



# **PARENT HANDBOOK**

## **HOW DID WFC RANGERS COME TO BE?**

The WHATCOM FOOTBALL CLUB (FC) organization was started during the mid-1980s with three boys' teams. With the tremendous growth of the game and a desire for players in our region to test themselves against the very best in the state, the Rangers program was formed. We are now an organization consisting of 43 teams (boys' and girls') with over 650 players.

## **HOW ARE OUR TEAMS ORGANIZED?**

Our teams are first organized by gender, then by age, then by ability.

In accordance to US Youth Soccer players age groups are based on their birth year, not on their year in school. We hold up to three teams at each age group we refer to these teams as Gold, Blue, and White. We work hard to build teams with players of similar abilities, while providing an opportunity to as many players as possible. Occasionally, we have players play up an age group to better suit their abilities and combine age groups.

U9 & U10 teams average about 10 players on each team, they play 7v7 on a modified field.

U11 & U12 teams average about 14 players on each team, they play 9v9 on a modified field.

U13 - U15 teams average about 16-18 players on each team.

U16 - U19 teams average about 16-22 players on each team.

## **HOW ARE OUR TEAMS FORMED?**

Each year the state governing body, the Washington Youth Soccer (WYS), dictates when tryouts for each age group are held. They typically occur in February (boys' high school) and in April and May (all other ages).

Each age group will go through a two-day review. We mandate the athletes participate in at least one of these days, though attendance at both tryout days is strongly recommended. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate players who are injured, ill, or unable to participate due to extraordinary circumstances.

Overseen by our Directors & Rangers Coaches, the tryouts are conducted to evaluate each player. Within this group, a consensus is formed and the player is placed on the team where it is felt they will have the best chance of success.

## **HOW ARE OUR COACHES SELECTED?**

The club's Executive Director is responsible for recruiting, assessing, and matching the coaches and assistant coaches with teams.

## **ARE COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES PAID?**

Yes, our coaching staff are paid. The Executive Director determines each coach's stipend based on multiple criteria. Stipends range from \$5,000 to \$12,000 per year for head coaches and \$0-\$2,000 per year for assistant coaches. We still remain as one of the most affordable RCL clubs in the state.

## **WHOM DO WE PLAY?**

The majority of the Rangers teams play in the Regional Club League (RCL). This league is populated by the top 20 premier soccer clubs in the state. The Rangers are ranked in the Top Ten among clubs in Washington.

Within each gender and age group, there are up to five divisions with each division ideally comprising of 8 teams but sometimes up to 12 teams. The top divisions contain the 8 most competitive teams in the state, the second division contains the next competitive 8 teams, and so forth. Thus, the teams each Ranger team plays could potentially hail from anywhere in the state. Travel will depend on which teams end up in your division.

We also have some teams play in the North Puget Sound League (NPSL), which limits travel in North Puget Sound.

Summer tournament schedules are determined by the Technical Staff and Head Coaches. Tournaments are selected based on appropriate level of play for each, while maximizing the resources of our player and coaching pool.

## **COSTS TO PLAY WFC RANGERS:**

Membership Fee: U9-10 program is \$1795 | U11-U19 programs is \$1945

Your membership fee covers all of your tournament registration fees, training fields & lights, home game field rentals, referees, coaches stipends, player registration, and administrative costs. \*Scholarships are offered.

Our all-inclusive membership fee covers just about everything, unfortunately some things need to be done on a team by team, or player by player bases.

Team Travel & Additional Team Events: Due to the variation of travel from team to team. Each team is responsible for the travel expenses of their coach. Team fees are remitted directly to the team Treasurer. \*Scholarships do not apply to team fees.

Uniforms: Players are required to purchase uniforms every two years. The club offers an affordable base uniform package that includes, training tops, home & away kits, warm up jackets & pants, and a bag. Payment for the uniform is remitted directly to the uniform vendor.  
\*Uniforms scholarships are available if you qualify.

