



CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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A.

CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I
Name

This organization shall be known as the UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.; hereinafter referred to as the "League".

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The purpose of the League shall be to foster and promote the game of soccer for the benefit of its affiliated teams and the moral and physical advancement of all players.

ARTICLE III
Affiliation

Section 1

The League is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association, through which it is affiliated with The United States Adult Soccer Association (U.S.A.S.A.) the United States Soccer Federation and with F.I.F.A.

Section 2

It shall recognize the authority, rulings and By-Laws of those organizations.

ARTICLE IV
Headquarters

The headquarters of the League shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the League or by such person or persons in whom the Board may vest such authority.

ARTICLE V
Membership

Section 1 - Acceptance

The League shall consist of teams who have applied for and have been granted acceptance by the Board of Directors and the general membership, provided they meet the requirements and qualifications listed herein and in the By-Laws. Such teams must be in good standing with the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation.

Section 2 - Disciplinary powers

Disciplinary powers against the members of the League shall be in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI
Board of Directors

There shall be a Board of Directors for the purpose of administering the affairs of the League.

Section 1 - Officers

The members of the Board of Directors are the Officers of the League and shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Games Commissioner, Registration Commissioner, Grievance Chairperson, Immediate Past President, and Honorary Past Presidents.

Section 2 - Elections

All Officers shall be elected for a one year period and shall take office immediately after the election held during the annual meeting. The Office of Immediate Past President is one of automatic succession following his term in office.

Section 3 - Past Presidents

Past Presidents may be granted the title of Honorary President after services rendered.

(Article VII, Board of Directors: Entire section was eliminated due to the of "Executive Board" with "Board of Directors")

Article VIII
Committees

Section 1 - Standing Committees

There shall be the following Standing Committees whose members shall be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting for a term of one year.

- A. Trustees, 4 members
- B. Auditors, 3 members

The member of each committee receiving the highest amount of votes shall be recognized as the Chairperson of that committee.

Section 2 - Appointments

The President shall appoint the following Standing Committees out of the Board of Directors and membership.

- A. Rules
- B. Nominations and Elections
- C. Public Relations
- D. Grievance
- E. Referee Assignor

Section 3 - Additional Committees

Additional Committees may be appointed by the President as desired in the interest of the League, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX Amendments

Section 1

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those active members present at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called expressly for this purpose, provided that proposed amendments are submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at least two (2) meetings prior to the annual meeting or thirty (30) days prior to a special meeting.

Section 2

The League Secretary shall notify all League members of the proposed amendments at the meeting prior to the annual meeting or fifteen (15) days prior to a special meeting.

B.

BY-LAWS
ARTICLE I
Administration

Section 1 - The Board of Directors

- A. The League shall be actively administered by the Board of Directors. They shall have the functions of planning, organizing, directing and controlling the duties and responsibilities of all League Officers. It is a policy-making body which determines the direction of the League and evaluates its efforts. It has the power to decide upon matters not specifically covered by these By-Laws. It has interpretative powers concerning these By-Laws.
- B. Members shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until such times as their successors have been selected.
- C. In the event that a vacancy may occur in any League Office, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting; and it shall do so within a thirty (30) day period following such occurrence.
- D. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly. In addition, they shall be empowered to hold any number of meetings deemed necessary by a majority of its members or by the President of the League. A meeting of the Board shall have a quorum when at least one-half (1/2) of its members are present.
- E. The Board of Directors shall have the right to suspend any officer of the League whose actions may be deemed detrimental to the interest of the League, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the quorum. A Board member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without a valid excuse shall be subject to suspension. Any suspended officer shall be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors upon his request, within four (4) weeks after his suspension becomes effective.
- F. Each Board Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- G. No Officer shall have the right to vote in matters where his team is involved.

Section 2 - The Board of Directors

- A. The day-to-day administration of the League shall be delegated to its Board of Directors. The conduct of all League activities shall be supervised by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may order any game suspended on days when representative or play-off games are scheduled.
- B. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly with the Board of Directors. A meeting of the above shall have a quorum when at least one-half (1/2) of its members are present. All decisions shall be determined by a majority vote. The presiding Chairperson shall vote only to break a tie.
- C. Members shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one (1) year, by majority vote. Members may be elected only if they are personally present unless the membership decides

- to grant an exception.
- D. No Officer shall have the right to vote in matters where his team is involved.
 - E. A Past President may be nominated for Honorary President. Upon election he shall be entitled to all privileges of the League, including the right to make and second motions, with the exception of the right to vote at the annual election.

Section 3 - Committees

- A. The Chairperson of the Committee enumerated in our Constitution shall be responsible for the implementation of the By-Laws of the League. They are accountable to the Board of Directors through their respective actions.
- B. Each Committee Chairperson is assigned certain duties and responsibilities.
- C. Each Committee shall meet as directed by its Chairperson and at any other times as the President may request.
- D. When a Committee Chairperson vacancy occurs, the Board of Directors may fill such a vacancy as directed by these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II Membership

Section 1 - Eligibility

The League shall consist of teams in good standing with the E.P.S.A., the U.S.A.S.A. and the U.S.S.F. who wish to associate themselves with its purpose and ideals.

