

## PSL By-Laws

### Article I Name and Affiliation

The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be the Premier Soccer League of Chicagoland (PSL). The PSL shall be affiliated with the Illinois State Soccer Association (ISSA) and therefore be affiliated with the United States Amateur Soccer Association (USASA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the Confederation of North Central and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The PSL shall recognize the superseding authority of these affiliations for those matters covered by these affiliations.

### Article II Purpose and Powers

The purpose of the PSL is to provide recreational competitive soccer for all of its members. The PSL shall administer, schedule, and arbitrate over all activities necessary to achieve its goal. The PSL shall also make every effort to promote soccer throughout Northern Illinois. All powers granted to the league and its members shall be as specified within these bylaws.

### Article III Offices

The registered office of the PSL shall be designated by the President of the organization for the given year.

### Article IV Membership

- 4.1 Membership in the PSL consists of all players, coaches, and managers of all registered teams in good standing, elected officers, committee chairperson, and other persons as appointed by the President or the Board of Directors
- 4.2 Voting rights of members - One (1) vote shall be granted to each registered team in good standing. Voting rights shall also be granted to each elected officer, provided that the officer does not already have voting rights as a team representative, except for the President of the league, who shall only vote in case of a tie. A member must be in attendance at the meeting in order to vote. A person may not represent more than one team at any meeting.

### Article V Meetings

- 5.1 A minimum of two (2) meetings per year shall be held for the general membership. One of the meetings shall be held at the end of the outdoor season for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of other business as may come before the meeting. The other meeting shall be held at the beginning of the season for the purpose of informing the membership on the upcoming season and any other business that may come before the meeting.
- 5.2 Special Meetings - Special meetings of the members may be called at any time for the purpose of considering matters which, by the terms of these by-laws, require the approval of all or some of the members, or for any other reasonable purpose. These meetings shall be called by written notice and authorized by the President, a majority of the Board of Directors, or by 1/10 of the voting members.
- 5.3 Place of Meeting - The place of a regular meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The place of the special meetings shall be determined by the member or members calling for such meetings.
- 5.4 Notice of Meetings - Written notice (provided by regular mail, telefax, website or email) stating the place, date, and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered to all members entitled to vote at such meetings not less than seven (7) nor more than forty (40) days before the date of such meeting. In case of special meetings, the purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the notice.
- 5.5 Quorum - 1/3 of all eligible voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- 5.6 Method of Voting - Members entitled to vote must be present or have an appointed member present at the meeting to vote in his place. The appointed member cannot be the voting member for any other team or officer. Voting by mail is prohibited.

