

# **WESTERN SUBURBAN SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **WSSL CONSTITUTION**

**Revised:**

<b>Summer</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>2001</b>

# WESTERN SUBURBAN SOCCER LEAGUE

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Western Suburban Soccer League, to be abbreviated and as is here in after referred to as WSSL.

### 2. PURPOSE

The WSSL shall organize, conduct and supervise a program of instruction and competition in soccer for boys and girls within age groupings recommended by the Player and Coach Committee, and approved by the Executive Board. This competition shall be conducted in general accordance with FIFA rules for teams sponsored by organizational members of the WSSL.

### 3. OFFICE

The WSSL shall maintain an office which shall be located in a WSSL organizational member community.

### 4. MEETINGS

The WSSL shall conduct meetings at convenient locations within the WSSL membership. The Executive Board shall meet a minimum of once per month, with other committee schedules approved by the Executive Board.

### 5. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

(Note: See Appendix I to Constitution for Summary of Membership Distinctions)

#### 5.1. General Requirements

- A. No organization shall be accepted as a member of WSSL, in any classification, which discriminates in the selection of players on the basis of prior playing experience, race, sex, national origin, or religious belief.
- B. "Non-compete" clause – In the selection of players, no prospective or present member in any classification shall compete or recruit with the established programs of other members with regard to "in-house" and recreation teams. Select division teams shall be governed by selection procedures outlined by the MSPSP and MSYSA for tryouts, as adapted by provisions of the WSSL Select Division guidelines.
- C. Any Club or team participating in WSSL shall avoid any "conflict of interest" with the other clubs/teams of WSSL; "Conflict of Interest" to be defined by the Executive Committee in the event that an issue arises.
- D. Any Club or team participating in WSSL in any membership classification must abide by the provisions of the WSSL Constitution, By-Laws and Laws of the Game.
- E. The Executive Board of the WSSL shall be charged with the enforcement of these provisions, which shall be continuous.

- 5.2. Classifications -- All Clubs in the WSSL must fall into one of the following classifications:
- A. Charter Club Membership (as described in section 5.3)
  - B. Associate Club Membership (as described in section 5.4)
  - C. Guest Club Membership (as described in section 5.5)
- 5.3. Charter Club Membership
- A. Charter Club Membership will be identified in the WSSL Constitution.
  - B. Charter Club Membership must have a primary geographic jurisdiction.
  - C. Charter Club members, and their jurisdiction, include:
    - i. Farmington Soccer Club – City of Farmington and Farmington Hills
    - ii. Huron Valley Soccer club – Huron Valley School District
    - iii. Livonia YMCA – City of Livonia and Livonia YMCA members
    - iv. Northville Soccer Association – Northville community School District, City of Northville and Northville Township
    - v. Novi Parks and Recreation – Novi School District
    - vi. Plymouth Parks and Recreation – Plymouth-Canton School District
    - vii. South Lyon Soccer Club – South Lyon Community School district
  - D. Privileges of Charter Club Membership include:
    - i. Each Charter Club member shall have primary jurisdiction for their geographic areas as specified in Section 5.3.C. Charter Club members will share their jurisdiction with Associate and/or Guest Club members, where necessary, that are approved by a vote of the membership.
    - ii. Charter Club members shall be entitled to vote on issues presented by the Executive Board, with one vote for each team sponsored to WSSL. They will be empowered exclusively to vote on issues of Associate and Guest membership, and changes to WSSL By-Laws and Constitution.
    - iii. Charter Club members may be sponsored to the MSYSA by WSSL.
    - iv. Charter Club members may have teams sponsored by WSSL to the Michigan State Premier Soccer League (MSPSL)
  - E. Responsibilities for Charter Club Members include:
    - i. Shall put all eligible teams into any age group in which they participate in WSSL.
    - ii. Must remain in good standing with WSSL, MSYSA, and other MSYSA member leagues
    - iii. Must provide a set of their Constitution and By-Laws to the WSSL Executive Committee, including updates as required.
    - iv. Must pay all appropriate dues, fees and fines
    - v. Must be represented at WSSL Executive Board meetings
    - vi. Must complete an Application for Membership form annually
  - F. Charter Club member status can only be obtained by:
    - i. Five consecutive years of Associate Club Status in good standing
    - ii. Letter of request to the WSSL President
    - iii. Approval of incumbent Charter Club membership by a ¾ majority vote (the voting “weighted” by number of teams sponsored to WSSL)

### 5.3 Charter Club Membership (cont.)

- G. Charter Club membership can only be removed if:
  - i. The Charter Club member requests in writing to the WSSL President to be removed; and/or
  - ii. The Charter Club fails to field five (5) teams in WSSL to two consecutive seasons