Section 2 - Classification

- A. Full Member
Any team in good standing with the E.P.S.A., the U.S.A.S.A, and the U.S.S.F. may become a full member of the League upon submission of a written application for membership accompanied by the required initiation fee. Once duly accepted, a member team must pay annual dues. The voting power shall be determined on the basis of registered teams during a particular season. Each team shall have one (1) vote to be cast by the team's duly registered Delegate or Alternate Delegate. No team shall be entitled to vote if its financial obligations to the League have not been met.
- B. Associate Member
Inactive teams may remain in the League as Associate Members upon payment of an annual fee to be determined by the Board of Directors. They shall not be entitled to vote.

Section 3 - Admission

- A. Application:
Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the League's General Secretary accompanied by the team's name, the names and addresses of its officers, and the location of its playing ground and a playing permit, or permission. An initiation fee, determined by the Board of Directors, is required and shall accompany the application
- B. Acceptance:
The Board of Directors shall rule upon all applications for membership to the League. Upon acceptance, the team shall be immediately eligible to participate in the appropriate division. However, such acceptance must be ratified by the member teams at the next general meeting of the League.
- C. Denial:
When an application for membership is rejected, the Board of Directors shall notify the team affected, in writing, stating the grounds for such rejection.
- D. League Transfer:
Teams which transfer their membership from other leagues to this League, shall be required to present a written release from their former League, along with all other admission requirements.

Section 4 - Dues

- A. Annual Dues:
Annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. Commitment Fee:
An annual commitment fee, as determined by the board, is to be deposited with the League upon admission and shall serve as security for playing of all games. The fee will be returned no later than ninety (90) days from the end of the season upon written request.

Section 5 - Termination of Membership

- A. Withdrawal:
Applications for withdrawal during the season shall be presented in writing. Such applications shall be considered only if the team has fulfilled all its obligations to the League. With the acceptance of the withdrawal the team forfeits its commitment fee and all rights to the property of the League.
- B. Expulsion:
Teams which attempt to circumvent a decision rendered or which seriously damage the interests of the League, may be expelled at the annual meeting, or at a special meeting called for this purpose. A motion for expulsion shall require the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of all votes cast. Any team official, or player that willingly supplies wrong information or documents, verbally or in

writing, to alter or affect a decision by committees and/or Board members, shall be subject to suspension and/or a minimum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), and/or expulsion from further participation in the League. The fifty dollar fine does not apply to amateur players.

Section 6 - Duties of Member Teams

- A. Every team member of the League shall pay annual dues as determined by the Board of Directors. Failure to do so shall cause immediate loss of membership.
- B. A member team wishing to participate in any form of competition outside the League's jurisdiction must seek permission from the League, in writing. Permission shall be granted under conditions according to the policies of E.P.S.A., U.S.A.S.A, and U.S.S.F.
- C. A member team is responsible for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators. It is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators or players from threatening or assaulting the referees before, during, or after the conclusion of any game, in accordance with these By-Laws.
- D. Any team wishing to suspend players on account of infringement of their rules shall notify the Board of Directors giving the nature of the offense and the duration of the suspension. Such suspension must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III Officers

Section 1 - President

- A. The President shall supervise all activities of the League and the work of its Officers. The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors, directing its functions according to policies stipulated in these By-Laws; shall be a member of ex-officio of all committees; and shall be the official representative of the League.

Section 2 - First Vice-President

- A. The First Vice-President shall assist the President as requested. The First Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President.

Section 3 - Second Vice-President

The Second Vice-President shall assist the President as requested.

Section 4 - General Secretary

The General Secretary shall attend to all correspondence other than that which pertains to the scheduling of League games and any other matters connected with such and shall assess all fines to every team. The General Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings. These minutes shall be presented for approval at the following meeting. He shall keep a separate record book of all proposed changes to the By-Laws.

Section 5 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the League. He shall be responsible for keeping accurate records and shall present a detailed report of the financial position of the League at each meeting of the Board of Directors. He shall submit a full written report for the season at the annual meeting. He shall make available to the auditors all League records at least twice a year. All disbursements from League funds shall be approved and counter-signed by the President or Financial Secretary. He shall be placed under bond furnished by an insurance company, whose fee shall be paid by the League.

Section 6 - Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall render all possible assistance to the Treasurer and shall have charge of financial matters pertaining to games conducted by the League. He shall be placed under bond furnished by an insurance company, whose fee shall be paid by the League.

Section 7 - Games Commissioner

The Games Commissioner shall arrange all scheduling of games, set kick-off times, and request referees.

Section 8 - Registration Commissioner

The Registration Commissioner shall be in charge of all player and coach registrations.

Section 9 - Grievance Chairperson

The Grievance Chairperson shall arbitrate all cases guided by the By-Laws of the League and the rules of the E.P.S.A., the U.S.A.S.A, and U.S.S.F with the assistance of his committee members. The Grievance Committee is to be appointed by the Grievance Chairperson with approval of the President.

Section 10 - Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President shall assist the President as requested. He shall place his knowledge and experience at the League's disposal.

Section 11 - Honorary Presidents

Honorary Presidents shall place their knowledge and experience at the disposal of the League.