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### Board of Directors

- 6.1 Powers - The business and affairs of the PSL shall be managed by the duly elected Board of Directors (Board) who shall have jurisdiction over all teams, coaches, and players affiliated with the PSL.
- 6.2 Number – The Board may consist of at least 7 and no more than 10 director members. The exact number of directors may change from year to year as determined by the Board without further amendment to these by-laws. Board members shall serve in the following roles, as determined by the board: President, Vice- President, Treasurer, Open Commissioner, Over 30/40/48 Commissioner(s), Referee Liaison(s), and as many Director At Large Board Members as are necessary. Officers (President, Vice-President and Treasurer) may also serve as Commissioners of PSL Leagues. Additional board positions may be added or included onto the Board as the Board deems necessary, e.g. Secretary.
- 6.3 Term of Office - Each Board Member shall hold office for two (2) years.
- 6.4 Removal of Director - The Board may declare vacant, at its discretion, the office of any Board Member absent without due cause from three (3) consecutive meetings of the board. A Board Member may also be removed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes present at any special meeting called for this purpose.
- 6.5 Vacancies - Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board or by a majority vote of the members present at a special meeting called for such a purpose.
- 6.6 Officers and Other Positions
- 6.6.1 President - The President is responsible for the total management of the PSL. He shall preside over all meetings; appoint all committee chairmen with the approval of the Board and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; shall appoint a member of the Board to act as recording secretary at any meeting of the PSL; shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie at any meeting of the PSL; shall have the authority to countersign all checks; shall represent the PSL or appoint a replacement to serve as a delegate at all ISSA meetings.
- 6.6.2 Vice-President – The Vice-President shall serve in the place of the President and as determined by the Board.
- 6.6.3 Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be in charge of the finances of the PSL and make financial report available at all regular meetings of the PSL and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall maintain a detailed account of the income and expenditures of the PSL; shall deposit all funds upon receipt in a bank account in the name of the PSL; shall be responsible for presenting a budget and preparing a full financial report to the membership; shall sign all checks which must be countersigned by either the President, Vice-President, or another Commissioner.
- 6.6.4 League Commissioner(s) – The Board may approve the appointment of as many Commissioners as they deem necessary, including but not limited to an Open Commissioner and Over-30/40/48 Commissioner. The Commissioner(s) shall be responsible for scheduling all regular season games as well as any post season or mid-season tournaments. The Commissioner(s) will have the regular season schedule completed at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the season. The Commissioner(s) shall keep track of all league scores and standings. The individual teams are responsible for reporting their scores to the Commissioner as outlined in the by-laws. The Commissioner will report the standings at least every two (2) weeks to all Team Managers. The Commissioner is also responsible for notifying all teams of meetings and /or events associated with the PSL. The Commissioner(s) may countersign checks. The Commissioner(s) levies(levy) and collects (collect) any and all fines as mandated by the by-laws.
- 6.6.5 Director-At-Large/Other Roles – Elected Board Members shall perform all other duties as determined by the board of directors, including voting and working on special projects.
- 6.6.6 Referee Liaison(s) - Duties of the Referee Liaison(s) may include the following: (1) serve as liaison between and amongst teams, referees, referee assignors and the PSL with respect to referee assignments, assessments and training; (2) provide mentoring, assessment and support to PSL referees; (3) coordinate pre-season seminar/informational meeting(s) in conjunction with other referee organizations in the Chicagoland area; (4) provide assistance in the maintenance, expansion and/or configuration of the PSL referee pool; and (5) provide any/all other referee related services that the PSL Board deems necessary.
- 6.7 Resignation of Director - A Director may resign at any time upon written notice to the President.
- 6.8 Director Emeritus - Any board member who has served in the position of president for at least three terms shall be eligible to serve as a director emeritus (voice but no vote) after retirement from the Board.

### Article VII Elections

- 7.1 Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the general meeting held at the conclusion of the outdoor season.

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7.2 Three board members shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the four other board member positions shall be elected in even-numbered years. If there are more than 7 Board members, then the elections shall be staggered as close to half and half as possible.

### Article VIII Committees

- 8.1 The Board shall determine what committees shall exist from time to time and appoint their membership.  
8.2 Committees may include membership from non-board members.

### Article IX Referee Assignments/Referee Assignors

9.1 Referees for all regular season games and all post-season or mid-season tournaments shall be assigned by the Referee Assignor. The Board has the authority to pay for this service if it cannot find a volunteer to fill this position.

9.2 Referee Assignors shall have the following responsibilities:

1. assigning referees for all sanctioned **PSL** games.
2. available to be contacted, or designate another assignor designate, up to 1/2 hour after scheduled starting times for all PSL games.
3. referee PSL games when a scheduled referee does not appear.
4. recommend any increase in referee fees for tournament games, subject to Board approval. (The Board will retain authority to establish referee fees for the regular season consistent with any guidelines or dictates of the ISSA and/or Illinois State Referee Committee.
5. contact the home team any time a referee assignment has been changed.
6. contact the assigned referee if any change has been made to either the location or time of any scheduled game. (Any changes to the scheduled game must be made within 72 hours of the scheduled game.)
7. informing all referees of all PSL rules and regulations.
8. notify the league of all rule changes and interpretations.

For complying with all of the above, the Referee Assignor(s) shall be paid a fee as determined by the Board. This fee shall be on a per game basis and shall be considered to cover any and all expenses incurred by the Assignor. The league will therefore not pay any additional or unauthorized expenses incurred by the Referee Assignor(s).

9.2 The referees assigned must be certified by the USSF for the year in which they are being assigned.

9.3 Referee fees will be split in half by both teams and paid to the game official(s) at the time of the game.

### Article X League Fees

10.1 The Board has the authority to establish league fees as it deems necessary to run the league in a professional manner. All teams shall be notified of the current year's league fee at least one month prior to the start of the season.

10.2 All league fees will be submitted to the Treasurer at least one week prior to the start of the season. Partial payments of the league fees may be required earlier in order to obtain the necessary liability insurance for the individual teams. The exact amount of these dues and the time they are to be paid will be announced before the start of the season and the season opening league meeting.

