

KENT ISLAND YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



BY-LAWS

BY-LAWS OF THE KENT ISLAND YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

"Sports, properly directed, develop character, make one courageous, a generous loser, and a gracious victor. Sports refine the senses, give us intellectual penetration, steel the will to endurance. . . Sports, rightly understood, means the development of the whole person."

ARTICLE ONE

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Kent Island Youth Soccer League (hereinafter referred to as "League"), shall be to inspire youth to practice the ideals of health, sportsmanship, citizenship and character, while bringing together youth through the means of a common interest in the sport of soccer. The League shall be organized for charitable and educational purposes, all for the public welfare, which shall be accomplished:

- A. Through instruction in the rules of the game and the fundamental skills of the game; and,
- B. Through the organization of a league of recreational teams to promote the principles of team play while providing the opportunity to apply, that which is learned, to an actual game situation.

The club will be subject to and abide by the rules and regulations of United States Youth Soccer Association and the (USYSA) Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA).

ARTICLE TWO

DIRECTORS: The business affairs and management of the League shall be vested in a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as "Board"). The Board shall consist of the officers and commissioners of each age division. The Board may appoint up to three (3) members at large from among the parents, coaches, referees or other interested persons to serve as members at large. (Equipment Manager, Referee Coordinator, Concession Manager)

ARTICLE THREE

- A. OFFICERS: The officers of the League shall be as follows:
 - 1. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall convene meetings of the Board as provided in Article Four. The President shall be primarily responsible for enforcing the By-Laws as well as the policies and directives of the Board. The President may appoint any persons or committees to assist in the implementation of their duties. The President shall approve all new coaches and officials. In that event, the appointments shall be considered confirmed unless a meeting of the Board is requested by a member thereof within five (5) days of the receipt of notice. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board shall be required for confirmation in the event a meeting is held. The President shall be responsible for assisting the referees and coaches in maintaining peace and good order at the games. Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the President shall make all purchases of uniforms and equipment. The President shall, in the performance of the duties of the office, discharge those duties and responsibilities fairly and impartially at all times.
 - 2. Vice President. The Vice President shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned by the President and the Board. In the absence, death or disability of the President, the Vice President shall assume all of the duties and responsibilities of that office.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of the meetings of the Board and correspond with others on behalf of the League as directed by the Board. The Secretary shall maintain a roster of all team players. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall assume the duties of the office of President.

In the event of the resignation, death, removal or permanent disability of the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall serve as acting President until a meeting of the Board to elect a new President and Vice President is held. This meeting shall be held within twenty (20) days of the vacancies described above and all members of the Board shall be given ten (10) days' notice of the meeting which said notice shall include a statement that said elections are to take place.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records of the League and shall pay all bills on behalf of the League as authorized from time to time by the Board. The treasurer shall keep a full account of receipts and disbursements and shall deposit all funds in an account to be maintained in the name of the League or any of its Leagues in a bank or other financial institution designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall render to the President and the Board upon demand an account of all transactions and the financial condition of the League and shall surrender to their successor all financial records upon the election of the latter.

5. Other Duties. In addition to the specific duties provided above, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall perform all the duties generally incident to their respective offices subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

6. Qualifications. Any resident of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, who has attained the age of twenty-one (21) shall be eligible to be elected to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer of the League.

7. Election. Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board at the annual meeting as set forth in Article Four.

B. COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners are primarily responsible for interacting with the coaches, players and parents in a given division. Concerns, questions and problems in a given division should be addressed by the commissioner, and the commissioner should relay all pertinent information to the officers of the League. Officers of the League can act as commissioners as needed or desired.

ARTICLE FOUR

A MEETINGS: There shall be an annual meeting of the Board which shall be held for the purpose of electing officers, planning for the coming season and conducting such other business as may be necessary or advisable for the business of the corporation. The annual meeting shall be held in the spring, before registration begins. The exact time and place of all meetings shall be designated by the President and Secretary jointly, and notice thereof sent to all members of least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Other meetings may be called from time to time by the President, or, upon request of three (3) or more Directors, by the President or Secretary. Any member of the Board may present any item for discussion at any meeting, provided, however, that the President may establish an agenda and direct that such discussions be conducted within the framework of that agenda.

