

# Rhode Island Women's Soccer League

## By Laws

### 1. Order of Business

The order of business at all regular Board meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Leading items
  - A. Motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order
  - B. Recognition of Team Representatives
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Treasurer's report
5. Communications
6. Old business
7. New Business
8. Good and Welfare
9. Adjournment

### 2. Quorum

A quorum is present if two-thirds of the members of the League Board are in attendance at a meeting. If a quorum is not present, the Board may not amend the By-laws. All such motions are tabled for one month and must appear in the agenda and meeting announcement.

### 3. Registration of Players

A. All players will be registered with the Registrar in a manner to be determined by the League. Each registered player will be issued player credentials by the Registrar. All player registrations expire on August 31, and must be renewed for the fall season.

B. All registration materials must be at the Registrar's by 5:00 pm on Tuesday for a player to be registered for the next Sunday's game.

C. All registered players will sign a release form absolving the League of responsibility in the event of accidents or injuries.

D. Each team roster may contain a maximum of twenty-four (24) players at any time. Once the roster is full, players must be released before any new players may be registered.

E. No new registrations will be permitted after one half of the regularly scheduled games for the fall or spring season have been played.

F. New teams may only be admitted to play prior to the approval of the final schedule for the regular season, either spring or fall. New teams may play exhibition games with League teams on open dates during the regular season.

G. It is the intention of this Association to provide an opportunity for women over 18 years of age to play organized soccer. *In the interest of developing women's soccer in Rhode Island, any female 16 years of age or over is eligible to play.*

**Changed on 6/22/08:** In the interest of developing women's soccer in Rhode Island, it is the intention of this Association to provide an opportunity for women over 18 years of age to play organized soccer. In special

circumstances, females between the ages of 16 and 18 may submit an application to register prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In these cases, the Procedures for Application of a Minor will apply.

H. (New 6/22/08) Procedures for Application of a Minor to register-females ages 16-18 are invited to submit an application to register under the following circumstances:

1. There is no high school, recreational, or competitive youth league available for that player to participate in.
2. The player registers as a youth player with a SRI team.
3. The SRI team provides in writing permission for the player to register in an adult league.
4. The player's parent or guardian signs all league and RISA registration paperwork and liability waivers.
5. The player's parent provides proof of paternity/maternity or guardianship.
6. The player and the guardian submit photo identification.
7. The player follows all other registration procedures as outlined by the league registrar.

#### 4. General Rules

##### A. Rules for Games

The current FIFA Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees shall serve as the official game rules for the League, with the following exceptions:

1. Players may be re-substituted freely up to eighteen players in any game. Only eighteen players may be listed on any game roster.
2. Unlimited substitutions may be made, either on a throw-in when the substituting team has possession or on any goal kick.
3. Unlimited substitutions may be made on the opposing team's throw in if they are also substituting.

##### B: Rules for Season Play

1. The home team is responsible for all field fees. Each team shall pay half of the referee fees.
2. The home team is to provide a game ball.
3. The home team is responsible for having the field properly marked and equipped with nets and corner markers. If the field is not properly prepared, the home team is assessed the League poor field fine, and the game is played. If the field is considered not fit for play (i.e. no goals, no lines) the visiting team wins the game by forfeit. It is the referee's decision which level of penalty is assessed.
4. Each team shall wear uniforms of different major colors, goalkeepers shall wear uniforms that distinguish them from all field players. In the event of similar uniforms, the home team shall be required to change color through the use of pinafores or alternate uniforms.
5. Each player on a team, with the exception of the goalkeeper, shall wear a visible, legible, and unique number on the jersey. Each player shall wear the same number throughout the game.
7. No player shall play with jewelry, metal cleats, or cleats with metal showing. Glasses must have plastic frames and safety bands.

**Added 6/22/08:** It is the sole discretion of the referees to determine if any jewelry is acceptable for play. The player is required to comply with the referee's request to remove jewelry. Taping over jewelry is not considered removal. In almost all cases, wedding bands are permitted.

7. Each team must fill out two line-up cards. One card goes to the referee, the other to the coach of the opposing team. Line-ups must be legible.

8. Regulation game time consists of two forty-five (45) minute halves separated by a ten-minute rest period. A game must be played for at least sixty minutes to count in the season standings.

9. Individual games may be postponed by the referees, based on input from both coaches, for weather and other reasons. If obvious poor field conditions or extreme weather conditions are present, the League Vice-President or President may cancel games.

