

LONDON & AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION REVISED 2010

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

1.1 The name of the League shall be the London & Area Women's Soccer League.

ARTICLE 2 - HEADQUARTERS

2.1 The headquarters of the League shall be in the City of London, in the Province of Ontario.

ARTICLE 3 - AFFILIATION

3.1 The League shall affiliate with the Elgin-Middlesex Soccer Association and be subject to the rules and regulations of that Association.

ARTICLE 4 - OBJECTS

4.1 The object of the League shall be to provide competition for its member teams in a Senior Competitive League Structure. A Recreation Division and an Over 30 division may be added if requested.

ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership will be open to the following

5.2 Teams belonging to clubs affiliated with the Elgin-Middlesex Soccer Association.

5.3 Teams of clubs affiliated with other District Associations provided they have the annual playing-out permission from their own District Association and playing-in permission from the Elgin-Middlesex Soccer Association.

5.4 New members will be admitted at the discretion of the executive committee and no later than January 31 of each year.

ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERSHIP FEES

6.1 Annual membership fees shall be set and approved by the voting Members at the Annual General Meeting.

6.2 Members wishing to renew their Membership for the coming year shall pay the team levy at the Annual General Meeting or be fined an amount as set by the membership.

6.3 A new Member being admitted to the League shall pay such initiation fee as approved at an Annual General Meeting.

6.4 New members must register and pay their fees before January 31 of each year.

6.5 Fees of any type are not refundable after the First day of March annually.

ARTICLE 7 - MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

7.1 Teams are responsible for the actions of their players, officials and spectators. The team's parent club is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its' players, officials and spectators from assaulting anyone present at the game, especially game officials.

7.2 The team's parent club is responsible for keeping any trophies or awards presented to them upon request and in good repair. Annual trophies or awards shall be returned upon request. Missing or damaged items shall be replaced or repaired, the costs being charged to the club or individual concerned.

7.3 Pay promptly the Membership Renewal Fee and post bonds as may be specified.

7.4 Verify that all players are properly registered and hold an OSA identification book/card to be presented to the opposing team upon request before taking part in the game

7.5 Ensure that any trial player/individual called to play holds a certified playing permit and presents same as required before taking part in the game.

7.6 Provide the League on an annual basis with a list of officers/directors and league contacts for the coming season and notify the league of any subsequent changes thereafter.

7.7 Verify that players selected for the All-Star team are free from team duties.

ARTICLE 8 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before December 31 of each year. All Members shall be given fourteen (14) days clear notice of the date, time and location of the meeting.

- 8.2 ORDER of BUSINESS
Roll Call
Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
President's Address
Secretary's Report
Treasurer and Auditor's Report
Unfinished Business and Correspondence
Constitutional Amendments
Election of Officers
New Business
Adjournment

ARTICLE 9 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 9.1 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee by its own motion.
9.2 A Special General Meeting must be called within thirty (30) days following receipt of a written request signed by representing not less than one third (1/3) of the Membership.
9.3 All Members shall receive seven (7) clear days notice of the date, time and location of the meeting.
9.4 Only the business for which the Special General Meeting has been called will be dealt with, except with the unanimous consent of those present.

ARTICLE 10 - GENERAL MEETINGS

- 10.1 Each Member in good standing shall be eligible to take part and vote at any General Meeting.
10.2 Each club shall have one (1) vote per team and must be present to cast it. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
10.3 Voting shall be by a show of hands, unless a poll is requested and decisions shall be reached by a simple majority.
10.4 The President shall have a casting vote only.
10.5 Members of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to speak, but may not sit or vote as a team delegate.

ARTICLE 11 - QUORUM

- 11.1 A majority, in terms of eligible voting Members present, shall form a quorum at all meetings of the League.

ARTICLE 12 - PRESIDING OFFICER

- 12.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the League, in the absence of the President the Vice-President shall take the chair. The absence of both of these officers shall require the appointment by the Executive Committee of a pro tem presiding officer.

Article 13 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 13.1 The business of the League shall be conducted by an Executive Committee comprised of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council member(s).
13.2 The election of the Executive Committee will be by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting.
13.3 In odd numbered years the President and Treasurer shall be elected.
13.4 In even numbered years the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected.
13.5 The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, or at such times as set by the Committee.

ARTICLE 14 - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 14.1 The President shall preside at all General and Executive Committee Meetings of the League and have a casting vote only. The President shall be the spokesperson for the League and may sit as a pro tem member of any committee.
14.2 The Vice-President shall be the senior officer next to the President, and shall have such other duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

- 14.3 The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the records and for the administration of the business of the League. The Secretary shall have such other duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- 14.4 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the fiscal affairs of the League and shall provide a financial accounting at each meeting of the Executive Committee or at the request of the President. The Treasurer shall prepare and present a budget to the Membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- 14.5 The Executive Committee may appoint other persons to carry out specific tasks on behalf of the League.

