

Women's West Suburban Soccer League (W.W.S.S.L.) BYLAWS

Article I - Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Women's West Suburban Soccer League (W.W.S.S.L.) is for the enjoyment of soccer with the safety of all players foremost at all times. Anything that interferes with this enjoyment and safety may be treated harshly by the referee through the authority of the league's Rules and Regulations, Bylaws and General Agreements. Such treatment may include the handing of yellow or red cards to any offending player or coach.

Article II - Members

Section 1. CLASSES OF MEMBERS. The League shall have two classes of members. The designation of such classes and the qualifications of such class shall be as follows:

Class One will consist of any women's soccer team voted membership by the Board of Directors and composed of women 21 years and older who are 21 years of age by December 31 of the playing year with the exception of four players who are 18 years old and older as of December 31 of each calendar year.

Class Two will consist of any women's soccer team voted membership by the Board of Directors and composed of women 30 years and older who are 30 years of age by December 31 of the playing year with the exception of four players who are 25 years old and older as of December 31 of each calendar year.

(Said age requirement shall hereinafter be called the "Age Rule").

Section 2. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS. Members shall be elected by the Board of Directors with an affirmative vote or two-thirds.

Section 3. NEW MEMBERS. Any new team wishing to enter the W.W.S.S.L. must be voted on by the Board of Directors.

A vote of two-thirds will admit a new team into the league on a probationary basis. The probation period lasts for at least two seasons. The Board of Directors reserve the right to terminate probation at any time and to expel any player, coach, or team permanently from the league, regardless of the number of seasons it or they have participated in.

Section 4. VOTING RIGHTS. Each team is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote. Each team may send two team elected members to each board meeting. Said team-elected members shall be known as "DIRECTORS" and all Directors shall be known as the "BOARD OF DIRECTORS".

Section 5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

Any team who knowingly and willfully disregards and violates the age rule will be expelled immediately from the League, without right of grievance. However, the Board of Directors, by a unanimous affirmative vote of all the Directors may decide to allow said team to remain in the League under special restrictions and circumstances.

The Board of Directors, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the Directors, may suspend or expel any member "for cause" after an appropriate hearing, and may, by a majority vote of the Directors, terminate their membership.

Any member may be terminated who shall be in default in the payment of dues.

Section 6. RESIGNATION. Any member may resign at any time and any dues paid by the resigning member shall remain in the possession of the League.

Section 7. REINSTATEMENT. Upon the written request of a former member filed with the Secretary of the League, the Directors may, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Directors, reinstate such former member to membership upon the terms and conditions as the Directors deem appropriate.

ARTICLE III - Meeting of Members

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING. An Annual Meeting of the Directors shall be held in February of each year for the purpose of amending the Bylaws, and for such other matters as may come before the Directors.

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Section 2. FALL SEASON MEETING. A meeting shall be held after the end of the Spring Season and prior to the Fall Season for the purposes of critiquing the Spring Season and discussing the specifics of the Fall Season and any special concerns of the Directors.

Section 3. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Directors may be held upon the written request of any member to the President.

Section 4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS. Notices stating the place, date, and hour of any meeting of the Directors shall be delivered to each member not less than 14 days prior to such meeting by the President or Secretary, or under their direction. In case of a grievance, an actual meeting must be held.

Section 5. PROXIES. Each Director entitled to vote at a meeting of members may authorize another person to act for her by proxy.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

Section 1. OFFICERS. The Officers of the league shall be a President, Vice President/Treasurer, Secretary/Scheduler, Field Representative and such other officers as the Directors may determine from time to time to be necessary. The President and Vice President cannot be from the same member team except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the Directors.

Section 2. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE. The officers of the League shall be elected annually at the Fall Season Meeting. Vacancies may be filled or new offices created and filled at any meeting of the Directors. Each officer shall hold office until her successor is elected.

Section 3. REMOVAL. Any officer elected by the Directors may be removed from office by the Directors whenever its in judgment for the best interests of the League would be served.

Section 4. PRESIDENT. The President shall be the principal officer of the League. She shall be responsible for setting an agenda and running all meetings of the Directors, handling the Treasury, keeping League standings, call special meetings, carrying out the directives of the Board of Directors, and performing such other functions as the Directors shall determine.

