



WESTERLY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
P.O. Box 1015 • Westerly, RI 02891 • www.westerlysoccer.com

Fall 2026 Recreational Soccer Program

David Thomas
Recreational Director

Matthew Thomas
Assistant Recreational Director & Youth Referee Coordinator

WESTERLY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION U16 Recreational Soccer Guidelines – Fall 2026

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

This division is designed to provide players with a fun, safe, and competitive soccer experience while continuing their technical, tactical, physical, and social development. Players are encouraged to demonstrate sportsmanship, accountability, leadership, teamwork, and respect for teammates, opponents, referees, and coaches.

Success is measured through player development, effort, sportsmanship, teamwork, confidence, and enjoyment of the game.

GAME FORMAT

11v11 including goalkeeper.

- Size 5 Ball
- Full-size field
- Two 40-minute halves
- 5-minute halftime
- Traditional FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game apply

TEAM ROSTERS

Recommended roster size: 14–18 players. Each team fields eleven players including one goalkeeper. WYSA encourages coaches to provide meaningful playing opportunities for all players while maintaining a safe and competitive environment.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Board of Directors

Angelo Luzzi Jr., President | Frank Alessio, Co-Vice President & Competitive Director | David Thomas, Co-Vice President & Recreational Director
Ashley Thomas, Treasurer | Brittany Gaccione, Secretary



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Unlimited substitutions are permitted with **referee approval** at appropriate stoppages including throw-ins, goal kicks, goals, injuries, and halftime.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Shin guards covered by socks are required. No jewelry. Goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing jersey.

COACH EXPECTATIONS

Coaches are expected to promote player development, sportsmanship, safety, and respect while providing a positive soccer environment.

PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Encourage all players, respect coaches and referees, refrain from sideline coaching, and display good sportsmanship.

OFFICIATING

Games will be officiated using traditional FIFA Laws of the Game. Referee decisions are final.

OFFSIDE

Traditional offside rules are enforced.

FOULS & MISCONDUCT

Direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, yellow cards, and red cards may be issued. Heading and legal slide tackling are permitted.

THROW-INS

Traditional throw-ins are used. Goals may not be scored directly from a throw-in.

GOAL KICKS

Traditional goal kicks apply. Goals may be scored directly from a goal kick.

CORNER KICKS

Traditional corner kicks apply. Opponents must remain 10 yards away.

INJURIES & SAFETY

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Bleeding players must leave the field until treated. Concussion protocols must be followed.

WEATHER POLICY

Play stops immediately for lightning or thunder and may resume only after 30 minutes without additional lightning or thunder.

MERCY RULE GUIDANCE

When games become one-sided, coaches are encouraged to rotate positions, emphasize passing and possession, and focus on development.

GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Home team provides the game ball. Both teams arrive early, clean up after games, and demonstrate sportsmanship.

COACH REMINDER

Success is measured through participation, improvement, confidence, teamwork, sportsmanship, and enjoyment.

We are not developing teams. We are developing players.

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