ARTICLE 15 - VACANCIES

- 15.1 The Office of a Member of the Executive committee may be vacated by resignation in writing, or if a Member is removed by resolution of the Executive Committee for good and sufficient cause.
- 15.2 Should a vacancy occur, the Executive Committee may appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE 16 - STANDING COMMITTEES

- 16.1 The Executive Committee may constitute such committees as it deems necessary to conduct the business of the League and to ensure that the highest level of sporting conduct is maintained.

ARTICLE 17 - FISCAL YEAR

- 17.1 The financial year for the League shall be from and inclusive of the 1st day of November to the 31st day of October in the following year.

ARTICLE 18 - OTHER REGULATIONS

- 18.1 The Executive Committee may make such miscellaneous rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the required high standards of the League are maintained.
- 18.2 Such rules must be circulated to the Membership before being put into effect.

ARTICLE 19 - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 19.1 All proposed amendments to the constitution must be made in writing and reach the League no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 19.2 Copies of proposed amendments shall be sent to all Members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 19.3 The Executive Committee may change the title or paragraph numbers for the purpose of the simplification of reading the entire document.

ARTICLE 20 - BONDS

- 20.1 The executive committee may require teams from time to time to post bonds with the League for a specific time and for an intended purpose. Such bonds may be forfeit if the team fails to fulfill its' obligation to the League.

ARTICLE 21 - OTHER MATTERS

- 21.1 All matters not covered in this Constitution and Rules and Regulations, shall be judged in accordance with the Constitutions of the District Association and the Ontario Soccer Association.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE 1 - LEAGUE STRUCTURE

1. The League shall consist of a Premier Division, a First Division, a Second Division and Third Division if necessary of competitively registered players. As well a Recreation Division and an Over 30 Division of recreationally registered players has been added.

RULE 2 - PREMIER DIVISION

- 2.1 The Premier Division shall comprise of not more than ten (10) competitively registered teams.
- 2.2 All teams must play on a field as approved by the executive committee.
- 2.3 The team finishing first in the division shall be declared the champion.
- 2.4 The bottom two (2) teams in this division shall be relegated to the next lower division of the League if composed of ten (10) teams.
- 2.5 Should the Division be composed of less than ten (10) teams, relegation will be at the discretion of the council.
- 2.6 All other sections of the constitution will apply.

RULE 3 - FIRST DIVISION AND SUBSEQUENT COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- 3.1 These divisions shall comprise of ten(10) competitively registered teams.
- 3.2 The team finishing first shall be declared the champion and promoted to the next highest division save and except if Rule 13.1 comes into effect
- 3.3 Should the next highest division consist of ten (10) teams, the top two (2) teams will be promoted save and except if Rule 13.1 comes into effect. The two (2) teams finishing last will be relegated to the next lowest competitive division or, to the recreational division if requested..
- 3.4 Should any division be split, the Executive committee shall make the decision as to which area the teams shall play.
- 3.5 Should the division be divided into two (2) sections, the title of Division Champion shall be determined by a playoff game to be held at the end of the regular season between the teams finishing first in their respective sections. The team finishing first and at the top of each section shall be promoted to the next highest division for the ensuing soccer season save and except when Rule 13.1 applies.
- 3.6 New teams may apply to play in the lowest competitive division.
- 3.7 All other sections of the constitution will apply.

RULE 4 - RECREATIONAL DIVISION:

- 4.1 The Recreational Division shall be comprised of not more than 10 teams.
- 4.2 If enough teams register to split the division, Rule 3.4 and 3.5 will apply.
- 4.3 Any new team(s) as well as teams from the Recreational Division may apply to the lowest competitive division

RULE 5 – OVER 30 DIVISION

- 5.1 The Over 30 Division shall be comprised of not more than 10 teams
- 5.2 If enough teams register to split the division, Rule 3.4 and 3.5 will apply
- 5.3 Any Over 30 team, awarded a throw-in, may substitute a player at this time. If a substitution is made, the opposing team may also substitute but only if the awarded team has done so.

RULE 6 - GROUNDS

- 6.1 All grounds shall be clearly marked and comply with the F IFA Laws of the Game. Regulation goal nets and corner flags must be provided by the home team. The referee shall be the sole judge as to the playing condition of the field. Should the referee decide the ground is playable, no protest will be entertained.
- 6.2 Should the referee report any ground discrepancies, the team responsible will be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 Should the referee declare the grounds unfit for play, he shall be paid an amount equal to half the game fee and any travel expenses incurred.
- 6.4 Referees must inform the home team of any problems before the scheduled kick-off.

