

Registrations for the Spring Season '10 of the Far West Regional League will open September 20 and close at midnight PT on Monday, November 9. The entry fee is \$395 and is due in full on November 9. **All teams that apply after midnight November 9, or have unpaid balances on November 9, 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 November 29.

The FWRL Trustees will look at all the accepted applications and evaluate the quality of the pool based on previous FWRL results, the priority criteria in FWRL Rule 2.04, and the seeding criteria in FWRL Rules 4 to 4.04. In some age/gender groups, a First Division may be formed, based on that evaluation. In all other groups, competition will be held only in the Premier Division. Notification of brackets and determination of First Division or Premier status will be made between November 10 and November 29. Schedules will be published January 11.

Please read the following very carefully, because the penalties for withdrawing from the FWRL are steep. Once again, we face a very compacted calendar. Winter high school, spring weather, and the very early nature of some state cups present the same problems as previous years, with the added difficulty that Easter (April 5) is the weekend before playoffs.

Therefore, the season will be structured as follows:

- 1) April 10 and 11 are mandatory dates and will be the playoff weekend in most age/gender groups. If you can't play on April 10 and 11, please do not apply to join the league. We will continue with the round robin format of the playoffs, where playoffs are needed, except in very limited circumstances. **Please note that the ACT test is April 10, but there are four other ACT test dates still available.**
- 2) February 27 and 28 is an optional weekend for everyone. On the application, indicate if you are willing to play February 27 and 28. If enough teams from your age/gender group can be fit into fair and balanced brackets, and are willing to play that weekend, we will use that weekend.
- 3) You will be asked to indicate if your team is available to play a local opponent on April 3, which is the day before Easter.
- 4) **You will be asked to indicate on your application one weekend in March that you cannot play. Please be very careful when you do this, because you will be expected to be available the other weekends.** The way the availability questions are structured on the application, you will be asked to state which weekends you are available. Please indicate both Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend. We need every team to be available 3 of the 4 weekends between March 6 and March 28. As with the last five seasons, this does not mean that you will play all of those dates, just that we have the flexibility to schedule you. (Note: Every weekend in March is heavy with conflicts – State Cups in some states, Las Vegas College Showcase is March 13, 14; National League and the Players Showcase are March 19 to 21; high school championships are early in the

month; ODP national championships are March 10 to 14 and ODP international trips are sprinkled through the month; Dallas Cup is March 28 to April 4; etc. – please do not take this decision lightly.) If you choose to play Feb 27 and 28, and we are able to help you with that, then it is quite likely that you will have extra weekends in March off. **March 13 is an SAT date, but there are 5 other SAT dates still available.**

- 5) The goal is to have the schedules completed by January 11, which still allows some flexibility in scheduling spring events around the FWRL.

Travel

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.**

Concern

In each of the last three seasons, we have had teams drop well after they have seen their schedule and after other teams might reasonably have made travel plans involving their games. Effective with this Spring Season '10, teams that drop out of the league before a game is played will have their entry fee retained and be fined an amount set by the Trustees. **The requirements for participating in this league are significant. Please expect 1) your team to travel twice (or in rare instances, three times) and perhaps as much as 1000 miles; 2) a difficult schedule that will require each of your players to make a full commitment; and 3) that any disputes will be analyzed by what's in the long term best interest of the FWRL. Please do not enter this league lightly.**

March Conflicts

Please note the crowded nature of the March soccer calendar. For many of your players, there will be some complex decisions to be made. The commitment to the FWRL is a team and club commitment. With guest players, every FWRL team has an effective pool of 25 players to meet their FWRL schedule. It is the assumption of the FWRL Trustees that through the use of guest players and careful preplanning, your team will be able to overcome high school playoffs, ODP trips, the ACT, etc. Please take all March conflicts into consideration when applying for the Spring Season '10 of the Far West Regional League.