



**SUBURBAN
YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
NEW JERSEY**

CONSTITUTION

AND BYLAWS

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CONSTITUTION

I. NAME

This Association shall be known as the Suburban Youth Soccer League New Jersey also referred to as SYSLNJ. SYSLNJ is a corporation. SYSLNJ endeavors to be recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of SYSLNJ is to provide a competitive, recreational soccer environment for member clubs and organizations and their constituents to develop, promote, and serve the soccer interests of their youth members (under the age of 19) through healthy amateur competition and educational programs.

III. AFFILIATION

SYSLNJ shall be an affiliate of, comply with the authority of, and be sanctioned by New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS), a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of SYSLNJ shall consist of soccer organizations including private not-for-profit clubs and municipal recreational programs sponsoring soccer teams for their constituents and members. SYSLNJ membership is divided into the following levels:

Founding Clubs: These charter members of the league are fully vested in the organization from its formation. These clubs shall maintain all the rights of Full Member Clubs unless otherwise relinquished by the Club. The six clubs are Cranford, Mountainside, New Providence Scotch Plains Fanwood, Springfield, and Westfield,

Full Member Clubs: An organization that has applied and been approved by the Club Council for Full Membership. The club must have served as a Provisional Club, in good standing, for two (2) years to the satisfaction of the Club Council (regardless of teams) and field at least 10 or more teams annually (based on a 2-year cycle average).

Provisional Member Clubs: An organization that has applied and been approved by the Club Council for participation in SYSLNJ. Provisional Clubs are transitional clubs that have not yet been granted full membership. Their membership is under a two (2) year probationary period and can be terminated by a majority vote of the Club Council. Provisional Member Clubs must field five (5) to nine (9) teams annually, based on a two (2) year cycle average.

Affiliated Club: A Club comprised of one (1) to four (4) recreational soccer teams accepted for participation in the SYSLNJ.

Other key terms pertinent to membership shall be defined as such:

Eligible Club: An organization that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities. Eligible Clubs must be sponsored by an existing Founding or Full Member Club in order to be considered for SYSLNJ membership. **An eligible club must have a New Jersey Youth Soccer club identification number.**

Team: A recognized entity, comprised of “youth players” (as defined by NJYSA), created for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.

Voting Member: All members of the Club Council (represented by their town representative or representative as designated by their club), are voting members. Each Affiliated Club has a weighted vote, as defined in Section VII. VOTING of this Constitution.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all members – regardless of membership level – shall act in the best overall interests of SYSLNJ and in accordance with the spirit of the league. Failure to abide by provisions of this Constitution or failure to act with candor and good faith may result in the suspension or removal of such member in accordance with the voting rules contained herein.

V. GOVERNING AUTHORITY

SYSLNJ shall be governed by the Club Council and an Executive Board of Officers (“Executive Board”). The organization may, for time to time, appoint advisory boards or other committees to help advance the mission of the organization.

A. CLUB COUNCIL

SECTION I – DEFINITION OF CLUB COUNCIL

The Club Council shall serve as the legal “board of directors” for SYSLNJ and its voting body. The Club Council is composed of delegates from founding and full member clubs, provisional member representatives, and the Executive Committee. An initial Executive Committee will be established for the first year of league operation through appointment by the initial SYSLNJ Founding Clubs. This initial Executive Committee may include Club Council members.

The Club Council may create subcommittees, provided that the membership of such subcommittees shall include a board approved representative to chair the subcommittee of SYSLNJ.

