

Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association

By Laws

Article I – Name and Operation

Section 1

This organization shall be known as the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association (WAYSAs). The League will be an affirmed member of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (“MYSA”) and an affiliated member of the United States Youth Soccer Association (“USYSA”).

Section 2

The Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association will operate under the provisions of these By Laws and by its Working Rules that shall be published every year and included with the season’s schedules.

Article II - Objective

Section 1

The objective of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall be to implant firmly in the children of the member towns/schools the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

Section 2

To achieve this objective the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). All Directors, Officers and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is **secondary**, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance. No part of the net earnings of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; no substantial part of the activities of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidates for public office.

Article III - Membership

Section 1 - Eligibility

- (a) **Club Members.** The League shall consist of club teams. These teams shall be formed from duly recognized organizations in the central Massachusetts area. Such organizations shall include but will not be restricted to: towns/cities, private schools, civic groups and other bodies that promote the development and well being of all young people. Each organization must agree and strictly adhere to the conditions of operation as stated below. Club teams serve youth soccer in the age groups U10 through U18. Player member age restrictions, player member qualifications, and club team roster size are defined in the WAYSA Working Rules publication.
- (b) **Conditions.** The primary mission of the League is to provide an opportunity for children of all abilities to benefit from the recreational soccer experience. To this end all clubs agree that they shall conduct open registrations in such a way that all interested children will be encouraged to participate. Furthermore, they must also agree to strictly comply with the League's requirement to form balanced teams in regard to age and skill level, rather than forming teams of various age and skill levels within age group divisions.

Section 2 – Club Admissions Procedure

Application Process. Individual clubs that desire membership into WAYSA shall petition the Board of Directors in writing indicating this desire. In this application it needs to be clearly stated that the club seeking admission will comply fully with all of WAYSA's provisions, especially those regarding the holding of open registration and the formation of balanced teams. Such application shall be made at least four (4) months prior to the start of the season. The Board will then discuss the merits of the application and vote on this request for membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A two thirds (2/3) vote will be necessary to approve an application for membership.

Section 3 – Individual Member Classes

- (a) **Player Members.** Any player candidate meeting the applicable requirements of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and who is a member of a WAYSA club, and other player candidates with the permission of the Board of Directors, shall be eligible to compete for participation but shall have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or in the property of WAYSA. Age restrictions and qualifications are defined in the WAYSA Working Rules.
- (b) **Coach Members.** Any adult eighteen (18) or older that is a member of a WAYSA club and registered with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and has been appointed by his/her respective club shall be able to coach in all officially sanctioned events but shall have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or in the property of WAYSA. The age requirement may be waived with the permission of the Board of Directors.

- (c) **Youth Referees (U-10) Members.** WAYSA may use individuals that are not certified by the Massachusetts Referee Committee but are current in regard to the WAYSA referee-training program. Such an individual must be old enough to play in the U14 divisions or higher and a member of a WAYSA club and registered with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. These referees are to be appointed by their respective club's referee coordinator and shall be eligible to officiate only under-10 division WAYSA sponsored games.

Section 4 - Suspension or Termination

Membership may be terminated by resignation or action of the Board of Directors.

- (a) The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline or suspend or terminate the membership of any Member of any class when the conduct of such person or club is considered detrimental to the best interests of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and/or the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. When the detrimental conduct involves a Board member or a Club then the issue will be brought before and decided by the entire Board of Directors. If the detrimental conduct involves players, coaches or U-10 referees then the Board President or his/her designee and a minimum of three (3) Board members from neutral clubs (when possible) shall be appointed by the Board President or his/her designee to conduct the hearing and determine the nature of the discipline, if any. If a player, coach or U-10 referee objects to the discipline imposed by this group than s/he may appeal this decision to the entire Board of Directors.

The Member involved shall be notified of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges and given an opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer such charges.

