

By-Laws 2018 Revisions 5/1/18

OLD COLONY WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

SECTION I: CONSTITUTION

This organization shall be known as the Old Colony Women's Soccer League.

The purpose of this organization shall be to assist, promote and foster development of recreational soccer and to promote sportsmanship and goodwill among its members.

The business of this league shall be carried forth and transacted by its officers. The officers of the O.C.W.S.L. shall be comprised of the following positions:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Registrar
Player Coordinator/Web Master

SECTION II: BY-LAWS

MEETINGS

The O.C.W.S.L will hold quarterly business meetings (4 per year). All league officers and one player representative from each registered team are required to attend.

Special meetings may be called at any time at the discretion of the league president and/or two registered players.

Any team that is not represented at a league meeting shall forfeit 1 point in the standings. If the meeting is held in season, 1 point shall be deducted from current standings. If the meeting is held out of season, points shall be deducted from their next season's standings.

OFFICERS

The following officers are to be elected at the end of season banquet meeting. The officers shall be elected for a two-year term. The vote shall be by ballot and be staggered on the following basis: on even years President, Registrar, Treasurer; odd years will be Vice President, Player Coordinator and Secretary. Only 2 Executive Board members may be from the same team. If a position cannot be filled due to this rule, team reps may be drafted to hold the position.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Registrar
Player Coordinator/Web Master

The six league officers must be registered players during the current season. The officers reserve the right to appoint any non-voting (ex-officio) positions as needed. For any officer missing 3 consecutive meetings without just cause, the position may be declared vacant and voting members will elect a replacement at the next regular meeting.

In the event that an officer resigns midterm a temporary officer will fill the occupancy for the remainder of the current term. The vacant position will be opened to the entirety of the league for members to run. Team Representatives are responsible for bringing any opposition to the Board once the candidates are announced. The candidates will be voted upon in the next league meeting.

LEAGUE VOTING POLICY

All league policy changes and other issues will require a quorum of 67% of the voting members (Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Player Coordinator and one player representative from each team). A majority of 51% is required for a vote to be approved.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of said league unless unavailable due to sickness or infirmity. She shall also serve as parliamentarian at these meetings, or may relinquish this duty to an officer of her choice. The President shall hold an ex-officio position, only exercising the right to vote in tie-breaking situations. The President shall also be responsible for all league equipment and fundraising efforts.

Vice President: The Vice President shall succeed to the powers of the President in the latter's absence. She shall have full voting powers and is expected to assist the President however, whenever and wherever needed. She shall also be responsible for all rule interpretations as well as the enforcement thereof through the scheduling of competent and registered officials. She shall also be responsible for developing the season playing schedule, and the hiring of the Referee Administrator.

Secretary: As a full voting member, the Secretary shall be responsible for the recording and distributing of all meeting minutes. She shall be responsible for any and all communication associated with the league. She will also distribute points, cards and standings as recorded by the Referee Administrator to the appropriate personnel.

Treasurer: As a full voting member, the Treasurer shall be responsible for any and all monies of the league, keeping an accurate record of all transactions and disbursements. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for updating and maintaining the league's non-profit status, financial and applicable paperwork.

Registrar: As a full voting member, the Registrar shall be responsible for coordinating and carrying out registration of new and existing players.

Player Coordinator/Web Master: As a full voting member, the Player Coordinator shall be responsible for recruiting new members and maintaining a player pool. The Player Coordinator shall also be responsible for updating and maintaining the website and oversee the maintenance of the league's social media sites.

Team Representatives: Each team is responsible for designating at least one representative to the league, but no more than two. This representative shall be a player from said team and has full voting power. It is the representative's responsibility to bring the team's concerns to the league and to keep their team informed of league decisions. Representatives will also assist the league with team/player registration. Team Reps report to the league President as well as the Referee Administrator any issues or concerns.

The officers represent the league in all administrative matters which demand immediate attention and/or decision. Their actions under circumstances of this nature shall be operative and final.

Referee Administrator: This is a non-voting, paid position that is responsible for assigning certified USSF referees to all games. He/she is also responsible for rule interpretation and enforcement thereof, both on and off the field, and advising the Board of Directors in such matters.

