

ANTHONY WAYNE SOCCER CLUB



2007-2008 Handbook

Coaches



***Board
Members***



Managers

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INTRODUCTION

The Anthony Wayne Soccer Club (AWSC) founded in the early 1980s as the Whitehouse Soccer Club. The primary purpose of the AWSC has been to promote youth soccer throughout the district. The AWSC voted to adopt the name **UNITED** to represent the unified name under which all teams will play at the competitive level.

The future success of soccer in our area depends on our ability to foster enthusiasm and a competitive spirit for the sport itself, while enjoying a high level of volunteer commitment from our parents, families, and community.

The AWSC participates in league play, primarily through the Northwest Ohio Youth Soccer League (NWOYSL). NWOYSL coordinates games in Northwest Ohio and is a member of the Ohio Youth Soccer Association - North (OYSAN). OYSAN sanctions tournaments in Northern Ohio and is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). USSF is the governing body for league play in the United States and is a member organization of the Federation de Football Association (FIFA). FIFA is the international body which establishes the rules of play for soccer.

This handbook is intended to provide a more detailed description of the expectation, duties and responsibilities of the club's coaches, managers and board members.

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Anthony Wayne Soccer Club is to bring committed players, coaches, and parents together to improve soccer skills, knowledge, teamwork, sportsmanship, and competition. This personal commitment and effort leads to a greater understanding of soccer and allows players to develop superior individual and team skills.

The AWSC will accomplish its goal by fostering a spirit of volunteer commitment from parents/guardians and players to promote youth soccer throughout the Anthony Wayne community and its surrounding areas.

EXECUTIVE BOARD & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Board duties are delineated in the AWSC Constitution and Bylaws.

The Executive Board should consider its primary interest as maintaining and enhancing the development and enjoyment of Anthony Wayne soccer activities. These activities are not confined to the soccer pitch. The Executive Board responsibilities include the fostering the development of players and coaches, ensuring the arrangements for safe and adequate practice and playing facility, coordination with other organization to share available facilities to support the overall interests of the community, to represent the interest AWSC, and to champion for the development of AWSC. Therefore while officers' duties are delineated in the AWSC Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Board officers' responsibilities to soccer and community exceed the listed duties. Executive Board officers need to protect and foster soccer.

POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

- 1) Board members are not at liberty to share or discuss the contents of discussion at board meetings and deliberations with non-board members. As board members are first members of the community, it is imperative to foster open and frank discussions that each member feels feel to share their opinion.
- 2) Board members are not at liberty to discuss individual voting decisions outside of the board meeting to facilitate voting without concern for community repercussions.
- 3) Parent and player issues are to be directed to the Parent Advisor. However, it should be recognized that people may be more familiar with other board members. In the event a board member is approached the board member should direct the individual to the Parent Advisor. If the individual would prefer to not directly contact the Parent Advisor then the board member contacted will initiate the contact with the Parent Advisor. However, unless the Parent Advisor has a conflict of interest, they will be the principle point of contact and responsible for tracking the issue unless assigned disciplinary review.
- 4) Teams and divisions may be formed based gender, age and levels of skill and may set their own fee structures based on costs for coaching, equipment, travel, tournament, etc. Teams and divisions may not discriminate because of religion, ethnic background, nationality or race.
- 5) All coaches and other adults, who have direct and unsupervised contact with youth soccer players, shall have background checks to assure that they do not have a history of child abuse or a criminal past.
- 6) AWSC and its members will perform their duties in an ethical manner and will abide by all applicable laws. No member is authorized to do otherwise.
- 7) Members of AWSC Executive Boards will not enter into any financial agreements which benefit or appear to benefit them or members of their families at the expense of the AWSC.
- 8) All news releases relating to the AWSC issued to external media must be approved by the AWSC Executive Board or its designated representative

9) Decision-making Process when Conflict of Interest is Present

When any such potential conflict of interest is relevant to a decision being considered by the AWSC Executive Board or any of its committees to which the Member belongs, the following process shall occur:

- a. The interested party shall call it to the attention of the organization.
- b. Such person shall not be allowed to vote on the matter.
- c. In some cases the President can request and have vote by the Executive Board to determine if such person should leave the room and shall not participate in the final deliberation. However, prior to their exiting, questions may be asked of her/him.
- d. A contract or transaction shall be considered binding if the interest is disclosed and the Board approves, authorizes or ratifies the action in good faith by a majority of the board (not counting the interested board member) at a meeting where a quorum is present.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PLEDGES

As a member of AWSC Executive Board, I agree to

- a. Foster open and frank discussions with fellow board member.
- b. Respect and welcome differences of opinion and points of view
- c. Maintain the contents of meeting (discussion, positions, and votes) confidential unless it is information approved by the board for general knowledge.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLEDGE

As a member of the AWSC Executive Board I agree to the following conflict of interest standards:

- a. Serve the organization as a whole rather than any special interest group or constituency.
- b. Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest that might embarrass the board or the AWSC, and disclose any possible conflicts to the Board in a timely fashion.
- c. Maintain independence and objectivity and do what a sense of fairness, ethics, and personal integrity dictates even though not necessarily obliged to do so by law, regulation or custom.
- d. Never accept (or offer) favors or gifts from (or to) anyone who does business with the organization.

Club Policies

The AWSC Executive Board has established several policies which provide guidance for the conduct of tryouts, team formation, training, game conduct and affiliated individual conduct are delineated below.

TRYOUTS

See Attachment 6 for Tryout Policy Guidance

Preparation Tryouts are the responsibility of the Club Manager. The Club Manager will coordinate activities with the Director of Player Development, Publicity Director, etc, as required to complete the following aspects.

- 1) Identify the coaches for the upcoming season.
- 2) Establish the tryout dates and locations. This information will be provided to the Publicity Director for posting on the web site and advertisement.
- 3) Coordinate with the Director of Player Development to assign tryout assessors.
- 4) Identify the board member or neutral observer for each tryout.
- 5) For age groups with multiple teams, identification of the lead evaluator/coach for tryouts. The lead is the point of contact for alternate tryout, responding to questions, and for the conduct of the age group tryout.