A quorum to conduct business shall consist of one third of the members of the Board unless otherwise provided herein, except that a vote on any amendment to the By-Laws shall not

be taken unless more than half of the Directors are present. League business can also be decided via email or other means, so long as the entire Board is included in the communications and the decision is unanimous.

ARTICLE FIVE

A MEMBERSHIP: The League shall register all players, coaches and teams who participate in the organization's programs with MSYSA and other U.S. Soccer members at least annually and pay the appropriate registration fees.

All players shall submit to the league proof of age. All coaches shall submit to an annual background check. The League follows MSYSA guidelines and intends to exclude from participation in all sanctioned activities persons convicted of felonies, crimes of violence or crime against persons. Any persons that fall into this category will cause MSYSA to be notified. Appeals of this policy will be heard by the Board at meetings and adjudicated with MSYSA and the Board decision will be final.

All young people who wish to participate in the League must have written permission from their parents or guardians. Online registration asking for permission is deemed sufficient for parental permission. This permission shall continue in effect until a written revocation thereof is delivered to the coach. The officers, coaches, game officials, and directors, as well as any other supervisory personnel, are not responsible for injuries to persons or damage to property. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians of the players to make certain that their children are physically qualified to participate before and during the time they engage in League practice and play.

ARTICLE SIX

A POST-SEASON AND EXTRA-SEASON GAMES: The Board shall have the authority over any League participation in any non-recreational League soccer activities such as traveling teams and All Star (Select) teams which involve the use of League name, equipment, fields or insurance.

ARTICLE SEVEN

A LEAGUE ORGANIZATION: The League shall be a recreational league and shall be divided into age group divisions, typically in two year birth increments. The cutoff date for players shall be September 1, so a player's age is determined on September 1st. This is done to match the Queen Anne's County Public School Policy. The age divisions are as follows:

1. AGE DIVISIONS:

(a) 14-17 Division. The 14-17 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least fourteen (14) years of age, but not more than seventeen (17) on or before September 1st of that year.

(b) 12-13 Division. The 12-13 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least twelve (12) years of age, but not more than thirteen (13) on or before September 1st of that year.

(c) 10-11 Division. The 10-11 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least ten (10) years of age, but not more than eleven (11) on or before September 1st of that year.

(d) 8-9 Division. The 8-9 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least eight (8) years of age but not more than nine (9) on or before September 1st of that year.

(e) 6-7 Division. The 6-7 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least six (6) years of age, but not more than seven (7) on or before September 1st of that year.

(e) 6-7 Division. The 4-5 division shall be composed of youth who shall be at least four (4) years of age, but not more than five (5) on or before September 1st of that year.

2. EXCEPTIONS TO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM AGE.

There are typically no exceptions to the Minimum Age requirements for this league. Exceptions are only intended for special needs or similar circumstances, and in those circumstances a majority of the Board must give consent for an exception to the minimum or maximum ages.

3. ORGANIZATION OF DIVISIONS.

The divisions shall be organized into as many teams as may be practicable. The number of players per team is determined by the division (See Rules of Play).

4. TEAM MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Siblings and Direct Descendants of Coaches. Any direct descendant or sibling of a coach or assistant coach shall be assigned to the team of that coach or assistant coach unless a different assignment is requested by either the youth or the coach.

(b) Siblings of Players. Any child who has a sibling playing on a team shall be assigned to that same team unless the child or child's parents request assignment to another team.

(c) Membership. A player will remain on the team to which he or she is assigned so long as he or she is assigned to play in that division. For good cause shown, the President may remove a player from a team subject to further action by the Board. A player who is suspended from a team for failing to practice or other good cause, shall not be eligible to be assigned to another team except by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those attending a meeting of the Board.