OLD COLONY WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY

1. TEAM REGISTRATION

A. Teams must:

- Register with the league each year
 - A \$150 registration deposit towards the total cost of team registration is due by April 15th of each calendar year in order to register a team. This fee is non-refundable.
- Submit a \$350 sponsor fee
 - Sponsors may be individuals and/or businesses from the local playing area.
- Secure a playing field

B. PLAYING FIELDS: Each team must provide the league with confirmation of field usage agreements by the team registration deadline. It is strongly urged that all fields be kept safe for playing. It is each team's responsibility to ensure the grass is mowed and lined prior to games. If for any reason the field is not ready for play, it is up to the visiting team, either/or both teams if playing on a neutral field, to lodge a protest with the center referee and the Executive Board, as well as provide photos of the field conditions being protested. If the Executive Board deems the field's owner at fault, the Executive Board will pose a penalty of 1 point from that team's standings.

C. NEW TEAMS: All new teams must meet the requirements in sections A and B as well as provide at least one player representative prior to registration. The deadline to register new teams is the FIRST registration date. APPLICATIONS for new teams of the OCWSL may be obtained by through the league website.

D. REGISTRATION There is a registration fee for each team which consists of a player fee for each player on the team. Assessments may be charged as deemed necessary by the league. All league fees must be paid two weeks prior to the start of the season. There will be two official registrations prior to the start of the season. Each team must have a minimum number of 12 players to register. A maximum of 30 players is allowed. Any team or player that breaks the league registration rules may be suspended for the whole season and if suspended, may not participate in OCWSL activities in the future as determined by the league officers. Any team banned from the league may not return as a new team and/or transfer with more than 6 players from the original banned team.

E. TEAM ROSTERS and Mass Soccer I.D. numbers are to be submitted to the Registrar for validation on or before the registration deadline for that season. Each player must register with MASS soccer.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION/TRANSFERS

A. REGISTRATION: For a player to be properly registered each player must obtain a valid MASS Soccer player ID number. To obtain this, visit www.mass-soccer.org. Registration is valid for 2 years. Only registered, paid players may play and for only 1 team in a season.

AGE LIMITS: Any team registering with OCWSL shall be allowed to carry players who are eighteen (18) by May 31 of that playing season. However, at least 20 percent of all rostered players of that team must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older by May 31 of that playing season. The league will also abide by NCAA out of season regulations.

B. REIMBURSEMENT: If a person has paid her registration and is unable to start the season, a full reimbursement will be issued. Once the season has started, no reimbursements will be issued. A player may be eligible for reimbursement of their league fee if she does not play within the first four games. Each team may request this reimbursement for one player per season. Additional requests will be reviewed by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

C. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS: Any team playing or attempting to play an ineligible player shall forfeit the game and points. The team and player(s) playing or attempting to play in any game for which she is

ineligible shall be further dealt with by the Executive Board.

D. TRANSFERS: A player who transfers from one team to another will be considered a new player. A team changing sponsors is not considered a new team. The transfer of player must occur before the end of the add/drop period.

E. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION DAY: There will be unlimited add/drops through the 4th week of the season. Team rosters should not exceed 30 players.

2 add/drops per team will be allowed for reasons related to medical, injury, or reasons approved by the Executive Board through the 5th week of the season. All necessary information and fees are due and must be confirmed by the Registrar and Treasurer prior to the new player appearing in a game.

If using a drop, the player being replaced will be removed from the roster and that player will not be allowed to play again in that season. Exceptions will be voted on by the Executive Board.

3. SCHEDULING/STANDINGS

A. The season and its dates are to be determined by the league. Games are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Game times may not be changed without the advance consent of an Executive Board member. Teams not ready to play by 6:45 shall forfeit the game.

B. Duration of games- Games shall consist of two, forty-minute halves with a five-minute half-time intermission.

C. Standings: The standings of teams shall be figured by points; three (3) points for the winning team and in the case of a tie, one (1) point for each team. No points are given for a loss or non-game. In the event of a forfeit the score shall be 1-0.

D. Score Reporting: The scores will be reported to the Secretary by the Referee Administrator. Scores/Updated Standings will be posted on website and emailed within 48 hours of result. Team Representatives have 48 hours after score posting (96 hours from game result) to file a complaint with the Secretary with any discrepancies. If the discrepancy is unable to be resolved between the Team Representatives of both teams and the Referee Administrator, the Board will review and resolve.

E. Withdrawn Teams: If a team disbands, or for any reason does not play one-half of its scheduled games, the games played shall not count for or against opposing teams, and the team thus forfeits all dues and fees.

4. GAME RULES

Current International rules (F.I.F.A.) shall be in effect except as specifically stated otherwise in these rules. The Executive Board of the OCWSL will be the final authority on any point covered by these rules of play or by F.I.F.A. rules.

