

**The Norton Youth Soccer League, Inc.**  
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## **Constitution and By-Laws**

**Adopted 9 June 2004**

### **Section 1. Name**

The Organization shall be called The Norton Youth Soccer League, Inc. The name is commonly abbreviated to Norton Youth Soccer or NYS.

### **Section 2. Objectives and Philosophy**

2.1 The objective of NYS is to provide the opportunity and training for girls and boys to learn the game of soccer through the development of individual fitness, skills, teamwork and fair play.

2.2 The main season of NYS shall be in the Fall.

2.3 The underlying philosophy of NYS is to provide an atmosphere of good sportsmanship within which the players and teams can compete, learn and enjoy the game of soccer. In this spirit, all teams, coaches, managers, players and spectators shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall cooperate fully with the letter and the spirit of the Rules of Play and By-Laws.

2.4 In order to maintain the recreational nature of NYS, team standings will not be kept and the league will not give out awards, such as trophies or medals, to the players. Coaches and parents are also asked to abide by this philosophy. Teams and players may receive awards from non-league sources when playing in other seasons, such as indoor, spring or tournaments.

### **Section 3. Membership**

3.1 Membership shall be open to any and all residents of the town of Norton. Non-residents may become members with the approval of the Board of Directors. Members are either players or volunteers.

3.1.1 Players are members who are eligible to participate on the youth teams. They are not eligible to vote.

3.1.2 Volunteers are people who serve in any capacity other than as players. A qualified adult member is defined as any person 18 years of age or older who is registered with NYS. In some cases, a person may be both a player and a volunteer.

3.2 Any person accepted for membership in NYS shall agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Play of NYS, hereafter referred to as the "Laws". Upon being found in violation of the Laws by the NYS Board of Directors, the matter shall be referred to a Special Meeting. A 2/3 vote of those in attendance at that Special Meeting shall be required to cause the immediate expulsion of that member from NYS.

3.3 At all General Meetings, each qualified NYS adult member shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Voting must be done in person. Voting by proxy, email, or any other type of absentee voting is not allowed.

3.4 Qualified adult members are eligible to nominate or to be nominated for positions designed and developed by Norton Youth Soccer. These qualified individuals are also eligible to vote in elections that are held by Norton Youth Soccer.

3.5 Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one (1) vote at General and Special Meetings.

## Section 4. Government

4.1 The governing body of NYS shall be the Board of Directors (referred to as the Board hereafter) and shall consist of the following:

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Directors

4.2 The President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar shall be elected to two (2) year terms and are eligible for re-election. Nominations will be taken at the February General Meeting and the elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting in March. In order to be elected President, a person must be a current member in some capacity as an Officer or as a Director.

4.3 There are a total of nine (9) Directors in addition to the Officers. They serve staggered terms, with three (3) being elected each year. A Director may also be an Officer. Directors shall be elected to a three (3) year term and are eligible for re-election. Nominations will be taken at the Annual General Meeting in March and the elections will be held at the April General Meeting.

4.3 Each Director is entitled to one (1) vote at all Board Meetings. Voting by proxy, email, or any other type of absentee voting is not allowed.

4.4 The absence of a Director at two (2) consecutive Board Meetings or a total of four (4) absences for the year starting after the AGM shall cause the Board to consider removal of the Director.

4.5 The President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar shall constitute an Emergency Committee to pass on matters demanding immediate attention where it is impractical to call a Board Meeting.

4.6 The President shall appoint a Referee representative and such additional Directors as the Board deems necessary. The appointees shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Board. Vacancies in any of the Board positions shall be filled by this same procedure.

4.7 The Officers and Directors shall assume their offices and duties at the adjournment of the meeting at which they were elected or appointed and shall remain in office until the next election or until replaced.

4.8 The duties and responsibilities of the members of the Board shall be as follows:

4.8.1 **President** - Shall officially preside at all General Meetings and Board meetings and be one of those authorized to sign checks.

4.8.2 **1st Vice President** - Shall succeed to the office and powers of the President in his/her absence or for the remainder of his/her term if the office is vacated for any reason. In the event of such vacancy, the Board shall elect a successor to the post of 1st Vice President. The 1st Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing operation of the recreational side of NYS. He/she shall also serve as permanent Chairperson of the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

4.8.3 **2nd Vice President** - Shall be responsible for overseeing operation of the competitive side of NYS. He/she shall also serve as Chairperson of the Protest Board and the Appeals Board, and other committees as the Board deems appropriate.