SECTION II – CLUB COUNCIL DUTIES

The Club Council shall be the legislative body for the league. The Club Council is responsible for and has sole authority for:

- a) Enforcing and interpreting the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations;
- b) Adopting Playing Rules and Regulations for the administration of SYSLNJ and the games and competitions sponsored by SYSLNJ;
- c) Approving applications from all new clubs (a) applying for full membership and (b) any new affiliate clubs;
- d) Nomination and appointment of members to league committees, committee chairs, and other positions;
- e) Adopting temporary rules and/or regulations for specific cases or circumstances not provided for in the Bylaws, or policies and Rules and Regulations which are deemed necessary by the Executive committee to carry out the objectives of SYSLNJ;
- f) Serving as SYSLNJ conduit to clubs, their coaches and leadership;
- g) Voting on Executive Committee positions;
- h) Approving the annual budget; and
- i) Establishing bank accounts and financials for the league;
- j) And such other activities as may be deemed necessary to fulfill the mission of the organization.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF OFFICERS

SECTION I – DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Senior Administrator and a Treasurer. The immediate past Commissioner of the SYSLNJ will serve as an ex officio member for a period of one year.

SECTION II – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES

The Executive Committee is responsible for:

- a) General oversight of SYSLNJ and administration of its business functions;
- b) Managing league voting;
- c) Administering league communications and outreach efforts;
- d) The formulation of league committees;
- e) The appointment of committee chairs and other positions, in conjunction with Club Council;
- f) Serving as a liaison to all SYSLNJ Clubs;
- g) Overseeing and support all SYSLNJ committees;

- h) Assigning activities to league committees for review and to be carried out;
- i) Facilitating issues arising from league operations;
- j) Reviewing all serious misconduct incidences; and
- k) Reviewing all appeals brought forth to SYSLNJ.

SECTION III – Election and/or Appointment of Executive Committee Members

The Commissioner, Associate Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner shall be elected members of the Executive Committee. The Senior Administrator and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the Club Council.

SECTION IV – Election Process for the Executive Committee Members

Elections shall be held biennially for the Deputy Commissioner position. Once appointed to the Executive Committee, the Deputy Commissioner shall ascend to the Commissioner position upon successfully completing a two-year term as the Deputy Commissioner.

The Commissioner shall continue in service for a two-year term after successfully completing a term as the Associate Commissioner. Upon successful completion of a two-year term as the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall ascend to the role of Past Commissioner position and serve in an advisory role to the Executive Committee and participate in the Advisory Board.

Should an elected member of the Executive Committee be removed, resign, or otherwise be unable to continue in such role, that position shall be filled by ascension in accordance with the succession plan outlined in this section. The new vacancy shall be filled by interim appointment until a new election shall be held to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis, in accordance with the process outlined in this document.

C. ADVISORY BOARD

SECTION I – DEFINITION OF ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board shall provide outside guidance to the Club Council and Executive Committee. It can be composed of up to five (5) independent members, all of whom are appointed by the Executive Committee, with consent of the Club Council.

SECTION II – ADVISORY BOARD DUTIES

The Advisory Board's general duties are:

- a) Providing general guidance to the Club Council and Executive Committee on business and competition elements based on experience or expertise;
- b) Assisting with league functions, as needed;
- c) Providing supplemental support and / or guidance for league committees as needed;
- d) Examining best practices and make recommendations to the Club Council;
- e) Providing neutral or objective counsel to league disputes or issues;
- f) Serving in committee roles as needed; and
- g) Proposing legislative initiatives to be taken up by Club Council.

VI. MEETINGS

Any notice of meetings required by this Constitution and Bylaws may be made or electronically (e.g., via e-mail and/or via web page, etc.).

A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of SYSLNJ shall take place in January, at a specific time, date and location to be established by the Club Council and the Executive Committee, who shall give notice of the date, time, and location of the Annual General Meeting to Member Clubs in good standing, not fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

B. GENERAL MEETINGS

The Club Council and the Executive Committee shall meet at a minimum of four (4) times annually, at least once per quarter, and one of those meetings shall be the Annual General Meeting.

The Club Council and Executive Committee may meet at such other times when the Commissioner deems there is a need for a meeting, when the Commissioner is instructed by at least three (3) members of Club Council or Executive Committee to call a meeting, or when the Executive Committee calls for a meeting. Subcommittees may meet at the call of the Commissioner or when the Commissioner is instructed by at least three (3) Club Council members.