Prior to the game, the team representative of each team shall furnish the referee with the official MASS Soccer roster including respective shirt numbers. All referees shall be familiar with and honor these rules of play and the laws of the game as defined by F.I.F.A, except noted in our bylaws. Referee shall verify that all players have proper uniform (numbered shirts and matching shorts). A player properly listed on the official line-up shall be considered as a competing player, whether or not she plays. Any player included on the team roster may be in the line-up and may play in the game. A minimum of seven (7) players per team is required to play the game. If a team fails to show-up 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the missing team will forfeit the game and lose the points to their opponent. Furthermore, any team refusing or failing to play a game in compliance with league rules will be subjected to the same

penalties. A team appearing but unable to field at least seven (7) players will forfeit the game and lose points. If neither team can field seven (7) players then a double forfeit will occur. If a team does not provide a master roster by 6:45 pm, that team will be forced to forfeit.

5. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

A. Players must be in uniform for each game. Uniforms consist of matching numbered shirts, black shorts and socks of a league approved color. Any players not in uniform will not be allowed to play the match.

B. Team colors must be approved by the Executive Board before the start of the season. No two teams may register the same color. A change in team uniform color must be approved by the Executive Board.

C. Tape of any color may be used

D. A player shall not wear anything that is considered dangerous by the referee to other players or themselves. This rule shall be enforced by all referees.

E. Each team is responsible for two corner flags at every game. The home team will ensure the field is lined and mowed for play.

F. The ball for each game will be a size #5 ball and will be provided by the home team.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions may be made at the following times:

Prior to any throw-in at which time both teams have substitutions

Prior to a throw-in by your team

Prior to a goal kick by either team

After a goal by either team

After an injury by either team when the referee stops play

A player receiving a yellow card during the game **MUST** be substituted immediately. The opposing coach may substitute one for one. No player may leave the field of play without consent of the referee.

A player receiving a red card must leave the field immediately and cannot be substituted for the remainder of the game.

The referee must indicate his/her permission before substitutions can enter the field of play.

There are no free keeper substitutions.

An injured player must be substituted if she is down and the referee stops the play. The injured player may return to the game on the next substitution at the referee's discretion. Goalkeepers are exempt from this rule. A player who is bleeding must be substituted. She may return once the bleeding has been properly covered.

7. POSTPONEMENT/RESCHEDULING

A. No team representative (including the coach) shall have the right to cancel, postpone, add or change the field of play or make any changes to any scheduled game for any reason without consulting a member of the Executive Board.

B. Referees will have the right to decide whether or not a field is playable. Teams that do not show up with enough players to start a game by 6:45 pm, regardless of the referees' decision, will forfeit the game.

- If a field becomes unplayable, the referee must call the game before the second half of the game begins.

C. The Executive Board may decide to cancel the full schedule of games by 4:00 p.m. on game day.

D. Any team that forfeits a game prior to the start of the game must call the opposing team's representative, and the President or Vice President. The President or Vice President will notify the referees of the cancellation and will confirm with the opposing team. The score of a forfeited game is 1-0.

E. In the event of a rain delay, the game may be delayed until no later than 7:00 pm, at which time the game will be shortened to two thirty-minute halves at the discretion of the referee. If the game cannot be played it will be rescheduled. In the case of an in-game stoppage, a decision must be made to resume play within 15 minutes. If the game goes any amount of time into the second half and is called due to inclement weather, the score stands and the game is final.

F. In the event of extenuating circumstances such as inclement weather, availability of field, or field being closed per the town, every attempt shall be made to reschedule the game at both the players and referee's earliest convenience.

G. In the event teams cannot reschedule a make-up game, each team will receive 1 point. The score will be reported as 0-0.

H. If the assigned head referee does not arrive within fifteen minutes after the scheduled kick-off, the team reps shall appoint an acting, certified referee to manage the game. Otherwise, the two teams will reschedule under mutual agreement. The home team will notify a member of the Executive Board of any and all changes.

8. REFEREES

A. Rules of play: All referees shall be familiar with and honor the rules of play and the laws of the game as defined by F.I.F.A. unless otherwise noted in these bylaws.

B. Game Results: shall be promptly submitted to the Referee Administrator and should include any comments deemed necessary by the referee.

9. PROTESTS

A. Referee's decisions during the game cannot be protested if the game has begun.

B. The Executive Board will hear and rule upon all protests. Such protests must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary within 24 hours of the game in question.

