

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the seasons for soccer and how often do I register?

Wise County Youth Soccer Association has fall and spring soccer seasons. Typically, the fall season begins the first week in September and the spring season begins the first week in April. Seasons run 8-9 weeks. Registration for the season begins immediately before the season. You'll need to reapply for financial aid too.

Where does my registration fee go to?

Each season, your fees of \$35 are expended in the following manner per child: VYSA dues and insurance -\$12, jersey-\$10, trophy-\$8. These three expenditures average \$30 per child, but some years are more depending on the number of players and the price of jerseys we purchase and the amount of screen printing on the jerseys. The remaining \$5 per child is used for purchasing equipment, repairs to equipment and improvements to equipment and fields and payment for referees during tournaments and jamborees and any financial aid agreements.

I signed up late and was charged \$10 extra. Why?

We order our jerseys in bulk, giving us a better jersey and price than if purchased in small amounts. If you sign up late, jersey orders have likely gone out. We are simply passing the additional cost of the late jersey order on to you.

How old does my child have to be to start playing soccer? What age group will my child be in?

Your child must be age four by August 1 of the current school year. U6 is currently the youngest age group WCYSA accepts. Your child will be placed in the age group that is most appropriate for them. Generally, WCYSA has U6, U8, U10, U12, U14 and U16 divisions. Frequently, there are not enough children for a competitive U14 division. When this happens, WCYSA alters the age divisions accordingly to best fit the needs of safety and competition. The most frequent breakdown when there is no U14 is; U6, U8, U10, U13 and U16. For more specific information, please consult the “Soccer age chart in the “Parents” section.

Where does WCYSA play soccer at?

WCYSA plays soccer at Veldon Dotson Recreational Park, 5733 Airport Rd. in Wise. This park is part of the Town of Wise and also houses five baseball fields. We use the fields we play on with Wise Youth Football. At times, the park can be very crowded. PLEASE, DRIVE SLOWLY AND WATCH FOR CHILDREN! There are lots of small children chasing balls and they are difficult to see behind parked cars.

How will I find out what team I am on?

Your coach will call or email you after their coaches meeting. The coaches’ meeting date is posted on our Players tab. At that time, all team assignments are finalized and coaches will receive their rosters. Coaches will begin to notify parents regarding practice days/times. Please allow them up to a week to contact you. If you still have not been contacted by a coach, please contact any board member; we will be more than happy to research this information for you.

What does the “U” stand for on my age division?

The “U” stands for “under”. Your child has been placed on a team where all the children are “under” the “age” as of August 1 of the current school year. U8 teams are composed of children that are under the age of 8 on August 1 of that school year.

Is my team “Co-ed”?

Yes, all WCYSA teams are comprised of both girls and boys.

Why can't I choose who I want to be on a team with?

Unfortunately, when coaches, players and/or parents start choosing up whole teams, the teams can become unbalanced--which isn't much fun and defeats the purpose of our recreational program. Please keep in mind that your child will be placed on a team with players from their school or area. Additionally, one of the benefits of recreational soccer is making new friends, experiencing new coaches and new techniques. Therefore, WCYSA does not accept special requests for player placement on a team.

How many practices will there be? What time are practices?

WCYSA teams usually practice six to eight sessions before the season begins. Practice continues through the season. Typically, our schedule follows one of two weekly patterns; two weekday practices and a Saturday game or one weekday practice and one weekday game. The patterns vary as do the days of the week for practice, but generally we try to play on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Practice times vary by team.

What about snacks? I see some teams with treats, why?

Snacks are a part of the U6 and U8 divisions of play. Once teams are formed, a team parent is designated by the coach to organize a 'snack list' for that team. Each parent is responsible for bringing a small snack and drink for each team member for their snack day. WCYSA encourages parents not to bring soft drinks and candy as snacks. Sports drinks and fruit juice are good choices. Granola, cereal or crackers are good choices instead of candy. We would like to ask you to be very conscious of the litter that snacks generate and please pick up after yourself and your team.

What if I'm a good player and would like to play in an older age group?

WCYSA does not encourage "playing up", but we do allow it in exceptional cases. If you'd like to "try out" for an older age group, you may do so by contacting WCYSA or marking your registration as indicating you wish to "play up". Players are usually prohibited from "playing down", but exceptions may be made for health or medical reasons.

What happens during the event of inclement weather?

WCYSA's policy for canceling practice or games is simple; if you DO NOT hear from your coach, soccer is going on. If you do hear from your coach because of weather, it will ONLY be to CANCEL activities. Soccer is an all weather sport. We play in almost all weather conditions except heavy rain and electrical storms at the time of practice. Weather in the mountains is very localized and the weather experience in one area might not be experienced in other locations. If electrical storms are forecast or occur during practice/games, all activity is stopped and all persons must leave the field. We may restart play 30 after any sign of lightning has passed. The presence of rain is not in and of itself a reason to cancel practice; there are times that it is simply raining too much to play. We try to make decisions about weather no later than 1 hour before scheduled times.

What is the refund policy?

