

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH JERSEY SOCCER LEAGUE

**AFFILIATED WITH UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION, INC. AND NEW JERSEY YOUTH SOCCER**

As Revised June 4, 2009

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the Organization shall be the "South Jersey Soccer League" (hereinafter referred to as "SJSL" or "the League").

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the League is to develop in those associated with this organization the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, and loyalty through competition in the game of soccer among players under nineteen (19) years of age and at all levels of competition, from Member Clubs located primarily within southern New Jersey. The League does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability. This League is established as a non-profit educational organization.

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION, NJYS REPRESENTATIVE AND HEADQUARTERS

SECTION 1 (AFFILIATION)

The League shall be affiliated with the New Jersey Youth Soccer ("NJYS") and the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

SECTION 2 (NJYS REPRESENTATIVE)

The SJS� President shall appoint the South Jersey Soccer League Representative and Alternate Representative to the Board of New Jersey Youth Soccer. The Representative and Alternate Representatives shall be members of the SJS� Executive Board and may hold other positions on the Board. Such appointments shall be with the concurrence of the SJS� Executive Board.

SECTION 3 (HEADQUARTERS)

The headquarters of the League shall be within the playing area of the South Jersey Soccer League in the State of New Jersey, which headquarters shall be determined from time to time by such person or persons in whom such authority may be vested.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 (CLUB)

The League shall be comprised of Member Clubs with youth teams. Clubs shall qualify and be accepted for membership as provided herein. All Clubs accepted as Members of the South Jersey Soccer League at the time of the approval of this Constitution are Member Clubs, unless otherwise restricted or removed pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution. The Clubs accepted into the League shall constitute the General Membership of the League.

SECTION 2 (NEW APPLICATIONS)

Application for membership into the League shall be made in writing by mail or email by the President or designated officer of the Club applying for admission and shall be lodged with the General Secretary of the League. All applicants must comply with the requirements for admission as promulgated by the Executive Board. In addition, each application shall include a certification, executed by an officer authorized to do so on behalf of the applying Member Club, stating that the Club will follow and adhere to the Constitution of the South Jersey Soccer League and its Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 3 (APPROVAL)

The Executive Board shall have the power to determine the qualifications for and acceptance or rejection of, any application for membership, using as a criterion the Constitution of the New Jersey Youth Soccer and this League. The decision of the Executive Board to approve or deny the application for admission is not appealable.

Applications approved by the Executive Board will be presented to the General Membership for final approval.

Applications approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of all Member Clubs currently in the League at the time of the vote will be afforded Member Club status.

SECTION 4 (FEES)

Each Member Club shall pay a registration fee for each team registered to play in the League on a seasonal basis. The Executive Board shall set all fees, dues or costs for admission. All fees, dues, assessments and sanctions against Member Clubs, their players, coaches, spectators and other members are the responsibility of the Member Clubs.

SECTION 5 (VOTING)

Each Member Club will hold one (1) vote for each currently carded team, currently playing in or that played during that seasonal year, to cast in all matters before the General Membership; however, a simple one (1) vote per club vote rule may be used on a case by case basis, provided it is agreed upon by the General Membership. Rules governing the suspension and reinstatement of voting privileges shall be as promulgated by the Executive Board. No Member Club is authorized to vote by proxy on the behalf of another Member Club.

SECTION 6 (PROPERTY RIGHTS)

No Member Club will have any right, title, or interest in any of the property or assets, including any earnings or investment income of this organization, except in the event as provided in Article XVI upon the dissolution of the League.

SECTION 7 (LIABILITY OF MEMBERS)

No Member Club of this organization will be personally liable for any of the League's debts, liabilities or obligation.

SECTION 8 (TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP)

Membership in this organization is nontransferable.

SECTION 9 (REMOVAL OF MEMBER CLUB)

If a Member Club fails to attend any of the General Membership meetings or Mandatory Coaches' Meetings during the seasonal year, as scheduled by the Executive Board, the Club shall be removed from the league at the Executive Board's discretion.