4.8.4 **Secretary** - Shall be responsible for:

- Attending all NYS meetings and shall record, type and distribute the minutes of the meeting to the Board members within 1 week of the meeting date.
- Filing all reports that may be required.
- All correspondence both within and outside NYS.
- Issuing public notices of NYS meetings.
- Taking attendance at all meetings.

4.8.5 **Treasurer**: Shall be responsible for:

- Have charge of all monies of the NYS and be one of those authorized to sign checks.
- Collect all registration fees, sponsorship fees and any other money due to the league.
- Maintain a detailed set of records of income and expenditure
- Submit a balanced budget to the Board prior to the start of the Fall Season.
- Submit a brief report at the regularly scheduled Board meetings, an Annual Report of Finances at the Annual General Meeting, and a Financial Statement at all other General Meetings.
- Promptly pay all bills that have been properly passed and approved by the President.
- Have responsibility for all property owned by NYS.

4.8.6 **Registrar** - Shall be in charge of the process of registering players and teams for all of the seasons in which NYS may participate. Such process includes preparation of team rosters and player pass cards as needed. In addition, the Registrar shall be responsible for sending the appropriate documents to MYSA and SCSL for all participating teams.

4.8.7 **Directors** - Shall have the responsibility and authority for administering NYS affairs in specific areas, which shall be assigned by the Board. Primarily, each Director shall be responsible for attending regularly scheduled Board Meetings (see 4.6) and volunteering to serve on any committee as their schedule permits.

4.9 A Referee Assignor(s) shall be appointed by the President as deemed necessary and approved by the Board. The Referee Assignor(s) shall be responsible for assigning referees for NYS games and for SCSL games.

## **Section 5. Meetings**

5.1 The Board shall meet not less than six (6) times during the year.

5.2 Regular General Meetings will normally be held during the second week of each month on a date which is agreed to by a majority of the Board members. The actual date of each meeting will also be determined based on site availability and/or seasonal needs. The Secretary shall notify all members at least one (1) week before the scheduled date. A quorum for a General Meeting shall consist of 50% of the Directors currently on the Board. At least one Officer must be present.

5.3 All matters of policy shall be decided by a simple majority of those Board members present and voting. A quorum for a Board or Special Meeting shall consist of 50% of the Directors currently on the Board. At least one Officer must be present.

5.4 Appropriations (as specified in Section 8), and other subjects specified in these By-Laws as requiring a two-thirds vote, shall require a two thirds majority of Board members present and voting.

5.5 There shall be at least ten (10) General Meetings during the year:

- Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March
- Planning Meeting held in December
- March Board meeting preceding the Spring Season

5.6 Special or emergency meetings shall be called by the President as required or in response to a written request of three (3) Board members. The Secretary shall notify all Board members of any Special meetings at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting. The Secretary shall notify all Board members at least forty eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of the Emergency Meeting.

5.7 The President may extend invitations to non-members to attend Board or Special meetings.

5.8 There shall be MANDATORY coaches meetings prior to the start of each recreational and competitive season to insure that coaches are familiar with the NYS Rules of Play and their responsibilities regarding sportsmanship and the behavior of themselves, the players and spectators. Coaches will also receive written instructions covering

Documentation requirements, player selection, equipment and uniform distribution etc.

5.9 All Committees shall meet as required to fulfill their responsibilities.

## **Section 6. Creation of Teams**

6.1 Fall Recreational Season – Each year the Board shall determine which age groups will play and whether they will be single sex or coed. The Board shall also oversee selection of players for the Fall recreational teams. This is normally done through the use of player ratings and input from Board members and others familiar with each age group.

6.2 Competitive Travel - If Competitive travel teams are formed; the players will be selected through a process defined by the Board for each age group. This may include open tryouts, invitational tryouts, or any other system acceptable to the Board based on a majority vote. Tryouts will be held no earlier than the first week of the Recreational Season and must be completed by the end of the Recreational season. At least one non coaching board member not coaching in that age group or a board designee will be required to be present at every tryout to observe and monitor the fairness of the process. In addition, the board member will determine, on an annual basis, the appropriate number of player to be placed on each team prior to the final player selections being made. The appointed coach for each age group will be responsible for holding tryouts and player selections. The board however reserves the right to intervene in this selection if a dispute or situation arises which requires mediation between parties to the dispute. Player selection and roster placement is for both indoor and spring sessions. The process will be defined by the Board each year and communicated to appointed coaches.