ARTICLE IV
Committees

Section 1 - Formation

- A. All Committees are subject to the direction and judgments of the Board of Directors.
- B. The Committees whose Chairpersons are elected at the annual meeting shall be formed by that Chairperson, and approved by the Board of Directors. Each Committee shall be directly supervised by the President.
- C. The Committees whose members are elected at the annual meeting shall be directly supervised by the President.
- D. The Committees which are created by appointment shall be formed by the President from the Board of Directors' membership. The President shall directly supervise those Committees.

Section 2 - Function

- A. It shall be the function of each committee to develop plans for implementing assigned duties in accordance with these By-Laws:
 - 1) Grievance:
Responsible to assist its Chairperson, upon his request, in the arbitration of all cases that may arise, guided by the By-Laws of the League, the E.P.S.A. Rules, the U.S.A.S.A Regulations, the U.S.S.F. Regulations and F.I.F.A.'s Laws of the Game.
 - 2) Public Relations:
Responsible for the furnishing of promotional materials to the internet, newspapers, radio, and television stations for publications and announcement. It shall also furnish schedules and results of the games, and standings to the news media.

- 3) Trustees:
Members must be available for all duties which may be assigned to them by the President.
- 4) Auditors:
Members must audit the records of the League semi-annually or at the request of the Treasurer. They must affix their signatures upon approval. They must provide a formal report to the Board.
- 5) Rules:
Responsible for updating the League's Constitution and By-Laws and for the proper promulgation of such. It shall consist of one (1) or two (2) Board of Directors members and League members, not exceeding five (5) people.
- 6) Nominations and Elections:
Responsible for the soliciting and acceptance of nominations for elected Offices of the League prior to and during the annual meeting as directed by the By-Laws. Responsible to conduct the segment of the annual meeting reserved for the election of Officers as prescribed by the By-Laws.
- 7) Rules Enforcement Committee:
Consisting of the Treasurer, Games Commissioner and Grievance and responsible for the enforcement of all league rules including the collection of all fees and fines.

ARTICLE V
Nominations and Elections

Section 1 - Nominations

- A. At the regular League meeting prior to the annual meeting, the President of the League shall appoint a Chairperson for the Nominations and Elections Committee. The Chairperson of that Committee shall select at most three (3) other individuals which together shall form the Committee.
- B. The Nominations and Election Committee shall accept nominations for all League offices at any time and until prior to the annual meeting segment reserved for elections, at which time all nominations shall be considered closed.
- C. The Nominations and Elections Committee Chairperson shall preside over the elections proceedings.

Section 2 - Elections

- A. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with these By-Laws.
- B. Each Officer shall be voted for separately by secret ballot.

- C. Results of the election shall be announced at the conclusion of the annual meeting by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. The person receiving the majority of the votes cast for each office shall be declared elected.
- D. Anyone wishing to run for office on the Board of Directors must be a delegate to the League for a minimum of two (2) years.
- E. Anyone who is eligible according to the By-Laws may be nominated for any number of offices but only be elected to two (2) offices.
- F. Any unfilled offices at the election will be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board.
- G. When we have 26 teams or more in the League, the second Delegate to the E.P.S.A. will be a member of the Board of Directors and have a vote at our annual elections.

ARTICLE VI
Meetings

Section 1 - General Rules

- A. All membership meetings are open to the duly appointed delegates of all member teams in good standing with the League. Each member team shall be required to name a Delegate and an Alternate Delegate, who shall function in the Delegate's absence, who shall be considered that team's official representative during all membership meetings. Any team which wishes to change its Delegate and/or Alternate Delegate must do so in writing with the General Secretary. Only the Delegates and/or Alternate Delegates may attend these meetings. One guest from each member team may attend provided he or she register with the General Secretary.
- B. The names of member teams shall be called out during roll call.
- C. All minutes of the previous meetings shall be read by the General Secretary and presented in printed form to all Delegates at membership meetings.

Section 2 - Annual Meeting

- A. There shall be one (1) annual meeting to be held on the first Monday in June with the following order of business:
 - 1) Roll Call
 - 2) Reading of Minutes
 - 3) Communications
 - 4) Treasurer's Report
 - 5) President's Report
 - 6) Secretary's Report

- 7) Committees' Reports
- 8) Unfinished Business
- 9) Election of Officers
- 10) New Business
- 11) Good and Welfare

B. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the affiliated teams upon proper notification. If no quorum is present, there shall be a new meeting scheduled within one (1) month, at which time business shall be conducted regardless of the number of member teams present.

Section 3 - General Meetings

A. The quorum for all general meetings, held on the first Monday of each month, shall consist of a simple majority of the affiliated teams present upon proper notification. If no quorum is present, there shall be a new meeting scheduled within one (1) month, at which time business shall be conducted regardless of the number of member teams present.

Section 4 - Special Meetings

- A. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Board of Directors. Upon proper notification of all member teams, business shall be conducted regardless of the number of teams present.
- B. In urgent cases and upon the written request of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the member teams, a special meeting may be called by the Board of Directors. That special meeting must be called by the Board of Directors within 14 days after the request.