Section 5. VICE PRESIDENT. The Vice President shall be responsible for handling the Treasury, maintaining the insurance policy, and performing such other functions as the Directors shall determine.

Section 6. SECRETARY The Secretary shall be responsible for taking notes at the meeting, creating the schedule and performing such other functions as the Directors shall determine.

Section 7. FIELD REPRESENTATIVE. The Field Representative shall be responsible for taking care of field permits, any field issues and performing such other functions as the Directors shall determine.

ARTICLE V - Seasons

Section 1. DEFINED. The Spring Season will begin in April on an agreed upon date and end in the month of June. The Fall Season will begin in August on an agreed upon date and end in the month of October.

Section 2. LENGTH OF SEASONS. The length of each Season will consist of at least 8 weeks of play, depending on the number of teams in the league. If you are not scheduled to play a member team in one Season, you will be scheduled to play said member team the following Season.

ARTICLE VI - Dues

Section 1. ANNUAL DUES. The Directors shall determine from time to time the amount of initiation fees and dues to be paid by each member. Said dues shall be non-refundable, and shall be prorated per team on the basis of an estimated amount of money required to acquire liability insurance and pay miscellaneous clerical expenses for the League. The Board of Directors reserves the right to determine additional dues as required by the activities of the League. Any debt incurred by the League shall be borne equally by the members of the League, and shall not be the responsibility of any individual officer or member.

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Section 2. PAYMENT OF DUES. Dues shall be payable in advance at the Annual Meeting unless otherwise agreed upon.

ARTICLE VII - General Agreements

Section 1. RULES. This league will conform to FIFA Rules with the exception of those rules listed below. It is the responsibility of the home team to inform the referee of the exceptions to FIFA Rules either by presenting the W.W.S.S.L. Bylaws or by verbalizing the rules. The exceptions include:

1. Shin guards are a required part of the uniform and must be worn
2. Substitutions are allowed on any out-of-bounds dead ball.
3. Sliding is not allowed in this league. On the first sliding offense the player will be awarded a Yellow Card. The opposing team will be given a direct kick from the location of the slide. The second offense by the same player will result in a red card. The player will be required to leave the field and is not allowed to participate in the next league game. The opposing team will be given a direct kick from the location of the slide.
4. A flagrant foul that is committed on a break away warrants the issue of a red card. The player will be required to leave the field and is not allowed to participate in the next league game.
5. Physical violence is not allowed in this league. On the first instance the player will be given a red card. That player will be expelled from the field and disallowed from playing that team's next 2 regular season games. A second offense will cause the player to be banned from playing in the league.
6. Signal request as to a direct or indirect kick is allowed.

Section 2. GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE. All grievances shall be in writing and submitted to the President, who will then present the grievance to the Board of Directors, either at the next scheduled meeting or at a specially called meeting. The Directors will then decide on a course of action which may include, but need not be limited to, calling a special meeting for a decision on a course of action or deciding on a course of action in a telephone or email vote. If a meeting is called, such meeting may or may not include the teams involved. In no event, however, can any team be expelled without an actual meeting, except in the case of an Age Rule infraction (see ARTICLE II, Section 1 above).

Section 3. RED CARDS. It is agreed that in the spirit of good sportsmanship and clean competition, any player or coach who receives a "Red Card" at any League Game from the official of that game shall be expelled from the playing area of the game and shall be excluded from participating in her teams next scheduled game. Said red carded player or coach may not be replaced in the game from which he or she is removed. In the case of a tournament, said player shall be eliminated from the tournament and cannot be replaced in the game from which she is removed. The Board of Directors reserves the right to take further action in the case of a player or coach receiving more than one "Red Card" in one Season.

Section 4. AGE RULE ENFORCEMENT: The Age Rule as defined in ARTICLE II, Section 1 above shall be strictly enforced and any infraction shall result in the immediate expulsion of the violating team who forfeits any right of grievance by violating the rule, whether knowingly or not. Proof of age (Driver's License, State I.D., etc.) must be brought by every player to each and every game.

Amendments. Any change on the Age Rule can be made only by unanimous vote of all Directors of the League and only at an actual physical meeting of the Directors.