A Club may also be expelled from Membership for its continuous and repeated violations of the Constitution and/or Rules and Regulations of the South Jersey Soccer League at the Executive Board's discretion.

SECTION 10 (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)

An Associate Member is a single youth team, U-19 through U-11 inclusive, not affiliated with a Member Club, which has been granted the privilege of participating in South Jersey Soccer League sponsored play by the Executive Board.

All responsibilities and obligations required of Member Clubs shall also be required of Associate Members with the following modifications:

(1) An Associate Member is required to be properly represented at only the General Membership and Mandatory Coaches' meetings during the playing season during which it participates in league play;

(2) The qualifications for admission as an Associate Member shall be established by the Executive Board.

All rights granted to Member Clubs shall be granted to an Associate Member except as follows:

(1) An Associate Member shall have no voting privileges, and

(2) An Associate Member may be denied participation in League play by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V

SECTION 1 (GOVERNMENT)

The League shall be governed by the Executive Board in accordance with this Constitution and the South Jersey Soccer League Rules and Regulations, as well as by the Constitutions, Rules, Regulations and By-Laws of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. and New Jersey Youth Soccer, with which this organization is and shall be affiliated.

SECTION 2 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

The Executive Board shall be comprised of all of the Officers duly elected or appointed pursuant to this Constitution. The Executive Board shall have the power to set up the Schedule of Games at the beginning of each season. It shall have the power to formulate League Rules and Regulations, to fine and/or suspend those who shall violate the

provisions of the Constitution, the League Rules and Regulations, and adjudicate all protests and differences among the Member Clubs. At all meetings of the Executive Board, a simple majority shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. Each member of the Executive Board shall have one (1) vote.

The Executive Board, or a Committee acting therefore, shall have the authority to inquire into any matter that, in its judgment, affects the good and welfare of this League and to take action within the authority granted to it by this Constitution.

SECTION 3 (FINAL AUTHORITY)

Final Authority shall at all times rest with the General Membership. While certain powers are given to the Executive Board, the General Membership may over-rule the Executive committee by a 2/3 majority vote of the Member Clubs present at a lawfully called meeting, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

SECTION 1 (NUMBER)

The Officers of SJSJ shall include a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a League Registrar, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, a Grievance Chairperson, an Information Officer, a Games Commissioner for each season in which the League will participate and a sufficient number of Trustees so that there will be a total of thirteen (13) Officers. This group of Officers shall include the NJYS Representative and alternate representative appointed pursuant to Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution.

SECTION 2 (ELECTION BY MAJORITY VOTE)

To be elected as an Officer of this organization, a person must receive a majority of the votes cast.

SECTION 3 (PRESIDENT'S DUTIES AND POWERS)

The President shall preside at all meetings of this organization; appoint all committees; appoint a parliamentarian; enforce the Constitution, League rules and such Rules and Regulations as may be adopted by the General Membership; call such meetings as are herein provided to be called by him or her; supervise the affairs of this organization; sign all checks with the Treasurer when the same shall be duly authorized by the Executive Board; sign all contracts and documents of this organization with the General Secretary when the same shall be duly authorized by the Executive Board; perform such other duties as the Executive Board or the General Membership may from time to time direct.

The President shall have the power to call all meetings of this organization upon ten (10) days written notice by mail or email to all concerned.

SECTION 4 (VICE-PRESIDENT)

The Vice-President shall perform all the duties and exercise all the powers of the President during his absence or incapacity, and shall be responsible to perform such additional duties as required by the President and/or the Executive Board.

SECTION 5 (RECORDING SECRETARY)

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of this organization, including both Executive Board and General Membership meetings.

SECTION 6 (LEAGUE REGISTRAR)

The League Registrar shall keep a record of all teams and players in the league for the purpose of player registration and team affiliation. He or she shall disburse to league members those materials needed to maintain team and player registration, and shall receive and keep on file the executed forms. He or she shall maintain the attendance records for all General Membership and League meetings.

SECTION 7 (TREASURER)

The Treasurer shall collect and receive all dues and monies, take charge of the books and accounts in connection with the financial affairs of this organization; deposit all monies in the name of the League; pay all bills against the League after the same shall be approved by the Executive Board; report the state of the finances of the organization at every meeting and whenever requested to do so by the President or the Executive Board.

