



Recreational Soccer for Adults

Team Representative / Player Handbook

Revised 6/26/2009

Welcome

Welcome to the Northwest Adult Soccer League, an experience to be enjoyed and participated in by adults of all ages and levels of play.

NWASL started as an AYSO sponsored pilot program. Many of the parents in the Northwest community have children playing in the AYSO youth program. Hearing parents of these children expressing that they would like to play themselves, a group of these parents took on the task of developing the league. The NWASL was created in July 2004 to give adults and parents the opportunity to get involved in playing the game of soccer. As a league sponsored by AYSO we follow all the AYSO policies and philosophies to create a positive atmosphere for adults to learn the game of soccer, get exercise and compete with a recreational competitive attitude.

The league was designed to offer an outlet for all adults to play and enjoy the game of soccer no matter their experience or level of play. You can play with no soccer experience and learn as you go. We offer several divisions of recreational play. The divisions are divided into recreational play with beginning, intermediate and advanced team skill level. The league fosters the AYSO philosophies in all divisions. The divisions allow the league to match teams up by similar skill level for more competitive game play in a recreational environment.

This handbook is provided via the website to all players participating in the Northwest Adult Soccer League to inform them of the rules and requirements of NWASL. All players are obligated to read the rules and requirements. This will allow all players to understand what is expected of them as a player and how the league is run. Please visit the league website at www.nwasl.org for updates on rules and regulations. You will also find additional information about the league such as game schedules, registration forms, evaluation forms and league news.

Thank you,

Northwest Adult Soccer League

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League Organization

AYSO Incorporated is a non-profit corporation run by an Executive Commissioner and a National Office Staff under the direction of a Board of Commissioners.

A Regional Board appointed by the Regional Commissioner administers Region 5019, Northwest Adult Soccer League (NWASL). The Board is responsible to the Regional Commissioner for the Region's operation, and like the Regional Commissioner, serves in a volunteer capacity. The Regional Board includes the following positions.

League Coordinator/Regional Commissioner (RC) -The League Coordinator is responsible for organizing and overseeing the events that take place in the Adult Soccer League, conducting meetings, preparing agendas for meetings, and keeping team representatives informed.

Assistant League Coordinator -The Assistant League Coordinator is responsible for helping the League Coordinator carry out the responsibilities of the league, including making sure information is on the web site, keeping the rule book up to date, and making and distributing flyers and forms needed for running the league.

Referee Administrator -The Referee Administrator is responsible for overseeing all the referees that participate in this league, making sure they know our league rules and responsibilities, providing referee and game reports at our meetings, keeping track of cautions and sendoffs given at games, and assigning referees to our scheduled games.

Field Coordinator -The Field Coordinator is responsible for identifying appropriate fields, selecting the locations that best serve our needs and membership, and scheduling the selected fields for league use with the proper city, county or responsible agency.

Secretary -The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at our board and league team representative meetings. These minutes will be accessible on our web site The Secretary also helps with distributing flyers and newsletter information.

Treasurer -The Treasurer is responsible for all monetary transactions, deposits, and checks being written for league expenses, including referee checks distributed at the fields.

Registrar -The Registrar is responsible for coordinating player registration into the league, ensuring the proper documentation is submitted with each application, and that the player's information is current.

Safety Coordinator -The Safety Coordinator is responsible for field safety and providing information regarding safety, health and preventing injuries. The Safety Coordinator also assists and coordinates the

filing of injury claim reports as needed.

Game Scheduler -The Game Scheduler is responsible for generating the game schedules and ensuring the proper bracketing of teams to ensure competitive play while providing a safe, fun, and fair experience for all players.

Discipline and Rules -The Discipline and Rules administrator is responsible for the review of disciplinary issues and the enforcement of remedies in accordance with the league Rules and Regulations.

Team Rep Coordinator -The Team Rep Coordinator is responsible for helping the team representatives with administrative matters and communicating with them about their responsibilities as a team representative.

Equipment Coordinator -The Equipment Coordinator is responsible for organizing the equipment that needs to be delivered to each one of the fields.

Sportsmanship Coordinator -The Sportsmanship Coordinator is responsible for the tracking of sportsmanship points from each week's games.

Website Administration -The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the NWASL web site, keeping it up to date, free of errors, and for providing a user-friendly, content rich site.

