



Regional Club Code of Conduct

1.1 Introduction

The Regional Club Charter is a commitment between Washington Youth Soccer, a member Association, and a chartered Regional Club to work together to serve the highest level of development and play, and improve the quality of development across the association.

- (a) The Washington Youth Soccer Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents.
- (b) The Regional Club Charter Clubs have qualified by the criterion and are comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with Washington Youth Soccer Member Associations or Districts, provided such Clubs and their teams, Academies, Associations or Districts are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and that the team is in compliance with and has not violated any of the rules of Washington Youth Soccer.
- (c) Ethical violations are treated as more grievous offenses and subject to censure and possible disbarment at both an individual and club level. All clubs are encouraged to consider the behavior of all adults within their organization as role model specific.

2.1 Ethics Policies

The purpose of this league is to set the highest standards to develop youth players to their fullest potential – both physically and emotionally. As such, participants must conduct themselves to that same highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this group of chartered clubs - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat. All participants in Regional Clubs and the Regional Club League (RCL) are members of Washington Youth Soccer and therefore must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules and policies as well as to their intent. All coaches, managers, players and spectators will adhere to the Regional Club Code of Conduct and the Washington Youth Soccer Code of Ethics (Rule 608).

In addition to those stated bylaws, rules and policies, adult members of the Regional Clubs shall abide by the following:

1. Will not recruit players – the definition of “recruit” for purposes of this league shall be: Approaching a player who is registered to and actively playing for another team within Washington Youth Soccer, and asking them to either try-out or play for any other team, without first receiving prior written permission from the players’ current coach – even for purposes of guest play. (Email is considered acceptable “written permission”). The only “open period” is the week between the state final and the start of tryouts for their gender/age group, and only during this week, players may ask to attend trainings other

teams may be holding. The practices may not be advertised. There can only be two practices per team. The player must initiate interest and the coach should have an email thread from the player(or parents) expressing their interest. They must have this prior to a player coming to a practice. If a player/parent calls the coach, they can talk and agree to them joining a training session, but must email them as well. Players cannot be given spots at the practices though relative levels of interest from both parties can be expressed. ;

2. Will not acquire teams from outside their club (club mergers, in which boards are combined under advisement of the Regional Club Subcommittee, and rules, developmental plans, resources and players are brought together in one Association, or Association mergers that accomplish the same task, are not considered individual team acquisitions);
3. Will not engage in behavior so as to be suspended, by any Washington Youth Soccer or RCL disciplinary body, and/or acquire enough accumulated disciplinary points so as to be required to stand before any Washington Youth Soccer or RCL disciplinary body;
4. Will not unnecessarily hamper the playing of any scheduled match at its originally scheduled time and place, or cause undue hardship should the re-schedule of a match become necessary;
5. Will encourage players to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during, or after any sanctioned match or practice;
6. Will not accept players from another club who have outstanding fees to another member of Washington Youth Soccer without appropriate documentation as described in the RCL rules;
7. Will not hire a coach from another Regional Club and allow said coach to coach the same age and gender of his/her previous association without prior approval from the DOC's of both Regional Clubs. Regional Clubs may not hire coaches from other Washington Youth Soccer organizations into the same age and gender groups they coached at non-Regional clubs;
8. Will not practice outside of their Association boundaries without prior approval from the Association and Regional Club DOC that resides in that area;
9. No coach/player will have in his/her possession, or consume, alcoholic beverages or tobacco during any RCL competition or training.

(In the Operating Procedures doc)

2.3 Code of Conduct Violation Procedures

Upon receipt of an allegation of violation of this code of conduct on the part of a Regional Club, the Committee will first request that the involved clubs attempt to resolve the conflict. If resolution cannot be reached, the Committee will render an investigation that will review all participants and present the evidence to the Committee. If the Committee finds evidence or sufficient cause to believe the allegations to be true, a letter of review will be sent to the offending club. On a 2 year cumulative, any club receiving 3 letters of warning will be automatically reviewed and club officials, including the DOC, will be asked to attend a hearing by the Committee. The club at that time will be placed in probation. Subsequent violations for one year following the hearing will result in review and remediation to address the specific issues, including leadership. This review will be facilitated by Washington Youth Soccer, the Regional Club subcommittee, and the local association.

2.4 Disputing Misconduct Reports

- (a) All protests must be handled according to the published Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition.

Regional Club Members alleged to be in violation of these, or any other stated USSF, USYSA, or Washington Youth Soccer Codes of Ethics will be required to stand before the Regional Club Subcommittee (RCS) who will act as the Code of Conduct Violation Committee. Allegations of code of conduct violations will be made in accordance with USSF, USYSA, and Washington Youth Soccer bylaws and operating procedures, with a copy sent to the Chair of the Regional Club Subcommittee. A written decision of suspension by a Washington Youth Soccer disciplinary body is automatically considered to be a written allegation of a Regional Club Code of Conduct Violation.

Notification of Receipt

I, _____, have read completely and understand this Code of Conduct as presented and will adhere to it as instructed by the Director of Coaching.

President/ Executive Director: _____ **Date** _____

DOC/Technical Director Signature: _____ **Date** _____