6.2.1 Player Age Eligibility - Each player must participate in his or her appropriate Player Age group as defined by the MYSA age chart. No player will be allowed to play up or down in age. If teams are formed for single ages, players must meet the age definition. If teams are formed for double ages, the players must fall within one of the age groups. For example, if a team is classified as U12 and there is no U11 team, the U11 players would play on the U12 team.

6.2.1.1 (6.3.1.1) - Exceptions to the recommended Age Groups - The recommended age groups, as defined by MYSA, allow the majority of the players to play competitive soccer with their schoolmates. Those players whose birthdays fall outside of the MYSA guidelines may elect to tryout for the team whose roster is comprised of players who are in the same school grade. For example, a fifth grader who has an August birthday (and who falls into the recommended U10 bracket) may tryout for the U11 team to be able to compete with their friends.

The player wishing to tryout for the next older age group must submit a request to the NYS Board, requesting permission to tryout with the older team, signed by the player and their parent(s). Their signatures will indicate their acknowledgement and understanding that there is an added risk involved and that placement is not guaranteed.

6.2.2 Boy/Girl Eligibility – Teams will be single sex. If an appropriate age and division team is not available to a girl, she may apply to the Board in writing for consideration to be placed on a boy's team in that age group. The coach of record for that team will have the final decision on whether or not the girl will be placed on the team.

6. Coaches –Coaches will be nominated, appointed and approved by a simple majority vote of the Board at the earliest convenient meeting following the conclusion of Spring outdoor session.

6.3.1 Removal of Coaches-Coaches serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed and or replaced by a two-thirds vote for any reason including but not limited to those outlined under section 10 of these bylaws. Should the coach subject be a Board member, they will be recused of the voting.

6.3.2 Appeals- Appeals of decisions of removal shall be made to the Appeals Board per section 7.5 of these by laws.

## **Section 7. Boards and Committees**

### **7.1 General**

There shall be a Finance Committee, a Sportsmanship Review Committee, a Protest Board, an Appeals Board, a Training/Education Committee and a Fields Committee as standing committees of NYS. The Board may choose to appoint additional Boards or Committees as required.

### **7.2 Conflict of Interest:**

A member of any Board or Committee defined in section 7 shall be disqualified from deliberating or voting on a particular issue if that member:

- Was involved in the issue
- Is the spouse or relative of an involved person
- Has a child playing on an involved team

The Board may temporarily replace the member so involved. A replacement for the involved member shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

### **7.3 Finance Committee**

#### **Composition**

A Finance Committee shall be established each operating year consisting of the Treasurer as Chairperson, the President as a permanent member and three (3) members appointed by the President from the Board and approved by the Board.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Recommend registration fees to the Board
- Recommend payment deadlines to the Board
- Guard the financial well being of Norton Youth Soccer
- Assist the Treasurer in developing a balanced budget.
- Oversee operation of the concession stand.
- Coordinate all fundraising efforts.

### **7.4 Protest Board**

#### **General**

The Protest Board shall settle any disputes that arise from violations of the NYS By-Laws and Constitution. During the Fall season, NYS is a recreational league. Scores and standings are not kept. Games cannot be protested for any reason.

#### **Composition**

The Protest Board shall consist of the 2nd Vice President, who shall be the Chairperson, the Referee Representative and three (3) members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President.

#### **Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of the Chairperson plus any two (2) members of the Protest Board.

## 7.5 Appeals Board

### Composition

The Appeals Board shall be composed of the Protest Board minus the Referee Representative. Decisions of the Appeals Board are final.

### Duties and responsibilities

The Appeals Board shall deal with all appeals of the following:

- Decisions made by the Board of Directors and the Sportsmanship Review Committee. Any decisions overruled must be ratified by two thirds of the Board of Directors.
- Expulsion and suspension of members. (Reference Section 10 of these By-Laws and Section 9 of the Rules of Play.)
- Appeals of any decisions made by member club appeals or protest boards that are within the jurisdiction of NYS.