### 5.4 Associate Club Membership

- A. Associate Club Membership is available to non-Charter Club members who field a minimum of five (5) teams with WSSL in a season.
- B. Associate Club membership must be requested by a letter in writing to the WSSL President. This request must include:
  - i. Explanation for why Associate membership is requested
  - ii. Identification of jurisdiction for the club
  - iii. A copy of the club's By-Laws and Constitution
  - iv. A listing of the club's officers and key administrators, including referee coordinator, game/field scheduling coordinator
  - v. Location where home games will be played
- C. Achieving and Maintaining Associate Member Status
  - i. Associate membership is to be approved by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the WSSL Charter Club membership as directed by the Executive Board. The vote to approve an Associate Club membership is effective for a full seasonal year
  - ii. Continued status as an Associate membership requires renewal each seasonal year, based on a new request in writing to the WSSL President and a new vote of the Charter Membership as directed by the Executive Board.
- D. Privileges of Associate Members
  - i. To the extent that the jurisdiction overlaps with (a) Charter Club member(s), the Associate member may share this jurisdiction, subject to the "non-compete" clause 5.1.B.
  - ii. Associate Club members may affiliate with MSYSA through WSSL
  - iii. Associate Club members are entitled to vote on issues brought to the WSSL membership (one vote per team in WSSL), with the exception of Associate or Guest membership votes and changes to WSSL By-Laws and/or Constitution
  - iv. Associate members may have teams sponsored by WSSL to the MSPSP, but only strictly by the "80 player rule".
- E. Responsibilities of Associate Members include:
  - i. Must field at least five (5) teams to WSSL each season
  - ii. Associate Club members must remain in good standing with the WSSL, with the MSYSA, and with other MSYSA member leagues.
  - iii. Associate Club members must provide updated Constitution and By Laws to the WSSL Executive Board, as required.
  - iv. Must pay all appropriate dues, fees and fines
  - v. Must be represented at WSSL Executive Board meetings
  - vi. Must complete an Application for Membership form annually
  - vii. May not participate in any conflicts of interest between their Club and the best interest of any members or Clubs in the WSSL

## 5.5 Guest Club Membership

- A. Guest Club Membership is available to non-Charter Club members who field any number of teams with WSSL in a season.
- B. Guest Clubs must produce evidence that they are affiliated with MSYSA; WSSL will not sponsor Guest Clubs to MSYSA.
- C. Guest Club membership must be requested by a letter in writing to the WSSL President. This request must include:
  - i. Explanation for why Guest membership is requested
  - ii. Identification of jurisdiction for the club
  - iii. A listing of the club's officers and key administrators, including referee coordinator, game/field scheduling coordinator
  - iv. Location where home games will be played
- D. Achieving and Maintaining Guest Member Status
  - i. Guest membership is to be approved by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the WSSL Charter Club membership as directed by the Executive Board. The vote to approve a Guest Club membership is effective for a full seasonal year
  - ii. Continued status as a Guest Club member requires renewal each seasonal year, based on a new request in writing to the WSSL President and a new vote of the Charter Membership as directed by the Executive Board.
- E. Privileges of Guest Club Members
  - i. To the extent that the Guest Club's jurisdiction overlaps with (a) Charter Club member(s), the Guest Club member may share this jurisdiction, subject to the "non-compete" clause 5.1.B.
  - ii. Guest members may have teams sponsored by WSSL to the MSPSP, but only strictly by the "80 player rule".
- F. Responsibilities of Guest Club Members include:
  - i. Guest Club members must remain in good standing with the WSSL, with the MSYSA, and with other MSYSA member leagues.
  - ii. Must pay all appropriate dues, fee and fines
  - iii. Must be represented at WSSL Executive Board meetings
  - iv. Must complete an Application for Membership form annually
  - v. May not participate in any conflicts of interest between their Club and the best interest of any members or Clubs in the WSSL

## 6. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

The WSSL shall have permanent committees whose duties shall be enumerated in general by the Constitution and in detail by specific by-laws to be adopted by the respective committees subject to approval by the Executive Board

## 7. VOTING REGULATIONS

### 7.1 Executive Board

**Each charter club member shall have one member and one alternate on the Executive Board. Each charter club member will receive one vote per team based on the last completed WSSL season. This vote will be awarded to the representative of each charter club member on the Executive Board and may be transferred to the alternate if the Board member is not present.**

## **7.2 Associate Club Members**

Each Associate Club member shall have one member and one alternate that will represent their club at all WSSL meetings. On matters of League business, the Associate Club member will receive one vote per team based on the last completed WSSL season. This vote will be awarded to the representative of each Associate Club member that is in attendance at the Executive Board meetings of the league; the vote may be transferred to the alternate if the member is not present. Associate Members will not have any voting privileges with regard to membership or WSSL By-Law issues.

## **7.3 Guest Club Members**

Guest Club members, while required to be represented at all Executive Board meetings, will not have any voting privileges regarding any matters brought to the Executive Board. They are encouraged, however, to bring ideas to the Executive Board for consideration and vote that will support the purpose of WSSL.

## **8. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the WSSL shall be as follows:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President

### **Officers of the WSSL may be selected only from clubs that have attained**

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be selected by the Executive Board from its members and shall serve a term of one year.