Section 5 - Parliamentary Procedure

A. All business conducted at any meeting in Article VI, Sections 2, 3, and 4 shall be governed by the Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII Enforcement and Appeals

Section 1 - Board of Directors' Authority

A. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to deal with any incident involving any team(s) member(s) of the League or with any officer or player of a member team whose actions are deemed detrimental to the interests of the League. Its decision shall be final within its jurisdiction, subject to appeals to and the decisions rendered by the E.P.S.A., the

- U.S.A.S.A., and the U.S.S.F.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to deal with violation of the laws of the game, the By-Laws of the League, or misconduct by any player, team, official, or spectator under its jurisdiction in all games sanctioned by the League.
 - C. The Board of Directors shall have the duty to investigate and to correct, or demand to be corrected, any conditions deemed to be unfavorable or undesirable.
 - D. The Board of Directors, or its delegated authority shall have the power to suspend, expel and/or impose fines or penalties upon any teams or person under its jurisdiction, guilty of any violation of the rules of Association Soccer adhered to by the U.S.S.F. and the Constitution and By-Laws of the League, the E.P.S.A. , the U.S.A.S.A and the U.S.S.F.
 - E. The Board of Directors, or its delegated authority, may call upon any team, player, or person to produce any documents or any other evidence deemed indispensable to any investigation.

Section 2 - Delegation of Authority

- A. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers to committees or commissions.

Section 3 - Suspensions

- A. League Officers are subject to suspension as stipulated in the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1.
- B. Suspensions of teams, players and officials shall be imposed only for stated reasons and for a definite period of time. No player or official of any team shall be suspended for an offense committed by the management of his team unless proof is submitted connecting such player or official with the offense committed.
- C. Any suspension imposed by the League shall be recognized by all organizations affiliated with E.P.S.A., the U.S.A.S.A and the U.S.S.F. or any other state association, after proper notification.
- D. Any Board Member cannot make a ruling on a suspension or an appeal involving his home team or home club. Any member must defer to the League President for delegation (*Section D added by amendment on 7/30/18*)

Section 4 - Protests and Claims

- A. General Rules:
All protests and claims filed with the League, in the person of its Grievance Chairman, shall be subject to the following procedural requirements:

- 1) Protests and claims must be filed within a required time limit as prescribed by these By-Laws.
- 2) Protests and claims must be submitted with details of the charges and reasons.
- 3) Protests and claims must be submitted with the appropriate fee whenever required.
- 4) Protest and claims must be submitted with a proof of mailing of a copy of such protest or claim to the accused party.
- 5) The accused party has ten (10) days, from the date it receives a protest copy, to furnish the proper authority with any material it considers relevant to the protest, in triplicate.
- 6) Any protest or claim not filed within the required time limit, or submitted without details of the charges and reasons, or submitted without the remittance of the proper fee required, or without a proof of mailing of a copy to the accused party, shall be rejected.

B. Protests:

All protests which arise from an infringement of the laws of the game are subject to a protest fee. Grounds for a protest which arise before the game starts shall be immediately submitted to the Referee and the opposing team before the commencement of the game, in writing. Any protest arising during the game shall be given to the Referee and the opposing team immediately after the game, in writing. Protests shall be presented in triplicate to the Grievance Chairman within seventy-two (72) hours after the game, accompanied by a fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars, and listing detailed reasons. Protests on Referee's judgment calls shall not be entertained.

C. 1) Registration

Claims, which are made on the basis of an incorrect or missing registration of a player, need not be accompanied by a protest fee. Such claims must be made within two (2) weeks following the game.

2) Damages

All claims for damages, such as arising from the non-appearance of a team, etc., are to be presented in writing within two (2) days of the scheduled date of the game to the Grievance Chairman. All other claims for damages must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days. Claims for damages are not subject to a fee.

Section 5 - Appeals

A. To the Board of Directors:

- 1) Any person or team may appeal a decision of any delegated authority of the League to the Board of

Directors provided the following procedure is adhered to.

- a) An appeal must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of the original decision by the delegate authority.
 - b) An appeal must be made in writing, in triplicate, stating clearly all facts pertinent to the case, the procedure followed and the decision rendered.
 - c) An appeal must be accompanied by the appeal fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars to U.S.L.
 - d) An appeal must be accompanied by proof of mailing of copies forwarded to all parties of interest by the appellant within the designated ten (10) days.
 - e) A member of the Grievance Committee can have a voice but no vote with the Board in the case of an appeal.
- 2) The appellant may submit along with his or her appeal any materials it considers relevant to the appeal. The Board of Directors may also allow any party affected by the appeal to submit copies of any materials he or she considers relevant to the appeal.
 - 3) The operation of a decision of the delegated authority from which an appeal is made shall not be suspended, pending the Board of Directors' decision.
 - 4) If an appeal is sustained by the Board of Directors, the appeal fee shall be refunded to the appellant. If an appeal is not sustained, then the appeal fee shall be forfeited to the League.
 - 5) If and when it is necessary for the League to expend monies to entertain an appeal, the League may determine by whom such expense shall be paid, and when so determined the fixed sum be due and payable upon notice.

B. To the E.P.S.A.:

Any person or team may appeal a decision of the Board of Directors to the E.P.S.A. provided such appeal adheres to the procedure outlined in part (A) above. Refer to appropriate E.P.S.A. By-Laws.

