



WAKE WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULEBOOK  
AND FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

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## **Wake Women's Soccer League**

The documentation of the Rules and Policies were created by the Wake Women's Soccer League (WWSL) in August 2023 and updated in March 2025. WWSL follows FIFA Laws of the Game with the following additions and exceptions.

If you have a specific question about a rule, its interpretation, or application, please email [info@wvsleague.com](mailto:info@wvsleague.com)

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## **STATEMENT OF WWSL POLICY**

All divisions are sanctioned by WWSL through the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association (NCASA) under the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) and shall be governed by the Wake Women's Soccer League Rulebook. Scheduled games shall be in compliance with "The Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA (Federation International de Football Association) and modified in accordance with USSF (United States Soccer Federation), NCASA (North Carolina Adult Soccer Association), and WWSL rules.

Only violations of the WWSL Rulebook, or misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" shall be proper subjects of protests or appeals. No protest will be upheld when the dispute involves the judgment of the referee. All protests must be in writing and addressed to the WWSL. Any individual who is consistently in conflict with the "Laws of the Game" may be suspended from further participation in WWSL, pending review by the WWSL Discipline and Appeals Committee.

## WAKE WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

### 1. Purpose and Responsibilities

The Wake Women's Soccer League (WWSL) has been established for the purpose of providing soccer playing opportunities for women athletes in our community. WWSL seeks to promote safe and fair competition.

### 2. Players' Responsibilities

- Practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game.
- Wear the proper equipment.
- Adhere to the rules of the game and respect the decisions of the game officials.

### 3. Referees' Responsibilities

- Maintain proper USSF certification, including recertification courses yearly.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match providing each team captain with at least a 5-minute warning of the match's start time.
- Be an example of sportsmanship showing the same respect and consideration that you expect.
- Maintain control and stay focused on each match, calling it in a fair and impartial manner. Be consistent in all decisions.
- Ensure that the game is played safely, fairly, for the maximum enjoyment of the players, as well as the spectators, with as little interference by the referee as possible.
- Prior to the game, ensure that the field of play is safe for the players, and that the goals and markings are sufficient for the referee to perform his essential duties.
- Prior to the game, ensure that both teams' players have the appropriate credentials per NCASA and WWSL rules, including photo rosters.
- Ensure that all players have the proper uniform and equipment, especially shin guards, and are not wearing anything which might be dangerous.
- Have a thorough knowledge of all WWSL rules of the game.

## LAWS OF THE GAME

### 1. Law I: The Field of Play

WWSL is guided by the FIFA Laws of the Game in relation to the metrics of soccer fields. Soccer can be played on either grass or artificial turf. The field must be rectangular in shape, and distinctly marked by two short goal lines and two long-touch lines. The field is divided into halves, separated by the halfway line, which runs from the midpoints of each touchline. At the midpoint of the halfway line is a marked center point surrounded by a lined center circle with a radius of 10 yards. Opposing players are not allowed to enter this circle during the possessing team's kick-off. The length of the touch line must be

greater than the length of the goal line.

- Regulation lengths: Touch line: Minimum 90 meters (100 yards), maximum 120 meters (130 yards). Goal line (width): Minimum 45 m (50 yds), maximum 90 m (100 yds).
- At each end of the field is an eight-yard-wide goal centered along the goal line.
- Six yards from each goal post along the goal line and six yards out into the field (perpendicular to the goal line) is the goal box.
- Extending 18 yards from each goal post along the goal line and 18 yards out into the field (perpendicular to the goal line) is the penalty box.
- In each of the four corners of the field is a five-foot-high corner flag.

## 2. **Law II: The Ball**

The game ball must be size 5. The home team shall provide the game ball. The home team shall supply at least one, and up to three balls, to the referee. However, the referee may choose to use any ball that is acceptable which is offered by either team. WWSL is not responsible for game balls should they be lost or stolen.

## 3. **Law III: Number of Players**

The number of players is eleven (11). One (1) goalkeeper and ten (10) field players. Each team shall designate a team captain who is the team's representative and who may address an official on matters of interpretation and/or obtain essential information.

### A. **Game Time Roster Minimum**

- The minimum number of players to start the game is seven (7) players.
- If a team has fewer than seven (7) rostered players five minutes past the start of game time, the match will be deemed to be forfeit.
- In the event of a forfeit, teams are encouraged to share players and play a small-sided scrimmage.
- The forfeit score is 3-0.

### B. **Borrowing Players**

If a team has the requisite seven (7) rostered players to avoid a forfeit to begin the game, the team is encouraged to use substitute players and/or guest players to field a full team.

In order to ensure fairness and consistency, *the majority of players on the field must be made up of players rostered to their respective team.* Teams must abide by these substitution maximums:

If a team has 7 players from their own team to begin the game, the team may borrow up to a maximum of 6 players for a total of 13.

