



# North Puget Sound League 2011

Dear NPSL Coaches and Managers:

Welcome to the North Puget Sound League (NPSL)!

We appreciate your participation in the league and wish you a productive league season. For most teams, the season kicked off last Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. By now, all teams have finalized their rosters, reviewed ALL season scheduled matches (and contacted opponents for game change request where necessary) and have secured fields for their home games.

This document provides the necessary information to managers and coaches new to the league. We strongly encourage all coaches and managers to work together throughout the season to ensure scheduling and communication are done properly. Below are some items that all coaches and managers need to be familiar with.

The NPSL Rules and Procedures are published on the NPSL Web Site at <http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org/files/Forms/NPSLRulesProcedures-2011.pdf>. To make your team's experience as best as possible, at a minimum, every participating team's coach and team manager should read this document. Remember: Ignorance of the rules and procedures of the NPSL will never be an accepted excuse on matters that arise so take the time upfront!

Below are some items that all coaches and managers need to be familiar with to ensure a successful season for all the kids.

## 1. North Puget Sound League Website

You can access all league related information on our website <http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org>.

The site contains team brackets, schedules, score reporting, standings, game changes and general guidelines for the league.

## 2. Home Team Responsibilities.

Teams hosting games are responsible for the following:

- Secure referees (typically handled by your club or association scheduler)
- Provide a suitable field for play that includes all the proper markings and goals.
- Ensure goals are safe for play and are properly secured.
- Provide game balls for the match
- Provide the following information to the opposing team 72 hours prior to the day of game (or as soon as they are notified):

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*North Puget Sound League (NPSL) is a Washington Youth Soccer sanctioned competitive youth soccer league that is a partnership of Washington Youth Soccer District 1 and District 2 and their eleven youth soccer associations comprising over 57,000 youth soccer players. NPSL's mission is to supply a competitive venue to its teams that makes geographic sense and is not limited by District or Association boundaries, is economical in both cost and time, and ensures "like or comparable" competition. League website: <http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org>. For more information, contact [info@northpugetsoundleague.org](mailto:info@northpugetsoundleague.org).*



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- Location and time of game.
- League games should be scheduled to begin no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 5:00 PM, unless agreed to by the visiting team in writing (includes fax and E-mail) at least two (2) weeks prior to the game. Teams traveling more than 2 hours for one game need to have time to travel in the same day. These games should not start before 11:00 AM or after 4:00 PM. The Association address of the traveling team to the scheduled game field determines travel time. Reference the NPSL rules and procedures for more details on game scheduling. With the expansion of the NPSL to include teams from the islands as well as teams from as far south as Tacoma and north as Bellingham, it is paramount that all parties work together to schedule match start times that are respectful of commute times for our families!

### 3. Responsibilities of Both Teams

Both teams are responsible for the following:

- Provide a team roster with jersey numbers to the referee prior to the start of game. The roster form is available for download from either the NPSL website, located in the documents section, or from the NPSL Schedules website by clicking on the 'State ID' field to the right of the team.
- Provide player cards to the referee. This is required for the 2011 season.
- Report your scores through the NPSL website. Please designate someone on your team that has access to the NPSL website to report your game scores at <http://northpugetsoundleague.org/ScoreReporting.html>

### 4. Score Reporting.

The NPSL has a very straightforward score reporting system that is linked at the web site. Scores must be reported by Monday following the match. Should you have any questions, issues or concerns related to score reporting, please email [scorekeeper@npsl-league.org](mailto:scorekeeper@npsl-league.org).

