

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Regional Club Charter is a commitment between Washington Youth Soccer, a Member Association, and a chartered Regional Club to work together to serve the highest level of development and play, and improve the quality of development across the association.

- (a) The Washington Youth Soccer Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents.
- (b) The Regional Club Charter Clubs have qualified by the criterion (80% of all ages and both genders have fielded teams for Regional Club competition) and are comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with Washington Youth Soccer Member Associations or Districts, provided such Clubs and their teams, Academies, Associations or Districts are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and that the team is in compliance with and has not violated any of the rules of Washington Youth Soccer.
- (c) Ethical violations are treated as more grievous offenses and subject to censure and possible disbarment at both an individual and Club level. All Clubs are encouraged to consider the behavior of all adults within their organization as role model specific.

### **1.2 Ethics Policies**

The purpose of this league is to set the highest standards to develop youth players to their fullest potential – both physically and emotionally. As such, participants must conduct themselves to that same highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this group of chartered clubs - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat. All participants in Regional Clubs and the Regional Club League (RCL) are members of Washington Youth Soccer and therefore must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules, and policies as well as to their intent. All coaches, managers, players, and spectators will adhere to the Regional Club Code of Conduct.

In addition to those stated bylaws, rules and policies, adult members of the Regional Clubs shall abide by the following:

1. Will not recruit players – the definition of “recruit” for purposes of this league shall be: Approaching a player who is registered to and actively playing for another team within Washington Youth Soccer, and asking them to either try-out or play for any other team, without first receiving prior written permission from the players’ current Club Director of Coaching – even for purposes of guest play (email is considered acceptable written permission). The only “open period” is the week between the US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships and the start of tryouts for their gender/age group. During this week only, players are allowed to attend other teams’ training sessions without approval from their current Club Director of Coaching. Players must initiate interest and the coach should have an email thread from the players (or parents) expressing their interest. They must have this prior to a player coming to practice. If a player/parent calls the coach, they can talk and agree to them joining a training session, but must email them as well. Players cannot be offered spots at the practices, though relative levels of interest from both parties may be expressed. These open training sessions cannot be advertised. There can only be two practices per team.
2. Will not acquire teams from outside their Club unless said teams are released from their clubs in accord with the Operating Documents rule regarding Coach and Player movement. [Club mergers (in which boards are combined under advisement of the Regional Club Subcommittee, and rules, developmental plans, resources, and players are brought together in one Association) or Association mergers that accomplish the same task are not considered individual team acquisitions.]
3. Will not engage in behavior so as to be suspended by any Washington Youth Soccer or RCL disciplinary body, and/or acquire enough accumulated disciplinary points so as to be required to stand before any Washington Youth Soccer or RCL disciplinary body;
4. Will not unnecessarily hamper the playing of any scheduled match at its originally scheduled time and place, or cause undue hardship should the re-schedule of a match become necessary;

5. Will encourage and exhibit good sportsmanship before, during, or after any sanctioned match or practice;
6. Will not accept players from another Club who have outstanding fees to another member of Washington Youth Soccer without appropriate documentation as described in the RCL rules;
7. Will not hire a coach from another Regional Club and allow said coach to coach the same age and gender of his/her previous association without prior approval from the Directors of Coaching of both Regional Clubs. Regional Clubs may not hire coaches from other Washington Youth Soccer organizations into the same age and gender groups they coached at non-Regional Clubs unless released by their current clubs under the Operating Documents rule regarding Coach and Player movement;
8. Will not practice outside of their Association boundaries without prior approval from the Association and Regional Club Director of Coaching that resides in that area;
9. No coach/player will have in his/her possession, or consume, alcoholic beverages or tobacco during any RCL competition or training.

### **1.3 Code of Conduct Violation Procedures**

Upon receipt of an allegation of violation of this code of conduct on the part of a Regional Club, the RCL Disciplinary Committee will first request that the involved clubs attempt to resolve the conflict. If resolution cannot be reached, the Committee will require the Clubs to compile their evidence for submission to an RCS panel that review all submitted evidence and present a resolution to the RCS for discussion and resolution. The decision of the RCS is binding. Resolutions that sanction any Club three (3) times over a two-year period will be automatically reviewed and Club officials, including the Director of Coaching, will be asked to attend a hearing by the Committee. The Club at that time will be placed in the probation process. Subsequent failures to address persistent issues appropriately for one (1) year following the inception of the process will result in review and remediation to address the specific issues, including leadership. This review will be facilitated by Washington Youth Soccer, the Regional Club subcommittee, and the local Member Association.

### **1.4 Disputing Misconduct Reports**

All protests must be handled according to the published Washington Youth Soccer Judicial – Operating Documents and RCL Operating Rules.

Regional Club Members alleged to be in violation of these, or any other stated USSF, US Youth Soccer, or Washington Youth Soccer Codes of Ethics will be required to stand before the Regional Club Subcommittee (RCS) who will act as the Code of Conduct Violation Committee. Allegations of code of conduct violations will be made in accordance with USSF, USYSA, and Washington Youth Soccer bylaws and operating procedures, with a copy sent to the Chair of the Regional Club Subcommittee. A written decision of suspension by a Washington Youth Soccer disciplinary body is automatically considered to be a written allegation of a Regional Club Code of Conduct Violation.

### **Notification of Receipt**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read completely and understand this Code of Conduct as presented and will adhere to it as instructed by the Director of Coaching.

**Club President/ Executive Director**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Director of Coaching/Technical Director**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_