Conduct of Tryouts

Tryouts are mandatory for every individual wishing to participate. In the event of a conflict an alternate tryout arrangement can be made. Alternate tryouts must be conducted by multiple evaluators and are independent from normal practice or games.

Play Outside of One's Designated Age Group Policy

A player must be evaluated at the age group and the desired age group.

- 1) It is the prerogative of the family for a player to play up because they wish to play on a team with their own school grade if the player was evaluated as making the team with the older age group.
- 2) To be considered for playing outside the designated age group and school year, the player must meet the following criteria
 - a) Rated as a top three player in the age group.
 - b) Rated as a 'starter' for the higher age group. (ie, top 6 for U9/U10, top 8 for U11/U12, and top 11 for U13/U14)
 - c) U9 Boys and Girls – Any child U7 – U9 interested in being evaluated for the U09 age level is able to do so. Players will be selected solely based on their skill and ability to play U09 level soccer.

Evaluation

Each player will be evaluated based on the following as it applies to their individual age level:

- a. Physical fitness (speed, strength, endurance).
- b. Technical (dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, heading, throw-ins, etc.).
- c. Tactical (knowledge of rules at their particular age groups).
- d. Physiological (attendance, attitude, effort, helps others, sportsmanship, etc).

TEAM FORMATION

FOR NWOYSL TEAMS

The goal of the AWSC is to form viable soccer teams.

A viable team means that the personnel have the numbers and are deemed to have the capabilities to be able to safely and enjoyably participate in competitive soccer.

The evaluators, coaches, Director of Player Development, and Club Manager are responsible to assess the capabilities of the available player and distribute the players considering player development principally.

There should be approximately 25% personnel turnover between multiple teams within the same age group.

Team formation be accomplished by considering the following recommendations by the DOPD

- a) Player who should play outside their age group.
- b) Player to be cut
- c) Allocation of players when there is multiple teams in an age group.

The DOPD will assess the collective ability of the group, span of the ability, the quality of soccer understanding as well as athleticism and make recommendation as to the makeup of the teams.

Following agreement for team formation by the coaches, DOPD and Club Manager, the AWSC Executive Board will approve the team formation, tentatively for coaches and player pending acceptance of the club's invitation. The coach(s) will contact every player and/or parent/guardian by phone to notify them of their status with his/her team within one week of tryouts. For players not making a team the lead evaluator or lead coach for the age group will contact every player and/or parent/guardian by phone to notify them of their status with his/her team within one week of tryouts.

FOR STATE TEAMS or TEAMS NOT PLAYING IN NWOYSL

State teams are intended to provide additional opportunities to compete in soccer at a higher level.

The coach(s) will determine method of team formation and obtain board approval of the team formation method and playing time policies.

TRAINING

Facility Accommodations

Outdoor

The Club Manager or designee will make arrangement for practice space. Utilization of the practice space will be designate to afford each team time for 2 practices a week.

Indoor

The Executive Board will designate the open times, fees and policy for utilization of the club's indoor facility. There is no guarantee for indoor facility utilization.

Blue Creek Preserve Utilization

Scrimmages may be conducted at the game fields at Blue Creek Preserve prior to the season.

During the NWOYSL season, scrimmages at Blue Creek Preserve may be scheduled with the Club Manager approval

Practice at Blue Creek Preserve is forbidden.

Conduct of Practice

A member of the coaching staff is required to remain at the field as long as any member of the team is present.

For age groups with multiple teams, a minimum of one practice a week will be conducted jointly.

CONDUCT OF GAMES

It is the goal of this club to foster player development. Therefore the following policies apply for all NWOYSL teams (Note State teams are not bound by the following but the coach needs to state the policy prior to team formation):

Playing Time

For the U12 age groups and below, the expectation is a healthy and fit player will participate in field play for a minimum of 50% of the game duration. Obviously injury, late arrival or early departure could detrimentally impact the participation distribution, however the spirit of the rule is passion for development is not instilled in young kids sitting on the bench.

For age groups U13 and above, the playing time distribution is the prerogative of the coaching staff.

Positional Development

For the U10 age groups and below, players should obtain experience in as many facets of the game as feasible to encourage development. While personality may dictate a preferential position, early specialization should be minimized. Variations should include attacking/defending/goalkeeping as well as right, left and central.

For U11 and above, specialization is not encouraged but it is recognized personality and maturity may dictate a preferential position.

GENERAL VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

All parents/guardians are expected to volunteer during the season. Coaches and/or team managers will communicate AWSC and individual team volunteer needs on a regular basis. Individuals wishing to volunteer on a regular basis should contact the AWSC President.

Volunteer jobs can include, but are not limited to:

- Coach
- Assistant coach
- General field clean-up and/or maintenance
- Publicity Tournaments Activities at Blue Creek
- Community Soccer Day
- Team Manager
- Field lining
- Parties
- Transportation

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FOR LOCAL TOURNAMENTS

A key reason the AWSC has kept basic fees so low is that it participates in fundraising activities involving local tournaments. **This involvement requires each AWSC team to provide volunteers to fulfill specific functions related to that tournament.**

Volunteer involvement takes only a few hours per season. Volunteers will be paired when possible with "veteran" volunteers and activities are scheduled well in advance for your convenience.

Tournament volunteer jobs will include but not be limited to:

U9 & U10 Girls	Parking
U9 & U10 Boys	Cleanup
U11 & U12 Girls	Painting field lines & setting nets** Erecting/taking down goal nets
U11 & U12 Boys	Team registration
U13 Boys & Girls	Concessions/Referee Hospitality
U14 Boys & Girls	Field marshals
As Needed	Statistics

Each Team – be prepared to provide Field Marshals for one field for the entire tournament.

* Most jobs are self explanatory or have instructions provided on site or in tournament manual.

