



**Evergreen Premier League** – [www.EPLWA.com](http://www.EPLWA.com)  
P.O. Box 4253, Bellingham, WA 98227

## **LEAGUE OPERATION RULES**

### **PLAYERS**

All Evergreen Premier League (EPLWA) soccer players on EPLWA team rosters will be registered with the Washington State Adult Soccer Association (WSASA) in the Premier Player category.

All EPLWA soccer players must possess and upon request present proof of registration by displaying their WSASA Player Card prior to participating in an EPLWA soccer match.

All EPLWA soccer players will compete as amateur athletes and will not receive any monetary compensation whatsoever for playing soccer in EPLWA soccer matches.

### **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**

EPLWA does not tolerate discrimination, prejudice, bias or harassment of any kind by its clubs, players, coaches and staff.

All EPLWA club soccer players, coaches and staff will hold themselves to a high standard and embrace unity, respect, fair play, equality and acceptance.

### **CLUB LEAGUE FEES AND PERFORMANCE BOND**

Each new soccer club applying for membership in the EPLWA must pay a non-refundable \$100 application fee with their written application.

Each admitted and continuing member soccer club must annually pay a \$1,250 non-refundable league fee in order to remain in good standing and field a team in that years' season of competition.

Each member club is required to submit a credit card number with approval to the league administrator approving for issuance of a \$2,500 Performance Bond with the league during each year of its membership. The Performance Bond will be paid to the league two weeks prior to the team playing in its' first match of the season. The purpose of the bond is to cover the obligated and incurred costs of an affected team when the opposing team fails to show up and participate in a scheduled EPLWA match. Upon presentation of bonafide invoices, the league will draw funds from the violating teams' bond and compensate the affected team/club. A violating club must then replenish their bond amount no later than by 5:00 pm the Wednesday, or 48 hours, prior to their next scheduled match or whichever is sooner, in order to continue with playing their next scheduled match, otherwise they will forfeit those next three points. The league will hold the balance of a club/teams' bond for the duration of the season and will disburse the balance in full back to the club/team at the end of the completed season of competition.

## **CLUBS/TEAMS**

Each EPLWA club has the ability to roster as many players as needed. A rostered player must have a current WSASA card to be considered on the roster. A club must have at least 14 players on their team roster one week prior to the season's kick off.

Clubs will maintain and update their team's roster, which will include first and last name, date of birth and WSASA player number with the league registrar.

Clubs will be unlimited in their ability to add/remove players from their 25-player team roster. In addition removed players can be added back to a club's roster. Roster changes must be made no later than Thursdays at 11:59 pm for Saturday/Sunday matches or 18 hours prior to a weekday match.

Signed players can be removed from the roster and replaced with another player via a declared release to the league and proof that the new player is registered in the WSASA Premier Player category.

Any EPLWA club proven to the league to have played an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit the game concerned and the opposing club will be awarded the three points.

Clubs must have home and away soccer kits consisting of a jersey with number on back, shorts, socks, shin guards and appropriate footwear. It is highly recommended but not required that player numbers be on the front of jerseys and/or shorts. Scrimmage vests, pinnies or bibs are not acceptable active match play.

Home and away clubs must use different color socks during a match.

All goalkeepers must have several different color kits available at home/away matches.

The home club must advise the away club of its kit color at least three days prior to a match.

The away club must provide the home club with their match day player list with names and jersey numbers at least 24 hours prior to a match.

A team's match day roster will consist of 18 rostered players and teams must start match play with at least 11 rostered players. Clubs failing to meet the 11 player start of match play requirement will be subject to a \$250 league fine and subject to mandatory review by the Board of Directors for potential exclusion from the following season of competition.

All match day roster players that are on the bench and in-active players that are allowed by a team's coach to be on their bench must wear pennies to distinguish them from the active players on the field. It is a privilege, not a right, for in-active players to be in the bench area.

The match day rosters will also identify at least 2 designated coaches for the team, including any who are player-assistant coaches.