If a team has 8 players from their own team to begin the game, the team may borrow up to a maximum of 5 players for a total of 13.

If a team has 9 players from their own team to begin the game, the team may borrow up to a maximum of 4 players for a total of 13.

If a team has 10 players from their own team to begin the game, the team may borrow up to a maximum of 3 players for a total of 13.

If a team has 11 or more players from their own team to begin the game, the team may borrow up to a maximum of 2 substitute players.

#### C. Substitute Players

- A substitute player **MUST** be rostered onto another Wake Women's Soccer League team for the current season.
- The player must have a current, valid NCASA player pass.
- The player must meet the age requirement for the division, or be eligible for an exception spot that is unfilled on the roster. There is no such age limit for goal keepers.
- Currently, the borrowed player does not need to be added to the official game roster, but the maximum substitution player rules apply.
- Substitute players are not allowed in the end-of-season tournament games.

#### D. Guest Players

- Guest players are players not on any WWSL team roster who play as substitutes at the request of a team captain. WWSL allows for guest players based on the following specific criteria:
- Guest players must meet the age requirements of the division that they play for or be eligible for an unfilled exception spot.
- Guest goal keepers must be at least 26 by the end of the current year.
- Guest player registration must be completed online prior to the game start such that the team captain can create a roster showing the guest as a valid player for the game.
- Guest players must have (or purchase at registration) a current NCASA player pass.
- Guest players are not allowed in the end-of-season tournament games.

#### E. Player Substitution Rules During Games

The number of player substitutions shall be unlimited. Once the referee acknowledges the desire for a substitution, the referee will indicate permission for one to be made. Before the substitution may enter the field of play, the player she is replacing must be completely off the field of play or she must be beckoned onto the field by the referee. Substitutes shall enter the field at midfield.

Substitution is allowed only with the permission of the referee at the following times:

- On throw-in either team may substitute *if the team taking the throw-in substitutes.*
- On goal-kick (either team may substitute)
- After a goal is scored (either team may substitute)
- At half-time (either team may substitute)
- When referee stops play for an injury (either team may substitute)
- After a caution, only the cautioned player(s) and a like number from the opposing team

NOTE: When, in the opinion of the referee, a team substitutes to consume time (time wasting tactics), the referee can deny permission to substitute and/or warn the coach of the offending team that any repetition may be construed as Unsporting Behavior and will be punished accordingly (cautioned).

#### 4. Law IV: Players' Equipment

The referee shall not permit any player to wear equipment in his or her judgment, that is dangerous or confusing to other players. This includes, but is not limited to, items, such as: A) a cast or brace made of hard or unyielding leather, plaster, pliable (soft) plastic, metal or any other hard substance. B) head decorations, headwear and hats: exception: headbands made of nonabrasive unadorned cloth, fiber, soft leather or rubber may be worn.

Medical ID medallions that are securely taped to the chest or medical id bracelets that are taped to the wrist in such a manner that a finger cannot be caught under it are acceptable.

No jewelry or metal hair clips are allowed (use plain rubber bands). No hard billed hats or helmets, other than soccer goalie helmets, are allowed. No hard elbow or knee pads are allowed.

Casts, splints, etc.: Prior to the game, the coach should ask the referee to inspect the player to permit time for padding. If the cast, splint, etc. (even after padding) will interfere with opposing player(s), the referee may remove the player or not permit her to participate. It is suggested that casts be wrapped in foam rubber or like material secured in place with an Ace bandage. Do not use metal clips in the bandage. Finger nails should be trimmed.

If, in the judgment of the referee, a player is not in full compliance with the Laws set forth above, such player shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. Unless her team would normally be allowed to substitute at this time, her team must play short. After correcting the deficiency, the player may report to the referee at a substitution opportunity. The referee will then check her equipment and decide whether to allow her to return to the match.

#### Uniforms

- Teams are responsible for providing their own uniforms.
- Players on each team shall wear matching, numbered shirts or jerseys.
- Substitute players shall also wear a numbered jersey matching the jersey color of the team.
- Numbers should be a minimum of 6 inches in height and visible on the back of the shirts.
- Teams are encouraged to purchase reversible jerseys or two sets of shirts (light and dark) to manage uniform color conflicts
- The home team is responsible to change jerseys in cases of color conflict.
- Trading shirts during substitutions is prohibited
- Matching shorts and socks are encouraged, but are not required
- Players must wear shin guards, shorts, and shoes.
- No player will be allowed to play without shin guards.

