

VERMONT SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS

Amended April 30, 2007

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Vermont Soccer League (VSL) is a volunteer, Non-Profit Organization created for and committed to promoting youth soccer in Vermont.

2.0 REGION SERVED

2.1 The VSL serves youth soccer teams in Vermont counties.

3.0 AFFILIATION

3.1 The VSL is affiliated with the Vermont Soccer Association (VSA) and United States Youth Soccer (USYS). By membership in the VSL, all players and coaches will be members of both the VSA and USYS.

4.0 PROGRAMS

4.1 The VSL offers youth soccer leagues for U-8 through U-18. The specific age group offerings will be determined each year. The USYS age cut-off birth date of July 31 will be strictly adhered to and subject to any USYS age guideline updates. With both coach recommendation and parental/guardian consent, players may elect to play up in age group providing dual roster guidelines are met if applicable. Clubs are not obligated to allow players to play up in age group.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP - Division 1

5.1 VSL D1 offers the highest level of competition within the VSL. This division is for select teams or any team that has proven to be able to compete at this level and is willing to accept the travel and participation requirements. New clubs or teams must be approved by the VSL board based on recommendation of existing D1 Club Coordinators.

6.0 MEMBERSHIP - Division 2 & 3 and Summer League

6.1 The intention of this membership section is to allow for competitive play among all teams with a town based format as its guideline. These divisions do not allow for the formation of all-star or select teams from a wide geographical area. This should not be interpreted that the VSL discourages the formation of all-star, select or regional

teams but play at that level is directed to our D1 play.

6.1.1 Players on D1 team rosters can also play on teams that compete in the VSL D2&3 provided players properly declare their primary roster. Note there are limitation guidelines for dual rostering on all teams in the VSL. No teams should submit a roster with more than 6 players having dual roster status.

6.1.2 D2/D3 teams may have up to 3 guest players per U14 team and up to 2 guest players for a U10 or U12 team as follows:

- Guest players must already be rostered on another team within the club and must bring a D2/D3 player pass to the game to show they are rostered and are of the appropriate age.
- Guest players can play within their age or in the age group just above. (i.e. U10 players can play on a U12 team but can not play on a U14 team)
- D2/D3 teams cannot have guest players if they already have 2 or more subs.

6.2 Each chartered municipality within the region is eligible to place teams in the VSL D2&3. In cases where two or more clubs exist within a single municipality, all clubs are eligible to play within the VSL. However all teams must meet all the provisions of the VSL bylaws for their division.

6.3 All Division 2 & 3 teams U-8 through U-18 shall be made up of players from a single municipality. Teams may request to have players from more than one municipality if the following applies:

A) A single municipality does not have a sufficient number of players sign-up after public notification and open sign-ups. Players from that municipality can then join a team formed with players from two or more municipalities.

B) A player resides in a municipality that has no Club formed to offer age group participation.

C) Two or more municipalities share common Elementary, Middle or High Schools corresponding to the age group of the team in question.

D) A player is cut from a municipality's or recognized Club team and there is a lack of ability to form another full team.

E) The VSL Board is petitioned for other reasons and approval is granted.

Violation of rule 6.3 will result in forfeiture of all games played with an offending player(s) and potential expulsion of that team the next season.

6.4 Municipalities or Clubs applying for membership in the VSL D2&3 can receive membership in the VSL upon a **majority vote of existing member clubs.** Increases from the prior year's number of teams **must be approved by the VSL board** far enough in advance to allow for timely completion of either the spring or summer season schedule. This will generally mean a vote taken at the annual Fall Meeting in September.

7.0 VOTING

7.1 Each recognized club shall be entitled to one vote cast by the Club Coordinator, or designated representative. It is the responsibility of each Club to designate who their Coordinator shall be.

8.0 QUORUM

8.1 A quorum for league meetings and/or voting purposes is two-thirds of the recognized voting member clubs as annotated in Bylaw 6.2 for updates/changes to bylaws, and simple majority for non bylaw issues. VSL D1 specific issues will be voted on by D1 member clubs, and VSL D2&3 specific issues will be voted on by VSL D2&3 member clubs. Issues that are League wide and issues that pertain to VSL Bylaws will be voted on by all member clubs.

9.0 GOVERNING BOARD

9.1 The VSL shall have a Governing Board made up of the following six officers serving terms of **one or two year** positions with automatic rotation from the office of the most senior Vice-President to President:

President - Responsible for overall league coordination. Shall call and conduct league and Governing Board meetings as required. Shall be liaison to the Vermont Soccer Association. May purchase League supplies up to \$250 with subsequent approval of the Governing Board. Can sign/approve League checks.

Vice-President D1 - Responsible for understanding all decisions made by the Governing Board related to D1. Responsible for timely, clear communication of all decisions made by the Governing Board to D1 Coordinator and/or all D1 Club Coordinators. Can sign League checks if the president is unavailable. This is a two year position that is voted in on the odd years.

Vice-President D2&3 - Responsible for understanding all decisions made by the Governing Board related to D2&3. Responsible for timely, clear communication of all decisions made by the Governing Board to D2&3 Coordinator and/or all D2&3 Club Coordinators. Can sign League checks if the president is unavailable. This is a two year position that is voted in on the even years.

Secretary - Responsible for taking minutes at all League/Governing Board meetings and distribution of key agenda items to appropriate Board members and coordinators.

