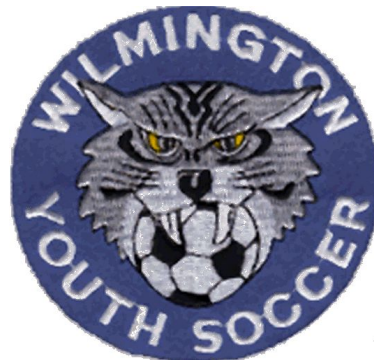


# WYSA Fall 2016 Pre-Season Travel Meeting Handout



<p><b><u>Travel Coordinators:</u></b> Dave Foresyth (Chair) Dave O'Mahony (Girls) Manny Mulas (Boys)</p>	<p><b><u>Agenda:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MYSL Changes</li><li>● WYSA Changes</li><li>● Heading</li><li>● Zero Tolerance</li><li>● Development</li><li>● Uniforms</li></ul>
<p>Questions or concerns? Contact us at: <a href="mailto:travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org">travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org</a></p>	
<p>Wilmington Youth Soccer <a href="http://www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org">http://www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org</a></p>	
<p>Middlesex Youth Soccer - Wilmington <a href="http://www.sportsmanager.us/WilmingtonYouthSoccer.htm">http://www.sportsmanager.us/WilmingtonYouthSoccer.htm</a></p>	

## **Important Links:**

### **WYSA Travel:**

Practice space availability, game rescheduling procedures, travel announcements, etc. - see the “Travel” tab at [www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](http://www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org)

**WYSA Field Availability:** <http://wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org/>

### **Wilmington High School Sports Schedules:**

<http://schedules.schedulestar.com/Wilmington-High-School-Wilmington-MA/day/08-28-2016/>

**Middlesex League Field Closures:** <http://www.sportsmanager.us/links/MYSL/AreaClosings.asp>

**Season game schedules:** <http://www.sportsmanager.us/links/MYSL/Schedule.asp>

**League website:** <http://www.middlesexsoccer.org> , <http://www.sportsmanager.us/orgmanager/mysl.htm>

**League age directors:** <http://www.sportsmanager.us/orgmanager/mysl.htm>

(see the “About Us” tab)

**League handbook & rules:** <http://www.middlesexsoccer.org>

(see the Forms/Docs/File tab in the middle of the page, hard copies also available from WYSA travel)

### **Game Reschedule Procedure:**

<http://www.sportsmanager.us/%5CDocuments%5CMYSL%5C15280854E0.pdf>

**MA Youth Soccer website:** <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org>

**MA Youth license courses:** [http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/coaches/ussf\\_courses/](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/coaches/ussf_courses/)

**MA Youth sanctioned tournaments:** [http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournaments\\_in\\_ma/](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournaments_in_ma/)

**MTOC Information:** <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/mtoc/>

**Ref Evaluations:** you will receive a link from Middlesex after the game. Please send a note to [travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](mailto:travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org) wth any game issues.

# *WYSA Fall 2016 - Pre-Season Overview*

## **MYSL Coaches Meeting Highlights**

- U10 changes
- Team size changes
- Heading
- Zero Tolerance

### **U10 Changes**

The new rule book is available at: [www.sportsmanager.us/%5CDocuments%5CMYSL%5C27657.pdf](http://www.sportsmanager.us/%5CDocuments%5CMYSL%5C27657.pdf). Here are the 4 changes noted:

- 1) 7v7
- 2) Offsides
- 3) Opposition must retreat into own half of the field on a goal kick, the team taking the kick does not have to wait for opposition they can put it in play whenever they want, the ball is in play once kicked out of the penalty area.
- 4) Keeper distributions (punts, kicks, throws) may not travel in the air over the half way line, and indirect free kick is awarded to other team at midfield if this happens.

### **Team Size Changes**

The minimum number of players per roster shall be 16 players for U13 and older teams, 13 players for U11/U12 and 11 players for U10 teams and younger. The maximum roster size for U10 will be 13. The maximum roster size for U12 will be 16.