However, due to the multi-step process for Field Lining, directions are explained in Attachment 3

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FOR SEASON

The AWSC club assigns team two responsibilities during the season

- 1) Field cleanup - cleanup of trash and emptying garbage cans
- 2) Field lining (See attachment 3)

ATTACHMENT 1

COACH /MANAGER DUTIES

Every team will have a coach who was approved for the position by the Executive Board of the Club. The Executive Board also approves the makeup of each team prior to registration. This ensures viable teams with responsible coaches are established within the AWSC.

It is recommended each Coach solicit a volunteer(s) to manage the team administration and the finances. These administrative and financial considerations include Team Registration (including player/coach registration), Cards, Equipment Procurement, Game Administration, Tournament Registration, Fee Collection and Reimbursement to Club.

Team Registration

In order to play in NWOYSL the team, player and coaches are registered and carded. Players and coaches can be added and dropped however an additional fee is imposed. Once a player is registered with a team, they may only play in NWOYSL with the team they have registered with unless a transfer is consented. They may play in other leagues or as guest players.

Notes

* Turned in to NWOYSL

** Requires Notary

Player * Player Registration Form

Registration - Requires Social Security Number
- Team Number will be completed by NWOYSL
* Birth Certificate (Copy)
** Medical Releases

Coach * Coach Registration Form

Registration OYSAN Coaches Registration Form (Can be completed online)

Team Form NWOYSL Team Registration: This form requires the desired playing level, number of players and coaches.
Payment form is not required. Anthony Wayne pays registration.
Team Calendar including no play dates (the league reschedules canceled games)

League Fees League Fees will be paid by the club. Except for late registration fees or fines.

Player and Coaches Passes or Cards

Following team registration NWOYSL will prepare the team package. This includes the players and coaches passes

- Players and coaches must sign the cards
- Pictures are affixed to the cards
- Cards are returned to NWOYSL office for approval and lamination.

ATTACHMENT 1

COACH AND MANAGER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Regular Season

There is the mandatory schedule meeting in which the games with teams in the Division will be scheduled. There are usually 10 –12 games in a season.

Remember home team is responsible for changing colors for conflicts.

Provide Schedule and Maps to parents

Games

- Cards
- Game report listing players, teams, game time and guest players
- Referee fees. The teams split the cost
- Game ball (Home)

Post Game

- Collect the cards from the referee (The referee holds them during games and may confiscate red carded players cards)
- Sign game report accepting the score and mail
- Winner or home team for ties must report score to NWOYSL for standings

Tournaments

Tournament Registration

The club usually picks a fall and spring club tournament. While the club may designate a club tournament, team participation is not mandatory but may invoke additional requirements to play in a different tournament.

Team Registration is significantly more complicated and expensive if traveling outside of NWOYSL.

In addition to team registration requirement, depending on the distance hotel arrangement are required. Group rates can be obtained and a number of tournament reserve blocks of rooms with local hotels.

Some things to remember. The tournament will have a tournament permit which should be reviewed to determine if the game format is compatible with the team.

Preliminary Registration

- Complete the Tournament Application prior to the application deadline.
- Pay Tournament Entry Fee. The application will not be considered unless tournament fees are included.

ATTACHMENT 1

COACH AND MANAGER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Travel Permit

Complete and submit to OYSAN, the team travel permission:

- Copy of Tournament Sanctioning form
- Copy of Team Roster (with player not participating lined out if exceeding the maximum player total with guest players included)
- Guest Player form (if required)
- Team Travel Permit Form (if required)
- Associated fees

Tournament Registration

This is conducted the night before the tournament. The list may vary from tournament to tournament but this list is a representative of most tournaments

Notes

* required if traveling out of OYSAN

** OYSAN approved required if traveling out of OYSAN

- Player and Coaches Card
- **Copy of Team Roster with player numbers.
- * Travel Permit
- ** Guest Players
- Team Contact Information
- Tournament Waiver signed by parents of players
- Player List for Trophies

Volunteer Coordination

In order to minimize cost the club relies upon volunteers to support a myriad of activities

- Fall Festival in August, each team will support Field Marshalling and another activity
- Field lining and garbage cleanup. During the season field maintenance is require. A team a week will be task with relining the field and garbage collection. The garbage is collected Sunday and field lining should be done during the week.

Meetings

- Mandatory Coaches Meeting at May Club General Meeting
- Uniform Ordering Night in the June
- Parent meeting before Fall season to introduce players and parents
- Monthly board meeting (3rd Monday of the Month), a team representative is required. Non-attendance will result in not refund 10.00 per player for that season to the team.
- NWOYSL Schedule Meeting prior to each season

Additional Coaching Duties

- Tryouts
- Practice Schedule
- Player, Assistant Coach and Manager Recruitment.

ATTACHMENT 1 COACH AND MANAGER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

May

- **Mandatory attendance** at club meeting to review try-out procedures. Club meetings are held the third Monday of each month, 8:00 pm, Whitehouse Village Administration Building.

June

- Club/team try-outs per AWSC and NWOYSL rules
- Present rosters for approval at club Executive Board meeting
- Obtain registration materials from NWOYSL Office
- Coordinate uniform ordering night

July

- Player commitment date (usually July 1)
- Complete coaches registration
- Hold team organizational meeting
 - Collect player registrations
 - Collect player medical release form
 - Collect copies of birth certificates
 - Complete Statements of Commitment and Permission to Photograph
 - Obtain photographs for game passes
 - Finalize fees
 - Determine practice schedule for Fall
 - Determine Fall tournament play
 - Discuss coaching philosophy
 - Sign up volunteers for local tournament (August)
 - Distribute information about AWSC soccer camp
- Submit NWOYSL registrations to NWOYSL Office
- Complete and submit team fall calendar to NWOYSL Office per NWOYSL guidelines (available in NWOYSL Office)
- Fall dues due to Anthony Wayne Youth Soccer Club
- Provide club
 - Roster and player numbers to AWSC Equipment Manager & Secretary
 - Fall player fees
 - Practice times for AWSC scheduling
- AWSC Soccer Camp
- Update Team First Aid Kit
- Complete Game Passes (lamine cards)