Unapproved minutes of the General Meetings shall be distributed within seven (7) days of the meeting to which the minutes relate.

C. OTHER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Other meetings of the SYSLNJ may be called, with fourteen (14) days' notice, from time-to-time, as the Executive Committee may deem appropriate and necessary. The Executive Committee, depending upon which organization called the meeting, shall provide to Member Clubs such notice of these meetings, as is practicable.

VII. VOTING

A. VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Each Member Club shall have the following Voting Rights as part of the Club Council, in respect to all SYSLNJ matters.

- Founding Member Clubs are entitled to 3 votes
- Full Member Clubs are entitled to 3 votes
- Provisional Clubs are entitled to 2 votes
- Affiliated Clubs / Leagues are entitled to 1 vote

B. VOTING AT MEETINGS

SECTION I – GENERAL MEETING VOTING

At any General Meeting of the Club Council and the Executive Committee, each Club shall be entitled to their respective vote(s), as designated in Section VII. VOTING A. VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS 7(A) with respect to any business that comes before SYSLNJ.

SECTION II – OTHER MEMBERSHIP MEETING VOTING

At other membership meetings, when issues requiring votes are considered, each Club shall be entitled to their respective vote(s), as designated in Section VII. VOTING A. VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS with respect to any business that comes before SYSLNJ.

VIII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

A. FREQUENCY OF AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the SYSLNJ Constitution and Bylaws may be made as needed during any time of the year, subject to approval of the Club Council

B. INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendment must be received by the Senior Administrator in writing no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the next Membership Meeting. The Senior Administrator shall send the Club Council and Executive Committee copies of the proposed amendments no fewer than ten (10) days prior to the next Membership Meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS

The approval of any proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of sixty-six and two-thirds (66-2/3%) percent of the Club Council votes cast.

Approved amendments shall become effective at the adjournment of Membership Meeting where the voting took place or at such time as prescribed by the amendment.

IX. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

Upon termination or dissolution of SYSLNJ, any assets lawfully available for distribution shall be distributed to one (1) or more qualifying organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or described in any corresponding provision of any successor statute) where the organization or organizations have a charitable purpose which, at least generally, includes a purpose similar to SYSLNJ.

The organization receiving the assets of SYSLNJ hereunder shall be selected in the discretion of a majority of the managing body of SYSLNJ and, if its members cannot so agree, then the recipient organization shall be selected pursuant to a verified petition in equity filed in a court of proper jurisdiction against SYSLNJ, by one (1) or more of its managing body, said verified petition shall contain statements to reasonably indicate the applicability of this section. The court, upon a finding that this section is applicable, shall select the qualifying organization or organizations to receive the assets to be distributed, giving preference, if practicable, to organizations located within the State of New Jersey.

In the event that the court shall find that this section is applicable but that there is no qualifying organization known to it which has a charitable purpose, which at least generally, includes a purpose similar to SYSLNJ, then the court shall direct the distribution of its assets lawfully available for distribution to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey to be added to the general fund.

BYLAWS

I. PURPOSE

The charitable purposes of SYSLNJ are set forth in its certificate.

SYSLNJ was founded as a way for children to continue playing soccer in a semi-competitive environment, while developing their individual soccer skills, knowledge of the game, and sportsmanship.

SYSLNJ organizes and administers two (2) seasons of play during the soccer year. The seasons are fall and spring. Each season consists of a regular game period, playoffs, and championship game and / or final tournament.

SYSLNJ organizes its teams into age brackets using the New Jersey Youth Soccer age group guidelines.

II. MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned in the Constitution, membership in SYSLNJ shall consist of Founding Clubs, Full Member Clubs, Provisional Member Clubs, Affiliated Clubs, teams, players, coaches, administrators, and players' parents and guardians.

A. MEMBER REGISTRATION

The Executive Committee and Club Council shall annually determine the requirements for, and the method and timing of registration for all classes of Members. The Senior Administrator shall be responsible for registering Members for the Seasonal Year pursuant to the registration requirements, and providing and updating a list of Members to the Club Council and the Executive Committee.

B. NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

The Executive Committee and Club Council shall annually determine the requirements for, and the method and timing of, new member applications and their registration. New members will be advised of and required to:

1. Complete and submit a new member application form to the Executive Committee and Club Council;
2. Be sponsored by an existing Founding Member or Full Member club;
3. Provide payment of the application fee upon acceptance into SYSLNJ. This application fee may be used to offset team registration fees over the first two (2) seasons;
4. Be subject to a two (2) year probationary period which will commence at their acceptance into SYSLNJ, in order to ensure that the new member is in accordance with SYSLNJ climate, rules and regulations; and
5. Will be entitled to one (1) provisional vote at Club Council once their membership is accepted into SYSLNJ.

C. MEMBERSHIP DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The Executive Committee and Club Council may, ahead of each season:

- (a) Determine (i) the amounts of program fees, dues, or assessments payable by the Members and (ii) the time and method of their payment;
- (b) Impose such fees, dues, and assessments upon all Members of the same class, either in like or in different amounts or proportions, and upon a different basis, upon different classes of Members;
- (c) Exempt Members of one (1) or more classes from fees, dues, or assessments; and
- (d) Terminate Members for nonpayment of dues.

D. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

A Club and any member shall be in Good Standing if it / he / she abides by and obeys all current SYSLNJ requirements for Membership and complies with the spirit of providing quality youth recreational soccer programs to, with, and for SYSLNJ Members.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

All members shall abide by the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Rules and Regulations and policies of SYSLNJ. All players of Club Member teams must be affiliated with the NJYS and applicable state and/or national requirements.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of SYSLNJ Executive Committee Officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting. Election to office shall require a simple majority of votes cast. The officers will take office upon their election.

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE

Only active members of SYSLNJ shall be eligible to be candidates for an Executive Committee elective office of SYSLNJ. A candidate for Commissioner must have been an active member of SYSLNJ for at least one (1) year. No elected officer shall serve as an officer of another regional soccer league within the state. Candidates can be their own town soccer club officers.

B. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICE

A nominee for any office must:

1. Be an Adult Player or Parent / Guardian of a Youth Player having participated in a SYSLNJ program within the past year;
2. Be a Member in Good Standing;
3. Be nominated by a Member Club
4. Express in person or in writing a willingness to serve.

5. Any of the above qualifications may be waived by the Club Council in the absence of one (1) candidate meeting the criteria.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS BY SUCCESSION

The position of Commissioner can only be obtained by succession after the initial year of SYSLNJ league operation. In order to become Commissioner, an individual must have served at least one (1) year on the Executive Committee.

D. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS AND THEIR ACCEPTANCE

SECTION I - NOMINATIONS

The Club Council and the current Executive Committee shall make nominations for committee officer positions (other than the position of Commissioner) and submit its report of these nominations to the Senior Administrator at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Club Council and Executive Committee shall not be required to submit a single nominee for each office, but may, in its discretion, report multiple nominees for any office. The Senior Administrator will communicate the list of nominees for each position to the Club Council and the Executive Board at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION II – ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATIONS

A person nominated by the Club Council or the Executive Committee need not be present at the meeting in which the person is being nominated in order to accept his or her nomination. Any member nominated during the Annual General Meeting must accept the nomination either in writing or in person. An acceptance in writing is valid when delivered to the Senior Administrator. The acceptance may be delivered to the Senior Administrator before or during the Annual General Meeting.

E. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Elections shall be by Roll Call Vote of the Club Council, except in cases where there is only one nominee for the office. Balloting shall continue until the offices are filled.

In the event that there is more than one nominee for the same office, the nominee receiving a simple majority of votes cast shall be elected to the office. If no nominee receives a majority, each subsequent balloting shall include only those nominees who received the first and second highest votes in the immediately preceding ballot.

No votes may be made by proxy.