All clubs will notify the League Administrator of their intent to participate in exhibition matches, in order to assure compliance with WSASA and/or USSF requirements.

### **HOME RESPONSIBILITIES**

The home club will provide at least three match-quality soccer balls, with the FIFA APPROVED, FIFA INSPECTED or IMS logo or designed and manufactured in accordance with FIFA specifications. It is the responsibility of the home club to provide proof that their match balls meet the above requirements when it is called into question by a match referee, visiting team or league officer.

The home club will have a printed copy of the EPLWA League Operation Rules available at each home match venue for review by assigned referees, home/away clubs and league officers.

The home club will provide home/away secure locker room access at least 75 minutes prior to a match. Minimum standard: Home team provides visiting team a 10'x 20' tent with side panels to provide some privacy for changing.

The home club will provide home/away access to the pitch at least 60 minutes prior to a match, if not in use or provide an equivalent warm up area to prepare for the match that is equal to or better than the warm up space utilized by the home team.

The home club will provide two cases of bottled water (seventy-two (72) 16.9 ounce individual bottles) for each home and away team, along with a cooler full of crushed/cubed ice at each home and away locker room and at each home and away player bench, for a total of four ice coolers per match. It is highly recommended that the coolers have wheels or rollers like the Igloo Roller, Wheelie or Wheeled models or another similar wheeled cooler. Otherwise, the home club will provide a 10 Gallon water cooler (like an Igloo 10 Gallon Seat Top Orange or similar) at each team's bench and in each team's locker room (for a total of four water coolers) with 125 cups at each home and away player bench and 75 cups in each home and away locker room.

The home club will provide an athletic trainer available to both sides to render first aid and address on field injuries during matches. The trainer will be equipped with a cooler, ice and plastic bags along with appropriate athletic tape/wrap and basic first aid supplies (sterile gauze, etc. to control bleeding).

The trainer should be available at least 30 minutes prior to the match during player warm ups activities. Minimum standard: Home team has a fully stocked medical kit available for both teams at midfield.

The home club will provide a Match Day Program that at a minimum includes the names of the teams, the team player lists with jersey numbers and the league insert page, if so provided by the league.

The home club will provide a playing ground that has a high quality surface of either natural grass or synthetic turf that complies with FIFA standards regarding size, markings, post/crossbar and net and corner flags.

The home club will provide player benches, adequate lighting for night matches and other professional amenities like a scoreboard and clock, public address system, spectator stands, wash rooms and toilets.

The home club will provide referees with an appropriate secure dressing/locker room.

The home club will brief Referees on the match day events and sequences.

The home club will photograph and forward a copy of the referee's match report via email (smartphone photo) to the **VP of Competition** ([lancercalloway@outlook.com](mailto:lancercalloway@outlook.com)) **League Administrator** at ([rggordon@outlook.com](mailto:rggordon@outlook.com)) and **League Communications Director** at ([eplwa2014@gmail.com](mailto:eplwa2014@gmail.com)) and opposing club's coach or general manager or other designated official within one hour following the completion of the match. Teams failing to meet this deadline may be subject to a \$50.00 fine per occurrence. after a match.

## **PLAYER DISCIPLINE**

Serious foul play, violence and fighting will not be tolerated by the league.

Any abuse or assault of a Referee, Game Day Staff or Fans will be handled by the WSASA/USSF and may result in a Player Card suspension or revocation by WSASA. In addition, assaults may be referred to the local police authorities as well.

Teams are fully responsible for the conduct of their in-active players who are in their bench area. Inactive player misconduct will be reviewed by the league disciplinary committee for possible disciplinary action against the offending in-active player.

## **CAUTIONS – YELLOW CARDS**

All cautions fall to zero after serving a one game suspension.

In addition, all cautions fall to zero if a player appears in five consecutive matches without receiving an additional yellow card.