10. If a game is canceled, a make-up game must be scheduled with the League Vice- President within three weeks. If a single game is canceled, the game must be made up before the end of the season. If all League games are canceled in a particular weekend, those make-up games will be scheduled for a previously established make-up date, at the end of the season.

11. Each team is responsible for the good conduct of its own fans and supporters. Poor conduct of fans or supporters will be referred to the League Board for action.

12. Each player will present her player pass to the referee personally as she enters the game.

13. Players without player passes will not be allowed to play.

*Note: In the interest of promoting participation in our developing Association, By- law 4.B.13 may be altered in the following manner so that a player may play without a player pass:*

**Changed on 6/22/08:** In rare circumstances and only with the approval of the league President, or Vice President under the advisement of the league Registrar and in accordance with RISA polices, By-law 4.B.13 may be altered in the following manner so that a player may play without a player pass.

A. Any player playing without a player pass must be registered with the League.

B. The opposing coach may protest. If the player is not registered, the protest is upheld.

14. A player or coach cautioned (awarded a yellow card) in two games in either the fall or the spring season is suspended for the next game. Yellow cards awarded are not carried over from one season (spring or fall) to the next season.

15. A player or coach ejected from a game (awarded a red card) is suspended for at least the next game, depending upon the severity of the offense. (See the Constitution section on the League Board) A red card suspension will carryover from one season to the next.

## 5. Protests

A. A protest must be sent, in writing, to the Vice-President and postmarked within 72 hours of game time. The protest fee must accompany a written protest.

B. If grounds for protest exist before the game begins, such as field conditions, nets, and player registrations, then the protest must be registered with the referee, in writing, before the game begins. If a reason for a protest should arise during the game, the referees must be notified before the end of the game, and confirmed in writing at the end of the game.

C. The Vice-President will obtain written statements from both coaches and all referees and determine the outcome of the protest, unless involved in the protest. If the Vice-President is involved, the President shall appoint an unbiased committee to decide the protest.

D. The Vice-President, or Protest Committee, will present the protest and decision at the next League meeting. The decision may be appealed to the League Board, which requires the presence of a quorum in order to vote.

## **6. Forfeits**

A team which cannot have seven players on the field within fifteen minutes after the scheduled game time, forfeits the game. If the referees arrive at the field, the forfeiting team is responsible for the total referee payment. *If the League Vice- President is notified of the forfeit at least 24 hours prior to the game time, no referee payment is made.* The score of a forfeited game is 3-0.

**Changed on 6/22/08:** If the league Vice President is notified of the forfeit at least 24 hours prior to game time, no referee payment is made. However, the League will collect and pay any rescheduling or cancellation fees imposed by RISA or any other governing body from the forfeiting team.

## **7. Tie Games**

If a regular season game ends in a tie score, the tie stands. In playoff games, a tie-breaker shall be used as follows: at the end of regulation game time, after a five minute break, two ten minute overtimes will be played with no break between. Teams will change ends of the field between overtimes. Both overtimes are always played. If the score remains tied at the end of both overtimes, a shoot-out is played. Each team takes five penalty shots, alternating teams, with the team scoring the most goals winning the shoot-out. Once kicked, the ball is dead to further play by the kicking team. If the score remains tied at the end of a shoot-out, another shoot-out is played until the tie is broken.

## **8. Season Schedules**

A. During regular season play, each team will play every other team in its division at least once. Every attempt will be made to provide each team with a similar home-away schedule, more than two away games in a row are to be avoided in the regular season, if possible. No games shall be scheduled on holidays unless the league determines that need to meet the schedule.

B. If a team drops out of either season after the final schedule has been approved, a fine will be imposed.

## **9. Season Standings-During Season**

League standings are established by awarding three game points for each win, one point for each tie, and no points for each loss. If two teams are tied in game points, the team with more total wins leads. If both teams have the same number of wins, the team with the most goals scored leads. A maximum differential of three goals per game will be considered when computing standings. If the teams have the same number of goals scored, the team with the least number of goals scored against them leads. If both teams remain equal after goals against, they share the highest standing available, with the next team in its normal ranking.

## **10. Season Standings -Final**

*When teams with the same number of game points are eligible for awards at the end of the season, they will share equally in those awards.*

**Changed on 6/22/08:** At the end of the fall and spring season, playoffs in each division will be played to determine the league champions of each division. The format of playoffs will be determined by the league

board. To determine playoff spots, ties will be broken in the same manner as regular season games. In the event that a tie to determine playoff spots is unbreakable, the board will appoint a committee of impartial members to determine a process to break that tie.