F. VACANCY IN ELECTED OFFICE

In the event that an elected office of SYSLNJ becomes vacant, the Commissioner shall appoint, within thirty (30) days and with the approval of Club Council and the Executive Committee, to fill the unexpired term of such vacant office. If the vacancy occurs in the Office of the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner will automatically become the Commissioner, and a vacancy shall result in the office of Deputy Commissioner. If the Commissioner fails to appoint a nominee to a vacancy within thirty (30) days following the creation of the vacancy in that office, the Club Council may nominate an active member of SYSLNJ to the vacancy or determine to leave the position vacant until such time that the Club Council seeks to address the vacancy or the next Annual General Meeting.

V. ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

SYSLNJ Executive Committee shall have Elected Officers and Appointed Officers as listed herein.

A. ELECTED OFFICERS

Each Elected officer shall each serve a two (2) year term or until his or her successor is elected or his or her earlier death, resignation, or removal. In the first year of the league, Elected Officer Position terms shall be staggered, in order to create a more proper flow of position turnover. The term of office shall start from the close of the Annual General Meeting at which an Elected Officer is elected.

Elected Officers shall be:

1. Commissioner
2. Deputy Commissioner

B. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

1. COMMISSIONER

The duties of the Commissioner shall be:

- A. to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of SYSLNJ, with responsibility for overall operation of the SYSLNJ;
- B. to conduct and preside over all meetings of SYSLNJ, having only one (1) vote, to be used only to break a tie vote;
- C. to delegate authority, assign specific functions, create special committees, and take similar action in consultation with the Club Council and the Executive Committee;
- D. to make permanent appointments to standing committees with the approval of the Club Council and the Executive Committee, and interim appointments with the approval of the Executive Commissioner;
- E. to represent SYSLNJ in State, Regional, and National matters;

- F. to promote SYSLNJ to potential expansion candidates with the goal of growing the league;
- G. to authorize individual expenditures not in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) without action by the Executive Committee;
- H. to co-sign checks on behalf of SYSLNJ;
- I. to serve as an ex officio member of all committees; and
- J. to perform such other duties as may be delegated by Club Council the Executive Committee.
- K. To serve as the arbiter over any Appeals arising out of committees, including disciplinary actions.

2. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

The duties of the Executive Commissioner shall be:

- A. to serve in the absence of the Commissioner, performing administrative duties including, but not limited to, conducting meetings of SYSLNJ;
- B. to act as chief counsel for the Commissioner, Club Council, and the Executive Committee;
- C. to advertise SYSLNJ to appropriate towns and areas in conjunction with the Commissioner;
- D. to solicit sponsorship from businesses, vendors and individuals to help with all aspects of funding SYSLNJ costs and activities;
- E. to chair the Discipline Committee;
- F. to work with the Treasurer to prepare the annual budget;
- G. to perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Commissioner.
- H. to develop, organize, administer, and manage day-to-day activities of the SYSLNJ programs;
- I. to work with the Senior Administrator on scheduling of games and determining standings of teams periodically throughout each season;
- J. to develop, organize, administer, and manage SYSLNJ's Coach and Play development programs to be offered to Member Clubs;
- K. to oversee and administer referee programs of SYSLNJ; and
- L. to perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Commissioner.

C. APPOINTED OFFICERS

Each Appointed Officer will serve from the time he or she is appointed by the Club Council and the Executive Committee to the close of the first general meeting of SYSLNJ following the Annual General Meeting or until his or her successor is appointed, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal.