### **MYSL / Mass Youth Heading Rule:**

If in the opinion of the referee, a player deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team. If the deliberate header or attempt to head occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infraction occurred

# Fall Season Field Availability:

**Note to all:** See separate team practice assignment sheet and field availability schedule. If you are looking to use more practice space than has been assigned to you, you are welcome to do so, but you must follow these guidelines:

- Practice on same size field as you use on game day (do not use another size field space without first discussing with Travel and Training)
- You must yield to any WHS lacrosse team
- You must yield to any WYSA make-up games
- You must yield to any WYSA team who has been assigned to the field you are looking to use

Of note, the H.S. Girls Soccer team has access rights to use the 11 v. 11 fields each weeknight until approximately 5:30 p.m. unless their game goes later (and several games will.) Please be aware of this as you plan your practice days & times throughout each week. WYSA will post field availability and practice schedule information on the website for your reference as to which fields you may be assigned to for practice days and times.

## Guidelines for using and sharing practice field space:

- Only use the space you need and have been assigned.
- 11v11 fields, share the goal frames as not every practice session requires the use of such.
- Consider having Sunday practices - where field space is not in high demand.
- **NO TRASH LEFT BEHIND:** ensure all trash and water bottles (empty or otherwise) are cleaned up.

# Team Rosters

**Fall Season:** You are responsible for keeping a copy of your team's approved roster with you for all games. For game-day you will need to have two (2) copies of your official roster on hand for the referee's game check-in. Copies of your stamped & approved MYSL roster are available on the league web site and will also be provided electronically by Travel.

- Travel may have a copy of each U9-U14 approved roster at the field house for your use in the event you forget your roster on game day. We may not. Please don't rely on our copy.

# Passcards

- Fall season player and coach ID cards are not needed.
- **U9/U10 teams:** only need **COACH** passcards for Spring. No passcard needed in the Fall.
- **U11-U18 teams:** need **COACH AND PLAYER** passcards for the Spring. No passcard needed in the Fall.

# Game Schedules

**Availability:** Team game schedules are finalized. They are subject to change during the season, so periodically check the MYSL website to confirm your game time and location. Schedules can also be accessed through the link on the WYSA website. Here is the link to the Middlesex website:

<http://www.sportsmanager.us/links/MYSL/Schedule.asp>

- **To Do: U10 – U14 teams:**

1. Go into sportsmanager and verify that you have the appropriate number of games and home games. Notify Travel if you do not. We looked at this pre-season, but re-check as changes were made since then.
2. Verify that you have a venue and time scheduled for each game, notify Travel if there are any discrepancies as to field locations, etc.
3. Note whether or not you have any weeknight games scheduled. For HOME games, we can follow those days & times or we can reschedule them, depending upon your and your opposing coach's schedules. You will need to follow the Game Rescheduling Procedure and confirm with WYSA Travel and the League the day / time / location for the game to be played.

## Game Rescheduling:

**Rule:** When a team cannot play a scheduled league game for legitimate reasons, the coach shall prove in writing, with significant documentation to the satisfaction of the Age Director, that fewer than eleven (11) players (Eight (8) players for U12 or six (6) for U10) will be available.

- **Reasons to reschedule:**

- “placeholder” games on schedule (related to Holidays, odd numbered teams within a Division)
- sanctioned tournaments
- school trip
- religious activity

This is covered in detail in section 11 (page 21) of the Middlesex Youth Soccer Coaches Handbook.

## RESCHEDULING PROCEDURE: WYSA HOME GAMES

1. Check Field Availability on the WYSA website (Travel tab), and if a question – email WYSA Travel to get things rolling. (WYSA Travel needs to know about all make-up games on home fields so we can track availability. Please get us in the loop at the beginning and again at the end of the reschedule process.)
2. Click on the link that you received in an e-mail from the league to provide to the opposing coach three (3) reasonable dates on which the game may be made up.
3. Upon reaching agreement as to tentative dates with your opposing coach, email WYSA Travel ([travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](mailto:travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org)) to confirm your agreement; and field availability.
4. **U12 / U14 / U16/ U18 Teams:** upon confirming, notify your MYSL Age Director at least 48 hours in advance of the proposed make-up date, so you can ensure a referee will be assigned to your game.

