

**WESTERN COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY  
2010 – 2011 RULES & REGULATIONS**



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## **I. ORGANIZATION**

A. Overview: The Western College Development Academy (“Development Academy”) is a regional competition that will be conducted and administered by Northwest Champions, L.L.C. (the “Academy Staff”) The Development Academy consists of league and post season competition.

B. Development Academy Staff: The Academy Staff will be responsible for organization of the Development Academy, all administrative functions of the Development Academy, including amending these Regulations, and any other functions not expressly assigned to other bodies in these Regulations.

C. Soccer Advisory Board: The Soccer Advisory Board shall consist of coaching directors from participating Academy Clubs. The Soccer Advisory Board will be responsible for providing guidance and direction over the composition of the Development Academy and its competitive format.

D. Discipline Committee: The Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the Soccer Advisory Board subject to the requirements of the Disciplinary Code. The Discipline Committee shall have the responsibilities set forth in the Disciplinary Code.

E. Definitions: The following definitions apply to these regulations:

“Academy Club” – means an youth soccer organization that operates a U-15, U-16, U-17 or U-18 team in the Development Academy.

“Academy League” – means the Western College Development Academy competition featuring games between Academy Teams beginning in August and concluding before the Academy finals in June.

“Academy Game” – means any game played between two Academy Teams as part of an Academy competition.

“Academy Player” – means an individual registered with and playing soccer in the Development Academy.

“Academy Team” – means a group of Academy soccer players registered with the Development Academy and playing together for an Academy Club in a division in the Academy League in either the U-15, U-16, U-17 or U-18 age group.

“Home Team” – means the Academy Team designated as host of an Academy Game.

“Visiting Team” – means the Academy Team designated as guest for an Academy Game.

## **II. CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

A. Criteria for Selection: Clubs will be chosen based on the following criteria: (1) history of elite youth player development; (2) history of success in elite competitions; (3) geography; and (4) other criteria as determined by the Soccer Advisory Board.

B. Withdrawal of a Club: In the event an Academy Team withdraws from the Academy League without finishing its scheduled games, the Academy Club shall forfeit its membership and performance bond, and the following regulations will take effect: (1) if at least half of the full schedule of games has been played, all resulting scores stand as validated by the Academy Staff, any unscheduled remaining games shall be recorded as a forfeit victory for the opponents; (2) if less than one-half of the full schedule of games has been played, these completed games will be deleted from the standings; (3) the Academy Staff may, at its discretion, reschedule any or all remaining games.

C. Termination: The Academy Staff reserves the right to terminate the membership of an Academy Club should they fail to adhere to the terms of their Affiliation Agreement or act against the best interest of the Development Academy. Academy Clubs may also have their membership terminated should they violate any of the Academy Rules and Regulations.

### **III. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES (NON-FINANCIAL)**

A. Compliance with Rules & Regulations: Academy Clubs are required to comply with these Rules and Regulations, the Disciplinary Code and any other rules adopted for the Development Academy.

B. Affiliation Agreement: Each Academy Club must provide a signed copy of their Affiliation Agreement for the following season by an authorized officer by June 1 of each year.

### **IV. CLUB FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Performance Bond: Each Academy Club will be required to post a cash performance bond of \$1,000 at the beginning of each season to be used as a deposit for any fine or penalty incurred during the Academy League season. Any remaining balance will be applied to future seasons or returned if so requested. All payments must be made out to USSF and be sent to Western College Development Academy, 7350 Cirque Dr. W, Suite 201, University Place, WA 98467.

B. Travel Costs: All costs associated with the travel to competitions are the responsibility of the individual Academy Clubs. Should the Academy obtain favorable rates with hotels, airlines or car rental suppliers, the Academy Staff will try to make these rates available to the Academy Clubs.

C. Referees: Academy Clubs will be responsible for referee fees and compensating referees after each Academy League game. The Academy will be responsible for referee fees after each showcase or finals game.

D. Other: Unless otherwise indicated in these regulations, all expenses related to an Academy Team shall be borne by the participating Academy Club.

### **V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION**

A. Eligible Players: Each Academy Club shall ensure that all players shall be eligible for participation in the Academy Club in accordance with the relevant Academy and FIFA regulations.

B. Registration: All Registrations are completed online. In addition to the online registration, the Academy Club must submit a signed Waiver and Indemnification Form for each Academy player.

## **VI. COMPETITION**

A. Overview: The Academy Staff will place Academy Teams in geographically-based conferences and create a schedule. The Academy Staff reserves the right to adjust game scheduling.

B. Postponement: Whenever a game is postponed or canceled, the home team must provide to the Academy Staff a written notice via email of why the game was not played.

C. Rescheduling a Postponed Game: The two teams must consult regarding rescheduling of any postponed game and attempt to reschedule within seven (7) days of the original game date. If a game is not rescheduled within seven (7) days, the game may be rescheduled by the Academy Staff. Any games not played during the season will result in no points being awarded to both teams and the game will be recorded as a non-played game.

D. Standings: The Academy Staff shall post the official Academy League standings online. Official Academy League standings include wins, losses, ties, goals scored for, goals scored against and total league points. All standings are generated by the match report submitted by the Referee within 24 hours of the completion of the game.

### Point System:

Three points for a win

One point for a tie

Zero points for a loss

Forfeit = 0-3 loss

Teams have 24 hours to verify their game results with the Academy Staff.

Division Tiebreakers: The ranking of each team in the Division will be determined as follows:

- a) greatest number of points obtained in all Division games;
- b) greatest goal difference in all Division games; then
- c) greatest number of goals scored in all Division games.