ATTACHMENT 1

COACH AND MANAGER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

August

- Begin practice schedule
- Distribute uniforms
- NWO Festival Tournament Volunteer Responsibilities
 - U9 & U10 Girls – Parking
 - U9 & U10 boys – Garbage
 - U11 & U12 Girls – Field Lining and Nets
 - U11 & U12 Boys – Registration
 - U13 Girls & Boys – Concessions
 - U14 Girls & Boys – Field Marshals
- Each Team – be prepared to provide Field Marshals for one field for the entire tournament.
- Mandatory NWOYSL Coaches' Meeting
 - Obtain Fall Schedules
- Notify AWSC Treasurer of number of games and referee costs for check preparation
- Obtain game ball from AWSC
- Begin Fall league play

September – October

- Practices/games/tournaments
- Provide player evaluations by last game (obtain from AWSC Secretary)
- Coordinate winter footskills for team/players

November – December

- Return unused ref fees to AWSC Treasurer
- Obtain Spring registration materials from NWOYSL
- Complete fall player evaluations

November – April

- Coaches clinics/licensing
- Referee certifications
- Skills or indoor play

January-February

- Submit player/team registrations to NWOYSL Office (as required)
- Order new equipment for spring
- Submit Spring Team Calendar to NWOYSL Office

ATTACHMENT 1

COACH AND MANAGER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

March

- Provide spring practice schedule to AWSC
- Mandatory NWOYSL Coaches' Meeting
 - Obtain Spring Schedules
- Notify AWSC Treasurer of number of games and referee costs for fee assessment
- Obtain game ball from AWSC, if needed
- Begin Spring league play
- Pay AWSC Spring dues to AWSC Treasurer

April – June

- Practices/games/tournaments
- Provide player evaluations by last game
- Return unused referee fees to AWSC Treasurer

Other Duties

- Tournaments
 - Obtain, complete, submit applications
 - Obtain travel permits, medical release forms, rosters, and submit
 - Coordinate motel arrangements
- Provide communication of AWSC business to players and parents
- Send team news to AWSC Publicity Officer
- Set up optional team checking account
- Plan get-togethers
- Attendance at monthly club meetings (at least one coach or manager from each team)

ATTACHMENT 2

COACHING AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

General Guidance for Coaching

1) Set up situations where the players can learn by playing the game. The game is the best teacher for young players.

2) Coaches can often be more helpful to a young player's development by organizing less, saying less and allowing the players to do more. Set up a game and let the kids play. Keep most of your comments for before and after practice and during water breaks. Comments should be kept short and simple. Be comfortable organizing a session that looks like pickup soccer.

3) Teaching and learning the game of soccer is a process: make your goals seasonal, as well as daily and weekly. Often, at the younger ages, the developmental efforts of one season are not noticeable in children until sometime in the next season.

4) Set age-appropriate goals i.e., know what the child is able to do at that age.

5) From a developmental standpoint, the young ages are the best ones for learning skills. Spend the time now encouraging this growth. By the age of 17 the capacity to pick up new motor skills begins to wane, while the ability to conceptualize team organization, tactics and strategy increases. As a coach, work with these strengths, not against them. Do not expect games and practices to look like professional soccer. If you want to use high level soccer as a teaching tool, focus on the individual skill level of professional players, not their organization. Give your players opportunities to see what older, more skilled players, i.e., a high school, college player or an older brother or sister, can do with the ball. On occasion, invite some of these players to participate in your practice. Use them to model good soccer qualities. Let your players learn by experiencing the game alongside or against these better players. Older players can also be used as "neutral players." In this case, the neutral player helps whichever team has the ball i.e., he or she never defends. It may be that the neutral player has limited touches and/or can't score, but he or she gives the team with the ball a better chance of keeping the ball. By helping to maintain possession, the neutral player(s) helps the game maintain some rhythm, and gives the kids a clearer picture of the game's possibilities.

6) Recognize and understand how the skills learned at each age are connected to preparing the player to move into the next phase of his or her development. Know what the next level of play is, and the general tools that your players should carry with them as they move on. Help them to be prepared.

7) Allow your players to develop these requisite skills in an environment where the main goal is to have fun with the ball.

8) The value of matches is that they provide youngsters with an opportunity to showcase their newly acquired skill and creativity. It is always nice to win, however that should not be your focus at the younger age groups (through 14 years).

ATTACHMENT 2

COACHING AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

9) Have a clear idea of what it is you want to accomplish at practice. Create exercises/games that replicate and repeat the movements and situations that are found in soccer and that allow the player to grow comfortable and confident with the ball at his or her feet. Encourage players to move with the ball at his or her feet and deal with boundaries, opponents, teammates and goals. Keep in mind that soccer is a pretty simple game. If you are involved in soccer for long enough, you begin to realize that all the many little games that work are really just variations on the same basic concepts. As long as the parameters that you have established in your exercises/small-sided games are true to soccer (goals for scoring and defending), creates the problems that you want the kids to solve (protecting the ball while dribbling, etc.), and allows your players to be challenged and find some success, you're on the right track.

10) Don't be afraid to experiment to find what works best.

11) Remember that the game is the best teacher for the players. Coaches and parents should think of themselves more as facilitators, monitors, guides or even participants, to provide a rich environment for the kids to learn from and enjoy.

Player Assessment

For up to Under 10s

1. Does the player understand which goal to attack and which to defend? Have they established a sense of soccer DIRECTION?
2. Does the player try to CONTROL THE BALL when it comes to them, or do they look to kick it away?
3. Is the player COMFORTABLE WHEN DRIBBLING the ball? Does the player try to keep the ball close to their body?
4. Does the player try to use a VARIETY OF SURFACES when turning and running with the ball?
5. Is the player TWO FOOTED?
6. Does the player ATTACK OPEN SPACE when they have time and space to dribble the ball forward?
7. Does the player recognize when to DRIBBLE AWAY FROM PRESSURE? Does the player have the spatial awareness to perceive pressure and move into an open space with the ball?
8. Given time and space, does the player have the technical skills TO BEAT AN OPPONENT and maintain possession?

