

Rhinebeck Soccer League Inc.
(1/11/1993 amended 11/18/2002-06/30/2007 - recorded 04/01/2008)
Constitution of Bylaws

(Latest amendments are underlined)

I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Rhinebeck Soccer League Inc., herein called the league.

II. Nature of Organization

A. Objective

The league shall be a nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of New York dedicated to providing youth of the Town of Rhinebeck, and of neighboring areas, an opportunity to play soccer, have fun, and there through learn principles of good sportsmanship, fitness, honesty, teamwork, and respect for authority.

B. Program

To achieve this objective, the league will provide a supervised program of soccer instruction and competitive soccer games. All directors, officers and members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or the winning of the games is secondary, and the molding of future adults is of prime importance. The league board of directors and coaches shall strive to provide equal benefits to all registered players.

III. Membership

A. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to anyone showing an interest in the promotion of the objectives of the league, set forth above, upon fulfilling such conditions as the league may establish.

B. Classes of Membership

1. Player Member

Any youth of appropriate age, registered for the season, shall be termed a player member. Such a member shall pay no dues beyond the amount assessed at registration except for such assessments as may be made to cover expenditures for special activities determined by the board of directors.

2. Regular Member

Regular members shall include parents or guardians of registered players, coaches, sponsors or any board recognized person contributing assistance to the league. All members of the board of directors must be regular members.

C. Termination, Suspension, and Resignation

1. Termination or Suspension of an Officer or a Board Member

The board of directors, by a two thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline or suspend or terminate the term of office of any officer or board member, when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league. Failure to meet attendance requirements and failure to discharge one's duties are among the reasons which may be cause for termination. The board member involved shall be notified five days in advance of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges, and given an opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer such charges.

2. Resignation of a Board Member

The resignation of a board member requires a written communication to the board and should provide the board with adequate notice.

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3. Termination or Suspension of a Player

The board of directors shall, in the case of a player member, give notice to the player, player's parent or guardian, and coach. They shall appear before a duly appointed committee of the board of directors, which shall have full power to suspend or revoke such player's right of future participation. Written notification of the committee's decision shall be sent to the player and player's parent or guardian.

IV. Board of Directors and Officers

A. Board of Directors

All powers of the league shall be vested in the board of directors. The board shall be composed of the president, vice president, second vice president, third vice president, fourth vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president and other directors. One person may hold more than one office. The board of directors shall hold standing meetings in June, August, November and March; and meet whenever necessary. The June meeting shall be known as the annual meeting.

B. Collective Duties and Powers

The board of directors shall be empowered to transact all of the league's business, to fill vacancies that occur in offices, to establish such standing and special committees as it deems appropriate and to delegate powers thereto, to suspend or remove any board member or regular member, to establish procedures, to hear and decide protests, and to handle problems relating to the league. The board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the league as it may deem proper. The board shall receive, at the annual meeting of the league, a report verified by the president and treasurer, or a majority of the directors, showing the previous year's income and expenditures. This report shall be filed with the records of the league and an abstract thereof attached to the minutes of the proceedings of the annual meeting. Each director shall actively participate in at least one committee.

C. Meetings

At the annual meeting the board shall elect officers and members of the board of directors and adopt the budget for the following year. Five members of the board of directors shall be sufficient for a duly constituted meeting. Each elected officer and appointed travel team representative shall have a vote. Appointed directors may be allowed to vote upon mutual agreement of all elected officers present. In the event the vote results in a tie vote, a second vote shall be taken. If the second vote results in a tie, the motion stands defeated. Only members of the board of directors shall be eligible to participate in meetings beyond orderly discussion of pending motions, unless otherwise invited by the board. Unless otherwise noted, Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all meetings. Each member of the board shall attend at least two thirds of the league meetings.

D. Elective Process

1. Term of Office

A term of office shall be defined as a period of up to one year from annual meeting.

2. Annual Election

a. Nomination

The board of directors should appoint, at the meeting prior to the annual meeting, a committee to nominate officers for the following year. The committee shall also prepare a list of board members who are willing to continue for the following year. The committee shall present a full slate of officers and the list of continuing board members to the board at the annual meeting. Nomination beyond the nominating committee's slate may be made at the annual meeting.

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b. Election

The board shall elect officers and board members for the following year at the annual meeting. Each office shall be awarded by a majority vote taken by a single written ballot, unless a tie results, in which case a run-off ballot between the two leading candidates shall immediately ensue. Board members shall be elected to continuing office by majority vote.

3. Vacancies

If any vacancy occurs in the board of directors or the officers, by death, resignation, or otherwise, it may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

E. Duties of Officers

1. Duties of President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the league and represent the league in all matters. The president shall call meetings as needed. The president shall, upon request, assist other officers in the performance of their duties personally or by delegating powers to other board members.

