



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)



### **Q: What is the difference between ‘Member/Club Dues’ and ‘Team Fees’?**

A: Member/Club Dues are paid directly to WYSA for membership to the club. These dues cover the cost of coaching, NCYSA registration, insurance coverage, field lighting, administrative fees, referee assignor fees, and other associated costs with running the day-to-day operations of the club. Team Fees, on the other hand, are specific to each individual team and each team manages their own team account to handle these fees. Team Fees are used to pay the officials for matches, pay entry fees for selected tournaments, reimburse the coaching staff for mileage to away matches, and other items agreed upon by the team.

### **Q: Why aren’t ‘Team Fees’ included in ‘Member/Club Dues’?**

A: Team Fees are not included in Member/Club Dues because the plans of each team are different as well as the costs for each team vary. For example, the cost of referees for an 11U match differ from those of a match for a 17U team. In addition, the tournament costs for different age groups vary and the travel requirements for coaches of teams vary. As a club, we feel it is a better approach for teams to budget their team fees individually and manage those expenses to fit the needs of their team rather than have the club manage the individual budgets for each team.

### **Q: What do sponsorships and partnerships pay for?**

A: Sponsorships are an important measure for us to continue operating. The major cost that is covered by sponsorship is that of field usage. Contrary to popular belief, WYSA does not enjoy free access to Gillette. We pay a fee per player for usage of Gillette throughout the year. Sponsorships are directly applied to that cost, saving each of our members approximately \$55 annually. Sponsors also cover the cost of adding the logo to team uniforms. Each of our teams operate at break-even or at a small deficit. This is a burden taken on by the club to allow for our programming to remain affordable for members. While it may seem expensive, the cost of participation in WYSA is significantly lower than that of other clubs within 60 miles of us. So, the revenue generated from sponsorships and well as revenue from our hosted tournaments helps us to provide field space for our teams as well as make up the deficit sustained from each team and allow us to remain in good standing financially.

### **Q: Why are we only allowed to use Gillette at certain times?**

A: As stated above, WYSA has an agreement with the City of Wilson to rent the facility at certain times throughout the year at a cost to the club. We do not have free reign to use the facility at our leisure. We also must declare that team activities are sanctioned for insurance purposes in the event that a player becomes injured.

### **Q: If we are partners with Nike, why do we still have to buy uniforms? Why aren’t they provided?**

A: Brand partnerships are standard procedure for youth clubs in this era. We have the option to simply select a certain brand and style of uniform with no partnership in place; however, by partnering with a particular brand we are able to enjoy benefits from the brand. In our agreement with Nike, this provides for a discount of thirty-five percent off MSRP on Nike team items on soccer.com (this does not include the costs of adding the club logo, player numbers, etc.), provisions for training equipment such as balls, cones, and training bibs, as well as a financial rebate to the club to assist with our operating expenses. We must remember that we are a youth club, not a college or professional team, and there is simply no way a brand would provide full uniforms at no cost to our club.



**Q: Why is the cost of a two season (fall & spring) team not twice the cost of a single season team?**

A: Our mission is to provide players in our community the option to play soccer at a competitive level with as few financial barriers as possible. The majority of the costs associated with Member/Club Dues are fixed costs, meaning that players pay the same amount regardless if they are on single season or two season team. This includes the cost of player registration, field light fee, insurance coverage, and administrative fees. Variable expenses include primarily coaching fees as well as the fact that we must pay a small additional team fee (not player registration fee) for two season teams to participate in both seasons. As mentioned earlier here, we are trying to operate as close to break-even as possible without being cost-prohibitive to players, so we do not feel it is in the best interest of soccer in our community to structure our pricing in such a way that would limit players from being able to participate.

**Q: How are coaches selected for teams?**

A: Prospective coaches have the opportunity to complete a coaching application that gives them the option to select age group(s) and gender(s) in which they would feel most comfortable and would be able to best impact players in our club. From there, interviews and conversations take place between select candidates and the leadership staff. Leadership staff including the Director of Soccer, Executive Director, and Technical Director make final decisions on coaching assignments. Coaching assignments are based on many factors including qualifications, experience, and availability as well as the potential, in the opinion of the leadership staff, to best impact players of a specific team.

**Q: What is an ‘Associate’ player? Why do they pay less?**

A: Coaches have the option to offer a position to players as an ‘Associate’ player. This is, in essence, a practice-only player. They pay a reduced fee because they do not have to cover certain costs including the player registration fee to NCYSA as they will not be carded or actively rostered to participate in matches.

**Q: How is the division my team plays in determined? What is promotion and relegation?**

A: Divisions vary by age group. In the Academy ages (7U-10U), all teams in NC are part of the NC Youth Academy and there are no “divisions”, but rather a determination by each individual club as to whether particular teams are A-rated, B-rated, or C-rated based on criteria provided by NCYSA. In the 11U-12U age groups, division of play is through a process called Self-Select, wherein the club is able to select the appropriate division for their teams. Clubs may select the OPEN division (1<sup>st</sup> Division) or SECOND division. We enjoy flexibility at these age groups. For example, an 11U team that does very well in the SECOND division in the fall can be moved up at the club’s choosing to the OPEN division for the spring season. Conversely, if we have a team in the OPEN division that is struggling in the fall season, we have the option to move that team down to the SECOND division for the spring season. The fall season for a 13U team is the last time we have the option of Self-Select. Beginning with the spring season of a 13U age group, teams will be divided into divisions based on the results of their fall season. Teams who competed in the OPEN division in the fall may be elevated to be part of the ELITE (Premier) division, remain in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, or be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division. From that point forward through the 19U age group, all season results will contribute toward a team’s division placement in a process of promotion and relegation. Top teams (typically the top 2-3) in a division will be promoted to a higher division while the bottom teams (typically the bottom 2-3) will be relegated to a lower division. Teams that are middling in a division (say, 5<sup>th</sup> place) would remain in their current division and would not be promoted or relegated. **WYSA has no flexibility and cannot choose what division a team plays in after the fall of the 13U season.** Those determinations are made at the state level.



**Q: How do I pay my Member/Club Dues? How do I pay my Team Fees?**

A: The preferred method for payment of Member/Club Dues is through the online payment system available on our website. This method allows families to set up payment plans and have those payments automatically drafted from a credit card or bank account and removes the need for families to mail in payments by cash or check. Team Fees are paid directly to the team manager and are deposited to the individual team accounts. WYSA does not manage these accounts and the payment method and amount for team fees will be determined by the team manager.

**Q: Can my child participate in other sports while being a part of WYSA?**

A: Yes. We encourage players to participate in other sports regardless of age. This includes participating in other sports as part of school teams or in offerings at the recreation level. However, we insist that players and families be mindful of their commitment to being a part of WYSA. If a player is participating in other activities that would significantly limit their availability to participate in both training sessions and matches for WYSA, we would then recommend making a choice of limiting participation in other activities.

**Q: I want my child to “play up” in an older age group. Is this allowed?**

A: Yes, but this is not a preferred option. The option to ‘play up’ in an older age group is primarily for exceptional players who are not only the highest level in their true age group, but also would be considered as one of the top players in the older age group. Decisions on players playing up an age group will be considered by the Director of Soccer and the leadership staff.