

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH JERSEY SOCCER LEAGUE

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

Last update February 16, 2006

ARTICLE I

The name of the Association shall be the SOUTH JERSEY SOCCER LEAGUE.

ARTICLE II

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

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION, N.J.Y.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND HEADQUARTERS

SECTION 1 (AFFILIATION)

This Association shall be affiliated with the New Jersey Youth Soccer and the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

SECTION 2 (N.J.Y.S. REPRESENTATIVE)

The President shall appoint the South Jersey Soccer League Representative to the Board of the New Jersey Youth Soccer. The Representative and Alternate Representatives shall be members of the Executive Board. Such appointment shall be with the concurrence of the Executive Board.

SECTION 3 (HEADQUARTERS)

The headquarters of this Association 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)

This Association shall consist of Clubs with youth teams. Clubs shall qualify and be accepted for membership as provided herein.

SECTION 2 (APPLICATIONS)

Application for membership shall be made in writing and shall be lodged with the General Secretary of this association.

SECTION 3 (QUALIFICATIONS)

The officers of this Association, constituting the Executive Committee, shall have the power to determine qualifications of and acceptance or rejection of, any application for membership using as a criterion the Constitution of the New Jersey Youth Soccer and this Association.

SECTION 4 (DUES)

Each Member Club shall pay for each team registered an annual membership fee.

SECTION 5 (DIVISIONS)

This Association shall have age divisions in accordance with the New Jersey Youth Soccer and the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

SECTION 6 (FINAL AUTHORITY)

Final Authority shall at all times rest with the Membership. While certain powers are given to the Executive Committee, the Membership may over-rule the Executive committee by a 2/3 majority vote present.

SECTION 7 (VOTING)

Each Team playing in the SJSL of a Member Club during a seasonal year shall have one (1) vote in all matters before the General Membership; however, a simple one (1) vote per club vote may be used on a case by case basis, provided it is agreed upon by the General Membership.

ARTICLE V

GOVERNMENT

This Association shall be governed by its 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 the New Jersey Youth Soccer, to which Associations this Association is and shall be affiliated.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1 (OFFICERS)

The Officers of this Association shall be President, Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a League Registrar, 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 **thirteen (13)** Officers.

SECTION 2 (ELECTION BY MAJORITY VOTE)

It shall be necessary for any person to be elected to Office of this Association to receive a majority of votes cast.

SECTION 3 (PRESIDENT'S DUTIES AND POWERS)

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

The President shall have the power to call all meetings of this Association upon ten (10) days written notice 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 Committee.

SECTION 5 (RECORDING SECRETARY)

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of this Association. He or she shall keep an attendance record of each meeting, both Executive and Membership.

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. He or she shall maintain the attendance records for all 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 Association; deposit all monies in the name of this Association; pay all bills against this Association after the same shall be approved by the Executive Committee; report the state of the finances of the Association at every meeting and whenever requested to do so by the President or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 8 (GENERAL SECRETARY)

The General Secretary shall issue all team and player registration forms, and shall receive and keep on file the executed forms. He or she shall determine and specify voting eligibility of those in attendance at Association meetings as provided by Article VI "Legislative and Judicial Powers." He or she shall sign with the President, all contracts and other documents of this Association that shall be authorized by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 9 (GAME COMMISSIONER)

The Game Commissioner shall execute the approved playing schedule for those divisions assigned to compete during the appropriate Season. He or she shall receive all game scores, tabulate same and keep the Divisional Standings up to date at all times.

SECTION 10 (GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON)

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

SECTION 11 (INFORMATION OFFICER)

The Information Officer shall be responsible for leading, managing and directing the Association's technology and information systems. The person in this position is responsible for overseeing all technical aspects of the Association'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.

SECTION 12 (TRUSTEES)

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

SECTION 13 (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

The Executive Committee 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, to fine and/or suspend those who shall violate the provisions of the Constitution, the League Rules and Regulations of this Association, adjudicate all protests and differences among the Member Clubs. At all meetings of the Executive Committee a simple majority shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one (1) vote.

SECTION 14 (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 Committee. The President shall appoint each Grievance Committee.

SECTION 15 (ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS)

The Officers of this Association shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of this association to serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors shall be elected. The nominees for offices of the Association 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.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

SECTION 1 (ANNUAL MEETING)

The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held on the third Thursday in the month of JUNE of each year.

SECTION 2 (REGULAR MEETINGS)

Regular Meetings of this association shall be held at the call of the President.

SECTION 3 (SPECIAL MEETINGS)

Special Meetings of this Association, or of the Executive Committee may be made by the call of the President upon written notice 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 IX

QUORUM

The presence of a representative or alternate representative of the Member Clubs consisting 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 this Association.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

In order to amend this Constitution, a Proposed Amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the next scheduled Executive Board meeting. The Executive Committee 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 each Member. 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 XI

JURISDICTION

This Association shall have full jurisdiction over all Member Clubs, their Officers and Players; over all matters connected with this Association; and shall have the power to suspend or expel any Member Club, their Officers or Players, or other person under its

jurisdiction for violations of this Constitution or League Rules and/or impose such fines, and/or penalties as it may deem proper.

