



**PARENT + PLAYER
HANDBOOK**

Welcome to Whatcom County Select. We recognize that playing organized, competitive soccer can be a fun and rewarding activity. Not only does it help players develop their skills, but it can provide valuable life lessons to guide players in becoming successful members of our community. We have put together this handbook to help support our families and players in making the most of our program. Our goal is for the Whatcom County Select experience to be as positive as possible for everyone involved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- WHAT IS WHATCOM COUNTY SELECT?
- HOW ARE TEAMS ORGANIZED AND FORMED?
- HOW ARE COACHES SELECTED?
- WHOM DO WE PLAY?
- WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?
- WHAT DOES IT COST?
- PLAYER EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?
- FUNDRAISING
- CONTACT INFORMATION

WHAT IS WHATCOM COUNTY SELECT?

Whatcom County Select (WCS) provides a competitive youth soccer program for passionate players who are looking for a more competitive experience than recreational soccer. It is for dedicated players willing to make a one-year commitment to do their best, develop their skills, and improve themselves as players and people.

Our mission is to inspire players to develop to their full potential. We maintain talented and knowledgeable coaches that are committed to the development of all youth players, so they can experience the rewards of pursuing excellence, teamwork, and sportsmanship while demonstrating P.R.I.D.E. on and off of the pitch.

- **Prepared:** Players are always prepared and ready to play.
- **Respect:** Players are respectful to their coaches, teammates, and opponents.
- **Integrity:** Players demonstrate good character, honesty, and leadership skills.
- **Determination:** Players do their best and strive to improve themselves.
- **Engagement:** Players are engaged during trainings, games, tournaments and team gatherings.

Whatcom County Select, formerly known as Rangers Select, is a nonprofit player development club chartered in 2022 by Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association (WCYSA) as a part of Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) to serve the youth soccer community of Whatcom County. We provide soccer training and competitive play options at the Select level, with teams playing in the North Puget Sound League (NPSL). Our teams participate in tournaments locally and at the state level.

HOW ARE TEAMS ORGANIZED AND FORMED?

Whatcom County Select teams are formed each June for the upcoming season. Online registration is free and can be found on the WCYSA website. Players must be registered online prior to the start of tryouts for their age group. If you have any questions about last-minute registration, please reach out to the club director.

Each age group will have two 75-minute tryout sessions. Players are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions in order to provide coaching staff ample opportunity to evaluate them. Following tryouts selection notices will be sent out via email. Players will have 48 hours to accept or decline the invitation before positions are offered to alternates.

HOW ARE COACHES SELECTED?

The club director is responsible for recruiting and hiring experienced and knowledgeable coaching staff. All head coaches receive a stipend.

WHOM DO WE PLAY?

All Whatcom County Select teams participate in the North Puget Sound League (NPSL). The NPSL offers competition at a local level for boys and girls U9 to U19 soccer teams. The NPSL's high number of clubs within a concentrated geographic area allows WCS families reduced travel time and costs.

For more information on the North Puget Sound League, refer to the following website:

<https://northpugetsoundleague.demosphere-secure.com>

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

SUMMER SEASON: Training twice per week (1.25 hours each) July 31-August 30 and attend the Xtreme Cup in Tukwila, Washington from August 11-August 13.

FALL SEASON: Training twice per week (1.25 hours each) September 6-early December with a 12 game season. There will be six home games and six away games.

SPRING SEASON (encouraged but not required): Training twice per week (1.25 hours each) February 12-March 31 with a six game season. There will be three home games and three away games.

Most home games will take place at Phillips 66 Fields. Away games take place south of Whatcom County with travel no farther than Olympia.

Some coaches may have their teams participate in the Founder's Cup. This is a state cup that takes place during the month of January and ending in the beginning of February. Participation in the Founder's Cup will be left to coach discretion based on team performance in the fall league. If a team is participating in the Founder's Cup, the team may decide to conduct training sessions during the months of December and January. These trainings would be announced in early December.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

SUMMER/FALL COMBINED SEASON FEE: \$495

SPRING SEASON FEE: \$225

These fees cover coaching stipends, training and game field rentals, league fees, secures referees for home games, WYS/WCYSA fees, tournament fees, and club administrative costs. There will not be additional costs for training fields and lights. Please note that the Founder's Cup entree fee is NOT factored into these costs.