#### 5. Law V: Referees

- Shall arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.
- The referee shall report all match results, including all cautions and/or dismissals and injuries, through the Arbiter. Match reports should be submitted within 48 hours of the match or else delinquency will be reported to the assignor.
- In case of Send-Off, or any other serious incident (such as a terminated game or serious injury), a supplemental report must be submitted with the particulars. The supplemental report must contain the date, time and location of the match, the name of the teams, and as much information as possible of the incident. This includes the name of the players or coaches involved (as appropriate), name of witnesses (if any), detail description of what happened, what was the punishment (if any), and how the game was restarted.
- Shall enforce the laws of the game. Inspect and approve field, goals, lines, match ball(s), as well as player's attire and equipment.
- Should Inspect and approve valid colored photo team rosters (black and white rosters accepted on emergency basis as long as player photos are clear). In the event a valid roster cannot be presented, the team will forfeit the match.



- The match will have equal time for both halves. Match time will start with the referee fully prepared to officiate, on the field and in close proximity to the center of the field.
- Should allow play to continue, if in the opinion of the referee, it gives an advantage to the team with the ball by not calling that foul. However, if the advantage that was anticipated does not develop at that time, the referee shall penalize the original offense.
- Can stop or terminate the game due to weather conditions or outside interference that would endanger the safety of the participants, and in the event of severe misconduct by players, coaches or spectators.
- Shall allow coaching from the bench area provided that it is not abusive or derogatory and the tone of voice is informative and encouraging.
- In case a team official, field player, bench personnel, or spectator should make derogatory remarks or gestures, use profanity or incite disruptive behavior of any kind aimed at the officials, other players, or opposing spectators, the penalty shall be at the sole discretion of the referee and, depending on the severity of the infraction, can be in the form of immediate dismissal from the field area without prior warning.
- The three-man system of refereeing shall be used for all matches in accordance with state affiliation rules. Under no circumstances shall a 2 referee, two whistle system be used. If enough officials are not present, “club” linesmen shall be used.
- In the event of a forfeited game, the referee must still submit a match report form with the notation which team(s) did not show up or other reason for the forfeit. The same procedure shall apply to a match that is “Terminated” prior to the normal expiration of time.
- If no officials are present for the match, captains should inquire if there are any licensed officials among the spectators. If not, by mutual agreement, a captain or player should act as referee. If so desired, a person from one team can referee the first half and a person from the other team, the second half. The WWSL office should be notified that no referees were present so the reason can be investigated. This match will not be counted toward the standings; consequently a match report need not be turned in unless there is a case of an injury. The League Registrar, with input from the Team Captains, will make every attempt to reschedule the game as soon as possible.
- Referees shall enforce the following rules:  
All spectators must be 5 feet back from the touchline.  
All spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field from the player benches.  
The only personnel permitted on the sidelines are players, one head coach, and up to 2 assistant coaches.

## **6. Law VI: Assistant Referees**

Two (2) Assistant Referees shall officiate each game along with one (1) Center Referee. If one or both assistant referees are not present, the referee shall ask the team captains to provide a club linesman/lineswoman. As it is necessary to maintain a three-person system of officiating, the referee will advise the club linesperson of the proper method of determining when a ball is out of play. Only if it can be determined that a club linesman is a USSF certified referee will the linesman serve as a full official.

In the event of misconduct or interference on the part of the club linesmen or assistant referees, the referee shall dismiss the offending official(s) and select alternates.

## **7. Law VII: Duration of the Game**

Games are 70 minutes in length (2 x 35 minute halves) may be lengthened or shortened by WWSL. Periods may also be shortened if mutually agreed upon by the captains prior to the match start; or, in an emergency, ordered and communicated by the referee to both team captains before the start of the match or half.

Water breaks can be given, provided the referees and captains agree prior to, or during match.

A game shall be forfeited if:

- A team is more than five (5) minutes late and has not notified the opponent of an emergency, causing it to be late; (the referee will determine the amount of available game time left when the late team is ready to play and play the appropriate periods of equal length so as not to delay the start of the subsequent matches);
- A team refuses to play after having been instructed to do so by the referee;
- A team has fewer than seven (7) players at the start or during the game.
- The score of a forfeited match shall be 3-0.

## **8. Law VIII: The Start and Restart of Play**

The start of the game shall be determined by a toss of a coin, and the team which wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick off to start the match.

Play shall be started by a kick-off at the center of the field after the referee's signal.

At half-time, ends will be changed and the kick-off will be by a player of the opposite team that started the game.

## **9. Law IX: Ball In and Out of Play**

If the ball completely leaves the field of play in the air, and re-enters the field of play without touching the ground, it is still out of play at the moment that it completely left the field.

On fields where soccer and football goals are used, if the ball rebounds off that part of the goal structure that is not part of the soccer goal, the ball shall be considered out of play as if it had completely crossed the goal line.

The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish unless it has been stopped by the referee.

## **10. Law X: Method of Scoring**

In case of a tie at the end of a match, unless specific tournament rules are in effect, the score shall stand. No overtime and/or penalty shots will be used. Such game shall be scored as a "draw."

## **11. Law XI: Off-Side**

A player is not judged to be off-side when he receives the ball, but at the moment when the ball is passed to him by one of his teammates; therefore, a player does not become off-side if he goes forward during the flight of the ball. Even if an assistant referee should signal for off-side, the center referee has the final decision on whether or not to stop play.

