



# WFC Rangers Parent Primer

Issue 06

## Select Soccer in Whatcom County

*If your family is thinking about joining the Rangers Club soccer program please review this information about the program.....*

### What is Ranger soccer?

The Ranger Club is the select soccer program in Whatcom County which is in District One of the Washington State Youth Soccer Association. It is a not for profit 501 (3)c corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, who seek advice from a Parent Advisory Council. The Club, like the recreational clubs in our County, is associated with the Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association.

### How are teams organized?

There are teams for boys and girls for each age group from U13 (under 13 prior to August 1) through U18 (under 18 prior to August 1). If there are sufficient players trying out there will be Gold (1st), Blue (2nd), and White (3rd) teams fielded. A standard roster is 16 players although that can be modified by the Club. The State limits the roster to 18 players.

### Who do teams play?

There is a state wide system of ranking teams based on team ability either by season rankings or June placement tournaments, the League Placement Tournaments (LPT's). Teams, depending on the particular league in which they get placed, may play away matches anywhere in the state. Teams placed in the Premier 1, 2 or 3 levels may play anywhere in the state. District Teams play from Seattle north. Home matches are typically played on pitches at the NW Soccer Park, which is operated by the Whatcom Soccer Commission.

### Can you explain the different leagues?

There are State Leagues and District Leagues, with State being the higher competitive level. State is broken down into Premier 1, 2, 3 and 4 (P1, P2 etc) . There are 8 teams in each of P1-P4. District is broken down into Gold and Silver divisions. State teams can play anywhere in the state depending on the makeup of their league. District teams play in District 1 which extends south to Seattle. Normally the Gold teams are in State leagues

The following guide has been prepared for families wanting to know more about the Whatcom Football Club Rangers (WFC Rangers) program. The Rangers program is part of Washington's select soccer system and promotes the highest caliber of play. This level of play requires a serious commitment by players and their families in terms of time and financial cost.

This guide offers a brief description of key considerations. For more detailed information about the Club please try our website at [www.wfcrangers.com](http://www.wfcrangers.com).

and subject to the greatest travel demands. Blue and White teams normally are placed in District.

### How are players selected?

Each year, in the Spring, the Club hosts tryouts over a two-day period. During tryouts the Club evaluates players and selects teams based on many criteria with a focus on identifying where a particular player fits within the competitive levels of our club and the player pool. The goal is to field the best teams. This goal differs from recreational club soccer that focuses on equity of playing time.

The Club's Director of Development is responsible for managing the tryout process. The Director utilizes Club coaches and others technically capable of evaluating players to rank players and consults with team coaches on ultimate player selection. Tryouts are a strenuous time for players and their families. Players are notified by mail of the outcome shortly after tryouts.

### Player development & movement

Players can be moved between squads for training and to allow them the best chance for success and improvement. Players may be asked to "guest" for another team during tournaments and summer play. Player movement is kept to a minimum but does occur in cases of injury, players leaving the area and to facilitate a player's growth and success. Movement is at the discretion of the Director of Development and affected coaches and with parent/player approval. Players can not be forced to change teams once placed. Players blossom at different ages and it is more important for them to be placed on a team

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### How much does it cost?

The commitment to Rangers soccer is substantial in terms of cost and time. The following represents a typical budget that a family should consider, but please note it is only an estimate....

Individual trainings or camps are not included. Initial fees consist of Club fees, uniforms (strips) in some years, and team collections for tournaments etc. Ranger fees can be paid in installments (see schedule). The Club does have scholarships for financial hardships to pay for Club registration fees, applications are through the team manager and are kept confidential. **Complete costs are on [wfcrangers.com](http://wfcrangers.com).**

