

# Meridian 3v3 Soccer Tournament

May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

## Rules:

**Registration:** All players U6 – Middle School must come from Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association teams that are already in existence and currently playing the spring 2025 season or were a part of the fall 2024 recreational season. Players from other clubs will need to pay an additional fee per player for insurance purposes. Registration can be made by contacting the tournament registrar at [meridiansoccer3v3@hotmail.com](mailto:meridiansoccer3v3@hotmail.com). **All High School players must have played for Whatcom County high school in the 2024-2025 school year.** Final rosters must be submitted by May 16, 2025. No roster changes will be permitted after the final roster is submitted. *Registration will not be complete unless payment is made in full.*

*Cost is \$175 U6/7 and \$185 U8 and up per team*

**Rec players will play according to Whatcom County Youth Soccer age chart for division placement located at [www.whatcomsoccer.com](http://www.whatcomsoccer.com).**

**Competitive players will play by birth year for division placement.**

Rec players may choose to play in either the rec division or the competitive division for U9 to Middle School.

Ranger, Select and Premier Players are permitted to play only in the competitive divisions U9- Middle School.

**New in 2025** Whatcom club players outside of WCYSA can register without having to buy additional insurance. We no longer require \$15 insurance fee.

**New in 2025** the Middle School Division will have two divisions, Rec and Competitive. Teams will consist of all boys or all girls, **No co-ed.**

The High School Division will **open to all boys, all girls, or co-ed teams (one division).** Teams can be formed from different high schools. Players must have played at a Whatcom County High School in the 2024-2025 school year.

*Players can only be listed on one roster. Players will not be allowed to play on more than one team.*

## **Team Construction:**

### **Rec Teams**

Rec teams entered in the rec divisions must be comprised of kids from existing WCYSA rec teams from either the fall of 2024 or spring of 2025. Rec teams cannot be composed of kids from a variety of clubs, only the club they were registered with in the regular season. Teams should be made from your current roster. If you are unable to get enough players from your current roster you may use up to 2 players from another team roster within your club and age group. Rec kids are allowed to play up 1 division.

**Rec teams CANNOT be comprised of kids from a variety of clubs, only the club they were registered with in the regular season.**

**U6 – U10:** If we do not have a minimum of 4 teams per division per age group there is a possibility that we may combine divisions or that girl teams will play boy teams so we can get the minimum 3 games in prior to the finals.

### **Competitive Division U9-U11/12**

Competitive division teams can be made from kids from different Whatcom County clubs or mixed with Select, Ranger or Premier Players.

**There are Competitive divisions for U9 through Middle School.** (See below for Middle School information)

**U11-U12:** The U11/12 age groups for rec and competitive divisions will be combined. Depending on the number of teams that register, your team will be placed in a group of four teams that are also at or around that age and skill level.

If we do not have enough teams to support a rec and competitive division in U11/U12 the coaches will be contacted to find out if they want to play up in Middle school rec (on Saturday) or have rec and competitive combined.

### **Middle School Rec and Competitive Divisions:**

No co-ed teams.

**New for 2025** The Recreation Division will consist of:

- WCYSA Middle School Recreation players
- Whatcom County Middle School players
- U12 players who elect to play in an older age group

- Whatcom Select players
- Any combination of these groups.

#### Competitive Division:

- **Ranger, NW Alliance, and Premier Players must register in the Competitive Division.**
- Any Middle school age players can elect to compete in the Competitive Division.

If Meridian 3v3 does not receive enough Rec team and Competitive teams in each division, we will reach out to Coaches to discuss combining or alternatives.

### **High School Division**

High school players must play for a Whatcom County high school in the 2024-2025 school year for insurance purposes. **The High School Division will open to all boys, all girls, or co-ed teams (one division).** Each player is allowed to register with only one team.

**Team Name:** Name must be different for each team entered. We will not accept team 1 & team 2 or team A & team B.

**Team Size:** Each team is allowed a maximum of six players. This will consist of three field players and three substitutes. There are no keepers for this tournament. A team may play the game with a minimum of three players but any less will result in forfeiture. The home team is listed first.

**Uniforms:** All players must wear a jersey/ t-shirt of the same color during the game. You may wear your club jerseys if permitted by your club, or alternatively, you may wear another jersey or t-shirt, provided that all team members wear similar shirts. Bring both a colored and a white shirt to the games in case there is a color conflict. The visiting team listed will have the choice of shirt color if there is a color conflict.

**Equipment:** All players are required to wear shin guards. **Home teams are responsible for providing game balls.** U6-U7 will play with a size 3 ball, U8-U12 will play with a size 4 ball, and MSD and High School will play with a size 5 ball.

**Field size and Characteristics:** U6-8 will use fields that are 25 yds x 30 yds; U9 through Middle School and High School will use fields 30 yds x 40 yds.

Goal size is 4.5' high x 9' wide. There will be a "no play zone" (NPZ) area painted in an arc in front of the goals, roughly 9' to the sides and in front of the goal. No goal can be scored from this area. If an offensive player "scores" from within the NPZ, a goal kick will be awarded to the defensive team. Should a defensive player touch the ball in the NPZ, a goal will be awarded to the offensive team. Should the ball end up in the no play zone, and stop there, the defensive team will be awarded a goal kick no matter who kicked the ball into the no play zone. Both sides may travel through the NPZ, but neither side may play the ball from within the NPZ.