Board Members

Kaissa Gurvine	League Coordinator	board@nwasl.org
Bill Ward	Asst. League Coordinator	assistant@nwasl.org
Bill Degnan	Referee Administrator	referee@nwasl.org
Sean Abrigo	Field Coordinator	fields@nwasl.org
Sylvia Ouellette	Secretary	secretary@nwasl.org
Sylvia Ouellette	Treasurer	treasurer@nwasl.org
Theresa Mace	Registrar	registrar@nwasl.org
Francine Shultz	Safety Coordinator	safety@nwasl.org
Julio Diaz	Game Scheduler	scheduler@nwasl.org
Graham Glausser	Discipline and Rules	dandr@nwasl.org
Holly Koob	Team Rep Coordinator	teamrepcoord@nwasl.org
Francine Shultz	Equipment Coordinator	equipment@nwasl.org
Holly Baughn	Sportsmanship	sportsmanship@nwasl.org
Edmundo Zevallos, Sean Abrigo	Website Administration	web@nwasl.org

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the board please contact the League Coordinator at board@nwasl.org.

League Calendar

The calendar listed below is a tentative guideline for the NWASL seasons. Specific dates of the calendar are updated on the website.

January - No games over New Years (if it falls on a weekend). No games during Coldwell Banker (Fort Lowell) Shoot out.

February - No games over the AYSO OPI tournament.

March - Registration for spring season.

April - Spring season begins and runs through July. Team Rep meeting for spring season.

May - No games over Memorial Day weekend.

July - No game the week of the 4th of July. Registration for fall season (annual insurance due with registration). Team Rep meeting for fall season.

August - Fall season starts and runs through November.

November - Registration for winter season No games over Thanksgiving holiday. Team Rep meeting for winter season.

December - Winter season Starts and runs through March.

Notes:

1. Exact dates for seasons and registration deadlines will be posted on www.nwasl.org.
2. Any team not registered by the registration deadline posted may lose their spot in the league or lose scheduled games and/or have a bye the first week of play.
3. Seasons are 9-10 weeks of play. Playoffs will be scheduled for qualifying teams (see sportsmanship).
4. All registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. Registrations must be turned in on or post marked by specific date indicated on the website. NWASL address is posted on the registration page of the website.

Principles of the NWASL

Everyone Plays – Players are welcome to join regardless of their age (over 18), ability or experience.

Balanced Teams – Teams will be scheduled to play other teams close to their same playing ability.

Positive Coaching (Team Rep) – During the game and on the sideline players, team reps and fans should stress the positive. We are committed to providing competitive programs that focus on the enjoyment of the game.

Open Registration – All players (over the age of 18) are welcome to register for the league, except as noted in the NWAL Rules and Regulations.

Good Sportsmanship – Players should embody a positive environment based on a mutual respect, not a “win-at-all-costs” attitude. Our program is designed to re-enforce sportsmanship.

It is expected that no conduct, on or off the field, will offend players, spectators, or referees. The NWASL recognizes that the adult players in this league are prone to injury and makes recommendation to minimize injuries among its players. For these reasons, the NWASL has developed the following guidelines and expects that the players will adhere to these guidelines.

- Set a proper example for child spectators
- Respect the NWASL Board Members, volunteers, reps/coaches, and referees
- No foul language
- No smoking or tobacco products at the games
- No alcoholic beverages at the games
- No attending the games while intoxicated
- No dissent to the referees
- No slide tackling
- No displays of anger or aggression toward anyone
- No verbal or physical threats of any kind
- No littering – always pick up water bottles and trash

The NWASL strives to provide a safe, fair, and fun alternative to other sports leagues for adults. We recommend players always use discretion before challenging an opponent. Recognize that everyone needs to return to work on Monday. Use common sense and please respect your opponents.

FIFA Laws of the Game apply at all NWASL games. Additionally The NWASL has specific guidelines for players and reserves the right to excuse anyone from the league and/or field for misconduct and/or sportsmanship violations specified in the guidelines of the handbook and the conduct form.

Team Representative Responsibilities

As a Team Rep you have an important role to play in the success of your team throughout the season. Your role is to organize and direct your team. You have the responsibility to attend all Team Representative Meetings and communicate all information received from these meetings to your team in a timely manner. You are the lifeline between your team and the board. It is imperative that you pass on all information that is given to you whether from a meeting or via email.

You are responsible for designating a team captain from your team for each game. It does not have to be the same player every game, but they do need to understand their responsibilities to act as a team captain. The team captain is responsible for meeting with the referees before the game starts to perform the coin toss. The coin toss will allow the team winning the toss to decide which side of the field they will defend. The referee will ask their name and number and record this on the game card. If the referee needs to discuss any components of the game they will approach the designated team captain. The team captain has no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game, but has a degree of responsibility for the behavior of their team.

