

Western Cincinnati Soccer Association

Coaches Meeting

July 15, 2026

Elder High School – Schaeper Center

A wide-angle photograph of a soccer field. In the foreground, several people are sitting in folding chairs, watching the game. The field is green and has several soccer goals. In the background, there is a dense line of trees. The sky is blue with large, white, fluffy clouds. The word "WELCOME!" is written in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

WELCOME!

Expectations

- Arrive 20 minutes or more prior to game time
- Minimum # of players to start a game
 - Passers/Wings – 5, Strikers – 6, Kickers – 7
- Respect all referees and their decisions
- Responsible for controlling behavior of players, parents & spectators
- Report issues/concerns directly to your coordinator

Rosters & Legal Team

- MUST have a copy of your signed roster at the field (physical or electronic copy)
- Players on the roster are legally on that team
- Roster checks can be requested PRIOR to the start of the game ONLY
- Not permitted to explain why a roster check is needed

Website

WCSASOCCER.com

- All schedules, scores, and standings are together
- An automatic email will be sent to the head coach if there is a change to a game
- Documents and additional content being uploaded before the season

Score Reporting

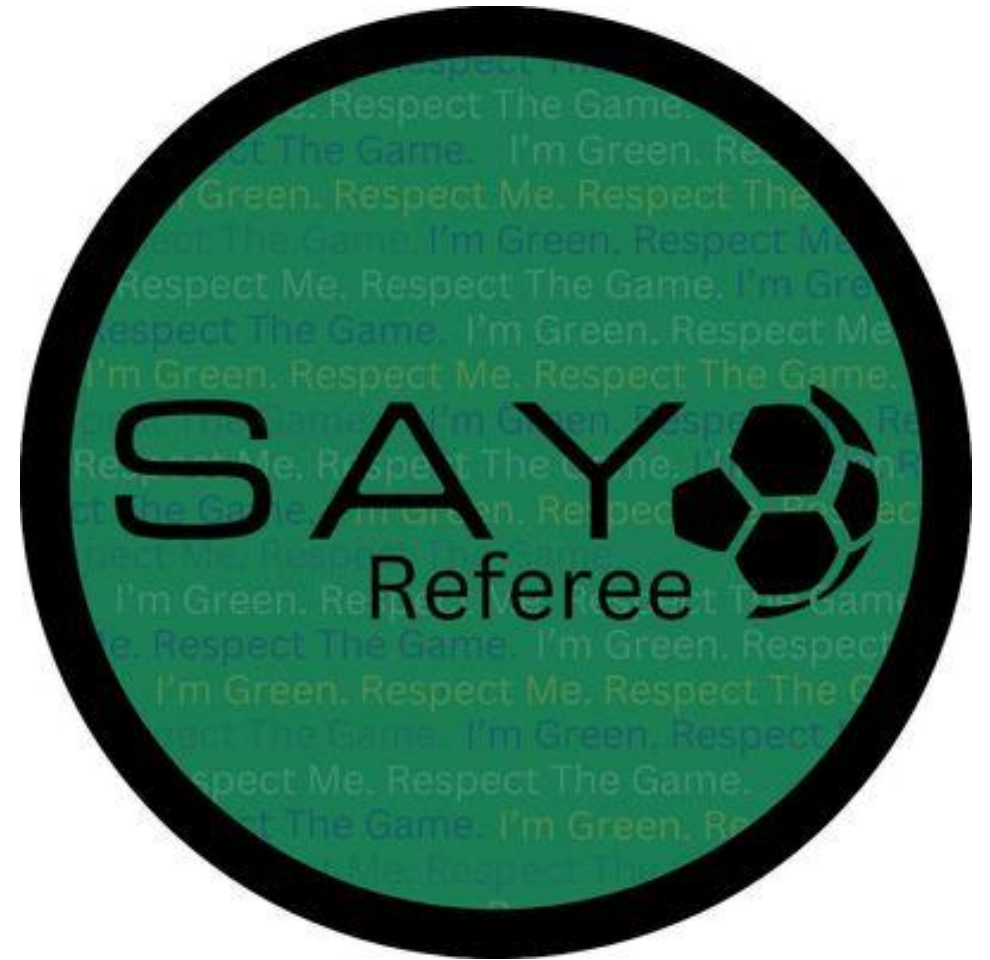
- Head coach will receive an email at the conclusion of each game to report the score
- Winning team (or home team if tied) must report the score
- Must be reported within 48 hours or a 1-point reduction will occur
- False reporting and 7-goal differentials are subject to disciplinary review

Referee

- Authority starts when referees enter playing area and ends when they leave
- While they are trained, MANY are still learning – be nice
- Abuse/bullying of a minor IS a violation of SafeSport and WILL be reported – we have a lot of minors on the fields
- If you have issues or concerns, PLEASE contact your coordinator

Referee

- SAY Soccer is “Going Green”
- Referees under 18 yrs old & first year referees



Dissent

- Coaches are permitted to ask who committed a foul or what the call was at the time of the occurrence
- Continued questioning is considered dissent. Further explanation and discussion should be saved for quarter breaks
- Gestures made in response to a call/non-call such as arm waving will be considered dissent.
- Coaches are responsible for spectator behavior and actions