ATTACHMENT 2

COACHING AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

9. Does the player MOVE INTO OPEN SPACES to receive passes? Does the player stand behind other players or do they perceive open space and move away from the crowd?
10. Does the player naturally MOVE WITH THE GAME, or do they kick the ball and stand still?
11. Does the player SCORE GOALS? Does the player naturally look to score goals and do they have the vision and technique to score by design?
12. Does the player try to RECOVER THE BALL when the other team has possession?

In addition to the elements used to assess players under the age of ten, the following criteria should also be used to assess players older than ten.

1. Does the player understand how to SPREAD OUT? Where should the player move to give the team a playing shape and create space between the defenders? Does the team have players on either side of the field and in the front and in the back?
2. Does the player understand how to CREATE SPACE TO RECEIVE A PASS? Does the player move to help the passer make a connection? This may involve losing a defender to create space or simply demonstrating an awareness of possible passing lanes.
3. Does the player understand when to CREATE SPACE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT to receive a pass? Does the player's movement help the passer? Do they run into space before the ball can be played, or do they run into space too late and the passing lane disappears?
4. Does the player understand when to SUPPORT A TEAMMATE AND WHEN TO STRETCH THE OTHER TEAM? Does the player understand when it is time to take a defender away from the area of the ball because other teammates are in better supporting positions? Does the player understand when to receive passes to feet in front of their defender and when to receive passes into space behind their defender? Does the player's choice of supporting positions allow the team to maintain possession?
5. Is the player MOBILE within the game? Does the player cover a lot of ground in a purposeful way? Does the player only move when the ball is close to them? Does the player move in anticipation of combining with teammates?
6. Does the player have a high TRANSITION WORK-RATE? Does the player expend much effort? In particular, does the player transition quickly from attack to defense and from defense to attack?

ATTACHMENT 2

COACHING AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

7. Does the player have VISION for the game? Does the player turn their head or open their body before they get the ball to help see teammates? Does the player look for teammates when in possession or does their poor skill level leave them fighting to control the ball? Is the player looking for opportunities to score goals or to quickly pass to teammates in more advanced positions?
8. SPEED OF PLAY and DECISION MAKING. Does the player understand when it is time to possess the ball by playing forward, sideways or backward? Do they understand when it is time to pass, dribble or shoot? Do they read the position and movement of teammates and defenders and constantly adjust their own positions? How many touches do they need to pass, control, dribble or shoot?
9. INDIVIDUAL DEFENDING SKILLS. How well does the player defend against their immediate opponent? Do they look to intercept passes? Do they understand how to close down their opponent and remain balanced? Do they demonstrate controlled aggression when tackling for the ball? Do they deny their opponent space to turn? Do they position themselves to channel their opponent away from dangerous areas? Do they position themselves to deny forward passes when in the middle of the field? Do they understand how to use offside space?
10. GROUP DEFENDING SKILLS. Does the player help teammates to defend? Do they understand how to cover teammates? Do they understand how to defend passing lanes? Do they follow opponents running into dangerous supporting positions? Do they understand how to play within a zone?
11. PHYSICAL QUALITIES. Do they help the team because of individual qualities, such as speed and size, or because they have neat skills and a “feel’ for soccer? In the long run, will their existing range of techniques help them become a competent soccer player, despite their current size? In the long run, will their physical qualities and athleticism compensate for less-than-polished skills? Do they have the endurance to play soccer for extended periods without taking long rests or asking for a substitution? Are they agile and balanced, or cumbersome in their movements?
12. PSYCHOLOGICAL QUALITIES. Are they competitive? Are they coachable? Are they focused and intrinsically motivated? Are they responsible? Are they a positive or negative influence on teammates? Do they view improvement or winning as more important? What are their goals for soccer and where do they want to be in 5 or 10 years? Do they practice their skills alone? Do they have other talents and interests in life?

This is an excerpt from “Stifling the Development of the American Soccer Player”, by Gary R. Allen, Virginia Youth Soccer Association, Director of Coaching Education.

ATTACHMENT 2

COACHING AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

“This is one crucial reason that forming "all-star" teams too young or developing a whole system of "select" or "travel" teams even before the teenage years is detrimental to the long-term development of players. In "select team" environments, where we place our kids beginning often at age 8, the players are chosen because of certain "perceived" strengths and if they want to play, then they had better use the strengths for which they were selected, so that their team can win. Conversely, in the "pickup" game, players are constantly experimenting with different ways to solve problems with and against different players, and though a failed experiment might cost a goal on a particular day, tomorrow is a whole new game, and there is no season record (or disappointed adults) hanging over them. Furthermore, when we constantly focus on having players play on more "competitive" teams as our primary development tool, we never allow them to experience the joy and passion of the game, because all of our efforts are towards winning success and records. Is it any wonder that we lose so many players as they enter their teen years, and begin to realize that they can pursue a number of activities, and don't have to play soccer because mom or dad want them to do so?

The necessity cannot be overstated for players to have the time and opportunity to experiment, and to experience the enjoyment of growth when they finally succeed at something they have been trying for awhile with infrequent success. We forget how we, as former players, were constantly learning and refining our games, and how often our greatest strides were made, not in structured learning environments, but in situations where we were allowed to experiment. I remember some of the greatest learning experiences for me as a player were the many Saturdays many of us spent in a local park playing small-sided pick-up games with Portuguese fishermen who were in port at the time. It is really in this type of environment that players have the opportunity to truly learn how to play and adjust to many types of situations and players. This thinking and ability to adjust takes a long time to develop, with a lot of experimentation, and, yes, failure. But our culture won't allow the failure required to learn AT ANY AGE OR STAGE. We have to have immediate success. After all, we need to have U12 National Champions -- winning is everything. Yet, in the 30 plus years that we have had organized youth soccer, we have not yet produced even one truly world class player! The funny thing is that in the long-term development of a soccer player, winning in any particular season means almost nothing. It is the playing and experimentation that is almost everything.

