

# CONSTITUTION

## Article 1 – Interpretation

1. The name of the Corporation shall be "Ontario Youth Soccer League" hereinafter referred to as "The League".
2. The League shall operate a Provincial Youth Competitive League for Teams in the U14, U15, U16, U17 and U18 age divisions under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Soccer Association in accordance with published rules.
3. The League shall publish rules that
  - a. are approved by the Membership.
  - b. are distributed to the Membership.
  - c. shall be interpreted at least to the meaning and intent of the rules as published by the governing organization at the highest level.
  - d. shall not violate an individual's rights or freedom except as may be required to protect the rights and freedom of any other individual and to ensure the stability of the basic structure of soccer.
4. The League shall adhere to the Harassment Policy as published and approved by The OSA from time to time.
5. The League shall adhere to the Dispute Resolution process as published and approved by The OSA from time to time.
6. Registered individuals and Clubs shall act in accordance with published rules.

## Article 2 – Head Office

1. The head Office of The League shall be situated in the Province of Ontario.

## Article 3 – Finance

1. Membership Fees
  - a. The annual Membership fees and Club bond shall be set by the Board of Directors and ratified by the Membership at a general meeting of the League.
  - b. be based on a budget to be distributed fourteen days prior to a League General Meeting.
  - c. the budget shall not project a deficit greater than 25% of the accumulated surplus as at the prior fiscal year end audited financial statements.
  - d. be paid in accordance with published rules.
2. The accounts of the League shall:
  - a. be audited annually by a Chartered Accountant.
  - b. The Audited Financial Statement shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.
  - c. The appointment of Auditors shall be approved by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting
3. The fiscal year of The League shall end October 31st.

## **Article 4 – Membership**

1. The Membership of the league shall be each Club with one or more teams playing in the league.
2. Eligibility for Membership in the league shall be in accordance with:
  - a. The OSA's Pyramid For Play
  - b. The OSA's published rules governing leagues.
  - c. OYSL Published Rules.
  - d. A Club must apply for Membership and pay Membership fees to the league in accordance with published rules.
3. Approval of New Members
  - a. A club shall become eligible to be a new Member if one or more of its teams becomes eligible to play in the league based on:
    - i. The OSA's Pyramid For Play
    - ii. OSA published rules.
    - iii. OYSL Published Rules.
    - iv. The Membership application must be approved by the League's Board of Directors.
4. Membership Renewal
  - a. A Club will renew its Membership by completing the required forms for Membership renewal, providing that it still has a team eligible to play in the league based on:
    - i. The OSA's Pyramid for Play.
    - ii. OSA published rules.
    - iii. OYSL Published Rules.
5. Rights of Members
  - a. Members shall be accorded the following rights:
    - i. To be governed in accordance with The OSA and the League's published rules
    - ii. To participate in League sanctioned competitions
    - iii. To attend and vote at all general meetings called by the League
    - iv. To enter teams in the league in accordance with the OSA's published rules.
    - v. To enter teams in the league in accordance with the OYSL's published rules.
6. Discipline of a Member
  - a. A Member may be fined, censured, suspended or expelled from Membership for cause and only after charges have been laid in accordance with the League's rules and regulations and a hearing held in accordance with the League's rules and regulations and the OSA's published rules.
  - b. A Member whose Membership has been suspended loses all rights of Membership until the suspension has been terminated.
7. Termination of Membership
  - a. Membership in the League shall be deemed to have been terminated:
    - i. If the Member submits a signed letter of withdrawal to the League
    - ii. If the Member is expelled by the League.
    - iii. If the Member fails to renew Membership in accordance with the By-Law.

## **Article 5 – Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order insofar as they apply

1. Annual General Meeting

- a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held on a Saturday or Sunday in the month of November.
  - b. Each Member shall be sent a written notice, thirty days in advance, stating the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting.
2. League General Meeting
  - a. Each Member shall be sent a written notice, fourteen days in advance, stating the date, time and location of any League General Meeting called:
    - i. by the League Executive, or
    - ii. within twenty-one days following the submission of a receipted request signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the Active Membership.
  - b. At least three League General meetings shall be held between Annual General Meetings
3. At General Meetings
  - a. A member of the League Executive shall not be entitled to speak or to sit as a delegate.
  - b. The Presiding Officer shall be entitled to speak but shall not sit as a delegate.
  - c. Twenty five voting Members or 25% of the voting Membership, whichever is less, shall form a quorum at all general meetings of the League.
  - d. Any question shall be decided by a majority of the votes unless otherwise required by this By-Law or other law.
  - e. At General Meetings, each Member is entitled to one vote. Clubs are required to be represented at all League General Meetings. Failure to attend will result in a \$50.00 fine to the club.

