A logo of a football team

Description automatically generated

**Attendance Policy**

Watertown Youth Soccer Association - WYSA believes that consistent participation in practices and games is integral to the development of our youth players, positive team experience, and the overall success of our soccer program.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Watertown Youth Soccer Association statement of policy and procedures for handling player absences. Soccer is a team sport that requires every player to know their responsibilities and perform as part of a team. If one player is not able to practice and perform, it affects the entire team. On-time attendance at all practices and games is critical so each player develops and has the opportunity to learn and have tactical growth in skills. WYSA encourages participation in extra-curricular activities including other sports– we also encourage the importance of teamwork, team building and the importance of practice for safety and player development. Please understand that by joining our program, you have made a commitment. To help your player develop as part of the team, the commitment to our program and to the team is a crucial part of their development.

WYSA does understand that 100% attendance at all events may not be possible over the course of the season, however the expectation is that players will make every effort to honor their commitment to their team. Missed practices and games may result in a loss of playing time. (Legitimate absences include illness, injury, and participation in mandatory school and religious activities.) Players with any ongoing commitments outside of soccer, that may affect their attendance, should be in full communication with their Head Coach.

**Coaches will follow the below guidelines:**

THREE – FOUR unexcused missed practices: Coach will talk with the player and reinforce the importance of being present for practice.

FIVE – SIX unexcused missed practices: Coach will have a conversation with parents on missed practices and the importance of practice. There will be a reduction in playing time at the next tournament.

SEVEN – EIGHT unexcused missed practices: Coach will ask that the parents have a meeting with them and the Competitive Chair to come up with a plan.

EIGHT or MORE unexcused missed practices: The players’ absence will be brought to the WYSA board for a discussion on how to proceed.

\*\*As stated above, WYSA understands there will be times when players need to miss practice. We ask that there be full communication with the Head Coach in these situations. Our coaches rely on availability being listed in TeamSnap in order to plan productive practices. Please utilize TeamSnap to mark availability and communicate with your players coach on any changes.

**Policy Adopted 11/05/2023**

**Watertown Youth Soccer Association**

**Player and Parent Expectations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Player Expectations**  1. Work hard, have fun and give your best effort every time you are on the field for practices or games.  2. Wear all required equipment (shin guards, proper shoes & uniforms).  3. Pay attention to the coaches when they are speaking and providing instructions on or off the field.  Respect the decisions of the referee.  4. Be a team player. Players should learn the rules of soccer and play by them at all times. Learn and develop  teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship and practice them.  5. Be on time for all games and practices. Persistent lateness or absence will result in reduction of playing time.  6. Disrespectful behavior to coaches, referees or other players will not be tolerated. The use of indecent or profane language is unacceptable. Use of such language may result in suspension.  7. Fighting, horseplay or any physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated. | **Parent Expectations**  1. Be sure that your child attends all practices and games. Coordinate transportation to ensure that the player is prompt when arriving and departing. If unable to attend a game or practice, notify the coach immediately.  \*Persistent, unexcused absences and lateness may  affect playing time.  2. Ensure that your child brings all equipment and uniforms to games and practices.  3. Support your child’s coach and help when you can. Disagreements with your coach do not belong on the field. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach in the absence of players.  4. Parents are encouraged to come and watch, but should not shout instructions from the sidelines. This causes confusion. Players should listen for coaches’ instruction.  5. Parents and spectators for each team should remain across the field from players. Parents should not stand behind the goal posts or goal line. Parents should not go on the field before, during, or in-between games.  6. Parents are expected to set a good example for the children at all times by their positive behavior, sportsmanship, attitude and language.  \*Abusive language and behavior will NOT be tolerated.  7. Parents are expected to demonstrate respect for the referees. |

**Policy Adopted 11/05/2023**