

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SOCCER
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION**

CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of the association shall be the Suffolk County Soccer Officials Association.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be for the betterment of soccer in Suffolk County. To promote uniform interpretation of soccer rules, to maintain a uniform standard of qualifications for officials and to promote a high standard of integrity and sportsmanship among officials, coaches and players in Suffolk County.

ARTICLE III

TERRITORY

This organization shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction in qualifying individuals to officiate boy's soccer in Suffolk County.

ARTICLE IV

Section I

MEMBERSHIP

Any person eighteen years or over who is in sympathy with the aims and objectives of this association shall be eligible for and may be elected to membership under the following conditions: Section I. There shall be four classes of membership: probationary, active, inactive, and honorary.

- A. Probationary Member: A candidate who passes the written test and the field test then becomes a probationary official. At the end of one year the Executive Committee will recommend to the membership those probationary members who qualify for active membership. This decision will be based on the individual's conduct as an official and his fulfilling the articles mentioned in the Section II below.
- B. Active Member: A member in good standing who has completed all the points in the five point program, has complied with the constitution and by-laws of this organization, passed the required tests and has been voted into active membership. To remain an active member, one must officiate through Section XI, and meet the above standards in a current season.
- C. Inactive Member: A member in good standing who no longer officiates games assigned by our association and/or Section XI. All requests to go inactive must be made in writing to the Secretary and approved by the Executive Committee. A member may be inactive for one year and then return to his former level of officiating. A member who is inactive for two consecutive years must have the approval of the Executive Committee to return to his former level. Anyone inactive for a longer period of time than two years will return at the level determined by the Executive Board. An inactive member will pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of the current dues.

*A member with a physical disability who cannot officiate games must send a letter to the Secretary to request a leave. This has to be approved by the Executive Committee. His return to the same level also must be approved by the Executive Committee.

D. Honorary Member: A member in good standing for at least ten years. An Honorary member is determined by Executive Board vote.

Section II

A. To remain a member in good standing an official must:

1. Pass the National Federation, State or other approved rules examination.
 2. Observe the constitution and by-laws of their local and state official's organization.
 3. Give satisfactory evidence of proficiency in the mechanics of officiating and of competent performance related to the specific sport.
 4. Attend a minimum number of five meetings, which include the mandatory meetings for that year.
 5. Pay the annual dues assessed by this organization.
- *Failure to do any of the above may result in member being dropped from the organization by vote of the Executive Committee.*
 - *Those members who are inactive or out with a disability are exempt from the attendance clause of the above article.*

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section I. The officers of this association shall be: President, *1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President*, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. (amended 8/23/11)

Section II. Term of Office – the term of office shall be two years for the officers. All officers have the right to succeed themselves in office.

Section III. Executive Committee – this committee shall consist of the officers of this association.

Section IV. Nominating – before a meeting date to be determined by Executive Board, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three members which shall prepare and submit a list of nominees for the elective offices at that last regular meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member in good standing.

Section V. Election – election shall take place at a meeting to be determined by the Executive Board. New officers shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Dinner. If there shall be more than one nominee for any office, a written ballot shall be taken for that office and a majority vote shall elect.

Section VI. Vacancy – When a vacancy occurs in the office of President, *the 1st Vice President shall become President and the 2nd Vice President shall become 1st Vice President* until the last yearly meeting when either a regular or a special election shall take place. *If both vice president positions become vacant at the same time, a special election shall be set up with the Secretary assuming the role of chairperson for that election.*

Vacancies, either temporary or permanent, in the office of *1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Rules Interpreter or committee chair people* shall be filled by the President. (amended 8/23/11)

Section VII. Eligibility – only members in good standing who have been active members of this association for three consecutive years shall be eligible for election as officers or chair people of committees.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I. Duties of President – the President shall call to order and preside at all meetings of this association and the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint the Official Interpreter or designee, acting Executive Board Members, and the chairperson of each committee listed in the by-laws and shall designate any special committees and their chairpersons as deemed necessary. The President shall serve as a member of the President’s Council.

Section II. Duties of the 1st Vice President – In the absence of the President, the *1st Vice President* shall perform the duties of the President and serve as delegate to the President’s Council.

Duties of the 2nd Vice President - In the absence of the President and 1st Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and serve under the direction of the President. (amended 8/23/11)

Section III. Duties of the Secretary – the Secretary shall carry on any official correspondence of this association and shall keep a record of all business transactions at any meeting of this association. The Secretary shall conduct meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President. The Secretary shall receive a stipend as determined by the Executive Board and approved by the membership by a majority vote.

Section IV. Duties of the Treasurer – the Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of all monies received and shall deposit them in the name of the Suffolk County Soccer Officials Association. The Treasurer shall disburse all monies under the direction of the President and with the advice and consent of the Executive committee. The Treasurer shall present a written report of the treasury and a proposed budget

for the coming year at the first regular meeting of the year. The Treasurer shall receive an honorarium as determined by the membership.

Section V. Official Interpreter – the Official Interpreter shall be the official authority of the interpretation of the rules as set forth by the New York State Soccer Officials Association. The Official Interpreter shall have thorough knowledge of the rules and mechanics of the game. He or his designee shall attend the state interpretation meeting and be responsible for the administration of the applicant’s school. The Official Interpreter shall conduct the Annual Interpretation Meeting of this association and introduce any changes in the rules. The Official Interpreter will be paid a fee to be determined by the membership for each session. The Interpreter will receive an honorarium to be determined by the membership.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section I. General meetings of this association will be at the call of the Executive Committee.

Section II. Executive Meetings will be called by the President. The Executive Committee will conduct the business of this organization between general meetings.

Section III. Quorums – one third of the membership shall constitute a quorum for a general meeting. Sixty percent of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of that committee.