Treasurer - Responsible for receiving and processing all team payments from member Clubs. Responsible for monitoring League purchases and may purchase league supplies up to \$250 with subsequent approval of the Governing Board. Will keep account of all League finances and will issue annual statements at a minimum and statement updates as requested by the Board.

At-Large - Maximum of four At-Large positions will be for periods of one or two years. These positions will have voting privileges and serve as a "training" position for potential movement into a formal position on the Governing Board. Two of these At-Large positions will be representatives from Division 1.

Past President - Responsible for assisting the officers in all League matters and ensuring a smooth transition for newly elected Board officers. This position will be an automatic transition from the office of President.

9.2 The above officers plus four at-large positions will be elected annually during the fall meeting. Special elections can be held for filling unexpected vacant positions. This special election will be for any position except President which will automatically be filled by the Vice-President in the rotation unless the Vice-President leaves unexpectedly.

9.3 The Governing Board will require four members to be present to form a quorum. The Governing Board will attempt to resolve all conflicts and issues during the playing season especially discipline issues regarding players and/or coaches. If either a Governing Board member or one of the members of his/her soccer club is a party in a protest, complaint or issue, then he/she shall be ineligible to vote. The ruling of the Governing Board on issues of discipline and/or protests shall be final. The President will have authorization to a second vote when voting is deadlocked.

10.0 CLUB AND DIVISION COORDINATORS

10.1 Club Coordinator duties include, but are not limited to, team survey and registration, development and approval of League schedules, coordinating coaches for their Club and working with the Governing Board to act as liaison between their Club

and the VSL governing body. The Coordinator will also work with the Division Coordinator as required on any issues related to officiating or re-scheduling.

10.2 Division Coordinator duties include, but are not limited to, working with the Club Coordinators to make sure day-to-day operation of League play goes smoothly. They will work with scheduler and clubs to develop season's divisions and schedule, act as a liaison between all Clubs in their division and the VSL Governing Board, and perform any other duties agreed upon by the Governing Board. During the season, they will coordinate all forfeits and re-schedules, and work with the Assignor on any issues related to officiating. Fees paid to the Division Coordinators will be reviewed annually and compensation will be set by a majority member vote.

11.0 MEETINGS

11.1 A minimum of two general League meetings with Club Coordinators will be held each year. Officers will be elected during the fall meeting, with the second meeting to be held before the spring. All Coordinators will be encouraged to attend these meetings to ensure a quorum as stated in Bylaw 8.1. A general League meeting may be called at any time if an issue cannot be resolved by the Governing Board. A minimum of three recognized VSL Clubs will be required to petition the Governing Board to call and hold a special League meeting.

11.2 A minimum of one D1 Meeting will be held each fall for matters specifically relating to D1 clubs. All Club Coordinators will be encouraged to attend this meeting to ensure a quorum as stated in the bylaws and effectively conduct league matters. A D1 meeting may be called at any time if an issue cannot be resolved by the Governing Board. A minimum of three recognized VSL D1 clubs will be required to petition the Governing Board to call and hold a special D1 meeting.

11.3 A minimum of one D2&3 Meeting will be held each fall for matters specifically relating to D2&3 clubs. All Club Coordinators will be encouraged to attend this meeting to ensure a quorum as stated in the bylaws and effectively conduct league matters. A D2&3 meeting may be called at any time if an issue cannot be resolved by the Governing Board. A minimum of three recognized VSL D2&3 clubs will be required to petition the Governing Board to call and hold a special D2&3 meeting.

12.0 TEAM REGISTRATION

12.1 All team surveys (applications) must be received prior to the beginning of each season on a date determined at the fall meeting. The team rosters and coach information must be submitted by the date determined at the fall meeting on official USYS registration forms and sent directly to the VSA office.

12.2 Only players listed on an accepted USYS team roster may play for that particular team in accordance with bylaws 4.0, 5.0, and 6.0. Any addition of players onto the official team roster will be allowed only after acceptance by a VSL Division Coordinator and the VSA subject to all applicable fees/penalties.

12.3 Where girl's/women's teams are formed, the female player retains the choice of requesting placement on a mixed or male team.

13.0 LEAGUE FEES

13.1 The League has four potential fees it will collect:

A) A per roster fee for VSL league operation.

B) An annually determined fee to fund any League Jamboree/Tournament if applicable.

C) A per player fee as determined by the VSA.

D) A fee for referees as determined by the Referee Assignor prior to each season.

Separate checks will be made out to the VSA & VSL. Fees for A, B & D will be sent directly to the VSL league treasurer and fee C goes to the VSA.

13.2 All fees for each club must be received by the VSL treasurer by the date established at the fall meeting. **Non payment will result in omission from the League schedule and any subsequent League games.**

13.3 If for any reason a club or team is dismissed due to negligence or violation of League rules, roster fees will be forfeited.

14.0 OFFICIATING

14.1 All matches shall be officiated by either VSA approved certified USSF referees or rostered coaches in order to meet USYS regulations.

14.2 Any ejection of a player from a game must be reported to the VSL Governing Board. A red card will result in a one-game suspension and a second red card to the same player within a playing season may result in suspension from the VSL for the remainder of the season. An assault on either another player or referee by a player will result in a suspension as determined by the Governing Board.

14.3 The League will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse from parents or coaches towards officials, players or other coaches. Reports regarding such behavior will result in potential League suspension or dismissal as determined by the Governing Board.

15.0 AMENDMENTS TO VSL BYLAWS

15.1 Amendments to the bylaws shall require a vote of two-thirds of all member clubs in person at a meeting or by email.