SECTION 8 (GENERAL SECRETARY)

The General Secretary shall determine and specify voting eligibility of those in attendance at League meetings as provided by Article IV, Section 7. He or she shall sign with the President all contracts and other documents of this organization that shall be authorized by the Executive Board.

The General Secretary shall be served with all applications for admission to the League and all appeals of decisions rendered by the League.

SECTION 9 (GAMES COMMISSIONER)

The Games Commissioner shall execute the approved playing schedule for those divisions assigned to compete during the appropriate Season. The Games Commissioner shall handle all matters dealing with the organization and scheduling of the games during

his or her respective season, including coordinating with referees. He or she shall receive all game scores, tabulate same and keep the Divisional Standings up to date at all times.

SECTION 10 (GRIEVANCE CHAIRPERSON)

The Grievance Chairperson shall be responsible for levying sanctions consistent with the playing rules and regulations of the League, providing administrative support to the Grievance Committee in the investigation of grievances properly submitted to the Committee, and recommending action to the Executive Board based upon results of the Committee's findings.

All reports of ejections or cautions administered by referees, improper conduct cited by referees on a game report, or game protests, shall be addressed by the Grievance Chairperson. A Grievance Committee may be formed, as provided in Section 13 of this Article, to assist in the review process.

SECTION 11 (INFORMATION OFFICER)

The Information Officer shall be responsible for leading, managing and directing the League's technology and information systems. The person in this position is responsible for overseeing all technical aspects of the League's website and any third-party web-enabled solutions. The Information Officer shall act as the editor of the site's content and is responsible for making improvements, modifications, and/or enhancements, as directed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 12 (TRUSTEES)

Each Trustee shall be responsible for performing any duties as requested by the President and/or the Executive Board.

SECTION 13 (GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE)

Each Grievance Committee shall consist of three (3) persons and an alternate, two (2) of which are not to be members of the Executive Board. The President shall appoint each Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee shall handle matters as directed by the Grievance Chairperson.

SECTION 14 (ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS)

The Officers of this organization shall be elected by ballot at the SJSL Annual Meeting to serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors shall be elected. The nominees for offices of the organization shall normally be made known to the General Membership at the meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting. However, this clause shall not prevent a nominee to be first named at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 15 (VACANCIES)

Should the Office of the President become vacant by reason of death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, the Vice-President shall hold such office for the un-expired term.

Should the Office of any Executive Board member, except the President, become vacant by reason of death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, the President shall appoint a successor or successors to fill such vacancy with the concurrence of the Executive Board. Such concurrence shall be determined by a majority vote and such successor or successors shall hold office for the remaining unexpired term.

Should there be a simultaneous vacancy in the offices of the President and Vice-President, then such offices must be filled by an election of the General Membership, which election shall take place with at least thirty (30) days written notice by mail or email to the Member Clubs, and no later than sixty (60) days after the second vacancy. In the interim, however, the Executive Board shall elect, temporarily, an interim President.

SECTION 16 (IMPEACHMENT)

The General Membership shall have the sole power of impeachment and no officer shall be found guilty without the concurrence of a two-thirds (2/3) vote, as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, of the General Membership present.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

SECTION 1 (ANNUAL MEETING)

The Annual Meeting of the League shall be held on the third Thursday in the month of June of each year.

SECTION 2 (REGULAR MEETINGS)

General Membership Meetings shall be held at the call of the President.

SECTION 3 (SPECIAL MEETINGS)

Special Meetings of this organization, or of the Executive Board, may be made by the call of the President upon written notice by mail or email to all concerned, or upon written demand of fifteen percent (15%) of the Member Clubs to the President, in which

case a meeting shall be called by him or her within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of such demand.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM

The presence of a representative or alternate representative of the Member Clubs comprising fifteen percent (15%) of the vote as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting of the League.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

In order to amend this Constitution, a Proposed Amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Executive Board at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the next scheduled Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board shall then evaluate the Proposed Amendment and report on it at the next League meeting, then at least fourteen (14) days prior to the following meeting, a written copy of the Proposed Amendment shall be sent to the President and Representative for each Member Club. The Proposed Amendment shall be voted upon at that meeting. Two-thirds (2/3) of the vote as set forth in Article IV, Section 7 shall be required for the proposed Amendment to succeed.

