



# On the 18

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## New "Severe Weather" Policy

At the winter WMYSA President & Community Reps meeting held in February, a new Severe Weather Policy was unveiled. The policy was approved at a WMYSA board meeting in September 2009. The entire policy is available on the WMYSA website under the "Forms" link.

The policy provides for venue management or either team's coach to reschedule a game without forfeiting or

WMYSA fee on the day of the match if the following conditions are met:

(1) A severe weather "warning" or a tornado "warning" has been issued by the National Weather Service for the venue's area/county.

(2) The warning duration includes the scheduled game time, including 2 hours prior to or 1 hour after the scheduled game time.

Although both teams may

desire to play while a severe weather/tornado warning is in effect, the assigned referees also have to the option to not travel to the venue.

The venue management, coach or official that elects to cancel a game due to severe weather or tornado "warnings" must contact all other parties to inform them of their decision prior to game time.

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## New Substitution Rules Adopted for U12 Elite Division

### Special dates of interest:

- Start of WMYSA spring season: April 17
- Last Date for Dual Registrations: April 30
- Premier Sponsorship Applications due to WMYSA: May 7
- End of WMYSA spring season: June 6

WMYSA teams playing in the U12 Elite Division will now follow the substitution rule from MSYSA. This change was adopted for the spring 2010 season to eliminate a difference in the substitution rules between WMYSA and GYSA.

### MSYSA Rule 4.5

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until receiving a signal to do so by the referee and must do so at

the half line. Substitutions may be made by either team at the following times:

- A. Prior to a throw-in, with the following exception: If the team taking the throw-in does not substitute then substitution is prohibited.
- B. Prior to a goal kick
- C. After a goal is scored
- D. After an injury, when the referee stops play.
- E. At half time
- F. After a caution, the

carded player(s) may be substituted, and if substituted, the opposing team may substitute a like number of players.

The old substitution rule used by WMYSA stated "substitutions are allowed at any game stoppage and are unlimited." It can be found in the WMYSA Rules and Regulations, section F.2

**This substitution rule continues to be effect for all other WMYSA U9-U12 games.**



## WMYSA Updates the Game Report Form

WMYSA has an updated game report form for the spring 2010 season.

The changes were minor and were made to address some issues with the form suggested by the MSYSA Discipline and Appeals Committees, and by our two local referee associations.

The form now has a clear place for the referee team to indicate which players are present/absent for the

game, including the team officials.

The form also updated the codes that the referees use to indicate the reason(s) for issuing a caution (yellow card) or send off (red card). The codes are now consistent with the United States Soccer Federation codes used by referees throughout the country.

It remains important that a team official complete

the top portion of the form and lists all players and team officials on the game report form prior to delivery to the referee team.

The referee team will mail in the report to WMYSA in the envelope provided by the home team.

A team official must sign the game report indicating they confirmed the score recorded.

## New "Severe Weather" Policy – *Continued from Page 1*

For example, a U10 match is scheduled between Marshall and SW Michigan at the SWM fields at 3pm.

At 11:25AM the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch from 1:00PM until 5:45PM in Berrien County. At 12:30PM the watch is upgraded to a warning for 4:00PM to 5:45PM for Berrien County.

Although the Tornado Warning is not active until

after the U10 game is complete, it does fall within an hour of the scheduled game time. One or both coaches could contact the other and referees to indicate they would not attend the game once the Tornado warning was issued at 12:30PM but not while a Tornado watch was issued.

The home fields for the Michigan based teams are:

Van Buren County:  
Shoreline Breakers

Berrien County: Jaier, SW  
Michigan, Niles

St. Joseph County: Sturgis

Kalamazoo County:  
Kalamazoo, Portage, Red  
Arrow, Marauders, TKO  
Academy, Kingdom Select,  
River Oaks, Sting

Allegan County: Force

Calhoun County: BC Fire,  
Marshall

*"Failure happens all the time. It happens every day in practice. What makes you better is how you react to it."  
– Mia Hamm*

## Procedures for Score Reporting

The coach or manager of the winning team needs to go to the WMYSA web site (WMYSA.org) and "Report Score" for the appropriate game within 24 hours of the completion of the game (the score will immediately be posted

and the standings will be updated). In the case of a tie, the home team should "Report Score".

The automated Score Report button is located in the in the WYMSA website (far right of scheduled game line). You will be prompted to

enter a password after clicking the Reporting Score or Reporting Score Error button. The password was distributed in fall game envelopes. Please do not unnecessarily share the password, as this has caused issues in the past.

