

HORSHAM SOCCER, INC.
RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. THE ORGANIZATION

- A. The Organization's name shall be the "Horsham Soccer, Inc.," herein referred to as "Organization."
- B. The Organization shall be governed by the Executive Committee.
- C. Objective – All officers, directors, coaches, and members of the Organization are reminded that:
 - 1. In the Intramural Program, development of each child's basic soccer skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical condition are the primary goals; and
 - 2. In the Travel Team Program, the Organization's objective is to present to other clubs the highest quality soccer and sportsmanship possible.

II. ORGANIZATION PHILOSOPHY

In a volunteer organization, as in any other type of organization, it is important that a controlling philosophy be given shape which provides a framework within which the organization functions, hopefully prospers, and ultimately – measures its success.

Horsham Soccer, Inc., as a volunteer youth soccer organization, was founded on three fundamental principles:

- 1. Learning and playing soccer should be fun.
- 2. Team success is secondary to individual player development.
- 3. Every player, regardless of his/her skill level, should be provided an environment conducive to his/her development.

For the Organization to succeed, it is imperative that this philosophy be embraced and espoused by all of our participants: coaches, referees, parents, and players.

The coach, by the very nature of his position, has always been and always will be the most important representative of the Organization. His ability to teach and motivate players, to cultivate a lasting love and respect for the game; to provide a positive experience for every player regardless of his or her ability – all of these facets will provide the criteria by which the Organization is evaluated.

The coach, then, must first and foremost recognize and accept a tremendous degree of responsibility – responsibility to the players as their coach and to the Organization as its

primary representative. As such, the coach must recognize that his principal role is that of a teacher, an instructor. His primary goal must be to provide a positive learning experience for each and every one of his charges.

It is no secret that in order to reach his or her individual potential, a child must practice and play. Intramural coaches are guided in allocating playing time on an individual basis by Regulations approved by the Executive Committee. While these rules specifically apply to the Organization's Intramural Program, the travel team coach is guided by a more basic tenant: common sense. Players selected to participate on a travel team are selected because they have met the criteria imposed by the individual travel team coach. Having selected a player, a coach would seriously compromise the rule of "common sense" as well as the Organization philosophy by not providing each and every player reasonable playing time.

Therefore, while not subject to specific Organization regulations governing the allocation of playing time, it is strongly recommended that the travel team coach address this issue sensibly and fairly.

Specifically, the coach is encouraged to measure his success as a coach on his ability to develop individual players to the best of their ability rather than on a "win-loss" record.

The coach is encouraged to expand and refine his soccer knowledge on an ongoing basis through coaching courses and seminars, books and films.

The coach is encouraged to recognize that each child is an individual, each with his own individualized personality and to interact with the child on a one-to-one basis.

The coach is encouraged to educate his team parents that coaching from the sideline is counterproductive to the education and training of a soccer player.

The coach is encouraged to educate his players and his team parents in the proper behavior afforded teammates, opposing players, and referees and once having done so, the coach must make it clear that the abuse of teammates, opposing players, and referees will not be tolerated.

Finally, the coach is encouraged to act in a professional manner. A professional manner is not predicated on dollars and cents; a professional manner is the by-product of ability and attitude. It is the personification of the desire to be the best that one can be. The coach is encouraged to be the best that he/she can be!

III. COACHING STAFF

- A. The Coaching Panel shall consist of the Athletic Director, Intramural Directors, Travel Program Director, Referee Director, and Rules Chairperson.

- B. The Coaching Panel shall review all applicants for coaching positions (head and assistant coaches), resumes where applicable, and submit their recommendation for coaching positions to the Executive Committee.
- C. The Executive Committee shall review, approve, and appoint the Coaching Staff on an annual basis.
- D. Under the direction of the Athletic Director, the Coaching Panel shall develop and conduct a series of coaches' meetings throughout the year.
- E. Any head coach may only act as the head coach with one Horsham Soccer team during a season. An exception to this shall be selected as the head coach for an intramural select team. All coaches are encouraged to assist other coaches however possible.

IV. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each parent is asked to give of him/herself by assisting the Organization's Standing Committees (see Bylaws, Article VIII, COMMITTEES).
- B. The Organization shall not be responsible for children left unattended after practice or games.
- C. A minimum of one team parent/representative should attend each monthly meeting.

V. REGISTRATION

- A. Registration shall be the responsibility of the Registration Director.
- B. Horsham Soccer Association's refund policy shall be as follows: Subsequent to the drafts of team assignments, no refunds shall be rendered.