RULE 7 - GAMES

- 7.1 Any team not fulfilling a fixture shall forfeit the game and be fined an amount agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. The game shall be awarded to their opponents with a recorded score of 3 - 0.
- 7.2 Any team reported for delaying the kick-off time, shall be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. Maximum delay shall be fifteen (15) minutes. The referee shall report the outcome of the game.
- 7.3 The home team shall provide an approved game ball to the referee prior to kick-off time.
- 7.4 All games shall be played under the laws of the game as approved by the Ontario Soccer Association.
- 7.5 Any team defaulting two (2) games in one season shall forfeit their membership and bond if applicable.
- 7.6 Any team dropping out of the League for any reason, all games played by that team shall be declared null and void and removed from the standings.
- 7.7 Any team, if found guilty of having played an ineligible player, shall be fined an amount as agreed upon by the Executive committee and the game awarded to their opponents. Should the team in question persist in using players who are not properly registered or ineligible to play in this League, the team may be expelled from the League.
- 7.8 In the event of any game being abandoned for any reason before the completion of regulation time, the Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on the disposition of the game. Should the abandonment be caused by any team walking off the field without permission of the referee, the team shall be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.9 The home team shall be responsible for all costs of playing the game. They shall ensure that the game officials are paid the game fee and travel expenses that are due. Such payment shall be made prior to or immediately following the game. Any monies collected at the gate shall be the property of the home team. The away team shall be responsible for its' own expenses.
- 7.10 Each team must complete three (3) copies of the team sheets for each game. The team sheet shall contain the team registration number and the full name, number and OSA Registration number of each player eligible to take part in the game. Not more than eighteen (18) players names may appear on the team sheet. Only those players whose names appear on the team sheet may take part in the game. All players must have identification as authorized by the Ontario Soccer Association. The pink copy of the team sheet shall be given to the opposing team and may be exchanged with the opposing team at the end of the game. The referee will send the yellow copy to the local association with the white copy being sent to the League's designated person. These team sheets should be presented to the referee fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the game.
- 7.11 An official of each team may check the identifications of the opposing team prior to the scheduled kick-off. Any complaint regarding the eligibility of a player shall be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game. The game shall not be delayed for any reason.
- 7.12 Any player playing under trial permits, such permits shall be attached to the game sheets handed to the referee prior to the beginning of the game. Players from house lower level teams from within the same club must be identified on the team sheet with the letter "T".
- 7.13 The home team shall report the result of the game on-line at www.lawsl.ca, using their web access information no later then ten (10:00) a.m. the morning following the game. Teams must report the game outcome whether the game has been completed or not. Names of scorers must be entered at this time. The away teams may confirm the game result and enter names of scorers, only after the home teams report has been completed. Failure to comply shall be dealt with as in Published Rules and Bonds.
- 7.14 Any team failing to show up for a scheduled game shall forfeit the game and be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. The game will be awarded to the opposing team with a recorded score of 3-0. The defaulting team shall be responsible for any fees payable to the game officials and any other expenses as determined by the Executive Committee.
- 7.15 The league reserves the right to refuse registration to any team not in good standing.

RULE 8 - TEAM REGISTRATION

- 8.1 Each team shall register with the League the following information:
 - 8.1.1 Name, address and telephone number and e-mail address of two **(2)** contact people.
 - 8.1.2 Name and location of their grounds
 - 8.1.3 Team colours .

- 8.2 All teams are required to play in their registered colours. In the event of a clash, the visiting team shall change to their alternate strip.
- 8.3 No team or club shall use a name similar to the name of another club in membership.
- 8.4 Any change in any of the above information shall be e-mailed to the League secretary within five (5) days of the change. It is the responsibility of the club to notify the other member clubs of any such changes. Failure to make such notification may result in disciplinary action being taken.

RULE 9 - PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 9.1 In all League games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie. No points shall be awarded for a loss. The team obtaining the most points shall be declared Division champions.
- 9.2 In determining championship and relegation where the point total is equal, the position shall be decided on goal average. Goal average shall mean goals for divided by goals against. The highest average shall decide. If a tie remains, there shall be a play-off game.