If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the Division games between the teams concerned;
- e) greatest goal difference resulting from the Division games between the teams concerned;
- f) greater number of goals scored in the Division games between the teams concerned; then
- g) drawing of lots by the Academy Staff.

## VII. LAWS OF THE GAME, DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, DISPUTES, PROTESTS & APPEALS

### A. Laws of the Game

1. General: Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all Academy Games shall be played according to the rules and regulations set by FIFA/ USSF except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

#### 2. Game Length and Competitive Format:

U15 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

U16 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

U17 play 2x40 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

U18 play 2x45 min. | 10-min. halftime | size 5 ball | 11x11

3. Substitutions: Either team may substitute up to 11 players at a time. Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage.

3.1 Field Players. With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted as follows: First half: no re-entry. Second half: one re-entry.

3.2 Goalkeepers. With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted as follows: First half: One re-entry. Second half: One re-entry.

#### 3.3 Illness/Injury/Bleeding or Blood on Uniform.

3.3.1 Players whose injury was caused by an opposing player who was cautioned or ejected in conjunction with the injury may be substituted for and re-enter the game in any period (after being beckoned by the referee) at any stoppage of play or at any of the allowable times for normal substitutions. Neither the injured player nor the substitute shall be charged with a substitution.

3.3.2 Players instructed to leave the field of play because of a bleeding injury or blood on the uniform may be substituted for and re-enter the game (after being beckoned by the referee) at any stoppage of play or at any of the allowable times for normal substitution, providing the appropriate medical personnel have given clearance. Neither the injured player nor the substitute shall be charged with a substitution. However, if the injured player replaces a player other than the original substitute, that player shall be charged with a substitution. (**Exception:** *After a goal is scored or between periods, providing it is done in a timely manner, substitutes are not required to "be ready" before the period begins or the kick-off to restart the game.*)

3.3.3 Field players who are substituted for when leaving the field of play for normal illness/injury may not re-enter the game in that same period. (**Exception:** *Players are permitted one re-entry in the second period only.*)

3.3.4 Field players who are not substituted for (team plays short) when leaving the game for illness/injury may re-enter the game (after being beckoned by the referee) during the run of play or at any stoppage of play, including times for normal substitutions.

B. Disciplinary Matters: The Academy Staff shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify players, team officials, or competing clubs for violating league rules, the code of conduct below or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the Academy. The Academy Staff has the authority to act on behalf of the league regarding any breach of regulations or rules.

The sending off of a player (i.e., red card) will result in a minimum of a one game suspension. A send off as a result of two cautions will result in the player being suspended for the next match. However, if the sending off occurs during an away Academy game, the player may serve the suspension at the next Academy home game. Games sat out that weekend can count against the suspension, as long as noted on the Roster and/or Referee Game Report as such. The home team shall notify the league office within 24 hours of the send off.

C. Disputes: Parties shall try to resolve all disputes in connection with the Development Academy by negotiation. In compliance with USSF Bylaw 707, member clubs, players and other officials may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law. If a decision is subject to appeal, it shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Academy Staff.

#### D. Protest & Appeals

1. Overview: For the purpose of these regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on games.

2. Time: Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Referee or faxed to the Academy Staff within 12 hours of the conclusion of the game in question and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the Academy Staff. Otherwise, protests will be disregarded.

3. Eligibility: Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for games shall be submitted in writing to the Academy Staff no later than 24 hours after the game.

4. Field Conditions: Protests regarding the state of the field, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts or soccer balls) shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the game by the Academy coach or Academy Team manager lodging the protest. If the field's playing surface becomes unplayable during a game, the referee shall have the sole right to determine whether to delay or postpone the game.

5. During a Game: Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a game shall be made to the referee by the Academy coach or Academy Team manager immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed.

6. Referee's Decisions: No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

7. Frivolous Protests: If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Academy Staff may dismiss the protest.

## **VIII. UNIFORMS AND PLAYER SAFETY**

A. Uniforms. When the colors of two competing teams are similar to the point of confusion during play, as judged by the referee, the home team shall change shirts. In the event that a team's uniform conflicts with the uniform of the referee and the referee elects not to change, the conflicting team **MUST** change to its alternate uniform.

B. Player Safety. A player may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including jewelry in accordance with FIFA Law IV. Shin guards are mandatory for all players in all Academy competitions.

## **IX. GAME OFFICIALS**

A. Match Officials. All matches will use referees certified by the United States Soccer Federation.

B. Assignment and Payment. Match officials shall be assigned by each Academy Club's Referee Assignor and paid by the Home Team prior to the start of each match, unless otherwise agreed to between the home club and its local referee association.

## **X. CODE OF CONDUCT**

A. General Principles. Please use common sense and courtesy. Respect the game of soccer and do not damage the reputation of the Academy, US Club Soccer, USSF, your club, your team, yourself or your family. Be reasonable, respectful and flexible.

B. Scandalous Conduct. The Academy Staff may suspend for an indefinite period and/or impose a fine on any officer, director, player, or employee of a member club guilty of gross misbehavior in public, including intoxication, drug use, fighting, indecency, or other scandalous conduct whether on or off the playing field when such conduct is, in the league's opinion, prejudicial to the best interests of the sport of soccer or the Academy.

## **XI. COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS TAKEN BY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY BODIES**

All players, officers and directors of the participating clubs shall undertake to comply fully with the regulations and decisions taken by the Academy Staff, Soccer Advisory Board and the Discipline Committee.

## **XII. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The Academy Staff shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise. These instructions shall form an integral part of these regulations.

## **XIII. MATTERS NOT ADDRESSED**

Matters not addressed or provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by Academy Staff. All decisions shall be final.