

PUEBLO RANGERS SOCCER CLUB



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAGUE RULES

Player/Team Registrations:

Players must register through the Pueblo Rangers Website prior to participating in any practices and prior to participating in any games or scrimmages. Registration can be completed online at www.pueblorangers.net or at the Pueblo Rangers office. Players will select the school they will be playing for during the registration process and can order a uniform and make payment through the website. The CSA liability insurance is only effective once a player is registered. Without being registered, coaches are personally liable for any injuries or incidents involving a player who is not registered.

Eligibility:

Players MUST be in Middle School to participate in this league. In very rare instances, there may be exceptions but these must be approved through the Directors.

Players will register to play for the school where they attend, unless their school does not have a team. In that scenario, they may choose to play for any other team. If a player is on a team for two consecutive seasons and their school returns with a team, the player can then choose to stay with the original team or change to team of the school they attend. Home schooled children can play for any team they choose.

Divisions and Rostering:

Divisions:

There are 3 Divisions in the Middle School Program:

Stars & Stripes (if the season allows) – These teams would consist of the best players on a team, varsity level players

American – These teams will consist of varsity level and next season varsity level players

National – These teams will consist of the developing players

NOTE: Player assignment is not subjected to their school grade, but by their ability and skill. For example, a sixth grader can be placed on Stars and Stripes team; just as an eighth grader may be placed on a National team. Coaches will determine where players fit best.

Some schools may have 1 team and some schools may have teams in multiple divisions.

Rosters:

Coaches will roster their players according to skill level.

Coaches must provide their initial rosters to the Registrar, at least one week prior to setting day.

The first day of games will be the setting day. These games will not count toward the seasons records but will allow coaches the opportunity to evaluate their players during game play and coaches may then choose to adjust their rosters, prior to the first official game day. They must submit any changes of the rosters to the Registrar one week before official games.

Rosters will be frozen 1 week prior to official games starting.

Players not on rosters during game day; will not be permitted to play.

Teams will not have guest players.

Players can only be on ONE roster.

Exceptions are for *bubble players*

Bubble players CAN be on 2 separate rosters for one school. Coaches should select mid-level players that will be bubble players since they may play in 2 divisions. Bubble players cannot be selected for All Star Game play at the end of the season.

Teams will have a maximum roster of 22 players.

Once a team has 23 players, they must split into 2 teams.

In situations in which a team now only has 11 players on one team and 12 on the other, *bubble players* can be used.

A school that has split into 2 teams and has a total of 23 players between the two teams - can have 5 bubble players. This means that 5 of the players will be on both rosters and the remaining 18 players will be split between the 2 teams.

(Ideally, if you were ranking your players from 1-23 based on skill level, your bubble players should be player numbers 10,11,12,13 and 14 – they would play on both teams. Players 1-9 would be on your lower level team and players 15-23 would be on your upper level team)

With 24 players between the two teams, they can have 4 bubble players

With 25 players between the two teams, they can have 3 bubble players

With 26 players between the two teams, they can have 2 bubble players

With 27 players between the two teams, they can have 1 bubble players

The Registrar will designate bubble players on the roster.

Players on the roster shall play a minimum of 15 minutes per game. This is still considered a recreational league and it is very important that all kids receive adequate play time.

The Ball and Equipment:

A size 5 ball will be used for practice and game play.

All players are required to wear the official school uniform kit. Uniforms are ordered and paid for during the online registration process. Uniforms can be picked up from the Pueblo Rangers office, during office hours. Additional uniform kits can be purchased from the Rangers office if needed. Any uniforms that have been ordered and not picked up prior to setting day, will be distributed to the coaches.

Players must wear shin guards (to be worn completely under the socks) and soccer cleats. Cleats may not extend from the sides, front, or the back of the shoe. Shoes with "toe cleats", metal cleats, spikes, or metal-tipped cleats are not allowed.

If the referee deems a player's equipment unsatisfactory, the player can be sent off until the issue is remedied.

The following items are NOT permitted:

Hair control devices with any hard parts.

Jewelry of any sort, including earrings of any kind, regardless of covering.

Any article worn which is deemed a danger to the players by the referee will not be allowed.

Medical tags, religious medals, if worn, will be taped to the chest.

Shirts will be tucked in at all times during play.

Players with arm casts will be allowed to play provided the cast is covered with foam padding and parent release form is provided to the referee coordinator prior to the scheduled game.

Practices:

It is at the coach's discretion to determine location, length and number of practices per week. Neither Lake Minnetonka nor Langoni Soccer Fields can be used for practice, as these are game only fields.

Sidelines:

Team sidelines will consist of, up to 3 badged coaches, 1 badged manager and only the actively rostered eligible team players.

Players and coaches from both teams will occupy one side of the field (separated by the center line) and spectators will occupy the other side of the field opposite their teams, separated by the center line.

Spectators are not allowed on the end sides of the field.

Game Length:

Game times are 70 minutes (2- 35 minute halves) for the Stars and Stripes Division and 60 minutes (2- 30 minute halves) for American and National Divisions.

There will be a 5 minute half time per game.

Game Play:

Matches are played by two teams of 11 to a side. The goalkeeper is included in the 11-player total. If a team cannot field at least 7 players at match time, the game is a forfeit.

This is a recreational league. Therefore, if a team only has 7, 8, 9 or 10 players available for game play, the other team must match that number on the field.

There will be a five minute grace period from the scheduled start time of games. If both home and away coaches agree, the game can begin earlier than the scheduled start time.

No spectator or coach is allowed to enter the field of play without the referee's permission.

Disputes and Concerns:

For disputes or concerns involving games, the chain of command and 24 hour rule must be followed.

Chain of Command:

For issues relating to team dynamics, play time, etc.; players and parents/spectators must approach the head coach first and if not resolved, then approach the Middle School Director, then the Program Director.

For disputes or concerns relating to a referee, the player or parent/spectator should bring the complaint to the Referee Assignor, either in written form or verbally. The Assignor will address the issue.

If the situation is still not resolved, then an email to the Board of Directors is permitted.

Coaches must approach the Middle School Director and then Program Director, and if the issue is still not resolved, they may reach out to the Board of Directors via email. Contact information for Rangers Staff and Board of Directors can be found at www.pueblorangers.net

24 Hour Rule:

After the conclusion of the match, players, parents and spectators must wait 24 hours to approach the coach with any disputes, questions or concerns. This also applies to coaches and their interaction with the Directors.