RULE 10 - SCHEDULE

- 10.1 Kick-Off time shall be decided before the start of the season. The home team shall notify the League on the annual membership application form. The Final schedule shall be posted on the website. No further notification shall be considered necessary.
- 10.2 All games must start promptly and not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time. Any breach of this rule will result in a fine and possible forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- 10.3 Any team wishing to change the date, time and/or place of the game, must obtain agreement in writing from their opponent. The agreement shall state the date, time and place that the game will take place and be accompanied by a change of game fee as decided upon at the Annual General Meeting. This information must reach the League's designated person fourteen (14) days prior to the request being implemented. Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in the change being denied. If not played within the specified time frame, both teams will be fined in accordance with P.R.F.B and the game shown as not played.
- 10.4 Any league game scheduled on the same date as an Ontario Cup game, said game must be played between the Wednesday before or the Wednesday after the Ontario Cup game. No league games are to be scheduled within 48 hours of any presently scheduled game.
- 10.5 Failure of either team to agree on a date, time and location of a replay as in paragraph 10.3 shall require the League to set the replay. The game may be played on a neutral field in which case 10.6 will come into effect.
- 10.6 The expenses that are incurred resulting from the postponement and the rescheduling by the League, shall be borne by the home team.

RULE 11 - COMMUNICATION

- 11.1 All communications to the League, unless otherwise stipulated, shall be served to the person or persons designated by the Executive Committee.
- 11.2 League correspondence from the League to any team or individual shall be served through the contact person of the team in membership.
- 11.3 All correspondence shall be sent to the e-mail address provided to the league of the party for whom intended. Correspondence may be by registered mail to the address provided and the date of service shall be binding
- 11.4 Any League game postponed by officials or by a commitment to the Ontario Cup must be played within ten (10) days of the originally scheduled date. The home team shall be responsible for making field arrangements for playing the game within this time frame. The home team must give all parties concerned i.e. the opposing team, League and any other party to be notified, three (3) days notice.
- 11.5 Teams entering the Ontario Cup competition shall notify the League at time of registration.

RULE 12 - PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

- 12.1 All matters requiring a hearing shall be dealt with by a Committee appointed for that purpose.
- 12.2 All member teams shall be responsible for the actions of their players, team officials and spectators.

- 12.3 All protests regarding the playing of a game must be made in writing and received by the League secretary. A protest must be delivered by postal or courier service and date stamped no later than forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the game, Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays excluded. A copy of the above protest must be sent to the opposing team within the above time frame.
- 12.3.1 The letter of protest must be accompanied by the correct protest fee and the registration or courier receipt for the copy sent to the other party.
- 12.3.2 On receipt of a valid written protest or complaint, the Secretary will send a notice within ten (10) days of the date, time and location of the hearing. Such notice may be waived, in writing, by all parties to the hearing.
- 12.3.3 All valid protests shall be heard within three (3) weeks of being received by the Secretary.
- 12.4 Protests of games shall be made according to the rules of the competition in which the game is played.
- 12.5 In the event a protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be returned in full. In the event the protest is denied, the committee shall decide whether to return the protest fee in full or in part or to declare the protest fee forfeit.
- 12.6 Any protest fee which is not submitted in compliance with the foregoing regulations will be ruled out of order and will not be heard.
- 12.7 Any party to a hearing not satisfied with the decision of the committee has the right to appeal the decision to the District Association. Conditions for lodging the appeal is as included with the decision of the committee.

RULE 13 - PLAYER MOVEMENT

Clubs fielding more than one (1) team shall adhere to the following:

- 13.1 No club shall have two (2) teams playing in the same section of a division.
- 13.2 No player shall play for more than one (1) team on any day. Play shall mean one game or any part thereof.
- 13.3 Player movement shall comply as published by the District Association.
- 13.3.1 There will be no downward movement of players.
- 13.3.2 For scheduled division play, no more than 3 players from other teams will be allowed to play on any one team at one time.
- 13.3.3 There shall be no movement of players with trial or temporary registration permit in games designated as Cup or Play-off competition.
- 13.4 Any club operating two (2) or more teams within the League shall submit a list of players registered with each team prior to the start of the season and again by July 1 each year.

RULE 14 - ADMISSION TO GAMES

- 14.1 All teams shall honour the pass as issued by the League (if applicable) and of the District Association, O.S.A. and C.S.A. referee pass. Referees shall be given free entrance to all games upon producing a current Referee Registration Certificate as issued by the O.S.A.
- 14.2 The visiting team shall be allowed free entry for twenty (20) persons. This includes players.
- 14.3 The admission price shall be set at the Annual General meeting.