## **12. Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct**

The decision on whether or not to call any foul rests with the referee. The referee in rendering his decision will judge the player's intent only for handling the ball. Any of the direct kick fouls occurring within the penalty area by a defending player will result in a penalty kick.

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card for committing any of the following seven offenses:

### **1. Unsporting behavior (Examples only and not a complete list)**

- Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner (for example, charging, pushing, tripping)
- Commits a tactical foul designed to interfere with or impede an opposing team's attacking play (e.g., pushing an opponent, blatantly holding an opponent or an opponent's uniform, handling the ball deliberately)
- Handles the ball deliberately to score a goal
- Commits an act which, in the opinion of the referee, shows a lack of respect for the game (e.g., aggressive attitude, inflammatory behavior, or taunting)
- Interferes with or prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands into play
- Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- Makes unauthorized marks on the field.

Mandatory cautions:

- Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in
  - Changes jerseys with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (both players must be cautioned)
  - Engages in trickery to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)
  - Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner while tackling for the ball from any direction
  - Fakes an injury or exaggerates the seriousness of an injury
  - Fakes a foul (dives) or exaggerates the severity of a foul
2. Shows dissent by word or action (DT)
    - Verbally or through action disputes or shows contempt for an official's decision
    - If playing as a goalkeeper, leaves the penalty area (not beckoned by the referee) to engage an official in debate regarding a decision
  3. Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game (PI)
    - Repeatedly fouls or participates in a pattern of fouls directed at an opponent
    - Violates Law 14 again, having previously been warned
    - If playing as goalkeeper, wastes time, having previously been warned or penalized for this behavior
  4. Delays the restart of play (DR)
    - Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a free kick restart by an opponent
    - Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a throw-in or corner kick by an opponent
    - Fails to restart play after being instructed to do so by the referee or hinders the restart of play
    - Excessively celebrates a goal
    - Fails to return to the field upon conclusion of the midgame break, fails to perform a kick-off when signaled to do so by the referee, or fails to be in a correct position for a kick-off
  5. Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick (FRD)
    - Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's free kick
    - Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's corner kick
  6. Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission (E)
    - After having previously been given permission by the referee to leave the field due

- to an injury
- After having previously been instructed to leave the field due to bleeding or blood on the uniform

Mandatory cautions: Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission

- Having previously been substituted (unless the rules of competition allow such return)
- After having previously been instructed to leave the field to correct equipment
- As a substitute, without having received a signal to do so by the referee

7. Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission (L)

- To place an opponent in an apparent offside position
- Other than through the normal course of play

The actions listed above assist in defining the scope of the basis for a caution and can provide a useful guide in identifying the specific behavior which the Laws of the Game consider unacceptable. It is critical, however, for Referees to distinguish between those relatively few actions for which a caution is mandated by the Laws of the Game and the remaining actions for which a caution is discretionary.

Sending-Off Offenses:

A player is sent off and shown the red card for committing any of the following seven offenses:

- is guilty of serious foul play (SFP)
- is guilty of violent conduct (VC)
- spits at an opponent or any other person (S)
- denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within her own penalty area) (DGH)
- denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick (DGF)
- uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (AL)
- receives a second caution in the same match (2CT)

Any player, coach, bench personnel or spectators Sent Off must leave the playing field vicinity and may not interfere or interact in any way with the players for the rest of the game.

Coaches, bench personnel or spectators sent off are not actually shown a card. However, the referee is within his authority to ask these persons to leave in an effort to control the match. If

the person sent off was a FIELD player at the time of the incident, then her team cannot replace her on the field (Substitution for the player sent off is not allowed). If the player was part of the bench at the time of the incident, then her team will not be required to play short.

A player or coach who is Sent Off is disqualified from the rest of the current match, and at a minimum the next scheduled match. If the incident is particularly serious in nature, the WWSL Discipline and Appeals committee may extend the disqualification period.

Any person found guilty of actions of un-necessary violence will be disqualified for a period of one year plus other remedies that the WWSL Discipline and Appeals committee, NCASA, or NCSRA deems appropriate.

The team is responsible for the behavior of spectators who support her team. If, after a referee warning, the team will not or cannot control the spectator, the referee may Send Off the team captain, spectator, and/or terminate the match resulting in a forfeit for the offending team, as provided in Law V.

Should the Sending Off be the result of infractions such as insulting the referee, threatening the referee, attempting or making obscene gestures, or making damaging or insulting remarks concerning other players, spectators or referees, the individual may, in addition to the above disqualification, be suspended pending further review of the WWSL Discipline and Appeals committee.

Physical Violence, whether between players or aimed at officials or coaches, will not be tolerated. Any person engaging in any incident of this kind will be required to appear in person before the WWSL Discipline and Appeals committee, which has discretionary power to determine what further penalty should be imposed.