ARTICLE X

JURISDICTION

The League shall have full jurisdiction over all Member Clubs, their officers and players; over all matters connected with the League; and shall have the power to impose any sanctions upon any Member Club, their officers or players, or other parties under its jurisdiction, for violations of this Constitution or League Rules and Regulations and/or to impose such fines and/or penalties as it may deem proper.

ARTICLE XI

APPEALS

SECTION 1 (ADMINISTRATION)

Only the party sanctioned pursuant to this Constitution or the Rules and Regulations as adopted by the League is entitled to appeal the decision rendered by the sanctioning party.

All appeals are taken first to the entity which assessed the sanction for reconsideration. Appeals of decisions on reconsideration may be taken to the next higher authority.

The next higher authority for an appeal of a sanction assessed by the Grievance Chairperson and/or the Grievance Committee is to the Executive Board. The next higher authority for an appeal of a decision by the Executive Board is to the General Membership of the South Jersey Soccer League. Appeals taken to New Jersey Youth Soccer, the United States Youth Soccer Association, the United States Soccer Federation and/or FIFA will be governed by the Appellate Procedures established by those organizations.

SECTION 2 (FIRST APPEAL PROCEDURE)

To request the first appeal of a decision, the sanctioned party must contact the General Secretary in writing by mail or email of the intent to seek reconsideration. The request must: (1) specify the decision being appealed; (2) identify the entity they are seeking reconsideration from, and (3) present a synopsis of their case. The appeal request must be received by the General Secretary within six (6) days of the sanctioned party receiving notification of the sanction. All appeal requests must be accompanied by a fee as scheduled by the Executive Board. The General Secretary shall schedule a hearing to be held within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the appeal.

SECTION 3 (SUBSEQUENT APPEAL PROCEDURE)

To request each subsequent appeal to the next higher authority, the sanctioned party must contact the General Secretary in writing by mail or email of the intent to appeal within seventy-two (72) hours of being notified of the decision from the previous appeal. Each subsequent appeal request must be accompanied by a fee as scheduled by the Executive Board. The General Secretary shall schedule a hearing to coincide with the next regularly scheduled meeting of the higher authority to hear the appeal. A special meeting may be called by the President if the next regularly scheduled meeting will not be held within forty-five (45) days.

SECTION 4 (ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES)

Where the deadlines above fall on a Sunday or federally recognized holiday, the time will be extended to Monday or the next appropriate day of the week that is not a Sunday or holiday.

Only the party sanctioned may appear at the appeal hearing, unless others are requested or approved by the entity hearing the appeal. Players may be accompanied by their legal guardians or represented by his/her coach.

Sanctions resulting in a suspension of three (3) games or less and/or a fine of \$100.00 or less will not be stayed pending the appeal process. Sanctions resulting in a suspension of greater than three (3) games and/or a fine of greater than \$100 may be stayed if requested by the sanctioned party and approved by the entity hearing the appeal.

If the appeal results in a complete removal of the sanction appealed, the appeal fee(s) will be returned.

Appeals to the General Membership will be resolved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Member Clubs in attendance.

ARTICLE XII

PLAYER REGISTRATION, RELEASE AND MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS

SECTION 1 (PLAYER REGISTRATION AND RELEASE)

The Registration and Release of every player under the jurisdiction of this organization shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. and New Jersey Youth Soccer.

SECTION 2 (MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS)

With the concurrence of the Board of Directors of New Jersey Youth Soccer and if authorized by the Constitution of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc., players may register on more than one (1) team per seasonal year but not in the same competition. Secondary passes will not be permitted.

ARTICLE XIII

DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1 (METHOD)

The organization may be dissolved by filing a certificate of dissolution with the Secretary of State upon the recommendation of the Executive Board and with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Member Clubs in attendance.