### Appeal Procedure

A formal appeal, in writing, stating all the known facts shall be sent to the 2nd Vice President within seven (7) days after the decision or event. The President may delay the imposition of penalties until the Appeals Board has rendered a determination; otherwise the penalties are in effect until the Appeals Board hears the appeal.

## 7.6 Sportsmanship Review Committee

7.6.1 General - The Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC) shall promote good sportsmanship within NYS and review issues of lack of sportsmanship, game misconduct, inappropriate conduct, unbecoming conduct, or violation of the By-Laws or Rules of Play.

7.6.2 Composition - The SRC shall consist of the 1st Vice President as Chairperson and three (3) members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President.

7.6.3 Quorum - A quorum shall consist of the Chairperson and two (2) other members.

### 7.6.4 Procedures and Authority

- The Chairperson, when notified of a sportsmanship issue and after fact finding to determine the validity of the issue, shall have the authority to hold a hearing of the SRC to review the issue. All SRC actions shall be reported in writing to the parties involved and to the Board of Directors. The SRC shall report any activity at the next NYS Board meeting.
- The SRC shall have the authority to suspend a player or an adult volunteer or to take any other actions provided for in the By-Laws or Rules of Play.

7.6.5 Game Monitoring - The SRC shall have the authority and responsibility to arrange for selected NYS matches to be monitored.

- The SRC may ask members of neutral teams to attend selected matches for the purpose of monitoring the behavior of both teams and their fans.
- A NYS team may request that a particular match be monitored. The request must be made to the chairperson and must include the reason for the request.
- The observers shall submit a report to the SRC detailing their observations and any recommendations.

7.6.6 Appeals - Decisions of the SRC may be appealed to the NYS Appeals Board per Section 7.5 of these By-Laws.

## 7.7 Training/Education Committee

7.7.1 General - The Training/Education Committee shall plan and implement training programs for players and coaches.

- Players – Arrange training sessions, clinics, demonstrations etc. to improve the skills of players at all levels.
- Coaches – Arrange training clinics, demonstrations etc. to improve the skills of all coaches. Recommend minimum licensing requirements for coaches involved with both the NYS recreational and competitive programs. Set up the ongoing licensure classes needed to maintain appropriate levels.

7.7.2 Composition - The Committee shall consist of two (2) members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President. Non Board members may be added as needed, subject to Board approval.

## 7.8 Fields Committee

7.8.1 General - The Fields Committee shall be responsible for the upkeep and preparation of all fields used by NYS.

- Upkeep – Application of fertilizer, seeding, watering and any other activities aimed at maintaining the best playing surface possible. The Committee will work with the appropriate Town and/or School representatives to ensure proper maintenance.
- Preparation – The Committee will be responsible for the seasonal setup of all fields. This will include layout/lining, placement of all goals, attaching nets and any other activities needed to ensure that fields will be properly prepared and available for each season. At the end of each season, the Committee will be responsible for the proper collection and storage of all field equipment.

7.8.2 Composition - The Committee shall consist of two (2) members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President. Non Board members, particularly coaches, should be added as needed, subject to Board approval.

## Section 8. Financial Policy

8.1 General - NYS shall operate with a balanced budget. The Finance Committee shall recommend all policy with regard to finances to the Board of Directors.

8.2 Budget - A balanced budget for the forthcoming year shall be prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Planning Meeting. Registration fees should be established and fund raising events scheduled to ensure that expenses are covered by income.

### 8.3 Fees

8.3.1 Each player shall pay an annual registration fee to NYS to help offset league expenses such as equipment purchases, pay for referees, printing, postage, state/national membership fees and other administrative expenses.

8.3.2 All money shall be promptly deposited in appropriate accounts maintained in the name of the Norton Youth Soccer League, Incorporated.

8.3.3 The amount of the registration fee shall take into account the budgeted expenditures and shall be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board. This recommended fee structure shall then be presented to the Planning Meeting for approval.

