

**West Side Alliance S.C.**  
**1st Annual POLAR BEAR TOURNAMENT & SHOWCASE**  
**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



**Tournament Dates**

Team check-in is Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Matches will be played in ONE DAY, Saturday, January 14  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Apply Early Limited Space!)**

**Location of Tournament**

The Polar Bear Tournament & Showcase is hosted by the West Side Alliance Soccer Club and the Sand Springs Soccer Club based at the River City Parks in Sand Springs. The 2012 Polar Bear Tournament will be played at the Rivercity Park's Soccer Complex (2500 S Rivercity Parks Rd, Sand Springs, OK, 74063) with overflow matches scheduled as needed at other WSA Training Facilities.

The all-bermuda grass facilities contain 2 full-sized lighted fields, 6 other full-sized fields, and several small-sided fields. The Rivercity Parks facility contains a centrally located concession stand, restrooms, scoreboard area, scenic biking and jogging trail which transveres the entire Rivercity parks, and conveniently located parking, Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or possession of firearms, is prohibited. Pets are prohibited anywhere on the soccer complex.

**Purpose of Tournament**

The purpose of the Polar Bear Tournament shall be to help teams find an offseason event to bridge the gap between Fall and Spring, and to help expose high school aged players to college scouts.

**Tournament Format**

Each age group/division will consist of a pool of four teams who will compete in roundrobin play – each team playing the other for a total of 3 matches. Matches will be “mini matches” – 25 minute halves for 12's thru u19's and 20 minute halves for u7's thru u11's. This will accommodate the fitness and health concerns related to playing 3 matches in a one day period. Roster sizes have been extended to allow 16 players per 8-a-side team, and 22 players per 11-a-side team, with “unlimited guest players”.

## **Awards**

No individual awards will be given in the interest of keeping the focus of the event FUN, DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE SHOWCASE, and OFF-SEASON PREPARATION. Teams accumulating the most points in their group will be recognized on the WSA website at [www.WSASOCCER.org](http://www.WSASOCCER.org) and scores and standings will be reported to US Club Soccer in the tournament committee's "post tournament report".

## **Housing**

A list of area hotels and a host hotel will be provided (see [wsasoccer.org](http://wsasoccer.org)).

## **Referees**

One center official will be assigned per game and club assistant referees will be utilized (this method is applied to keep the tournament entry fee reasonable).

If teams have one or more referees who are interested in working when their team is not playing, or any other referees interested in working, please provide their name(s) and phone number(s) with the team application.

## **Tournament Hotline**

A hot-line number will be used for tournament information, changes and messages. The number is 918.858.3972, extension 50.

## **Standards of Conduct**

All participants in the tournament are expected to maintain high standards of conduct during their participation in the Polar Bear Tournament. Failure to do so may result in punitive action, depending upon circumstances, which may range from a warning, to a reduction in points in the current standings, or banning that team or all teams in its club from future participation in the tournament. The Tournament Director has sole discretion in this matter.

## **Team Criteria**

Boys & Girls: u7, u8, u9, u10, u11, u12, u13, u14, u15, u16, u17, u18 & u19. The age groups for this tournament shall be in accordance with the US Club (and US Youth) age groups for the current seasonal year.

## Types of Teams

Open to league, club or association teams and tournament teams. A tournament team is a regular league team whose tournament roster may include "guest players". Maximum game roster size is 16 players in the under-7 thru under-11 divisions, including guest players; and 22 players in under-12 through under-19 age divisions, including guest players.

Out of state teams must provide a travel permit from their home organization unless they are US Club Registered.

Teams wishing to participate in the tournament are required to provide each player's proof of registration and insurance. Teams which cannot provide such proof are required to purchase the US Club Soccer event insurance.

All players, coaches and guests must abide by US Club Soccer policies, rules, and regulations, and are subject to their disciplinary actions.

## Players

Each team player and coach must be registered with a US Soccer Federation (USSF) youth affiliate and have current player identification (player pass) available for inspection by officials before each game **OR provide proof of registration.**

## Application

To be considered, a team must submit a completed application form, then-current approved team roster (or temporary roster) and appropriate registration fee prior to the registration deadline. A check or money order, listing team name and age division for each team's entry fee, tournament application and the team's then-current approved team roster (or temporary roster) **must be postmarked no later than January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Applications also may be hand delivered prior to the deadline. The date the application is received will be considered in acceptance to the tournament. Teams may "email" their applications – but receipt of check or money order will validate the application.

