

Westmoreland/Oriskany Boys Soccer Team Rules

All year long, but especially during the season, *we are the face of Westmoreland/Oriskany Soccer!* We are all expected to act only in ways that will bring positive publicity to our program.

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Players are expected to participate in all team activities during the season. Of course my hope is that players will WANT to participate in all team activities! This includes practices, games, meetings, video sessions, parties, fund raising activities, charity events, team dinners, etc. It is essential for team chemistry for this to happen. A player can be excused from an activity if he has spoken about his conflict with the Head Coach* ahead of time. Communicating with the Head Coach about potential conflicts (Marching Band, SAT Exams, Medical Appointments etc.) is essential. **(See * at bottom of the second page for explanation.)**
2. **ACADEMICS/FAMILY CONCERNS:** Any time a player needs extra time or help with academics **OR** has a compelling family concern, this will always have a higher priority than any soccer activity that I organize. Family...academics...soccer. That is our priority order. Players are expected to communicate their need to address their family/academic issue with the Head Coach* so the player's absence is known. Whenever possible, this should be done with advance notice. **(See * at bottom of the second page for explanation.)**
3. **TRANSPORTATION:** Players are expected to ride the team bus to and from all scrimmages, regular season games and post season contests. In the event there is a need to arrange for alternate transportation, this should be communicated to the Head Coach* ahead of time. The only acceptable alternate transportation is with his parent/legal guardian. **(See * at bottom of the second page for explanation.)**
4. **CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (but especially cell phones):** There are no electronic devices allowed for use on any buses or during any soccer activity unless the coach has announced it is ok. We want to encourage players to interact with each other. Of course I will always hope you WANT to interact with each other. No head phones, cell phones, tablets or other electronic devices that would otherwise take teammates away from interacting with each other are allowed. Cell phones should be turned "off" and safely secured in a player's sport bag.
5. **PROMPTNESS:** Players are expected to be on time for every Westmoreland/Oriskany Soccer activity. The rule of thumb for promptness is: **"If you are 5 minutes early, you are 10 minutes late!"** Once you realize you might be late, communicate that as soon as possible with the Head Coach*. **(See * at bottom of the second page for explanation.)**

6. **PROFANITY AND/OR INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE:** Profanity or other inappropriate language (i.e. racial, sexual, discriminatory etc.) comments are unacceptable anywhere a Westmoreland/Oriskany soccer player is representing the school, the team and/or the community. *If you have to ask whether something is inappropriate, the rule of thumb is it generally is!* An immediate consequence for the first offense is 20 pushups which can be ordered by any teammate or coach who hears the profanity. That's what teammates do; they help each other get better. A second offense on the same day will result in 20 push ups **and** 20 sit ups. In the unexpected event the same player utters a 3rd profanity/inappropriate comment on the same day, the Head Coach will decide on the consequence. Any language choice however that the Head Coach feels warrants a harsher penalty will result in just that...a harsher penalty regardless of whether it is the first occurrence or the last!
7. **TAKING RESPONSIBILITY:** Players are expected to take responsibility for 100% of their decision making. Therefore, any blaming of another person(s) for anything is unacceptable and will have the same consequences as mentioned for profanity in #6 above. There is always something the individual player could have done differently to avoid an issue. "My dog ate my homework" isn't acceptable. Who left your homework in a place the dog could get to it? This is something you should want to strive for...it's called accountability!
8. **MISFIRES:** Players who misfire on any kicks on the practice field where the soccer ball ends up in a yard, driveway, creek, bushes, over a fence, etc. (with the potential of the ball being forgotten or lost) must immediately retrieve their errant kick. Failure to do so will result in that player having the same consequences as noted in #6 and 7 above.
9. **GAME APPAREL:** No player is allowed to wear any part of their game uniform to practice. This includes shorts, jersey or game socks.
10. **DRESS CODE:** The dress code in both schools for all game days will be shirts and ties unless something else has been decided by the team captain(s) and players and communicated to everyone the day before. This goes for everyone on the team-whether you are healthy or not, whether you are eligible to play or not or whether you own a tie or not! If nothing is said the practice before a game, that means we default to shirts and ties.
11. **INJURED PLAYERS:** Any player who is injured and cannot practice or play in a game is still expected to attend those activities unless excused by the Head Coach*. There is always some way they can help out or learn even if they cannot actively participate. **(See * at bottom of page for explanation.)**

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12. **RESPECT**: After every game, win-lose-or draw, all players are expected to thank the game officials, thank the opposing players and their coaches, thank any ball boys or girls that were used and any spectators who supported the team during the contest. Players are **always** expected to recognize the efforts and contributions of all players on their team, including (and especially) those who may not have played much, or at all. We win together. We lose together. We tie together.

**If the Head Coach is not available, or cannot be reached for this communication, it is then acceptable to communicate with one of the Assistant Coaches. In the event none of the coaches are available/reachable it is then acceptable to communicate with the team captain who will be responsible for relaying the information to the Head Coach in a timely manner.*

Player Signature: _____ *Date:* _____