C. To the U.S.A.S.A or U.S.S.F.:

Refer to appropriate U.S.A.S.A and/or U.S.S.F policies

D. Exclusiveness of Decisions:

No team, official, referee or player may invoke the aid of the courts of any state or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization.

ARTICLE VIII
Playing Rules

Section 1 - F.I.F.A. Rules

- A. The playing rules for all games conducted under the jurisdiction of the League shall be the F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game presently in effect, with certain exceptions as specified in these By-Laws.

Section 2 - Season

- A. The Board of Directors shall determine when the League's season shall start and end.

Section 3 - Playing Field

- A. The length of the field may not be more than 120 yards nor less than 100 yards and the width of the field may not be more than 80 yards nor less than 65 yards. Corner flags and the required markings of the field, according to the FIFA Laws of the game are required.
- B. Markings and Facilities:
The home team shall be responsible for visible, correct and complete markings of the playing field.
- C. Goal Nets:
Goal nets must be used in all games.
- D. Maintenance of Order:
The playing field is to be protected against invasion by the public. The home team is responsible for any disorders which may arise from insufficient protection and supervision.
- E. Fan Control:
It is the responsibility of each team member of the United Soccer League to keep their "Fans" under control, regardless of the playing field.
- F. Failure to comply with these rules incur a fine to be set by the Board of Directors.
- G. Teams who are not able to play at their home field and have to play at their opponents field will be responsible for the referee fees for that game. Exceptions will be made for make-up games (Cups/Weather Conditions) that have to be played under lights. This should be arranged between teams.

Section 4 - Schedule of Games

- A. The schedule of games and kick-off times shall be published for all teams.

Section 5 - Starting Time of the Games

- A. All League games shall be scheduled as follows:
 - Major Men - Sunday, 2:30 PM
 - Major Women - Sunday, 12:00 PM
 - Major II Men - Sunday, 12:00 PM
 - Over 30 Men - Friday, 7:30 PMGames Commissioner may approve individual deviations on a per-game basis with proper notice. (*Part A amended 7/17/17*)
- B. If the necessity arises to complete the season's schedule, the Games Commissioner has the right to schedule double-headers, or evening or Saturday games. In case of double-headers, the starting may be advanced.
- C. Any team that is unable to play any game after a grace period of fifteen (15) minutes after the schedule starting time shall forfeit the game.

Section 6 - Postponements

- A. No scheduled games shall be postponed by the teams.
 - 1 In the spirit of the game and the safety of the players, the duration of a game can be shortened, if in the opinion and mutual agreement of both coaches / managers, the score is considered insurmountable by the losing team.
 - 2. The coach of the losing team will notify the referee of their decision. After consulting with the winning coach, the referee will terminate the match. The game is considered to be an official game which cannot be grieved.

Section 7 - Duration of Game

- A. The duration of each game shall be twice forty-five (45) minutes.
- B. The Referee of any later game has no right to interfere with a game in progress.

Section 8 - Number of Players

- A. A team may list and play eighteen (18) players on the line-up sheet.
- B. No team may start a game with less than seven (7) players. No game shall be considered valid when less than seven (7) players remain on a side during a match. Such team will incur loss of points, plus a fine and the referee's fee.

Section 9 - Player Passes and Line-Up Sheets

- A. All players and coaches must line up in the center of the field with their player passes at the Referee's request. At that time the Referee will verify the player passes. The Referee will keep the passes until the completion of the game, after which he will return them to the Manager or Coach.
- B. Along with the player passes, line-up sheets will be presented to the Referee by both teams at mid-field. After signing the line-up sheets, the Referee will return copies to the home and visiting teams, and he will keep the original.
- C. No players' names may be added to the line-up sheet after the start of the game.
- D. No pass no play unless dispensation from authorized League Official.

Section 10 - Uniform

- A. Teams shall appear in uniform attire at all games with numbered jerseys eight (8") inches in height. No duplicate numbers. Where the colors of two competing teams are the same, the home team must change or provide satisfactory identifying marks. The Referee shall grant a waiting time of fifteen (15) minutes in such case.
- B. Players shall be attired in clean uniforms of the same color, properly numbered. Teams shall see to it that each player wears soccer shoes. Disarranged uniform, such as rolled down socks or jerseys over the pants, shall not be tolerated.
- C. Players may be ordered off the field by the Referee if in his opinion the dress of the player may lead to errors in judgment.
- D. No player in uniform shall be allowed to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages on the playing field.
- E. Any team playing without the team captain displaying a Captain's Arm Band, shall be fined \$10.00 upon notification in the Referee's report.

Section 11 - Weather Postponement *(Section amended 11/6/17)*

- A. The Games Commissioner shall have the right to postpone any scheduled game if weather conditions appear to make the playing of the match impossible. The Games Commissioner or designated alternate will coordinate notification of all teams and officials, updating the official league schedule, and any additional notifications necessary
- B. If the weather is bad or threatening, teams shall confer with the Games Commissioner to ascertain whether the scheduled games can be played no later than 3 hours before match time.