ARTICLE XII

HEARINGS

Cases that shall arise from ejections or cautions administered by referees, improper conduct cited by referees on a game report, or game protests, shall be by the Grievance Committee

The Executive Committee, or a Committee acting therefore, shall, in keeping with Section 12, Article VII, have the authority to inquire into any matter that, in its judgment, affects the good and welfare of this Association and to take action within the authority granted to it by the Association.

If an action of the Grievance Committee, the Executive Committee, or a Committee acting therefore, results in a suspension of greater than three (3) games or a fine in excess of \$100.00, the party against whom the action has been taken shall have the right to a subsequent appeal hearing before the Committee which took the action. If the party against whom the action has been taken desires such a hearing, he shall notify, in writing, the Committee Chairman, or in that of an Executive Committee action, the General Secretary, within six (6) days of his/her being notified of the action of the Committee.

ARTICLE XIII

APPEALS

SECTION 1 (APPEAL PROCEDURE)

An appeal from a decision of the Grievance Committee may be taken to the Executive Committee and an Appeal from a decision of the Executive Committee may be taken to the Membership of the South Jersey Soccer League. Appeals to the New Jersey Youth Soccer and the United States Youth Soccer Association, and the United States Soccer Federation and FIFA is determined by the Appellate Procedure in their publications.

SECTION 2 (APPEAL TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

An Appeal from a decision of the Grievance Committee to the Executive Committee must be submitted in writing and accompanied by the appropriate fee, as determined by the membership. The Appeal must be submitted to the General Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the decision of the Grievance Committee. Should the Appeal be successful, the fee shall be returned. (Refer to SJSL Rule 3.11 for fee)

SECTION 3 (APPEAL TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

An Appeal to the General Membership from a decision of the Executive Committee must be submitted to the General Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the decision of the Executive Committee. Should the Appeal be successful, all appeal fees shall be returned. (Refer to SJSL Rule 3.11.1 for fee)

SECTION 4 (VOTE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

At the Appeal Hearing, a two-thirds vote, as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, of the Membership present is necessary to overrule a decision of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIV

PLAYER REGISTRATION, RELEASE AND MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS

SECTION 1 (PLAYER REGISTRATION AND RELEASE)

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

SECTION 2 (MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS)

With the concurrence of the Board of Directors of the 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. (Refer to SJSL Rule 1.4.1 for further clarification)

ARTICLE XV

VACANCIES

SECTION 1 (PRESIDENT)

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

SECTION 2 (ALL OTHER OFFICERS)

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 Committee. Such concurrence shall be determined by a majority vote and such successor or successors shall hold office for the un-expired term.

SECTION 3 (SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES)

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 notice to the Member Clubs, and no later than sixty (60) days after the second vacancy. In the interim, however, the Executive Committee shall elect, temporarily, an interim President.

ARTICLE XVI

MEMBERSHIP OF CLUB

SECTION 1 (MEMBER CLUB)

All Clubs presently a Member of the South Jersey Soccer League, at the time of the approval of this Constitution, are Member Clubs.

A Member Club shall be accepted into this Association upon meeting the following requirements:

- 1) That it will adhere to the Constitution of the South Jersey Soccer League and its Rules and Regulations;
- 2) That it have access to a field for each four (4) teams which are in the Club;
- 3) That it has been elected to Member Club status by two-third (2/3) vote of the Member Clubs.

SECTION 2 (REMOVAL OF MEMBER CLUB)

A Club may be expelled from Membership for its continuous and repeated violations of the Constitution and/or Rules and Regulations of the South Jersey Soccer League.

The Membership may expel the offending Club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, of the Membership.

SECTION 3 (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 Committee.

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

(1) An Associate Member is required to be properly represented at only the general membership meetings during the playing season during which it participates in league play:

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

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 at League Meetings; and,

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

ARTICLE XVII

CEASING OF ACTIVITIES

Should the South Jersey Soccer League cease to function and go out of existence, as a final act, the Executive Committee shall donate its assets either to each member club of this Association on a pro-rata basis for each team registered to play in the South Jersey Soccer League during that playing year.

ARTICLE XVIII

SELECT TEAM PROGRAM

The Executive Committee for this Association shall have the power to establish a Select Team Program.

The objective of the Select Team Program shall be to provide the better players of this Association 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 Committee shall submit to the Membership of this Association 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 Membership present is needed to approve the outline. The Executive Committee shall appoint all coaches and administrators based upon the criteria and procedures approved by the Membership.

In any year should the Executive Committee decide not to establish a Select Team Program, this decision shall be brought to the attention of the Membership in a timely way subject to the provisions of Article IV, section 6 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIX

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) Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
- 5) Communications
- 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.

ARTICLE XX

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.