WCSA Rules of Play

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 at the following website: http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html

WCSA Amendments to the Rules of Play—Revised 7/11

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.
C. Variations of field and goal dimensions require approval by WCSA's Vice President of Play.

Amendment to Law II—The Ball

A. See RULES OF PLAY--SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12
B. The Williamson County Soccer Association shall provide a game ball to each recreational team at the beginning of the season. This ball must be used for scheduled games unless another is approved by the coaches and referee.
C. The ball shall be provided by the home team and shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the referee.
D. 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. Prior to the start of a season, the VP of Registrations and Uniforms may change the number of players on the field, the number of players on a team and the field size in any age group.
B. 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.
C. Each player shall play an equivalent of a half game in each match unless prevented from doing so by illness, injury, or ejection.
D. 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.
E. 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 injured player removed from the field of play by substitution may not return to the field of play during the quarter or half when such substitution was made. The coach must adhere to the half game play rule for all players when possible.

F. 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. 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 coach of a player receiving a red card or two yellow cards in the same game shall report the offending player to the VP of Officials and 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.

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 earrings or other jewelry are to be worn during the matches or practice.**
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 U10 matches may be conducted using only a center referee. U11 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 U11 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 quarters, there shall be a 2-minute break for substitutions after the 1st and 3rd quarter.
C. The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes.
D. There are no time outs except for a stoppage order by the referee.
E. U13 and U14 shall play 35-minute halves.
U15 and U16 shall play 40-minute halves.
U19 and up shall play 45-minute halves.
F. Time may be extended only for the taking of a penalty kick at the end of either half.
G. The referee has the authority to shorten or cancel the game in the event of inclement weather. If a game is in the 2nd half of the scheduled duration 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

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

Amendment to Law X-Scoring

A. See RULES OF PLAY--SMALL-SIDED GAMES for U5 through U12B. Both coaches for teams U11 and above MUST report the match score to their commissioner or to the office no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the game. Scores not reported within 48 hours of game time will be considered a forfeit for both teams and no points will be given for either team. The commissioner may at their discretion, grant an extension of time to report for up to one week. No scores reported after one week will be considered in the standings.

B. Scoring: Points for statistics will be as follows:
   1. Win: 6 points
   2. Tie: 3 points
   3. Shutout: 1 point
   4. Goal Differential: 1 point per goal (maximum of three).
   5. Forfeit: 10 points

C. If at the end of the season, two or more teams are tied for first place, a play-off game will be used to determine the first and second place teams. At the discretion of the VP of Play, a tie for first place may be allowed to stand and both teams awarded trophies for first place.
   If at the end of the season, two or more teams are tied for second place, the following order of breaking the tie will be used:
   1. Winner of head to head competition
   2. Highest number of wins
   3, Greatest goal differential (goals scored less goals against) with a maximum of (3) net goals per game.
   4. Fewest goals allowed.

D. If the schedule calls for teams to play each other multiple times, the first actual meeting shall be considered a scrimmage game and no points given. If each team plays each opponent equally, all games will count. Scrimmage games will not be considered in breaking ties.

E. At the discretion of the VP of Play, the division championship may be determined by single elimination playoff. Seeding in the playoff games will be determined by points earned in regular season divisional games.

Amendment to Law XI—Off Side

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.

B. For U13 and up, FIFA rules apply unless the game is played on a smaller field (see Amendment to Law I, item C.) For smaller field sizes if the goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks a ball in the air from his penalty area into the opponent's penalty area, the opponent gets an indirect free kick at the center spot on the mid-line.

Amendment to Law XIII—Free Kicks

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

Amendment to Law XIV—Penalty Kicks

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

Amendment to Law XV—Penalty Kicks

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

Amendment to Law XVI—Goal Kicks

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

Amendment to Law XVII—Corner Kicks

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.

Practices

Practice may begin only after the rosters are distributed. Practices may only be held with a coach or an assistant coach present. Practices are unlimited prior to the beginning of the season, and limited 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 U9 and above, teams are allowed only the coach and assistant coach on the sideline (on opposite side of parents where possible). Coaches will take position on the side of the halfway line their team is defending at the time of 1st kick-off. They shall remain on that original side for the duration of the game and shall not cross into the other coach's side.
B. A coach who is ejected from a game shall report to the appropriate Vice President of Play within 72 hours of ejection.

Postponements

Rescheduling a match between recreational teams can be done only for inclement weather, lack of referees, scheduling errors, or upon approval of the 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 by the VP of Officials.

Forfeits

A. If one team does not appear or does not have enough players to begin play (see amendment to Law III A) within 15 minutes after the scheduled game or field availability, the appearing team **MUST** take position on the field and kick a goal, at which time the referee will declare a 3-0 win. If no team arrives within 15 minutes with the correct number of players to start the match, both teams will be given a forfeit and no points will be given. If the forfeit is known in advance, the 3-0 win may be granted by the respective VP of Play.
B. The two teams may agree to scrimmage for the remaining scheduled time if the referee agrees.

Gender

Mixed gender teams shall not be formed without prior approval from the VP of Registration.