If your team has been assigned net duty on the game schedule, you are responsible for delivering the field equipment to the field or returning it to the designated location. In addition, you assist in setting up the nets and flags if you are the first game of the night and take down the nets and flags if you are the last game of the night. You must place the nets and the corner flags in the game bag. You are responsible for making sure all trash from your team's touchline is cleaned up.

All pertinent information for players is available on line at www.nwasl.org. The website is divided into helpful areas:

- Registration – Contains all the instructions needed for a player to register
- Calendar - Lists important dates
- Board Members - Board Member names and duties
- Schedule/Standings - Game schedules, net assignments, scores, standings, and sportsmanship points
- Rule Book - All rules of the league
- Referees - Guidelines for refereeing and information for evaluations
- Teams – List of teams and player rosters
- League News - Updates and information regarding the league
- League Meetings – Minutes from board meetings
- Sponsors - List of local sponsors and sporting goods
- Fields - Lists of the fields with maps
- Forms - List of forms needed for registering or reporting
- Handbook - Team Rep/Player Handbook
- FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

Registration for the Northwest Adult Soccer League is open to all interested players 18 years of age and older (age is determined at the start of each season). There are no geographical restrictions for players to register in NWASL. If you have any questions concerning registration please contact the registrar. Specific registration dates can be found on the league website.

New players interested in joining a team need to find a team that has open roster positions. This can be done by emailing current team reps at teamreps@nwasl.org. Once a team has accepted a new player they need to follow the registration guidelines on the league website.

The registrar will input the new player's information and add the player to the specified team's roster. A digital picture must be sent to the registrar by the registration deadline to be added to the team's picture roster that will allow the player to be eligible to play in scheduled games.

All players:

- All players must fill out a **Registration Form** once a year with the fall registration or the first season playing of not the fall season.
- **Conduct Forms** need to be signed at the beginning of each fall season or the first season playing of not the fall season to be eligible to play.
- All players are required to pay a **\$25** insurance fee once a year. This fee is due with the fall registration. The period of coverage runs from August 1 through July 31. If a new player starts beyond the fall season the insurance fee must be paid before you will be eligible to play.

New players:

- Fill out and sign both the **Registration Form** and the **Conduct Form**.
- Make a legible copy of your driver's license which can verify your age and address.
- Provide a digital photo to the league by emailing one to registrar or send a photo in to the NWASL mailing address to be scanned in. All pictures of new players must be emailed into the board before the deadline.
- Mail the completed forms, copy of your driver's license, and your registration fee to the address below. Registration fees are **\$85** (**\$50** registration fee, **\$10** processing fee, **\$25** insurance fee). Make checks payable to AYSO.

*Make sure that all required information and forms are included. Only complete registrations will be accepted. All NWASL forms are available online at www.nwasl.org under forms.

Returning players:

- Returning players are those who have already completed the new player registration in a previous season. As stated above, registration forms must be submitted and insurance paid every year during fall registration or the first season playing of not the fall season. If you did not play in the fall season you will be required to pay the insurance fee for the season you for which you are registering.
- Mail your registration fee to the address below. Registration fee for returning players is **\$50**.

Mailing Address:
Northwest Adult Soccer League
P.O. Box 91226
Tucson, AZ 85752

If you have any additional questions please contact the registrar at: registrar@nwasl.org

Referees

The job of Referee is one of the most important jobs in NWASL. Without Referees, no games can be played! Under soccer Laws, the Referees are given wide discretion to use their own judgment with regard to rough play and fouls that occur during the game.

The Laws of Soccer are much simpler than the rules of many other games, so learning the Laws is not difficult. The requirements for becoming a Referee are that you enjoy soccer and are willing to learn the Laws and apply them during the game. The primary duty of a Referee is to ensure the safety of the players and oversee game play.

"Safe, fair and fun!" is the NWASL Referee's motto.

The Referee has the right to suspend the game until a coach, spectator or unruly player has left the premises. If the individual refuses to leave, the Referee has the right to terminate the game.

Any unusual discipline issues (yellow cards, red cards, coach or spectator harassment or ejections, cautions or sendoffs) should be noted on the back of the game card and reported immediately to the NWASL Referee Administrator.