(d) Assignments. All players advancing from one division to another and new players shall be assigned to a team by the Board with final approval from the President. Special re-assignments may be made by the President, subject to further action of the Board. Assignments shall be made with a view to balancing the teams by age and playing ability.

(e) Team Requests. The Board will make every effort to fulfill all requests from players and parents for a specific coach or teammate. These requests will be honored as long as the player is not already assigned to a team in that division, there is sufficient space on a given team, and the Board does not feel that such requests will impact the age and playing ability of the teams in that division.

5. OFFICIALS. The following shall be designated by the President as officials for the games:

(a) Referees. The League uses youth referees ages 12 and higher to referee all League games for the 6-7 Division and higher. The 4-5 Division shall be refereed by the coaches of the respective teams. Referees shall be required to attend a training meeting and shall be provided instruction to the degree practicable. The 6-7 Division shall have, when possible, two

(2) referees and no side judges. All higher divisions, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-17 shall have, when possible, one referee and two side judges. The decisions of a referee regarding the laws of the game and their enforcement shall be final.

6. RULES OF PLAY. The Rules of Play for League games shall be the same as those adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The following are additions and exceptions to said rules which must be followed in League games between recreational teams.

(a) Mandatory Playing Time. Each Player in each division must play at least half a game that player attends. Exceptions to this rule for players who have not been attending practice or the who the coach believes should not be allowed to play for good cause may be made only with the prior permission of an officer of the Association who is not connected with the team in question. In an emergency situation when no officer of the Association is present, the referee may grant such permission for that game only. Violations of this rule shall be reported to the Board. Subsequent violations during the season shall result in the forfeiting of the game in question and may result in the temporary or permanent suspension of the team and/or coach. All violations of this rule shall be reported to the President.

(b) Length of Playing Periods. In the 14-17 division, the games shall consist of two thirty-five minute halves. In the 10-11 and 12-13 divisions, the games shall consist of two halves of play, each half being thirty minutes in length. In the 8-9 division, the game shall consist of two halves of play, each half being twenty-five minutes in length. In the 6-7 division, the games may either be two (2) halves, each half being twenty minutes, or four (4) quarters, each quarter being 10 minutes in length. The referees shall decide based upon input from each coach before the game. In the 4-5 division each game shall consist of-four (4) quarters of play, each quarter being ten (10) minutes in length.

(c) Coaching. Coaches in the 4-5 and 6-7 divisions shall be permitted to enter the playing field for the purpose of coaching. Coaches in the 6-7 division are permitted on the field under the following restrictions: (1) no more than two coaches may be on the field at any one time for any one team; (2) the coaches on the field may not speak to the referee unless and until the referee has stopped the clock; (3) the coach shall not interfere with or become involved in the play; (4)-the coach shall direct their remarks to their own players and not engage in conversation with players on the other team; and (5) the coach shall not enter the penalty area of either team. Violation of any of these rules shall result in the coach being directed to leave the playing area. Violations which the referee determines to have significantly disadvantaged the opposing team shall result in the awarding of a direct free kick from the point of the violation.

Except as is hereinabove provided, a coach should remain on their own side of the midfield line and should go no further down the field on their own side than the penalty line.

(d) Shin Guards. All players shall wear shin guards. Any player who enters the field of play without shin guards shall be ejected from the game and shall not be eligible to return to the field until such time that the player is in total uniform. The team of the player who is ejected for this reason may substitute for that player. If the player has committed this same violation previously, that player may be ejected from said game unable to return; however, a substitution for that player may be made.

(e) Casts. A player with a cast on his/her forearm or hand shall not be permitted on the field unless the referee shall be satisfied (1) that it does not cover any joint other than joints in the hand and wrist, and (2) that it is sufficiently padded so as to not unduly endanger others on the field. This exception applies to short casts and only to those cases where the parents have authorized the coach in writing to allow the child to play. The coach is not required to play any child wearing a cast if he believes it would present too great a risk to that child or other players on the field regardless of the wishes of the child's parents. A player with a cast covering any other part of his/her body shall not be permitted to play.

