

# **WEST END SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **TRAVEL TEAM BY-LAWS**

**Revised 2009**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

1. The purpose of the travel team(s) is to provide skilled players a more competitive atmosphere to allow the progressive development of their skills and become a more proficient player.

### **TEAM MEMBERSHIP:**

1. The W.E.S.L. only sponsors travel teams from U-9 through U-19, boys or girls.
2. W.E.S.L. board approval must be obtained annually before any travel team (new or existing) will be sponsored by W.E.S.L. As a result, at least five (5) months prior to the start of games for the team (April 1<sup>st</sup> for fall teams and November 1<sup>st</sup> for spring teams), a written application for approval of the team to the Vice-President of Travel of W.E.S.L. and/or to the President of W.E.S.L. by the applying team's proposed head coach. This application must contain the names of the proposed head and assistant coaches and identify the names of at least eight (8) players (for a small-sided team) or at least eleven (11) players (for a large-sided team) that have expressed interest in playing for that team. W.E.S.L. has the right to reject the application of any travel team and/or the proposed coaches for any applying travel team for any legitimate reason.
3. Each team is required to have a head coach and an assistant coach, both of whom must fulfill the licensing requirements of the league to which they belong and must attend the vast majority of practices and games of the team. At least one coach shall attend each game and/or practice.
4. All coaches must be 21 years or older.
5. A roster for small-sided teams (8v8) may consist of no less than eight (8) active players. A roster for large-sided teams (11v11) may consist of no less than eleven (11) active players.
6. If a team wishes to form in the same age/gender group as an existing team, the list of interested players for the application shall not contain the names of any players that are on an existing W.E.S.L. Travel Team roster. If the application of that team is approved, during its first year of existence, it will not be permitted to roster any players from the existing team in the same age/gender group – except a child of the head or assistant coach for the new team or upon board approval. If two (2) teams in the same age/gender group can no longer be sustained, the coaches of the two (2) teams should try to work out a resolution. If the coaches cannot come to an agreement, the board will appoint a neutral committee to oversee the tryouts and consider player wishes and coaching qualifications to declare a single team and to appoint the coaching staff.
7. W.E.S.L. travel coaches shall be aware of and abide by the rules and regulations and policies of the travel league to which they belong. In most cases, that will be Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League (which can be located on [www.lvysl.org](http://www.lvysl.org) ).

## **PLAYER/SELECTION:**

1. Open tryouts must be held in the spring for all travel teams (new or existing) who intend to play in the fall season. Open tryouts must be held in the fall for any travel team that intends to play in the spring season, but did not play in the fall season. The Vice-President of Travel shall notify the travel team coaches of the precise requirements for these tryouts at least four (4) weeks in advance of tryouts (and usually before advertising this information to players). Tryouts for each team must be held on at least two (2) dates (fall season only), which should be announced at least two (2) weeks in advance of the dates. If a travel team does not have enough players to fill a roster after the two (2) tryout dates, additional tryouts must be held.
2. A player may play for both W.E.S.L. and the Pleasant Valley School District in the same season.
3. A player may request a release from his/her travel team provided that he/she has no outstanding obligations to his/her team, coach or W.E.S.L. (which obligations may include, but are not limited to, the need to fulfill minimum player roster requirements). In no event shall a player be entitled to a refund of his travel team registration fee if this request is received after June 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. No travel team coach may circulate fliers, announcements, and/or advertisements in schools or newspapers or any other forum regarding tryouts for travel teams without prior approval of the Vice-President of Travel. It is the overwhelming preference that W.E.S.L. develop and circulate a unified announcement for all travel teams (in order to increase the likelihood that all pertinent rules are being followed and to minimize inconvenience to the schools and the parents).
5. W.E.S.L. shall designate how the registration forms and fees for travel team players and coaches shall be collected by the Vice-President of Travel (in addition to establishing registration fees as set forth below). The Vice-President of Travel shall be responsible for making sure that players who are unsuccessful in their tryouts for fall travel teams have the opportunity to play intramurals. All monies shall be forwarded to the W.E.S.L. treasurer. Failure of a travel team player or coach to timely complete his or her registration paperwork or payment of registration fees shall result in that player being denied registration on a travel team for W.E.S.L.
6. The head coach of a team for West End Travel will list their child/children of the travel team as primary players, not secondary. If the coach wishes to have their child or children of a West End travel team play primary elsewhere, and secondary for the team they coach, then the coach will be replaced at that position and can assist the West End travel team that they were a part of, if the new head coach agrees. Prior to registering for the Fall/Spring season, he/she will need to have the approval of the board if these conditions are not met.
7. Secondary players shall have additional fees established by W.E.S.L. Further, it is strongly recommended that a player secure permission of the head coach of the player's primary team before becoming a secondary player for another team.
8. A player shall try out for the team that correlates to the cut-off dates for his/her travel team age group and gender as his/her primary team, unless:
  - (a) The player is in the same grade and/or participated in the same intramural age group as the majority of players on the team for which he/she wants to try out as his/her primary team;
  - (b) There is no team that is age and/or gender appropriate for the player (in which case, the player would be allowed to try out for the team that is closest to his/her age group and

gender); or

(c) The player is granted permission by the Vice-President of Travel (prior to the tryout) on the basis that he/she has demonstrated **excellence** at his age group and/or gender, such that he/she requires more challenging competition. The decision of the Vice-President of Travel (including the failure to timely make this decision) may be appealed (before tryouts) by the player or by any travel team with an interest.

8. W.E.S.L. travel players shall be aware of and abide by the rules and regulations and policies of the travel league to which they belong. In most cases, that will be Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League (which can be located on [www.lvysl.org](http://www.lvysl.org) ).

