

# WSC Parent Handbook

---

## Mission Statement

The Williamstown Soccer Club's mission is to provide a safe and inclusive environment for promoting soccer and developing skills for 8-14 year old boys and girls in Williamstown.

## Philosophy

The Williamstown Soccer Club aims to promote an inclusive approach to soccer in Williamstown with a focus on team interaction, player development and most importantly, fun !!

Soccer will be open to all skills and levels of experience with a more competitive focus evolving as players transition from U10 through U12 to U14.

- Registration is open to boys and girls of all skills and experience between the ages of 8 and 14 (based on league birth date cut-off dates)
- WSC will create teams primarily based on the cohort of an individual grade. This also leads to consistency in team rosters over time as they transition from U10 through U14 which helps to create a strong team bond.
- The WSC philosophy is to encourage competitive games with other teams but does not promote a primary focus on winning. A 5-4 loss is often a better experience for all involved than a 7-0 win.
- WSC does not, as a rule, recruit players or create teams based on tryouts.
- WSC player development focus areas are:
  - U10 (grades 3 & 4) – emphasis on learning the rules of the game, basic skills including ball control, passing and tackling, and working together as a team. (Scores in games are not recorded, nor are league standings maintained.)
  - U12 (grades 5 & 6) – more competitive game emphasis that allows for more advanced topics such as team formations, defensive and offensive strategies, and player movement off the ball.
  - U14 (grades 7 & 8) – an emphasis and focus on skills and positional discipline in practices and games that prepares players to transition up to the greater demands of JV and Varsity High School soccer.
- Financial Aid will be available for parents who are unable to afford the registration and uniform costs (contact Treasurer or Town Coordinator for more information).
- For kids who desire more competitive and higher skill levels, the club encourages them to also play in 'premier' level leagues with Ajax or SDA in addition to participating in the WSC program.

## Roster Management

While this philosophy will guide team creation, the following will also play a part in specific situations:

- WSC needs to work within the grade and age ranges defined by BCYSL in their bylaws. In certain situations individual players may not be able to play with their school grade cohort.
- Grade demographics may allow for more than one team or even the inability to create a team within a specific grade class. In those situations, the club will work with coaches to determine the best approach to creating team rosters within that age section.
- There may be exceptional circumstances in which a player, based on their skill and physical ability, may be better suited to playing with a different team in order to ensure *balanced rosters across age groups and grade levels*. The Club will work with coaches and the parents involved discussing and managing these changes.
- With overly large rosters, a coach may choose to rotate the players rostered for each game. However, over the course of the season, all players should be sat out an equal number of games.
- While we will always try to accommodate new players, late registrations may not be possible if a team already has a roster that is considered full.

## Expectations

### Players

- Players are expected to participate fully in practices, which includes listening, following direction, and treating the coaches with courtesy and respect. (In exceptional circumstances where a player is considered to be risking the safety of other individuals or continually disruptive to practices, the Club will work with Coaches and Parents to determine the best course of action which may include temporary or permanent removal from the program).
- Players are expected to know, understand and follow the 'Zero Tolerance' policy of the BCYSL. (<http://www.bcy-sl.org/forms-policies>)
- Players can expect to be treated fairly, and with dignity and respect.
- Playing time – all players can expect substantial playing time, irrespective of their skill or ability so long as they attend practice regularly and display a positive and committed attitude in games and practices.
  - U10 – players should expect equal playing time and will be given opportunities to experience all field positions, including goalkeeper, throughout the season.
  - U12 – players should not expect equal playing time; however, over the course of the season they should expect to play, on average, at least half of each game. Players will continue to be given opportunities to experience all field positions based on their interest.

# WSC Parent Handbook

---

- U14 – players who are available for a game should expect to play in each game they attend. Over the course of the season they should expect a reasonable and substantial amount of game time. Player positions will be determined by coaches; however Goalkeepers should not be expected to play more than half the game in that position.

Reduced playing time as a result of behavior or attitude at practice or at games should not be a frequently used penalty. Should it be required, the Head Coach is expected to address the issue directly with the player and player's parents with clear communication on the behavior or attitude that was cause for concern.

## Parents

- Parents are expected to know, understand and follow the 'Zero Tolerance' policy of the BCYSL. (<http://www.bcysl.org/forms-policies>)
- Parents are expected to respond to requests from the Club or coaches in a timely manner – this includes submission of registration information, medical release forms, player availability and registration payment.
- Parents can expect to receive timely and appropriate communication from coaches. If a parent expresses a concern to a coach, the parent can expect that issue to be addressed either by the coach directly or by Club representatives.
- Parents can expect to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

## Coaches

- Coaches are expected to know, understand and follow the 'Zero Tolerance' policy of the BCYSL. (<http://www.bcysl.org/forms-policies>)
- Coaches are expected to be familiar with all game rules and bylaws, including the BCYSL policies on *Scoring*, *Guest Players* and *Game Cancellations*. (<http://www.bcysl.org/forms-policies>)
- Coaches are expected to respond to requests from the Club in a timely manner (such as registration information), be Registered with MA Youth Soccer and have a current CORI clearance.
- Coaches can expect to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

## **Operating Structure**

Williamstown Soccer Club (WSC) is a member of the Berkshire County Youth Soccer League (BCYSL) [www.bcysl.org](http://www.bcysl.org) which is affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer (<http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/>). We participate in that league with other member clubs within Berkshire County and follow the rules and regulations defined by FIFA, Mass Youth Soccer and BCYSL.

# WSC Parent Handbook

---

Players will fall into the following age categories as defined by BCYSL:

- U10 (grades 3/4)
- U12 (grades 5/6)
- U14 (grades 7/8)

WSC will field teams during the Fall (Sept-Nov) and Spring (April-June) seasons. There will be a registration period prior to each of these seasons.

Open Registration via the Williamstown Soccer Club website will occur approximately 2 months before the start of each season and last approximately a month. Late registrations will be accepted subject to availability of space in a team.

Each team will have at least one Head Coach assigned, with the potential for one or more Assistants.

Each team will practice once or twice a week, with games primarily on weekends. A league season is typically comprised of 8 games, with a playoff format for U12 and U14 categories at the end of the Spring season (Berkshire Cup and Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC).)

The Club will encourage all teams to participate in at least one Tournament per year (usually in the Fall season). Participation in one tournament per year is included in the registration fees. (At the discretion of coaches, teams may play in other tournaments through the year, and the registration fees for those tournaments will be an additional cost).

Home field is typically Williamstown Elementary School for U10 and U12 and Mt Greylock Regional High School for U14.

## Resources

Club Information (including current WSC officials) and registration is available on [www.williamstownsoccerclub.com](http://www.williamstownsoccerclub.com)

Questions, queries or concerns can be addressed to [williamstownsoccerclub@gmail.com](mailto:williamstownsoccerclub@gmail.com)

Uniforms and WSC branded clothing can be purchased at [http://www.soccer.com/teamGateway.php?club\\_id=11154125](http://www.soccer.com/teamGateway.php?club_id=11154125)

*This document is meant to clarify and help define the informal structures and philosophy followed by WSC and provide information on basic expectations for players and parents. It is not meant to be an all inclusive Code of Conduct and in all situations the spirit of these principles should be applied.*

*Concerns about philosophy, approach or attitude of any coach, player or parent they can be addressed by notifying a club official or emailing [williamstownsoccerclub@gmail.com](mailto:williamstownsoccerclub@gmail.com)*