



RULES & REGULATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

Rule 100: Northwest Champions League

The Northwest Champions League (“NWCL”) is administered by Northwest Champions, L.L.C. The NWCL is a US Club Soccer sanctioned league and a member of the United States Soccer Federation (“USSF”).

Rule 101: Territories

No club has exclusive territory rights in the NWCL.

Rule 102: Reference to Membership Agreement

Information concerning specific membership conditions for teams shall be found in the NWCL Affiliation Agreement, which is signed by the team and an officer of NWCL when the team is admitted into the league. League Affiliation Agreements are due on the date set by the league office each year.

Rule 103: Conditions for termination of team

Team affiliation and membership may be terminated as a result of a material default of a team or club’s Affiliation Agreement or due to violation of NWCL’s League Rules and Regulations as promulgated by the league office.

Rule 104: Conditions for competition in leagues

Following each season, the league office shall review the compliance record of each club and team. The committee may find that compliance with the standards is insufficient and recommend action to the league office. In extreme cases of repeated noncompliance the league office may terminate the affiliation of a club or team.

ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

Rule 200: Player Registration

Players shall be registered according to the procedures established by US Club Soccer.

Rule 201: Master Rosters

Individual teams may have a player pool of up to 22 players for the league season. There is no limit to the number of changes that can be made to the roster provided the players to be added or dropped are active in the team’s club and are not on the US Club Soccer roster of a team in a different club.

Rule 202: Game Day Rosters

Only 18 of 22 players may be used for matches. The 18 players must be on the official game roster given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. The 4 players not being played must have a line through their name on the roster or are otherwise identified on the roster as not being eligible for the particular game.

All players and coaches must present their US Club Player Identification Card to the referee prior to the match. If the individual's picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match.

Rule 203: Player Transfers

Players may only play for one Club during the league unless a transfer is approved by each club and the league office. Any player requesting a transfer between two clubs must serve at least a two week suspension before competing with the new team, unless both clubs agree and they notify the league of their agreement.

Rule 204: Illegal Players

Any player that does not appear on a team's US Club Soccer master roster shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit three points for each game to the opposing team against whom the illegal player was used. In addition, the offending team shall forfeit an additional three points in the standings.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Rule 300: Governance

All competition in the NWCL is governed by regulations approved by the league office and the Soccer Advisory Board.

Rule 301: Division Formation

Competitive divisions will be structured according to the playing level of teams as determined by the Soccer Advisory Board and the league office, which has final authority on all placement issues.

Rule 302: Playing Rules

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the NWCL which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/ USSF except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

Rule 303: The Playing Season

Each playing season schedule, which shall be determined by the league office, will be provided to teams no later than four weeks before the beginning of league play.

Rule 304: Point System

The NWCL shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. The breaking of ties in the final standings will be accomplished by applying the following criteria in order:

1. Head-to-head record based on total points in conference games
2. Total wins in conference games
3. Goal difference in conference games.
4. Goals scored in conference games.

5. Fewest goals allowed in conference games
6. Lottery conducted by the league office at the principal office of the league.

Rule 305: League Schedule

The league schedule is the responsibility of the league office. However, once the initial schedule is issued the teams may make changes to the schedule provided that all affected teams agree to the change. Every effort must be made to play all games. If teams are unable to agree on the date and time for a makeup game, the league office may re-schedule the game. Teams unwilling or unable to attend game will forfeit points from the game.

Rule 306: League Standings

The league office is responsible for maintaining official standings. The standings will be tabulated on a regular basis and displayed on the NWCL website located at www.northwestchampions.com. Home teams are responsible for reporting scores to the league office within 24 hours following the completion of each match.

Rule 307: Game Lengths

U12 play 2x35 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 4 ball | 11x11
U13 play 2x35 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U14 play 2x35 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U15 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U16 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U17 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11
U18 play 2x45 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

Rule 308: Substitutions

FIFA substitution rules apply, and unlimited substitution is permitted. A player may be substituted on at a stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.

Rule 309: League Discipline

The league office shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify players, team officials, or competing clubs for violating league rules or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the NWCL. The league office has the authority to act on behalf of the league regarding any breach of regulations or rules.

