



**Monroe United Recreational Soccer League  
By-Laws**

*Ratified 1/8/2018*

## Article I - Organization & Purpose

1. **Name** - The League shall be known as the Monroe United Recreation Soccer League (MURSL), herein referred to as “the League.”
2. **Purpose** - The League is a recreational in nature, providing the experience of organized soccer games for youth players who participate in local Town/Club recreational programs that qualify for League membership.
3. **Affiliation** - The League shall affiliate with the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) in conjunction with United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF). In consequence of that affiliation, League members, players, coaches, and personnel shall adhere to rules, regulations, and bylaws of those associations to the extent applicable to their activities.

## Article II - Membership and Meetings

1. **Non-discrimination Policy** - The League is an avenue of equal opportunity, and shall not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.
2. **Membership Requirements:**
  - a. Affiliation: League members must be affiliated with NYSWYSA by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - b. Membership applications: Must be submitted no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>, following the procedure outlined on the League website – [www.mursl.org](http://www.mursl.org).
  - c. League deadlines: Must be adhered to, and are published on the League calendar, located on the website.
  - d. Registration: ALL Club staff members and players must be registered in the NYSW RosterPro database.
  - e. Risk Management: In order to preserve the safety and welfare of participants involved in soccer served by the League and its membership Towns/Clubs:
    1. All board members, coaches, assistants and team managers within all Towns/Clubs associated with the League shall apply for and retain a Risk Management pass thru the NYSWYSA.
    2. Should a board member, coach, assistant and/or team manager lose their Risk Management pass, they are to notify their specific Town/Club representative in order to obtain a replacement. Fees required for such replacements shall be governed by the individual Towns/Clubs, and will not be owed to or funded by the League.
  - f. Rules & Policies: Published League rules govern all League play. Club representatives are provided with the League Code of Conduct, which they must sign off on and return to the Executive Committee. Said document is an agreement between the League and the member Club, indicating that they have read published League rules and are ready to participate by adhering to said rules. Any situations not covered by specific League rule shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game, with modifications for youth players as recommended by U.S Soccer, and the USYSA. League rules are approved annually by a 2/3 majority of League member representatives present. Individual Towns/Clubs may not adopt any different rules independently.
  - g. On Game Day: For all League or Tournament play, ALL team staff (coaches, assistants, managers, etc.) must be in possession of their Risk Management passes. They must also be in possession of an official NYSWYSA RosterPro team roster listing **ONLY** recreational players – *(NO CARDED PLAYERS - Travel Players or Premier players)*. Teams are

classified as “Recreational” and allowed to participate in League play as long as they only have organized team practices / games during the League season between April and July. Any organized TEAM training (paid) during or outside the League season disqualifies said team from League play.

- h. Probationary Period: 1<sup>st</sup> year Clubs will be placed on a probationary membership. Continued membership will be granted based on favorable performance during the probationary period.
- i. Referees: The League shall appoint and utilize only a U.S. Soccer certified Assignor, to manage the assignment of referees for sanctioned matches. Compensation for this service of assigning shall be a collective and uniform agreement between the League Assignor, and individual member Towns/Clubs. The League as an entity, and its’ Executive Committee, are not responsible for the debts incurred by the individual member Towns/Clubs, resulting from their individual agreements with the Assignor.
  - 1. Use of Certified Referees: Designated Assignor(s) shall only obtain the services of referees who are certified, and currently registered with the United States Soccer Federation, to officiate at sanctioned matches, except in the case of emergency when no U.S.S.F. certified referee is available.