WCYSA has a no refund policy. This is not a punitive measure, nor meant to cause difficulty. We realize that children do frequently change their minds and some children don't want to play soccer after they've tried it. Once your child has registered, a significant portion of the fees submitted go to our parent organizations for dues, membership fees for players and liability insurance. We are proud members of Virginia Youth Soccer Association and United States Youth Soccer Organization and believe that these organizations benefit our association. Once we submit your child's membership registration, we cannot refund dues.

Do I need cleats? What are soccer cleats?

The answer to this is yes and no. Cleats are not required for U6 and U8 divisions, but are recommended for U8. They are required for the upper divisions. Soccer cleats are different than baseball or football cleats. WCYSA does not allow baseball or football cleats in practice or games. These types of cleats are either made with metal studs or rails or have a 'toe' cleat in the front of the shoe. If you wear this type of cleat to practice, your coach will not allow you to play. Turf cleats are allowed and can be a good choice if you don't like regular soccer cleats.

Do I get to keep my uniform?

Yes. WCYSA provides each player with a team jersey. The U6 and U8 divisions have specific colors for each team. The upper divisions have jerseys that are all one color. For the spring season, WCYSA plays in white jerseys. For fall season, we use a black jersey.

How will I receive my uniform?

Your coach will distribute uniforms to you after team rosters are finalized. You usually get your jersey during the second week of practice. You are required to purchase a pair of black shorts and black soccer socks. You may wear uniform-colored tee shirts underneath your uniform.

Do I need to keep my uniform after the season?

Absolutely. If you play soccer the following season and can still wear your jersey, it may be used as an alternate color uniform kit. WCYSA is now using white uniforms for spring, black for fall. Hold on to your jersey, you may need it. If you don't play soccer again, keep it as a memento of your experience.

What else do I need?

For practices you should have your own soccer ball in the appropriate size (size 3 for U6, U8, size 4 for U10, U12 and size 5 for U16). Appropriate shin guards are mandatory. Players without shin guards may not practice or play in games. Children with orthodontics must have a mouth guard. No jewelry of any kind is permitted. Earrings must be removed prior to the start of any practice or game; they cannot be taped over. Plaster or metal casts may not be worn for practices or games. Soft wraps worn for support are ok. No medical appliances may be worn during practice or matches. Water for each child is an absolute necessity. Players must always bring water to each practice and game. We'd prefer you use a refillable bottle than bringing the disposable bottles. Eyewear must be restrained in some manner. Youth eyeglass lens are shatter resistant, but you can still get hurt by the frames. We'd prefer you to wear sports eye wear, but you can wear your regular glasses if restrained.

What can I do with all the stuff that doesn't fit anymore?

If the equipment you've outgrown is still in good shape, you can donate it to WCYSA. WCYSA conducts an equipment swap every season. Equipment is expensive and kids frequently outgrow shoes and shin guards. Donate your old gear back to WCYSA. In exchange for your old gear, we'll let you pick through the pile for newer equipment for only \$1. This is a great way to get newer gear without breaking the bank.

What about a team or individual picture?

WCYSA has a picture day each season. When you receive your practice/game schedule, you will be provided with a picture date and time and a rain date. Make sure to wear your uniform for picture day. Pictures are optional and photographers vary, but most have different photo packages available in a variety of costs. Photos may be picked up by parents at One Hour Photo in Norton.

Will my child have an end of season activity?

Each team or age division may have a season end activity. Many teams have picnics, cook outs or pizza parties. The coaches and team parents are responsible for scheduling these activities.

League-wise, WCYSA sponsors season end jamborees that include teams from other leagues. Only those teams in the U12 and U16 age groups will participate in our jamboree at the end of season. We feel the U6 and U8 age groups are still mastering the fundamentals of the sport and are not ready to play against teams from other leagues. Periodically, U10 teams may play in jamborees, but this is an exception more than an expectation.

Do the players receive trophies or medals?

Every child that participates in our league receives a trophy, medal or ribbon. WCYSA most frequently chooses trophies as the award for each child. These are presented at the conclusion of the season.

How can I help?

There are many ways for parents to help. The minimum that we ask is for you to be supportive of your child, the coach of your team and WCYSA as a whole. You could also be a head coach, assistant coach or team parent. Show your support by attending as many games as possible and by helping out during practices, if you can.

Every year we need more coaches. This is a fun and rewarding experience that requires time, but can have a significant impact on the lives of a number of children. We require all of our coaches to attend coaching clinics and training, so that all coaches have the information they need to coach effectively. We require all coaches, volunteers and referees to undergo a background check.

If you are interested in helping even more, and can invest time and want to have more responsibility, we have a way! Our league is run by a hard-working group of volunteers that serve as the Board of Directors. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member or getting involved in one of our standing committees, talk to one of the current Board members. They are listed on our site under the About Us tab.

What else can I do?

Volunteer your time. WCYSA mows nearly five acres of fields on a weekly basis. Though these are town facilities, WCYSA and youth football are responsible for mowing, trimming and litter pick-up. If you can help out by mowing, trimming, garbage patrol or litter pick-up, it provides much value to our children by allowing coaches to spend more time coaching.