2. Duties of Vice President

The vice president shall serve as president in the latter's absence, incapacity, resignation, suspension or removal.

3. Duties of Second Vice President - Development

The second vice president shall be responsible for the ongoing development of the players, coaches, referees and administrators at the club level. The officer shall assess developmental needs, determine actions to be taken, propose action plan(s) to the board of directors, and drive the action plan(s) to closure.

4. Duties of Third Vice President - Travel Program

The third vice president shall be responsible for the ongoing development and deployment of the travel program at the club level. The officer shall determine actions to be taken, propose action plan(s) to the board of directors, and drive the action plan(s) to closure.

5. Duties of Fourth Vice President - Recreation Program

The fourth vice president shall be responsible for the ongoing development and deployment of the recreational program at the club level. The officer shall determine actions to be taken, propose action plan(s) to the board of directors, and drive the action plan(s) to closure.

6. Duties of Secretary

The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and record the activities of the league. The secretary shall maintain appropriate files, mailing lists, and necessary records. The secretary shall conduct all correspondence not otherwise specifically delegated and shall be responsible for carrying out all orders, results of votes, and resolutions not otherwise committed. The secretary shall perform such duties as are herein specifically set forth, in addition to such other duties as are customarily incident to the office of secretary or as may be assigned by the board of directors. The secretary shall be the official repository of this constitution and of any other official documents of the league. The secretary shall maintain a list of board members. The secretary shall notify members, directors, officers and committee members of their election or appointment.

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7. Duties of Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform such duties as are herein specifically set forth and such other duties as are customarily incident to the office of treasurer or may be assigned by the board of directors. The treasurer shall file, annually or as often as is required by law, a statement of nonprofit corporation with the Internal Revenue Service, with a copy to the secretary. The treasurer shall file a financial statement at the regular meeting of the board of directors and keep records for the receipt and disbursement of all monies and securities of the league and disburse all payments from allotted funds. Under the direction of the president, the treasurer shall prepare an annual statement for submission to the board of directors at the annual meeting. The treasurer shall also, with the assistance and concurrence of the budget committee, prepare and present a budget for the following fiscal year at this time. The treasurer shall handle all matters involving insurance.

8. Duties of Immediate Past President

The immediate past president shall advise the rest of the board of directors on procedural matters of the league and community impact and import. The immediate past president shall ensure that the historical perspectives of the league are understood and duly considered.

9. Committee Chairpersons (appointed Directors)

Each committee chairperson shall chair a committee and be solely responsible for seeing that the committee's work is done; for reporting to the board as needed; for securing as many committee members as are needed to accomplish the necessary tasks. The board may fill, or elect not to fill, any chair that becomes vacant and shall act as chair of that committee until the vacancy is filled. Examples of directors are field coordinator, registrar, and tournament director.

V. Financial

A. Funds

No board member shall receive directly or indirectly any salary, compensation or emolument from the league for services rendered as director. The board of directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the league, and shall place all income, including auxiliary funds, in a common treasury, directing the expenditure of same in such manner as will give no individual or team an advantage over those in competition with such individual or team. The board must give prior approval to the contribution of funds or property to individual teams.

Upon the approval of the board of directors, temporary auxiliary funds may be established as needed by teams, age groups, programs or committees. Accounting of these funds must be reported in writing to the board of directors at all standing meetings. All debts must be resolved by the 26th day of June of the fiscal year. All remaining funds must be transferred to the general fund by the last day of June of the fiscal year.

B. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the league shall begin on the first day of July and shall end on the last day of June. The fiscal year shall be known by the calendar year in effect on the last day of that fiscal year.

C. Distribution Of Property Upon Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the league and after all outstanding debts and claims have been satisfied, the members shall distribute the property of the club to such other organization or organizations maintaining an objective similar to that set forth herein, which are or may be entitled to exemption under Section 501 (c) if the Internal Revenue Code or any future corresponding provision.

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D. Disbursement

The board shall not permit the disbursement of league funds for other than the conduct of soccer activities in accordance with the rules and policies established.

E. Reimbursements

All reimbursements require a receipt given to the treasurer.

F. Fines and Penalties

The club is not responsible for fines or penalties incurred for reasons of negligence or misconduct by players, coaches, parents, and individual officers and directors. Players, coaches, parents, and individual officers and directors are responsible for resolving fines or penalties that they may incur due to negligence or misconduct. By a majority vote of the officers, the club may choose to resolve fines and penalties if the fines and penalties cause the club to lose good standing.

VI. Amendments

Amendments to the constitution shall be effected by a 60% vote or a quorum at two consecutive meetings of the board of directors at least two weeks apart, provided that all those eligible to vote have been notified at least ten days in advance of each meeting of the intention to offer the amendment. Amendments shall be immediately incorporated into the constitution, rather than being maintained as a list of amendments to the original text.