5. **U10 Teams:** upon confirming field availability, notify your MYSL Age Director and the WYSA Travel Ref Coordinator at [travelref@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](mailto:travelref@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org) . In the Spring season, WYSA assigns all referees for U10 home games.
  - With the exception of U10 games, currently no make-up games are allowed on Sundays.
  - Weekday makeup games may be restricted to certain fields and time of day. For U12 & above games, it is next to impossible to have a game start prior to 6 p.m. due to referee availability.
  - Teams must cc the WYSA Travel Ref Coordinator on make-up games at [travelrefs@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](mailto:travelrefs@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org) .

*In the event you are having difficulty getting agreement with an opposing coach on rescheduling a game, your Middlesex League Age Director is (theoretically) the best resource to reconcile this problem!! However, if issues exist / continue to exist - feel free to notify the WYSA Travel Coordinators to discuss options and next steps.*

## Lockbox instructions

### Shawsheen Fields:

- When facing the Shawsheen field house, the job box is located in trees just to the right of the field house. Currently it is open for access, if needed. Current lock combination: None.

### Whitefield Field:

- When facing the field, the job box is located on the far side of the field behind the fence. It can be opened for access, if needed. Current lock combination: Please contact travel.

### Woburn Street Field(s):

- located on the sideline of the fields along the treeline.
- Lock combination: Please contact travel.
- Corner flags are to be used for league games only, not practices or scrimmages. When finished with your game, return the corner flags to the box.
- Please be sure to install the lock the same way you found it (with the dial facing downwards). If you don't, the lock may not be accessible to the next coach who tries to access the box.

## Safety Concerns

### Player safety is of paramount importance, here are tips to consider:

- On game day, survey the field you will be playing on. Look for holes, trash, debris; and whether frames are secured. Raise any concerns with the referee.
- Ensure you have a fully supplied First Aid kit in your coach bag. Additionally, ensure you have a sufficient amount of ice packs on hand at either practices or games.
- Don't hesitate to find a WYSA BOD member on the fields in the event of a safety issue or concern. On game days, they will be wearing their powder blue "Board Member" shirts. Many of the BOD members are both CPR and AED certified.
- 911 is always an option – use your judgment.
- Consider having all players' parents' phone numbers programmed to your cell phone in the event of an emergency.

- After practices and games, ensure you are the last person from your team to leave the field, and that all kids have been picked up by their parents.
- Please report all concussions or major injuries to [travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](mailto:travel@wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org)

## Coaches Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy

WYSA has a code of conduct which mirrors that of Mass Youth Soccer and The Middlesex League. In addition, WYSA has a Zero Tolerance Policy that applies to coaches, players, and member families. The Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy are posted on the WYSA website. Every coach is responsible for abiding by this code and policy. Those who don't follow the expectations described in the Code and Policy will be sanctioned; coaches, players and parents may be disciplined or removed from the field of play as deemed appropriate by a WYSA board member or by consensus of the WYSA board upon review of an incident.

### Some expectations:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- During the game, coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- Yelling at opposing players and the referee by member families or WYSA supporters will not be tolerated at any time.
- If you have an issue with the referee and even wish to consider addressing it; discuss it with him/her calmly and patiently after the game. Yelling at a referee will not be tolerated at any time.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.

Per WYSA Travel Policy, coaches are required to report all Red and Yellow cards to the Travel Coordinators. Additionally, coaches and players are also subject to sanctions by the Middlesex League. At all times, please conduct yourself consistent with the principles seen in WYSA's Policy and Coaches Code.

If any further questions on this subject, please contact the Travel Coordinators. Additionally, please feel free to advise us of any strange or unusual game-day events that you feel may be a future issue, concern, or point of escalation.

## Tournaments

**Requirements:** All coaches must adhere to the following guidelines. Failure to do so will lead to disciplinary action.

- WYSA Sanctioned Uniforms may be worn at tournaments.
- The name of your entered tournament team would be the "Wilmington Wildcats." No other names like "The LadyCats," "BabyCats," "Crazy Cats," should be used.

