

HARRISBURG AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

BY-LAWS

Revised – March 2025

ARTICLE I: JURISDICTION

HAWSL Executive Committee will have full jurisdiction over all clubs, coaches, spectators, officials, and players, and over all matters connected with soccer within this Association. The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, suspend, or impose fines and/or penalties, as it may deem proper for any violation or breach of the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Conduct, and or Rules and Regulations of this Association. Any decisions made regarding expulsion, suspension, or the imposition of fines and/or penalties against any league member will be delivered to the appropriate player(s) and their team representative via email.

ARTICLE II: REGISTRATION

II Section 1: Players

- A. Every player in this Association shall be registered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association and the National Women's Soccer League.
- B. Every player in this Association understands and agrees to the terms and conditions imposed by US Soccer/FIFA and HAWSL Code of Conduct at the time of registration.
- C. Players who do not register properly and pay the correct registration fee in the spring, will have a mandatory fee of \$21 added onto their account that they must pay when they register for the next season that they play.
- D. If an injury occurs during the game, the player must notify the referee so that the referee can add it into their end of game report. In order to file an insurance claim, the injury must be included within the referee report in order for the referee to sign the legal document. In order to file an insurance claim, it is the player's responsibility to file the online claim at <https://usadultsoccer.com/insurance/>

II Section 2: Roster Limitations

- A. Each team shall have a maximum of 18 players. Players must meet the age requirement as stated in Article II Section 2 of the HAWSL Constitution.
- B. Any team playing a player who is outside of the age requirement shall forfeit any game(s) in which that player takes part.

II Section 3: Teams

All teams must abide by the registration dates and guidelines as set forth in the HAWSL Constitution. This Association will not allow any changes to the rosters after the final

registration deadline for the current playing season. Inaccurate registration/game forms that are used will be reviewed on a case by case basis the result of which could be a forfeit(s) and/or a fine.

ARTICLE III: COMPETITION

III Section 1: Rules of Play

FIFA laws of the game shall apply to each and every game played within the jurisdiction of this Association with the exception of the substitution rule as listed on the official HAWSL Game Day Procedures. The uniform of each field player is required to have a jersey number that corresponds to the jersey number for that player as listed on the official HAWSL Game Form given to the referee prior to each game. When colors of the uniforms of competing teams are the same or similar color as not to be distinguishable, the home team shall make the necessary changes. The final decision to change jerseys if there is a disagreement rests with the referee. When the color of any uniforms conflict with the referee, it is the referee's responsibility to change. Goal keepers are not required to have a jersey number. Slide tackling is permitted in the Open Division. Slide tackling is not permitted in the Over 30 division. In the Over 30 division a player may slide in attempt to control the ball only if there are no other players around them.

III Section 2: Schedules

The competition of this Association shall be according to schedules prepared and approved by the members of the Executive Committee. The number of teams registered and the division in which a team may compete shall determine the number of games played. The Executive Committee only shall have the authority to select and/or limit the number of teams competing in any level of competition.

III Section 3: League Standings

The point system will be used to determine league standings. A win will be three (3) points and a tie will be one (1) point. There will be no points for a loss. There will be no co-champion for any given division of HAWSL. In the event of such a situation, tie-breaking criteria shall be in this order: head to head, least goals allowed (max. 3 per game), goal differential (+/- 3). The winning team must input the score on the league website within one week after the completion of the game. If the score is not reported by this time, a 0-0 tie will be recorded for that particular game. The winning team in each division based on the standings at the end of the season, will be awarded \$100.00.

III Section 4: Length of Game

There will be two (2) forty (40) minute halves played for each game unless mutual consent by both participating team representatives is reached prior to the start of a scheduled game. If a game is stopped by the referee prior to half time for reasons beyond the control of the teams, the score at the stoppage of the game will stand as official. Also, for any game stopped by the referee after half time, the existing score at the stop of the game will be recorded as official.

III Section 5: Start of the Game

If a team has fewer than 5 of their own players at the scheduled start time of a game, the team that does not have enough players will be granted a 10 minute delayed start time. Any delay in the start time of the game will result in shorter half times in order to keep all other games on time. If unable to accumulate 5 or more of their own players after waiting 10 minutes, the team that does not have enough players must forfeit the game and pay the entire referee fee as stated in Article III Section 6 below. All teams are required to start a game on time when 5 or more players are present on the field at the scheduled start of the game.

III Section 6: Forfeits

With respect to forfeits, the team who declares the forfeit may be responsible for paying the entire referee fee. If a team forfeits the day of the game, the forfeiting team shall pay the entire referee fee for that game. A forfeit will result in a 3-0 win for the other team. Any team who forfeits more than one game within the same season shall pay a \$25.00 fine to the league for each forfeit beyond the first one. If, however, after declaring a forfeit, the game is able to be played for fun, the result of the game will not count in the standings and the game will not result in a \$25.00 fine. The Executive Committee will have the ultimate authority to settle any disputes that may occur as a result of forfeitures.

III Section 7: Promotion and Relegation

- A. A system of promotion and relegation may be applicable to all teams in all divisions.
- B. In all divisions, the first and second place teams may be subject to promotion to the next higher level of competition, provided one exists.
- C. In all divisions, the last and next to last place teams may be subject to relegation to the next lower level of competition, providing one exists.
- D. The Executive Committee shall determine the levels of competition within the Association based on input from the team representatives at the annual meeting.
- E. Upon a showing of exceptional circumstances, the Executive Committee only shall have the authority to override the promotion and relegation system provided in Article III Section 4 herein.

