

PLAYER/PARENT HANDBOOK



THE FUTURE OF YOUR PLAYER LIES WITHIN!



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

CONTENTS

WLUSC Contact Information.....	2
Background and Vision.....	2-3
Commitment To Excellence.....	4
Coaches Commitment To Excellence.....	5
Parents Commitment To Excellence.....	6
Player Commitment To Excellence.....	7
Attendance.....	8
Punctuality.....	8
Team Formation.....	9
Fields.....	10
Uniforms.....	10
Costs.....	10
Parent Volunteers.....	11-12
Permission to Photograph.....	13



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Contact Information

Western Lehigh United Soccer Club

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Background and Vision

The original vision of Western Lehigh is to work with the participating youth soccer organizations to organize and develop recreational and travel teams from a broader base of players rather than each community attempting to support independent programs. From the very start, the united concept proved to be a dramatic success. The four vertical bars culminating into a soccer ball represent this unifying concept. The word, United, is in gold to represent the importance we place on a united approach. The overall colors, white, green and gold represent the traditional colors of Western Lehigh United. Because of the success of the united approach, we welcome and encourage the participation of other programs. We believe that the unifying concept strengthens each constituent member while providing a far more comprehensive and stronger overall program and resulting in a rich and rewarding soccer experience for all participants.



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Travel teams play as Western Lehigh teams, while the recreational and intramural programs play under the banner of each of the participating communities youth soccer programs. Because of the coordination provided by the Western Lehigh United concept, we are better able to ensure that players are properly assigned to teams appropriate to their skill level and to better ensure that each team contains a proper number of players.

We also strive to improve participants soccer experience and skills by utilizing the services of highly trained and skilled soccer professionals to train both players and coaches. A critical component of our approach is to register our teams in leagues appropriate to their skill level.

Our meetings are conducted on the third Tuesday of the month. You are welcome to join us.

If your child is considering playing for a Western Lehigh United (WLUSC) team, or is already a member of our club, we believe you will be pleased with the WLUSC experience. While we strive for soccer excellence through teamwork, we believe that outstanding teamwork is a product of individual skill and knowledge of the game. Consequently, we stress the following;

- Emphasis on player development,
- Excellent coaching,
- Access to excellent facilities,
- Exceptional support and
- Exhibit good sportsmanship and appreciation for "the laws of the game."



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Western Lehigh United soccer Club **Commitment to Excellence**

Western Lehigh Players, Coaches & Families,

We are pleased now to provide you The Western Lehigh United "Commitment to Excellence" Program.

The intent of this Commitment to Excellence is to hold all of us in the club: players, parents, coaches, fans to the highest standards of sportsmanship, conduct and player development. We believe that this is an important step in the continued development of our club and players and we appreciate your support.

Western Lehigh Coaches and team managers will be asked to review and discuss each of these Commitment to Excellence Documents with players and parents and require all within the club to sign the appropriate one. For ease of reference you will be able to find copies on our website.

Thank you all for your support!

Western Lehigh United Board of Directors



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB



COACHES COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

for



Western Lehigh United Soccer Club

“A whisper is heard a lot farther than a shout”

- Before, during, and after the game show an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you 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. In the event of serious foul play, the player may not re-enter the field.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them (and you may need to be forceful and direct) from yelling at the players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game. 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.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players and yourself in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them, and inciting (or even accepting) your own players' overly aggressive behavior. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and support the referee; your players and their parents will notice.

If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you are overly concerned with results and you criticize the referee harshly, this will only have a negative effect on not only their performance but their character and love of the game.

Signature

Date



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB



PARENTS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

for



Western Lehigh United Soccer Club

“When you teach your child, you teach your child’s child.”

The expectations and responsibilities of a Western Lehigh United parents.