The Referee will conduct a player inspection while checking in players. This is also an opportunity for players to ask questions on rules or enforcement. Following check in, captains will be introduced to each other and to the Referee. The coin toss will take place, with the winning team choosing which goal to defend for the first half. The losing team will kick off to start the game. Teams will take the field immediately following the previous game. The Referee will acknowledge the goalkeepers to ensure the team is ready to play, and then blow the whistle to commence the game. The Referee will start the game clock at the designated start time, whether the teams are ready or not.

Halftime will be approximately 5 minutes in duration. We recommend players use this opportunity to hydrate their bodies. The Referee will blow the whistle to signal the beginning of the second half. Once the whistle is blown, players should promptly return to the field and take their positions.

The Referee will blow the whistle to signal the end of the game. Following the end of the game, each team should shake hands with the other team. The players should also be encouraged to thank the Referees and shake their hands.

Players are reminded that the authority of the Referee begins when he or she enters the field and continues following the end of the game, and players may receive a red card for offensive language or violent conduct even though the game has ended.

Referees are given full authority with respect to conduct of the game, including determining playing time, disciplinary measures (yellow cards or red cards), and suspending the game for field conditions, spectator behavior, or any other reason that in the Referee's judgment warrants such suspension. The Referee has

the option of refusing to discuss and calls regarding the game, and this decision is to be respected by all players and spectators.

All decisions made by the Referee are final. Referee and Assistant Referee decisions may not be appealed. If a player has a concern or feedback regarding the league referees, they are required to fill out the proper documentation. NWASL provides a referee feedback form on the website. Players submitting forms should do so in a timely fashion after their game. Please be factual and specific when filling out this form. All feedback sent in the proper format will be reviewed by the Referee Administrator and/or the board to determine appropriate actions to be taken.

Safety Procedures

Please read through the following information to better equip your team with some basic knowledge of injury prevention, safety procedures and basic first aid to use during a game.

Always carry a basic first aid kit along with ice packets to every game.

Always take time to warm up and stretch. Research studies have shown that cold muscles are more prone to injury. Warm up with jumping jacks, or running or walking in place for 3 to 5 minutes. Then slowly and gently stretch, holding each stretch for 30 seconds.

Wear shin guards to help protect your lower legs. Soccer tournament records have shown that most players who sustained lower leg injuries were not protected by adequate shin guards. Shin guards are mandatory in the NWSL

Wear shoes with molded cleats or ribbed soles. Shoes with screw-in cleats often are associated with a higher risk of injury.

Use synthetic, nonabsorbent balls on wet playing fields. Leather balls can become water logged and very heavy when wet, putting players at high risk for injury.

Do not hang, crawl or sit on the goal or hang from the net. Injuries and deaths have occurred when goals have fallen onto players.

Treat only minor injuries at the field. If the injury is serious then call 911. Never move a player that has possible neck injuries or internal injuries. If a serious injury does occur please notify the league safety coordinator the following day at safetycoordinator@nwasl.com.

If a sprain or muscle injury occurs follow the RICE method outlined below: The first 24 -48 hours after an injury occurs are critical. **R = Rest** the injured area to stop further damage and bleeding. **I = Ice** should be applied as soon as possible as it slows down blood circulation which reduces bleeding and swelling. Do not apply ice direct to the tissue/skin; wrap it in a towel or cloth so the skin does not burn. Ice also has an analgesic effect. **C = Compression** should be applied to the area as soon as possible to restrict bleeding at the injury. Pressure compresses blood vessels so preventing blood escaping through open ends of the torn fibers. Do not apply compression around a whole limb, as it will starve other areas of blood. **E = Elevation** allows gravity to assist the removal of swelling from the injured area and aids recovery.

Always drink plenty of water before and during a game. If heat exhaustion occurs player will feel cold and clammy. Take player out of game and have them rest and drink fluids. If heatstroke occurs player will feel hot and dry. Call 911.

If player is bleeding due to injury, notify the referee immediately. The game will be stopped and the player will be required to clean injury. Bleeding must be stopped before re-entering the game. If there is blood on the player's uniform, the uniform must be changed before re-entering the game. Always err on the side of caution, a players long-term welfare is much more important than any game.

Insurance

Insurance through AYSO is required for all players participating in the Nwasl. This fee is \$25.00 per player and is paid annually. Coverage is valid from August 1st through July 31st. This insurance fee covers player's medically (a secondary insurance plan) and liability (required for field use).