Any appeal of a decision made by the WWSL Discipline and Appeals committee may be directed to the NCASA Discipline and Appeals committee.

**13. Law XIII: Free-Kick**

Follows all FIFA rules without any additions or exceptions.

**14. Law XIV: Penalty-Kick**

Penalty kicks are only awarded for direct free kick offenses that occur within the defensive penalty area by the defending team.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

The kicker must make a smooth and uninterrupted approach to the ball (trying to “fake” the goalie by trickery is considered Unsporting Behavior).

**15. Law XV: Throw-In**

A re-throw will be taken if the ball does not enter the field of play. There is no off-side on

a throw-in. The throw-in must be taken within one (1) yard of where the ball left the field. If in doubt, the player should ask the referee or assistant referee where to take the throw.

**16. Law XVI: Goal-Kick**

Follows all FIFA rules without any additions or exceptions.

**17. Law XVII: Corner-Kick**

There is no off-side directly from a corner-kick (the corner kick ends when the ball is touched by another player.

**SUPPLEMENTAL WAKE WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE POLICIES**

Age Requirement Policy

Division age requirements are as follows:

- 30+ division is open to players of a minimum age of 30. Exemption: Each team may have 2 players age 26-29.
- 40+ division is open to players of a minimum age of 40. Exemption: Each team may have 2 players age 35-39.
- Age refers to player age as of December 31, 2025.

Code of Conduct Policy

I am a proud member of WWSL and will always conduct myself in a manner that reflects the highest honor and respect for me, my team, my league and the game of soccer. I agree to and will adhere to the following standards on and off the field of play:

- Learn, understand the spirit of, and abide by WWSL and NCASA Rules and Policies and FIFA Laws of the Game or be subject to disciplinary actions including suspension or dismissal from the league.
- Practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game of soccer.
- Show respect to officials and abide by their decisions.
- Show respect to my teammates and opponents and not instigate confrontations or retaliate by the use of physical force or verbal abuse or gestures.
- Respect the rights of others, including spectators, by using appropriate language.
- Uphold values which will eliminate discrimination by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, color, religion or disability.

- Abide by facility rules and regulations including but not limited to no alcohol, no drugs, no smoking, no pets, no firearms and no trash on the premises.
- Value my Team Captain as the representative for the team.
- Win or lose the game with dignity, congratulate my opponent, thank the officials and not blame others for the result.
- Promote soccer and be an ambassador to the game through positive actions.

### Discipline and Appeals Policy

FIFA and Wake Women's Soccer League (WWSL) rules will be used as a guide in determining player suspensions or other sanctions. WWSL reserves the discretion to provide increased suspensions and other sanctions based on player misconduct.

**An automatic one game suspension, as a minimum, will be issued for two yellow cards or a straight red card.**

When a player receives a card during or related to conduct at a WWSL match, the WWSL office will issue a suspension or other sanction of future playing time or privileges by email to the said player and the team captain within six days of the player receiving the card (provided that the WWSL office received written notification from the official within 48 hours of the match where the player was issued a card).

Additional sanctions may be required for more serious player misconduct such as red card infractions for Violent Conduct. As these types of incidents often require additional review time, the WWSL office will notify the player and the team captain of the automatic minimum one game suspension and will inform them that additional penalties may be warranted pending review. WWSL will have an additional fourteen days for review and to issue additional sanctions. While the incident is under review, the said player may not participate in WWSL matches.

When a WWSL player receives a suspension or other sanction during or related to conduct at a WWSL match, said player may appeal his/her suspension or its severity to the WWSL Discipline and Appeals Committee (D&A) per the following rules and procedures:

- **A player may file a Notice of Appeal for a suspension of more than one match.**
- The Notice of Appeal must be submitted by the player's team captain/coach.
- In the event the team captain/coach was not present for the match or competition in question, then the team captain/coach in charge of the team at the time of the match or competition must file the appeal;
- The Notice must be in writing by email to [info@wvsleague.com](mailto:info@wvsleague.com)
- The Notice must be received by the league within 48 hours of said player and team captain receiving notice by email from WWSL of the sanction issued for the suspension.
- The Notice must be accompanied with a \$25.00 non-refundable filing fee.



WWSL will review the Notice of Appeal within seven days of receiving the Notice. While the suspension is under appeal, the said player may not participate in WWSL matches.

In the event an appellant wishes to expedite an appeal with a determination within five business days, said appeal must be accompanied by an additional \$50.00 expedite fee. In the event an appellant's suspension is overturned, the fee for an expedited appeal (only) will be refunded.

A player appealing a sanction may present a written statement as well as statements from two additional witnesses in support of his/her appeal to the D&A. Any such statements should be submitted to the League Registrar along with the Notice of Appeal.