(f) Ball Size. The 12-13 and 14-17 division teams shall use the Number 5 ball. The 6-7, 8-9 and 10-11 division teams shall use the Number 4 ball. The 4-5 division teams shall use the Number 3 ball.

(g) Pregame Determinations. The captains of the opposing teams shall meet with the referees at the midfield line to determine by a toss of the coin, possession of the ball and defense of the goals. The team winning the toss may elect between the option of having initial possession of the ball or selecting the goal to be defended. The other team shall take the option not selected. The teams shall exchange goal lines after each period of play.

(h) Number of Players on the Field. The 4-5 division teams shall play with 6 players per side, including goalie. The 6-7 division teams shall play with 6 players per side, including goalie. The 8-9 division teams shall play with 9 players per side, including goalie. The 10-11 and 12-13 division teams shall play with 11 players per side, including goalie. The 14-17 division teams shall play with somewhere between 8 and 11 players per side, depending on team size and fields used. The number of players for the 14-17 division will be determined before the season begins.

(i) Forfeits. A team which cannot field two less than the required players (for example 9 players when 11 players is required per side) will be deemed to have forfeited the game to the other team (provided that the other team is able to field the required number of players) after the expiration of seven (7) minutes from the time designated by the referees as the time to begin the game.

(j) Ejected Coaches. A coach who is ejected from a game by a referee must leave the field immediately. Until a meeting is held by the Board within three (3) days of said game, ejected coach may not attend their team's games. Said meeting will be attended by referee involved, coach and Board members. At this time, disciplinary actions will be decided upon.

(k) Tie Games. In the event there is a tie score in a game played during the regular season of play, the game will remain tied.

(l) Ejected Players. A player who is ejected from a game by a referee may not play again during that game. The team of the ejected player shall not be permitted to substitute for that player. The referee shall notify the President of the identity of any player who habitually disrupts the game or is a significant threat to the safety of other players.

(m) Post-Game Etiquette. As soon as play has been completed, each team shall form a line on the touchline adjoining their respective rest area and the players and coaches shall pass single file by the coach and all of the players of the opposing team, shaking hands with each person passed.

(n) Slaughter Rule. In the event that one team shall at any time after one half of play be eight (8) or more goals ahead of its opponent, the game shall be terminated and the final score shall be the score at the time of termination. The teams assigned to a particular field for a game which is terminated early for this reason shall be entitled nevertheless to the use of the field for the balance of the time allotted, for practice, scrimmage, etc., and may temporarily add or trade players for the purpose of having a "friendly" game if the coaches wish, provided that the players of the teams involved shall receive preference in playing time over any who are temporarily added for this purpose. Coaches should make every effort to avoid accumulating a score which would involve the application of this rule.

(o) Slide Tackling. No slide tackling shall be allowed in any age divisions of this League for safety reasons.

(p) Age Specific Rules. The 4-5 and 6-7 divisions shall have some rules specific to these younger divisions. The 6-7 division shall use these modified rules:

(1) No offside infractions will be called

(2) No penalty kicks shall be granted. For offenses committed in the penalty area an indirect kick will be awarded at the top of the penalty box.

(3) Throw-in infractions shall not be called. After the incorrect attempt, play will be stopped and the player instructed. After the second incorrect attempt, play will be allowed to continue.

(4) Unlimited substitutions allowed. Substitutions may be made at any time, regardless of stoppage of play.

In addition to the above rules, the 4-5 division rules shall have the following modifications:

(1) No throw-ins. When the ball exits the field of play, the team that did not touch it last shall kick it in from the point in which it exited the sideline.

(q) Tournament Rules. Separate rules exist for the 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 division year end tournament games regarding tie games. These rules are as follows:

(1) All games ending in a tie at the end of regulation will be followed by one full 10 minute overtime (not sudden death).

(2) If, at the end of the of the full 10 minute overtime the game is still tied, a penalty shoot-out will decide the contest.

(3) A penalty shoot-out will consist of each team choosing 5 shooters and a goalie.

(4) The shooters must come from the players on the field at the end of overtime.