Misconduct & Foul Language

Players

- Inappropriate language used that is not directed at anyone is a cautionable offense = yellow card
- Foul or abusive language directed at another player, spectator, referee or coach will result in an ejection of the player from the game = red card

Coaches

- Foul or abusive language used by a coach will result in an ejection from the game = red card

Spectators

- Foul or abusive language used by a spectator will result in leaving the field of play
- Coaches are responsible for conduct of their spectators

2026 Rule Changes (ALL Levels)

1) Substitutions on Corner Kicks

- Same procedures as throw-ins
- Team taking the corner kick may substitute. Opposing team can substitute if attacking team is doing so

2026 Rule Changes (ALL Levels)

2) Goalkeeper Clearing

- Goalkeepers have eight (8) seconds to put the ball back into play once the ball is in their possession
- Counting of time should only begin when all opponents have moved outside the Build-Out Area (passers/wings)
- Violation: A corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

2025 Rule Changes (Passers)

- 1) Slide tackles are permitted
 - Normal SAY rules apply to be from the front
- 2) Free kicks will be taken from the spot of the foul inside the penalty area, except the goal area
 - All kicks are still indirect
- 3) Goal Kicks will be taken from the smaller goal area
 - Ball in play at the time of the kick
 - Goalkeeper can still pick up the ball on passes

Passers DOGSO

- When a player denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) the team of the offending player **MUST** play short a player for the remainder of the game as if a red card was issued
- The offending player **WILL NOT** receive a red card
- The offending player must be removed from the field of play until the next substitution opportunity

Player Equipment

For Safety, You CANNOT Play with:

- Earrings
- Casts
- Hard/metal braces/splints
- Jewelry
- Hair Beads
- Hard helmets
- Sunglasses
- Gum, candy, ice

Must Have:

- Shirts with unique numbers
- Shin guards with socks covering
- Shoes with no metal spikes

Permitted:

Soft helmets, hearing aids, prescription glasses, insulin pump, knit caps, hoodies under shirts with hoods tucked in

Duration of the Game

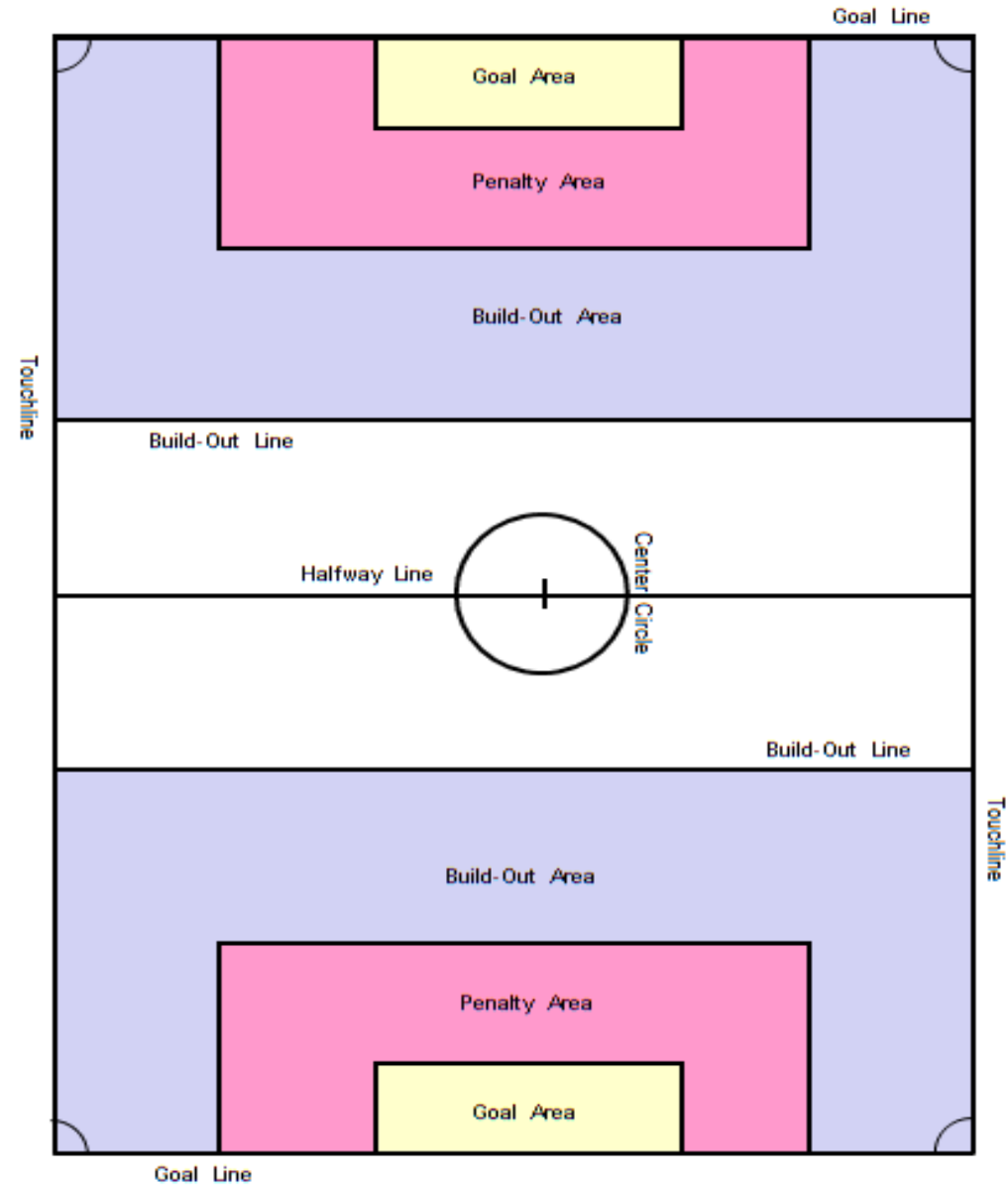
- Passers – Ten (10) minute quarters
- Wings – Twelve (12) minute quarters
- Strikers/Kickers – Fifteen (15) minute quarters
- The referee is the official timekeeper. Play starts and stops by their watch
- Wings to Kickers ONLY - Time is ONLY extended for the taking of a penalty kick that was called before time expired.
- Quarter Breaks – 1 Minute, Half Time – 5 Minutes