- ⇒ The game is for the player and parents should not play the game vicariously through their child but promote them in everything they do and discourage negative actions.
- ⇒ Parents will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
- ⇒ I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.
- ⇒ The 24-Hour Rule-I will abide by the 24-hour rule. If a coach or parent is in disagreement, they will wait 24-hours before discussing the issue with the party involved. This rule does not apply to emergencies or direct violations of the code of conduct. Time resolves many issues and well thought out communication works best when dealing with these emotional situations.
- ⇒ Playing time is at the coach’s discretion based upon factors such as a player’s effort in the game or a tactical change to affect the play to achieve success. To successfully compete at the highest level in line with the team’s pre discussed expectations, playing time is earned and positions played are based on the needs of the team. Any disgruntlements regarding this issue may be discussed but will not be entertained until at least 24-hours after each game or practice.
- ⇒ The amount of playing time, positions played, and whether or not a player starts will be based on the judgment and expectations of the coach, the coaches have volunteered or have been placed in position based on expertise, in both cases a coach’s decision should be supported. Any disgruntlements regarding this issue may be discussed but will not be entertained until at least 24- hours after each game or practice.
- ⇒ I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- ⇒ I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all WLU events.
- ⇒ I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices.
- ⇒ I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying their best.

Signature

Date



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB



PLAYER COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

for



Western Lehigh United Soccer Club

"The quality of a persons life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor"

The expectations and responsibilities of a Western Lehigh United Player.

I will:

- ↪ Show dedication, full commitment, and effort in all aspects of practices and games.
- ↪ Attend all events scheduled by the coach: practices / games / tournaments.
- ↪ Come to all team events with a positive-hardworking attitude.
- ↪ Become a student of the game. Observe games I am not involved in especially at the professional level.
- ↪ Practice away from practice (for example: iSoccer, juggling, soccer tennis).
- ↪ Take pride in my appearance. Look good – feel good - play good (No jewelry, shirts tucked in, socks pulled up, correct uniform, shin guards, and footwear)
- ↪ Lead a healthy lifestyle. Eat correct diet and nutrition and have proper game/practice preparation.
- ↪ Be Punctual. Turn up a minimum of 45 minutes before kickoff for a game and a minimum of 5 minutes before practice begins (or other limits set by team coach).
- ↪ Take responsibility to notify my coach if I will be late or unable to attend a game, training session, or team event .
- ↪ Respect officials and coaches with respect and not question their decisions.
- ↪ Respect my opponents and teammates at all times.
- ↪ Immediately report any injury to my coach and parents no matter how small the issue.
- ↪ Approach the coach with any personal soccer related problems.

Signature

Date



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Attendance:

Training sessions (practice), should be enjoyable experiences that the boys and girls want to attend. Nevertheless, practice sessions also provide the opportunity for players to declare their preparedness for matches (games). Every effort should be made to attend all training sessions and games. However, if boys and girls cannot attend training they should inform the coach why they cannot attend. Players or parent(s) should give at least 2 weeks notification for missing a game & and at least 24 hours for missing a practice. We do recognize that in some cases this may not be possible.

Punctuality:

Players should be encouraged to be punctual for training sessions with the appropriate readiness and equipment (i.e. attitude, training kit, ball, shin guards, soccer shoes, and open mind).



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

TEAM FORMATION

Tryouts are held for each age bracket. Teams are formed using an A,B,C structure. Team A will consist of the strongest players. Team B will consist of the medium strength players and C will be players that need the most improvement. This does not prevent these teams from practicing together.

One of the foundations that the Western Lehigh United Soccer Club has been built on is team individuality. The Club does not dictate what league your player's team will play in, or what tournaments that they will participate in. The Coaches and parents know their players best and determine how they wish to see them progress.

Teams have the ability to have a paid Coach who will train the team and attend games. Or they can choose to have a paid trainer who attends practices and a parent Coach coaches on game day.

Each team will have a Coach, 1 or 2 Assist Coaches, and a Team Manager. The Coach is responsible for the training schedule, training, all aspects of player development, and game preparation. The Coach shall manage the team players during a event.

The Assist Coach/es shall assist the Coach in the performance of his job.

The Team Manager shall manage the team funds. Each team shall have a bank account at the bank of the Club with a start-up amount of \$500.00. Each account shall have two names on it. The Team Manager shall be listed as well as the Club Treasurer. He/she will submit a monthly expense report to the Director of Finance.

The Team Manager is also responsible for the Player cards and roster.

The Club shall pay for each League that the team is registered in too play except for any indoor leagues. The Club will pay for one season of referee fees.

