



Washington Youth Soccer Travel Policy

By entering a Washington Youth Soccer State Sponsored tournament/league, including Cup Tournaments, State League, and Regional Club League, teams agree to make *every effort* to play all of their games.

Safety is always our number one priority. It is not required nor expected for teams to take an alternate route that is much farther than the original direct route in order to make a game. It is impossible to cover all situations that may arise due to inclement weather in one document; therefore any situation not covered below will be referred to the corresponding Washington Youth Soccer staff program manager to determine further action.

Inclement Weather Travel Policy

Road Closures

If a roadway necessary to reach a game location is closed either 24 hours prior to game time when teams are staying overnight or 6 hours prior to game time when teams are traveling the day of the game, per the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for reasons other than regularly scheduled maintenance closures, then the game will need to be rescheduled through the State Sponsored tournament/league representative. If the game is unable to be rescheduled, the program committee and/or staff program manager for the State Sponsored tournament/league will flip a coin to decide the game results if results are needed for advancement.

Chains Required

If roadways are open but chains are required, a team may opt not to travel. These games must be rescheduled as soon as possible at the original home team's site. If either team refuses the reschedule, the team refusing will accept a loss for the game. It will be recorded as a 0-1 loss and any unrecoverable game expenses the other team incurred for the unplayed game may be submitted to the Washington Youth Soccer office for *review* to be reimbursed by the team opting out of travel. In addition to reimbursing the opponent for the unrecoverable game expenses, the team declining/refusing to reschedule may also be subject to forfeit fees as applicable in accordance with each State Sponsored tournament/league rules of competition. See reimbursement policy below.

If roadways are open 4-24 hours before game time with no requirement for chains per WSDOT, and a team does not travel to the game, then they will be issued a forfeit loss. The team earning the forfeit loss will not advance in the tournament/league; additionally, the team may be subject to fines per the State Sponsored tournament/leagues rules. Any unrecoverable game expenses the hosting team incurred for the unplayed game may be submitted to the Washington Youth Soccer office for *review* to be reimbursed by the team opting out of travel. See reimbursement policy below.

Reimbursement Policy

Unrecoverable game expenses include field and referee fees. These fees will vary across the state therefore reimbursement for unrecoverable game expenses shall not exceed \$500.00.

The team refusing to reschedule will be billed by Washington Youth Soccer for the approved unrecoverable expenses from the original unplayed game. It is the team's responsibility to pay the invoice within 30 days. If payment is not received within 30 days, WA Youth Soccer will then invoice the team's Member Association for the unpaid balance. Team penalties for outstanding balances will include ineligibility for the specific team to compete in any current or future state-sanctioned competition until payment is received. Association penalties for outstanding team balances will include probation or suspension of participation of the Association's teams in future state-sanctioned competitions.

[Click here to download the form for submitting reimbursement requests.](#)



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Unplayable Fields Policy

Declared by Facility or Local Soccer Administration

If the field is declared unplayable by the facility or the local soccer administration and the hosting team is notified by the facility/local soccer administrator, the hosting team is required to notify the traveling team as soon as possible. It is recommended that the home team makes every effort to find an alternate playing field for the originally scheduled game time and maintains contact with the away team during the process.

If an alternate field cannot be found, the unplayable game needs to be rescheduled as soon as possible through the appropriate tournament/league representative. If a team had already traveled less than 100 miles one-way to the original unplayable game site and an alternative field is not available, the rescheduled game will be rescheduled at the original Home Team's facility. If the team traveled over 100 miles one-way to the original site, the game will be rescheduled at a neutral* field to minimize travel. The home team will not be responsible for hotel/travel costs that may be incurred by the away team if a facility declares the fields unplayable. If the game is unable to be rescheduled, the program committee and/or staff program manager for the State Sponsored tournament/league will flip a coin to decide the game results if results are needed for advancement.

Declared by Referee Crew

If the field is not declared unplayable by the facility, the assigned referee crew for the game may declare the field unplayable 15 minutes – 1 hour prior to game time. The referee crew must be onsite and will consult with the referee assignor and/or field scheduler to determine if alternate options are available – i.e. relocation, delay, reschedule, etc. to declare if a field is unplayable. If the game cannot be played, the game needs to be rescheduled as soon as possible through the appropriate tournament/league representative. If a team had already traveled less than 100 miles one-way to the original unplayable game site and an alternative field is not available, the rescheduled game will be rescheduled at the original Home Team's facility. If the team traveled over 100 miles one-way to the original site, the game will be rescheduled at a neutral* field to minimize travel. If the game is unable to be rescheduled, the program committee and/or staff program manager for the State Sponsored tournament/league will flip a coin to decide the game results if results are needed for advancement.

* A neutral field is defined as a field outside of each team's Association boundaries that provides close to or equal travel distance and is agreed upon by both teams. For help facilitating the neutral site, contact the State Sponsored tournament/league administrator.