

Sonoma County Women's Soccer League
SCWSL
By-Laws

Mission Statement

The mission of this non-profit organization shall be to encourage the advancement of women's soccer within Sonoma County by demonstrating the true spirit of soccer through competitive, fun and fair play. Any assets left over are to be carried forward from season to season. If SCWSL disbands, its assets are to be donated to a non-profit organization committed to the advancement of women's sports.

ARTICLE I Name and Purpose

1. Name.

This Association shall be known as the Sonoma County Women's Soccer League also referred to as SCWSL.

2. Purpose.

The Purpose of this league is to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer among adult women of the age eighteen (18) years and older, within the North Bay-Redwood Empire area with the primary area being Sonoma County.

ARTICLE II Membership

- A. Any team after having been accepted and registered by the SCWSL will be eligible to become a member.
- B. Any team eligible for admissions shall be considered a member after fulfilling all the requirements and obligations herein set forth.
- C. All members shall abide by the By-Laws of this League and all applicable rules and regulations as well as all general policies and specific rules set forth by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III Authorities

- A. This league shall be governed by its By-Laws and Policies, Rules and Regulations.
- B. The governing authority of this league, whose powers shall be designated in the By-Laws and Policies, shall be vested with the Board of Directors.
- C. The governing board, known as the Board of Directors, shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large. Other board members may be appointed as deemed necessary by a majority vote among the current board members. This Board is also comprised of the Registrar and Referee/Game Scheduler whom are present at all board meetings, as these two members are paid positions, they do not vote. Board of Directors may not represent a team at any meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Governing Authority

- A. The Governing authority of this league shall be vested in the Board of Directors, By-Laws and Policies of this league.

- B. The Policies of the Board of Directors shall be executed by the following Officers;
 - 1. President
 - 2. Vice-President
 - 3. Secretary
 - 4. Treasurer
 - 5. Member at Large
 - 6. Registrar
 - 7. Referee/Game Scheduler

- C. The Board of Directors may authorize the President to hire such personnel as may be required for the efficient administration of the affairs of the League and appoint such committees as the President deems necessary for the development of the objectives of the League.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

- A. One half of the Board of Directors of this league shall be elected every other year at the Managers Meeting and shall hold office for two (2) years or until their successors are elected and seated. The President, Treasurer and Member at Large shall be elected for the starting term in even years, and the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in the odd years.
Voting for new Board Members will be at the Fall Season Managers meeting, and the term will begin at the start of the Spring Season.
The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large can serve a maximum of two terms or (4) years. The Registrar and Ref/Scheduler can serve unlimited terms, or until they resign their position or the board removes them from their position.

ARTICLE VI

Responsibilities

- A. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for and have sole authority for the following;
 - 1. Enforcing and interpreting the SCWSL By-Laws and Policies.

 - 2. From time to time make temporary rules and regulations for specific cases or occasions not provided for in the By-Laws or Policies, but which are deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to carry out the objectives of this League.

 - 3. The Board of Directors shall have the ultimate authority to suspend, bar completely or otherwise discipline any player, coach, manager, alternate manager, team assistant or League official from any team registered with this League per recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee.

ARTICLE VII**Voting Policies and By-Law Changes**

- A. There will be a minimum of four (4) Board Meetings a year which will be set by the President. Any changes to the Policies or rules will be addressed at the Board meeting and voted upon. The changes will then be presented to the Managers at the Managers Meeting for final approval
- B. Each assigned team Manager of the League, Alternate manager, team member, or team is eligible to submit proposed changes to the existing By-Laws and Policies to the Board of Directors. These changes will need to be submitted a month prior to a board meeting. The amendments shall be deemed adopted with a majority vote of the managers present at the meeting or via e-mail when necessary for Policies, Rules and Regulations. All voting members will have an opportunity to vote on all By-Law changes and changes will be implemented with a majority vote of the total members that choose to vote. Final approval will be made at the Managers meeting and amendments shall be made at the following board meeting.
- C. Each Team shall be entitled to one (1) vote by the Team Manager or Alternate Team Manager. Voting shall be restricted to those affiliated teams which have been registered during the current season. Only team Managers are entitled to vote in the best interest for their team, member, coach or other individuals.