High School age teams may choose to play in a spring league or play as a tournament team.



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Fields:

Western Lehigh primarily uses the following fields at no cost to the teams who choose to them.

Klines Lane (Emmaus)

Cintas (Emmaus)

Air Products Fields

Haines Fields

Alburtis Community Center

Teams who choose to use Lehigh County Sports Complex and Iron Lakes fields are responsible for the cost from their team budget.

The field assignments are managed by the Director of Fields and Equipment.

Uniforms:

Western Lehigh USC is an Under Armour uniform advocate. Ewing Sports is our provider. Each player will be provided with an account with Ewing Sports to order a uniform kit. The required kit includes; shorts, home and away jersey, practice jersey, and socks. There are additional items available but are not mandated. The player is responsible for a ball and shin guards. The cost of the mandated kit is approximately \$100.00.

Costs:

Currently, the registration cost is \$225.00 a year. This fee pays for the salaries of the Technical Director, Two Directors of Coaching, Registrar, insurance, league fees, and many other administrative items necessary for the running of the club.

Each team prepares a budget that is approved by the Directors. This budget is then funded by the parents by a payment schedule. The teams are responsible for tournament costs, training costs, field rental costs (if not using our supplied fields), indoor costs and whatever else the team dictates. Contact the Coach for your expected payment amounts.



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Parent Volunteers:

Western Lehigh United Soccer Club is a volunteer run organization and welcomes your interest. Knowledge of soccer is not a requirement for volunteering. Many important volunteers share their organizational skills, with little knowledge of the game to help the club and its teams. It is the work of volunteers that makes soccer available to our children.

WLUSC has two levels of volunteers which are Team level volunteers and Club level volunteers. Each team has a team manager and/or team treasurer that handles much of the team responsibilities.

There are also 26-28 Club level volunteers needed to operate the whole soccer club. Intentionally, we have almost the same number of teams in the club. NEW THIS YEAR, we are asking that every team in the club have a representative/volunteer at the CLUB level. This will become mandated for the 2017-2018 season but we would like to get a jump on it now to allow for current club members to decide what position they would like to participate in. Each volunteer should expect to commit 1-2 hours per month for each position. Some positions may require a little more time than others while some may also require more hours at some point during the year and no hours at other times during the year.

Also, the College Resource Volunteers that will benefit the High School Age parents and players are restricted to the HS age teams only.

Please see below the list of Volunteer Positions that exist. If you have any interest in any of these positions, or would like a little more detail on the position, please let your coach now ASAP.



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Elected Positions;

Club President*
Vice President*
Director of Comm*
Director of Finance*
Director of Fields and Facilities*
Director at Large*

Non-elected Volunteer Positions;

Field Coordinator (Under Director of Fields and Facilities)
Equipment Coordinator
Field Lining Committee (Under Field Coordinator)
Field Lining Committee
Volunteer Coordinator
Tournament Committee (Under Tournament Director possibly unpaid with less responsibilities. Can be removed from this list and be paid)
Tournament Committee
Tournament Committee
Tournament Committee
Newsletter Committee (Under DoComm)
Newsletter Committee
Webmaster assistant (Under DoComm)
League rep-PAGS
League rep-DELCO
League rep-LVYSL
Team Fundraising Coordinator (Under Director of Finance)
Special Projects Volunteer (check in at events like tryouts, club days, trophies help etc.)
Special Projects Volunteer



WESTERN LEHIGH UNITED SOCCER CLUB

PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOGRAPH

Western Lehigh United Soccer Club

- I **give** permission for my child, to be photographed as a team or individually and for his/her photograph to be placed on the Western Lehigh United Soccer Club webpage, team page, social media, or in the local newspaper.

- I **do not give** permission for my child, to be photographed as a team or individually and for his/her photograph to be placed on the Western Lehigh United Soccer Club webpage, team page, social media, or in the local newspaper.

PLAYER NAME (PRINT)	PLAYER SIGNATURE	DATE
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PARENT NAME (PRINT)	PLAYER SIGNATURE	DATE
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PARENT NAME (PRINT)	PLAYER SIGNATURE	DATE
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COACH NAME (PRINT)	TEAM NAME
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