**Out of State Play:** If you are planning on taking a team to a tournament across state lines this Fall, please make sure you file the appropriate paperwork via the Mass Youth Soccer web site. By doing so you are ensuring that you will be insured by MYSA. Failure to do so will result in a suspension of not less than 1 year by MYSA. This is all about insurance and liability.

- MA Youth Travel Requirement:  
[http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournament\\_travel\\_requirements/](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournament_travel_requirements/)
- MA Youth Permission Form:  
[http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournament\\_forms\\_and\\_documents/](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournament_forms_and_documents/)
- **Other:** In general, see the following link to get information on MA Youth Sanctioned tournament offerings: [http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournaments\\_in\\_ma/](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/tournaments/tournaments_in_ma/)

## Other League Items

**Game scoring:** Home coaches are expected to report the score of their games through Sports Manager. Links should be emailed to you so that you may do so. Typically you should receive them no later than 5 days after your last game was played. When scores are reported, there is a spot for “comments.” These comments are not private, so please use discretion. In the event a week has gone by and your game has not been scored, contact your MYSL Age Director on this matter.

**Ref evaluations:** The Middlesex League provides coaches the opportunity to evaluate their game referees throughout the course of the season. This evaluation feedback is strongly encouraged by WYSA.

**Field Closures:** You can monitor this for Wilmington and all other towns in the event of inclement weather. The link to the Middlesex website is provided through the WYSA website from the “Travel” tab on the home page. Upon selecting this tab, see the link entitled “MYSL.” Regardless, you can also bookmark and link to the Middlesex site with the following: <http://www.sportsmanager.us/links/MYSL/AreaClosings.asp>. This is where all programs within the Middlesex League are to post their field closures, with the cutoff time being by 7:30 a.m. of game day (Saturday).



# Final Considerations

**WYSA Documentation:** There are many resources available to you through our website [www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org](http://www.wilmingtonyouthsoccer.org). Many of the webpages, links, and documents are worth reading to help you during the course of the season and throughout your coaching career. They should answer many of the questions you may have, while educating you further on the way WYSA and the Middlesex League operate. PLEASE READ THEM! Examples include:

1. Travel Policy
2. Travel Coach Application
3. Coaches Code of Conduct
4. Zero Tolerance Policy
5. WYSA Mission Statement
6. WYSA Bylaws
7. Coaches Educational material (practice sessions, skills training)

**Contact Information:** Please ensure your contact and personal information is accurate and updated in Sports pilot. The website is [www.sportspilot.com](http://www.sportspilot.com). Here you can update your email address, phone numbers and date of birth. We rely heavily on email to notify coaches of events, reminders, and notices. Email Travel if you do not know your Sports Pilot login and password information.

**Team Communication:** Please strive to keep your team informed of practices, game times, changes in schedule, etc. Communication goes a long way in keeping your headaches to a minimum. An open line of communication with the parents of the team and the coaching staff can make things run smoothly. A start of season meeting with the parents is a great way to present the information everybody needs.

**WYSA Communication:** It is extremely important that you address any concerns regarding soccer and the teams you coach, through the appropriate member of the WYSA Board of Directors. WYSA has worked hard to strengthen the relationship we have with the town and other vendors in order to secure benefits for our program. Those benefits come in the form of subsidized gym space, field space, permits for many facilities, discounts for services, and donations to the program in various forms. In order to maintain those relationships as well as make the process less confusing for all involved - we steer all communication through appropriate channels. As a coach of a WYSA team, any concerns must be routed through the appropriate WYSA travel coordinator. Failure to do so could invite disciplinary action up to and including suspension from coaching in WYSA. Minimally, it will be taken into account during the coach's selection process as an administrative consideration.

**Coaching Evaluations:** The travel coordinators and director of coaching will be evaluating coaches over the course of the season. If any questions, please see your Travel Coordinators for further clarification. In addition, consistent with our goal to maintain and improve upon communication with our membership, we will continue to conduct coach evaluations that are completed by the parents.

**Coaches Applications:** Spring 2017 for Fall 2017 submittal date will be sent later and posted to web site.

**Player Evaluations:** Player Evaluations for the Fall 2016/Spring 2017 season are mandatory.