### **11. & 12. Regular Season Rules**

A. The regular season will be comprised of games played during the fall of one year and the spring of the following year.

B. The fall season will begin the first Sunday after Labor Day.

C. The spring season shall begin no sooner than the first Sunday in April.

D. During both seasons' competition, League teams will compete for a traveling Challenge Cup, which is awarded to the first place team for one year. Teams that join the League after the fall season has commenced can participate in season play, but the games will not be considered for determining Challenge Cup standings.

E. The Vice-President shall remind the previous Cup holder of the requirement for the Cup's return by July 1. The previous holder of the Cup will return the Cup to the Vice-President no later than July 15. A fine of \$50.00 per week will be assessed for the delayed return of the Cup, to be deducted from the performance bond if not paid. The previous holder will be presented with a replacement cup immediately upon return of the Challenge Cup.

F. The Vice-President will have the Challenge Cup engraved for the new holder of the Cup and order a replacement cup for the new holder. The Challenge Cup will be presented to the new holder at the August League meeting. The new replacement cup will be held by the League.

### **13. State Select Team**

A. The League Board selects the State Select team Coach, at the annual meeting, based on names submitted by League teams and coaches.

B. The State Coach selects the team, with guidance from the League Board. It is expected that the team will be selected with a concern for representation from all League teams and the best interests of promoting women's soccer.

C. The State Team will be selected as required.

D. The League will work to provide a sponsor to support the state team.

### **14. League Dues, Fees, and Fines**

A. All dues, fees, and fines are paid to the League.

B. (deleted in amendments)

C. Annual team dues shall be set at the annual meeting of the Association, and shall include any team fees charged by RISA and/or USASA. Team dues are valid from September 1 to August 31 of the following year (one calendar year). Liability insurance coverage through USASA, or a similar plan, must be included.

D. Performance bond -\$100.00. Fines not paid promptly will be deducted from the team's performance bond. No team will be allowed to play if their performance bond is less than \$100.00.

E. *The Registration fee per player shall be the sum of the player fees charged by RISA and/or USASA, taking into account the registration level for the team of which the player is a member (i.e. full registration, recreational, etc.). Player registrations are valid from September 1 to August 31 of the following year (one calendar year). Player fees may include a health insurance coverage premium if mandated by RISA or USASA.*

**Changed 6/22/08:** The registration fee per player shall be the sum of the player fees charged by RISA and/or USASA and may include a league administration fee in the amount to be determined by the board. The league administration fee can be waived at the discretion of the league board. Player registrations are valid from September 1 to August 31 of the following year (one calendar year). Player fees may include a health insurance coverage premium if mandated by RISA or USASA.

F. Teams are responsible for any fees imposed on them, or their players, by RISA and/or USASA in addition to those listed above. These fees may include, but are not limited to, a player release fee.

G. Protest fee -\$25.00, submitted with protest. The protest fee is refunded if the protest is found to have merit, whether upheld or denied.

H. Fines:

Forfeited game -\$10.00. Poor field -\$25.00.

Late return of Challenge Cup -\$50.00 per week.

I. A fine will be imposed on any team that does not send a representative to a league meeting. The 1st missed meeting will constitute a \$25.00 fine, 2nd consecutive missed meeting will constitute an additional \$50.00 fine, 3rd consecutive missed meeting will constitute action of the executive board. All fines can be evaluated by the board.

## **15. Referee's Fees**

Referee's fees are paid to the referees, half by each team, as established by the Referee's Association in conjunction with this Association.

End of By-Laws

These By-laws were approved by unanimous vote of the League Board on July 10, 1984.

Amendments:

*By-law 3.D* amended August 6, 1985. (Change "twenty-four" to "eighteen(18)") amended March 1, 1995 (Changed eighteen back to twenty-four).

*By-law 3.H* added on August 6, 1985.

*By-law 8.B* added on August 6, 1985.

*By-law 11.B* removed March 1, 1995.

*By-law 14.C* amended March 1, 1995 (changed \$50.00 to \$100.00)

*By-laws 4.B.14 and 4.B.15* amended March 1, 1995 (added coach to suspensions).

*By-laws 11 and 12* combined and amended August 20, 1995 to reflect fall and spring Seasons are combined for competing for challenge cup; subsequent by-law sections renumbered.

*By-law 9* amended August 20, 1995 to bring scoring for standings determination in accordance with regulation rules.

*By-law 4.B.14* amended April 14, 1996 to clarify that yellow cards do not carryover from the spring to the fall and fall to the spring seasons.