The sending off of a player (i.e., red card) will result in a minimum of a one game suspension. A send off as a result of two cautions will result in the player being suspended for the next match. If a player is sent off during the weekend, the player may not play the remainder of the weekend. Games sat out that weekend can count against the suspension, as long as noted on the Roster and/or Referee Game Report as such.

The home team shall notify the league office within 24 hours of the send off. The offending player's card can be returned to the team as long as the Referee Game Report shows the infraction, the player's name and number.

Rule 310: Incomplete Games

In the event a game cannot be completed, the game will count in the standings if half the game was completed. If there is no result and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be repeated at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with the league office.

Rule 311: No-Shows/ Forfeits

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up at a scheduled game. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- A forfeit to the opposing team and additional loss of three points.
- One no show may result in team being terminated at the discretion of the league.
- The accumulation of two no-shows in a season shall result in the team's termination of the league.
- A forfeit will result in a 3-0 win to the team not at fault.

A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, inclement weather or other circumstance beyond the team's control should immediately notify the opposing team and the league office. Each situation shall be reviewed by the league office, which shall enter a decision.

GAME OFFICIALS

Rule 400: Match Officials

All matches will use referees certified by the United States Soccer Federation.

Rule 401: Assignment and Payment

Match officials shall be assigned by the league's Referee Assignor and paid by the home team prior to the start of each match.

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Rule 500: General Authority

The league office shall have the authority to suspend, fine or disqualify players, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules or for any action or conduct deemed by the league office not in the best interest of soccer or the NWCL.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

Rule 600: Team Management Requirements

Each team must have a team manager that has agreed to perform the following duties:

1. Pay referees on game day;
2. Report scores of home games to the league scoreline; and
3. Communicate with managers from opposing teams and the league office.

During the term of the season, all team managers must have a working email address and a telephone number with voice mail.

Rule 601: Playing Venues

The playing field used by each team must be lined according to FIFA standards with goals, nets and flags.

Rule 602: Bench Personnel

A maximum of 4 non-playing personnel are allowed on each team bench.

Rule 603: Score Reports

The home team will report the score of each match to the league office, in such format as the league shall prescribe, within 24 hours of the completion of the game.

GAME PROCEDURES**Rule 700: Exchange of Game Sheet**

Each team must give the opposing team and the referee a roster at least 10 minutes prior to each game.

Rule 701: Official Game Sheet

The home team shall give the official Game Sheet to the Referee before the game. The referee shall complete the Game Sheet and have it signed by a coach from each team. The home team will keep and file the Game Sheet for future reference, unless a red card is issued. If a red card is issued, the home team must submit the Game Sheet to the league office within 24 hours via fax or e-mail.

UNIFORMS AND PLAYER SAFETY**Rule 800: Uniforms**

When the colors of two competing teams are similar to the point of confusion during play, as judged by the referee, the home team shall change shirts. In the event that a team's uniform conflicts with the uniform of the referee and the referee elects not to change, the conflicting team **MUST** change to its alternate uniform.

Rule 801: Player Safety

A player may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to herself or another player, including jewelry in accordance with FIFA Law IV. Shin guards are mandatory for all players in all league events.

CODE OF CONDUCT**Rule 900: General Principles**

Please use common sense and courtesy. Respect the game of soccer and do not damage the reputation of the NWCL, US Club Soccer, USSF, your club, your team, yourself or your family. Be reasonable, respectful and flexible.

Rule 901: Scandalous Conduct

The league office may suspend for an indefinite period and/or impose a fine on any officer, director, player, or employee of a member club guilty of gross misbehavior in public, including intoxication, drug use, fighting, indecency, or other scandalous conduct whether on or off the playing field when such conduct is, in the league's opinion, prejudicial to the best interests of the sport of soccer or the NWCL.

GOVERNANCE

Rule 1000: Board of Directors

The members of Northwest Champions, L.L.C. manage, oversee and implement policy for the NWCL.

Rule 1001: Soccer Advisory Board

The NWCL Soccer Advisory Board is appointed by Northwest Champions, L.L.C. and is composed of representatives from participating clubs. The Soccer Advisory Board will be responsible for providing guidance and direction over the composition of the NWCL and its competitive format.

MATTERS NOT ADDRESSED

Matters not addressed or provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the league office. All decisions shall be final.