

Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club

Parent & Player Handbook

Updated April 2026

Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club exists to develop players of all ages through quality coaching, technical development, and a love for the game.

Rooted in Wisconsin's Lake Country community, we use soccer to teach teamwork, dedication, humility, and leadership while creating meaningful opportunities for players to grow on and off the field.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club Mission & Values
- Age-Appropriate Player Development
 - U6-U8 (Grassroots)
 - U10-U12 (Developmental)
 - U13-U15 (Competitive)
- Registration, Player Placement & Team Formation Policy
- Right To Refuse Participation
- Calendar Raffle Fundraising Obligation Policy
- Guidelines for Players
- Guidelines for Parents
- Referee Support
- Concussion Safety
- Conflict Resolution
- Playing Time Policy
- Moving Up Policy
- Guest Playing Policy
- Club Pass Player
- Player Pick-up Policy
- Inclement Weather & Field Condition Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Force Majeure
- Media Release
- Failure to Meet Expectations



MISSION & VALUES

Mission Statement:

Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club is a community of soccer families dedicated to providing instructional and competitive youth soccer experiences that build character, strengthen community, and inspire a lifelong passion for the game. We focus on developing confidence, teamwork, respect, and the physical and personal benefits of sport.

Core Values:

- **Community:** Strengthening local soccer through player, coach, and family engagement.
- **Development:** Focusing on individual growth and team development in a supportive environment.
- **Excellence:** Striving for improvement in both skills and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- **Respect:** Treating teammates, opponents, coaches, and referees with the utmost respect.

We are dedicated to ensuring that every player progresses according to their ability, while enjoying the game of soccer.



AGE GROUPS & FORMATS

U6 (Age 5-6) - 4v4 Grassroots

Practice: 1 - 60 min practice per week

Game Format

- **Players:** 4v4 (no goalkeepers)
- **Roster Size:** 6-8 players
- **Ball Size:** Size 3
- **Game Length:** Four 8 minute quarters
- **Rules:**
 - No throw-ins; balls are played in by dribbling or passing
 - No corner kicks; ball is restarted from end line
 - No referees (coaches manage the flow)
 - No standings or scores recorded

Development Focus

- Fun, engagement, and love of the game
- Basic movement skills (balance, running, stopping, turning)
- Comfort with the ball (dribbling in all directions)
- Confidence building



U7 - U8 (Age 7-8) - 4v4

Grassroots

Practice: 1 - 60 min practice per week

Game Format

- **Players:** 4v4 (no goalkeepers)
- **Roster Size:** 7-9 players
- **Ball Size:** Size 3
- **Game Length:** Four 8 minute quarters
- **Rules:**
 - Coaches may help guide restarts
 - No referees (in-house: coaches manage game)
 - No offside
 - No standings

Development Focus

- "FUNdamentals" stage: fun + basic skills
- Ball mastery and early ball control
- Awareness of space
- Introduction to teamwork



U9 - U10 (Age 9-10) - 7v7

Developmental

U9 and U10 players are combined into a single age group for team formation. U9 players will be evenly distributed among teams with U10 players to maintain fair and balanced teams.

Practice: 2 - 60 min practice per week

Game Format

- **Players:** 7v7 (with goalkeeper)
- **Roster Size:** 10-12 players
- **Ball Size:** Size 4
- **Game Length:** Two 25-minute halves
- **Rules:**
 - Offside enforced
 - Build-out line in effect
 - Certified referees assigned
 - Standings may be tracked depending on league
 - Equal playing time encouraged

Development Focus

- Strong technical foundation
- Introduction to tactical principles
- Team shape (width and depth)



- Growing ability to understand roles

U11 - U12 (Age 11-12) - 9v9

Developmental

Practice: 2 - 90 min practices per week

Game Format

- **Players:** 9v9 (with goalkeeper)
- **Roster Size:** 13-15 players
- **Ball Size:** Size 4
- **Game Length:** Two 30-minute halves
- **Rules:**
 - Offside enforced
 - Certified referees
 - Set-play structure begins (free kicks, corners)
 - U11 - No Heading allowed in games or practice

Development Focus

- Increased game awareness
- Strong technique under speed and pressure
- Intro to tactical roles and unit defending
- Growing physical coordination