I have spoken with many world-renowned soccer people over the 32 years I have been coaching. Basically, they all say we need the same things for America to become great at soccer. We need creative players who can play in unique ways more quickly and who can score. We recognize the need, and yet beginning at age 8 we force our young players into more rigid and competitive teams where they are recruited to play certain roles so that the "team" can win. When do we allow them to be creative? When do we allow them to try to solve problems in unique ways? When do we allow them to experiment and enjoy the game? When do we allow them the opportunity to search for and learn new solutions, and to do so again and again, thousands of times in thousands of situations? The answer is: we don't. This is why when we evaluate players at ODP tryouts out of 100 players we see five that have a little something and 95 cookie cutter players. “

ATTACHMENT 3 FIELD LINING & SETTING NETS

<u>Resources Required</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>
330 Foot Tape Measure	Blue Creek Shed	Lays out field.
String	Blue Creek Shed	Used to guide striping machine between marks on field.
Striping Machine	Blue Creek Shed	Lines each field. Uses 12 cans spray paint/per field.
Nets	Blue Creek Shed	Hang and secure with stakes.
Stakes	Blue Creek Shed	Anchors nets to ground.
Ladder	Blue Creek Shed	Helps to hang nets.
Hammer	Blue Creek Shed	Secures stakes/nets.

Marking and Lining the Fields

- Field Lining Chairperson is in charge of setting work dates and notifying coaches/managers
- Mark and line all fields the week before the tournament begins. ***DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE THURSDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT – IT MAY RAIN!!!***
- Marking takes about 40 – 45 minutes per field.
- Lining takes about 30 minutes per field.
- Mark the corners for field layout. Use center of the goal as a measurement reference point.
- Mark circles with hash marks every 3 – 4 feet to enhance striping.
- Connect marked corners with string.
- Use striping machine to paint over the guide string.
- Paint all lines twice (each direction).
- Contact an AWSC Executive Board member for field reference diagrams/guides.

Nets

- Hang all nets and secure with stakes
- Remove within one week of tournament completion
- Takes approximately 15 minutes per field.

ATTACHMENT 4 CLUB GOAL POLICY

July 2007

Goal Safety is a priority of Anthony Wayne United. It is recommended that all Club coaches receive a copy of the Goal Safety Policy. In addition, a checklist for goal inspection will be sent to each coach.

The Club Manager will inspect and sign off each goal before the start of each season. The Coaches for each game are asked to visually inspect the goals before each game to check if they are safely secured and anchored. If a goal is found to be “unsafe”, then the Club Manager must be notified immediately and the necessary steps must be taken to return the goals to a safe status. A game CANNOT take place if any of the 2 goals cannot be deemed safe.

Coaches must remind their players that climbing or hanging on the goals is not permitted. Coaches must also remind parents and spectators the same.

Following are goal safety tips as recommended by the *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*:

- Securely anchor or counterweight movable soccer goals at ALL times.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- Check for structural integrity and proper connecting hardware before every use. Replace damaged or missing parts or fasteners immediately.
- NEVER allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Ensure safety/warning labels are clearly visible at eye level.
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.
- Always exercise extreme caution when moving goals, and allow adequate manpower to move goals of varied sizes and weights. Movable soccer goals should only be moved by authorized and trained personnel.
- Always instruct players on the safe handling of and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.
- Movable soccer goals should only be used on level (flat) fields.

GOAL POSTS

- Effective counterbalancing mechanisms must be in place to ensure the goal does not tip over.
- The goal must be securely anchored to the ground at all times, preferably at the rear of the goal.
- The anchors must be flush with the ground and clearly visible.
- Anchor types must be appropriate for the surrounding soil type. If the goal is shaken or pressed against firmly, it must remain in the ground.

1. Auger style – “helical” shaped anchors (minimum of two) that are screwed into the ground.

ATTACHMENT 4

GOAL SAFETY POLICY

2. Semi-permanent style – the main support with a permanently secured base that is buried underground.
 3. Peg or Stake style – Two or four peg or stakes must exit.
 4. J-Hook Shaped style – Pre-drilled holes into the ground shoes (bars) or rear round shoe (bar) of the goal.
 5. Sandbags/Counterweights – Possible use on hard surfaces, such as artificial turf, where the surface cannot be penetrated by a conventional anchor. (The number of bags or weights used may vary.)
 6. Net Pegs – secures the net to the ground.
- Open hooks used to attach nets to the goal posts must be removed.
 - The posts must be free of all jagged or sharp points.
 - The posts must be vertical and not lean significantly in any one way.
 - The posts may not contain rust or show weak points above or below the ground level.
 - No grounded goal posts may tip easily when weight is applied to the top or the horizontal bar of the goal.
 - The goal may not tip or topple easily when the rear supporting part of the goal is raised.

Connections/Intersections – Each connection of the goal must not show deterioration due to rust or fatigue.

SUPPORTING BRACES

1. Braces may not show signs of rust or weakened braces above or below the ground level.
2. Braces may not have jagged or sharp points or edges.

Goals found to not be in total safety compliance must be red tagged and a notice must be secured to the goal that is easily noticeable. The club must be notified immediately of the problem goals. All goals not in compliance, must be repaired immediately, or must be removed or taken apart so as to prevent injuries of any kind which may result from a faulty goal.

For more information on goal safety, please visit this website:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/Soccer.pdf>

ATTACHMENT 5 COACHING INFORMATION

Playing Soccer vs. Playing at Soccer

By: Christian Lavers, Madison Capital Elite

I spend several hours of every week watching or coaching soccer games at various age and ability levels—high school varsity, ODP, and several different club age groups. As you would expect, even within similar age groups, the technical level of the teams varies quite dramatically. However, disturbingly, the quality of individual decision-making and the quality of team play in many of these games seems to be almost entirely unrelated to the individual ability of the players.