*By-law 4.B.15* amended April 14, 1996 to clarify that red cards do carryover from the spring to the fall and fall to the spring seasons.

*By-law 14.B* amended August 26, 1996 (changed new team affiliation fee from \$60.00 to no charge)

*By-law 14.C* amended August 26, 1996 (changed annual team dues from \$50.00 to "shall be set at the annual meeting...")

*By-law 14.E* amended August 26, 1996 (changed player registration fee from \$5.00 to "shall be the sum of the player fees charged by RISA and/or USASA...").

*By-law 14.F* amended August 26, 1996 (changed player release fee from \$1.00 to "Teams are responsible for any fees imposed on them, or their players, by RISA and/or USASA...").

*By-law 14.I* added August 24, 1997.

*By-law 3.E* amended August 20, 2000 "No new registrations will be permitted after one half of the regularly scheduled games for the fall or spring season have been played"

*By Law 3.B* amended July 25, 2004 Changed from "Saturday" to "Tuesday", deleted "unless previously arranged with the Registrar"

*By Law 3 G.* amended July 25, 2004 Delete " A girl over...and 18."

*By Law 3 H.* amended July 25, 2004 Delete

*By Law 3 I.* amended July 25, 2004 Delete

*By Law 4 A. 2.* amended July 25, 2004 Replace with: "Unlimited substitutions may be made, whether on a throw-in when the substituting team has possession, or upon any goal kick."

*By Law 4 A. 3* amended July 25, 2004 Add this clause: "On the opposing team's throw in if they are also substituting."

*By Law 6.* amended July 25, 2004 delete "and the League forfeit fine." Change next sentence to read: " If the league Vice President is notified of the forfeit at least 24 hours prior to the game time, no referee payment is made."

*By Law 8.* amended July 25, 2004 change: "every other team" to "every other team in its division" Change last sentence: "unless the league determines that need to meet the schedule".

*By Law 10.* amended July 25, 2004 Replace with: "When teams with the same number of game points are eligible for awards at the end of the season, they will share equally in those awards".

By Law 11. amended July 25, 2004 Add B. “The fall season will begin the First Sunday after Labor Day.”

By Law 13.B. amended July 25, 2004 Delete

By Law 13 H. amended July 25, 2004 change poor field fine from \$10.00 to \$25.00.

**The following By-laws where changed on 6/22/08 after a vote during the Annual meeting:**

By-law 3.G – Change to “In the interest of developing women’s soccer in Rhode Island, it is the intention of this Association to provide an opportunity for women over 18 years of age to play organized soccer. In special circumstances, females between the ages of 16 and 18 may submit an application to register prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In these cases, the Procedures for Application of a Minor will apply.”

By-law 3.H – New. “Procedures for Application of a Minor to Register – females ages 16-18 are invited to submit an application to register under the following circumstances

1. There is no high school, recreational, or competitive youth league available for that player to participate in
2. The player registers as a youth player with a SRI team
3. The SRI team provides in writing permission for the player to register in an adult league
4. The player’s parent or guardian signs all league and RISA registration paperwork and liability waivers
5. The player’s parent provides proof of paternity/maternity or guardianship
6. The player and the guardian submit photo identification
7. The player follows all other registration procedures as outlined by the league registrar

By-law 4.B.6. – Add, “It is the sole discretion of the referees to determine if any jewelry is acceptable for play. The player is required to comply with the referee’s request to remove jewelry. Taping over jewelry is not considered removal. In almost all cases, wedding bands are permitted.”

By-law 4.B.13.Note – Change to, “Note: In rare circumstances and only with the approval of the league President, or Vice President under advisement of the league Registrar and in accordance with RISA policies, By-law 4.B.13 may be altered in the following manner so that a player may play without a player pass:”

By-law 6. Change to, “...If the League Vice President is notified of the forfeit at least 24 hours prior to game time, no referee payment is made. However, the League will collect and pay any rescheduling or cancellation fees imposed by RISA or any other governing body from the forfeiting team...”

By-law 10. Change to, “At the end of the fall and spring season, playoffs in each division will be played to determine the league champions of each division. The format of the playoffs will be determined by the league board. To determine playoff spots, ties will be broken in the same manner as regular season games. In the event that a tie to determine playoff spots is unbreakable, the board will appoint a committee of impartial members to determine a process to break that tie.

By-law 14.E. Add, “The registration fee per player shall be the sum of the player fees charged by RISA and/or USASA and may include a league administration fee in the amount to be determined by the board.

*The league administration fee can be waived at the discretion of the league board. Player registrations are valid...”*