WFC Ranger Costs	
Ranger Club registration fees (depends on team placement)	\$325
Uniforms ( strips ) (varies from team to team, track suits and bags extra )	\$0-\$60
Coaches Stipend Varies depending on level of team's coach. Based on experience, license, playing level and coach evaluation	\$0-\$30 Per month
Estimated costs for Competition & travel Example only and will differ by team and level of play	
Tournament fees. (LPT's, others and State Cup)	\$150-\$175
Travel to Tournaments	\$200-600
Travel to league play	\$100-300
Other possible costs	
Cleats and shin guards	\$100-170
Team Social events	\$30
Practice ball	\$40

For more information about : **Development**  
[www.wfcrangers.com/dev.htm](http://www.wfcrangers.com/dev.htm)

**LPT's & competition**  
[www.wsysa.com/wsysl.asp](http://www.wsysa.com/wsysl.asp)

**Ranger Costs**  
[www.wfcrangers.com/costs.htm](http://www.wfcrangers.com/costs.htm)

**Uniforms**  
[www.wfcrangers.com/strips.htm](http://www.wfcrangers.com/strips.htm)

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that is par with their ability than to have a frustrating experience in an environment in which their skills are overwhelmed or under challenged.

### How do we balance other competing activities?

We know that it's difficult to balance academics, multiple sports, social time and family events. The best way to avoid those conflicts is to understand up front what the commitment actually is and make an informed family decision. Once committed to Ranger soccer please communicate with your coach and team manager about pending conflicts well in advance. The team and the coach rely on player participation at both team trainings and games.

Girl's high school soccer is played in the Fall. The Club is working with Club and High School coaches in the short term to mediate potential conflicts and in the long term with the State Soccer Association and school associations to resolve it.

### How are coaches selected and what is their role?

Coaches are selected by the Club Director of Development with approval of the Ranger Board. They are chosen based on overall ability to develop players and teams. All coaches also are subject to a character background check by the State Patrol.

Their role is to develop individual players and a team. They coordinate the management of the team's affairs with the manager, establish practice times and set the tone for the team.. Additionally coaches participate with other coaches in observing other teams play, conducting trainings for other teams and generally support the overall development of the Club's players. Coaches invest a great deal of personal time and energy and we are thankful to them. They do receive some compensation which is part of the Club registration fees.

Because of their dedication to our players the coaches are focused at match time and at trainings. Those are not good times for parents to discuss individual player concerns. Coaches should be approached casually by phone or email at an appropriate time. Most important, leave the coaching to the coaches and be the most positive fan you can be for the team and your player.

### How are team managers selected and what is their role?

Team managers are typically a player parent and are selected by the coach. They are critical to the teams success. They take responsibility for managing the teams affairs during the year which includes communicating to parents, scheduling match times and locations with other managers, making tournament arrangements, organizing social events and handling issues as they arise. Like coaches they too must undergo a background

During tryouts the Club evaluates players and selects teams based on many criteria including technical skill, tactical decision making, overall impact on the game and athleticism. There is a focus on identifying where a particular player fits within the competitive levels of our club and the player pool. The goal is to field the best teams.

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Team managers also serve on the Club Advisory Board to help the Club in decision making. Their most significant contribution is creating an environment in which coaches are unencumbered to coach and develop our players. They welcome all the help from parents they can get.

### How do we sign up for Rangers?

Players can register for tryouts online at [wfcangers.com](http://wfcangers.com) or on the day of tryouts. If they would like to tryout for an older age bracket they must have written permission from the Director of Development well in advance of tryouts. After tryouts, players will be notified by mail if they have been selected for a team.

Instructions will be provided as to registering, paying Club fees, and executing player/parent code of conduct pledges. In early Spring players and parents will be asked to attend a mandatory Ranger meeting in which representatives of the Club will present a short program followed by a team meeting with the coach. At this time it is customary to select a team manager and in some cases a treasurer and to set up a follow up parent team meeting to discuss team affairs, tournament selection etc.

### How do I find out more about the Club?

There is a host of information about the Club and soccer in general on our web page at [www.wfcangers.com](http://www.wfcangers.com). There are links to our Board Policies, Corporate Bylaws, team standings, soccer issues and more detailed information for parents and players.