- C. If the club shuts the field down as unplayable, notification must be received by the Games Commissioner from the designated representative by 3 hours prior to game time to avoid assessment of officials fees. Note this means communication was received - as in directly speaking with the Games Commissioner, not just leaving a message. By text message or email, a message confirming receipt is received. If proper notification is received, the match will be postponed and the officials will be cancelled without cost. If notification is received late, the home team is responsible for any travel fees assessed.
- D. The official shall have the right to not start the match if he finds it unplayable. If the match is not played, the officials receive a travel fee (Section 20.A)
- E. In the event of lightning or thunder, or if weather warning systems sound an alert at fields so equipped, the match will be immediately stopped, and all persons must leave the field and sidelines.
- F. If it becomes apparent that the match cannot be resumed, the official will notify the team and record the time in his report. Teams and officials are not dismissed until this occurs. The Board may set policy for the maximum amount of time to wait, or the latest allowed restart time. This should be published in the Game Day procedures.
- G. If the match is abandoned in the 1st half, the officials will receive the travel fee (half the normal fee). If the match is abandoned at halftime or in the 2nd half, it will be considered complete and the officials will receive the full fee. Uncompleted matches will be rescheduled and played in their entirety.
- H. Notwithstanding the above, by mutual agreement of the two teams and the league, the abandoned match can be declared complete with the score and discipline decisions at the moment of interruption.

Section 12 - Non-Appearance of Referee

- A. If the Referee appointed fails to appear for game, the senior linesman will be the Referee. The teams must provide a linesman.

Section 13 - Substitutions

- A. Substitutions are unlimited. Player must be on the roster and checked in by the referee to be eligible.
- B. Substitutions may occur during the following stoppages: any goal-kick, a throw-in during your position, restart after any goal is scored, halftime, an injury on the field of play (when recognized by the referee).

- C. A team without possession may make a substitution(s) if the possession team is already making a substitution (that is, play is already delayed) and the player (s) are already at mid-field. (Section C added at AGM on 6/5/17)

Section 14 - Intermissions

- A. The Referee shall have the right to shorten the intermission period between halves, which should not exceed ten (10) minutes if the start of the game has been delayed, or other reasons make it advisable; however, he must grant an intermission of at least five (5) minutes if any of the competing teams request it.

Section 15 - Divisions

- A. Formation:
The formation of Divisions of the League shall be decided by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the season.
- B. There shall be Divisions for teams, namely a Major Men, Major II Men (Major II Teams of the same Club shall be considered Reserves), Major Women, and Over 30 Men
 - 1) The Board of Directors shall add or remove divisions based on interested participants as well as decide the number of teams in each Division as well as subsequent divisions. (*Part B amended 7/17/17*)

Section 16 - League Championships (*section amended 3/7/2022*)

- A. The championship of the League shall be determined by the point system.
- B. When there is a tie in the number of points for first, second, or last place in the standings the following rules apply:
 - 1) The highest position shall be awarded to the team with the better win/loss record in current regular season games against all other teams equal in points. (head-to-head competition)
 - 2) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the regular season. (goal differential)
 - 3) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the regular season. (total goals)

- 4) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by the toss of a coin.
 - 5) The first tiebreaker in a three-way tie is also head-to-head, but it is determined via points-per-game versus the other two teams. If two teams are tied in points-per-game head-to-head, the next tie breaker is goal difference.
- C. Payment to teams for League Championship shall be set Annually the Board of Directors.

Section 17 - Team Withdrawal

- A. If a team does not complete its regular championship schedule, the following rules shall be in effect:
- 1) If at least one-half (1/2) of the full schedule of games has been played, all scores shall stand.
 - 2) If less than one-half (1/2) of the full schedule of games is played, all games played shall be rescinded.
 - 3) Any team which forfeits two (2) scheduled League games, will be removed from the League and shall forfeit all fees on deposit with the League.

Section 18 - League Cup Games

- A. *This section is reserved in the event that the League organizes a League Cup. Policies shall be determined at that time.*

Section 19 - Exhibition Games

- A. Exhibition games against teams out of state not affiliated with this League must have approval of this League and the E.P.S.A.

Section 20 - Officials *(section amended on 11/6/17)*

- A. All officials used by this League will be in possession of their badges and annual identification cards issued by US Soccer, and will be assigned by the league assignor. The Board may determine minimum qualifications for assignment.
- B. The League assignor shall be hired by this league to ensure coverage of all matches by competent officials.
- 1) The assignor will coordinate with the Games Commissioner or designated alternate to be aware of all matches to be covered, and of any additions or changes to existing matches.
 - 2) The assignor shall coordinate closely with the Games Commissioner and Grievance Chairman to ensure that

- problems with officials are corrected expediently.
- 3) The Board will determine the length of notice required for forfeits or non-weather related match postponements, to avoid payment of the full officials fee.
 - 4) The Games Commissioner will make every effort to provide at least 2 hours of notice to the assignor of weather related cancellations or field closures.
- C. If less than the assigned number of officials are present at the start of the match, the teams will agree on a spectator to assist the referee to determine balls out of touch. If no agreement is reached, the match will proceed with the officials on-hand. No protests will be entertained of decisions by the spectator. The spectator will not be paid. Absolutely no deviations from the diagonal system of control will be allowed - there will be only 1 referee.
 - D. If the referee does not appear, the senior assistant referee will act as referee, and teams will be asked to provide a spectator per section C above.
 - E. If the referee determines the field is in unplayable condition prior to the match, the officials will receive a travel fee of one-half the match fee, split between the two teams.
 - F. Officials must examine player passes before the start of the game and complete the lineups. A copy of the lineup noting player numbers must be provided to each team prior to the kickoff.
 - G. In the event of a forfeit at the field, the officials will be paid by the league from the forfeiting team's bond. No fees should be collected at the field.
 - H. The referee will complete the match report for the match no later than 3 days after completion. If there is a send-off, the player pass must be retained and sent to the Grievance Chairman. The Game Day Procedures will contain instructions for the referee to complete the match report, and the address of the Grievance Chairman.