### 3. Suspension and Expulsion of Town/Club Members -

- a. Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion:
  - i. Any Town/Club member may be suspended or expelled from the League for willful disregard of established League Rules, Policies or By-Laws, or for acts of conduct that the Executive Committee may deem disorderly, injurious, or hostile to the interests or objectives of the League.
  - ii. For any Club with more than 2% of cumulative ZTP violations per # of games/Club, said Club will be placed on probation for 1 year, and will face expulsion if 2% or more ZTP violations continue to occur during said probation.  
The Executive Committee must give notice to such offending Town/Club members of the proceedings against them and will be provided an opportunity to be heard in their own defense. No Town/Club that has been expelled from the League may have a new membership considered for a period of less than two (2) years. Reinstatement must be approved by a majority vote of the General Membership Committee.
- b. Initiation of Suspension or Expulsion: Proceedings under this section shall be initiated by resolution of the Executive Committee or on complaint against any Town/Club member signed by 2/3 of the General Membership Committee and filed with the Secretary. On adoption of the resolution or receipt of the complaint, as the case may be, the Executive Committee shall schedule the matter to be heard at the first regular, or a special, Committee meeting. The Secretary shall deliver to the accused Town/Club member, at least five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing, a copy of the time and place of hearing.
- c. Hearing: The League Chairman shall preside at such hearing and shall read the charges against the accused Town/Club member. Such Town/Club member shall be allowed to make a statement on their own behalf, question opposing witnesses, and call witnesses on their own behalf.
- d. Determination of Hearing: The Executive Committee may, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the General Membership Committee, request the offending Town/Club member to resign or may suspend or expel the member. Should they decline to resign following such request, the Committee shall strike the Town/Club member’s name from the rolls.

### 4. Meetings

- a. Executive Committee Meetings:

1. Time, date and location shall be established by the Executive Committee.
  2. The Executive Committee shall meet on at least two dates; one between September 1 and December 31 and a second date between January 1st and March 31st.
  3. Other meeting dates shall be as needed and determined by the Executive Committee.
  4. Contracts and formal documents must be signed by the Chairman (or Vice Chairman) and another Executive Committee member.
  5. In the interest of time, the presiding Chair will be allowed to set a time limit to any discussions that may occur.
- b. General Membership Committee Meetings:
6. The League holds three General Membership Committee meetings annually. Typically one in January, one in April and then again in September. This forum is where we make it all happen, so in order to remain “in good standing” with the League, each member Town/Club is required to have a representative, or a designee, present at two of the three annual General Membership Committee meetings, and must not miss more than 2 consecutive meetings. Failure to attend as required will result in a written warning from the Executive Committee, and a subsequent failure to appear at the next scheduled meeting may result in a General Membership Committee vote of probationary League membership. Subsequent violations of this section may result in suspension of League membership.
  7. Dates, times and locations shall be agreed upon by the General Membership Committee.
  8. The agenda of the post season meeting in September shall consist of, but not be limited to:
    - j. A review and report presented by the Executive Committee, to the General Membership Committee, of the activities of the previous soccer season, including reports from any standing committees, or project committees.
    - k. An election will be held, whereby:
      - i. The General Membership Committee shall elect, by 2/3 majority, a League Chairman, who shall serve for a two year (24 month) term beginning on the date of appointment.
      - ii. The General Membership Committee shall elect, by 2/3 majority, a Vice-Chairman, who shall serve a one year term (12 months), beginning on the date of appointment.
  1. A Quorum consists of a simple majority; at least 50% of Town/Club representatives must be present to be able to call a vote. A majority of the vote wins.
  2. In the interest of time, the presiding Chair will be allowed to set a time limit to any discussions that may occur.
  3. Parliamentary Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order shall procedurally govern all meetings and proceedings of the League.

### **Article III - General Membership Committee Members, and the Executive Committee**

1. **General Membership Committee Members** - Each Town/Club/Organization shall have an official representative, or a temporary designee.
  - a. The representative/designee shall have one vote to cast on behalf of their organization. Representatives must be present to vote at a meeting, or must meet the requirement of an on-line vote.
2. **Leadership** - League leadership positions shall be established at a general board meeting to be held in the second or third week of August each year. The purpose of the meeting shall be:
  - a. A review and report presented by the Executive Committee, to the general membership, of