10.3 Any team not having their league fees paid in full by the start of the season shall either (a) forfeit their games until such time as they have either paid their dues or the Board votes to have them removed from the league, or (b) incur such other sanctions or actions as the Board deems appropriate.

10.4 Fines - Fines issued for any reason must be paid within two (2) weeks from the time the team or player is notified. Failure to pay these fines shall cause the team to either (a) forfeit all games until the fines are paid or until the Board votes to have the team and/or the player removed from the league, or (b) incur such other sanctions or actions as the Board deems appropriate.

### Article XI Player Eligibility

11.1 A player must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, except in the Over 30 Division in which case the player must be at least thirty (30) years of age on game day, and the Over 40 Division where the player must be forty (40) years of age or older (except to the extent the Board approves any exceptions or exemptions to this rule of eligibility, e.g. underage goalkeeper).

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- 11.1.1 Goalkeepers for the Over 30 division must be over 25 years old, and for the Over 40 division must be over 30 years old.
- 11.2 The age of the player shall be determined by the player's age on the day of the game.
- 11.2.1 Proof of age is required for the Over 30, Over 40, and Over 48 divisions in the form of a copy of a valid driver's license, signed passport or birth certificate (accompanied by a copy of a valid picture ID (e.g. State ID)). If a player's eligibility is in question, the team captain may ask the referee to ask for a valid driver's license to verify the eligibility of the player.
- 11.2.2 If a player's eligibility is questioned by the opposing team, the referee shall ask to see identification and/or a pass to attest to his eligibility. the referee shall decide if the player may participate and submit a report to the league commissioner.
- 11.3 All players are required to have a valid player pass. This player pass must have the current year league sticker to be valid. There will be no substitute for player passes unless there is written permission from the ISSA or the PSL Commissioner; in other words: No Pass--No Play. To the extent that a referee permits a game to be played where there is a dispute about a pass or eligibility to play without a pass, the referee shall make a written report to the league and/or assignor.
- 11.4 Violation of player eligibility rules as determined by the Grievance Committee shall result in a team forfeiting each game in which a rule has been violated.
- 11.5 If any player is found using a false player pass, the team will forfeit the game and the player and/or team shall be subject to other disciplinary action by the Board
- 11.6 All teams must have a Home Field in order to be a member of this league, unless the league makes other arrangements.
- 11.7 All team rosters will be frozen 2 games before the end of the regular season.

### Article XII Registration

- 12.1 At least three (3) weeks prior to the first league game, a registration meeting will be scheduled for team registration purposes.
- 12.2 Each year players are required to re-register with the ISSA and fill out a new player registration form per ISSA rules.
- 12.3 New teams registering with the league must turn in the League Entry form, a map to their home field and a new team registration fee prior to registration. The Board has the right to determine how much the new team registration fee will be. All players must be registered as stated above.
- 12.4 A team may not register an unlimited number of players but may only ever dress 18 for a game.
- 12.5 A player may not switch from one team to another for a period of 2 games without the written consent of the original team's manager. Player must be in good standing and any equipment that needs to be returned shall be returned. After this requirement is fulfilled, player may switch from one team to another provided he registers with the ISSA and follows ISSA rules. His old ID must be destroyed by the old team.

### Article XIII Schedules

- 13.1 All PSL games will be scheduled by the Commissioners. The schedules will be sent to the Team Managers at least two weeks prior to the start of the season.
- 13.2 Game Times - All Open Division games will be played on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise specified. All Over 30/40 Division games will be played on Saturday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. or on Sunday morning at 9:30 am or such other day and time as noted on the league schedules prepared by the Commissioners. The field must be ready for play at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time. Ready for play includes:
1. Nets on goals.
  2. Field lined.
  3. Corner flags in place.

If the field is not ready for play 10 minutes before starting time, the referee will have the right to consider the field in improper playing condition and leave the field. The Home Team will forfeit the game (see Forfeits).

- 13.3 Rescheduling - Teams have until 3 days prior to game time to postpone a game by mutual consent of both teams. The Referee Liaison shall be informed immediately of a game cancellation by both teams and assist the assignors and commissioner of the teams' league in the rescheduling of the game. The game must be rescheduled within 1 week; if it is not rescheduled within one week, the cancelling team shall be subject to an assessed forfeit for the cancelled game unless exigent circumstances and fairness dictate otherwise in the opinion of the Board. IF the team being cancelled upon incurs a fee because of the postponement, the cancelling team must pay the expense. If there is NO MUTUAL CONSENT, the Commissioner will assign a new game date, and if it is not acceptable, the game will be recorded as a forfeit by and for the cancelling team. If games are rescheduled less than

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72 hours before game time, the cancelling team will be charged \$10.00 for reassignment, and must pay the entire fee for the referee crew.

