



## Western Suburban Soccer League

### Fall 2019 Clarifications (7/12/19)

#### **SafeSport Training**

U.S. Soccer (and consequently, MSYSA) is requiring that all board members, coaches, staff, team officials, referees and even players who are ages 18 or older **complete SafeSport training by 9/1/19**. The three-part child abuse training (Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education; Mandatory Reporting; Emotional and Physical Misconduct) takes about three hours to complete. Details are available at <https://www.safesoccer.com>. Those not in compliance risk being suspended by MSYSA per their Athlete & Participant Safety Program's Policy on Monitoring and Enforcement, found on page 25 here: <http://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org/AssetFactory.aspx?did=5513>. Details for accessing the training are at <http://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org/AssetFactory.aspx?did=5348>.

#### **WSSL Agendas/Minutes**

Starting with the 5/28/19 meetings, all agendas/minutes from all meetings (general, charter, DOC, executive board) will be posted on the WSSL website once approved at the next available meeting. Minutes will include informational statements/links and decisions of votes, not full dialogue of discussions.

#### **Game Cancellation Fines**

On 5/28/19, the WSSL executive board voted to impose a \$100 fine per game cancellation within 48 hours of kickoff, effective 7/1/19. Fines will increase \$50 per game within the same season (ie. \$150 second offense, \$200 third offense, etc.). This will be listed in Statute A of the WSSL Laws of the Game.

#### **Hybrid Fields**

Law 1 in the 2018-19 FIFA Laws of the Game allowed for fields with live grass centers and artificial turf penalty areas. The WSSL executive board decided on 5/13/19 to add a modification into the WSSL Laws of the Game that all fields used for WSSL games must be **one surface type throughout** and cannot be a hybrid split between the two surface types. A variety of safety and maintenance issues would stem from a split field surface, if allowed.

#### **U8 Roster Maximums**

Per MSYSA, U8 roster maximums must be decreased from eight to six players for the fall 2019 season.

#### **Guest Playing at True Ages**

On 5/28/19, the WSSL executive board voted to modify Statute C3 in the WSSL Laws of the Game to allow for a younger player to **guest play within their true age group** in cases where they may be rostered to an older age group. (Ex. A U12 player who is rostered to a U14 team can now guest play at their true U12 age.)

#### **FIFA 1/1/20 Law Changes**

The 2019-20 Laws of Game were adopted by FIFA to be effective 6/1/19 and include a large range of changes. The Michigan Referee Committee communicated on 7/12/19 that they are instructing referees statewide not to utilize the FIFA law changes until 1/1/20. Visit <http://www.theifab.com/laws> to view the full Laws of the Game used by FIFA. Some of the big ones to be aware of are listed below, along with some WSSL modifications the WSSL executive board has decided on; effective 1/1/20. Many other changes will be watched closely to see how they impact youth games.

- Law 3: Players subbing off can leave the field at the goal/touch line. Does not need to be sideline or halfline.
- Law 7: "Cooling" breaks (90 secs-3 min) and "drink" breaks (max 1 min) are specified.
- Law 8: Coin toss winner can choose to take the first kick or which goal to attack (this has already been in practice by many despite the law previously only saying to choose the goal to attack).
- Laws 8-9: Dropped balls will now be given to the goalkeeper in the penalty area or to the team who last contacted it outside the penalty area. Will no longer be NHL-style faceoffs.
- Laws 8-9: A ball hitting off a referee and into the goal will become a drop ball (no longer a goal as if the ref was a fifth goal post).
- Law 12: Lots of specifications on accidental handballs and what is/isn't a free kick.
- Law 13: Attackers must stay at least 1 yard away from walls of 3+ defenders.
- Law 14: The goalkeeper cannot be moving until the penalty kick is taken. The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; cannot stand with both feet behind the line. The WSSL executive board voted to **add a modification** to the WSSL Laws of the Game to allow goalkeepers to move side to side during penalty kicks, but both feet must be on the goal line. This keeps it operating the same as in the past.
- Law 16: Goal kicks are in play once kicked, not once they leave the penalty area.