## Planning for the Season

Ranger soccer is virtually a year long commitment and quite often conflicts arise between other sports and family activities. Consider the following "seasons" of soccer:

**Spring Training Season:** Begins with tryouts and then training for the tournaments of summer, most notably the League Placement Tournament in June that determines a teams position in the Fall league season. This is the time of year that coaches begin to gel a team and is critical to their success.

**Summer Tournament Season:** During the summer months teams play in 3 to 4 tournaments and train almost every week. This tuning up time is fun and prepares them for the Fall season. Tournament selection is up to individual teams. Typically coaches will set aside a few weeks for family vacations, but there is an expectation that players will commit for the summer.

**Fall League Season:** The State & District leagues begin in September and end in mid-December. This is the heart of play as league standings can affect a team's placement the following season.

**Winter State Cup Season:** Teams may compete for State championships in multi-week tournament play beginning in January and lasting into March if the teams continue to advance. During this period coaches will continue to train 2 to 3 times a week.

(Please see the 2006-2007 schedule for specific dates)

# WFC Ranger Important Dates 2006/2007

Teams are classified as Gold, Blue or White signifying the first, second and third teams

## Gold Team Schedule

This is an example. Schedules vary from team to team.

Date / Time	Event
March 11th and 18th	Mandatory Tryouts for Ranger selection NW Soccer Park
April 3rd <b>MANDATORY</b>	Ranger Registration Night meeting for Parents and Players
April -	Train 2-3 times a week. (only for U14-18 teams that need to qualify)
May	Snohomish Invitational (only for U14-18 teams that need to qualify)
May-June	Train 2-3 times a week. (only for U14-18 teams that need to qualify)
June	League Placement Tournaments
June	Baker Blast Tournament, Bellingham
July	Beaverton Cup (Portland)
August	Rimland Cup (Girls in Bellingham)
August	Pacific Coast Challenge (Boys in Bellingham)
September - mid December	League Play Weekly (train twice weekly, games on weekend)
January—February	State Cup Tournament (optional)

## Blue & White Team Schedule

This is an example. Schedules vary from team to team.

Date / Time	Event
March 11th & 18th	Mandatory Tryouts for Ranger selection NW Soccer Park
April 3rd <b>MANDATORY</b>	Ranger Registration Night meeting for Parents and Players
May -	Training two times a week
June	LPT's for qualifying Blue & White teams
June	Baker Blast Tournament, (Bellingham)
July	Beaverton Cup (Portland)
August	Skagit Labor Day Kick (Burlington)
September - mid December	League Play Weekly (train twice weekly, games on weekend)
January—February	State Cup Tournament (optional)

### TRYOUT AGE GROUPS & TIMES

<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BIRTHDATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Under 13	8/1/93 - 7/31/94	1:30-3:30
Under 14	8/1/92 - 7/31/93	4:00-6:00
Under 15*	8/1/91 - 7/31/92	1:30-3:30*
Under 16	8/1/90 - 7/31/91	8:30-10:30
Under 17	8/1/89 - 7/31/90	11:00-1:00
Under 18/19	8/1/87 - 7/31/89	11:00-1:00

**\*Girls Under 15 1ST TRYOUT ONLY Wed. Mar. 15th  
6:00-8:00 pm @ Whatcom Community College**

<u>BOYS</u>	<u>BIRTHDATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Under 13	8/1/93 - 7/31/94	8:30-10:30
Under 14	8/1/92 - 7/31/93	11:00-1:00
Under 15	8/1/91 - 7/31/92	8:30-10:30
Under 16	8/1/90 - 7/31/91	1:30-3:30
Under 17	8/1/89 - 7/31/90	4:00-6:00
Under 18/19	8/1/87 - 7/31/89	4:00-6:00

Schedules and training times and days will vary team to team. Training locations will vary according to team and coach and usually will be between 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

All teams are encouraged to compete in summer tournaments of their choosing. Travis will work with your coach to find appropriate level tournaments for your team.

It's important to set tournaments and dates early and to register early as they fill up very fast.

