**Syracuse Soccer Association**

**By-Laws**

**Adopted May 1980 Last Revised March 1994**

**CONSTITUTION**

These by-laws of the Syracuse District Soccer Association were adopted in May 1980 and subsequently revised at the league's annual business meeting in May 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1994 all approved by a majority of team delegates present at those meetings.

These by-laws were revised to be consistent with the United States Soccer Federation rules. These by-laws were reformatted, and were approved in their new form under a new league title in 1994 the Syracuse Soccer Association.

The purpose of this organization shall be the general promotions of soccer within the area, under the jurisdiction of the Western New York Soccer Association Inc. This organization shall be affiliated with the Western NY Soccer Ass. Inc. and shall at all times recognize the authority, rulings and laws of the body.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The name of this organization shall be the Syracuse Soccer Association. The headquarters of this Association shall be maintained in the county of Onondaga, within the state of NY. All general meetings shall be held in this geographic location.
2. Teams are to present a security bond of $ 160.00 to the Association prior to the first game of the season. If there are no fines accumulated in season or any outstanding debts due the team will be reimbursed at the end of the season if requested, or it may be carried over toward the next season.
3. Every club in good standing located within the distance deemed reasonable shall be eligible for membership in this Association. Each team in good standing with the Association shall be furnished one copy of the Association by- laws. The territorial jurisdiction of this Association shall comprise that area contained within the following boundaries.
	1. To the North – The City of Oswego
	2. To the South – The City of Ithaca
	3. To the East – The City of Utica
	4. To the West – The City of Union Springs

**ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING**

1. An annual business meeting of this Association will be held at the conclusion of each soccer season. At the annual league meeting each team in good standing shall be entitled to be represented by one delegate who will represent one vote. Members of the Board of directors shall not vote at the annual business meeting, except for the President, who will only vote to break a tie vote.
2. Each team shall provide the association secretary the name and address of its delegate and alternate at the annual business meeting. Special meetings of the Assoc. may be called by the secretary (by order of the president) or upon request by a majority of teams in the Association.
3. Amendments and/or deletions to the by-laws of this Association shall be made only at the annual business meeting of the Association, by a two-thirds vote of the membership (delegates) present.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The board of directors shall consist of eight (8) members, with the following areas represented: (1) President, (1) Vice President, (1) Secretary, (1) Treasurer, (1) Registrar, and (3) Disciplinary board members. The board members will be elected by the team delegates at the annual league meeting. Vacancies which occur during the year will be filled by an election of the Board of Directors
2. The selected officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected through ballot by the team delegates at a meeting specified at least ten (10) days in advance at the head office. Terms for officers shall be two (2) years with staggered elections. The association President, Treasurer, and Registrar will be elected on even numbered years and the Vice President, Secretary, and Disciplinary board members will be elected on odd.
3. The board of directors shall have the power to interpret and enforce all rules and regulations in these by-laws and of the delegates of the Association. The President will have no vote at any board of directors meeting or any league meeting with the exception being necessary to break a tie. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and in the absence of the President, shall exercise all powers of the given to the position.
4. The secretary must record all proceedings of the league and/or board of Directors meetings. He/She must handle all league correspondence, including public relations with the news media. He/She shall be reimbursed ($ 200.) per year for his/her services. The treasurer shall present a financial statement at the annual business meeting. He/she shall reimbursed ($150.) per year for the services. Registrar shall be responsible for player and team registration, as well as player passes. He/she shall be reimbursed ($ 250.00) per year for the service.
5. Members of the board of Directors shall remain active and are required to attend board meetings whenever possible. A board member may be excused from a board meeting by a majority vote of the board. A board member who misses two board meetings without an excuse will be removed automatically from their position. No team shall be allowed more than one representative holding an elected office on the board of directors at any one time.
6. Any elected officer of the board of directors whose actions and performance in office are judged by the board of directors to be not in the best interest of the Association may be removed from his/her office and or the board by a two thirds vote (six members) of the board of directors. Additionally a petition of two-thirds of the association delegates shall have the power to force a recall vote by the board of directors for any elected official. Impeachment in a recall vote requires two-thirds majority of the board of Directors.

