

**BY LAWS**  
**WESTERLY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
(A Non-Business Corporation)

**Article I. NAME**

1. This organization shall be known as *WESTERLY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.*, and shall be a non-business corporation as defined by the Rhode Island General Laws.
2. The mailing address of the association must be a street address and shall be designated by the Executive Committee after each election to meet the requirements of the State of Rhode Island corporation laws.

**Article II. AIMS AND PURPOSES**

1. To encourage and publicize the game of soccer.
2. To provide an opportunity for youngsters to participate in the organized supervised team play of soccer, and to improve their skills in the game.
3. To implant in all participants the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and safety.
4. The association will be affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) through Soccer Rhode Island (SRI).

**Article III. MEMBERSHIP AND PRIVILEGES**

1. The members of the association shall consist of the incorporators. Thereafter, the members shall consist of the individuals initially elected to the Executive Committee by the incorporators. After the election of the first Executive Committee, the membership shall be expanded to include Playing Members, Regular Members, and Honorary Members.
2. Playing Members: Any playing age youngster interested in soccer may become a Playing Member upon timely application and payment of the registration fee. All previously registered Playing Members, regardless of residence, may continue to be Playing Members. Only active Playing Members in good standing are eligible to participate in Association sponsored programs. Playing Members are not eligible to vote in electing officers to the Executive Committee of the Association or on fundamental policy matters. Registration fees of Playing Members shall be determined by the Executive Committee prior to registration for each subsequent season of play. Registration fees are refundable if a player, due to injury or other circumstances agreed to by the Executive Committee, must resign from the team prior to week two of the Fall Season.

3. Regular Members: Any parent or other interested adult who has made a meaningful contribution of time and effort to the Association's organization, management, or activities are Regular Members. Regular Members are eligible to vote in electing officers and the Executive Committee, and in deciding all matters brought before the general membership at annual or special meetings. Regular Members will be entitled to one vote, which may be cast only if the Regular Member is present at a meeting of the membership. Regular Membership shall be for a duration of one year.
4. Honorary Members: The status of Honorary Members may be awarded to persons who have made unusual and outstanding contribution to the Association. Persons may be elected to Honorary Membership for five years by  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the Executive Committee. Honorary members are entitled to the same rights and privileges as Regular Members.
5. Membership Revocation: Any Playing Member or Regular Member, after being given ten days written notice, may have his/her membership revoked at a special or regular meeting of the Executive Committee by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Regular Members in attendance only because of refusal to accept and adhere to the By Laws of the *WESTERLY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.*, or its General Rules or Playing Rules, and only after the Executive Committee has been given advance notification that consideration of revocation of a membership was to be one of the matters on the agenda for the meeting.

#### **Article IV. GOVERNMENT AND OFFICE**

1. The Association shall have the following officers: President, Two Vice-Presidents (First and Second), Secretary, and Treasurer. There shall be no term limits.
2. The President of the Westerly Youth Soccer Association shall be a resident of Westerly at the time of nomination. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Executive Committee. He/she shall appoint all committees subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee.
3. The First Vice-President shall, in absence of the President, assume the duties of the President. He/she shall also insure that all business transactions of the Association are in full compliance with these By Laws and with the aims and purposes of the Association. The First Vice-President shall be designated the Recreational (House) League Coordinator and shall be responsible for the overall logistics of organizing the Fall Recreational (House) League.
4. The Second Vice-President shall be designated the Competitive League Coordinator and shall be responsible for the overall logistics of organizing the Competitive League. The Second Vice-President shall also represent the Association of all Soccer Rhode Island (SRI) Competitive League functions.

5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
  - (a) Record and keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee.
  - (b) Keep a current list of the names and addresses of all members of the Association.
  - (c) Inform the Association members and/or Executive Committee of all regularly scheduled and special meetings.
6. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
  - (a) Collect all the money due the Association and to deposit such funds in the name of and to the credit of the Association in such bank or banks as he shall be directed by the Executive Committee.
  - (b) Pay, upon approval of and in a manner designated by the Executive Committee, all bills owed by the Association.
  - (c) Submit a record of the financial standing of the Association at each regular meeting, or at any time such a report is asked for by the Executive Committee.
  - (d) Prepare a budget proposal for the subsequent year to be presented to the Executive Committee for its approval at least 30 days before the annual meeting.
  - (e) Submit all finance records to the Finance Committee for audit by its designee, to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.
  - (f) File all corporate fees, papers, and financial reports with the State of Rhode Island by the required deadline.

## **Article V. MEETINGS**

1. The President shall be required to call at least the following general membership meetings each year:
  - (a) The annual meeting, to be held in November or December of each year, for the purpose of electing new officers and such other business as may be required.
  - (b) The pre-season coaches planning meeting, to be held during August, for the purpose of organizing and planning the soccer activities for the following season of play.
2. The President may call additional special membership or Executive meetings by his/her own initiative as he/she sees a need for them.
3. The President shall be required to call a special membership meeting within 30 days after ten (10) members request such a meeting. Written notice of such meetings, including agenda, shall be delivered to each member's residence at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting.
4. The President shall be required to call an Executive Committee meeting when three (3) or more members of the Executive Committee request such a meeting.
5. During all meetings, the Roberts Rules of Order shall resolve all controversies over parliamentary procedure.