U13 - U15 (Age 13-15) - 11v11 Competitive

Practice: 2 - 90 min practices per week

Game Format

- **Players:** 11v11 (full-sided)
- **Roster Size:** 16-20 players
- **Ball Size:** Size 5
- **Game Length:** Two 35-minute halves (U13-U14)
 - Two 40-minute halves (U15)
- **Rules:**
 - Full FIFA Laws of the Game
 - Certified referees
 - Tactical and positional expectations increase

Development Focus

- Advanced technique
- Tactical awareness and understanding team systems
- Beginning athletic development (age appropriate)
- Accountability, leadership, communication



REGISTRATION, PLAYER PLACEMENT & TEAM FORMATION POLICY

Our goal is to provide a fun, positive environment for every player while keeping teams balanced and focused on development.

Registration

Player registration covers the full year (Fall & Spring) season.

- Member-only registration for returning players runs January 1st – May 14th.
- Open registration for all players runs May 15th – June 30th.
- After June 30th, players are not guaranteed a roster spot and may be placed on a waitlist until space becomes available.

Wales Soccer Club uses PlayMetrics for online registration, where families can register and pay securely by credit card.

Player Placement Policy

Registration with Wales Soccer Club does not guarantee placement on a team. While the Club strives to provide opportunities for as many players as possible, there may be circumstances in which a player cannot be placed. These situations may include, but are not limited to, insufficient enrollment to form teams, lack of available coaches, late registrations, incomplete or unsuccessful payments, or missed payment deadlines.



Wales Soccer Club appreciates your understanding as we work to balance player opportunities with staffing, field availability, and program capacity.

Player Team Placement

Players are placed on teams according to their school year.

- Players cannot play down a grade (per national soccer rules).
- WYSA follows school-year placement, so players at the grassroots level (U6–U10) typically remain within their assigned age group.
- U6–U10: players may be allowed to play 1 year up only if they are advanced in their skills for their current age placement.
 - Playing up will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - Please contact the WSC administration for review and approval.

Team Formation

Our Grassroots U6–U10 recreational teams will follow the WYSA policy regarding grassroots play. Our U6–U10 teams are newly formed each year to promote fairness, balance, and equal playing opportunities for every child.

WYSA Policies Regarding Grassroots Play – Policy 310–001:

- A grassroots player is one who is assigned to a team that plays in a grassroots league.
- All teams under the age of 10 are considered grassroots teams.
- Grassroots teams are newly formed each year using a publicly stated method intended to create balance, such as a draft, random assignment, or grouping by neighborhood or school area.

Wales Soccer Club – U9 Player Policy



- U9 and U10 players are combined into a single age group for team formation.
- U9 players will be evenly distributed among teams with U10 players to maintain fair and balanced teams.
- Friend requests for U9 players are not guaranteed if honoring them would create unbalanced teams.
- U9 players will generally play at the U9/U10 level for two consecutive seasons, depending on their skill level and development.
- All team placements are at the discretion of WSC staff to ensure a positive, fair, and safe playing experience.

Team Request Policy

- No coach requests will be accepted at the U6–U10 level. Coaches may change from year to year, and this helps us maintain fairness across all teams.
- One mutual friend request is allowed per player (both players must list each other).
- Friend requests are not guaranteed.
- No friend requests will be accepted after June 30th/ late registrations.
- During registration, please list your child’s school name to help us group players socially when possible.
- Early registration gives you the best chance for any friend request or school-based placements to be fulfilled.
- We accept preferred practice day requests, but please only submit one if your player truly needs a specific day. If you require a certain practice day, you must indicate this at registration.
 - Preferred practice day requests take priority over friend requests. If two friends need different practice days, they will be placed on different teams.



- Volunteer coaches will provide their availability, and players will be assigned to teams whose practice days align with an available coach. We will do our best to honor preferred practice days, but it is not guaranteed, as team placement depends on volunteer coach availability. If a team fills, your preferred day may no longer be available.

Uniforms

- Uniform kits are included with registration cost and consist of a jersey, shorts, and socks.
- Families are responsible for providing shin guards, cleats, and a soccer ball.
- Late registrations do not include a late fee
- **Important Note:** Late player registrations will be responsible for ordering their own uniform kits (jersey, shorts, socks) at their own expense.