Financial Policy: Please also see the Rangers' website for the financial policy, terms, & conditions.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Applications can be found on our website:

[www.whatcomfrangers.org/parent\\_resources/#scholarships](http://www.whatcomfrangers.org/parent_resources/#scholarships)

We have a scholarship program set up to help families with some of the expenses of Rangers soccer. Our current scholarships can reduce the membership fees down to \$400. The availability of our scholarship and amount is based on funding and number of applicants.

Eligibility is based on the criteria used by the United States Federal Government guidelines for free and reduced school lunch program. Our scholarship funding comes from our registration fees, dedicated fundraising, and corporate sponsorship.

Please note that we do not provide scholarships for team fees or uniforms, so even if you receive a scholarship for the Club Registration Fee and Coach Stipend, you will be expected to pay your uniform and team fees. The WFC Rangers Scholarship Packet is attached to this Handbook. Please also see the Rangers' website for details.

## **OTHER SPORTS:**

WFC Rangers encourages its players to participate in other sports, activities, and endeavors. Families with player(s) who participate in other sports, activities, and endeavors need to work closely with their player's coach to make proper arrangements that work for the player, the team, and the coach. Such arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

We want you to be the best advocate and positive supporter for your child. And we want everyone to have a positive experience with Rangers. Here is how you can help.

- Foster an environment of respect for referees, players, coaches, and spectators of the opposing team through words of encouragement and support.
- Applaud superior play, effort, and sportsmanship by players on both teams.
- Support your coaches and managers they contribute many hours of their time to your children and truly are advocating for and doing their best to support your child through soccer.

- Communicate any concerns to the coach at the appropriate time (recommended 48 hour cool off period) away from the playing location and players.

## **FOURTY-EIGHT (48) HOUR RULE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION CHAIN:**

The WFC Rangers understands that conflict may arise between its members and staff for a variety of reasons. We believe that common ground can be reached in all situations using a set of ground rules that are based heavily on mutual respect and a desire to do what is best for both club and player. We will strive for a level of excellence that will always look to resolve issues in a fair and open environment.

Please use the 48-hour rule, give yourself time and the other party time calm down, to critically think, and reflect and on the situation before making the first contact.

We encouraged a good relationship between your coach and you, which works for all and is mutually beneficial. The executive director firmly believes and supports an open and transparent environment and will support both parent/player and coach. Please understand that there will be no risk of retaliation for requesting a meeting and working through problems with your coach. Any issues arising from meetings and perceived retaliation will be dealt with directly by the executive director.

### Conflict Resolution Chain:

1. Parent/player must first approach the coach with the problem in a respectful manner. Ranger's guidelines must be followed for timeline on approaching coaches (48-hour rule).
2. If this does not resolve the issue, then the parent can request a meeting with the age group director and the coach. At this point the director will follow the conflict resolution plan.
3. If the issue is not solved after that, the parent can request to meet with the DOC and age group director. The DOC will not undermine the coach by making any decisions until they meet with the coach.
4. All coaching staff and board members will also adhere to this plan.

## **HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN RANGERS AS A PARENT?**

There are many opportunities to support your child, their teammates, as well as the team.

Parents may serve each team in the following positions:

Team Manager: This person is a critical component to a successful team. They coordinate all communication between the Club, coach, and team. During the season they will be responsible for arranging hotel and travel plans and communicating with opposing managers to coordinate game times.

Team Treasurer: This person is responsible for managing the team's finances. They are in charge of the team bank account and manage the document flow of team funds. They work hand in hand with the team manager.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Representative: Each team shall have one parent attend the PAC meetings (held once every month). The PAC is the connection between the parents and the WFC Rangers Board. The PAC representative is responsible for electing 4 of the 14 Board positions.

Fundraising/Volunteer Coordinator: This person coordinates the fundraising for the team and acts as the liaison between the team and the Club for fundraising events (see below).