(5) The goalie MUST have played either a full half of regulation, or the entire 10 minute overtime period and cannot be changed for the duration of the shoot-out. If the goalie is injured, they can be substituted, but the injured player cannot participate further in the shoot-out as a goalie or a shooter.

(6) The goalie may also be a shooter.

(7) If the game is tied after the first 5 shooters from each team have taken their penalty shot, then 5 NEW shooters must be chosen by each team. However, each round of attempts (round being one set of shooters, one from each team) then becomes sudden death, with the team ahead at the end of a given round being the winner of the game.

(8) If all shooters that were playing on the field at the end of overtime have been used, the next shooters will come from the bench until all the players from the team with the fewest players have all taken shots, including the goalie. At that point, players may take a second kick. For example if one team has 12 players and the other has 14 players, once 12 players have taken a kick, both teams can begin using players for a second time.

7. SCHEDULING. The following shall govern the scheduling of games:

(a) Official Schedule. The President shall draft and publish the official schedule for the season of recreational team play, unless this duty is delegated.

(b) Referee Schedule. A schedule of assignments shall be prepared for referees by the President or a referee coordinator to be appointed by said President. Referees should notify the President or referee coordinator in advance if they are unable to referee a game to which they are assigned.

(d) Fields. The fields of play are to be maintained by the county. The President may appoint a field coordinator for each age division in which games are to be played. Any problems with the fields should be taken to either the coordinator or to the Director of Parks and Recreation by the person with the complaint.

(e) Regular Season of Play. The regular season of recreational team play shall begin as near as practicable to the Saturday following Labor Day and shall conclude by the end of November.

ARTICLE EIGHT

A MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

1. One or more persons may be designated by the President to publicize the activities of the Association and to encourage potential players to sign up. A person need not be associated with the Association in any other capacity to serve in this capacity. Players who sign up as a result of such recruitment will be assigned to teams on the same basis as other new players.

2. One or more persons may be designated by the President as coordinator for equipment and supplies. Such person would have the responsibility upon accepting this assignment, of monitoring the availability of uniforms and equipment and assigning the same to the coaches.

3. These By-Laws may be altered or repealed and new By-Laws may be adopted at any regular meeting of the Board without notice, or at any special meeting, the notice of which shall set forth the terms of the proposed amendment, by the vote of a majority of the entire Board, provided, however, that no amendments should be adopted unless a minimum of two thirds (2/3) of the Directors are present at such meeting.

4. Standings shall be maintained only for the 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 divisions. Standings shall not be maintained for any of the younger divisions and no awards may be given

to players in those divisions other than awards for participation which are given to all players in those divisions. In those divisions where standings are maintained, they shall be determined upon point accumulation as follows: Two (2) points for each victory, one (1) point for each tie, and no points for each defeat. The year-end tournament seeding may not reflect the standings at the conclusion of the regular season.

5. Coaches, officials, officers, and directors shall be subject to the supervision of the Board. For good cause amounting to gross misconduct, a coach, official, officer or director may be suspended or removed by the Board. The Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend, pending further action, in emergency situations where there is danger to the safety of players only after first offering the coach, official, officer or director the opportunity to voluntarily place himself on leave.

A review of such temporary suspension or hearing on allegations not involving a temporary suspension shall be accorded the person involved at a full Board meeting to be held no later than ten (10) days from the date of temporary suspension unless a later date is requested by the person involved. Notice of such review shall be given to all members of the Board eight (8) days in advance of said review. In cases not involving a temporary suspension, at least ten (10) days' notice of the meeting of the Board shall be given to all members as well as the person accused. The person accused is entitled to notice of all of the allegations against him equal to the notice required for the meeting of the Board. He may offer their resignation at any time prior to or before the close of the Board meeting and shall be offered that opportunity in the event that an unfavorable vote is taken. If the person elects to resign, no record of any proceedings against him shall be maintained.

A person may be reinstated from suspension or suspended beyond the temporary suspension only by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present at a Board meeting at which at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members are present.