Refund Policy

If a player withdraws from the program, there is no refund available.



RIGHT TO REFUSE PARTICIPATION

Wales Soccer Club reserves the right to refuse or revoke participation for any reason that does not violate applicable non-discrimination laws. The Club does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, political beliefs, or source of income.

Participation may be refused or discontinued for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Repeated negative, disruptive, or abusive behavior by a player or parent/guardian
- Failure to comply with Club policies or codes of conduct
- Ongoing non-payment of registration fees without resolution

These policies are in place to protect the safety, well-being, and positive experience of all players, families, and coaches within the Club.



CALENDAR RAFFLE FUNDRAISING OBLIGATION POLICY

Wales Soccer Club will conduct an annual Calendar Raffle fundraiser each February to support the continued growth of the club and maintain a high-quality soccer experience for all players. Funds raised help offset costs related to equipment, training resources, field usage, and overall program operations while helping keep registration fees as manageable as possible.

Fundraising Obligation Requirement

All registered Wales Soccer Club players in age groups U8–U15 are subject to an annual Calendar Raffle fundraising obligation.

Players in U6 and U7 recreational programs are not required to participate.

Timing/Prize Schedule

The Calendar Raffle fundraiser takes place each February.

Key dates include:

- **Early February:** Ticket distribution begins
- **February 28:** All sold and unsold tickets must be returned
- **Early March:** Ticket reconciliation and PlayMetrics account updates
- **March:** Daily calendar raffle drawings take place throughout the month of March. All valid tickets remain eligible for every drawing during the raffle period. Winners will be announced on the club's official Wales Soccer Club social media platforms.



Satisfaction of Fundraising Obligation

Each player's fundraising obligation may be satisfied in one of two ways:

Option A – Ticket Sales

Sell the assigned number of calendar raffle tickets.

Option B – Fundraising Buyout

Pay the equivalent buyout amount instead of selling tickets.

Fundraising Obligation Amounts

Age Group	Required Tickets	Buyout Amount
U8–U10	3 tickets	\$60
U11–U15	6 tickets	\$120

Additional tickets may be sold voluntarily.

Unmet Fundraising Obligations

All sold and unsold tickets must be returned by February 28th. After reconciliation of ticket sales:

- Any unsold tickets or unmet fundraising amounts will be posted to the player's PlayMetrics account.
- This applies even if the family registered earlier in the year (for example during the January 1st early registration period).
- The outstanding balance must be paid before the player's next registration or as otherwise required by club administration.



Administrative Authority

Wales Soccer Club administration is authorized to:

- Review ticket sales and returns
- Determine fulfillment of fundraising obligations
Post applicable balances to PlayMetrics accounts
- Resolve discrepancies related to ticket sales and payments

Hardship Consideration

Wales Soccer Club recognizes that financial hardship situations may arise. Families experiencing hardship may contact club administration confidentially to discuss possible accommodations.



GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS & CODE OF CONDUCT

- Commitment: Attend practices regularly and be ready to give your best effort.
- Responsibility: Take care of your gear, stay hydrated, and be prepared mentally and physically for both practices and games.
- Teamwork: Soccer is a team sport; work with your teammates, communicate on the field, and support one another.

Players Code of Conduct

- Players will treat other players as they wish to be treated.
- Players will not tease, abuse, ridicule, taunt, or demean, other players, coaches, referees, or spectators. (This includes opposing teams.)
- Players will not, under any circumstances, participate in physical violence or threats before, during, or after any game or practice. (This includes opposing teams.)
- Players will listen to their coaches and accept the advice and rules with respect.
- Players will win with grace and lose with dignity. You, your club and your association are judged by your behavior.
- Players are prohibited from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the active roster of any FC Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club.
- Players will obey the laws of the game and play within the spirit of the game.
- Players will support the team and club by volunteering services when needed.



- Players will support all FCMT Wales Soccer Club Participants and Volunteers in a positive way.

Player Expectations

As a player I will....