1. Two cautions in one game                      Minimum ONE game suspension
2. Three cautions in one season                Minimum ONE game suspension

## **EJECTIONS – RED CARDS**

### **Misconduct towards a player - first offense**

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Misconduct after a caution | Minimum ONE game suspension   |
| 2. Foul or abusive language   | Minimum ONE game suspension   |
| 3. Violent conduct            | Minimum THREE game suspension |
| 4. Serious foul play          | Minimum ONE game suspension   |
| 5. Fighting                   | Minimum SIX game suspension   |

## **COACHES-TEAM STAFF**

The EPLWA expects a high level of professionalism and to set a good example for players and fans in regards to their conduct. Coaches and/or team officials who are sent off within one season will be subject to the following:

- First offense: one match suspension and \$50 fine
- Second offense: two match suspension and \$100 fine
- Third offense will result in immediate suspension and disciplinary hearing for the offending coach/team official to determine when they may return to coaching.

Coaches/team officials who are suspended are not permitted to participate in on field warmups or to be on the touchline or in communication with team sideline staff during the match. Suspended coaches/team officials are permitted to be in the stands during the match.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES**

Operating a club in the Evergreen Premier League of Washington (EPL WA) is a privilege. Associated clubs are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the soccer community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your players, officials and other league clubs in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole team.

Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are encouraged to be used by all EPL WA clubs to promote our players, clubs, league and the sport of soccer in a positive manner.

All clubs need to be completely aware that all their club's social media could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the players, club, league, and it's officials. This can also be detrimental to the professional perception of all involved with the EPL WA and promoting the game.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other player, club, league and officials (examples: derogatory comments regarding another club; taunting comments aimed at a player, coach, referee, or team and derogatory comments against race and/or gender).
- No public negative commentary about a referee or league decision is strictly prohibited. This includes sarcastic or implied negative commentary.
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing negative portrayal of officiating or league decisions.
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to EPL WA, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, disciplinary decisions, league operational matters).

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the EPL WA. Remember, always present a positive image of our sport and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, referees and the league. Please keep the above recommendations in mind as you participate in social media. Violations of the above standards of EPL WA Club social media use may result in a \$100.00 fine per occurrence. The EPL WA Disciplinary Committee will evaluate and address any incidents of improper use of EPL WA Club social media.

## **LEAGUE COMPETITION STANDINGS**

WIN = Three Points

TIE = One Point

LOSS = Zero Points

When two or more teams are tied in final standings on total points, the following tiebreakers will be used:

1. Total Number of Wins
2. Head-to-Head Points
3. Goal Differential (GD) - between the tied teams – not weighted home/away goals.
4. Goals For (GF)
5. Road Goal Differential
6. Road Goals For
7. Home Differential
8. Home Goals For
9. Coin Toss (2 teams) or Drawing of Lots (3 or more teams)

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULING**

The formation of two divisions will result  
The 2019 Divisions are listed below:

<b>Cascade Conference</b>	<b>Rainier Conference</b>
Bellingham United	Oly-Pen Force
Oly Town Artesians	PacNW SC
Seattle Stars	Spokane Shadow
Tri Cities Alliance	Vancouver Victory
Yakima United	Olympic Force

Each club will play a 10-game season schedule with 5 home and 5 away matches. Clubs will play a home and away match with each club in their division. Each division then would travel to one opposite division opponent and host the other division opponent in a single season. The following season outside division opponents would swap home and away match ups.

## **PLAYOFFS-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

The proposed playoff system would include the top two seeds of each conference based on league points earned. Seeds #1 and #2 would host the semifinal matches (Cascade Conference #1 v Rainier Conference #2) and (Rainier Conference #1 v Cascade Conference #2) and the top advancing seed would host the final all to be played the last two weekends in July. The team that wins the EPLWA Playoff Cup Final will be crowned league champion and receive the Ostrovsky Trophy.

## **OFFICIAL SCHEDULE**

The official schedule of a seasons' competition shall be published on the EPLWA website showing match dates, venues and kick-off times and will only be changed with written league consent.