13.4 The Home Team is responsible for notifying the visiting Team, the commissioner and the Referee Assignor of any field changes and/or game times 3 days prior to the scheduled game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit (see Forfeit). If there are any problems beyond the control of the Home Team (excessive rain, snow, wind, park district restrictions etc.) within 72 hours of game time, the Home Team shall provide written proof of the action taken and the Commissioner(s) and/or the Board will make whatever determination is necessary for rescheduling the match or declaring a forfeit. (see Forfeit)

13.5 Any team which forfeits a game will be fined \$50.00. This fine will be payable to the league. In addition, the team forfeiting will be responsible for all costs incurred for playing the game; this includes referee fee and any field rental. Any team forfeiting a second time will be fined \$100.00. Any team forfeiting three games in one season will be removed from the league.

13.6 The Board reserves the right to make allowances for extenuating circumstances beyond both teams' control.

### Article XIV

#### Official Match Roster/Game Results

14.1 The PSL Officials' Match Roster and Referee Report shall constitute the official game record. Each team shall fill form out fully including player name, ID#, and jersey#, and present it to the referee prior to the start of the game. 25 players may be listed on the game day roster, but only 18 may play on any given game date. It is the responsibility of the team captain to make sure the referee checks each player into a game on the roster form, and that the information is correct at the end of the game.

14.2 The referee will fill out the report completely. He will record all goals and violations and any comments he cares to make. He will sign and return the report to the Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the game. Any additional reports should be made in writing to the referee assignor and/or league as soon as possible (e.g. e-mail, PSL Website, or other assigning software system used by the referee assignors).

14.3 Any Referee who does not return the report or does not fill out the report properly will be reported to the Referee Assignor for appropriate action. Repeated violations of reporting requirements for referees will be taken into account on future assignments, if any, to the violating referees.

14.4 The Team Manager of the winning team must phone in the results of the game to the Commissioner by 9:00 p.m. on the game date. In case of a tie, both Team Managers must phone in the scores. A team that does not phone in its score runs the risk of losing any points awarded for that game including goals for (goals against would still be counted).

14.5 Any team failing to report their scores by the previously stated times will be fined \$25.00. If the fine is not received before the team's next game, they will forfeit that game and all games until the fine is paid. Repeat violators will be brought before the Board for further league action.

14.6 Standings - The Commissioner will be responsible for maintaining the standings for each division. The standings will be determined by point accumulation based on the following:

Win = 3 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

If a team wins as a result of a forfeit, the results will be recorded as **3-0** and 3 points awarded.

14.7 If at the end of the season or end of a session more than one team has the same number of total points, the final league results will be determined by:

1. Goal Differential (Goals for – Goals Against)
2. Head to Head Record.
3. Coin Flip

14.8 There will be no ties during cup/tournament play where a winning team must be determined.

### Article XV

#### Protests/Grievances

Any Team Manager may file a protest or grievance for any suspected violation of league or game rules, or for any injustice that might have been incurred, by submitting the protest in writing within seven (7) days of the violation or injustice. The team manager must also submit a \$25.00 deposit. The \$25.00 will be returned if the appointed members of the Board serving as a Grievance Committee finds in favor of the team filing the protest; otherwise the league will keep the \$25.00.

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### Article XVI Laws of the Game