- Train and play to the best of my ability
- Have a positive attitude and never quit
- Win without boasting and exemplify sportsmanship
- Respect officials and accept their decisions without question
- Only give positive encouragement to fellow teammates
- Arrive prepared for all games and training sessions, i.e. proper mental attitude and equipment
- Respect my coach, teammates and opponents
- Learn and obey the Laws of the Game
- Practice soccer skills and condition on my own
- Notify the coach if I will be tardy or unable to make a practice, game, or meeting

As a player I will never...

- Allow my enthusiasm and commitment for soccer to override my responsibilities to my education
- Use profane or vulgar language
- Use a controlled substance unless prescribed by a physician
- Leave the field or a session without the permission of the coach
- Disregard any instructions of my coach
- Forget that I represent FCMT Wales Soccer Club

Player Expectations



- Players are expected to learn the rules for their age group games and play by these rules.
- We are here to have fun, but not at the expense of other participant's fun. Play hard, try your best!
- Players are to show proper respect and sportsmanship to others involved in the game including other players, coaches, spectators and especially the officials.
- Winning is not the most important part of soccer in the FCMT Wales Soccer Club. Being the best you can be is!
- Do your best always, so you do not let the others of your team down and so your opponents enjoy the best you can give as well.
- Showing up on time consistently with proper equipment to games and especially practices shows you care about the well being of your team.
- Come prepared to play, with a good attitude, water bottle, shin pads and clothing suited to weather conditions and rules of the game.
- If you have a concern with a referee, voice it through the coach and if it is with a coach, discuss it privately after a game or practice or at some other mutually convenient time in a positive, calm manner.
- Soccer is an excellent activity for promoting fitness and building up a sweat is normal and good for you.
- Team sports provide excellent opportunities to make friends, encourage the building of good character and provide an outlet for excess energy.
- No one player makes the difference between winning and losing.
- Fulfill your team and FCMT Wales Soccer Club expectations



GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS & CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents Code of Conduct

- Positive Support: Encourage your child to enjoy the game and focus on their own development rather than winning.
- Game Day Etiquette: Be respectful and avoid coaching from the sidelines. Cheer for all players and set a good example for your child.
- Communication with Coaches: Address any concerns with coaches privately, and support the coaching decisions made for the team.

Parents also play a key role in supporting a healthy coach-referee relationship.

Parents should:

- Avoid questioning or criticizing referees from the sidelines.
- Support the coach and players by focusing on encouragement, not officiating.
- Help reinforce the club's values of respect for all participants in the game.

Parent's Expectations:

The parents are an integral part of the FCMT Wales Soccer Club support system. It is important that parents observe the guidelines established by the Club, Leagues and WYSA. All families are responsible for participating in fundraising activities.



I will....

- Be encouraging, supportive and affirmative in regard to my child's play on the field
- Respect officials and accept their decisions
- Support the coach, manager and the team
- Volunteer my services and talents to the team and the Club when possible
- Familiarize myself with the Laws of the Game
- Comply with the rules, policies and procedures of the team, club, leagues and WYSA as they apply to me
- Follow and obey the Problem Solving Procedures
- Act in the spirit of the game. Support all players on your child's team and do not criticize ANY player. Do not criticize the opponents, their parents, coaches or the officials.
- Let the coach run the team. Attempting to coach or instruct our child from the sideline is distracting and counterproductive for the player.
- Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome

I will never...

- Engage in dissent directed to an official
- Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, manager, player, or parent
- Interfere at any time with the duties and responsibilities of the coach or manager
- Act in any way that is detrimental to the team or FCMT Wales Soccer Club



Nurture independence and responsibility

- Make it your child's responsibility to pack their own uniform in their soccer bag
- If is appropriate, please have your child communicate directly with the coach about issues, concerns, conflicts or simply missing upcoming practices or games
- Players should be reminded to take responsibility for their own performance and to not place blame on others
- You will provide your child with another opportunity to behave independently of your scrutiny
- This "responsibility taking" is a significant part of maturing. Your child's handling of these tasks on and off the field complete his/her "ownership" of all aspects of being a soccer player
- Monitor your child off of the field. Their representation of the club goes beyond the field
- Keep an eye on your child to make sure that they are handling any stress resulting from their participation with the club effectively
- Ask your child to focus on the execution of skills and themes addressed at practice i.e. collecting and passing balls, combination play, shots on goal, successful tackles

Uphold your commitments

- Foster an environment focused on development, enjoyment, and good sportsmanship
- Fulfill your financial commitments
- Support and maintain FCMT Wales Soccer Club's philosophy on youth development
- Fulfill your team and FCMT Wales Soccer Club's expectations



REFEREE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

At Wales Soccer Club, we expect all parents to help create a positive game environment. WYSA emphasizes that supporting referees, especially youth referees, is essential for fair, safe, and enjoyable matches. Parents play a major role in making that possible.