## **SCHEDULE REVISIONS**

Clubs/teams requesting changes to the schedule must first obtain written consent from the opposing team affected by the change and then submit a Schedule Change Request to the League Administrator. The League Administrator and Referee Assignor will review and approve/dis-approve the Schedule Change Request based upon the availability of qualified match referees and other considerations.

**Schedule Change Requests must be submitted no less than 10 days before the originally scheduled match.**

## **PLAYER PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY AND TRANSFERS**

Playoff rosters will be comprised of eligible players from a team's registered player pool. To be eligible a player has to be registered and be checked in on three (3) game day EPLWA league match rosters for that team in that season. Exception: Players with a legitimate medical waiver can petition the league to be eligible for post-season play without playing the required three-match minimum, provided they have not played for another EPLWA team that season. Final determination for eligibility will be decided by

a simple online vote by the teams in the league with a majority rule. This vote will be based on the recommendation of the League President with the League President providing any necessary tie-breaking vote.

Player Transfers - A registered player can only play for one EPLWA team in a league match as an eligible rostered player in a season. Exception: If the team of origin releases the player to play on another EPLWA team and it is approved by the League President.

### **DISCONTINUED SEASON OF COMPETITION**

If a team ceases to operate in the league before the conclusion of the seasons' competition schedule, all games played by the team who ceased operating will be removed from the standings and all points are zero. The team ceasing to operate will be placed at the bottom of the league standings table.

### **PROTESTS**

All clubs filing protests related to misapplied EPLWA league rules or FIFA Laws of the Game must do so in writing and must contain the specific grounds and details on which their protest is founded. The protest can also include still and/or video images. The protest must be lodged with the League Administrator and accompanied by a fee of two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars. The protest must be emailed and/or postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the match of which it pertains to. The protest fee shall be forfeited in the case that the protest is not sustained. All protests will be reviewed by the League Competition Committee whose decision shall be final.

### **LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The league will provide a schedule of competition and its administration through coordination, facilitation and promotion.

The league will compensate a Referee Assignor/Coordinator to assign referees to all EPLWA matches to ensure that they are officiated by appropriate level certified referees from the State Referee Association (SRA) in compliance with state, national and FIFA standards/rules.

The league will publish its operation rules, Bylaws and competition standings in the form of a website on the Internet.

The league is not responsible for paying any municipal, county or state fines incurred through the violation of venue policies and regulations by players, coaches, club staff or spectators.

The league will provide and award the league champion (winner) of a season of competition with an appropriate trophy or cup award, which will be returned by the league champion for presentation to the next year's champion. The league will also provide an appropriate individual award item to players on the league champion team.

The league will provide and award the league player with the greatest number of goals scored with an individual trophy for his permanent retention.

## **MATCHES**

All matches will be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Teams will be allowed to make a total of 5 player substitutions during “live play” within a match in addition to unlimited substitutions at half time.

Referees will complete a written game report which will include but not be limited to the game results, goal scorers, yellow and red cards, which will be signed by both home/away coaches. The game report will be photographed and forwarded by the home side via email (smartphone photo) to the League Administrator at [rggordon@outlook.com](mailto:rggordon@outlook.com), League Communications Director at [eplwa2014@gmail.com](mailto:eplwa2014@gmail.com), opposing coach or manager and/or other designated official immediately within one-hour following the completion of the match. Teams failing to meet this deadline may be subject to a \$50.00 fine per occurrence.

## **MATCH SAFETY & SECURITY**

The home team has the duty of care to reasonably ensure the safety and security of players, coaches, referees, staff, spectators and the home venue.

Pyrotechnics that produce heat, light, gas, smoke and/or sound are prohibited from use inside of all EPLWA match venues.

## **WAIVERS**

League clubs/teams can apply for and be granted waivers of specific non-competition related league rules, requirements and guidelines upon approval by the league Operations Committee. Requests for waivers must be made in writing to the League Administrator.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All league and team communications (electronic, email, text, verbal or written) regarding operations, rules, discipline, protests or waivers are confidential, unless noted otherwise or distributed via league news release or published on the league website.