The US Adult Soccer plan is a secondary insurance and pays only for those eligible expenses NOT covered by group or individual insurance carried by players or parents of registered participants and only after submission of the claim to the primary insurance carrier. All eligible expenses are subject to a \$400 deductible. The insurance brochure, accident claim form and how to file a claim documents can be found on www.nwasl.org.

Soccer has a low injury rate and is generally considered a safe sport. However, participants in any athletic activity may suffer injury. Please read through the Safety Procedures page, as everyone should be aware of the steps to take if you sustain an injury.

If an injury has occurred during a game:

- Seek medical care immediately.
- Print out the brochure, how to file a claim instructions and claim form found on the website and follow the instructions. If there are any questions, please contact AYSO NSTC at (800) 872-2976 or via e-mail at insurance@ayso.org.
- All claims must be submitted to the National Office within ninety (90) days of the injury, it is imperative that accidents be reported to the Safety Director.

Team Assignments

Teams will be registered as an entire team for the season if all appropriate paperwork is completed and turned in by the registration deadline. New teams will be welcome to join the league during any season as long as all appropriate paperwork is completed and turned in by the registration deadline. Space is limited each season and teams will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Teams will not be accepted if they do not have 15 paid players on their roster at the time of the deadline. If space is still available a team may be accepted after the deadline but may receive less games or a bye.

Individual players will be assigned to teams in accordance to those players contacting team reps via the email procedure outline in the registration section. Once individual players have found a team they will need to indicate that team to the registrar upon registering.

All teams will be represented by a Team Rep and will be held accountable as individual players in accordance to the Laws of the game and the guidelines set forth in the handbook and conduct form.

Sportsmanship Award

The purpose of the NWSL sportsmanship award is to reward the team who best lives up to the standards set forth by the league as described in our Mission Statement. The award will be given to the team with the most sportsmanship points, calculated by a percentage of the number of actual points achieved divided by the overall potential points (games played x 10 points). There are two components used to determine a team's overall sportsmanship points for a season.

- Points awarded during match play: Referees will rate teams on a 10-point scale based on behavior displayed by the players and the team. This rating system applies to all games played, including league, games, play-off games, and even scrimmage/friendly game played after a forfeit is declared. "Perfect" team sportsmanship game behavior earns a perfect sportsmanship score of 10 points. To the extent that a team's sportsmanship behavior deviates from model sportsmanship behavior, the referee crew deducts points from a perfect 10 according to the table shown below and found on the back of the game report

Behavior	Point Deduction Schedule	Home Points Deducted	Away Points Deducted
Fails to control or clean-up team sideline	-1		
Fails to help set-up or take-down field (if required)	-1		
Shows disrespect toward opponent or officials	-1		
Receives verbal warning, each occurrence	-1		
Players or spectators complain about referee decisions, with no direct challenge to referee authority	-1 (light) -2 (heavy)		
Players or spectators complain about referee decisions, with direct challenges to referee authority, each occurrence	-2		
Has spectator dismissed from team sideline for violating league rules or misconduct, each occurrence	-2		
Receives yellow card, each occurrence	-2		
Receives straight red card, each occurrence	-4		
Other (Home):			
Other (Away):			
		Home Total	Away Total
Total Points Awarded (10 minus total deducted)			

2. Points awarded and deducted for the season. For those teams that do not receive any cards during the season they will be awarded with a bonus of adding the team's average score per game into their total score of match play points.

Example: Team A had a total of 90 match play points for the season (taken from all the game cards received by the referees). The team received one or more yellow and/or red cards during the season; therefore it is ineligible to receive any bonus points. Total sportsmanship points for the season is 90..

Team B had 90 match play points for the season. They did not receive any cards all season. They played 10 games, the average points per game is 9. They will receive a bonus of 9 points added to their match play points. 90 (match play points) + 9 (bonus points for no cards) = 99 total sportsmanship points

Each rostered player from the team with the highest percentage of sportsmanship points for the season will receive a **\$25 VOUCHER**, which can be redeemed for paying registration fees in a future season up to one year after receipt. The team representative of the winning team will also receive a match ball for the team. The sportsmanship award is a way to encourage teams to support the vision of the league and recognize that the goal of our league is to provide a fair, fun and safe environment for adults to play soccer and enjoy the recreational competition.