Show Respect at All Times

- Referees are trained and certified by WYSA and are doing their best to manage the game.
- Your child is watching your behavior, set the example of sportsmanship.
- Treat every referee with the same respect you expect for your own child.

No Arguing or Commenting on Calls

- Do not shout at referees or complain about decisions.
- Referees will make mistakes, just like players and coaches. They will not change a call because of sideline comments.
- Allow the game to flow without interference.

Youth Referees Deserve Extra Patience

- Many referees are *children or teens learning and gaining confidence*.
- WYSA strongly discourages any form of criticism or intimidation directed at youth referees.
- Remember: if adults don't support young referees, they quit and without referees, kids can't play.



Address Concerns the Right Way

If you have a concern about officiating:

1. Do not speak to the referee during or immediately after the match.
2. Bring concerns to your coach privately.
3. Coaches may pass information to the Club Referee Assignor, who works with WYSA expectations for referee development.

Focus on Encouragement, Not Officiating

Parents should:

- Cheer positively for all players.
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines.
- Celebrate effort, improvement, teamwork, and fun.

Parents should not:

- Make comments about fouls, offside, handballs, or referee decisions.
- Attempt to “help” by calling out rules from the sideline.

Zero Tolerance Policy

WSC follows WYSA’s Zero Tolerance guidelines:

- Any verbal abuse, yelling at referees, or sideline misconduct may result in removal from the field.
- Repeat issues may lead to club-level discipline, per WYSA expectations.

Remember the Purpose of Youth Soccer

- Kids play to learn, grow, and enjoy the game.
- Referees are part of that learning environment.
- The adults on the sideline should make the game better—not more stressful.



CONCUSSION SAFETY POLICY

(CDC & WYSA Aligned)

Player safety is a top priority at Wales Soccer Club. Concussions, even those that appear mild, can have serious short and long-term effects, especially in youth athletes. In accordance with the CDC “HEADS UP” concussion safety recommendations, Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) policy, U.S. Soccer guidelines, and Wisconsin State Youth Sports Law (Act 172), Wales Soccer Club follows strict concussion protocols to protect the health and well-being of all players.

Immediate Removal from Play

Any player who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during a practice, game, or club-related activity will be removed from play immediately and will not return on the same day, regardless of the situation or severity of the injury. When in doubt, the situation will always be treated as a concussion.

Coach Training & Awareness

All Wales Soccer Club coaches and assistant coaches are required to complete the CDC “HEADS UP to Youth Sports Coaches: Online Concussion Training” prior to coaching. This training ensures coaches are able to recognize concussion symptoms, respond appropriately, and prioritize player safety in accordance with CDC, WYSA, and U.S. Soccer standards.

Signs & Symptoms of a Concussion



Parents and guardians should be aware that concussion symptoms may include, but are not limited to:

- Confusion, appearing dazed, or slow responses
- Balance problems or clumsiness
- Headache or pressure in the head
- Dizziness, nausea, or blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Behavior that is “not like themselves”

If there is **any doubt**, the injury will be managed as a concussion.

Parent Disclosure Requirement

By registering a player with Wales Soccer Club, parents and guardians acknowledge and agree to the following:

If my child is diagnosed with a concussion, whether the injury occurs during a Wales Soccer Club activity or outside of Club participation, or if my child has a prior head injury, I will promptly notify my child’s coach and Wales Soccer Club administration before my child returns to any practice or game.

This disclosure is required under CDC, WYSA, and Wisconsin State Law to ensure proper care and safe return-to-play decisions.

