

**BYLAWS**  
**TUCSON METRO SOCCER LEAGUE, INC.**

**I. MEETINGS**

1. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by three members of the Board. There shall be thirteen (13) Board members, including officers. A quorum for the conduct of business is a majority of the members of the Board currently holding office. The majority of the votes cast shall decide all questions except removal from office and an amendment to the by-laws.

2. All Board of Directors' meetings of the TMSL are open to the public; however, the Board of Directors may act in executive session and exclude non-Board members.

3. The Board of Directors shall transact all the business of the League and have the power to enforce the laws of the games and the Bylaws of the TMSL. The Board of Directors is the final arbitrator in all League disputes.

**II. OFFICERS**

1. President: The President shall preside at all meetings. The President shall only vote (tie-breaking vote) in the event that the Board's vote ends in a tie.

2. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of the President if the elected president is unable to complete his term of office. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings where the President is absent, and may act on behalf of the President when he is not available.

3. Secretary: A Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings, attend to correspondence, and maintain all League records (except financial).

4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees, have charge of all League monies, keep a detailed account of all financial transaction of the League, submit a monthly financial report to the Board of Directors, pay all bills approved by the Board of Directors, and be responsible for all League property and assets.

5. Elections: The election of officers shall occur annually at the June Board of Directors meeting. Only members of the Board present may vote.

6. Any officer or Board vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board.

7. Any officer or Board member shall be indemnified for any liability.

8. Any officer or Board member can be removed from his or her position after missing four (4) consecutive Board of Director meetings or after a quorum and two-thirds vote of the Board members present, following prior notice to the affected Board member.

9. The Board may also appoint special committees for specific tasks. Any vacancy may be filled by the Board. Special committees may include herein without limitation: referee assignor, D&R, protest, newsletter, make-up games, scheduling, insurance, tournament, field conditions and registration.

### **III. DISCIPLINE, PROTESTS, GRIEVANCES**

1. Board members and players shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors for commission of acts which are contrary to or inconsistent with the principles and standards of good sportsmanship. This provision includes all soccer related activities, within or without the TMSL.

2. If conditions exist with any Team under the jurisdiction of the League which, in the judgment of the Board of Directors can be considered to reflect poor management or are not in the best interest of soccer, then the Board of Directors has the power and authority to investigate such matters, and take disciplinary action.

3. Disciplinary action may consist of any appropriate and equitable measure including but not limited to:

- a) Censure
- b) Probation
- c) Suspension
- d) Fine
- e) Forfeiture
- f) Removal from office

4. Team Captains are responsible for the administrative duties associated with their team, as well as the behavior of the team players on the field, on the sidelines and team spectators before, during and after the game. A team Captain

may be disciplined in connection with a violation by a Player, the Team or spectators.

a) Team Captains will arrive at the field of play with player passes and the appropriate league paperwork completed prior to the scheduled start of play.

b) Only the designated team captain may address the center referee, in a respectful manner, on questioned matters during the game.

c) Violations of administrative matters, such as not having the proper league paperwork, not having the paperwork completed on time, the team not being ready to begin at the scheduled start time, or other administrative matters, will result in a caution/yellow card being awarded to the player Captain prior to the start of the match.

d) Any team utilizing the services of an illegal player shall be sanctioned with a) a forfeit loss (or the actual game score, whichever is worse) and b) a three point standings deduction for every match that it is determined that an illegal player was used. The sanction for the team captain and/or game day captain utilizing an illegal player will be in accordance with a Level 3 infraction subject to D&R Committee review.

5. The TMSL shall appoint a Discipline & Rules Committee. The Committee shall consist of three members. This Committee shall review all matters submitted to the League related to violation of rules, misconduct on the playing field and grievances.

#### **IV. D&R COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

1. A player ejected from the field of play by the referee during a game, under the jurisdiction of TUCSON METRO SOCCER LEAGUE, shall be automatically SUSPENDED.

2. No team shall cause or contribute to the premature termination of a match through its on or off field behavior, including the behavior of spectators associated with that team. Teams involved in a premature termination of a match shall be referred to the Discipline and Rules Committee for sanction. The presumptive minimum sanction for a match termination is probationary status for the remainder of the existing season subject to terms and conditions set forth by the D&R Committee. A team involved in a second premature termination during the same season shall be minimally suspended from play for one match. A third or

subsequent premature termination shall result in additional sanctions, including but not limited to season long suspension, bond forfeiture and fine. In determining the appropriate sanction, the Discipline and Rules Committee shall give due consideration to the recommendation of the match referee. In addition, the Discipline & Rules Committee shall attempt to identify, in its sole discretion, the “offending team” whose behavior was the primary cause of the premature termination of the match. The identified “offending team” shall also be assessed a forfeit loss in favor of its opponent. In the event no primary “offending team” can be identified, the match will not be recorded or re-played.

3. A completed, official match requires minimum play of 60 minutes. A match that does not complete 60 or more minutes may, in the discretion of the League, be replayed in its entirety. This paragraph does not apply to games terminated as addressed in section IV, paragraph 2.

4. If a suspended player or representative wishes to appeal the severity of the suspension, player shall submit a written report which clearly and specifically identifies each and every argument in support of the appeal. Appeals will only be allowed for Level 3 suspensions. A written report, along with a \$30.00 fee, must be received at the League office by 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday after posting of the suspension on the D&R page of the League website. The report must include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person submitting the appeal.

5. Upon the timely receipt of a player’s written appeal and fee, an ad hoc committee of three board members, appointed by the president, will reconsider/review the proposed suspension.