VI. AGE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Organization membership program is open from ages four (4) through nineteen (19).
- B. Under 6 Division (Recreational) – no child may play in this Division who will reach his 6th birthday prior to July 31 of the current year.
- C. Under 8 Division – no child may play in this Division who will reach his 8th birthday prior to July 31 of the current year.
- D. Under 10 Division – no child may play in this Division who will reach his 10th birthday prior to July 31 of the current year.

- E. Under 12 Division – no child may play in this Division who will reach his 12th birthday prior to July 31 of the current year.
- F. Under 14 Division – no child may play in this Division who will reach his 14th birthday prior to July 31 of the current year.
- G. Any other Division will be governed by the Executive Committee in cooperation with the Division coaches.
- H. Subject to recommendation by the Coaching Panel and approval of the Executive Committee, a player may be deemed eligible for participation in an age group beyond their specific Division. Satisfactory demonstration of emotional maturity and skill level shall lead the qualifications for consideration. Written request for such consideration must be submitted for approval by May 15th of each season.

VII. TRYOUTS

- A. Travel tryout dates and times shall be set by the Executive Committee.
- B. Organization of tryouts is the responsibility of the Athletic Director.
- C. Tests for skill level shall be the responsibility of the Coaching Panel with input from the Division Directors.
- D. Each approved coach shall make every effort to be present at tryouts so that he may rate all candidates firsthand.

VIII. FORMATION OF TRAVEL TEAMS

- A. No Travel Team may be established in the Under 8 age division.
- B. The Board of Directors shall, by consensus, decide if the quality of talent within an age division warrants the establishment of a Travel Team. Formation of the Travel Team within a division must have approval by the Executive Committee.
- C. Travel Teams shall be selected first, prior to the general intramural team selection process.
- D. Players selected for a Travel Team may be required to pay an additional fee as determined by the Board of Directors.
- E. All coaches shall be reviewed each soccer year by the Board of Directors and recommendation by the Panel shall be promptly submitted to the Board of Directors for their action. Unless the position is vacated by resignation, disciplinary action or other cause, a currently assigned Travel Team Head Coach shall assume coaching

- responsibilities for his or her currently assigned team in the succeeding age bracket, pending approval by the Executive Committee pursuant to Article III, Paragraphs “B” and “C,” COACHING STAFF.
- F. In the event of vacancy and/or to staff the position of Head Coach of a first year Travel Team, all candidates for the position of Head Coach must submit a coaching resume for review by the Coaching Panel.
 - G. Based on their thorough and objective review of the candidate’s qualifications, shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors for approval.
 - H. Drafting of more than three players outside of the Hatboro-Horsham School District is prohibited.
 - I. A player, not meeting eligibility criteria, may request, in writing, special permission to play on a Travel Team from the Board of Directors.
 - J. The Travel Team players shall be governed by the Rules of FIFA (Federation International Football Organization, E.P.Y.S.A (Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Organization), and Inter-County Soccer League.

IX. FORMATION OF INTRAMURAL TEAMS

- A. Under 8 Division shall select first . . . 10 to 12 players
Under 10 Division shall select first . . . 11 to 13 players
Under 12 Division shall select first . . . 14 to 16 players
Under 14 Division shall select first . . . 15 to 17 players
And so on . . .
- B. The selection process shall be done by computer using the “1994” software package.
- C. Selections outside a specific age division are explicitly prohibited except as provided for in Article V, AGE REQUIREMENTS.
- D. Upon completion of the team selection process, each coach (or proxy coach) is required to contact his players within 48 hours and to hold the first practice by mid-August.

X. SCHEDULES

- A. The Schedule for the Intramural season games will be determined by the Scheduling Director, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and schedules will be issued before Opening Day. Field assignments and referees shall be established and maintained by the Scheduling Director and the Referee Director.

- B. Travel Team games and schedules are the responsibility of the Travel Division Director.

XI. THE FIELD

- A. The field shall be rectangular and commensurate with the particular age group.
- B. Markings on the field shall be distinctive and in accordance with FIFA (Federation International Football Organization), USSF (United States Soccer Federation), and E.P.Y.S.A. (Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Organization) rules and regulations.
- C. All practice fields must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- D. All practice fields will be assigned by Age Division by the respective Division Director.