Return-to-Play Requirements

A player may return to participation only after all of the following conditions are met:

- Evaluation by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management
- Written medical clearance is provided to Wales Soccer Club administration
- The player is symptom-free



- The player completes a gradual, step-by-step return-to-play process, as recommended by the CDC and WYSA

The Club reserves the right to require additional recovery time if a player's safety is in question.

Commitment to Player Health

Throughout the recovery process, coaches will communicate with parents and Club leadership to ensure a safe and appropriate return to soccer. Player health and long-term well-being will always take priority over competition.

For additional information, families are encouraged to review:

CDC HEADS UP Concussion Program <https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up>

[Concussion Information Sheet](#)

[Your Child's Concussion](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/media/pdfs/youthsports/factsheet_athletes_ages11-13-a.pdf

https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/media/pdfs/youthsports/factsheet_athletes_ages14-18-a.pdf



CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

Wales Soccer Club encourages all parents and guardians to observe a **24-hour “cool-down” period** before addressing any concern or conflict that may arise. This allows time for emotions to settle and helps ensure respectful, productive communication.

How to Address Concerns

- **Team-Related Concerns**

Questions or concerns related to your child’s team, playing experience, or coaching should first be addressed directly with your child’s head coach (or assistant coach if appropriate), at a suitable time and place, not during or immediately after games or practices.

- **If a Resolution Is Not Reached**

If the concern is not resolved after speaking with the coach, parents should document the concern in writing and submit it to the appropriate Wales Soccer Club Program Director.

- **Club-Wide or Program Concerns**

Concerns regarding player development philosophy, club programs, or coaching staff should be submitted in writing to the Wales Soccer Club Program Director.

Wales Soccer Club is committed to open communication, mutual respect, and a positive experience for all players and families. Following this process helps ensure concerns are handled fairly, consistently, and professionally.



PLAYING TIME POLICY

Wales Soccer Club strives to provide fair and meaningful playing time for all players over the course of the season. Playing time is influenced by a player's commitment to the team, including regular attendance at practices, effort and focus during training, and a positive attitude toward teammates, coaches, and the game.

While equal playing time is a goal, playing time may be reduced if a player frequently misses practices without notice, does not participate or give effort during training, or displays disrespectful or unsportsmanlike behavior.

Parents can support this policy by helping players attend practices consistently, arrive on time, reinforce the importance of effort and team commitment, and communicate any absences or late arrivals to the coach in advance.



PLAY-UP POLICY

Wales Soccer Club follows the guidelines set forth by the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA), which strongly encourages all players to participate at their appropriate age level to support proper development, safety, and overall enjoyment of the game.

U6–U10 Age Groups

All players in the U6–U10 age groups will be rostered strictly within their designated age group based on their birthdate, using the August 1st cutoff. No play-up requests will be approved for players in these age groups.

U9 / U10 League Structure Clarification

- There is no standalone U9 league.
- U9 players are rostered on U9/U10 teams that compete in a U10 league.
- U9 players will typically participate at the U10 level for two seasons (U9 and U10 years).
- This is not considered playing up, but a standard league structure requirement.

U11 and Older Age Groups

Players U11 and older may request to play up one (1) age group only. Requests to play up more than one age group will not be considered.



Play-Up Request Timeline (Pre-Fall Rostering)

To ensure fair and balanced team formation, all play-up requests must be submitted and evaluated prior to the start of fall rostering.

January 1 – May 15

Play-Up Request Form submission window

May 15 – June 15

Evaluation period (Evaluations may take place during spring season practices or games)

Late June / Early July

Final decisions communicated to families

July

Fall team formation begins

- ***No play-up requests will be accepted once evaluations begin (after May 15th)***
- ***No requests will be considered once fall rostering begins.***

Play-Up Request Process & Evaluation Criteria

All eligible play-up requests (U11+) must follow the Wales Soccer Club Play-Up Request Protocol and Evaluation Plan.