## 8.4 Expenses and Expenditures

8.4.1 No expenses shall be paid to the Board for attending meetings.

8.4.2 The Board may appropriate any surplus NYS funds for the general benefit of all member teams. Such appropriations shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

8.4.2 Unbudgeted expenditures in excess of \$100 shall require approval of the Finance Committee. All major purchases over \$250 shall require approval by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

8.4.3 Bills for authorized purchases shall be paid when due. Checks shall be signed by one (1) of the two (2) authorized signers.

8.4.4 Funds shall be spent only in the interest of NYS and all members shall benefit equally from such expenditures.

## Section 9. Dissolution

If dissolution of the leagues becomes necessary, it shall be done as directed by the Norton Youth Soccer League, Inc. corporate charter.

## Section 10. Suspension and Expulsion of Members

### 10.1 Suspension or Expulsion for Reasons Other Than Game Misconduct

Except for reason of game misconduct, which is addressed in Section 10.2, any member of NYS may be suspended or expelled from membership by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Board voting. The member involved shall be notified of the intended action seven (7) days prior to the vote via certified letter and may make a statement to the Board before the resolution is put to a vote. The Board may temporarily suspend the member involved until the time that the member can make a statement to the Board. This temporary suspension shall require a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Board voting. The decision of the Board shall be binding on the member. The Board need give no reason for the expulsion to anyone other than the member involved and the MYSA.

10.1.1 Appeals to decisions of expulsion or suspension shall be made to the Appeals Board per Section 7.5 of these By-Laws.

10.1.2 Suspended or expelled members may apply for re-admission to the NYS by means of written request to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of the Board voting is required for a suspended or expelled member to be re-instated to the NYS.

### 10.2 Suspension or Expulsion for Game Misconduct

10.2.1 General - Game Misconduct may occur before, during or after the match at the location of the match. Misconduct toward game officials, coaches, players or spectators may occur before, during and after the match. Misconduct toward game officials, coaches, players and spectators may also occur during travel to and from the match and at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee or when directly related to the playing of a particular game.

#### 10.2.2 Terms and Conditions

"Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, assault and abuse as described below.

"Game Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, actions other than those of abuse or assault, which violate the basic principles of NYS regarding sportsmanship and fair play.



"Referee" includes the following:

- All currently registered USSF referees, linesmen, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
- Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in capacity as a referee.
- Any club linesman.

"Coach" includes all currently registered team coaches, assistant coaches, managers or trainers.

"Player" includes all currently registered persons listed on an official roster as a player on a particular team.

"Spectator" includes all parents, relatives or friends of a particular team member who attended a particular game or event involving that team.

"Assault" includes, but is not limited to the following acts: hitting or attempting to hit, kicking or attempting to kick, punching or attempting to punch, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into, the act of throwing an object that could inflict injury, or damaging clothing or personal property.

"Abuse" includes, but is not limited to the following acts: using foul or abusive language, spewing any beverage upon a person or a person's personal property, or verbally threatening another person.

Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," are some examples of abuse.

### 10.3 Jurisdiction

10.3.1 Assault or Abuse of a Referee - When any player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the responsibility to adjudicate the matter shall rest with NYS.

10.3.2 Other Assault or Abuse and Game Misconduct - When any player, coach, manager, club official or spectator assaults or abuses another player, coach, manager, club official or spectator or commits an act of game misconduct, the responsibility to adjudicate the matter shall rest with NYS.

### 10.4 Hearings

Reports of referee assault or abuse shall be made to the MYSA. All other reports of assault or abuse shall be made to NYS. The Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC) shall be the body to hear all reports of assault, abuse or game misconduct and shall make appropriate recommendations to the NYS Board of Directors.

#### 10.4.1 Assault

- When an allegation of assault is verified by NYS, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.
- NYS must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the abuse or assault. If the league does not adjudicate the matter within that time period, the jurisdiction shall immediately vest with the MYSA to adjudicate the matter.
- Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

#### 10.4.2 Abuse and/or Game Misconduct

In cases of report of abuse or game misconduct, a hearing is held only when requested by the alleged assailant or otherwise deemed appropriate by NYS.

## 10.5 Penalties and Suspensions

### 10.5.1 Assault

The player, coach, manager or official committing the assault shall be automatically suspended from NYS for a period of at least one (1) year from the time of the assault. If serious injuries were inflicted the minimum suspension period shall be at least five (5) years. Shorter periods of suspension shall not be provided, but if circumstances warrant, longer suspension periods may be provided.