**PLAYER REGISTRATION AND PASSES**

1. All players in this league must be registered with the league at least seven (7) days prior to participating in any league match. Registration, game roster and player pass forms will be provided by the Western NY Soccer Association. Players of this Association must have established a residence in the USA, or be a registered student in the United States.
2. To be eligible for a play-off game, a player must be registered with his/her team by the fifth game of the season. No more than two (2) persons who are active members of a professional team are allowed on any single team. No player may participate in any regular or play-off game of the league if he/her has been registered with any other team either in this league or any other league during the same season.
3. If a registered player decides to leave a team during the regular season, that team may register another player to replace the one who left. A player who leaves his/her team after the season has begun shall be eligible to play for another team during the remainder regular season but shall not participate in play-of games.
4. Any club that enters a player determined to be ineligible into any Association contest shall lose the match, resulting in a deduction of three (3) points from the team standings or elimination from play-off competition if the illegal insertion took place in a play-off game. Additional penalties of up to ($ 25.00) may be levied against the offending team and/or player by the league disciplinary board after review of the individual case. Members of a team are liable for payment of all past fines due, even if the offending team has a new name and different players. The amount is to be determined by the board of directors.
5. Players registration and player pass fees will be determine each year by the Western New York Soccer Association.

**FIELD AND PLAYING RULES**

1. Each team in the league must have a designated home field and shall make every effort to have the playing surface in acceptable condition for any scheduled match. The home team responsibilities include ensuring the field is properly marked in advance of game time, to include all markings as specified in FIFA rules, providing proper goals, acceptable nets and corner flags as specified in FIFA rules. The home team as well as the visiting team must provide one game ball, each subject to approval by the game referee. Violation of any of the above playing field rules allowing the referee to abandon a game, will be considered a forfeit.
2. All home fields may be subject to approval, and inspection by members of the board of directors or those appointed by the board to carry out this task. The board of directors will maintain the right to authorize exceptions to teams without home fields, as the board see fits.
3. Each team is responsible for controlling the action of its fans as well as its players. The home team is responsible for providing safety for the referees and the visiting team. If a team is judged to be inadequate in this area, it may be directed to play all its games away from home or potential removal from the league.
4. Team members must have matching jerseys with eight (8) inch minimum size numbers with no two numbers being the same on any single team. Home teams are responsible to change the uniforms if a similar color situation arises.
5. All clubs under the jurisdiction of this Association are permitted to register a maximum of twenty-two (22) players. A team may play all twenty-two (22) players in any one game. Those players may be substituted and re-substituted as frequently as desired at the following times.
	1. After a goal is scored;
	2. During half-time, prior to the second half;
	3. Prior to throw-in by the team in possession of the ball;
	4. On a goal kick;
	5. When play is stopped
6. Team captains or coaches must present their twenty-two (22) passes and completed roster sheet to the game referee before the scheduled start of the game. All names must be on the roster. Any player whose name does not appear on the roster or not does have player pass prior to the game will not be allowed to play. All teams must use roster sheets provided by the league, or be fined $ 5.00.
7. No alcoholic beverages may be brought within 100 yards of the playing field during any league match, either regular season or play-offs. The referee may halt the match if either fans or players are in violation. Play will not be resumed until the situation is corrected.