Game Fields

The NWASL uses many fields around Tucson to schedule games for the season. Tucson has a limited number of soccer fields that are available for the league to schedule games. The league competes with many other soccer organizations for field space. The league will schedule games at the fields where there is availability; this may be any of the field listed below or additional field that becomes available. The field coordinator places requests for fields with the city and county and then waits for approval to use the field. Contracts are signed by the league with regards to use of the fields and lights. The league can lose the use of fields if the city or county deems the league has miss used the field. This includes leaving trash on the fields after the game. That is why it is imperative that all trash be picked up at the end of the game.

If your team is interested in practicing please contact the field coordinator to find out field availability and cost of fields.

The current list of fields used by the NWASL along with maps is available on the league's website (www.nwasl.org).

Game Procedures

The following procedures will be followed for all games with Northwest Adult Soccer League:

Games in NWASL are played under:

- 1 FIFA Laws of the Game
- 2 AYSO National Rules and Regulations
- 3 NWASL Region 5019 Player Handbook, NWASL Rules and Regulations, and Conduct Form

The game clock starts at designated game time, unless the referees deems is necessary to start later due to uncontrollable circumstance such as field lighting issues, lightning or other weather related issues.

Each player is required to check in with the forth official prior to the start time of the game. The fourth official will check each player's picture in the roster book and check for jewelry and appropriate soccer attire. Once he/she has verified that they are a registered player on that team the referee will stamp the players hand making them eligible to play during that game. Only registered players are allowed to play, if this is violated the league could lose their liability coverage. The referee will introduce the team captains to each other and will perform the coin toss. The coin toss will take place, with the winning team choosing which goal to defend for the first half. The losing team will kick off to start the game.

Teams should rapidly take positions on the field following the completion of the previous game. The Referee will motion to the goalkeepers to ensure the team is ready to play, and then blow the whistle to commence the game.

SUBSTITUTION: Teams are allowed to make a substitution at the following times:

- On either team's goal kick
- On your own team's throw-in
- On the opposing team's throw-in provided they substitute
- If an injury occurs -players on either side may substitute
- Both sides may substitute after a goal is scored by either team

Halftime will be approximately 5 minutes in duration. We recommend players use this opportunity to hydrate their bodies. The Referee will blow the whistle to signal the beginning of the second half. Once the whistle is blown, players should promptly return to the field and take their positions. The Referee will blow the whistle to signal the end of the game. Following the end of the game, each team should shake hands with the opposing team. The players should also be encouraged to thank the Referees and shake their hands.

Please pick up all trash and your belongings before leaving the field. Do not bring valuables to the field, we do maintain a lost and found and cannot be responsible for items left behind.

Season & Playoff Standings

Schedules and Standings may be found on the league website. Scores are sent to the Website coordinator the following week after play. The website coordinator will update the page as soon as possible and will post the previous weeks game scores and update the standings. If you have any questions or feedback regarding the website please contact the website coordinator.

During the season teams will play a different team each week. Teams will play other teams close in ability. This allows teams the chance to play close to their skill levels and have a competitive game. New teams will play a variety of teams to determine their skill set level.

At the end of each regular season the league will conduct playoffs. Teams become eligible for the playoffs in accordance to the sportsmanship guidelines. Each eligible team will be placed in a division according to the below criteria:

- 1 Team standings during the regular season.
- 2 Skill level of combined players
- 3 Previous seasons teams performance in playoffs
- 4 Division team played in last season for playoffs

A point system will be use for scoring the playoffs. This point system will be posted on the website along with the division brackets prior to the start of the playoff games. The winning team in each division will receive championship shirts for each player on the team. (Maximum 21 shirts per team).

Formal Complaint Procedure

NWASL provides forms on their website for players to provide feedback on the league, the referees and the games.

Referee evaluation form - If a player or team rep has a concern or feedback regarding the league referees, they are required to fill out the proper documentation. NWASL provides a referee feedback form on the website. Players submitting forms should do so in a timely fashion after their game and must be factual and specific when filling out this form. All feedback sent to the league in the proper format will be reviewed by the Referee Administrator and/or the board to determine appropriate actions to be taken.

League evaluation form- If a player or team rep has a concern or feedback regarding the league, they are required to fill out the proper documentation. NWASL provides an evaluation form on the website. Players submitting forms should do so in a timely fashion after their game and must be factual and specific when filling out this form. All feedback sent to the league in the proper format will be reviewed by the board to determine appropriate actions to be taken. Forms can be submitted electronically or printed out and mailed in.

Disciplinary situations will be reviewed by the Discipline and Resolution (D&R) Committee. This is a group of at least 5 board members that are not involved or related to the situation being reviewed. After reviewing the situation a decision will be made and the appropriate action will be taken.