Section 21 - Representative Games

- A. The Board of Directors shall have supervision over all representative games.

Section 22 - League Honors (*Section amended 3/7/2022*)

- A. Board and Team Members:
The Board of Directors may honor persons who have given extraordinary services in behalf of the League.
- B. Championship Teams:
The winning team in all divisions shall receive a trophy at the annual awards presentation.
- C. A Sportsmanship Award shall be presented to the team with the

least amount of infractions, at the discretion of the Grievance Committee.

Section 23 - Over 30 Division (*Section added 7/17/2017*)

- A. Players who participate in a designated match in this division must be 30 years old on the date of the sanctioned match.
- 1) Each team in the Over 30 division may register a maximum of three (3) players between the age of 28 and 30. These 3 players will be considered eligible to participate in an Over 30 Match as long as they have completed the proper registration process as prescribed by The League.

ARTICLE IX
Players

Section 1 - Number of Players on Team Roster

- A. Maximum Number:
- 1) No team shall be permitted to have more than twenty-five (25) registered active playing members at any one time if only one team is fielded.
 - 2) A club shall be permitted to have at any one time no more than twenty-five (25) registered active players if the club fields one team, and no more than forty-four (44) registered active players if the club fields a team and a second division (reserve) team. The eligibility of those players to play for either team of that club shall be determined by the Board of Directors and competitions in which the club competes.
 - 3) In figuring the maximum number of players, there shall not be included players under a suspension of one (1) year or more.
 - 4) A team may only have a maximum of 25 players on the line up sheet. A team may list up to twenty-five (25) players on the line-up sheet, however no more than eighteen (18) players may be checked-in by the referee and play in a match. If the team has a player or players suspended, their name must be marked "NP" (no play) on a referee-signed copy of the line-up sheet.
 - 5) The Board may adjust the roster limits by a simple majority vote at any time.
 - 6) The Board will review the roster limit on a yearly basis at the Board Meeting, the 1st Monday of August, at which time the limit is affirmed or altered.

Section 2 - Player Status

- A. A professional player is a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional form of the Federation.
- B. An amateur player is a person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the player.
- C. Questions regarding status of a player should be referred to US Soccer Registration Guidelines

Section 3 - Registration

To comply with E.P.S.A., U.S.A.S.A., and U.S.S.F rules.

ARTICLE X
Penalties

Section 1- Board of Directors' Authority

- A. The suspension, expulsion and the imposition of any fines or penalties upon any team or person under the jurisdiction of this League shall be in accordance with ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1-D of the By-Laws.

Section 2 - League Officers Sanctions

- A. The Board of Directors may suspend any League Officer in accordance with ARTICLE I, SECTION 1-E of the By-Laws.

Section 3 - Expulsion of Teams

- A. The League may expel a member team in accordance with ARTICLE II, SECTION 5-B of the By-Laws.

Section 4 - Fines Imposed Upon Teams

- A. Non-representation at Meetings.
 - 1) \$25.00 annual
 - 2) \$25.00 general meeting
- B. Reporting of Scores:
\$10.00 for not calling in your scores.
- C. Usage of Ineligible Player:
A team which permits an ineligible player to take part in a game shall be penalized with the loss of points and fined for a sum of not less than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars per player.
- D. Referee Assault:
The following guidelines shall be strictly adhered to and

enforced by the Grievance Committee, the League's delegated authority, in case of an assault on a Referee and/or Assistant Referee.

- 1) Fines may be imposed on teams that do not control their fans or players.
- 2) The first assault during a calendar year on a Referee and/or assistant referee by a team player, trainer, coach, manager or any official associated with the team involved will be subject to E.P.S.A. ruling:
 - a) Possible loss of home field privileges from date of assault, irrespective of where game was played when the assault occurred.
 - b) In case sanction (b) above is imposed, the team is responsible to reimburse opponent for the use of their field as home field in any future games.
 - c) The posting of a performance bond in the amount of \$300.00 prior to the next scheduled game for teams in all divisions.
- 3) The second assault on a Referee and/or Assistant Referee, during the same calendar year, by a team player, trainer, coach, manager or any Official associated with the team involved subject to E.P.S.A. ruling:
 - a) Team suspension for the balance of the season.
 - b) The above mentioned shall be at the discretion of the Grievance Committee or the Board of Directors.

E. *Section E was eliminated by amendment to the By-Laws adopted on 8/29/16*

F. Breaking-Off Game:

Games cannot be broken off under any circumstances by one (1) of the participating teams. If a team breaks off a game without permission of the Referee, it shall be penalized with loss of points and fined. Any person or player responsible for breaking-off the game shall be suspended, the period to be determined by the delegated authority.