6. A suspended player who successfully prosecutes an appeal shall be refunded all appeal fees.

7. It is the Team Captain’s responsibility to pick up the player card at the conclusion of the suspension at the TMSL office.

8. A minimum \$30.00 fine will be levied for any player card that is found to be altered.

9. Players who are suspended for certain infractions shall, in addition to serving any suspension received, have a fine levied according to the schedule shown below. Remittance of the fine must be made prior to said player resuming play. The monies must be received at the league office not later than the Wednesday before the players return.

Schedule of Fines

Referee Assault	\$100
Fighting	\$50
Violent Conduct *	\$25
Profanity or abusive language directed at a Referee	\$25

10. For each red card received for Violent Conduct, the offending team shall have one (1) point deducted from its Total Points calculation.

**GUIDELINES FOR THE D&R COMMITTEE**

**I. YELLOW CARDS**

**Presumptive  
Minimum  
Penalty**

(3 in one season)

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| a) Enter or re-enter field without Referee permission  | 1 game |
| b) Persistent infringement of the law (frequent fouls) |        |
| c) Dissent (by word and/or action)                     |        |
| d) Ungentlemanly conduct                               |        |

**II. RED CARDS**

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|---|----------|
| a) Level 1 suspension   | 1 game   |
| 1. Double Yellow in a game                                      |          |
| 2. Hand ball to stop a goal scoring opportunity                 |          |
| 3. Dangerous play (not violent conduct)                         |          |
| 4. Profanity toward players or spectators                       |          |
| b) Level 2 suspension   | 2 games  |
| 1. Second Level 1 suspension within a season                    |          |
| 2. Profanity toward an official                                 |          |
| 3. First violent conduct (not fighting)                         |          |
| c) Level 3 suspension   | 3+ games |
| (Requires review by the D&R Committee and may result in a fine) |          |

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\* Second or subsequent in one season.

1. Any ejection after serving a level 2 suspension within a season
2. Any fighting incident
3. Any referee abuse or assault
4. Any matter that the League President or three Board Members direct D&R to review and consider

## **V. GAMES**

1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game unless otherwise expressly stated by USSF, ASSA or TMSL.
2. Length of the game shall be presumptively ninety (90) minutes unless otherwise determined by the Board.
3. A grace period of ten (10) minutes past kickoff time shall be granted to field a legal team. The term “legal” means seven (7) players uniformed and with player passes. The referee shall not shorten the game. If a team is unable to field a minimum of seven registered players, it shall forfeit the match.
4. Substitutions shall be subject to the following rules and conditions:
  - a) Open substitutions shall be permitted with the permission of the referee.
  - b) Substitutions may be made on either goal kick, on own throw in, beginning of half, after any goal scored, for injury provided the referee has been notified and his permission has been given and in the referee’s discretion when playing conditions warrant.
5. Each team shall be able to register twenty-five (25) players.
6. Each team player shall have identical jerseys with professionally applied numbers. Team players should have matching shorts and matching socks. Home Team shall be responsible for jersey change in the event of color conflict; (the home team is designated by the team listed first on the schedule). The jersey change must also have numbers. All players must wear shin guards.
7. Each player shall present to the referee a valid player pass. Valid meaning a USSF/ASSA official player pass, player’s photo and signature with

picture surface laminated. A player shall not play without a valid player pass. Referees are responsible for checking player cards.

8. No team or teams shall postpone, reschedule or otherwise fail to field a team (7 players) for a scheduled match. Any team that fails to compete in a scheduled match shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. In the event that any team incurs more than one forfeit in any season, that team's bond shall be automatically revoked and said bond shall become the property of TMSL. Said bond must be reinstated prior to the team's resumption of play. Any team unable to field a team (seven players or more) shall notify the league at least seven (7) days in advance of its match to avoid the bond forfeit penalty. **Any team that incurs three (3) forfeited matches, with or without prior notification, over the course of one season will be ineligible to participate in the play-offs.**

9. During the winter season, all players must be registered no later than Wednesday in order to play on Sunday. During the summer season, all players must be registered no later than Wednesday to play in the succeeding week's games.

10. Both teams are responsible for:

- a) A completed team roster presented to the referee (player's name and jersey number on a league supplied form prior to the match).
- b) One game ball each.
- c) Policing the area of the field for litter.
- d) The conduct of players on its respective team and spectators prior to, during and after the game.
- e) The welfare of officials during the same period.

11. Referees are responsible for:

- a) Both team rosters and a completed referee game report. These reports/forms should be provided to the designated League representative within three (3) days of a match.
- b) The referee shall officiate the full ninety (90) minutes. The following step down approach can be used:

- 1) 1 center official and 2 linesmen
- 2) 1 center official and 1 linesman and 1 club linesman
- 3) 1 center official and 2 club linesmen

12. Players assume all risks or hazards incidental to participation in the TMSL and do waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the respective league, team organizers, sponsors, supervisors, officers, board members and participants for any claim arising.

## **VI. PLAYOFFS**

1. Final standings will be determined by points awarded, goal differential, games won, games tied, games lost, and head to head competition.

2. No team may use a player in playoffs, unless the player has been registered with the team prior to a date determined by the Board and/or its Playoff Committee. Player(s) transferring to another team must sit out one (1) scheduled game and pay a \$5.00 transfer fee. Waiting period may be waived by action of the Board under special circumstances.

3. In the event that playoff matches are tied at the end of regulation time, with a golden goal provision play shall be extended by two fifteen-minute halves. Overtime shall begin with a coin toss after a rest period of two minutes. A half-time interval of one minute shall be allowed. If the score remains tied after the overtime periods, the match will be decided by penalty kicks taken in accordance with the USSF/ASSA laws of the game.