



WHATCOM COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Administrative Office Address:

1225 Civic Field Way Bellingham, WA 98229

255.5013 | 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. (Under 6 (U6) through Under 19 (U19))

Children ages 5-12 can join the recreational league (10 clubs available).

Children ages 13-18 can play in the Rangers Middle & High School League-no tryout required-all players accepted

Children ages 10-11 can try out for the Rangers Development Program (RDP)

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

The age group U6 to U19 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.

When is soccer available?

Recreational soccer: There is a Spring Season and Fall Season for the recreational soccer for U6-12. The fall season generally starts the first weekend after Labor Day in September and Spring Season begins in mid-late March. The games are played on Saturdays at Northwest Soccer Park and it is an 8 week season.

Rangers Middle & High School League: The focus of these programs is for all players to have fun! **Players do not have to try out for these programs.** We want to provide a positive environment that fosters good sportsmanship, and love for the game. These leagues will offer your child not only the ability to play for their schools but play all year round. Getting your child to get their friends to play is greatly encouraged. Chosen coaches for all teams will have the opportunity to learn technical skills from other Ranger coaches before and throughout the season to help them further your child's development.

Middle School League (MSL): This league is designed for players U13-U14 who are either; not placed on or choose not to play on a premier or select team. The season consists of 8 week sessions in both the Fall & Spring.

High School League (HSL): This league is designed for players U15-U18 who are either; not placed on or choose not to play on a premier or select team. The season consists of 8 weeks with the boys playing in the Fall and the girls playing in the Spring.

All games are played locally at NWSP. Cost is \$66 per session and will include the cost of a team shirt for players to keep.

Rangers Development Program (RDP): There is a Fall season and Spring Season for the RDP 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. Try out take place the Spring before the next seasonal year.

WFC Rangers Select/Premier 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. Your 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, information is in the Bellingham Herald Leisure Guide, Whatcom Soccer Newsletter, email announcements & information out to public and private schools several months before registration deadline. Online

registration begins June 1st for Fall and January 1st for Spring. Online Registration is available at our website: www.whatcomsoccer.com. If you don't have internet access, paper registration forms are available the Sportsplex, Prostock, Soccer City, Sports Authority and other locations throughout the county. Late registration period begins August 1st for Fall and March 1st 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: WYS 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.

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 School area.

Mt. Baker Club - players residing in the Mt. Baker School area.

Eastside Club - players residing in the Silverbeach, Northern Heights 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, Cordata, 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 255.5013.

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 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 recreational practices take place?

The practice days and times are determined by the recreational coach. When your child is placed on a team and the roster is full, the coach will receive a roster from the club. (Fall season teams are finalized near the end of August—Spring season teams are finalized near the beginning of March) 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, Sportsman'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 for 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 2 to 3 days before the season begins online at 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 Rangers Development Program (RDL), 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 than the Recreational league.

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 RDL tryout participants will be notified via e-mail and the try out results are posted online with 72 hours of the last try out date. 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. RDL starts practicing after August 1 for Fall and March 1st 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 Regional Competitive League (RCL) 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 between March & May depending on age and gender. There is an evaluation of players and a selection process takes place. Team ages are from U12 through U19. In general players trying

out for the WFC Rangers will find out if they have made a team within 72 hours 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

Need more information?

Please contact, WCYSA Registrar, John Ayre at 360.255.2013 or email: johna@whatcomsoccer.com.