The process includes:

- Submission of the official request Google form within the designated timeline:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLqLFUkRe_LCspCsJ8P2rsyMqCty1Mv98A7-dS7Fk8wiYbQA/viewform?usp=publish-editor
- Evaluation by club coaches and, when applicable, club leadership



Players will be evaluated based on a comprehensive review of their readiness, including:

- Technical ability (ball control, passing, decision-making)
- Tactical understanding (positioning, awareness, game knowledge)
- Physical readiness (speed, coordination, ability to safely compete)
- Emotional and social maturity (confidence, coachability, resilience)
- Overall safety and long-term development

To be considered for approval, a player should generally:

- Be among the stronger players within their current age group
- Demonstrate the ability to compete effectively with the older age group
- Show maturity and confidence beyond their age
- Be able to participate safely without being physically overmatched
- Consistently demonstrate strong effort, coachability, and a positive attitude

Important Considerations

- Playing up is an exception, not the norm.
- Approval is based on what is in the best long-term developmental interest of the player.
- Requests will not be approved based on:
 - Friends or teammates
 - Siblings
 - Coach preference
 - Scheduling convenience



Final Determination

- All decisions are made at the sole discretion of Wales Soccer Club.
- Approval:
 - Applies to one season only
 - Must be re-requested each year
- The club reserves the right to adjust placement at any time if needed for player or team development.

Wales Soccer Club is committed to providing a structured, fair, and development-focused environment. By requiring play-up requests to be submitted and evaluated prior to fall rostering, we ensure consistency, transparency, and the best possible experience for all players.



GUEST PLAYING POLICY

Playing for Other Clubs

Under WYSA rules, players registered with Wales Soccer Club may not guest play for another club during the league season while they are actively rostered to a WYSA team. WYSA does not permit players to move freely between clubs for league games during the seasonal competition period.

Guest playing for another club is only permitted in limited circumstances, such as:

- Participation in approved tournaments (with proper guest player permission),
- Or when a player has been officially released or secondary-registered according to WYSA procedures.

All guest player participation outside of Wales Soccer Club must follow WYSA policies, league rules, and tournament requirements, and must be approved in advance by the appropriate club and league administrators.

Parents with questions about guest playing, releases, or tournament participation should contact Wales Soccer Club administration before making any commitments.



CLUB PASS PLAYERS U11+

What Parents Need to Know

- For WSC teams U11 and above, we use Club Pass players to ensure that teams have enough players for games and to provide development opportunities across the age groups.
- Club Pass rules apply only to U11+ because WYSA does not use this system for U6–U10 recreational play.
- A Club Pass player is a registered WSC player who temporarily plays with another WSC team for a game. This system is approved by WYSA and our leagues and is a normal part of youth soccer statewide.

Why We Use Club Pass Players (U11+)

- **Club Pass players help:**
 - Ensure games can be played when a team has absences.
 - Provide players with chances to experience different levels of competition.
Support balanced, competitive games across the Club.
 - Promote a Club-wide approach, not just team-based development.
- **What Parents Should Expect**
 - Your child may be invited to help another team when appropriate.
 - Your child's team may receive Club Pass players when needed.



- Playing time for Club Pass players is determined by the coach based on team needs and fairness.
- Club Pass participation does not change or affect a player's primary team placement.

- **Why This Matters**
 - For U11 and older players, Club Pass flexibility allows the Club to support effective team rosters, promote development through varied play, and provide the best soccer experience possible.



COACH INTERACTION GUIDELINES & PICK-UP POLICY

Wales Soccer Club is committed to providing a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all players. In alignment with U.S. Soccer SafeSport standards and Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) policies, the Club follows clear guidelines regarding interactions between coaches and players.

Two-Deep Rule

Wales Soccer Club follows the Two-Deep Rule, which means that whenever possible, two responsible adults are present during team activities. Coaches are instructed to avoid being alone with a single player in any private or closed setting.

This policy is designed to:

- Protect players
- Protect coaches
- Promote transparency and trust

One-on-One Interactions

Coaches may occasionally need to speak individually with a player for instruction or safety. When this occurs:

- The interaction will take place in an open, observable area



- Conversations will be appropriate, professional, and soccer-related
- Another adult or group will be nearby whenever possible

Coaches are not permitted to meet privately with players in closed spaces, transport players alone without approval, or communicate privately with players without including a parent or guardian.

Communication

Team communication is conducted through PlayMetrics or Club-approved platforms. Coaches will include parents or guardians on any direct messages to players. Private coach-to-player messaging is not permitted.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Safety

Parents are responsible for timely drop-off and pick-up of players. Coaches are instructed not to remain alone with a single player and will stay in public, observable areas if a player is waiting to be picked up. Repeated late pick-ups may result in further action by the Club.