- (b) The Board of Directors shall, in case of a Player Member, give notice to the coach of the team of which the player is a member. Said coach shall appear, in the capacity of an adviser, with the player before the duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors, which shall have full power to discipline, suspend or revoke such player's right to future participation.
- (c) Any Club that desires to terminate its membership in WAYSA shall communicate this action in writing to the Board of Directors at least four (4) months prior to the start of the season. This letter of termination of membership shall be signed by a majority of the members of that Club's Board of Directors.
- (d) Any Club that remains inactive, without entering any teams for two (2) consecutive years, shall be removed from the WAYSA membership.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Section 1 - Board of Directors (Club Representatives & Executive Committee)

The management of the property and affairs of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The responsibilities of the Board shall include but not be confined to: a) the establishment and management of a fall soccer season including regular match games and end of season tournaments b) the creation, management, augmentation, and enforcement for the WAYSA Working Rules c) matters that benefit Club Members and Individual Members.

The Board will consist of one representative from each Member Club and the members of the Executive Committee. The Directors shall upon appointment by each Member Club or election by the Club Representatives, immediately enter upon the performance of their duties and shall continue in office until their successors shall have been duly appointed/elected and qualified. All communications from the individual Clubs to the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association Board shall be through the Club Representatives.

Section 2 – Executive Committee / Annual Election and Term of Office

The League shall have an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary and Referee Director who shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the calendar year. If a Club Representative is elected to the Executive Committee, the club may send a new representative to the Board of Directors.

The Board shall act by majority vote unless otherwise stated in these by laws. Each Member Club shall have only one vote, when the Board takes any formal action. The President shall vote only to break any tie.

Section 3 - Vacancies

If any vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors when the individual is a Club Representative, it shall be filled by appointment by the Club. Executive Committee member positions may be filled by a Club Representative or from an adult Club Member at large following a special election of the Board.

Section 4 - Meetings, Notice and Quorum

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual election and on such days thereafter as shall be determined by the Board.

The President or the Secretary may, whenever they deem it advisable or the Secretary shall at the request in writing of three- (3) Board Members issue a call for a special meeting of the Board. The Secretary shall give notice of a **special** meeting to each Board Member either by mail/e-mail at least three (3) days before the time appointed for the meeting. Such notice will be sent to the last recorded address of each Board Member. Notice by direct contact on the telephone or by personal notice shall be at least twenty-four (24) hours preceding the special meeting. In the case of special meetings, such notice shall include the purpose of the meeting and no matters not so stated may be acted upon at the meeting.

Six (6) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint such standing committees as it shall determine appropriate and to delegate such powers to them as the Board shall deem advisable and which it may properly delegate.

The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association as it may deem proper.

The Board shall have the power by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any regular or special meeting to discipline, suspend or remove any Club or Director or Officer or Player Member or Coach Member or U-10 referee Member of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article III, Section 4.

Article V – Other Committees

Section 1 - Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors may appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) Directors and other appointed Club Members as they see fit. The Committee shall investigate and consider eligible candidates and submit at the annual meeting a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. The Committee may also submit for consideration by the Board of Directors a slate of Officers for the Executive Committee.

Section 2 - Coaches Committee

The Board of Directors may appoint a Coaches Committee consisting of three (3) Directors and other appointed Club Members as they see fit.

It shall, during the playing season, observe the conduct of the coaches and report its findings to the President of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association.

It shall, at the request of the President or Board of Directors, investigate complaints concerning coaches and make a report thereof to the President or Board of Directors as the case may be.

Section 3 - Referee Committee

The Board of Directors may appoint a Referee Committee consisting of three (3) Directors and other appointed Club Members as they see fit.

The Referee Director of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall be chair of any such Committee.

It shall, during the playing season, observe the conduct of the referees and report its findings to the Board of Directors of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association.

It shall, at the request of the President or Board of Directors, investigate complaints concerning referees and

make a report thereof to the President or Board of Directors as the case may be.

Article VI – Executive Committee Officers, Duties and Powers

Section 1 - Election

The Board of Directors shall elect the Executive Committee Officers in January each year as well as appoint any committees that they may deem necessary. All such officers must be elected from the membership of the Board by majority vote of a quorum.

