



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

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

This division is designed to provide a fun, safe, and developmentally appropriate soccer experience. At this age, players continue developing technical skills, tactical awareness, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence with the ball.

Winning is not emphasized. Success is measured through participation, effort, improvement, teamwork, and enjoyment.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Teams are responsible for cleaning up their sideline area following practices and games.
- Coaches are expected to promote positive sportsmanship among players, parents, and spectators.
- All participants should respect teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and volunteers.
- The home team is responsible for providing the game ball.

GAME FORMAT

Format: 4v4

Goalkeepers: At half way mark of season

Ball Size: 4

Field Size: U10 Field(4v4) size, 4x6 goals

Game Length:

- Four 12-minute quarters
- Two-minute break between quarters
- Five-minute halftime

No standings will be maintained.

Game scores will not be published.

TEAM ROSTERS

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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Minimum Roster Size: 8 Players

Ideal Roster Size: 6-7 Players

Maximum Roster Size: 9 Players

Every player shall participate in at least 50% of each game unless prevented by illness, injury, disciplinary concerns, or parent request.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Required:

- WYSA-issued jersey
- Shin guards covered by socks
- Soccer cleats (without toe cleats) or athletic shoes

Goalkeepers must wear a jersey, pinnie, or shirt that clearly distinguishes them from other players.

Not Allowed:

- Jewelry of any kind
- Watches
- Hard hair accessories
- Any item deemed unsafe by the referee

COACH EXPECTATIONS

- One practice per week (1 hour)
- Positive instruction and encouragement
- Equal playing opportunities
- Focus on skill development and fun
- Attend scheduled coaching meetings
- Ensure players are properly equipped and safe to participate

PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

- Encourage all players
- Respect coaches, volunteers, and referees
- Allow players to make decisions on the field
- Refrain from coaching from the sideline
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- Parents and spectators may not stand behind goals

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OFFICIATING

Games will be officiated by WYSA youth referees.

Officials are expected to promote safety, apply rules fairly, encourage sportsmanship, and support player development.

GOALKEEPERS

- Goalkeepers may use their hands inside the penalty area.
- Players may not challenge a goalkeeper in possession.
- Physical contact with a goalkeeper should be avoided whenever possible.

GOALKEEPER DISTRIBUTION

- Opposing players must retreat behind the halfway line.
- Goalkeepers may throw, roll, or play the ball to a teammate.
- Punting and drop-kicking are not permitted.
- Opponents may cross midfield once the ball has been released.

FIELD POSITIONING

- Teams and spectators should occupy opposite sides whenever possible.
- Players may not remain directly in front of either goal waiting for the ball.

START OF PLAY

- Play begins with a kickoff from the center of the field.
- Opponents must remain six yards away.
- The ball is in play once kicked.
- The player taking the kickoff may not touch the ball again until another player has touched it.

RESTARTS

After a goal, the team conceding the goal restarts play with a kickoff.

THROW-INS

- Traditional throw-ins will be used.
- One re-throw may be allowed for instructional purposes.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in.

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GOAL KICKS

- Awarded when the attacking team last touches the ball before crossing the goal line.
- Opponents must remain six yards away.
- The ball is in play once kicked.

CORNER KICKS

- Traditional corner kicks will be used.
- Opponents must remain six yards away.
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

FOULS & MISCONDUCT

- Only indirect free kicks will be awarded.
- No direct free kicks.
- No penalty kicks.
- Heading is prohibited.
- Slide tackling is prohibited.
- Unsafe play results in an indirect free kick.

OFFSIDE

Offside is not enforced at the U8/U9 level. However, players may not remain near the opponent's goal waiting for the ball.

INJURIES & SAFETY

- Any player who is bleeding must leave the field until the bleeding has stopped.
- Coaches should ensure injured players receive appropriate attention.
- Parents should be notified of significant injuries.
- Players returning from injuries requiring medical treatment should follow healthcare provider recommendations.

WEATHER POLICY

At the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder:

- Play must stop immediately.
- All participants must leave the field.
- Activities may resume only after 30 minutes have passed since the last observed lightning or thunder.

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MERCY RULE GUIDANCE

Examples may include:

- Rotating positions
- Encouraging passing before shooting
- Limiting stronger players to fewer touches
- Encouraging weaker-foot use

The goal is development, not winning by large margins.

GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Home Team:

- Provide a properly inflated Size 4 game ball.

Visiting Team:

- Assist with field cleanup.

All Teams:

- Arrive 10–15 minutes early
- Ensure proper equipment
- Promote a positive environment

COACH REMINDER

At the U8/U9 level, success is measured by participation, improvement, confidence, teamwork, sportsmanship, and enjoyment.

Remember: We are not developing teams. We are developing players.

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