RULE 15 - CUPS AND TOURNAMENTS

The draw in the various cup competitions shall be as follows:

- 15.1 Names of the teams shall be placed in a suitable container. The first team drawn shall be the home team, the second team drawn shall be the opponent. The draw shall continue in a like manner until all teams have been drawn.
- 15.2 If a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the teams shall play two (2) fifteen (15) minute overtime halves. The first goal scored during the overtime period shall be declared the winner (Golden Goal Rule) If the game is still tied at the end of overtime, the game shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game. If, due to darkness, the referee decides there is not enough light for the regulation overtime, he may ask both teams to consider shortening the overtime halves or go directly to penalty kicks in order to complete the game.
- 15.3 In all games prior to the Final game, the home team shall pay all expenses and keep the gate receipts. The away team shall be responsible for their own expenses with the exception of the referee fees which will be shared by both competing teams.

- 15.4 In all City Cup and/or other division Cup games, a referee and two (2) linesmen will be required and appointed by the Referee Co-ordinator.
- 15.5 The League will provide the officials for the Final game. The League will provide the field keep the gate receipts for the Final game.
- 15.6 **Division Cups:**
Only those players registered with that division may play in a division cup
- City Cup:**
Open to all competitive divisions
- (a) A team may play for the City Cup and the Division Cup competition, if applicable
- (b) A player will not be permitted to play for more than one (1) team in any cup competition. Clubs with two (2) teams entered into the City Cup may not play the same player on both teams.
- 15.7 Entries for all Cup competitions must be submitted at a date as decided upon by the Executive committee.
- 15.8 In all other matters, Ontario Cup rules will apply.
- 15.9 Tournaments shall not interfere with the team's commitment to the League.
- 15.10 Each team in games designated as Final, shall provide a game ball to the game officials prior to the start of the game.

RULE 16 - REFEREES

- 16.1 All referees appointed to games under the jurisdiction of the League shall be selected from the official list of referees as published by the O.S.A. and provided by the local association.
- 16.2 Referees for all games shall be appointed by the Referee Co-ordinator for the League. Should the appointed referee be unable to officiate or fail to arrive, the teams may agree on a certified referee present at the game, to officiate. No complaints or protests can be made against that person.
- 16.3 Wherever possible, referee assistants will be appointed to Premier Division games if requested.
- 16.4 The home team shall be responsible for payment of the game officials fee and traveling expenses. This fee shall be paid prior to or immediately after the game.
- 16.5 The referee shall keep accurate records of goals scored, names of goal scorers for all regularly scheduled games and all matters of misconduct incurred during the game. He shall submit the completed game sheets and game reports within forty-eight (48) hours of the finish of the game to the League's designated person in the address in the directory.
- 16.6 The fees payable to the referees shall be as agreed upon at the Annual General meeting.
- 16.7 No referee shall ask for, nor receive more, than the scheduled fee.
- 16.8 Game officials failing to carry out their assignments without giving adequate notice of their inability to do so, may render them liable for a fine equal to the game fee that they would have received. The fine shall be paid to the Association by the date specified in the notice who will then forward it to the League.

RULE 17 - OTHER REGULATIONS

- 17.1 The Executive Committee may add to these Rules and Regulations such rules as are required to ensure that all members are treated fairly and consistently, and to uphold the standards of the league.
- 17.2 Such rules may not violate the rights of others as imbedded in this constitution and its Rules and Regulations.

PUBLISHED RULES, FINES AND BONDS

1. Any team reported for ground discrepancies shall be fined an amount of Twenty-five (25.00) dollars.
2. Any team reported for delaying the kick-off shall be fined an amount of Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.
3. Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be fined Fifty (\$50.00) dollars and the coach will be suspended.
4. Abandoned games caused by walking off the field without permission of the referee, shall be fined a maximum of One Hundred (\$100.00) dollars subject to the decision of the Executive Committee.
5. Any team found guilty of forfeiting a game may be fined up to Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars. Should a second offence occur, the offending team is immediately expelled from the League.
6. Teams may be subject to a fine of Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars for each score that is not reported on line or not reported within the time frame required. The fine may be doubled for any subsequent infractions
7. PROTESTS must be accompanied by a Fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee.
8. Changes to the League schedule after it has been posted on the website must be accompanied by a cheque for Fifty (\$50.00) dollars except for tournaments and Ontario Cup games.
9. Admission price for league games are set at Three (\$3.00) dollars maximum for competitive and Two (\$2.00) dollars maximum for recreational teams.
10. (A) Any team not represented at a Scheduling Meeting must accept any changes made at the meeting.
(B) Any club or team not represented at a General Meeting, Annual or Special Meeting convened by the executive committee may be fined up to One Hundred (\$100.00) dollars.
11. Failure to comply with Article 10.3, both teams may be fined up to \$300.00 and no points awarded for either team.