ARTICLE VIII**Registration Policies**

- 1. The Board will designate a deadline prior to each Season for all registration Policies and fees. The Managers will be notified of this day prior to the Managers meeting before each season. Delinquent fees shall render a team ineligible to league play.

ARTICLE IX**Laws of the Game****A. FIFA RULES**

The SCWSL will conduct its games under the rules of the FIFA (Federation Internationale De Football Association) except as amended by the SCWSL, whose rules will then take precedence, such as slide tackling which is illegal in all Divisions. See policies for specific game rules.

B. AFFILIATION

Any women enrolled in the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), High School, Collegiate or other affiliated soccer club other than SCWSL is ineligible to play in the SCWSL for that particular season of play. The player is ineligible for registration at any time during the season when a player is participating in another club other than SCWSL except when playing in another adult recreational league. A fine and a forfeiture of the game will apply should any team do so and other action may be taken by the Disciplinary Committee towards the team involved.

C. WAIVER

All Players will be required to submit a waiver denoting non affiliation with any other youth, school, or non-recreational clubs during the adult league play.

D. STANDINGS

Within each division, standings will be computed by the website and teams will be repositioned by the scheduler and approved by the board prior to the beginning of the following season.

E. GRACE PERIOD

Teams may have 15 minutes grace period from the scheduled game time to field the minimum amount of players to begin the game, before an automatic forfeiture and fine results. Sanctioning from the President of the League may delay the start of the game in special circumstances. In the event both teams fail to show up for a scheduled game, and the referee rules the field playable, both teams shall be assessed with a loss and pay all fees due to the forfeiture. Teams must take the field once they can field (7) players.

F. GAME DURATION

Two 45 minute halves with a five (5) minute half time, with no overtime period, will be the length of all games. In case of extreme heat, or other extreme weather conditions, the two teams may decide to shorten the game time in compliance of the referee.

G. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

No game will start or continue if either team has less than seven (7) players on the field with a goalie required. If a team does not have enough players, even if in case of an injury, a forfeit will be declared.

H. YELLOW/RED CARDS

For players and coaches, one yellow card results in no action being taken by the Board. For all red cards, the Player's card will be held by the Board of Directors. The Disciplinary committee will review the case and will take action accordingly.

I. RAIN-OUTS

Each field will have an individual rain-out policy. Teams will be notified when fields are closed.

ARTICLE X

Schedule

- A. The Schedule will be approved by the Board of Directors prior to distributing to the Managers, two weeks prior to the start of the season.
- B. Rain-outs will not be re-scheduled.

ARTICLE XI

Team Responsibilities

1. Each team shall be responsible for assigning a team manager to represent them at all times. Should the manager not be present, an alternate manager must be appointed. Each team is also responsible for the conduct of its manager, players, supporters, etc. And it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its actions on or near the field does not bring disrespect upon its league. This also entails for sportsmanship. If players are disrespectful towards their opponents, and a written complaint is filed with the Disciplinary Committee of the Board, action might be taken towards the player, and/or team manager.

ARTICLE XII

Team Uniforms

1. All team colors shall be registered with the League. All teams must have alternate pennies or jerseys.

ARTICLE XIII

Referees

1. Referee uniforms shall be accepted by FIFA, and not conflict with the team colors.
2. Prior to the start of play, the referee shall verify each player card and retain the cards of all participating players until the game is completed
3. Referees shall send in all game cards to the SCWSL Post Office Box address no later than 24 hours after the actual played game. Red cards due to ejections will also be sent to the same address noted on the game cards with a written report within 48 hours of the game. The card will be held by the Board/Disciplinary Committee.

ARTICLE XIV

Discipline

1. The Disciplinary Committee is comprised of one Board Member and two members currently registered and in good standings with the League.
 - a. The Disciplinary Committee will review and take action as necessary for any red card or games called for disciplinary reasons. Board members will be made aware of the ruling via email within 2 days of the decision by the disciplinary committee.
 - b. All complaints should be in writing and submitted to the disciplinary committee.

ARTICLE XV

Appeals

1. All appeals need to be in writing and submitted to the President of the League for review with the Board of Directors.