## **COACHES:**

1. All coaches shall display a sense of sportsmanship and promote sportsmanship to the players and parents of W.E.S.L. and to the coaches, players and parents of their opponents.
2. It is the responsibility of the coach to setup and properly line their assigned playing field in accordance with the schedule and/or dimensions established by the Vice-President of Travel.
3. The head coach must manage all aspects of his/her team, including but not limited to: following these Bylaws, securing appropriate representation at meetings called by the Vice-President of Travel, selecting players, organizing and conducting practices, instructing and managing the lineup at games, timely reporting games, entering tournaments, etc....
4. There will be a meeting of travel coaches at least twice a year, prior to the start of each season. Coaches of single season teams need only to attend the meeting prior to the start of their season, while coaches of all other teams must attend both meetings. Coaches may send a representative for the team if they are not able to attend, so long as they receive the advanced approval of the Vice-President of Travel. Attendance is mandatory.
5. Failure of coaches to follow these Bylaws and the rules, regulations or policies of the travel league in which his/her team is entered may result in the imposition of fines by the Vice-President of Travel. All such fines are the responsibility of the coach who has been fined. Failure to pay any fines may result in punitive action by W.E.S.L. A coach may appeal a fine to W.E.S.L., if done within one (1) week after receiving written notice of the fine.
6. Movement of a team to a travel league other than Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League will require written notice to the Vice-President of Travel at least four (4) months in advance of the season to be played and approval by W.E.S.L. The head coach will be responsible to attend all mandatory meetings within that league and must complete and submit his/her own registrations and paperwork required by the league.

## **UNIFORMS:**

1. The primary colors for W.E.S.L. travel team uniforms are yellow and black. The secondary uniforms' colors are white and black.
2. Each travel team player will be required to purchase the uniform approved by W.E.S.L. for that travel team and shall secure that uniform through the source(s) designated by W.E.S.L.

3. The last names of players will be allowed on the top back of shirts. The W.E.S.L. insignia/patch will be placed on the left chest of each uniform jersey. No team designations will be allowed.
4. All W.E.S.L. travel teams shall utilize the uniforms approved by W.E.S.L. for their respective teams and shall not purchase or utilize other uniforms without the approval of W.E.S.L.

## **PRACTICE AND GAMES:**

1. Practice time and frequency per week depends on the coach.
2. Player commitment to practice is important to their skill development. As long as a travel team player is regularly attending practices and is not injured, he/she shall play at least 25%, or a reasonable approximation thereof, of each game for his/her travel league. If a travel team coach wishes to play a player less than this amount of time, he/she must secure permission of the Travel Team Representative in advance of the game.
3. For game cancellations due to weather, W.E.S.L. travel coaches shall be aware of and abide by the rules and regulations and policies of the travel league to which they belong and shall coordinate rescheduling of games with the Vice-President of Travel.

## **TOURNAMENTS:**

1. W.E.S.L. will not pay the entry fees of any travel team for tournaments, although it will consider requests to pay the entry fees for EPYSA State Cup games.
2. Travel teams are permitted to represent the W.E.S.L. in EPYSA approved tournaments only. If a team wishes to travel out of the state, additional approvals must be obtained by both W.E.S.L. and EPYSA.

## **FUNDRAISERS:**

1. Fund raisers for travel teams must be approved in writing in advance by W.E.S.L. The fundraiser monies raised shall be turned over for deposit to W.E.S.L.'s Treasurer to place in the travel team's account.
2. Travel team players shall participate in fundraisers approved by W.E.S.L. for the benefit of W.E.S.L., as long as W.E.S.L. requests all intramural players to participate.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

1. Travel team coaches may request that W.E.S.L. reimburse them for equipment purchased for their team, so long as an appropriate receipt is presented and the coach agrees to donate the equipment to W.E.S.L. for its future use. However, it is recommended that travel team coaches seek approval of such expenses in advance of making the purchase.

## **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP:**

1. Corporate sponsorship of travel teams must be approved by W.E.S.L. in advance of accepting such monies. The 1<sup>st</sup> sponsor for each team will be funneled back into W.E.S.L. general fund. All other sponsors' monies will be held in reserve for that team. Teams are encouraged to get multiple sponsorships. The team coach may apply for reimbursement of team expenses (including tournament fees) against those funds. If the team dissolves, unused sponsorship funds will be turned over to the W.E.S.L. general fund.

## **TRAVEL TEAM FEE:**

1. The W.E.S.L. board will review the operating expense for the travel teams on an annual basis to determine if the annual fee is sufficient to cover the annual operating cost for the travel program. If any fee adjustment is considered, the W.E.S.L. treasurer will provide a detailed accounting of all expense and revenues associated with the travel program to the Vice-President of Travel two (2) months prior to a vote by W.E.S.L. on any fee adjustment, and the travel coaches will be given advance notice in order to have an opportunity to comment before passage of such an adjustment.

## **WEST END PATCHES:**

1. W.E.S.L. official patches may be purchased by travel team coaches from the Vice-President of Travel for tournaments where patches are exchanged. The monies collected will be turned over to W.E.S.L.'s Treasurer to offset the cost of purchasing additional patches.

## **CLOSING:**

The Vice-President of Travel has the right to execute all decisions of the W.E.S.L. soccer board, as it relates to travel soccer. The West End Soccer League Travel Team Bylaws are general guidelines to follow. W.E.S.L. may impose disciplinary actions or take other actions that are contrary to or not covered by these Bylaws, to the extent that a reasonable basis exists for doing so. Further, it should be noted that the rules, regulations and/or policies of your team's travel league or of EPYSA usually supersede these Bylaws (assuming a direct contradiction).