If a team is accepted to the tournament and fails to attend, its entry fee is forfeited (portions may be refunded if a replacement team is found). Checks or money orders must be made payable to WSA Soccer and mailed with the completed application and then-current approved roster (or temporary roster) to:

*WSA Roundrobin  
5214 Greenan Drive  
Sand Springs, OK 74063*

## Team Selection Criteria.

A selection committee will determine the teams that receive invitations. Factors that may be considered for selection: application date, relative strength based on win/loss records, difficulty of schedules, strength of opponents, and rankings. The committee may weigh other factors such as: teams traveling from out of state, other tournament results, ODP players on a team, etc. Accepted teams will be posted at WSASoccer.org as soon as possible.

## **Inclement Weather**

Field and weather conditions will be updated on the club hotline, 918-858-3972, ext. 50. In the event that the tournament has to be cancelled in whole or in part, the WSA Soccer Club and Polar Bear Tournament will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team. Every measure will be taken to refund a portion of the entry fee after out-of-pocket expenses are deducted. The 2011 Tournament "rain-out" date is February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## **Team Pairings**

The Tournament Committee will seed teams according to team strength based on information received on the tournament application. The committee will make every effort to provide as wide a variety of opponents as possible for each team participating in the tournament.

In the event there exists an insufficient number of teams to create a "pure age" division, age groups may be combined, e.g., u7 and u8, u9 and u10, u11 and u12; u13 & u14; u15& u16; and u17, u18 & u19. Tournament committee will inform teams if combining age divisions is necessary.

## **Match Scheduling.**

Each team will play a minimum of three (3) matches. The three matches will be round-robin play within each group whenever possible. Crossover matches may be necessary if a group contains fewer than four teams. Finals will NOT be played.

Schedules will be posted a week prior on the Polar Bear Showcase section at WSASoccer.org.

## **Team Check-in and Credentials**

1. All teams must have their then-current Approved Game Roster OR Temporary Roster, Travel Form, and Notarized Medical Release Forms approved by the Tournament Committee at the team check-in. Player ID cards will be checked if they are available – if not PROOF of REGISTRATION for each PLAYER MUST BE VERIFIED BY THE TEAM'S COACH and/or MANAGER.

Team check-in will be Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, on site at the Rivercity Parks Soccer Complex.

2. A then-current approved game roster must be submitted to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.

3. Game check-in will be done at the field by referees or field marshals.

4. A player will not be allowed to participate without proper credentials approved by the Tournament Committee.

## **Rules of Play**

The Rules of play of the WSA Roundrobin will be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA, with those modifications stated herein.

All teams and tournament participants must abide by US Club Soccer's policies, rules, and regulations, and are subject to their disciplinary actions.

## Uniforms and Equipment

1. All members of the same team must wear jerseys of the same color (except the goalkeeper who will wear a different and distinguishable color from either team and the Field Referee). All members of the same team must wear shorts of the same color (except the goalkeeper). All players on a team must also wear the same color socks (except the goalkeeper).
2. The home team is responsible for using an alternate color of shirt or socks, if necessary. The home team is listed first on the pairings in the schedule.
3. Shin guards are required for all players.
4. Goalkeepers are allowed to wear headgear.
5. Socks are to cover shin guards. Jerseys are to be tucked in.
6. No player shall wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or other players, including but not limited to casts, splints, stitches, rings, earrings, watches, necklaces, etc.

At the discretion of the Tournament Director and match referee, casts may be allowed. To be considered, casts must be completely covered with at least two (2) inches of foam padding and totally wrapped with an elastic bandage and approved by the match referee of each game. Any player playing with a cast must have a written release from a doctor.

7. For player equipment, refer to FIFA "Laws of the Game", Law IV for its entirety.
8. In the interest of safety, any player sustaining an open wound MUST be removed from the field of play immediately. The player may be substituted at this time. Such players are not allowed to return to the field until any wounds are treated, bandaged, and all blood is removed from their uniforms.
9. Each team shall provide the referee with a suitable match ball.

## Duration of Matches, Ball Size, Number of Players, and Maximum Game Roster Size

### u7, u8, u9, u10 & u11

20 minute halves (2)      5 minute halftime      Ball Size 4  
Format: 8v8 \*\*\* w/ offsidess  
Max Roster Size: 16

### u12

25 minute halves (2)      5 minute halftime      Ball Size 4  
Format: 11v11  
Max Roster Size: 22

### u13, u14, u15, u16, u17, u18, u19

25 minute halves (2)      5 minute halftime      Ball Size 5  
Format: 11v11  
Max Roster Size: 22

### **Unfinished Games**

If the referee terminates a game and neither team is at fault, it shall be considered a completed game.

