



## Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association

### Administrative Office Address:

1225 Civic Field Way  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
676-1919 Ext. 104 \* [www.whatcomsoccer.com](http://www.whatcomsoccer.com)

### Games Played at:

Northwest Soccer Park  
5238 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

## Frequently Asked Questions

### At what age can my child play soccer?

Whatcom County Youth Soccer is available for children ages 5 to 18. (5 year olds must also be enrolled in kindergarten)

Children ages 5-18 can join the recreational league (10 clubs available).

Children ages 10-11 can try out for the Whatcom Development League (WDL)

Children ages 11-18 can try out for the Whatcom FC Rangers Select Club

The age group U6 to U18 your child plays in is based on the Washington Youth Soccer age groups. An age chart for each season is available on the website: [www.whatcomsoccer.com](http://www.whatcomsoccer.com).

### When is soccer available?

**Recreational soccer:** There is a Spring season and Fall Season for the recreational soccer. The fall season generally starts the first weekend after Labor Day in September and Spring season begins in late March. The games are played on Saturdays at Northwest Soccer Park and it is an 8 week season.

**Whatcom Development League (WDL):** There is a Fall season and Spring Season for the WDL soccer. The fall season generally starts the first weekend after Labor Day in September and Spring season begins in late March. The games are played on Saturdays at Northwest Soccer Park and it is an 8 week season.

**WFC Rangers Select League Play:** Teams play in the state and district leagues in either the Fall or Spring. The Rangers play Saturday or Sunday depending on the age group. The number of games in the season varies depending on the league the teams' plays in. The season runs from Sept—to June—the gender and age groups play at different times throughout the year.

### Does my child need experience to play recreational soccer?

WCYSA recreational programs are designed for kids to learn about the game of soccer, get some healthy physical activity and hopefully develop a love for the game. You child can start playing at any age. If they are older and starting soccer for the first time, just communicate that to the coach so they are aware and can provide appropriate instruction. The goal is for each child to receive equal playing time regardless of experience.

### How Do I Register for the Recreational League?

Generally, public announcements are made in the Community Sports Section of the Bellingham Herald several months before registration deadline. Online registration begins June 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall and January 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring. Online Registration is available at our website: [www.whatcomsoccer.com](http://www.whatcomsoccer.com). If you don't have internet access, paper registration forms are available the Sportsplex, Prostock, Sportsman's Chalet, & Soccer City and other locations throughout the county. Late registration period begins Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall and March 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring and are subject to \$10 late charge. Registrations are accepted on an "as space is available basis".

Registration is considered complete when an online registration (or form) is complete, a copy of participant's birth certificate is on file (Note: WSYSA will not accept Baptismal, Hospital or Religious birth certificates) and fees have been paid. When registration is completed, a player is considered properly registered, insurance coverage is now in place and the player can practice and play only with the team to which they have been rostered.

**Please do not give payment or forms to coaches—they are not allowed to collect any money or registration forms.**

### **Which Club Do I Register With?**

Players wishing to participate in the recreational league **must** register with the Club in their residential area. This is based on where you live and what school you attend. If your child attends private school, you register them with the club they would play with if they attended public school.

**Blaine Club** - players residing in the Blaine School area.

**Ferndale Club** - players residing in the Ferndale/Custer School area.

**Meridian Club** - players residing in the Meridian/Everson School area.

**Mt. Baker Club** - players residing in the Mt. Baker/Nooksack School area.

**Eastside Club** - players residing in the Silverbeach and Roosevelt School area.

**Lakeside Club** - players residing in the Geneva and Carl Cozier School area.

**Lynden Club** – players residing in the Lynden area.

**Southside Club** - players residing in the Happy Valley, Larrabee, Lowell School & Wade King area.

**Nooksack Club**—players residing in the Everson/Nooksack area attending Nooksack Schools

**Northside Club** - players residing in Parkview, Alderwood, Columbia, Birchwood, Sunnyland School area.

\*Under exceptional circumstances players may be permitted to play for a club outside of their area. A formal written request must be made to the WCYSA Office. A player may be authorized to play outside their area by the WCYSA Executive Director or his designated agent and both of the affected clubs. If a player is found to be playing out of club boundaries without proper authorization, the player may be removed from his or her team by the WCYSA Executive Director. If possible, the player shall be placed on a team within the boundaries of the club in which the player resides.

**For more information you can contact the WCYSA Registrar at 676-1919 Ext. 104.**

### **How Are Recreational Teams Formed Each Year?**

Your Club Registrar (a volunteer) is responsible for forming teams. Registrars are authorized by the State of Washington Youth Soccer Association to form teams and they do so according to the Rules and Regulations of the State Association. Teams are formed by age groups, determined by the player's birth date. Date cut off is from August 1 to July 31 as follows: Under 6 – cannot be 6 prior to August 1 of seasonal year, etc. Note: Seasonal year runs from September 1, through August 31.

WCYSA recreational teams are to be formed in an effort to create teams of reasonably equal playing ability and competitiveness in order to have fair and competitive competition for the enjoyment of the game. If a team is found by the WCYSA Executive Director and the WCYSA Coaching Director to be intentionally “stacking” or selecting the stronger players to be on one recreational team, the WCYSA Coaching Director and WCYSA Executive Director are permitted to redistribute players within a club, to achieve a more competitive balance among teams of the same age level within the club. A coach, parent or club administrator has the right to appeal the redistribution of players to the Executive Committee of the WCYSA Board of Directors.

A player can be rostered to only one team at any given time. Players registered to one team and playing on another team are considered to be playing for two teams. Teams found to be playing illegal players will forfeit their games.