Let me clarify that statement a bit—individual technical ability is the most obvious and most important pre-requisite to play attractive soccer. However, the distressing problem apparent in many of the youth games I see is that many teams with very good technical players, (players with much of the necessary “hardware” to play attractive soccer), are only playing at soccer. In fact, in these games, every team fits very distinctly into one of two very different categories—those teams that are playing (or attempting to play) soccer, and those teams that are playing “at” soccer.

What’s the difference?

Playing Soccer: A game that “makes sense”—a game where players make conscious decisions about where to play the ball, and conscious decisions about how to move and where to run.

Playing at Soccer: A game marked by an inordinate emphasis on field position and hustle.

When you watch a team that is playing soccer, the game can almost always be summed up in one phrase—“It makes sense.” Players are consciously thinking about what to do with the ball, and passes are played with some degree of thought—they are played to teammates, not just aimlessly hit forward. The ball is played backwards or square as often as it is played forward and the team attempts to keep possession of the ball through a combination of dribbling and passing. Though most times these ideas are not executed perfectly by young players, importantly, the players show that they have ideas and are thinking like soccer players!

Unfortunately, at younger ages, when the technical skills of the players are not fully developed, teams that are attempting to play soccer seem to spend a lot of time in their own end of the field. In fact, they lose games to teams that play at soccer 9 out of 10 times. Why does this happen? It happens because the athletes trying to play soccer pass the ball to their teammates instead of kicking it as far forward as possible. When players are young they end up primarily playing short passes, and when because of weaker technical skills this string of passes ends at 2 or 3, the opponent wins the ball and kicks it 30 yards past everyone on the field. Passing and thinking is a losing proposition at first.

When you watch a team that is playing “at” soccer, there seems to be little rhyme or reason to what happens on the field. The team rarely puts together more than 2 passes at a time. The prevailing

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attitude of the players is to kick the ball as far forward as possible, as quickly as possible, and then to run as fast as possible to win it back. Goals are scored through a “dump and fore-check” style of play, not through individual skill or through intelligent team combinations. This style is also marked by an inordinate emphasis on aggressive defensive play, because when teams consistently give the ball away by whacking it forward they must be able to win it back farther down the field by applying unrealistically high pressure.

So, what’s the problem?

- 1) Playing at soccer places no emphasis on making good individual decisions with the ball. Players become indoctrinated in the actions of playing without thought—aimlessly playing forward. At young ages, players are successful playing this style and, quite understandably begin to see this as “proper” soccer.
- 2) Playing at soccer does not develop soccer players. Playing at soccer will not teach players to read the game and does not stimulate players to find creative solutions to problems on the field. Athletes that play at soccer will not fulfill their soccer potential at any level.
- 3) Playing at soccer encourages undue emphasis on simple hustle and “win one for the Gipper” coaching. Highly charged players run all over the field to win the ball, with little or no idea of what to do when they get it.

Here are a few questions you should ask yourself as you watch your children’s games:

- 1) Are players trying to pass the ball to teammates, or are most passes just whacked forward into space?
- 2) Does the team try to possess the ball? How many passes does the average possession last?
- 3) Is the ball out of play for a significant part of the game? (Bad sign)
- 4) Is everyone moving and involved in the game, or only the player with the ball and 1-2 nearby teammates?
- 5) How many times is the ball passed backwards? (As a rule of thumb, 1 of 3 passes should be backwards.)
- 6) Is most of the coaching communication concerned with “working harder”? (Query: What do you do when “working harder” is no longer sufficient because of a lack of soccer knowledge or technical skills?)
- 7) Does the team rely almost solely on whacking the ball forward to a fast player up front to score, and on a fast player in the back to cover for mistakes and send the ball forward? (If so, what kind of learning experience are the other 9 players getting? As you play at higher levels, you will inevitably

ATTACHMENT 5

COACHING INFORMATION

find many defenders faster than your star goal scorer. Also, good players and well-coached teams learn to defend long aimless serves fairly easily.)

8) Does the game look out of control? (Are there rapid, consecutive turnovers? Are players running around with little organization or purpose?)

9) Does the team play any differently at the end of the season than they do at the beginning of the season? Is your child a noticeably different player?

Think about these questions during the next few games. If your son or daughter desires to continue to play as he/she gets older, he/she needs to learn how to play soccer now. Athletes and teams that play soccer, not simply play at soccer, will win in every sense of the word in the long run—and by then it's too late to for those who played at soccer to catch up.

ATTACHMENT 6 TRYOUTS

PURPOSE

To establish a fair policy for evaluations of all ages and determines participants playing levels.

REQUIREMENTS

All players wanting evaluation for one of AWSC teams must be registered prior to evaluation. This will require filling out all the forms supplied by AWSC

DATES & TIMES

The dates and times will be provided in the mailer or on the web site. Tryouts are mandatory to be considered for rostering on the team. Alternate arrangements can be made due to conflicts by contacting the lead assessor for the age group. Reminder: the travel teams selected for the fall season are to be kept together for both the fall and spring seasons whenever possible. Player substitutions can occur in the spring in order to fill a roster. The coach is expected to carry the team forward from the fall to spring.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

There will be at least one team for each age group for travel teams (U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, and U14, both boys and girls) when possible. Two teams will only be formed if the following amount of players can be used for each team and each team has at least one coach:

- *U9 & U10: Minimum of 6 players and maximum of 10 for each team.
- *U11 & U12: Minimum of 8 players and maximum of 14 for each team.
- *U13 & U14: Minimum of 11 players and maximum of 18 for each team.

When there is more than one team in any age group U9 and up, the teams will be divided based on skill level of the players.