Areas of possible review are:

1. Gross unsportsmanlike conduct by game participants or spectators.
2. Chronic problems (submitted in the proper format) caused by a player, coach, referee, spectator, or league official.
3. Attitude, procedures, practices which are not consistent with the guidelines or conduct form of the League.
4. Any other area of concern, action, or procedure which the NWASL Board feels warrants a review by this committee.

The league will only accept concerns and feedback from players and team reps and will need to be submitted in the proper form as outlined above.

Dispute Resolution

General Policy: It is the policy of the League to resolve all disputes involving persons involved in the League in an amicable way, and, if disciplinary action is found to be necessary, to take only the minimum action necessary. All means available will be taken to avoid legal action, including emphasizing compromise rather than principles and avoiding personality conflicts.

Procedure: If it is determined that it is necessary that a person involved in the League needs to be disciplined or his or her participation in the league limited or terminated, then the board shall give notice in writing to such person of the intention of the Region to take action, specifying the action to be taken and the reasons for that action, and giving such person a reasonable opportunity to explain why such action should not be taken. Such opportunity to respond may be in writing given to a board member, via email or a mailed letter. The Regional Commissioner may appoint a D& R Committee to consider such discipline. After the opportunity has been given and after consulting with the Board and/or Committee, the board shall make their determination and announce it in writing to all persons concerned and such determination shall be final and binding on all concerned unless it is determined by the Area Director, or, if he/she is not disinterested, the Section Director, that such determination is arbitrary and capricious or the procedure was not fair or the person or persons making such determination are found not to have been disinterested.

Suspension: The Regional Commissioner may suspend a person involved in the League from further involvement in the program on notice (by telephone, electronic mail, fax in writing, or in person) if there is found to be an imminent danger to the program by his or her continuing involvement or if a crime has been alleged to be committed by such participant.

Removal: The Regional Commissioner may remove a person (whether or not suspended) involved in the League, including a Regional Board Member, from further involvement in the program on notice and after a determination is made that removal is appropriate, as the result of a disciplinary hearing described in the above procedures if there is found to be (a) a violation of the National Regulations, principles or philosophy of AYSO or (b) conduct which disrupts the Region's or AYSO's activities or programs.

League Rules & Regulations

The NWASL Rules and Regulations are available on the league's website (www.nwasl.org) where they are maintained current and made available to all players. The Rules and Regulations document the league's governing policies and the modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game, described in the next section.

All board members, players, referees, and team representatives are required to be familiar with the Rules and Regulations. These are updated and maintained by the league's board. Any participant in the NWASL may provide input or request changes to the Rules and Regulations via the league point of contact (board@nwasl.org). Revisions to the Rules and Regulations are reviewed and voted on by the board using a simple majority vote.

Laws of the Game

Soccer has a single worldwide governing body responsible for establishing and maintaining the rules by which the game is played. This organization is the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and virtually all soccer games are administered under Laws established by FIFA or closely based on FIFA. Our AYSO games are played under the FIFA Laws of the Game with the modifications described in the NWSL Rules and Regulations, available on the league's website (www.nwasl.org), as allowed by FIFA. If you are interested in learning more about the Laws of the Game, refer to the FIFA web site (www.fifa.com).

Annual Budget

Income

Registration fees	\$24,000
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Expenses

Field Fees	\$5,000
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Lining of fields	\$ 1,000
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Light Fees	\$7,000
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Referee fees	\$4,500
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Championship T-shirts	\$ 600
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Equipment Nets	\$ 2000
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Velcro for nets	
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Flags, Pennies	
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Buckets	
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Stakes for nets	
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First aid kits	
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Mailing Costs Stamps	\$ 700
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Printing Costs: Photos (ink), Photo paper, Newsletters	\$ 800
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Other flyers, Game cards	
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Administrative costs	\$600
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Food for meetings, Banking costs & fees, Binders, page protectors and tabs	
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Website	\$ 200
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Sportsmanship award	\$ 600
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Play-off Fees	\$1,000
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Total	\$24,000
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Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

What exactly do my registration fees pay for? The registration fees break down into three components; 1) Player Fee -the player fee covers the cost of fields, equipment, and referees 2) Processing Fee - the processing fee covers the cost of tracking current players and producing rosters and/or player cards and schedules 3) Insurance Fee -the insurance fee pays for each player's supplemental accident insurance, which is required of all NWASL players.

