



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, the focus is on learning basic soccer skills, developing confidence with the ball, encouraging teamwork, and fostering a love of the game.

Winning is not emphasized. Success is measured through participation, effort, sportsmanship, 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.

GAME FORMAT

Format: 4v4

Goalkeepers: None

Ball Size: 3

Game Length:

- Four 8-minute quarters
- Two-minute break between quarters
- Five-minute halftime

Board of Directors

Angelo Luzzi Jr., President | Frank Alessio, Co-Vice President & Competitive Director | David Thomas, Co-Vice President & Recreational Director
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No standings will be maintained.

Game scores will not be published.

TEAM ROSTERS

Minimum Roster Size: ~~55~~ 5 Players

Ideal Roster Size: 6-7 Players

Maximum Roster Size: 8 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 fully covered by socks
- Soccer cleats (without toe cleats) or athletic shoes

Not Allowed:

- Jewelry of any kind
- Watches
- Hard hair accessories (Clips, jewelry, decorations etc.)
- Any item deemed unsafe by the referee or coach

Cold Weather:

Players may wear gloves, athletic pants, and winter hats without hard or protruding objects.

COACH EXPECTATIONS

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- One practice per week (minimum 45 minutes)
- Positive instruction and encouragement
- Equal playing opportunities
- Focus on skill development and fun
- Attend all scheduled coaching meetings
- Ensure players are properly equipped and safe to participate

An approved adult coach or assistant coach must be present at all practices and games.

PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Parents and spectators play an important role in creating a positive environment.

Please:

- Encourage all players
- Respect coaches and volunteers
- 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.

OFFICIATING

Games will be officiated by a coach or approved adult from each team.

Officials are expected to:

- Teach and explain rules
- Promote sportsmanship
- Keep the game flowing
- Prioritize player development over strict enforcement

Instructional officiating is encouraged.

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FIELD POSITIONING

Players may not remain directly in front of either goal waiting for the ball.

Coaches and referees should encourage players to participate throughout all areas of the field and learn basic positioning concepts.

START OF PLAY

- Play begins with a kickoff from the center of the field.
 - The ball is in play once kicked.
 - The player taking the kickoff may not touch the ball again until another player has touched it.
 - A goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff.
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RESTARTS

After a Goal:

The team conceding the goal restarts play with a kickoff.

Throw-Ins:

- Traditional throw-ins will be used.
- Coaches and referees may provide instruction and allow re-throws as needed.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in.

Goal Kicks:

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

Corner Areas:

Traditional corner kicks will not be used.

When a defending team last touches the ball over the goal line, the attacking team will restart play with a throw-in from the nearest corner area.

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FOULS & MISCONDUCT

Only indirect free kicks will be awarded.

No direct free kicks.

No penalty kicks.

When unsafe or careless play occurs:

- Play should be stopped
- The situation should be explained
- Play will restart with an indirect free kick

Heading is prohibited.

Slide tackling is prohibited.

OFFSIDE

The offside rule is not used at the U5/U6 level.

However, players may not remain near the opponent's goal waiting for the ball. Coaches and referees should address this through instruction and positive coaching.

INJURIES & SAFETY

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

WEATHER POLICY

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At the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder:

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

MERCY RULE GUIDANCE

If one team develops a significant advantage, coaches are encouraged to make adjustments to maintain a positive and developmentally appropriate environment for all players.

Examples may include:

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

The goal is development, not winning by large margins.

WYSA RECREATIONAL SOCCER

Learn • Play • Grow • Have Fun

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GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Home Team:

- Provide a properly inflated Size 3 game ball.
- Assist with field setup if requested.

Visiting Team:

- Assist with field cleanup following the game.

All Teams:

- Arrive 10–15 minutes before scheduled kickoff.
- Ensure all players are properly equipped before play begins.
- Promote a positive and encouraging environment for all participants.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Substitutions may occur at any stoppage in play.
- Coaches should rotate players frequently to ensure equal participation and development.
- Players not currently participating should remain with their team sideline area.

SIDELINE POSITIONING

- Teams and spectators should occupy opposite sides of the field whenever possible.
- Parents and spectators must remain outside the playing area.
- **Parents and spectators may not stand behind either goal.**

ENHANCED INJURY & SAFETY GUIDANCE

- Parents should be notified of any significant injury occurring during a practice or game.
- Players returning from injuries requiring medical treatment should follow any return-to-play recommendations from their healthcare provider.
- Player safety should always take precedence over competition.

COACH REMINDERS

At the U5/U6 level, success is measured by participation, confidence, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fun.

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

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