Appointed Officers shall be:

1. Senior Administrator
2. Treasurer

D. DUTIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

1. SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

The duties of Senior Administrator shall be:

- A. to carry out the Rules and Regulations and policies of SYSLNJ;
- B. to monitor player and coach registrations and team rosters of all Member Clubs of SYSLNJ;
- C. to coordinate all new member applications with the applicant and the governing body of SYSLNJ;
- D. to monitor registration and rostering rules and regulations issued by NJYS, and serve as a league liaison to such bodies;
- E. to give notice, hold all meetings, and prepare agendas for all SYSLNJ meetings as well as keep, maintain, and distribute accurate and detailed records of all minutes of all meetings;
- F. to handle all correspondence not otherwise delegated;
- G. to act as the representative of the Executive Committee, under its direction, for Member Clubs to assure that the Constitution, Bylaws and all Rules and Regulations and policies of the SYSLNJ are followed;
- H. to help maintain the SYSLNJ website and handle publicity concerning SYSLNJ in conjunction with the Executive Committee;
- I. to administer and implement programs and game scheduling of SYSLNJ at all Levels as well as publish those schedules on SYSLNJ website;
- J. to work with the Age Group Committee concerning problems that may arise scheduling, fighting, determination of league standings, and similar matters;
- K. to provide the SYSL Cup Committee with information regarding scheduling and any information required to run the SYSL Cup; and
- L. to perform such other duties as the Commissioner, the Executive Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine.

2. TREASURER

The duties of the Treasurer shall be:

- A. to deposit all monies of the SYSLNJ in a recognized bank(s) in the name of the SYSLNJ (or in the name of an appropriate SYSLNJ Committee), and provide receipt for all monies received;
- B. to pay all accounts due by check;
- C. to produce a written account of the finances of SYSLNJ, when required by the Executive Board of Directors, including properly balanced books, receipt books, vouchers, bank statements, and other appropriate financial records;
- D. to prepare an Annual Financial Report and an Annual Operating Budget for the SYSLNJ;
- E. to oversee the preparation of any financial reports SYSLNJ is required to prepare in connection with the Internal Revenue Service and New Jersey Charitable Registration and Investigation Act;
- F. to prepare or arrange for the preparation of annual tax returns;
- G. to update the Club Council and the Executive Committee at least quarterly on the budget and overall financial standing of the league;
- H. to submit budget amendments when and where appropriate; and
- I. to perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Commissioner.

E. COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

No Officer shall for reason of his or her office be entitled to receive any salary or compensation. Officers may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties to SYSLNJ in reasonable amounts and an Officer may be a compensated employee or agent of SYSLNJ for services provided outside the duties of his or her office.

VI. COMMITTEES

1. DISCIPLINE AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

As set forth and provided in Article X. DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY of these Bylaws, a Discipline and Protest Committee shall be appointed.

2. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee will be responsible for developing rules for league competition from season to season and be composed of up to five (5) Members with an appointed chairperson. This committee shall:

1. Manage SYSLNJ Playing Rules and Regulations for all divisions including modifications of existing FIFA Laws of the Game;
2. Approve age group specific rule changes or modifications;
3. Ensure compliance with league rules, as published;
4. Act as a liaison to other governing bodies on adoption of new or modified rules of competition;
5. Formulate rule change documentation for presentation and vote by Club Council;
6. Provide clarification of rule interpretation to Commissioner and any appointed Referee Administrator;
7. Work with Age Group Committee and appointed Referee Administrator to determine new action items for implementation for the following season; and
8. Manage the “fair play” aspects of competition.

3. AGE GROUP COMMITTEE

The Age Group Committee will be responsible for providing oversight and operation of each age group and be composed of up to five (5) Members with an appointed chairperson. This committee shall:

1. Manage the flighting process for each age group in concert with Club Council members;
2. Oversee competition across all flights in each age group;
3. Establish an appeal period prior to each season where teams can address any conflicts with the flighting they have been awarded;
4. Suggest age group specific rule changes or modifications to the Competition Committee;
5. Ensure compliance with league rules, as published;
6. Escalate issues to other committees;
7. Serve as a liaison to age group coaches on competition, scheduling, and other matters; and
8. Work with the Competition Committee and appointed Referee Administrator to determine new action items for implementation for the following season.