ARTICLE IV: ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

IV Section 1: Field Commissioner

- A. The league Field Commissioner shall be appointed by the Executive Committee as soon as is practicable.
- B. The League Field Commissioner shall have the power to declare postponements of games due to inclement weather, poor field conditions, and/or unavailability of fields. No game may be postponed by the Games Commissioner later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled time for the game.
- C. The Games Commissioner shall not serve as an officer of this Association.
- D. The Games Commissioner shall also be responsible for any other duties determined by the Executive Committee that are consistent with the position of Games Commissioner.
- E. Failure of the Games Commissioner to perform the duties prescribed above shall be grounds for dismissal of the Games Commissioner.

- F. The position of Field Commissioner is a paying position. Payment shall be determined based on the field needs: \$60/season to check the fields weekly and make sure they are playable as well as \$10/field to line the fields each time they are needed to be lined.

For each season that the position is held, the Field Commissioner is required to keep a log of job duties performed by date and field location to be turned in to the league treasurer in order to receive payment.

IV Section 2: Other

Other administrative positions may be created by the Executive Committee with the approval of a majority of the voting power present at any General Membership meeting.

ARTICLE V: GRIEVANCE/ETHICS

V Section 1: Establishment

The Executive Committee is established under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Harrisburg Area Women's Soccer League.

V Section 2: Authority

Pursuant to Article V Section 1 of the Constitution of HAWSL, the Executive Committee, as well as any subordinate committees formed by the Executive Chairperson, shall have the authority to penalize all member teams and the individual officers, coaches, members and players thereof. Penalties shall include but not be limited to letters of censure, forfeiture of games and/or points in competitive standings, fines, restrictions of playing fields, temporary or permanent suspension from games and other activities of HAWSL.

V Section 3: Responsibility

The Executive Committee and its chairperson shall be responsible for the arbitration of disputes arising from violations for the Laws of the Game as well as all other disputes or grievances that may from time to time arise in the Association. Typical cases of ethics would be disputes involving decisions of a referee, disputes between clubs, behavior of fans, etc. The Committee shall also be responsible for notifying the involved team Coordinators and the General Membership of the decisions that they render.

V Section 4: Membership

All Executive subcommittees shall consist of the Executive Chairperson, or a designee approved by the Executive Committee and four other members. The members of any Executive shall represent different member teams. No subcommittee member shall represent the same team(s) whose case is being decided. At the direction of the Executive Chairperson, the member team Coordinators shall supply the panel members. The failure of any member team to supply the necessary panel member will result in an assessment against that member team.

V Section 5: Meetings

The Executive Committee or designated subcommittees shall meet within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of an appeal filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 6 of this Article.

A quorum shall be three members, including the Executive Chairperson or her designee.

A representative of the referees may attend any Executive Committee meeting in an observer capacity.

No other person may attend any Executive Committee meeting unless specifically authorized by the Constitution, By-Laws, or the Executive Committee of this Association, or invited by the Chairperson.

V Section 6: Procedures

The Executive Committee Chairperson or designee shall review all referee game reports within seven (7) business days after the receipt of the game report.

The Executive Committee Chairperson shall impose sanctions and/or take action as required by EPSA and HAWSL.

After imposition of sanctions or action has been taken, notice shall be pursuant to Article V Section 3 of the Constitution of the Association.

In the event that any aggrieved party desires to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee Chairperson or designee, that aggrieved party must file a written request for an appeal hearing before the Executive Committee with the President. This request must be postmarked within two (2) business days of receipt of notice of the decision of the Executive Committee Chairperson or designee and include the appropriate appeal fee.

At the conclusion of the hearing on the appeal, the Executive Committee Chairperson or designee shall file a report on the decisions reached by the Committee. Notice of the decision shall be given to the Team Coordinators of the parties affected by the decision pursuant to Article V Section 3 of the Constitution of this Association. A copy of all reports shall be maintained in a book for that purpose in the League Office. The reports shall be on a form approved by the Executive Committee.

Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Executive Committee may appeal provided that the procedure outlined in Article V Section 4 of the Constitution of this Association is followed.

ARTICLE VI: TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

VI Section 1: Definition

Each member team shall designate at least one person to be its representative to this Association. This representative shall be responsible for coordinating the member team's activities, registration, payment of fees, committee representation and meeting attendance.

VI Section 2: Notice

Any notice given to the Team Representative of any member team shall be deemed notice to all affiliates of that member team unless otherwise specified.

VI Section 3: Meetings

Each member team shall see that its Team Representative or a team member attends all meetings of this Association. Failure to have team representation at a league meeting could result in an imposition of a fine for each meeting missed.

VI Section 4: Alternate

In the event of the absence or removal of the Team Representative, the designated alternate Team Representative shall act in her place and stead.

ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS

The General Membership shall have the power to supplement the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association by adopting Rules and Regulations in the form of motions that are seconded and adopted by a majority of the voting power present and voting at any general membership meeting.

VII Section 1: Tournaments

HAWSL will permit up to \$250 per team, per calendar year in monetary assistance for tournaments outside of our regular HAWSL seasons.

A. Regulations:

1. The registered team must consist of at least 50% of HAWSL league players.
2. The team must be registered in the tournament using the league title "Harrisburg Area Women's Soccer" within the team name. (Ex. Harrisburg Area Women's Soccer Roadrunners)
3. The team representative must complete and provide the appropriate documentation for the tournament to HAWSL Executive Committee.
4. The team representative must notify HAWSL Executive Committee prior to participation of tournament.