Section 2 - Officers

The League shall have an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar, and Secretary all of whom shall hold office for the ensuing year or until their successors are duly elected. The President shall not hold any other office during his term as President.

The Board of Directors may appoint such other individuals to such offices or responsibilities as it may deem necessary or desirable, who need not be members of the Board and may prescribe the powers and duties of each and may fill any vacancy which may occur in any office. Such individuals shall have no vote on actions taken by the Board of Directors unless such individuals have been elected to the Board by the Members or have been elected to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Section 3 - President

The President shall:

- (a) Conduct the affairs of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and execute the policies established by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Communicate to the Board of Directors such matters as deemed appropriate and make such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare of Wachusett Area Youth Soccer.
- (c) Be responsible for the conduct of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer in strict conformity to the policies, principles, Rules and Regulations of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association.
- (d) Designate in writing other officers, if necessary, to have power to make and execute for/and in the name of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association such contracts and leases they may receive and which have had prior approval of the Board.
- (e) Investigate complaints, irregularities and conditions detrimental to the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and report thereon to the Board as circumstances warrant.

- (f) Shall be the focal point with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association.
- (g) May delegate certain activities and tasks to a Board Director member, inclusive of an Executive
- (h) Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 4-Vice President

In case of the absence or disability of the President, and provided the Vice President is authorized by the President or Board so to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of that office, and shall have such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors or by the President.

Section 5 - Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- (a) Be responsible for recording the activities of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and maintain appropriate files, mailing lists and necessary records.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Maintain a list of all Directors and committee members and give notice of all meetings of the Members of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association, and of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Members and the Board of Directors and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.
- (e) Conduct all correspondence not otherwise specifically delegated in connection with said meetings and shall be responsible for carrying out all orders, votes and resolutions not otherwise committed.
- (f) Notify Directors, Officers and committee members of their election or appointment.

Section 6 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Perform such duties as are herein set forth and such other duties as are customarily incident to the Office of Treasurer or may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Receive all moneys and securities, and deposit same in a depository approved by the Board of Directors.

Pays applicable tax obligations for moneys earned for the fund amount in the depository.

- (c) Keep records for the receipt and disbursement of all moneys and securities of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association, approve all payments from allotted funds and draw checks therefor in agreement with policies established in advance of such actions by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Prepare an annual budget, under the direction of the President, for submission to the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Calendar year.

Section 7 - Registrar

The Registrar shall:

- (a) Record all player transactions and maintain an accurate and up-to-date record thereof.
- (b) Ensure Coach Members are in good standing with submitted and signed coaches code of conduct forms.
- (c) Ensure club teams' rosters are proper for league guidelines (published in the WAYSA working rules) for age, roster size, and player restrictions (i.e., varsity)
- (d) Maintain a record of all Board approved waivers.

Section 8 – Referee Director

The Referee Director shall:

- (a) To help advise the WAYSA Board on referee matters that include but are not limited to: education (U10), interpretation of rules and situations that arise on the field of play.
- (b) Oversee U10 referee member training clinic.
- (c) Record list of eligible U10 referees for league game services payment.
- (d) Establish referee requirements for season games and playoffs for all age brackets, in collaboration with the referee assignor and club referee coordinators.
- (e) Shall chair the referee committee.

Section 9 – Auxiliary Members

These individuals shall be appointed yearly by the Board of Directors.

- (a) Board of Appeals Chair. Shall conduct game protest hearings as outlined in the Working Rules of WAYSA.
- (b) Referee Assignor. Shall developed a pool of referees that are certified by the Massachusetts Referee Committee and shall assign them to all the scheduled games for the U-12 and higher divisions in a timely fashion. Compensation will be based on the rate set forth in the Working Rules of WAYSA.
- (c) Scheduler. Shall develop league schedules for all teams after receiving the necessary information from all the Member Clubs and shall be responsible for creation of the schedule books and U10/U12 tournament schedule. Compensation will be based on a rate to be decided by the Board of Directors of WAYSA.