SECTION 2 (PLAN)

The Executive Board will designate three members and one officer to prepare and present a Plan of Dissolution and to coordinate the dissolution of the League in accordance with New Jersey state law.

SECTION 3 (DEBTS AND LIABILITIES)

All debts and liabilities shall be paid as a priority upon dissolution. No funds shall inure to the benefit of the members except as otherwise permitted under state law and as provided herein. To the extent that assets exist after compliance with state laws governing dissolution, the Executive Board shall donate the remaining assets to each Member Club on a pro-rata basis for each team registered to play in the South Jersey Soccer League during that playing year.

ARTICLE XIV

BOOKS, RECORDS, FISCAL YEAR, AUDITS

SECTION 1 (BOOKS AND RECORDS)

The organization will prepare and maintain correct and complete books and records of account and will also keep minutes of the meetings of its members, Executive Board, and committees, and will keep at the registered or principal office a membership book giving the names and addresses of all representatives of Member Clubs entitled to vote. All books and records of the organization may be inspected by any member, or any proper interested person, at any reasonable time.

SECTION 2 (FISCAL YEAR)

The fiscal year of the organization will begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

SECTION 3 (AUDITS)

The Executive Board will be obligated to obtain an independent audit of the books and financial records of the League no later than sixty (60) days after the presentation of each final approved budget of the League.

ARTICLE XV

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS

SECTION 1 (CONTRACTS)

The Executive Board may, by resolution duly adopted, authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the organization, in addition to the officers so authorized by this Constitution, to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the organization. Such authority may be general, or confined to specific instances.

SECTION 2 (GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS)

The Executive Board may:

- (a) Accept on behalf of the organization any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise of any type of property ("donations"), for the general and special charitable purposes of the organization, on such terms as the Board approves;
- (b) Hold such funds or property in the name of the organization or of such nominee or nominees as the Board may appoint;
- (c) Collect and receive the income from such funds or property;
- (d) Devote the principal or income from the donations to whatever benevolent and charitable purposes the Board may determine;
- (e) Enter into an agreement with any donor to continue to devote the principal or income from the donation to such particular purpose as the donor may designate and after approval of such agreement by the Board devote the principal or income from that donation according to the agreement.

SECTION 3 (DEPOSITS)

All funds of the organization will be deposited from time to time to the credit of the organization in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories selected by the committee.

SECTION 4 (CHECKS, DRAFTS, ORDERS FOR PAYMENT)

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the organization's name will be signed by such officer or officers,

agent or agents of the organization and in such manner as determined by the Executive Board by resolution. Absent this determination, the instruments will be signed by the treasurer or an assistant treasurer, and countersigned by the president or a vice-president of the organization.

ARTICLE XVI

SELECT TEAM PROGRAM

The Executive Board shall have the power to establish a Select Team Program.

The goal of the Select Team Program shall be to provide the better players in the League opportunities to improve their soccer skills, increase their understanding of the game and begin realizing their potential as exceptional soccer players, while developing the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty and loyalty.

The Executive Board shall submit to the General Membership for their approval a written outline that shall include the following:

- 1) The number of Select Teams intended to be formed and the age qualifications for those teams.
- 2) The criteria and procedures for selection of players, coaches and administrators.
- 3) The financial requirements to operate the program.

A simple majority vote of the General Membership present is needed to approve the outline. The Executive Board shall appoint all coaches and administrators based upon the criteria and procedures approved by the General Membership.

In any year, should the Executive Board decide not to establish a Select Team Program, this decision shall be brought to the attention of the Membership in a timely manner.

ARTICLE XVII

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business at all Meetings shall be as follows:

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 3) Financial Reports
- 4) Report of the League Registrar
- 5) Report of the Information Officer
- 6) Reports of the General Secretary
- 7) Reports of Other Officers
- 8) Reports of Committees
- 9) Unfinished Business
- 10) New Business
- 11) Miscellaneous Items
- 12) Good and Welfare

The latest Edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern all Meetings.