**DISCIPLINARY BOARD, FINES, PENALITIES**

1. Any player who receives a red card (ejection) during any regular season or play-off league game will automatically be disqualified from playing in his/her team's next 2 regular or play-off games for the first offense, 6 games for the second offense, and 1 year for the third offense in one season, and the offending team will be assessed a minimum ($25.00) fine made payable prior to the team's next game. These penalties are mandatory minimum penalties and are subject to be made more severe by a ruling of the league disciplinary board after review of the individual team. A percentage of these fines will be forwarded to WNYSA based on its rules. Normal red card penalties apply to regular and play-off games and may extend into the next year's season.
2. Any player who receives a red card for punching or fighting with an opposing player will be automatically disqualified from playing in his/her team's next three (3) games and the team will be assessed a minimum ($ 25.00 ) fine, payable prior to its next game. More severe penalties also are subject to be made by a ruling of the league disciplinary board.
3. Any player who verbally threatens a referee, either during a game or within 30 minutes before or after a game ,will be automatically disqualified from playing in his/her team's next five (5) games and the team will be assessed a minimum ($ 25.00) fine, payable prior to its next game.
4. Any player accused of assault on a referee shall be automatically suspended for 3 years from the date of the offense and the team will be assessed ($ 25.00) fine payable prior to its next game. The league disciplinary board will review the case to determine future participation in the Association by both the offending player and his/her team.
5. Yellow card (official caution) records will be maintained by the league. Any player who receives a third yellow card over the course of the regular season will be ineligible to participate in his/her team's next game. If a player sits out one game because of yellow card accumulations, his/her tally will revert back to zero. There shall not be a fine associated with yellow card accumulations.
6. If any manager, coach, trainer or corresponding secretary of a team is ordered from the field of play or the bench for misconduct his team shall be fined ($25.00) The Association will maintain a league disciplinary board to judge cases involving player and/or team disciplinary actions in the case of official protest or game forfeiture. The league disciplinary board will be established under the following Conditions.
	1. A chairman, to be elected yearly by the board of directors.
	2. Two persons selected from or by the board of Directors on a case-by case basis. The authority of these selections may be granted to the chairman of the panel.
	3. Two team delegates or their alternates. The team representatives shall not be from same division as the team's and/or player's in dispute. The exception to this rule is a dispute involving a play-off game with teams from different divisions. In this case, one team delegate from each division involved shall be named.
7. The disciplinary board has the power in each case it judges to take any action it feels necessary and appropriate to ensure (safety, sportsmanship, and quality ) are maintained in the Association.
8. Decisions rendered by the disciplinary board shall be final unless two-thirds of the delegates of the Association petition the board of directors to review the case and subsequent ruling. In the case of a reversal of the ruling made by the board of Directors that decision shall be final and no other appeal allowed. Such a petition from the delegates of the association can only be made at a special or scheduled Association meeting. Until such time as the board of directors meets to rule on the judgment, the decision of the league disciplinary board shall be carried out and shall be in effect.
9. The chairman of the league disciplinary board shall be responsible for ensuring the referee Association is aware of all suspensions.
10. Teams that are late for kickoff shall be fined ($ 10.00). Any team not at the field of a scheduled game, ready to play, within thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled kickoff shall forfeit the game 1-0 to the opposing team. Forfeitures are subject to review and possible action by the disciplinary board. Teams that repeatedly forfeit games are subject to possible dismissal from the Association. A minimum fine of ($ 25.00) and full referee fees shall be levied for each forfeiture. In the event that only one team forfeits, the league shall reimburse the other team it's half of the referee's fee, assuming that this team was fully prepared to play as described in the referee's report. Furthermore, each team must pay the referee and linesmen, one half of the total match fees within (30) minutes of the scheduled kickoff, and before the actual start of the match, or a forfeit shall be called against the offending team.
11. All protest must be logged in writing within (2) days of the game in question, and must be accompanied by a ($100.00) protest fee. the protest letter and fee must be mailed via registered mail or hand delivered to the President or chairman of the disciplinary board. If the panel upholds the protest, the fee will be returned to the team. If the protest is not upheld, the money will deposited in the league treasury. Coaches must be aware the referees judgment calls cannot be protested. Such a protest will only result in the team's forfeiture of the protest fee.
12. All fines and obligations to this league must be in the treasurer's possession no less than 24 Hours prior to the start of a club's next scheduled game. The fine may be carried or sent by certified mail or by any other documented means. Teams violating this will not be able to play or participate in any league affairs until paid.

**SCHEDULE**

1. When at all possible, league schedules will be set up by league officers not involved in competition and will be supplied to coaches at least five (5) days prior to the first game. Changes in the league schedule can only be made through the league scheduling officer, appointed by the board of directors.
2. In the cases of a referee failing to appear or inclement weather forcing postponement, a game must be reset within (5) days of the postponed game, and before the next scheduled game. No teams may work out a private arrangement and all changes must be agreed to by both teams representatives. If agreement on new date cannot be reached, original schedule will be followed. Final say rest with league scheduling officer.
3. Every home team representative is encouraged to contact the visiting team representative at least several days before each association match to avoid any foreseeable problems (Travel directions, jersey colors, field locations, etc.).
4. Any team refusing to play, failing to play by not being able to field a team or failing to appear for the match shall forfeit the game. A team must have at least seven (7) registered players at the start of the game. If seven (7) players are present, the game must start at the scheduled time. During the course of the game, if any team ,due to injuries, ejections or other reasons cannot field at least (7) players the game will be halted and the short –handed team will forfeit the match. In the event that a match has begun and was subsequently halted due to loss of a player or players on a team such that the team cannot field seven registered players, the minimum forfeiture fine required by the bylaws will not be mandatory. In special cases a fine must be levied by the disciplinary chairperson on a discretionary basis.
5. Any teams from the same club in the same division shall play each other the first game of the season.
6. A team that walks off the field of play in any game in league or cup competition, exhibition, tournament, international or otherwise without completing the game excluding circumstances where the game was called off by the referee shall be fined and lose the game. The team shall automatically be removed from competition.
7. All scheduled league games must be played on the date they have been scheduled. Any games which the teams wish to have changed, must be played prior to, and not after, the next scheduled game, with the approval of the opposing team. The scheduling officer must to be notified within 48 hours of said change.