Article VII - Coaches and Referees

Section 1 - Coaches

Team Coaches shall be appointed annually by the Member Clubs. Coaches and or Clubs shall be responsible for: (a) the selection and balancing of their teams in regard to age and skill level (rather than forming teams of various age and skill levels within age group divisions) and (b) the actions of their players, assistant coach(es) and spectators before, during and after games. Club appointed Coaches are eligible to coach within WAYSA only if they sign the Coaches Code of Conduct form.

Section 2 - Referees

- a) U-12 and higher. Referees for this age group shall be selected by the referee assignor from a solicited pool of individuals that are currently certified by the Massachusetts Referee Committee.
- b) U-10. Individuals that are appointed by their respective Clubs and are current in regard to the WAYSA referee-training program may officiate games on this level only.

Article VIII – Operating Rules

Section 1 - Rules and Regulations

The FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall apply to all games in the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association, as amended by the “Working Rules” that are published yearly with the team schedules.

Section 2 - Inter-league Rules

Teams of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association may participate in tournaments approved by MYSA. All Rules duly adopted by MYSA, WAYSA or the tournament organizer shall be binding on all Members and Coaches of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association.

Article IX – Nondiscrimination/Americans with Disabilities Act

Section 1 – Nondiscrimination

WAYSAs will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age or national origin.

Section 2 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- (a) Any request for accommodation under the ADA must first be presented to the member clubs for action. If the member club won't sponsor an individual for an ADA accommodation then the individual should appeal directly to MYSA.
- (b) After acting upon a request for an ADA accommodation, the club must then submit a request to the WAYSA Board to seek a waiver for this individual by no later than the July Board meeting. This request should include the following information:
 - A statement of the accommodation requested by the soccer player.
 - A statement of the nature of the disability, certified by a physician.
 - A summary of the actions taken by the club to accommodate the player.
- (c) When the WAYSA Board receives a request for a waiver of WAYSA rules or other accommodation, it shall evaluate this request and will then respond to the club/individual in a timely fashion.
- (d) The Board shall have the authority to seek further information from the player's family, the club, and competent experts to help evaluate the request. The Board shall consider whether it seems more likely than not that the request bears a logical relationship to the disability, that it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program being offered by WAYSA, and that it does not present any undue risk of harm to any participant.
- (e) Waivers granted under this procedure shall, if appropriate, be noted on the roster of the player's team and otherwise publicized through normal WAYSA procedures.

Article X - Financial and Accounting

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and it shall place all income in a common treasury, directing the expenditure of same in such manner as will give no member or club an advantage over those in competition with such member or club.

The fiscal year of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 2

The Board shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association unless all of the funds so raised be placed in the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association treasury.

Section 3

The Board shall not permit the disbursement of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association funds for other than the conduct of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association activities.

Section 4

No Director or Officer of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association shall receive, any salary, compensation or emolument from the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association for services rendered as Director or Officer that pertain to the execution of the duties described in these By Laws.

Section 5

All moneys received shall be deposited to the credit of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association in its bank account and all disbursements shall be made by check. The Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association Treasurer or President shall sign all checks.

Section 6 – Refund of Fees

The Board shall refund a Club's seasons league fee to a Club who terminates its membership in compliance with Article III, Section 4, item C, provided the Club had submitted fees for the season.

Section 7 - Distribution of Property upon Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association and after all outstanding debts and claims have been satisfied, the Members shall direct the remaining property of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association to member clubs in a proportional way calculated as follows: a percentage based upon an

individual member clubs last two years submitted fees divided by the last two years total club fees collected by WAYSA.

Article XI - Amendments

The By Laws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part by a two thirds (2/3) vote at any duly organized meeting of the Members provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

The undersigned hereby certifies that the within By Laws of the Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association were adopted by vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Members present at a duly noticed meeting held on

_____.

President
Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association

Vice President
Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association

Treasurer
Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association

Date: _____