### **Clock Stoppage.**

Due to the time allowed for the completion of all games, the clock will run continuously. The game clock will not be stopped because of injury to any player unless, at the discretion of the referee, the injured player must be removed from the field by medical personnel.

### **Inclement Weather/Field Conditions**

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director reserves the right to modify all tournament rules in order to safely and fairly end the tournament successfully. Games may be shortened or eliminated in case of inclement weather or unplayable field conditions. Coaches are asked to be patient and remain flexible – changing the tournament format is a major undertaking.

The Tournament Director has the authority to temporarily suspend play due to unsafe weather conditions.

Teams should remain (safely in cars or under shelter) in the vicinity for game resumption. If lightning is sighted, the Tournament Director will immediately suspend play and clear the fields. Play will resume after 15 consecutive minutes of no lightning.

WSA weather hotline at 918 858 3972 EXT 50 will include weather postings.

### **Forfeits**

1. A forfeit will be declared if a team is not ready to play with a minimum of seven (7) rostered players within 5 minutes of the published game. It is recommended in the spirit of this event that if a team is short players at start time that teams offer subs to the shorthanded team so that the match may proceed.
2. Any team that quits the field of play before the conclusion of the game will forfeit the game and is subject to disqualification in the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
3. A game may be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director if an ineligible player participates in a game. Any protest of an ineligible player must be reported in a written statement, accompanied by a \$50 protest fee, within 30 minutes of conclusion of the game to tournament headquarters.

### **Substitutions**

Substitutions shall be unlimited and open (at referee's discretion on any stoppage)

Substitutions may occur with the consent of the referee at any stoppage

## **Scoring**

Group games may end in a tie.

The scoring system for group play will be as follows:

3 points for a victory

1 point for a tie

0 points for a loss.

(A forfeit game will be scored as a 0-2 loss to the team that forfeited.)

If two or more teams are tied in points after their preliminary rounds are complete, the following tiebreaking procedures will be used to determine championship recognition and final placement in divisions:

- A. Head to head competition
- B. Fewest Accumulation of Red Card Ejections
- C. Goal Differential
- D. Most Goals Scored
- E. Fewest Goals Allowed
- F. Penalty Kicks

These procedures will be applied, in order, until ties are broken.

## **U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 Rule Clarifications:**

1. The u7, u8, u9, u10, u11 divisions will play 8-a-side with a maximum roster size of sixteen (20) players, including guest players.
2. Age-appropriate fields will be used.
3. A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven players. Substitutions are unlimited and, with referee consent, may occur at any stoppage.
4. Offside will be called.
5. Penalty and direct kicks will be awarded.

## **Player and/or Team Official Suspensions**

1. While the focus of the tournament is friendly competition, player development, and showcasing, a player or team official may be ejected for the game at the discretion of the referee if such action is deemed serious enough. However, the team's discretion will be used to determine whether the player or team official will be suspended from any subsequent matches. This is in adhering to the tournaments focus: FUN, DEVELOPMENT, and PREPARATION.

Substitution will be permitted for an ejected player so that teams may always remain full-sided. This is in adhering to the tournaments focus: FUN, DEVELOPMENT, and PREPARATION.

The Tournament Director may, at his or her discretion, increase the suspension, especially in cases of ejections for fighting, assault, or violent play.

2. Verbal abuse of referees, players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated.



## Referees

1. All divisions will use an assigned Center official. Club AR's will be used.
2. All referee decisions are FINAL.
3. NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.
4. At the conclusion of the match, the Field Referee will complete the scorecard in detail, and turn it in at the Tournament Headquarters, within thirty (30) minutes of completion of the match. The Tournament Committee will maintain an up-to-date list of all ejections during the tournament.

## Appeals

1. All referee decisions are FINAL.
2. NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.
3. The Tournament Director is empowered to make all decisions regarding competition during the tournament.
4. The decision of the Tournament Director is FINAL in all matters. No appeals will be allowed beyond that point.

## Tournament Committee

Any questions should be directed to the Tournament Director, or during the tournament, to one of the Tournament Committee members, who can be accessed through field marshals.

## Matters Not Provided For

The Tournament Director shall determine any matter not provided for in the tournament rules. In addition, the Tournament Director may amend the tournament rules when, in his or her judgment, the amendment will be beneficial to the conduct of the tournament. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final.

Contact the Tournament Director at [RogerWSA@aol.com](mailto:RogerWSA@aol.com) or leave a voice message at 918.629 4476.

**Application deadline is January 7th, 2012.** The date the application is received will be considered in acceptance to the tournament.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [WSASOCCER.ORG](http://WSASOCCER.ORG)**