#### **Article 6 – Nominations and Elections**

1. Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors may be made by any Member at the annual general meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
2. Nominations and elections for positions open shall be held in the order of the positions listed in the Constitution.
3. Election shall be by secret ballot, but in the event only one candidate is nominated, no vote is required and the nominated candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation.
4. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect officers. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the least votes shall be dropped from the ballot and another vote shall be held.

#### **Article 7 – Board of Directors**

1. During the intervals between General Meetings, the business of The League shall be conducted by a Board of Directors.
  - a. comprised of Officers designated as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Discipline Chairman, Referee-in-chief, one Director at Large, one Director- Communications and a Past President who will sit as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.
  - b. that shall possess and may exercise all the powers needed in the management and direction of the affairs of The League in accordance with published rules without remuneration.
  - c. that shall meet at the call of the President not less than three times a year

2. At Annual General Meetings in odd numbered years the President, Treasurer, and one Director at Large shall each be elected by ballot for a two-year term and the nominees for the office of President shall not be delegates.
3. At Annual General Meetings held in even numbered years the Vice-President, Secretary, Discipline Chairman, Referee-in-Chief and Director-Communications shall each be elected by ballot for a two-year term.
4. At meetings of the Board of Directors a majority of the Officers shall form a quorum.
5. The office of an Officer shall be vacated if the Officer resigns.
6. Should a vacancy occur among the Officers, the Board of Directors may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.
7. The Officers shall be subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy in the OSA's published rules.
8. No member of the Board of Directors shall be removed for arbitrary reasons but may be removed if: The Officer is unable to perform the duties expected of the position due to, but not limited to, any of the following reasons:
  - a. if she/he becomes incapable of performing the business of the League.
  - b. if she/he is absent from two or more meetings of the Board without satisfactory reason
  - c. if she/he no longer resides in reasonable proximity to the League.
  - d. if she/he becomes, or is discovered to be, an undischarged bankrupt;
  - e. the Director has compromised the integrity of the League due to, but not limited to, any of the following reasons:
    - i. if she/he has been found guilty of an offence under the Harassment Policy of The OSA
    - ii. if she/he has been found guilty of an offence involving violence under the Discipline Policy of The OSA
    - iii. if she/he has failed to properly account for monies or other property belonging to the League
    - iv. if she/he has been found guilty of a criminal offence regardless of whether or not the offence directly affected the League
    - v. if she/he has been found guilty of failing to act in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy of The OSA
9. A member of the Board of Directors holding his or her respective position(s), as Director or other position(s) may be removed from office by the Board of Directors for good and sufficient cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present provided notice to remove the Officer has been given to all Officers of the League.
10. If an Officer is removed by the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may appoint a successor to the incumbent's position(s) for the remainder of the term being filled.
11. A member of the Board of Directors may also be removed from office for good and sufficient cause at a meeting of the Members of the League provided notice to remove the Officer has been given to persons entitled to attend the Members' meeting.
12. If an Officer is removed at a Members' meeting, the Members entitled to vote may elect a successor to fill all position(s) held by the removed Officer for the remainder of his or her term being filled.

#### **Article 8 – Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall preside at meetings of The League.
2. The Vice-President shall preside at meetings of The League when the President is absent or is unable or refuses to preside.

3. The Secretary shall be responsible for the corporate affairs of The League.
4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the fiscal affairs of The League.
5. The Discipline Chairman shall be responsible for discipline and processing appeals in accordance with published rules.
6. The Referee-in-Chief shall be responsible for insuring that referees are appointed to League games and to answer any Club concerns regarding referees received in writing.
7. The duties of the Directors at Large shall be as determined by the President with the approval of the majority of the remaining Executive Committee.

#### **Article 9 – Committees**

1. The League Executive may constitute Committees in accordance with published rules.
2. The President shall be ex-officio, a member of all Committees except any nominating committee.
3. At meetings of a Committee a majority of members shall form a quorum.

#### **Article 10 – Appeals**

1. Appeals of League decisions shall be to the governing body, the Ontario Soccer Association.
2. Appeals shall follow the procedure as stipulated by OSA published rules.

#### **Article 11 – Dissolution**

1. In the event of dissolution of the League, and after payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining property shall be distributed or disposed of by the League Executive to one or more not-for-profit soccer related organizations which is (are) registered with the OSA.

#### **Article 12 – Indemnity**

1. Members of the Board of Directors or other servants to the League, their heirs, executors, administrators and estate and effects respectively shall be indemnified and saved harmless at all times by the League against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them respectively in or about the discharge of their respective duties, except such as happens from their own respective willful neglect or default.

#### **Article 13 – Amendments**

1. All proposed amendments to this By Law must be received by The League in writing not less than thirty days prior to an Annual General Meeting.
2. Copies of proposed amendments to this By Law shall be sent to the Membership not less than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which they are to be considered.
3. Amendments shall become effective upon attaining two thirds of the votes cast by the delegates present at the Annual Meeting.