C. The Executive Board shall hold a hearing within three (3) days with the appropriate persons and/or refer to the protest official. All protests fall under the guidelines of FIFA and a formal complaint needs to be submitted.

D. A member of the Executive Board shall be disqualified from deliberation or ruling upon a particular protest if that member was involved in the game as a coach, referee or player. In such scenarios, two eligible team representatives will be randomly selected on a case-by-case basis as alternates to participate in the ruling of the protest.

E. Deliberations and final decisions will be made in a closed session, and the Secretary will notify the involved parties as soon as possible. The Executive Board is to render a decision within seven (7) days of that hearing. Such decisions will be final and shall not be subject to appeal.

F. If a game is protested then the game cannot be played and must be rescheduled.

10. PENALTY CARDS:

The OCWSL uses a point system as follows:

- SEASON: Red card=3 points Yellow card=1 point
- Any accumulation of three (3) points will result in the player being suspended from the next scheduled game.
- TWO (2) additional points will result in an additional suspension from the next scheduled game.
- Any further points shall be brought before the Executive Board for review of the player's conduct.
- GAME: One (1) yellow card= immediate substitution
- One (1) red card = immediate ejection from this game and premises and the player may not be substituted. The player may not attend the next scheduled game in any way.

ALL CARD OFFENSES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR BY THE REFEREE ALONG WITH THE PLAYERS NAME AND NUMBER WHERE IT WILL THEN BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

The Executive Board will notify the league officers of any misconduct. The Executive Board will notify all parties concerned of any actions to be taken. If the Executive Board considers that the offense is of a serious nature, they shall hear the case of all parties concerned and decide on the appropriate action.

11. CONDUCT

A. The Executive Board may recommend to the OCWSL such penalties, up to and including banishment from the league for life, for act(s) of misconduct by a player, coach, or referee. Lesser penalties may be imposed.

B. Good Sportsmanship: All participants in OCWSL games will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, referees, or spectators is not acceptable. The Executive Board will take appropriate action when necessary.

C. Fracas or unbecoming conduct will not be tolerated. If a player, in or out of uniform, leaves the bench to take part in a fracas and is ejected by the referee, she shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. If any member of a team engages in unbecoming conduct which is brought to the attention of the Executive Board, the Executive Board will investigate and make recommendations to the league to take appropriate action. This could involve banning such individuals from further league activities.

D. The League, when officially notified, shall wholly recognize a player suspension or similar ruling.

E. Any player or coach that assaults a referee shall be expelled from the OCWSL for life.

F. Referee complaints & reports must be submitted by Team Representatives to the Referee Administrator within 24 hours of the offense.

12. PLAY-OFFS

A. In semi-final and final games, games shall consist of two forty-five minute halves with a five minute half-time intermission.

In championship games or cup games, if still tied, two ten minute overtime periods shall be played. In the event of darkness or inclement weather, both teams must decide before the start of the game as to whether there will be two 10-minute overtimes or two 5-minute overtimes. Referees must inform the players of time remaining if there is time allowed for stoppage/injuries, etc. If at the end of this overtime, the game is still tied, F.I.F.A. penalty kick rules will apply in order to determine the winner. F.I.F.A. kicks from the penalty mark will be administered as follows:

The referee shall toss a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss must take the first kick. Players taking the penalty kicks must be on the field at the end of overtime play. The kicks shall be taken alternately by different players. If tied after five (5) kicks by each team, additional kicks for each team will be taken by different players (on a sudden death basis) until, with the same number of kicks, one team has scored one more goal than the other.

Play-off games will be scheduled as follows:

A. The top four teams at the end of the regular season will play in the play-offs.

B. Play-off position will be determined by total points. In case of point ties the following criteria will be used:

- Head to head competition between tied teams
- Goals AGAINST
- Least number of penalty points

C. Semi-finals:

First place vs. Fourth place (1 vs. 4)

Second place vs. Third place (2 vs. 3)

D. Finals: Winners of the semi-final games play each other in a one game championship.

E. If a playoff game is tied, there will be two 10-minute overtime periods (unless discussed before the game, as written in Section 3 paragraph C). Then if the game is still tied, the game will be settled by FIFA penalty kick method. The game will not be decided by the toss of a coin.

For both semi-finals and finals there will be two linesmen and one referee. In the event the final or semi-final game cannot be completed it will be played in its entirety on the scheduled makeup date. If the semi-final game cannot be played, then the first and second place teams will play in the finals. If the finals cannot be played, then the first-place team will be the champions.