- the activities of the previous soccer season, including reports from any standing committees, or project committees.
- b. An annual election, whereby:
    1. The general membership shall elect, by 2/3 majority, a League Chairman, who shall serve for a two year (24 month) term beginning September 1.
    2. The general membership shall elect, by 2/3 majority, a Vice-Chairman, who shall serve a one year term (12 months), beginning September 1.
  3. **Executive Committee** - The Chairman (or Vice-Chairman) as first order of business, shall form and announce an Executive Committee consisting of themselves and a volunteer Secretary/Recorder. The Secretary/Recorder may serve for an indeterminate term, at the pleasure of the Executive Committee, and shall also have the duty to perform the function of Secretary/Recorder for all meetings.
    - a. The Executive Committee shall, as soon as possible, fill up to three other appointed positions, designated Committee Members at Large, from volunteers among the other Town/Club representatives. The term of a Committee Member at Large shall be from date of appointment approval by the Executive Committee, through August 31st of the following year.
    - b. Vacancies for Executive Committee positions occurring during an officer's term shall be filled from the active General Membership Committee by recommendation of the Chairman and agreement of a simple majority of those members.
      1. In the event that the best candidate for an open position is from outside the active General Membership Committee and/or Executive Committee members, but is from an active member Club, a 2/3 majority vote will be required to confirm the candidate.
      2. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chair until a General Membership Committee meeting is held. At that time, the Chair will entertain motions from the floor regarding the disposition of the remainder of the Chairman's term.

#### **Article IV - Executive Officers/Members At Large Duties**

1. **Chairman** - Heads, and is accountable to, the League as a whole. Communicates officially on behalf of the membership with the League's coaches, referees and other volunteers, as well as to the general public. Official representative of the League to other governing bodies. Executes the directives of the Executive & General Membership Committees. Works with the Secretary/Recorder to establish meeting agendas and approve meeting minutes. Presides over all meetings. Monitors and assists as necessary the activities of functional committees.
2. **Vice Chairman** - Assumes short-term duties of the Chairman as requested by the Chair, and with the approval of the other members of the Executive Committee. Directs projects and initiatives for the League, independently and at the request of the Chairman (i.e. maintaining an informational website for the League). Officially communicates League policy to member soccer Clubs and other community organizations.
3. **Secretary/Recorder** - Works with the Chairman to establish meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes. Shall record accurate minutes of all meetings. Copies of minutes are to be distributed to respective Committee members within a maximum of two weeks after each meeting. Shall execute and record the outcome of meeting and on-line votes. Shall update policies as a result of General Membership Committee and/or Executive Committee policy votes. Shall be responsible for reserving meeting room space as requested for all meetings. Shall be responsible for storage, both digital and physical, of official documents upon approval by the Executive Committee. Record retention to be a minimum of three years from the date of receipt by the Secretary/Recorder. Shall be responsible for disposal of official documents upon approval by the

Executive Committee.

4. **Conduct Committee** – Be point person/people for ALL MURSL conduct issues, for all red & yellow cards, also for all coaches, player, referee, parent issues. Then at the end of year have info on all clubs infractions. Follow up on issues with club reps & other parties as needed, let executive committee know of major issues. Make sure red/yellow card games are seat out and if ref issues follow up with Referee Assignor. Assist as needed with issues on rules of MURSL as how to be interpreted by clubs, teams, etc.
  
5. **Member(s) at Large** - Up to three additional volunteers serving on the Executive Committee. Their responsibilities are to represent the interests of other members of the General Membership Committee; to ensure that all of the members have a voice in the small-group discussion and debate of the Executive Committee. At-Large Committee members are encouraged to develop activities, sub-committees, projects and task forces for the benefit of the Organization. The number of At-Large seats shall be dependent on the total number of Executive Committee members, which needs to be an odd number to avoid the potential for any votes that may be needed ending in a tie.

## **Article V - Amendments**

1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote (2/3) of the General Membership Committee Committee, providing that the notice of the proposed amendment is mailed/submitted to the Executive Committee not more than (90) days and not fewer than (30) days before the next General Membership Committee meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The General Membership Committee may schedule a special meeting for the consideration of any amendment, conducted in person or on-line with Executive Committee approval.

## **Article VI - Dissolution**

1. The League may be dissolved by a vote of 2/3 of the entire General Membership Committee. All members in good standing must be counted, as voting or abstaining. In the event of dissolution, the property and assets of the League shall be distributed to its members, as the Executive Committee shall determine by resolution.