### 5. Disciplinary

Experience shows that youth select soccer matches bring with them a high degree of 'enthusiasm' and emotion from the players, the coaches and the parents. Sometimes this results in incidents and situations that should or must be addressed by the NPSL. It is important to understand that there are formal procedures for any disciplinary matters that may arise during any NPSL match. Please refer to Sections 1.17 and 1.18 of the NPSL Rules and Procedures for details on disciplinary issues pertaining to yellow and red cards. As noted earlier, the guiding rules and operating procedures for the NPSL can be found at:

<http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org/files/Forms/NPSLRulesProcedures-2011.pdf>

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Any communications with the NPSL regarding matters that could be classified as disciplinary should be emailed to [disciplinary@northpugetsoundleague.org](mailto:disciplinary@northpugetsoundleague.org). The Chair of the NPSL Disciplinary Committee will review the communications and provide the appropriate course of action, where necessary.

### 6. Sideline Responsible Behavior

Coaches are held responsible for the behavior of the coaches, parents, players, and fans. Referees have the authority to dismiss a coach from a match if the behavior from the sideline is irresponsible or unacceptable. There's no good reason to hassle or yell at the referees, regardless the call or non-call – vent your frustration and counsel your sidelines to express themselves in a positive and supportive manner. The NPSL supports its referees and has a ZERO TOLERANCE for situations of referee abuse and will result in disciplinary action. Remember, it's a game for the kids so set a positive example.

### 7. Other Rules to Remember

Earrings are not allowed, no exceptions. Players will be asked to leave the field should they be caught wearing an earring.

Dogs: Many of the fields also have city or county ordinances prohibiting dogs on the sports fields. Please leave your dog at home.

### 8. Roster Changes

The deadline for adding players to your roster and be eligible for regular season play is October 31. Please remember this date and allow your registrar some time to add your player. Do not wait till the last minute. You can add players to your roster for post season play up to one week prior to your first game.

### 9. Player Pass

Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) introduced the option for WYS-sanctioned leagues to use the player pass within league play starting this year. The NPSL Steering Committee determined that for 2011, the player pass will not be permitted in the NPSL except:

- (a) for U11 matches to provide for player development opportunities for the player(s) being used under the player pass; or
- (b) in situations where a team's rostered player counts had fallen after tryouts to a point where the club's Director of Coaching determined the team's continued viability was at risk and, in the interests of the players being able to play this fall, the team required players from another of its



'at age' NPSL club team to continue AND only in the case where it has received formal approval from the NPSL Director of Competition in advance of using the Player Pass for a match.

During this first year, the NPSL will ask the coaches to use an honor system and notify their opposing coach if a player pass is being used for a particular game and which players on the roster are being used on a player pass. Use of the Player Pass by coaches to manipulate rosters for the express purpose of winning matches, at the determination of the NPSL Director of Competition, will not be tolerated and may subject the team to disciplinary actions. Note that players rostered on RCL teams are not eligible to play in NPSL matches using the player pass.

The Washington Youth Soccer Player Pass can also be used outside the NPSL matches by players rostered to NPSL teams that by NPSL players wishing to participate in RCL teams within their Clubs only. Please refer to your club for further details on this option.

### **10. Post Season State Cups**

At this time, it is anticipated that preliminary games for the Washington Youth Soccer Founders and Challenge Cups will not begin until after the regularly schedules NPSL fall season matches.

Should this change and WYS schedule matches during December, for teams participating in either post season tournament, plan to play two games in a particular weekend.

Teams participating in the NPSL can register to compete in one of three Washington Youth Soccer post-season state cups: Founders Cup; Challenge Cup and US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships (highest level).

Application dates vary by age and tournament. Please go to the Washington Youth Soccer web site (<http://www.wsysa.com>) and click on "Tournaments" for more information. Applications for the Founders Cup typically opens in early October and closes in early November for all ages and genders. Applications for Challenge Cup and US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships for BU15-BU19 typically open in early October and close in early November. For BU11-BU14 and GU11-GU19, applications typically open in early October and close in late February.

### **11. NPSL Girls U15-U18 Season**

The NPSL is pleased to host its Girls U15-U18 season once again.

The NPSL Girls GU15-GU18 Season will begin on January 5, 2012 with 10-12 games scheduled through March 2012. Matches will be on Sundays. We are taking applications for the GU15 to GU18 teams through November. Divisions and schedules will be finalized in early December.