In reviewing an appeal the D&A may contact any and all appropriate persons for information regarding the matter appealed. While statements will be taken from appellant and witnesses, testimony will only be required where D&A feel such will aid any understanding of the facts and circumstances of the incident or conduct in question;

WWSL reserves the right to suspend players or coaches from participation in league matches pending a hearing on sanctions. Where WWSL investigates conduct involving abuse of a referee, assault on a referee, or serious bodily injury to player(s) or person(s) associated with a WWSL match or event, D&A may request appearance of a player and/or coach at said sanctions hearings to answer questions related to said conduct or incident.

#### Field Use Policy

No alcohol, pets, smoking or firearms are permitted at any field. Follow all park rules at each field.

All trash must be picked up and thrown away. A Security Clean Up Bond will be required if teams cannot clean up after themselves.

Field space is at a premium and violation of facility rules may result in suspension of field rental privileges or fines.

#### Game Day Requirements Policy

Pre-Game:

- Both captains must present a game roster to the Center Referee. This may be an electronic document (e.g. jpg or pdf) provided to the referees; or a printed color, photo Game Day Roster. Several people should have a copy of your roster.
- The referee has the right to ask for additional photo ID if there is any question about the identity of a player.
- If player jersey numbers are not printed on the roster, the captain may hand write the numbers in.

#### Player Check-In Pre-Game:

- Players will line up for check in so that the officials can check uniforms, jewelry, and shin guards. Please make sure your players are aware and prepared.
- The officials will verify the photo shown on the Game Day Roster is the individual present.
- Players that arrive late will check in with the assistant referee before entering the field.

#### Post Match

- The official will complete the match report online through Arbiter.com within 24 hours. WWSL administration will transfer the scores to Team Pass within two days of receiving the match report on Arbiter.com.
- Team captains shall review the scores posted on Team Pass and report any scoring inconsistencies or errors within 10 days of the match date being posted to Team Pass. After 10 days, the published score, as reported, will stand.
- ALL players should remove all trash and personal items from the field or the team can be fined. These are not our fields and we get charged for clean-up if required.
- Team captains must assure that red carded players serve the sanction determined for the card.

#### Game Reschedule and Forfeit Policy

WWSL will make every effort to ensure that all games are played, but there is no guarantee that all games will be played each season.

##### Weather or WWSL Administration Related Cancellations

Games cancelled by the league or field administrator may be rescheduled on alternate game days to be determined by WWSL.

##### Weather or WWSL Administration Cancellations

No action needed by team. WWSL will do its best to reschedule the game and provide notification of the new date and time.

##### Game Reschedule Costs

There is a \$25 rescheduling fee for non-weather related schedule requests.

##### Game Forfeit

Teams that do not show up to their scheduled match or do not have the minimum number of seven (7) players required to field a team will forfeit the game with the score reported as 0-3 loss.

### Maximum Goal Differential Recording Policy

In addition to the Point System Rules, WWSL has implemented a Maximum Goal Differential Recording Policy to discourage teams from running up the score on their opponent and to encourage good sportsmanship and fair play. **All official game scores recorded in the seasonal standings will not exceed an eight (8) goal differential.**

The game will be played in its entirety.

The actual score will be reported to WWSL by the official.

WWSL will adjust the score as necessary to assure a maximum goal differential of eight (8) goals based upon the number of goals scored by the losing team. For example, if the score of the game is 10-0, the score will be reported as 8-0.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

Officials, players, players' agents and spectators may not act in a discriminatory manner, especially with regard to ethnicity, race, culture, gender, language, religion or politics.

Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behavior is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions.

Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigrating words or actions concerning race, color, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches.

WWSL Code of Conduct: WWSL seeks to promote safe and fair play on and off the field. Players have a responsibility to practice fair play, sportsmanship and respect for the game. Players agree to use appropriate language and gestures both on and off the soccer field and will not offend any player, official or spectator with respect to ethnicity, race, culture, gender, language, religion or politics.

### Point System for Season Standings Policy

The Point System is meant to provide a uniform way for all of WWSL's playing divisions to determine season standings. Points are awarded as follows:

- Win = 3 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

In the event of a tie within the standings, WWSL may use the following methods to determine a winner.

- Head-to-head competition between tied teams
- Goal differential (up to 3 per game)
- Least goals allowed
- Most shut outs (win or tie)

### Referee Abuse and Assault Policy

WHEN: Before, during or after a match, even at later times if it is match related such as at work or at home.

WHO: Misconduct toward a referee, all registered referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist. It also includes any non-licensed, non-registered persons serving in an emergency capacity as a referee under USSF Policy 531-9 and any club assistant referees.

#### Definitions

Assault: An intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee, includes but is not limited to:

- Hitting
- Kicking
- Punching
- Spitting at or on
- Grabbing
- Running into
- Kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury
- Damage to referee equipment or personal property, cars, equipment, etc.