There are absolutely no guarantees of any player being on the same team each season. The registrar will form teams to the best of his/her ability. The coach cannot recruit players or promise a player that they will be on his/her team. (This would be considered a select team) The coach should always refer new players to the Club.

Teams are registered by age group, according to the oldest player on the team. If a question arises as to the age of a particular player to the WCYSA Office, WCYSA staff is permitted to request verification (birth certificate or passport) of the player's age. If the player is registered to the incorrect age group the player will be moved to a different team within the club that is the players' proper age group.

### **When & Where do the practices take place?**

The practice days and times are determined by the volunteer coach. When your child is placed on a team and the roster is full, the coach will receive a roster from the club. The coach will then contact you to provide you with practice days, times and location. The practices usually take place between Monday and Friday after 5pm. The location is usually at a school or park close to your geographic area. At the younger ages you may only practice once a week. At the older ages you will practice no more than twice a week. Usually the practice days and times are set at the beginning of the season and do not change unless there are special circumstances. Practices usually begin one to two weeks before the season starts.

### **What gear is required for my child to play recreational soccer?**

The club will provide you with a jersey to wear for the season. At the end of the season, usually at the last game, you turn in the borrowed jersey. You provide black shorts, black socks, shin guards & soccer cleats. You can get these

locally at any sports store and some department stores. Some suggested locations are: Sportsplex Proshop, Prostock, Sportman's Chalet or Soccer City. If you want to get used gear you can usually find something at Value Village, Salvation Army or Goodwill.

### **How Are Recreational League Schedules Prepared?**

Club Registrars provide the WCYSA Director of Development with a list of all the teams that will be playing each season. WCYSA then hosts a beginning of the season jamboree for U8 only in the Fall to help evaluate the level of each team's ability the U8 season schedules are then done of the remainder of the season for the second week of games. All other ages the schedule for the season is then produced prior to the first games of the season and is subject to adjustment based on coach request and to provide balanced competition. Schedules are available 3 to 4 days before the season begins online at [www.whatcomsoccer.com](http://www.whatcomsoccer.com). The games will be played at Northwest Soccer Park between 8am & 4pm and game times will most likely change each week.

### **Is There A More Competitive League in Bellingham?**

The Whatcom Development League (WDL), offers boys and girls ages 10 - 11 (U11/U12) the opportunity to compete with teams of the same caliber without having to travel throughout Washington State. The games will be played at Northwest Soccer Park.

Players living in any area will try out in the Spring and be evaluated, and a selection process will take place. Based on the evaluations, there will be 6 teams in each of the following age groups, BU11/12, GU11/12, from Whatcom County. A maximum of 13 players will be chosen for each team. These teams will play an 8 game season, ending with an in house tournament. The cost will be slightly higher then the Recreational league (Fall 2009 \$130, Spring 2010 \$115) but less than the Whatcom FC Rangers.

Tryout announcements are generally published in the Soccer Newsletter to all registered players as well as handed out during the Spring season to players in the qualifying age groups. There will be two try out times, and it is recommended that players attend both but not a requirement.

The WDL tryout participants will be notified by mail approximately one week following the final try out regarding acceptance into the program. Included with this notice will be instructions on payment and birth certificate requirements. (Usually due by June 30). Sometime in early August, players will be contacted by their coaches regarding practices etc. WDL starts practicing after August 1 for Fall and March 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring.

### **Is There Select & Premier Level Soccer In Bellingham?**

The WFC Rangers are the highly competitive, select soccer teams for WCYSA. Players living in any area who are interested in a much higher level of competition can try out to be on one of these select (traveling) teams. At times there may be up to 3 teams in any one age group. The strongest team in any one age group will usually play in the Washington State Youth League (WSYL) in either Division 1, 2 or 3. While the other two teams will usually play in the District League in either the Gold or Silver divisions. Teams may compete all over Washington State.

There is a much higher level of commitment required in the WFC Ranger program. There are more practices, more games, more traveling and more costs. Ranger teams attend tournaments throughout the summer, as close as their home field at Northwest Soccer Park, or as some teams have done in the past, as far away as Europe.

The playing season for the Rangers is all year round based upon league programs and play. This is often followed by the State Cup Tournament.

Tryouts for the Rangers are usually held in May. There is an evaluation of players and a selection process takes place. Team ages are from U12 through U19. Tryout announcements are published in the Soccer Newsletter to all registered players and announcements are also in the Bellingham Herald.

In general players trying out for the WFC Rangers will find out if they have made a team immediately after the last tryout in their age group. They will be notified by their coach soon afterwards and informed on practice days, registration fees, uniform fees etc. For more information please go to the WFC Ranger website: [www.wfcrangers.com](http://www.wfcrangers.com)

### **Can WFC Rangers Play Recreational Soccer in the Spring?**

WCYSA does permit WFC Rangers players to participate in the recreational program. Due to the league structure that the WFC Rangers squads now participate in it is necessary for Ranger players wishing to participate in the Recreational season

to petition the WCYSA office for permission to play in the recreational league. WCYSA players are only permitted to be registered to one league team at a time. Registration on a recreational team and a Ranger team constitutes registration on two teams. This petition form must be completed and submitted to the WCYSA Office. WCYSA will allow up to four (4) WFC Ranger players per team, who are playing within their home club boundaries, to participate on their club's recreational squad. By home club boundaries this means that WFC Ranger players who live within the club boundaries for Northside, Ferndale, and Southside etc, can only play for their recreational club. However, if a Ranger player's home club does not have a recreational squad they can receive permission from their home club president to play with another club as long as they do not have more than four (4) Ranger players on the receiving team.

*Need more information?*

*Please contact, WCYSA Registrar, Denise Massey Smith at 676-1919 Ext 104 or [denise@whatcomsoccer.com](mailto:denise@whatcomsoccer.com).*