Other Team Roles: Keepers of the first aid kit, team tent, and team bench; Social Events Coordinator; Travel Coordinator; and the like.

Parents may serve the Club in the following positions:

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors, positions discussed, below, oversees the general governance on the Club.

Board of Directors Committees: The Board of Directors may create individual committees, and parents who are not a director on the Board of Directors may serve as committee members.

## **CLUB FUNDRAISING:**

Our fundraisers allow us to keep our fees down, provide scholarships for players who need it and support coaching development as needed. All WFC Rangers fundraisers, whether Club-wide or for an individual team, are intended to support our players and teams. Our Club has three major fundraising events throughout the year, which are:

The Bellingham Bay Marathon: This is our largest club-wide fundraiser and community outreach event. It is required for all players & a parent representative. This event is sponsored by both the WFC Rangers and the Bellingham Bay Swim team. The bulk of the volunteer work will occur in the days leading up to and the day of, the marathon. Each team's volunteer coordinator would be asked to participate in an informational marathon meeting and coordinate the teams' participation in the event. This event brings in over \$20,000 to our club each year.

12 Hour Soccer Festival: This fundraising activity is required for all players. The 12 Hour Festival is a club-wide fundraiser that involves each of our players, our coaching and technical staffs, and our Board members playing soccer for 12-hours straight. Each WFC Rangers player will be responsible to raise a minimum of \$50. During the 12-hour event, each team will be given a time-slot where their team will play. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a

charity. The event will help to build a positive club culture and further involvement in our community.

Papa Murphy's Dough Night: This event is simple! Our club share's pizza flyers & coupons around the community. We encourage our families and community members to buy a pizza on this date from Papa Murphy's. Papa Murphy's donates a portion of its sales back to our club.

Additional Fundraising Activities: WFC Rangers may, at the Board's direction, organize replacement or additional Club-wide fundraisers. Further, each team may organize its own additional fundraising opportunities provided it has been approved by the WFC Ranger Board. Please contact Jenny Kapp (see contact information on Rangers website) two weeks in advance of the event.

## **GOVERNANCE:**

The Club is governed by a Board of Directors. All members of the Board are volunteers.

### Voting Members:

President - [Adam Sherwood](#)

Vice President - Rich Holdridge

Treasurer - Jennifer Wright

Secretary - Jenny Kapp

WS&R Representative - Chris Fowler

WCYSA Representative - Courtney Jenkins

WCYSA Representative - Jason Strayer

PAC Representative - Jen Larmer

PAC Representative - Hanna McLendon

PAC Representative - Vinicius Piffer

At Large - Suzanne Munson

Non-voting Members: There are four (3) non-voting members, as follows:

Past President: Brad Swanson

Executive Director: Jason Conway

Administrative Officer: Charleen Wallace

Board of Directors' Role and Responsibility: The Board meets once a month, or more, and is responsible for the operation of the Club, and individual directors support many other Club functions year-round. The Board monitors the financial health of the Club, sets policy, and organizes and oversees the various committees. Currently there are committees working on sponsorship, fundraising, and parent advisory.

Executive Director: The Executive Director oversees three fulltime Technical Staff members and all of the Ranger coaches. Leads the soccer operations and business strategies for the club.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Please find additional information at our website:

<http://www.whatcomfrangers.org>

The WFC Rangers address is as follows:

P.O. Box 1481  
Bellingham, WA 98227

Please contact our Administrative Officer, Charleen Wallace, at:

[charleen.wallace@wfrangers.org](mailto:charleen.wallace@wfrangers.org)

Please contact our Executive Director, Jason Conway, at:

[jason.conway@wfrangers.org](mailto:jason.conway@wfrangers.org)

Please contact our President, Adam Sherwood, at:

[adam.sherwood@wfrangers.org](mailto:adam.sherwood@wfrangers.org)