XII. REFEREES

- A. The Referee shall have full control of the game including all spectators. The Referee shall have the power to warn, disqualify, and remove any coaches, players and/or spectators involved in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. Each team is required to provide a linesman for each game. The linesman cannot be a player in that game.
- C. In the event of a Referee not covering a game, a coach, assistant coach, or spectator may be used to officiate the game with the mutual agreement of both coaches.
- D. Any ejection involving a coach or player must be reported to the Referee Chairperson by the Referee. All pertinent details must be submitted in writing within 48 hours so that the Board of Directors and Division Director may review the incident and take any action deemed appropriate.
- E. Only the acting head coach may discuss a ruling by the Referee and only at an opportune time.

XIII. GAME REGULATIONS

- A. The Horsham Soccer Organization shall abide by the rules and regulations of the FIFA (Federation International Football Organization), USSF (United States Soccer Federation), and E.P.Y.S.A. (Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Organization) with exceptions otherwise noted here within.
- B. Under 6 Division games shall be played on a downsized field using three players with no goalkeeper.

- C. Under 7 Division games shall be played on a downsized field using four players, with no goalkeeper.
- D. Under 8 Division games shall be played on a downsized field using eight players, one of who is a goalkeeper.
- E. Under 10 Division games shall be played on a downsized field using eight players, one of who is a goalkeeper.
- F. Under 12 Division games shall be played using 11 players.

XIV. GAME PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. There will be no limit on the number of players a team may substitute. Substitution can be made only at the following times with permission from the Referee:
 - 1. goal (either team)
 - 2. goal-kick (either team)
 - 3. throw-in (team in possession of the ball)
 - 4. injury (either team)
 - 5. quarter or half time (either team)

XV. PLAYER PLAYING TIME

- A. All eligible intramural players must play a minimum of one-half of any game they are present.

XVI. DURATION OF GAME

- A. The duration of the game shall depend on age division.

Under 6 Division As directed by the Coaching Panel
Under 8 Division Two twenty minute halves
Under 10 Division Two twenty-five minute halves
Under 12 Division Two twenty-five minute halves
All other Divisions As directed by the Coaching Panel

XVII. THE BALL

- A. The ball shall be regulation sized soccer ball. The size used by each team depends on the age division.

- Under 6 Division Size 3 ball
- Under 8 Division Size 3 ball
- Under 10 Division Size 4 ball
- Under 12 Division Size 4 ball
- All other Divisions Size 5 ball

XVIII. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- A. Players are expected to wear proper equipment. Proper equipment shall include team shirt, team shorts, team socks, soccer shoes or sneakers. It is strongly recommended that all male players wear an athletic supporter and protective cup. All players must wear shin guards.
- B. A player shall not wear anything that is considered dangerous to himself or another player. The Referee shall determine what is and is not appropriate.

XIX. GRIEVANCES

- A. Grievances must be filed in writing through the Grievance Committee.
- B. Methods of Grievances:
 - 1. Grievances must be in writing and signed.
 - 2. Any member of this Organization as defined in the Bylaws may file a Grievance.
 - 3. If the Grievance is against a member of the Grievance Committee, he/she shall be removed for that Grievance and be replaced by an Executive Committee member while that Grievance is being processed. All other grievances may be processed by that Grievance Committee member unless otherwise sanctioned.
 - 4. The Grievance Committee can request a judgment by the entire Executive Committee if the issue is deemed to have an impact on the entire Organization.
 - 5. A final decision will be rendered within two weeks after receipt of the Grievance by the Grievance Committee.

XX. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

- A. In case of inclement weather or unsuitable field conditions, the Field Maintenance Chairperson and/or any Board of Director member may, prior to the start of a game, notify coaches that a game is to be postponed.

- B. If at any time prior to or after the start of a game the field is judged not playable by the Referee, it is within their jurisdiction to notify the coaches that the game is postponed.
- C. The Division Directors will be responsible for notifying all coaches.
- D. Referees will stop games any time that a lightning bolt is observed and immediately remove all players from the field. The game may not resume for a period of fifteen minutes. If within the fifteen-minute period a second bolt is observed, a second fifteen-minute period will commence. If a third bolt is observed, the game shall be postponed.

XXI. FORFEITS

- A. A game is forfeited when either team fails to field:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Players</u>
Under 8	Six
Under 10	Seven
Under 12 and above	Nine

fifteen minutes after the scheduled start of a game (providing the opposing team is on hand at the scheduled time and is ready to play).

- B. Games must start at the scheduled time when both teams are able to field the minimum number of players as stated in Article XIX, Paragraph "A," FORFEITS.