Evaluators will be selected prior to the evaluations. It will be the evaluators' responsibility to establish the activities to determine the players' level. A member of the Anthony Wayne Soccer Club Executive Board or another neutral person, approved by the AWSC, will be present at each evaluation (if available). The person will also be involved in the decision making of the team. However, the evaluator/coach, Club Manager, and Director of Player Development will have the final say unless the neutral person feels the process was not fair or within the spirit of the game. At this time the AWSC will be notified. This will allow the board to get involved in the decision making of the team.

Each player will be evaluated based on the following as it applies to their individual age level:

1. Physical fitness (speed, strength, endurance).
2. Technical (dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, heading, throw-ins, etc.).
3. Tactical (knowledge of rules at their particular age groups).
4. Physiological (attendance, attitude, effort, helps others, sportsmanship, etc).

ATTACHMENT 6 TRY OUTS

Once evaluations are completed, the evaluators, the coaches, the club manager, and Director of Player Development will conduct team formation. The club manager and the Director of Player Development will provide the tentative team format to AWSC Executive Board and the coaches will contact submit the team list to the AWSC approval at the June AWSC board meeting. The AWSC will review the teams as listed. If the team is approved by the board, the coach will contact every player and/or parent/guardian by phone to notify them of their status with his/her team. The coach is not to contact or comment on playing status of any player prior to the board's approval of the team. This must be completed within one week of the AWSC acceptance of the teams. The AWSC will ensure that the teams are voted on at the June board meeting. Once NWOYSL teams are approved, rosters must come back to the AWSC for review. All roster changes (additions/subtractions, etc.) must be approved by the AWSC, and any applicable charges/fees from NWOYSL will be paid by the player and/or parent/guardian involved in those changes.

PLAYING UP

1. A player is automatically allowed to be evaluated to play up because they wish to play on a team with their own school grade. The player must be evaluated with their own age level prior to evaluation with their grade level.
2. Players wishing to be evaluated to play above in age level must notify the evaluator prior to evaluations. Each player requesting to play up will be evaluated based on the above criteria established and **MUST EXCEED** the skill level of that age level. It is the AWSC intent to keep the ages the same. However, we understand the need for player development and will allow the exceptional player the opportunity. The evaluation team will evaluate the player and determine the player's ability to play up. Once their true age evaluation has determined their ability to be evaluated in the higher level, they will be able to be evaluated for the next age level. A player who has not completed an evaluation for their true age level will not be permitted to go to the next level evaluation.
3. U9 Boys and Girls – Any child U7 – U9 interested in being evaluated for the U09 age level is able to do so. Players will be selected solely based on their skill and ability to play U09 level soccer.
4. Once a player is accepted on an older team, they must play with that team. The player can not return to a lower team for that year.
5. All players may only play up one year level unless otherwise specified and approved by the AWSC

LATE REGISTRATIONS

Once again, it is the AWSC intent to provide a chance for all players to play. Those wanting to play in the travel league will be given the chance. If their true age team is not full, they will be evaluated to determine their skill level. If the player meets the criteria to play at their true age level, they may be added to the team. Additions are on a first come first served basis (date on application will

ATTACHMENT 6 TRY OUTS

determine who is first).

Once a player has been assigned to an approved team, there will be no changes to that roster that would remove an already approved player.

APPEALS

If the player and/or parent/guardian believe that they were not treated fairly or properly they can appeal the process by submitting a written statement to the AWSC board. The appeal will be reviewed and discussed at the next regularly scheduled AWSC meeting.

ATTACHMENT 7

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUNG SOCCER PLAYERS

1. The right to enjoyment both in practice and in competition, with a wide variety of activities that promote fun and easy learning.
2. The right to play as a child and not be treated like an adult, either on or off the playing field.
3. The right to participate in competitions with simplified rules, adapted to their level of ability and capacity in each stage of their evolution.
4. The right to play in conditions of greatest possible safety.
5. The right to participate in all aspects of the game.
6. The right to be trained by experienced and specially prepared coaches and educators.
7. The right to gain experience by resolving most of the problems that arise during the practice.
8. The right to be treated with dignity by the coach, their teammates, and by their opponents.
9. The right to play with children of their own age with similar chances of winning.
10. The right not to become a champion.

“Nature decrees that children should be children before they become adults. If we try to alter this natural order, we will reach adulthood prematurely but with neither substance nor strength.”

Jean J. Rousseau

ATTACHMENT 8 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What do I do if there are no referees or an incomplete crew?

The game must be played. Club assistant referees ('volunteer' spectators) may be used to aid the referee in determining when the ball is out of play. Non-certified assistant referees may not make offside or foul calls. If there is no referee, then the coaches need to come to an agreement otherwise each coach will referee a half. Bottom line, no referee is not an acceptable reason to cancel a game.

If there is no referee or an insufficient crew at Anthony Wayne field, contact the referee assigner or the club manager.

2) Can we name our team?

No. AW teams are AW United with a color designation for multiple teams in an age group.

3) How do we know if a field is unplayable?

The club manager or designated representative determines if the field can support play. The club manager or designated representative is responsible to inform NWOYSL so the web site can reflect cancellations.

4) If a game is cancelled how is it rescheduled?

NWOYSL allows the teams 48 hrs to negotiate a reschedule date; otherwise the league will determine the play date based on the season calendar.

5) How does the keeper's time impact the 50% playing time?

The league rules often establish the maximum duration for playing goalkeeper (i.e. 1 quarter, 1 half, no limit). In regards to the club policy regarding playing time, the keeper time is neither considered playing time nor time. The 50% is applicable to available field time. Therefore for any period a player is available for field play, it is expected a minimum of 50% of that time each game that individual will be afforded an opportunity to play on the field.

6) Can we practice at Blue Creek?

No, Blue Creek fields are being managed to support game play. Formal scrimmages between AWSC teams are permissible prior to the start soccer season. After the start of the soccer season the conduct of scrimmages, either between team within AWSC or 'friendlies' with team from other clubs, require the approval of the Club Manager.