**Duration of game:** the game shall consist of two 12-minute halves with a two-minute halftime period. There are no time outs. The clock will run continuously. There will be limited time extensions for injuries. The horn officially ends the match. Games tied after regulation play shall end in a tie, except in the playoffs. In the playoffs, one three-minute sudden death overtime period will commence if the game results in a tie. If the game is not decided in overtime, a shootout from midfield will decide the winner. No goalie in the shootout.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions can be made on-the-fly at the coach's discretion. The player leaving the field must be completely off the field before the sub enters the field.

**Scoring Goals:** Goals can be scored only from a team's offensive half of the field outside of the "no play zone", and can be scored from any touch of the ball, except a kick-off or kick-in. If a goal is scored inadvertently from a team's defensive half of the field, a goal kick will be awarded to the other team, and play resumes. However, if a "pass" or shot is taken from a team's defensive half, and the ball bounces off the other team's player and into the goal, a goal will be awarded.

The referees will keep track of the score from each game, and report the scores to the Score Master after each game on a game report. Every coach will have to sign off on the score sheet. *If there is a protest, coaches need to go up to the registration table until the issue can be resolved by a tournament official. Coaches and teams should not remain at the field as the next games will be starting.*

*There will be a two-minute warning. Games will start on the horn whether or not the other team is ready.*

## **Scoring (In Pool Play)**

### **Games will be scored as follows**

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

### **Tie – Breakers**

In pool play, ties between two or more teams will be broken by:

1. Head to head
2. Goals allowed
3. Goals scored
4. Goal differential
5. Coin Toss

### **Additional Rules:**

- There is no offside in this tournament.
- **No slide tackling will be allowed.** No sliding will be allowed.
- **No HEADERS in any age group**
- No high kicks or bicycle kicks for player safety.
- In all dead ball situations including kickoffs, opposing players must stay 5 yards back from the ball.
- If the defensive players' goal area is less than 5 yards, the ball shall be placed 5 yards from the goal area in line with the place of the penalty.
- No throw-ins; the ball must be kicked into play from the sidelines or the goal lines.
- No scoring from a kick-in.
- All kicks are indirect, except for penalty kicks (see below).
- Goal kicks will be taken from the goal line closest to where the ball went out of play. Opposing team's players must go to the mid field line on goal kicks until the ball is in play.

- Kick offs may be taken in any direction.
- Players need not wait for a referee's whistle at kick offs, penalty kicks or goal kicks: the idea would be to encourage fast play.
- If the defense kicks the ball out past its own goal line, the offense may take the ball and resume play via a kick-in at the nearest sideline.
- No corner kicks.
- **All coaches will need to sign off on the score sheet at the end of the game.**

**Hand Balls:** These will be called as in any soccer match. If there is a deliberate attempt to deny a scoring opportunity by stopping the ball with the hands, the offensive team will be awarded a direct free kick from the midfield line with all players standing behind the midfield line at the time of the kick. The ball is live at this point. If the direct kick misses long, then a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team and play resumes. All other handballs will be handled with an indirect kick awarded to the other team.

**Penalty Kicks:** These shall be awarded if, in the referee's opinion, a scoring opportunity was nullified by the infraction. It is a direct kick taken from the middle of the half field line with all players behind the half field line. The ball is live when the kick is taken. If a goal is not scored because the ball goes wide of the goal and crosses the goal line, the defense obtains possession with a goal kick. If, after the kick, the ball stops on field, not scoring or crossing the goal lines, either side may take possession of the ball. If in the referee's opinion, no scoring opportunity was denied by the infraction (like in the case of a tripping foul or handball away from the goal), then an indirect penalty kick will be allowed and players need not wait for the referee to put the ball in play.

**Red Cards:** Referees have the right to eject a player or coach from the game for continued infraction or disobedience, or for an incident that warrants sending the player off. The team then continues with only two players on the field for the duration of the game. The tournament director will decide if further suspension is warranted. No appeals are allowed for cards adjudicated by the disciplinary committee. Any player given three (3) yellow cards in the tournament will not be allowed to play in their next match. The disciplinary committee will determine suspension for red card offenses.

**No Protests:** *No protests will be allowed and all referees decisions will be final, except those concerning the use of overage or ineligible players. The opposing coach and referee must be notified of an overage/ineligible player protest prior to leaving the field of play and the protest must be submitted in writing to the tournament headquarters table within 30 minutes of the match completion. If a protest is upheld, forfeiture will be awarded for the match (1-0 victory for the non-offending team) and all previously played matches that included the overage/ineligible player.*

**If situations arise which have not been clarified in these rules, the tournament director shall have sole discretion to determine a ruling.**

**Sportsmanship:** We expect players, coaches, and fans to act with good sportsmanship at all times. Abuse of the referee, verbal or otherwise, will not be tolerated. Field referees will be given wide discretion to eject an offending party from the game. A second warning will result in immediate ejection from the tournament site. Our goal is to create a fun atmosphere for playing soccer. Fun first, wins second.

**Other:**

**High School division: must have played at a Whatcom County high school in the 2024-2025 school year.**