

## Proposed Revisions to the SJSL Constitution

(April 2020 – Revised *4/3/2020*)

Summary:

Article II – expands age level for play to U21

Article IV, Sec. 5 – provide for voting during virtual meetings

Article V, Sec. 2 – allows for proxy votes during EBoard meetings and President has one vote

Article V, Sec. 4 – allows for actions during emergencies

Article VI, Sec. 1 – allows EBoard to expand beyond 13 members

Article VI, Sec. 14 – assigns subsequent trustee positions to election years; clarifies you cannot vote electronically

Article VII, Sec. 4 – new section – allows for electronic or virtual meetings

Article VIII – changes GM quorum from 15% (~10 clubs) to 50% (~35 clubs)

Article IX – clarifies that vote must be 2/3 of all authorized votes to be cast

Article XVII – removes reference to Robert's Orders

## 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-twenty-one~~ (1921) years of age, or as set by US Soccer, 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.

*Explanation – our agreement with US Club allows for U19 and adult play. This allows a place for older players to continue play.*

## ARTICLE IV

### MEMBERSHIP

#### 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. Votes may only be cast by the officially recognized Club Representative, Alternate Club Representative or Club President as identified by the Club and disclosed to the League at least fourteen (14) days before the vote in question. 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. Voting during electronic or virtual meetings, held in compliance with Article VII, Section 4, shall follow the guidelines promulgated by the Executive Board.

*Explanation – allows electronic voting following very specific guidelines to be developed in the future.*

## ARTICLE V

#### 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, including the President, shall have one (1) vote. Executive Board members may participate electronically or vote by written proxy at any meeting of the Executive Board. A board member may not present more than one proxy vote per voting topic. The President shall always vote last, and this vote may create or break a tie.

*Explanation – clarifies that the President has a vote in EBoard decisions. Also allows board members to vote electronically or by proxy (both allowed under NJ nonprofit laws). Limits proxy votes to one per person. The President vote last and that vote can break an already existing tie, or create a tie. The President does not get an additional tie breaking vote.*

#### SECTION 4 (EMERGENCY BYLAWS)

In the event of any emergency resulting from a military attack, weather related catastrophe, widespread pandemic, or similar disaster resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency, or similar declaration, by Federal or state agencies where the League's principal offices are located at such time, and during the continuance of such emergency, the following Bylaws provisions shall be in effect:

a. A meeting of the Executive Board may be called by any officer upon twenty-four (24) hours' notice to all persons entitled to notice who, in the sole judgment of the notifier, it is feasible to notify;

b. The officers in attendance at the meeting of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum;

c. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency;

d. The Constitution may be amended or repealed, in whole or in part, by a majority vote of the officers attending any meeting of the Executive Board, provided such amendment or repeal shall only be effective for the duration of such emergency.

e. Action taken in good faith in accordance with the emergency bylaws may not be used to impose liability on a corporate director, officer, employee, or agent; and

f. After the emergency is terminated, the actions taken pursuant to these Emergency Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Executive Board following the regular Constitutional provisions and either repealed or presented to the General Membership for ratification at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or if not held within thirty (30) days at a special meeting called for that purpose.

*Explanation – new section - allows action to be taken during times of emergency when normal procedures are insufficient to protect the interests of the League.*

## ARTICLE VI

### OFFICERS

#### SECTION 1 (NUMBER)

The Officers of SJSL shall include a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a League Registrar, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, a Rules Compliance Officer, 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~~minimum of thirteen (13) Officers. This group of Officers shall include the state and/or regional youth soccer association representative and alternate representative appointed pursuant to Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution, if applicable. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president and secretary as long there is still a ~~total~~minimum of thirteen (13) Officers.

*Explanation – allows the EBoard to be increased in size while maintaining a minimum of 13 positions. Intended to increase participation on the board and allow for positional training.*

## SECTION 14 (ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS)

The Officers of this organization shall be elected on an alternating basis by ballot at the SJSL Annual Meeting to serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors shall be elected. The President, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Rules Compliance Officer, the Fall Games Commissioner, the First Trustee, and the Third Trustee shall be elected on odd numbered years. The Vice-President, the League Registrar, the General Secretary, the Information Officer, the Spring Games Commissioner, and the Second Trustee shall be elected on even numbered years. Additional trustees will be added to the election slate with odd numbered trustees elected on odd years and even numbered trustees elected on even numbered years. 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. Voting for election purposes may not be by electronic or proxy voting, except as provided in Article VII, Section 4.

*Explanation – even numbered trustees (ie. Fourth Trustee) would be elected on even numbered years and odd numbered trustees (ie. Fifth Trustee) would be elected on odd numbered years. Clarifies that you cannot vote electronically during elections unless it is a virtual meeting governed by Article VII, Section 4.*

## ARTICLE VII

### MEETINGS

#### SECTION 4 (ELECTRONIC OR VIRTUAL MEETINGS)

Electronic or virtual meetings may be authorized by the Executive Board in place of any League meeting described in Sections 1-3. Attendance at the meetings may be audio only, or include a video component. For voting and election purposes at electronic or virtual meetings, attendance must be by video and audio, unless otherwise specified by the Executive Board. The format and mechanism of the meeting shall be established by the Executive Board.

*Explanation – allows for virtual online GM meetings by phone or video. Voting and election participation must be by video and audio (to be seen and heard), unless a different procedure is set up by the Executive Board. The specific procedures and guidelines for the virtual meetings will be published by the Executive Board.*

## ARTICLE VIII

### QUORUM

The presence of a representative or alternate representative of the Member Clubs comprising ~~fifteen-fifty~~ percent (~~15~~50%) of the vote as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting of the League.

*Explanation – a 15% quorum means that approximately 10 clubs could meet and do business as the league. Raising it to 50% would require approximately 35 clubs (or the representative number of votes) to do business.*

## 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 authorized votes to be regularly cast as set forth in Article IV, Section 5 shall be required for the proposed Amendment to succeed.

*Explanation – clarifying that amendments require a 2/3 vote of all votes (clubs if using a voice vote) authorized to be cast, and not just 2/3 of those in attendance at that meeting.*

## 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.~~

*Explanation – Actions taken by a corporation are generally governed by state or federal law first, the constitution or bylaws second, and Robert's Rules of Order last. Robert's Rules conflict in several areas with the NJ Nonprofit Corporation Act. To avoid confusion, it is usually recommended that references to Robert's Rules not be included in the bylaws.*