4. SYSL CUP COMMITTEE

The SYSL Cup Committee will be responsible for overseeing and supervising all games and activities for the SYSL Cup end of the season tournaments and activities. This committee will consist of three (3) members. This committee shall:

1. Work with the Executive Committee to provide awareness to the community and engage in sponsorship to offset costs of game day;
2. Organize volunteers to assist with all SYSL Cup games and activities; and

3. Work with the appointed Referee Administrator to ensure proper officiating during game day.

VII. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of SYSLNJ shall begin on the first (1st) day of August and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of July.

VIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Meetings of the Club Council and the Executive Committee shall be conducted according to the form prescribed in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, unless otherwise provided, or unless relaxed or modified at the commencement of any meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner shall act as Parliamentarian and shall be the final arbitrator on all parliamentary procedures.

IX. QUORUM

At all meetings of Club Council and the Executive Committee, a simple majority of members (exclusive of ex officio members and vacant positions) shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business. At the Annual General Meeting and at other general meetings, a simple majority of Member Club representation shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

The presence in person at a meeting of Voting Members that includes two (2) times the total number of Officers in office at the start of the Annual General Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of electing Elected Officers.

X. DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

SYSLNJ shall conduct its business with due respect for the spirit of the game and the benefit of the players. In accordance therewith, the Club Council and the Executive Committee shall have the right and authority to suspend, bar, or otherwise discipline any player, coach, manager, team assistant, or officer from any member team or Club, for due cause. The Executive Committee may delegate its disciplinary authority to the following appointed committee, and such others, as in its sole discretion, it deems appropriate.

DISCIPLINE AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee will be responsible for receiving complaints, disputes and all matters raised that may require disciplinary action and/or review by SYSLNJ. All disciplinary cases will be tracked by this committee and cataloged for precedence, consistency, and enforcement provisions. The committee will be composed of three (3) to five (5) Members with a designated chairperson. This committee shall be the highest level of appeal in SYSLNJ for matters referred to it. This Committee will be responsible for:

- a) Receiving submitted complaints, disputes, and all matters raised and notifying all involved that the matter will be investigated;
- b) Investigating and facilitating fact finding efforts to determine what occurred by all parties involved in the dispute. This investigation will include but is not limited to, review of game reports and referee reports to determine what, if any, discipline may be warranted by reason of the reported conduct of players, coaches, team officials, and spectators;
- c) Compiling a report that finalizes all information regarding the dispute;
- d) Determining and voting on what disciplinary action needs to be taken and adding it to the compiled report, as well as imposing an immediate suspension or penalty or stay discipline, pending the outcome of the disciplinary process;
- e) Communicating in writing to all parties involved the ruling on the dispute;
- f) Hearing appeals from any discipline imposed and come to a final ruling; and

Hearing any other matters of discipline referred to it by any other committee, Club Council, or the Executive Committee.

XI. PROMULGATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Executive Committee is empowered to adopt such Rules and Regulations for the administration of SYSLNJ as the Club Council or the Executive Committee, in their sole discretions, may deem appropriate, provided that neither the Club Council nor the Executive Committee shall hereby have any authority to modify any provision of the Constitution or the Bylaws by the promulgation of a Rule or Regulation. Rules and Regulations may include (but are not limited to) fees for club and team participation, disciplinary standards; age limits for participation; methods for procurement of uniforms, trophies, plaques, awards, computer and other office equipment, supplies, etc.; length of games during regular league play, play-offs, and league-sponsored tournaments, etc. The Rules and Regulations may be announced and set forth in the league's Handbook, on the league's web page, via U.S. mail, via electronic mail, or other communications.

XII. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Club Council, pursuant to the following procedures, may remove any officer for cause:

1. Any officer who fails or ceases to meet the requirements of his or office may be removed summarily.
2. In all other cases of removal, the officer proposed to be removed and all members of the Executive Committee shall be notified no later than ten (10) calendar days before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting that a recommendation in the form of a motion shall be presented seeking to have that officer removed.
3. Upon the motion being duly made and seconded, the officer shall be afforded the opportunity to appear and present evidence and/or information (including a statement) before Club Council and the Executive Committee.
4. Upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of Club Council members present the officer is so removed.