6. Twenty (20) members, or 20% of the total membership, whichever is lesser, shall constitute a quorum at all regular or special membership meetings, for the transaction of business of this Association, providing all members have been notified prior to the meeting.

## **Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the association. It shall have full power to transact business for the Association that falls within the scope and purpose of the Association.
2. All communications sent to the Association shall be presented in writing to the Secretary, who in turn shall present them to the Executive Committee.
3. Quorum at Executive Committee meetings shall be two-thirds of the whole Executive Committee OR two-thirds of the Executive Board (President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) for the transaction of business of the association, providing all board members have been notified of the meeting. A majority vote of those present shall be required for all decisions involving fundamental policy matters.
4. At the annual meeting of the Association, the members shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and no more than ten Members-at-Large. The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for duration of one year with voting power. These officers shall serve one-year terms starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, or until their successors are elected, whichever is earlier. The number of terms of officers shall not be limited.
5. If, for any cause there shall be a vacancy on the Executive Committee, in any of the offices of the organization, or in any coaching position, the Executive Committee shall by nomination and election fill each vacancy for the unexpired term.
6. Neither the Executive Committee nor any officer shall have the power to incur any obligation on behalf of the Association which is in excess of the total cash assets then held by the Treasurer and not otherwise pledged or required to meet other fixed or current obligations, or the annual budget as approved by the membership.
7. The Executive Committee shall adopt playing and general rules from time to time, which shall be binding on all members and players.
8. Any officer who is absent without excusable cause from two consecutive meetings (scheduled ten days in advance), or for any reason, a total of four meetings of the Executive Committee shall thereby forfeit, without additional formality, his/her right to hold his/her respective office for the unexpired term.
9. Any Executive Committee Member who willingly violates the philosophies or jeopardizes the integrity of the Association can be removed from office by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the Executive Committee.
10. The President shall issue a schedule for all regular Executive Committee meetings for the subsequent year by the first of the month following the election.
11. The Executive Committee shall not conduct a vote via the telephone.

## **Article VII. COMMITTEES**

1. Each year the President of the Association shall, as soon as possible after his/her term commences, appoint at least one member of the Executive Committee to serve on outstanding committees such as:
  - (a) Membership, Team Organization, and Game Scheduling
  - (b) General Rules and By Laws
  - (c) Fields and Equipment
  - (d) Playing Rules and Referees
  - (e) Coaching Rules and Coaches
  - (f) Publicity and Promotion
  - (g) Finance
  - (h) Affiliations and Programs
  - (i) Uniforms

These appointments shall be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

2. Team rosters, playing rules, general rules, playing fields, game schedules, and coaching staffs shall be defined in writing before the start of the playing season and made available to all members.
3. All standing committees shall work with the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint additional committees as he/she deems necessary.

## **Article VIII. ELECTIONS**

1. At least five weeks before the annual meeting of the Association, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of five members. Two members shall be on the Executive Committee. Three members shall be regular members who are not on the Executive Committee. This Committee shall nominate one candidate for each elective position on the Executive Committee. Nominees shall be notified of their nomination at least two weeks prior to the election.
2. The nominating committee shall present its written report to the Secretary two weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Association.
3. The Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing the names of those nominated, plus sufficient blank spaces for write-in candidates. Nominations from the floor shall be submitted to the general membership at the annual meeting. Regular members shall be notified of the nominating committee report one week prior to the annual meeting.
4. A plurality of the members of the Association present shall elect the new officers and members of the Executive Committee for one year or until their successors are elected, whichever is earlier.

## **Article IX. AMENDMENTS**

1. These By Laws may be amended at an annual meeting of the regular membership, duly called, by two-thirds vote of the ballots cast provided any and all changes to be voted upon have been made available for review at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting.
2. Proposed amendments to these By Laws, when signed by six regular members may be submitted in writing to the Secretary. The President shall cause such proposed amendments to be voted upon at the next meeting of the general membership, occurring not more than thirty days from the date of said petition by the Secretary.

## **Article X. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money, issued in the name of, or payable to the Association, shall be signed or endorsed by such person or persons and in such manner as, from time to time, shall be determined by resolution of the Executive Committee.

### **Amendment History**

1998, Annual Meeting 11/17/1998:  
Article VI, section 3, quorum.

*From:* At least half of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

*To:* Quorum at Executive Committee meetings shall be two-thirds of the whole Executive Committee OR two-thirds of the Executive Board (President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) for the transaction of business of the association, providing all board members have been notified of the meeting.

2002, Annual Meeting 11/13/2002:  
Article IV. Government and Office, section 1.

*Add* (for clarification): There shall be no term limits.

**Adopted as WYSA By Laws**  
**2002, Annual Meeting, 11/13/2002**  
Signed by Board Members:

Sally Hollingshead, President

Teri Portofee, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.  
Rick Lima, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.  
Bob Arsenault, Treasurer  
Ann Comforti, Secretary  
Dave Sabala, Publicity

Les Ahern, Referee Coordinator  
Joe Comforti, Tournament Dir.  
Joe Vargas, Policy & Procedures  
Scott DiScuillo, Coach/Player Dev.  
Ron Sherman, Fields & Equipment