## **9. DUTIES AND FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

9.1 The WSSL shall be governed by the Executive Board, which shall elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

9.2 The function of the Executive Board shall be to conduct the business of the WSSL and its duties shall include but not be limited to: membership in soccer organizations; rules of play; length and term of the playing season; approval of members; standards of membership; team fees; referee fees; tournaments; suitable awards; league and divisions for each age grouping; hiring employees; assigning permanent committees; and all other duties relating to the WSSL and the betterment of soccer.

## **10. FINANCES**

The WSSL shall charge each participating team a specified registration fee for each season, which fee shall be paid to the WSSL by an approved member prior to the playing season. The amount and procedure for payment shall be specified by the Executive Board.

## **11. RULES OF THE GAME**

The WSSL shall utilize FIFA rules for those changes and revisions which are specified in the By-Laws of the Executive Board and are specifically identified to each member prior to a playing season.

**12. PROTEST**

Any team protesting a decision made by the WSSL or any agent approved by the WSSL serving in any capacity shall enumerate and explain the reasons for said protest in writing to the WSSL office within 48 hours of the alleged incident. The Referee and Rules Committee shall resolve all protests concerning a particular game. The procedure for a protest shall be specified by the Bylaws of the Executive Board which shall provide that the burden of proof shall be upon the protester.

**13. TEAMS**

Each team shall consist of players registered with the WSSL who are sponsored by a member. By acceptance, the member shall agree to the schedule, interpretation of rules and any disciplinary action undertaken therefore which shall be taken by the WSSL.

**14. EMERGENCY ACTION**

All of the officers of the WSSL as specified herein before may called together to act as an Executive Committee by the President or Vice President. Such meetings may be conducted by telephone. All officers must be informed, and if a majority indicate approval, such decisions shall be binding upon the WSSL and until the Executive Board shall specifically reverse such decisions at its next scheduled meeting.

**15. QUORUM**

At least 51% of those with voting privileges shall be in attendance for any action to be taken by the Executive Board or any other permanent committee. Alternates may be used for this count.

**16. VOTING**

All actions taken by the Executive Board, a permanent committee or special committee shall be by majority vote, unless the contrary is specified by the Constitution.

**17. METHOD OF VOTING**

Voting by members shall be in person.

**18. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Executive Board may create special committees to serve a period of time not to exceed six months. Said committee shall prepare a written report to be maintained by the Executive Board prior to dissolution.

**19. BYLAWS**

The Executive Board shall prepare, adopt and maintain the Bylaws of the WSSL which shall be available to every member. The Bylaws shall contain the operating procedures of all permanent committees and contain such other information as is deemed essential to the operation of the WSSL. A Bylaw may be added by a majority vote of the Executive Board at two consecutive meetings.

**20. AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution of the WSSL may be amended upon 75% approval of the Executive Board at two consecutive meetings.

**21. LEGAL STATUS**

The Constitution of the WSSL shall be interpreted as a partnership agreement, which has been organized and maintained according to the laws of the State of Michigan pertaining to partnerships by and between the organizational members. The Constitution shall be considered as the Articles of Agreement of said partnership. The Bylaws and Standards shall be considered as the operating rules by which the aforesaid Articles of Agreement are interpreted in the business of the partnership. In the interpretation, only members shall be construed as partners entitled to all rights and privileges thereto.

**22. OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all committee procedures.

## Summary of Membership Distinctions:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Charter Member</u>	<u>Associate Member</u>	<u>Guest Member</u>
. Named in the WSSL Constitution	Yes	No	No
. Specified Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Geographic Jurisdiction	Yes	No*	No*
. Primary jurisdiction over defined Geographic Area	Yes	No	No
. Minimum No. of Teams Participating in WSSL	ALL	5	1
. Voting Privileges – Club Business	Yes	Yes	No
. Voting Privileges – Membership	Yes	No	No
. Voting Privileges – By Law and Constitution Changes	Yes	No	No
. Term of Membership	Permanent **	1 Seasonal Yr. (renewable)	1 Seasonal Yr. (renewable)
. Required to submit Club By-Laws, Constitution to WSSL Exec. Board	Yes	Yes	No
. WSSL will/can sponsor to MSYSA	Yes	Yes	No
. Abide by WSSL By-Laws, Constitution, Rules of Game	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Pay all Fines, Fees, Dues	Yes	Yes	Yes
. MSPSP Sponsorship	Yes	Yes ***	Yes ***
. Avoid Conflict of Interest with other Members	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Abide by non-compete clause	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Provide Leadership lists to WSSL	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Must have a representative attend all WSSL Executive Committee Meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes
. Complete an Application for Membership Form annually	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* Strong preference that a community can be specified, or that some definition of geographic area is provided

\*\* Permanent, subject to the criteria specified in Constitution 5.3.G.

\*\*\* Strictly limited by 80 player rule for sponsorship of teams as applied to the specific program