## Keep Track Of Cautions

The WMYSA Rules and Regulations states that players, coaches, managers or team officials receiving three cautions during a playing season shall be suspended for the next game.

The WMYSA Statistician receives all game reports for games played within WMYSA. The Statistician keeps a log of all player, coaches, and team officials who receive a

yellow or red card.

Since referees do not collect a player's pass card when a caution is issued, it is possible for a team to play their next game before the game report containing the player's recent caution reaches the Statistician.

A player who receives his/her third caution must serve a one-game suspension. The suspension is served by

noting it on the WMYSA game report.

Even cautions received while playing in a tournament count toward the three caution limit for suspension. If a player receives a third caution on the last game of a playing season, the suspension must be served during the first game of the next playing season or first game of a tournament, whichever is played first.

Be sure to have the tournament document in writing that the player served the suspension during the tournament and provide a copy to the WMYSA Statistician.



## Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

One of the great things about the soccer community is the sheer amount of unselfish things that coaches, managers, parents, and player do. Many times it is done quietly, without fanfare or they remain anonymous.

In future issues of this newsletter, I think we should celebrate those who give without asking. I need your help in recognizing those who ask

for nothing in return for all the things they do.

For example, do you know of a coach who found a "scholarship" for an under privileged player, but in reality they paid the players fees out of their own pocket?

Perhaps you know a team parent who quietly made sure another player always had a ride to and from practice, even though they lived far out

of the way, because they did not have a ride or perhaps a family illness meant one parent was incapacitated or hospitalized for a while.

There might be a player on your team who recently collected old soccer balls, shin guards, and cleats from teammates and made sure they were shipped to Haiti or Chile so others could enjoy soccer too.

Please e-mail me your stories at:

[wmysa-pres@sbcglobal.com](mailto:wmysa-pres@sbcglobal.com)

*"Soccer is simple, but it is difficult to play simple."*

- Unknown -

## Interesting Facts about the World Cup

India pulled away from the 1950 World Cup because the players were not allowed to play without shoes.

The 1950 World Cup game between Uruguay and Brazil at the Maracana Stadium, recorded the highest

number of spectators, 199,854!

From the year 1962 to 1996, the World Cup was won alternatively by the Europeans and South Americans.

The first player to be red carded was the Chile

player Carlos Caszely, during the 1974 World Cup.

The Brazilian star player, Ronaldo, became the all-time highest goal scorer in World Cup events in the year 2006, when he outnumbered the German legend 'Gerd Müller'. He

was honored as the most valuable player of the 1998 World Cup, despite the defeat of his team to France.

The woman's World Cup held in 1999 was won by the United States by kicks from the penalty mark against China.

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**[www.wmysa.org](http://www.wmysa.org)**



## What is SoccerFest?

Each year a WMYSA member club hosts an end-of-year event in June called SoccerFest. All the teams in the U14 division and below play two games at the same location, usually on the same day, to close out the spring season. WMYSA subsidizes a portion of the cost for SoccerFest.

One benefit of SoccerFest is that it provides a way to play the 8-game spring season in the seven available weeks. Each team usually has a designated "home" and "away" game at the SoccerFest site. WMYSA pays all the referees for the games played during SoccerFest, eliminating the need for the "home" team to pay the referees. Teams only need to provide game reports, as the referees will turn in the completed reports directly to WMYSA.

Although today there are vast opportunities to

participate in tournaments all over Michigan, the origins of SoccerFest were also rooted in creating a "tournament-like" feel for the younger age groups who might not participate in tournaments when there were fewer tournaments held in Michigan. For the referees, having so many games at one location allows them to work multiple games with minimal travel. Many teams plan team picnics or activities during SoccerFest to make it a special day for the players and parents.

As WMYSA has grown over the last four years, the size of SoccerFest has grown. In 2005 and 2006, SoccerFest was hosted by SW Michigan at the Rocky Week complex. Since 2007, SoccerFest has been hosted by the River Oaks Soccer Club. The River Oaks Park soccer complex is currently the only

venue with enough small-sided fields to host SoccerFest. At the 2009 SoccerFest, 137 games were held at the River Oaks complex over two days! Of the 137 games played, 100 were played on smaller fields (U12 and U10 sized fields).

Starting in 2011, WMYSA is considering changing the structure of SoccerFest to allow the games to be played at other venues in southwest Michigan. A few ideas being considered are (2) eliminating a division from SoccerFest or (2) splitting SoccerFest up by field size or division and have multiple locations host a portion of the games.

If you have suggestion for an improvement for SoccerFest, please e-mail me at [wmysa-pres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wmysa-pres@sbcglobal.net).

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*Open*