When can I register? Registration to the NWASL is open throughout the year. A player can register at any time for the current or upcoming season. For details on the seasons, see the Calendar link on the website.

How do I find a team to play on? You can contact the entire list of team representatives by emailing teamreps@nwasl.org. It is the individual players responsibility to find a team to play on.

Can I register at the field? No, players need to mail in their completed registration form, signed conduct form, copy of driver's license, and money to: NWASL PO Box 91226 Tucson, Arizona 85752

By Wednesday of the week that a players wants to play. A digital picture must be submitted via e-mail to board@nwasl.org at the same time.

Can you take my digital picture for me? Yes, the league can take digital pictures for teams or players. Arrangements must be made by contacting NWASL at board@nwasl.org.

Our team doesn't have enough players. Can we still play?

No, a team must have 15 paid players (at least 5 females) by the registration deadline.

Why isn't the schedule done for the entire season? We make the first few games against random teams. Once we can see which division your teams belong in we can organize divisions. These divisions are what we use to organize our playoffs. So we can't make the schedule through the whole season or we wouldn't have mobility.

Rules

What type of league is the NWASL? The NWASL is a coed, recreational league under the sponsorship of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). Even though we have brackets for teams, the main objective of the league is to provide a SAFE, FUN, and FAIR environment for recreational adult players.

Why do goals scored by females count for two points? This ruled was established to encourage and

reward the inclusion of female's actual play. Even though we have many talented female players who are just as good or better than their male counterparts, the great majority of our female population is comprised of recreational players with little or no experience.

What happens if I get a Yellow card? A Red card? A player receiving two cautions (Yellow cards) in one game is sent off from that game. The player must leave the field area before the game continues. If the player does not leave the field area, the referee will terminate the match. A player receiving a send off (Red card) must leave the field of play as noted above. A player receiving three cautions in one season will be automatically suspended from a minimum of one match. Suspended and sent off players will be reviewed by the D&R committee for further sanctions, which include additional game suspensions or termination from the league.

Can anyone play in the NWASL? Yes, provided they are 18 or older and that they have not been suspended or terminated by any other league in the Tucson area. Player's history *will* be checked with other leagues prior to acceptance.

Can I use a colored tee shirt or an old jersey to play in? All players on each team must have the same color and style jersey. Uniforms must have numbers permanently affixed. No duplicate numbers, no taped or written numbers. If you have a jersey that you think complies with these rules it must be approved by a board member before the start of the game.

How does the 4-card suspension work? A player accumulating 4 cards in one season will be suspended for the remainder of that season. A player can be removed from the season by a combination of yellow and red cards (i.e., 2 straight reds, 2 yellows + 1 red, 3 yellows + 1 red, 4 yellows, etc.). Yellows are scored as 1 card and Reds are scored as 2 cards.

Referees

What are the qualifications of NWASL referees? The NWASL uses USSF-or AYSO-certified referees with the proper experience level for all games.

If I foul someone by accident, why is it still a foul? The Laws of the game do not require intent in order to have a foul. It only requires that the act be done carelessly, recklessly, or with excessive force. In fact, if you intended to foul someone it should be treated as misconduct and you should be issued a caution (yellow card) or send off (red card), depending on the foul.

What is a fair charge? A fair charge is when two opposing players, while playing for the ball, make shoulder-to-shoulder contact in a staccato manner. Using your elbows, hips, rear end, knees, feet, hands, head, chest, back, etc. to make contact with an opponent is illegal.

What about slide tackles? The league does not allow slide tackles for safety reasons. If the referee believes that you have committed a slide tackle you will be called for dangerous play and possibly misconduct as well. Per the league, the referees have been instructed to make the dangerous play call if there is any doubt over the issue.

What if I don't like the referee's call? Can I question the referee's call? No. This is called dissent and is

a misconduct. Even comments to your teammates that can be overheard by the referee, questioning their calls or commenting about the referees abilities, is dissent and subject to a caution (yellow card).

If you have issues with a referee, you may complete the Referee Evaluation Form, available at the NWASL website, and forward it to the board. Please try to be constructive and not necessarily focus on one call or incident unless it is very significant. These evaluations will be used to improve the quality of the referees. You may also use them to point out positive experiences with referees.

Fields

Where are the fields used by the NWASL located?

For maps to all fields used by the NWASL, please see the Fields section.

Why don't we always have the same field? Field availability varies throughout the year, and is controlled by external agents. All possible efforts are made to select fields in the Northwest area but this is not always possible.