Section IV. Voting – each member in good standing shall have one vote and the majority present shall prevail in all matters except as otherwise authorized in this constitution or by-laws.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section I. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided written notice of the proposed amendments have been mailed to all active members one week prior to such meetings, and that a quorum is present.

Section II. The By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, providing that a quorum is present.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

COMMITTEES

Section I. The standing committees of this organization shall be: Membership, Ethics, Policy, Special Events, Constitution, Movement and Audit.

Section II. Organization- each committee shall be composed of a chairperson and as many members as is deemed necessary by the President. All members will be appointed by the chairperson.

Section III. Service – no member may serve on more than two committees at any time. Exceptions – the President – who will be official observer and tie-breaking vote for all committees.

Section IV. Parliamentarian – the President shall appoint a parliamentarian whose function will be to see that Roberts Rules of Order (revised edition) are followed at all meetings.

ARTICLE II

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Section I. The Executive Committee will accept or reject each application to transfer based on the individual facts of each instance.

ARTICLE III **MEMBERSHIP DISCIPLINE**

Section I. Grounds – a member shall be disciplined for failure to follow the rules and regulations of the NYSCOS, this organization, or the Executive Committee. A member will also be disciplined for delinquency in payment of authorized charges and any conduct not in the best interest of soccer. Working games with non-association members, switching games without proper authority, making adverse comments about fellow officials to coaches are all examples of unethical conduct.

Section II. Penalty – a member may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation and/or fined, as determined by the Executive Committee for any violation of Article III, Section I of the By-Laws.

- Any penalty may result in loss of schedule as recommended by the Ethics Committee and approved by the Executive Committee.
- Any member suspended for unethical behavior may return to the same level, but at the bottom of the list.

Section III. Procedure – after receiving a complaint, the Ethics Committee shall investigate and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, who shall determine the disposition of the complaint.

Section IV. Right of Hearing – a member charged with any offense shall have the right to be heard in person, or in writing before the Executive Committee.

Section V. Appeal – any member expelled or suspended by this association has the right to appeal to the State Association whose decision will be final.

Section VI. Notice of Discipline – when a member is expelled or suspended, the Secretary shall notify all concerned. No member shall officiate knowingly with an expelled or suspended member.

ARTICLE IV **ATTENDANCE AND EXAMINATIONS**

Section I. Any member who fails to fulfill the required attendance or fails to take the authorized written examination may be disciplined by the Executive Committee. Any penalty will follow the procedure outlined in Article III, Section II through VI.

Section II. Exception – a member in good standing who fails to attend the Annual Interpretation Meeting may have his/her schedule revoked immediately or until he/she qualifies for a schedule.

ARTICLE V **FEES – DUES – ASSESSMENTS**

Section I. Annual membership dues shall be established as one varsity fee for the current officiating season.

Section II. All dues shall be paid prior to November 1. A fine will be levied for all dues paid after that date as determined by the Executive Board.

Section III. All new applicants will pay a registration fee, for the school to be set by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership.

Section IV. Officer's fees – the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Rules Interpreter shall be paid a stipend equal to the annual dues. In addition, the Secretary

and Treasurer shall be paid a stipend to be determined by the membership.

Section V. The Rules Interpreter or his designee shall have expenses paid for trip to State Interpretation Meeting with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section VI. Dues may be waived based on the recommendation of the Executive Board for extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE VI **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Section I. Roberts Rules of Order (revised edition) shall be the governing authority in matters of procedure at all meetings.

Section II. Change of Status – any change in level of officiating must be approved by the Executive Committee. If any member wishes to challenge, he/she shall be given a hearing before the Executive Committee; any decision by the Executive Committee may be appealed as in Article III, Section V.

ARTICLE VII **ASSIGNMENTS**

Section I. Any official working at least six games maintains his/her official status level.

Section II. A varsity official must accept the minimum number of regular season games in order to qualify as a playoff official and for the purposes of movement.

*Scrimmages do **not** constitute a game.

Section III. The officials for the current playoff season will be selected from a list of top officials of that regular season, as per Section XI.

Section IV. Any official who accepts as assignment to coach soccer in Section XI will not be allowed to officiate any Section XI games during his tenure at his coaching level.

ARTICLE VIII
CODE OF ETHICS

Section I. A soccer official should:

- a. Conduct oneself in a professional manner!
- b. Have a thorough knowledge of the rules and mechanics of soccer officiating.
- c. Strive for consistency and control during the game.
- d. Report to the assigned school in sufficient time to take care of pre-game duties.
- e. Do everything possible to assist and aid any fellow official, to officiate a good game and better themselves as officials.
- f. Never make statements to coaches, teams, affiliates of the news media concerning a soccer game, other than to clarify a rule interpretation.
- g. Wear the official uniform as adopted by this State Association. Your professional conduct should carry over.

Section II. General Principles – a soccer official:

- a. Should never be careless or lax in officiating a game; remember every game is important to the competitor.
- b. Should not smoke once that person arrives on the field, nor should that person's breath smell of liquor.
- c. Should not discuss the game at hand, if they wish to do so, they should do it away from the coaches and players.
- d. Should not discuss opposing contestants with coaches or participants. The official should not engage in careless discussions regarding coaches, fellow officials, students, or institutions.
- e. Should never argue with coaches, contestants or fellow officials, give a clear and definite explanation and then on with the game.
- f. Should never lose his/her temper to coaches, contestants, spectators or fellow officials.
- g. Should strive for perfection, but remember that honest mistakes occur and that the place to discuss any constructive criticism in a frank and honest manner is at an S.C.S.O.A. Meeting.
- h. Should refrain from excess fraternization with coaches during pre and post game activities.

JK/8-20-08 (revised)
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