

## **Practice Policy**

Weston Soccer Club's mission is primarily developmental, not competitive. The Club seeks to help its players develop their soccer skills, their love for the game, their teamwork and sportsmanship and their character. The Club believes that attendance at practice is a vital component to such development. Playing time in games should be seen as a reward for hard work in practice and a chance to try out developmental lessons learned in practice.

Weston Soccer Club also recognizes that its players appropriately play other sports and enjoy other activities beyond soccer. Conflicts with soccer practice may arise, and the Club is committed to working with players to enable them to enjoy multiple sports/activities.

The Club expects players to attend a minimum of one practice per week if they wish to play for a Weston Soccer Club team. Without this commitment, players miss an integral part of the Soccer Club development experience. They also prevent a player from a different team taking advantage of that experience, and they make it more difficult for their coach to plan and for their teammates to enjoy productive practices.

Therefore:

If a player is able to foresee a practice conflict BEFORE registering for a soccer season, and knows that he/she will not be able to make one practice per week, the Club expects that player to skip that soccer season. There will be no placement penalty in future seasons for a player who skips a soccer season and is able to satisfy the practice requirement in future seasons. In other words, the placement of that player in future seasons will be based on the standard Club criteria including a) coach evaluations, b) Age Director input and c) tryout results.

If, as sometimes happens, scheduling conflicts are not evident until a player has registered for a soccer season (or after teams have been selected), the Club expects the player to notify his/her coach or (if teams have not yet been selected) Age Director that unforeseen conflicts make it impossible for that player to attend one practice per week. The Club will ask the player who cannot make at least one practice a week to withdraw from playing soccer for a season, if no other acceptable arrangement can be made. There will be no placement penalty for any player who withdraws from a WSC team and who is able to satisfy the practice requirement in future seasons.

In exceptional cases, the Club may allow a non-practicing player to play games for the WSC team. This decision rests solely with the WSC.

## **Club Soccer**

The WSC recognizes that many of its players also play club soccer, and that there may be instances in which club and WSC practices conflict. The WSC acknowledges the development opportunities that club soccer provides, and accepts that in certain cases where practice conflicts exist, a player and his/her family may feel that the player's development is better served by choosing club practices over WSC practices. However, this choice does not alleviate the need to attend at least one (1) WSC practice per week. In such cases, there will be no placement penalty for any player who withdraws from a WSC team and who is able to satisfy the practice requirement in future seasons.

## **U9, U10, U11 and U12 Development Programs**

During the U9 - U12 seasons (3rd - 6th grades), one practice session per week is dedicated to individual skill development and conducted by professional coaches. These development clinics bring the entire age group together and are not team based. Since one session is dedicated to individual player development, coaches and players are limited to only one "team" practice each week.

Given the unique dynamic for these Age Groups, it is critical that players attend the team practice to allow coaches an opportunity to organize the team and for players to learn to play with one another. Ideally, players will attend both the skill development session and the team practice. In cases where players can only attend one, the team practice should take precedence over the development session. Missing all team practices and playing only in games during a season is not an option, as it is disruptive to both the coaches and players.

In the rare instance when a player is unable to attend the team practice, the coaches and Age Director should be notified as soon as possible, preferably prior to the start of the season, so other arrangements can be considered. The Club is committed to working with families to accommodate individual schedules as long as the result is fair to all parties involved (coaches, players, families). The final decision on individual accommodation rests solely with the WSC.