Section 5. REFEREE AND LINESMEN. It is agreed that each team shall do its very best to secure USSF Certified Referees for every scheduled game. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide one referee. If the referee fails to be present at the field after a reasonable period of time, the teams can choose a mutually agreed upon referee and continue the game. If this cannot be done, the game shall be called a forfeit and then played for fun.

If two different teams have a legitimate complaint about the same referee of another team, that home team will be requested to discontinue any further services of the referee.

Section 6. ROSTERS. It is agreed that each team will submit a roster to the League Secretary by the date agreed upon at the Spring and Fall Meetings. The roster shall include each player's name and date of birth. The roster should also include the phone numbers of at least two contact people. Rosters can be amended until the beginning of the Third Game by contacting the League Secretary with the changes. It is further agreed that the

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number of names on the roster shall be unlimited, but that no names can be added after the third game, unless the roster falls below fifteen (15) names, at which time players may be added to bring the total to fifteen.

Section 7. FORFEITURES. Any team not arriving with at least seven (7) players after 15 minutes into game time, will forfeit that game. However, any two teams can agree to extend the 15 minutes grace period and waive forfeiture rights.

Section 8. MINIMUM PLAYER REQUIREMENT. There is a seven (7) person minimum required for each team so that a forfeit will not be called. When other players arrive to fill out the rest of the teams, they can only be substituted at the proper substitution time for that team.

Section 9. FIELD CONDITIONS. Fields should be safe and without obvious hazards. The goal box must be clearly marked and sidelines and centerline must at least be marked with markers.

Section 10. PLAYING TIME. The Spring Season games will consist of two 35 minute halves with a five minute half-time period. The games played in the Spring shall begin at 6:30 p.m. The Fall Season games consist of two 30 minute halves and shall begin at 6:00 p.m. Game times may be changed if both team representatives agree upon the time change.

Section 11. COLOR CONFLICTS. In case of jersey color conflict, the home team should be prepared to change.

Section 12. RAIN OUTS. In the event of bad weather, the home team should attempt to ascertain field conditions two hours in advance of playing time. However, because of the nature of rain storms, unless otherwise notified, all teams shall arrive at the field at the appropriate times to decide at the game time whether the game will be played or not. In the event a game is rained out in the first half, said game shall be rescheduled. In the event a game is rained out in the second half, the score at that time shall remain and be the score of the game. Any game that is played to half-time shall be considered a completed game.

Section 13 BRACES. All braces must be covered. No metal parts may be exposed. If after the team reps have asked for a brace to be covered the player still refuses to comply, that player will be asked to either stop participating in the game or remove the brace and continue participating (at their own risk) in the game.

Section 13 CASTS. None are permissible. No exceptions.

Section 14. SUBSTITUTION OF WORDS. Wherever the word "member" appears in these Bylaws, the word "Player", "Coach", or "Team" may be substituted, as appropriate for interpretation.

Section 15. UNSPORTSMANLIKE PLAYERS. In a game in which red card violation(s) has occurred, it is the responsibility of the team representatives from both participating teams to report the incident and the player(s) to the President within 48 hours.

In a game where a player has exhibited overly aggressive or dangerous intent, abusive play or verbal language abuse, it is the responsibility of the team representatives from the participating teams to report the incident and player(s) to the President within 48 hours.

A written statement will be issued to the said player(s) acknowledging the incident and indicating a probation period of one year. The statement will state that if another card is issued or another report indicated during the season, the player(s) will be excluded from play in the league for one year.

The team reps are responsible for making an attempt to diffuse any unsportsmanlike conduct or conflicts between players before it escalates into overly aggressive behavior or unsafe conditions for individuals or team (i.e. moving player(s) to a different position, removing a player from game or field).

The President and/or the Board of Directors reserves the right to take further or immediate action against any player in a case where the safety of individuals or team are in question.

Section 16. SLAUGHTER RULE. This rule is only applicable to the Over 30 Recreational League. If any team is up six goals in a given game it is the responsibility of that team representative to take necessary means to make the game more "recreational" (i.e. switching up the line-up, certain number of passes before a shot, etc.). Necessary means is at the discretion of the team representative.