Reporting Concerns

Parents and players are encouraged to report any situation that feels uncomfortable or inappropriate to Wales Soccer Club Director immediately. All concerns are handled in accordance with SafeSport, WYSA, and Club policies.



INCLEMENT WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS POLICY

Soccer is considered an all-weather sport, and games and practices will generally be played in a variety of conditions, including rain, light snow, or flurries. However, player safety is always the top priority. Wales Soccer Club will cancel or suspend activities when weather or field conditions create an unsafe environment.

Severe Weather (Thunder & Lightning)

Any time thunder is heard or lightning is seen, all soccer activity will stop immediately and players will move to a safe shelter.

- Activities may not resume until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning.
- If thunder or lightning occurs again during the waiting period, the 30-minute clock resets.
- If conditions do not improve after 30 minutes during practice, the session will be ended for the day.

Practice Cancellations & Communication

- Coaches will escort players to safety during inclement weather.
- If practice is ended early or canceled due to weather, parents will be notified through PlayMetrics.



- If no PlayMetrics message is sent, practice will end at its scheduled time.

Games & Match Day Weather Decisions

- If thunder or lightning occurs during a game, play will be suspended immediately and players will seek shelter.
- The referee is responsible for determining when or if play may resume.
- A minimum 30-minute wait is required after the last thunder or lightning before restarting play.
- If the weather delay reaches or is expected to exceed 60 minutes, the referee may terminate the match.

Game Outcomes & Rescheduling

- If a game is terminated in the second half, it will be considered an official match.
If a game is terminated in the first half, it will be rescheduled and replayed.

Field Conditions

In addition to weather, games or practices may be canceled if fields are deemed unsafe due to prolonged wet conditions or field damage. Decisions may be made by:

- Club administration
- Coaches on site
- Referees or tournament officials

Parents are encouraged to check PlayMetrics regularly on questionable weather days for the most up-to-date information.



UNIFORM POLICY

Wales Soccer Club's official apparel and equipment partner is Hummel. This partnership supports the Club's programs and operations both on and off the field. New uniforms are issued each season and are included as part of the registration fee. Uniform numbers are assigned by the Club to ensure consistency across teams.

If a replacement jersey is needed, orders can be placed online through the Wales Soccer Club Hummel Gear store on:

- Our website: <https://milwaukeetorrent.com/>
- Or by visiting the following link:
<https://hummelprona.chipply.com/walesyouthsoccer/>

For in-stock items, please allow 3–4 weeks for delivery.



FORCE MAJEURE

Wales Soccer Club shall not be liable for refunds or damages resulting from the cancellation, suspension, postponement, delay, or shortening of programs, practices, games, or services due to events beyond the Club's reasonable control. These events may include, but are not limited to, acts of God, severe or unusual weather conditions, field or facility closures, equipment failure, labor disputes, war, terrorism, civil unrest, actions by government or local authorities, public health emergencies, epidemics, fires, floods, accidents, or other unforeseen circumstances that make normal operations impractical or unsafe.

Registration is made with the understanding that such circumstances may occur, and that program modifications may be necessary to protect the safety and well-being of participants.



MEDIA RELEASE POLICY

Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club reserves the right to capture and use photographs, video, audio, and likenesses of players, parents, coaches, and referees involved in our programming without compensation. This media may be used on our website, social media, publications, and other promotional materials.

By participating in Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club activities, members agree to the following:

“I grant Milwaukee Torrent Wales Soccer Club and its successors the perpetual, worldwide, and royalty-free right to use my child’s voice, photograph, and likeness in any media related to the club’s activities, including but not limited to video recordings, without compensation to me or my personal representatives, heirs, children, dependents, spouse, and relatives.”



FAILURE TO MEET EXPECTATIONS

Wales Soccer Club strives to provide a positive and consistent soccer experience. However, in rare and unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather, field closures, limited space, or other factors beyond the Club's control, the Club cannot be held responsible if certain expectations outlined in the Wales Soccer Club Player & Parent Handbook, on our website, or communications are not met.