Build-Out Area

- Attacking team must move outside the build out area on all goal kicks, defensive free kicks in the area, and when the goalkeeper has possession

Remain outside until ball is in play when

- Ball is kicked and clearly moves
- Goalkeeper releases the ball by throwing or rolling it
- Ball is placed on the ground and kicked after goalkeeper possession



Throw-Ins

- Passers given 3 attempts during regular season
- Cannot be offside at taking of throw (except passers)
- Goal CANNOT be scored on a throw in
- Thrower must face the field and have part of both feet behind or on the line at time of throw
- Both hands must come straight back behind the head and straight up and over
- Improper throw in results in throw for opposing team
- Please teach players proper throw-ins at practices

No-Heading Rule

- Intentional heading of the ball is not permitted
- Restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team
- Passers, Wings & Strikers ONLY

Substitutions

Substitutions allowed at the following times:

- Any goal kick
- Extended stoppage such as injury
- Your team's throw-in or corner kick
- Quarter breaks
- After a goal is scored before kickoff
- Unlimited substitutions
- Allowed with referee's permission ONLY
- Not allowed on free kicks

Slide Tackles

- Slide tackles from the rear 180 degrees of a player are NOT permitted regardless of playing the ball or not
- Verbal warnings and yellow cards will be issued for slide tackles from behind

Lopsided Scoring

- If a team is leading by 4 goals or more, the opposing team can add a player
- If a team is leading by 5 goals or more, the opposing team can add a second player
- Coaches can choose not to add a player, Leading teams may not remove players

Concussion Policy

- Hard hits to the head or serious collision = Player(s) removed for 10 minutes
- Hits in close range or face will stop play even if there is an attack on goal
- May not return until cleared by the referees or WCSA board member at next break after 10-minute period
- Does not override State concussion protocol

Protests

- Make every effort by both teams and the referee to correct the misapplication of the law before play resumes
- Must use the word “PROTEST” to the nearest referee before play resumes when all possible, but before next quarter begins
- Only protest misapplication of the law, not judgement calls
- Must be properly filed in writing with District Representative within 48 hours

Lightning Policy

- Lightning or thunder REQUIRES 30-minute delay
- Unless last game of the day on the field, second occurrence of lightning/thunder will result in game cancellation
- Occurrence in first half of game = Cancellation
- Occurrence in 3rd quarter = Restart with beginning of 4th quarter
- Occurrence in 4th quarter = Play to completion after delay
- Games canceled in the second half will be considered final

Game Cancels/Re-Schedules

- Coaches and coordinators are NOT PERMITTED to reschedule games on their own
- Any canceled game will be rescheduled as soon as possible
- Rescheduled games will likely get moved to weeknights

Cleves Update

- Gate Fees - \$3 per day / \$10 for yearly pass
- Directional signage to assist with parking and field #s
- Goal is to have the grass cut TWICE a week

Tournaments

- Top 4 teams from each division will qualify for the WCSA Tournament

State Tournament

- Only the 1st place team in the WCSA Tournament is guaranteed to advance to State
- GOAL is to send the 1st and 2nd place teams from the WCSA Tournament to State
- GOAL is to send the 3rd and 4th place teams at PASSERS & WINGS if space allows

Referee Fees

- Passers - \$12 per team
- Wings - \$28 per team
- Strikers - \$32 per team
- Kickers - \$40 per team

\$20 – 1

\$10 – 1

\$5 – 1

\$1 - 5

Important Dates

- July 27th – Practices Begin
- August 15th/16th – Opening Weekend
- August 17th – Weeknight games begin

- October 12/13/14 – WCSA Tournament Passers Opening Round
- October 17/18 & 24/25 – WCSA Tournament
- TBD – Victory/Dominic Tournament
- November 14/15 & 21/22 – Ohio State Tournament (TBD)

QUESTIONS?