Abuse: A verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment including, but is not limited to, the following acts: using foul or abusive language, spewing any beverage on a referee's property or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats or remarks that carry implied or direct threats of physical harm (e. g. "I'll get you later!" or "I know where you live!")

Serious Injuries: Those injuries that require hospitalization or treatment by a qualified dentist or medical practitioner. Definitions are excerpts from the USSF Administrative Rule Book and the USSF Referee Administrative Handbook. The following penalties for Abuse and/or Assault on a referee are the minimums. The Discipline Committee may, at its discretion, impose stiffer penalties as warranted by the individual act or incident.

#### Penalties:

##### Assault

- 1 year minimum
- 5 years minimum with serious injury
- 3 years minimum adult defendant with a minor referee (17 years of age or under)

Abuse: 3 match minimum

Any Player, Coach, Team Official or Team Spectator who has been deemed to have ABUSED a referee shall receive, as a minimum, a three (3) consecutive game suspension from scheduled league or tournament play. The Discipline Committee may provide for a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

Any Player, Coach, Team Official or Team Spectator committing or attempting to commit a referee assault is automatically suspended for one (1) year from the time of the assault. If serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension shall be for five (5) years. The Discipline Committee may not provide a shorter period, but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

Note: These Assault suspensions are to be imposed from the time of the incident and will remain in force until such times as the Discipline Committee takes action.

All Affiliated Teams:

All teams, players, managers and team officials have an affirmative obligation to protect the referees. Teams are responsible for the conduct and actions of its players and their supporters. If any Players, Coaches, Team Officials or Team Spectators escalate, inflame or abet in a physical assault on a referee or if no apparent attempt is made by the team, when time permits, to intercede in protecting or preventing an assault upon a referee then the following minimum penalties prevail: The team is banned from participating in any Tournament play for TWO years. Such ban will follow each team player that is rostered at the time of the incident should they try to transfer to another team. A final decision on each individual player's eligibility will be determined by the WWSL D&A Board. Any violation of the probation by the team shall result in the team being suspended forever. Any violation of the probation by transferred player on the rostered team at the time of the incident shall result in that player being suspended forever.

Referees (and by definition Assistant Referees, Club Assistant Referees) and others appointed to officiate the match) shall report any and all abuse and assault incidents to the League, NCASA, the Referee Assignor and the State Referee Administrator.

The State Association and the League as matter of policy supports and encourages any Referee who is assaulted to file formal charges in a Court of Law.

It is expected that the State Referee Administrator shall inform all referees under his jurisdiction, of their responsibility to prosecute offending persons and to report any incidents of violence, actual or threatened, to the NCASA.

The above policy is effective beginning with the 2004 Calendar Year.

As a matter of policy all incidents of Referee Abuse are automatically reviewed by the State Board of Referees. When applicable, the State Board decision will supersede the decision of the local Discipline Board.

#### Referees That Play Policy

If a referee is playing on a team in the Wake Women's Soccer League, that person is not allowed to referee any games in the same divisions that their team is participating in.

If a referee does get assigned to a match in the same division in which their team plays, that referee must try to switch to another game in a different playing division. If the referee is unable to switch to a different game, then the referee must participate as a linesman and not as the center referee.

A referee may request in writing to the WWSL for approval to be allowed to referee games in their team's playing division.

#### Refund Policy

Refund requests must be submitted in writing and are not guaranteed. To request a refund from WWSL, please [email](#) our office. WWSL will provide a full refund for any players who paid for a season, but who were not rostered onto a team. Full refunds or full credit for future seasons are available for paid players if a season or division is cancelled by WWSL. Other league fee refunds will be considered on a case by case basis.

The NCASA State Fee/Annual Pass will be refunded if a player has never taken the field. Once a player steps on the field, NCASA insurance is engaged. If a player has played in a game or practiced at the field, NCASA cannot provide a refund.

#### Sanctioning Policy and Procedure

In the event of a matter that is brought to WWSL for the purposes of sanctioning a team, the following procedure must have taken place:

- A formal complaint must have been submitted to WWSL in writing (email is acceptable) addressing the following information in as complete and detailed a manner as possible:
- Name of Team with Division of Play
- Record of team's history within WWSL clearly demonstrating a consistency of neglect toward WWSL, NCASA, USASA and/or USSF rules, laws and/or bylaws, this would include the laws of the game.
- While not required for submittal, it is encouraged that such a filing of a formal complaint come complete with written support and/or testimonials from players, team representatives and/or eye witnesses of recorded events preferably from within the same division of play. If this information is not included, it will be requested at the due diligence stage prior to the formal hearing, should WWSL agree to accept the complaint.

