing teams. The referee must file a misconduct report to the Referee/Rules Coordinator and the age group representative for all coaches and players ejected from the game. The report must be filed within one week of the incident.

The referee shall at all times put great emphasis on the welfare of the players and officiate each match in a manner inducing clean competition and sportsmanship. The referee is empowered to end any match if in his/her opinion players or coaches are not conducting themselves according to the RVSC or FIFA rules. If players or coaches do not abide by the referee's decision, the match will be abandoned and the score will stand as is at the time of the abandonment. In the case of a match so ended, the RVSC Board must review the case. The referee will submit to the Board, in writing, an explanation of his/her action. The RVSC Board will review the incident with the referee, coaches and players involved and act accordingly.