XIII. RESIGNATION

Any Officer may resign at any time by giving notice to the Commissioner or the Secretary. The resignation shall be effective upon receipt by the Commissioner or the Secretary or at such subsequent time as may be specified in the notice of resignation. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

XIV. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY and INSURANCE

A. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF OFFICERS

No Officer shall be personally liable to SYSLNJ for damages for breach of any duty owed to SYSLNJ, except for liabilities arising from any breach of duty based upon an act or omission (a) in breach of the duty of loyalty to SYSLNJ, (b) not in good faith or involving a knowing violation of law; or (c) resulting in receipt by such Officer of an improper personal benefit. Neither the amendment for nor repeal of this Article XIII shall eliminate or reduce the protection offered by this Article to an Officer in respect to any matter which occurred, or any cause of action, suit, or claim which but for this Article XIII would have accrued or arisen prior to such amendment, repeal, or adoption.

B. PRESUMPTION OF ASSENT TO ACTION TAKEN AT A MEETING

An Officer who is present at a meeting of the SYSLNJ or any Committee thereof of which he or she is a member at which action is taken shall be presumed to have concurred in the action taken unless the Officer's dissent is entered in the minutes of the meeting or unless the Officer files his or her dissent to such action with the Executive Administrative Director before or promptly after the adjournment thereof. Such right to dissent shall not apply to an Officer who voted in favor of such action.

C. RELIANCE ON RECORDS AND REPORTS

An Officer shall not be personally liable for any action taken or failure to take any action as an Officer if, acting in good faith, the Officer relies upon:

- a) The opinion of counsel for SYSLNJ;
- b) Written reports setting forth financial data concerning SYSLNJ and prepared by an independent public accountant, a certified public accountant, or firm of accountants; and
- c) Financial statements, books of account, or reports of SYSLNJ represented to the Officer to be correct by the Officer having charge of the books of account, or the person presiding at a meeting of the Board.

D. INSURANCE

SYSLNJ shall purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was an Officer or Director of or is or was serving at the request of SYSLNJ as a trustee, director, or officer of

another domestic or foreign corporation for profit or not-for-profit, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not SYSLNJ would have the power to indemnify him or her against that liability under the Act. SYSLNJ's payment of premiums with respect to such coverage shall be provided primarily for the benefit of SYSLNJ. To the extent that such incurrence coverage provides a benefit to the insured person, SYSLNJ's payment of premiums with respect to such insurance shall be provided in exchange for the services rendered by the insured person and in a manner so as not to constitute an excess benefit transaction under Section 4958 of the Code.

XV. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

As designated in Section VII. AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS of the Constitution on page 10 of this document.

XVI. LEGAL ACTION

No official, club, team, referee, player, or other member of SYSLNJ may invoke the aid of the courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the MNMJYSA, NJYSA, USYSA, and USSF.

1. For any violation of this rule, the offending parties shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines, and shall be liable to the SYSLNJ and/or the NJYSA, USYSA or USSF for all expenses, including, but not limited to, those set forth below, incurred by any such organization, or their affiliates and officers in defending each court action:
 - A. court costs;
 - B. attorneys' fees;
 - C. reasonable compensation for time spent by officers and employees in responding to and defending against the allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;
 - D. travel expenses; and
 - E. expenses for holding special SYSLNJ and NJYSA Board of Directors or Executive Board meetings to discuss the court action.
2. No official, club, team, referee, SYSLNJ officer, coach, player, or the representative of any of the foregoing individuals may be returned to good standing until litigation has ended and all costs, fines, fees, and expenses are paid, unless the return to good standing is decided by the SYSLNJ Board of Directors in the exercise of its sole discretion.

XVII. IGNORANCE OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Ignorance of this Constitution and Bylaws and the requirements of each is not sufficient excuse of any failure to abide by the Constitution or Bylaws and violators may expect appropriate action by the governing bodies of SYSLNJ.