- 16.1 FIFA/USSF laws will govern all PSL games except for those exceptions stated within these bylaws.
- 16.2 Only eighteen (18) members of a team may participate in one game, including the Team Manager, if he is a player.
- 16.3 Player Passes along with Lineup report will be presented to the Referee before the start of the game.
- 16.4 A player arriving late may enter the game upon giving his Player Pass to the Referee or Assistant Referee.
- 16.5 If a team does not have seven (7) players at the scheduled start time, they will be given up to fifteen (15) minutes to field seven (7) players. If the team fails to field seven (7) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time, the referee shall record those facts and the Commissioner(s) and/or Board shall determine that the game is a forfeit against the team without the requisite minimum number of players (see game forfeit rule).
- 16.6 Substitutions - Substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made any time there is a dead ball, with the approval of the referee. Players and substitutes are limited to those listed on the official line-up.
- 16.7 All players of the same team should wear the same color jersey, shorts, and socks. All jerseys must have numbers (except for the goalkeeper), and no two players may have the same number.
- 16.8 If both teams have the same color jersey, it will be the responsibility of the Home Team to wear a different color jersey, unless other arrangements can be agreed on by both teams.
- 16.9 Assistant Referees/Linesmen - Unless assigned by the league, each team shall provide a linesman to assist the referee when no assistant referees are assigned or appear to officiate. The assigned Referee shall determine the extent of assistance that any club linesmen may provide. In the event only one assistant referee of a three-person referee crew appears for a match, then the clubs will provide a linesman to assist the Referee and Assistant Referee.
- 16.10 A game is considered to be complete if it is stopped by the Referee after the first half. If a game is stopped by the Referee before the completion of the first half, the following applies:
- A. If stopped due to weather or field conditions, the game must be replayed in its entirety.
  - B. If stopped because of misconduct or interference of any kind, the matter shall be brought before the Grievance Committee, who shall have the authority to order the game replayed, in part, in its entirety, or to declare the game complete.

### Article XVII Fouls and Misconduct

- 17.1 A player receiving a Red Card is not eligible to play in the remainder of the game in which he received the red card. Furthermore, that player shall also be suspended for the next scheduled league game, including tournament play.
- 17.2 If a player is red carded during the last game of the season, the player will be suspended for the first game of the next season no matter what team he is playing for.
- 17.3 Repeated card violations will be brought before the Board for player and/or team disciplinary action, which may include a fine, suspension, or complete removal from the PSL.
- 17.4 If at any time before, during, or after a game, the referee is assaulted by any member of the PSL, the offending player shall be reported to the Board for disciplinary action, which may include fine, suspension, or complete removal from the PSL.
- 17.5 Red card fines may be imposed to individuals and/or teams based on the severity of the player altercations.
- 17.6 Minimum penalties for repeat offenders are as follows:
1. Striking an official - Minimum 1-year (calendar year) suspension; possible life suspension from the PSL, in addition to \$100.00 fine to both the player and the team. The offending player will not be eligible to play after the suspension until the fines are fully paid.
  2. Fighting - Minimum 5 game suspension and \$50.00 fine.
  3. 2 Red Cards in One Season - Additional 5 games suspension.
  4. More than 3 Red Cards in One Season - Reviewed by the Board for possible suspension for the remainder of the season.
  5. 3 Yellow Cards in One Session - 1 game suspension.
  6. 6 Yellow Cards in One Session - 2 game suspension.
  7. More than 6 Yellow Cards in One Season - Reviewed by the Board for possible suspension for the remainder of the season.
- 17.7 If a team is suspended from the PSL, the team shall forfeit any deposits made to the league, and will be eligible for reinstatement upon approval by the PSL board of directors after a minimum of 1 year (or one entire season), the offending team

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if approved for reinstatement will forfeit any claims of seniority or team standings, and will be re-admitted on probation into the lowest division of the league's bracket based on the age group for which the team is being reinstated.

17.8 In the event that a coach is suspended due to repeated violations of the PSL bylaws, the offending coach will be banned from coaching or representing any PSL teams for the period of one year or one entire season.

### Article XVIII Code of Ethics

18.1 The PSL code of ethics consists of the following:

1. No foul language in or out of the field immediately before or after PSL games. If any complaints are deemed true, the responsible team may be fined, and the player put on probation.

2. Team managers shall be responsible for any fights or harassment immediately before, during, or after an PSL sanctioned game. The responsible team shall be fined and put on probation if the preceding situation occurs.

18.2 The PSL reserves the right to penalize a team for flagrant misconduct as deemed by the Board of Directors on a case per case basis.

### Article XVIII Amendments

19.1 Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or member clubs. To provide notice of any proposed amendment, the Board of Directors will first consider its own recommended by-laws amendment or the recommendations of any member club for a by-laws amendment and shall then notify the league membership of the proposed amendment at least 30 days in advance of either (1) a regularly scheduled meeting of the PSL or (2) a specially called meeting of the PSL whose purpose will be to consider the proposed amendment(s) to the by-laws.

19.2 An amendment to these by-laws shall be approved at a legally called meeting of PSL members by a majority vote of those present and voting. The effective date of any amendment shall be included in the resolution for passage of the amendment(s).