

Applications for the Fall 09 Season

Applications for the Fall 09 Season of the Far West Regional League will open April 10. Applications will be accepted until midnight PT June 1, 2009. The entry fee is \$395 and is due in full on June 1. **All teams that apply after midnight June 1 will be automatically wait-listed and will only be admitted at the convenience of the league.** Announcement of acceptance of wait-listed teams will be made by June 20. Schedules will be published by July 9.

In addition to Premier, we are actively trying to form sub-regional (geographic) First Divisions, so if your team is looking for a higher level of competition, w/o the travel commitment of Premier, then contact Jim Tilley at fwrljt@aol.com. First Division play dates will vary from the Premier dates below.

Play Weekends

This is complicated, so read it carefully. The play dates for the Fall 09 Season are:

- 1) August 15, 16, is a mandatory weekend for all California teams and an optional weekend for everyone else;
- 2) August 22, 23 are mandatory for every team;
- 3) Labor Day weekend is optional for everyone;
- 4) September 26, 27 is a required weekend for all non-California teams and an optional weekend for all California teams;
- 5) November 14, 15 are mandatory for all non-Coast Soccer League teams; CSL teams can choose at application time to play these dates, but if they do not they may be required to take a weekend of travel during September or October; if your team agrees to play this weekend, please do not enter CSL League Cup;
- 6) November 21, 22 is a mandatory weekend for everyone.

Not every team will play every weekend as we will make every effort to consolidate travel and play multiple games each weekend. Our goal is to make as fair a schedule as possible for teams from every state association that can participate in the fall, and the option to schedule each of those weekends will help us reach that goal. It is quite likely that any one team may only play two or three of those weekends. **Please do not sign up for the league if you cannot meet all of the required dates above that apply to your team. At application, agreeing to play on the optional weekends may well save you on travel costs, as it will give us the flexibility to pair you with more teams at more times.**

Please understand that you may be asked to travel to play a local team. For example, two San Diego teams may play each other in Portland. As part of our continual effort to improve the FWRL, we will emphasize similar rest for opponents in each game. It may therefore be necessary to travel to play neighboring teams in order to make the league fairer for everyone.

We understand that there are regional differences in schedules and that certain weekends will be easier for teams from certain areas. That is the reason that we have made the

optional dates and the dates that are required for some, but not for all. Again, with the above having been said, **please do not sign up for the Far West Regional League unless your team can meet all of the required dates above that apply to your team.**

Travel

In this difficult economy, we will make every effort to consider travel costs in scheduling. The highest priority for scheduling will be fairness, but cost control for teams will be a very important consideration. That being said, **the FWRL is a regional league.** You must be prepared to travel two or three weekends to participate in this league. Travel is mandatory, and the penalty for failure to meet your schedule is severe. Sanctions for failure to meet schedule commitments are levied against your club. The schedule is a full round robin (it's a league, not a tournament) with participating teams from many states, so it is possible, though unlikely, that your team could travel a very long way to play just one game. **Do not take this commitment lightly.** Hopefully, travel will be easier than it has been in the past.

Hosting Far West Regional League Games

With very few exceptions, the Far West Regional League does not pay for fields. With the travel requirements for the league, hosting by state associations, clubs and even groups of teams is a significant financial benefit, even with local payment for fields.

With the large number of teams in Southern California, the FWRL will arrange multi-field venues, consolidate the total costs of those venues, and distribute the costs associated with fields in So Cal amongst the Cal South teams that cannot provide a suitable venue on their own. A "suitable venue" consists of at least two fields, side-by-side, all day long Saturday and all of Sunday until mid-afternoon -- free. (For the purpose of planning team budgets, anticipate costs of somewhere around \$75 per team per game for So Cal teams playing in So Cal at consolidated venues. This bill will go out almost immediately after the schedules go out.)

Please note that college coach attendance is a very high priority for the FWRL, and that priority is best accomplished by multiple fields in one location. We made great strides in the Spring 09 season in attracting college coaches to our venues. The FWRL will favor venues that offer multiple fields (4+) that can host enough games to attract coaches from a long way away.

Concern

The requirements for participating in this league are significant. Please expect 1) your team to travel -- perhaps more than 1000 miles; 2) a difficult and demanding schedule that will require each of your players to make a full commitment -- please consider the possibility for injury and individual travel expense when you look at the ability of your roster to meet this commitment; and 3) that any disputes will be analyzed by what's in the long term best interest of the fairness of the entire league. Please do not enter this league lightly.