G. Non-Appearance or Forfeited Games:

If a game is forfeited to an opponent without play or if the delegated authority of the League orders a forfeit against the offending team, or if a team refuses to play a scheduled game: the opponent will be credited with a *three-to-zero (3-0)* win and a fine of \$300.00 will be imposed on the offending team, plus loss of points (if necessary) and payment of additional fees if deemed appropriate by the Board. Any moneys owed to referees as a result of the match not played will be covered within this fine. *(Updated 6/13/2022)*

H. Any team, charged with two(2) forfeits during any season will be suspended from the League.

I. Attempt to Induce Player to Change Team:

In cases where it can be proven that a deliberate attempt was made to induce a player to change his team, the team

- responsible for such an attempt shall be fined \$50.00.
- J. Infringement of Private Cup Tournaments Regulations:
Teams staging or playing in a private cup tournament shall be fined if they do not secure the proper permission from the appropriate authority in this or other jurisdiction.
 - K. Improper Field Markings:
All fields must be properly marked, and goal nets and corner flags must be used. Failure to comply with either rule will carry a \$25.00 fine for either offense.
 - L. Failure to Wear Properly Marked Jerseys:
No players, playing on the same team, may wear same number jerseys. No player may wear a jersey with no number on it. The fine for either offense is a \$25.00 fine to the team per player.
 - M. Team Playing Without Player Passes:
A team playing without player passes may forfeit the game at the discretion of the delegated authority.
 - N. Payment of Debts:
A debt of any member team, such as fines, annual dues, registration fees, commitment fees, etc., which is owed to the League, after receipt of a properly documented bill, must be paid within thirty (30) days or by the team's next game, whichever happens first. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a \$25.00 fine plus game forfeit if appropriate.

Section 5 - Fines and Suspensions

Imposed Upon Individuals:

- A. A suspension imposed against a person shall be applicable to his/her entire soccer activities including playing, coaching, and refereeing. The penalties mentioned hereafter shall constitute the minimum penalty for the stated offense. Additional penalties may be imposed by the delegated authorities.
- B. Players who have been ordered off the field by the Referee for violent conduct, use of improper language toward the Referee, other players or spectators, assault, or for other reasons detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer, shall automatically incur the minimum penalty for the offense committed. Such players shall not participate during this time in any games under the jurisdiction of the League or the E.P.S.A. nor in any other game. When a player has been ordered off the field of play, the action is automatically instituted against him/her by the Referee's game report.
- C. Eligibility and Double Registration:
To be eligible a player must have been properly registered, must have a proper player pass, must not be under suspension and his/her name must appear on the line-up sheet. A player

- who signs a form for a second team in the same division without obtaining his/her release from his/her first team, shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of four (4) games.
- D. Violent Conduct:
A player who has been ordered off the field for violent conduct shall be suspended for at least two (2) games.
- E. Insult of Opposing Player:
A player who had been ordered off the field for insulting (cursing, using abusive language and/or hand gestures) an opponent, shall be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- F. Insult of Referee:
A player or team official who has been ordered off the field for insulting (cursing, using abusive language and/or hand gestures) against a Referee shall be suspended for at least four (4) games. A player insulting a Referee in uniform before, during or after a game, even though he/she is only a spectator in that particular game, may still receive a one (1) game suspension.
- G. Assault of Opponent:
A player who has been ordered off the field for assaulting an opponent, shall be suspended for at least eight (8) games in the first offense and on repetition of the offense the extent shall be sixteen (16) games. Referee to specify each incident in detail.
- H. Detrimental to Good and Welfare:
Any player or team official whose activities or actions are considered to be detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer, such as unsportsmanlike conduct, dissent of Referee judgment call, etc., shall be suspended for not less than one (1) game.
- I. Cautions Against Players:
A player who, in a given registration year, accumulates three(3) individual cautions shall be suspended for one (1) game. The second accumulation of three (3) individual cautions within the same year shall result in an additional suspension equivalent to two (2) games. In the instance that a player receives two (2) yellow cards in one match, the player is therefore shown a red card ejected from the match and receives a subsequent suspension. These two (2) yellow card cautions will not be recorded or count towards the accumulated cautions. (*"In the instance...accumulated cautions" was inserted on 6/5/17*).
- J. Forfeited games shall count against player suspensions provided that the suspended player is not a member of the team that forfeited.
- K. Any suspension imposed on a player shall be recognized by all organization affiliated with E.P.S.A, the U.S.A.S.A. and US Soccer or any other state association. The suspension may

therefore be served in any official, sanctioned match and in any division in which the player is currently registered and eligible to play. *(Section K inserted on 6/5/17)*

- L. A player or team official who has been ordered off the field for the use of racial and/or prejudicial comments or gestures directed at an opponent shall be suspended for at least 3 games. If directed at a referee the suspension shall be doubled and referred to the E.P.S.A. for further possible sanctions. *(Part L added on 7/17/17).*

ARTICLE XI Amendments

Section 1 - Voting

- A. The By-Laws of the League may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the annual meeting, or at a special meeting called expressly for that purpose, provided that any proposed amendments are submitted in writing to the General Secretary and to all member teams at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 2 - E.P.S.A. Approval

- A. A copy of the amendment(s) carried is to be sent to the E.P.S.A.