**PLAYOFFS, FINALS, AND STANDINGS**

1. At the completion of the league scheduled games the team having the greatest number of points shall be declared the league champion.
2. In the event two teams finish the regular season with the same number of points, the following methods shall be employed to determine the higher seeding for standings or play-off purposes. The team with the higher goal ratio by dividing total (goals scored by total goals against) or head to head results during the regular season.
	1. First Place will receive $ 150. and T-Shirts
	2. Second Place will receive $ 100.
	3. Third Place will receive $ 60.
	4. Fourth Place will receive $ 60.
	5. Playoffs teams will receive Trophy
3. All teams entering the association for their first season or re-entering after one or more year's absence shall be placed in a division at the discretion of the board of directors. In any given year the two top finishing teams in lower divisions must switch divisions with the two bottom finishing teams in the upper divisions, based on regular season standings from the previous year or as determined by the board of directors.
4. The top finishing teams in each division shall have the option of hosting the first round play-off game on a home site or neutral site agreeable to both sides.
5. Any team that remains inactive for two full playing season shall forfeit its security bond, or whatever portion of the bond that remains unless the manager of said team formally requests the return of the bond money by the final day of the second inactive playing season.

**REFEREES**

1. Each team under the jurisdiction of this association shall play under the laws of the game as specified by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). A referee and two linesman will be assigned to each association game by an USSF approved referee unit.
2. The referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and his decisions on the laws of the game shall be final. The referee shall have the power during the game to deal with players guilty of violations of the rules of the game, including threatening or abusive language or gestures. No protests whatsoever on his decision shall be entertained by any league, or cup competition. Complaints about referees may be directed to the respective secretaries of the competitions. However, if after an investigation a complaint is found to be groundless, or trivial, the protesting club shall be dealt with as the league may deem fit. When complaints are filed a copy of same must be forwarded to referee in question by the club filing the complaint and all letters must be sent by mail.
3. The game referee is the only judge as to whether field conditions are satisfactory for play. No team should go on the assumption that because weather is poor or a field is wet that the game would be postponed. That determination is made by the referee.
4. The referee shall forward teams rosters with the game report to the Syracuse Soccer Association. The report shall include particulars of the game, score, yellow and red card information, including names of all players cautioned or ejected. Also an injury report if there happens to be an injured player from the game. He/She shall also include all player passes taken from ejected players. A thorough and accurate referee report is necessary for accurate information on league standings and for complete analysis by the disciplinary board in the event of a hearing.

**FEES AND EXPENSES**

1. The fees and traveling expenses of referees shall be set by mutual agreement between the referee unit and the league or cup competition concerned. Half the fee must be paid if a game is postponed and the secretary of the referee unit has not been notified of the postponement by 10.00 A.M. on the day of the scheduled game. If the game is a forfeiture, the forfeiting club shall be liable for fee and league or cup competition shall see to it that guilty club complies to it.
2. If the referee finds the field of play, over which he has control, unplayable, the game shall be postponed and the referee shall be entitled to his traveling expenses only.
3. If a game has started and has to be called by the referee for any and all reasons, the full fee and expenses due must be paid.
4. If an appointed referee fails to appear, and has no valid reason for so doing, He/She will be fined the full game fee and will be unable to referee until said fine is paid to the secretary of the association.
5. In the case the appointed referee fails to appear, or is not capable to complete a game , a registered referee present at the grounds shall conduct the game. If a registered referee is not present, any other person capable to conduct the game shall be appointed, by mutual agreement, of the clubs concerned. The substitute referee is entitled to the regular fee.