Upon receipt of a formally written complaint at the WWSL office, WWSL administration must, within seven (7) business days, address the complaint in one of three ways:

- Accept the complaint – which immediately enacts a due diligence period of no more than 14 days for which WWSL administration reviews and researches the complaints, its facts, and supporting materials.
- Return the complaint – which immediately enacts a due diligence period of no more than 14 days for the filer of the complaint to resubmit the complaint in an

acceptable format with the required information OR to resubmit the complaint with requested additional information prescribed by WWSL administration for reconsideration. If the complaint is not resubmitted in a timely fashion, the complaint will be denied.

- Deny the complaint

Complaints requesting the sanctioning of any team must address at least one of these subject areas:

- Financial complaint – whereby the team in question is delinquent in its dues to WWSL, fraudulent or withholding in its payment to referees and/or fraudulent in its finances within the team itself.
- Behavioral complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is verbally or physically abusive in any manner to any member of WWSL, its staff, referees and/or spectators.
- Safety complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is subjecting any member of WWSL, its staff, referees and/or spectators to unsafe play and potentially threatening behavior or circumstances.
- Disrepute complaint – whereby the team in question and/or any of its players is threatening the good name and reputation of the league, its members, its staff, referees and/or spectators by their actions, assertions or behavior.

During the due diligence period, the WWSL office will notify all players of the team via email before the next match of the formal complaint and that they have been placed into a conditional probation during the due diligence period. The team has the right to provide any of its own supporting information in writing. If any player on the team is written up for disciplinary action in any match during the due diligence period, the team will be immediately suspended from further match play in the league, forfeiting the match in question.

- The team will be notified by WWSL of a hearing date to be held within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the due diligence period. The team will be allowed to have a maximum of two (2) representatives at the hearing, however attendance is not automatically required.
- The filer of the complaint will be allowed to have a maximum of two (2) representatives at the hearing, however attendance is not automatically required.
- WWSL administration has the authority to call any individuals to the hearing for questioning or simply rely on the information it has gathered during the due diligence period.

The Hearing will proceed as follows:

- WWSL administration will commence the meeting by reading the formal complaint.
- WWSL administration will then review its findings during the due diligence period including materials provided by the team in question.
- WWSL administration will allow the team representatives to have 15 minutes to answer the matters in the complaint, and can agree to add time in 5 minute increments not to exceed an additional 30 minutes.

- WWSL administration will then conclude the hearing and go into immediate executive session.

The filer of the complaint and the team will be notified of WWSL administration's actions within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing. The actions of WWSL administration are final, but can be appealed to the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association in accordance with its bylaws and policies.

#### Sanctioning Penalties & Appeals

In the event WWSL determines that sanctions are to be placed on a team and its players, WWSL will have the choice of the following penalties to place as sanctions.

**Banishment** – whereby the team and all its players are invalidated by the league and disallowed to re-register for the period of not less than a full affiliation year with NCASA. No appeal will be accepted for hearing by the league a period of not less than 12 months or 3 complete playing seasons, whichever is longer. The team and players have the right to appeal directly to NCASA.

**Disbandment** – whereby the team is invalidated by the league for the period of not less than a full affiliation year with NCASA and all its players' registration with the league are suspended for the same time period. Players are allowed to appeal to the league in writing on an individual basis. In financial neglect cases whereby monies are due to the league, players may be conditionally reinstated by the WWSL Treasurer and Registrar if full restitution of the team's complete balance is made.

**Suspension** – whereby the team and all its players are suspended for a period of not more than a full affiliation year with NCASA. The team and/or its players are allowed to appeal to the league in writing. In financial neglect cases whereby monies are due to the league, players may be conditionally reinstated by the WWSL Treasurer and Registrar if full restitution of the team's complete balance is made.

**Reprimand** – whereby the team is penalized with any of an assortment of sanctions related to their standing in the league and their conference play. Penalties can include, but are limited to:

- point deductions
- match forfeits
- relegation
- loss of bond funds, in full or in portion.
- The team is allowed to appeal to the league in writing at the conclusion of the season.

Should WWSL decide that other sanctions are required, it will immediately inform the team and its players of its decision.

#### Slide Tackle Policy

The slide tackling policy for the league is as follows:

- A player slide tackling the first time during a game shall receive an immediate yellow card



- A player slide tackling the second time during a game shall receive a red card and a one game suspension
- Every slide tackle shall result in a direct free kick (a penalty kick if in the penalty box).

Generally, a slide tackle is an intentional slide within your horizontal body length of an opposing player. Whether the opposing player was touched in any way is irrelevant; a “clean” slide tackle shall still result in a card and free kick.

The referee has discretion to determine what is and what is not a slide tackle, but the referee has no discretion regarding the imposition of a card or cards.

The following plays are legal:

- Sliding for the ball when there are no other players within your horizontal body length.
- A goalie sliding for the ball, even if feet first, so long as the goalie’s intention is to catch or smother the ball
- Reaching for the ball but unintentionally slipping due to field conditions, etc.

We understand that slide tackling is part of the usual rules of soccer. However, we are being extra cautious in order to reduce the risk of injury.