REQUIRED UNIFORM KIT: ~\$100

Additional gear is available but not required. Uniform kits can be purchased online through Soccer City.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of Whatcom County Select are expected to read, agree to, and attest to the club's code of conduct and expectations. Players will demonstrate P.R.I.D.E. on and off the pitch. If expectations are not met, players may be referred to a discipline ladder.

P.R.I.D.E. EXPECTATIONS:

Prepared: Players are expected to be prepared.

- Gear needs to be brought to all trainings, games, and tournaments/cups, e.g. appropriate jersey kits, cleats, shin guards, water bottle, and soccer ball
- Players are expected to arrive on time to all trainings and games. If a player cannot be in attendance, communication needs to be made with coach or manager.

Respect: Players are expected to be respectful of coaches, teammates, opponents, and fields.

- Coaches must be respected at all times, e.g. follow coach directions, pay attention at trainings, communicate in a positive manner, etc.
- Teammates must be respected at all times, e.g. be constructive, encouraging, and supportive during games and trainings, communicate in a positive manner, etc.
- Opponents must be respected at all times, e.g. show good sportsmanship, etc.
- Field spaces must be respected at all times, e.g. pick up trash on the field, maintain the integrity of the space, etc.

Integrity: Players demonstrate good character, honesty, and leadership skills during all trainings and games. They are a positive role model and representative of Whatcom County Select.

Determined: Players are expected to exhibit determination. In order for skill and team development to occur, it is necessary for players to do their best at trainings and games. Players are also encouraged to continue to work on and develop their skills outside of formal trainings.

Engaged: Players are expected to be engaged during trainings, games, tournaments and team gatherings.

- Players should participate in all drills and activities put forth by the coach during trainings.
- Players should remain engaged in the game even when on the sidelines, e.g. stay on the bench, watch the game, cheer on teammates, etc.
- Although team gatherings/activities are not required, attendance is encouraged to develop team cohesion.

DISCIPLINE LADDER

If coaches are concerned about player misconduct or a player not adhering to attested expectations, they will refer to the club discipline ladder to hold players accountable for their actions. The ladder will consist of a three step process per offense.

STEP ONE: The coach notifies the player of misconduct and provides ways to fix the behavior.

STEP TWO: If misconduct continues, it will result in a meeting with coach/manager, parent, and player.

STEP THREE: If misconduct continues beyond step two, it will result in a meeting with coach/manager, parent, player, and club director.

*Consequences for offenses will be determined on a case by case basis.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We want parents to be the best advocates and positive supporters of our players so everyone can have a positive experience with Whatcom County Select. Here is how parents can help:

- Foster an environment of respect for referees, players, coaches, and spectators of the opposing team through words of encouragement and support.
- Applaud superior play, effort, and sportsmanship by players on both teams.
- All training sessions will be posted into TeamSnap by the team's manager. It is important that player availability is updated regularly. If a player is unable to attend training, please let the coach know.
- Support coaches and team managers, for they contribute many hours of their time and are advocating and doing their best to support all players.
- Communicate any concerns to coaches following the 48 hour rule for conflict resolution and be certain this is done away from the playing location and players.

48 Hour Rule for Conflict Resolution:

1. Delay your response. Wait 48 hours to allow both parties time to reflect on the issue and find productive ways forward.
2. Parent/player must first respectfully approach the coach with the problem.
3. If this does not resolve the issue, the parent can request a meeting with the club director and the coach.
4. All coaching staff and board members will also adhere to this plan.

HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

- Team Manager: This person is a critical component to a successful team. They coordinate all communication between the club, coach, and team. During the season they will be responsible for relaying training and game schedules, communicating with opposing team managers to coordinate game times and reschedules, and uploading home team scores in NPSL.
- Volunteer opportunities: carpooling, team snacks, etc.
- Join our volunteer parent advisory committee who work together with the program director toward the betterment of the program.

FUNDRAISING

This year, teams will be encouraged to participate in fundraising opportunities. The Kafe 104.1 Morning Show has agreed to assist teams in this process.

Fundraising ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Team merchandise sales
- Summer team car wash
- Online donation pages
- Sponsorship



Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship, please contact our club director at soccerdirector@bellingshamsportsplex.com

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cristy Holcomb, President

Erin Gorman, Secretary

TBD, Treasurer

CONTACT

Club Director

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