### 10.5.2 Abuse

The minimum suspension period for abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the NYS. A match shall count toward the suspension period only if it is actually played. A longer suspension may be provided if circumstances warrant.

### 10.5.3 Game Misconduct

The minimum suspension for game misconduct shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the NYS. A match shall count toward the suspension period only if it is actually played. A longer suspension may be provided if circumstances warrant.

## 10.6 Appeals

A person who is found to have committed the assault or abuse may appeal to the NYS Appeals Board per Section 7.5 of the NYS By-Laws.

## 10.7 Reporting Procedure

- Referees reporting an assault or abuse on a Referee shall follow USSF Rule 3042.
- A person reporting an assault and/or abuse other than a Referee assault or abuse shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault and/or abuse, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting), to the President of NYS or their designees.
- A person reporting an incident of game misconduct shall transmit a written report of the alleged game misconduct, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting), to the President of NYS or their designees.
- NYS shall report to the MYSA the final determinations and suspensions resulting from all reports of assault and/or abuse, and game misconduct for which it has jurisdiction.

## **Section 11. Rules of Play**

### 11.1 General

The Board may, from time to time, approve and publish Rules of Play, which, providing they do not contravene these By-Laws, shall be binding upon all NYS members and teams. It is desirable, however, that the Rules of Play should represent the wishes of the membership.

### 11.2 Changes to Rules of Play

- Any new Rules of Play or changes to existing Rules of Play, whether proposed by a Board member or any other member of NYS, shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- The Board shall consider and vote upon the recommendation at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting after receipt of the recommendation.
- The Board shall then submit any proposal to the next Regular or Special General Meeting with its recommendations. Details of the proposed Rules of Play shall be included in the meeting notice.
- The proposal shall be discussed and voted upon. A simple majority vote is necessary for acceptance of the change.

## **Section 12. Residency Requirements**

### 12.1 General

The primary intent of NYS is to provide Norton residents with the opportunity to participate in a recreational soccer league in the Fall. The primary requirement for team play at all levels is town residency. Select travel teams may be created to participate in a Spring league sanctioned by MYSA. Teams may also be created for indoor play.

### 12.2 Residency

All players participating in the NYS Fall, Indoor and Spring seasons shall normally reside in the town of Norton. The Board has the discretion to allow non-residents to join.

## **Section 13. Zero Tolerance**

### 13.1 General

All persons responsible for a team and all the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all the other participants and spectators.

13.2 No one is to address the referee during the game except as allowed below:

#### 13.2.1 Coaches and Managers

During the Game:

- May respond to a referee initiating a communication
- May ask for substitutions
- May point out emergencies or safety issues
- At halftime, before the game or at the end of the game:
  - May ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way
  - May give a polite and friendly feedback to the referee

Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed in any conversation with the referee

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Verbal warning; reminder about Zero Tolerance.
- 2nd Infraction - Second warning; reminder about possible ejection.
- 3rd Infraction - Ejection from the game.

If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report to the league President. The NYS Board will take whatever action is appropriate.

### 13.2.2 Spectators

During the game:

- May respond to a referee initiating a communication
- May point out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator
- 2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.
- 3rd Infraction - The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the game if the spectator refuses to leave the field and contact the Referee Assignor or a Board member if the Referee Assignor is not available.

If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report to the league President. The NYS Board will take whatever action is appropriate.

## **Section 14. Amendments to the By-Laws**

14.1 No variation to the By-Laws or Constitution by addition, omission or amendment shall be adopted without the approval of those present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special Business Meeting.

14.2 Notice of such meeting and the details of the proposed amendment(s) shall be communicated to all members at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. The amendment shall be carried by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at the meeting.

Date Adopted: 9 June 2004 v. 1.0)

Dates Modified: 10 November 2004 v. 1.1

14 March 2007 v. 1.2 [modified Section 6.2.1 and 6.3.1]

12 February 2009 v. 1.3 [modified Section 6.2.1 – replaced with the original paragraph from v. 1.1 which was not meant to be changed in v. 1.2. 14-March 2007 change was meant only for 6.2.1.1]

11 March 2009 v. 1.4 [modified Section 3.4]

9 March 2010 v. 1.5 [modified Section 4.2 and 5.2 – see separate notes for before and after]