

DELCO SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS
(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2005)

ARTICLE 1: CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Section 1-1: Club Membership

Any amateur soccer club, as well as any amateur athletic association that includes soccer teams, may request membership status from the Delco Soccer League. In return for membership, the club may enter any number of teams in any of the age divisions currently organized.

Section 1-2: Application

Initial application for club membership must be made in writing, and must be logged with the President of the Delco Soccer League. Annually thereafter, on a date and in a manner specified by the Executive Committee, each club must follow the approved process for continuing membership in the League.

Section 1-3: Acceptance

The Executive Committee, comprised of the officers of the Delco Soccer League, determines acceptability for membership and accepts or rejects the membership application from any club.

Section 1-4: Club Responsible for all Team Fees and Fines

Each member club is responsible for the registration fee for each of its registered teams. The club is also responsible for any fine assessed against any of its member teams by the Delco Soccer League.

Section 1-5: Club Responsible for all Player Fees and Fines

Each member club is responsible for the registration fee for each of its registered players and coaches. The club is also responsible for any fine assessed against any of its member players or coaches by the Delco Soccer League.

Section 1-6: Club Deposit

1-6A As deemed necessary by the Executive Committee member clubs may be required to post a Performance Bond. Any infraction of the League's Constitution or Bylaws by a team or Club that results in the imposition of a fine by the Executive Committee or its designee, requires that the Club and/or Team must post a \$500 bond over and above the amount of the fine within the timeframe specified by the Executive Committee or its designee. Following the April General Meeting the remaining funds of this deposit will be returned to the club.

1-6B: Any club required to post a bond whose balance on deposit falls below \$200 due to subsequent fines and/or penalties will within 5 business days of notification post another deposit to bring the deposit back to \$500.

1-6C: The deposit shall be held in escrow on behalf of the club submitting it, and provided it is not forfeited, it will be returned to the club following the April Annual General Meeting.

Section 1-7: Good Standing

A club maintains good standing by fulfilling all its obligations, including paying all fees, deposits, and fines in a timely manner. Any club not in good standing with the Delco Soccer league may be refused registration for its teams, players and coaches. This rule must not be circumvented by teams registering as independents, by the change of club officers, or by the change of the club name. Clubs will be reported to the appropriate USSF governing body for failing to make good on any debts owed to Delco.

Section 1-8: Withdrawal

Any club that disbands or withdraws from the Delco Soccer League, or from any of its competitions, must give prior notice of its intent and must receive permission to do so from the Delco Soccer League in order to maintain good standing for the future. Teams or Clubs that withdraw subsequent to stated deadlines might be subject to fines as levied by the Executive Committee or their designees.

ARTICLE 2: TEAM REGULATIONS- REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 2-1: Age Divisions

The Delco Soccer League is divided into age divisions to facilitate competition among its participating teams. The Executive Committee has the power to designate the number of age divisions and the number of teams to participate in each age division. Typical age divisions and corresponding player ages are listed below.

Under 9 - No player may play who reaches a 9th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 10- No player may play who reaches a 10th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 11- No player may play who reaches an 11th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 12- No player may play who reaches a 12th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 13- No player may play who reaches a 13th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 14- No player may play who reaches a 14th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 15- No player may play who reaches a 15th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 16- No player may play who reaches a 16th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 17- No player may play who reaches a 17th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Under 19- No player may play who reaches a 19th birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year.

Section 2-2: Seasonal Year

The seasonal year is defined to start on August 1 of each calendar year and end on July 31st of the following calendar year.

Section 2-3: Team Roster, Player Pass, and Coach Pass

Registration requires properly completing a team roster and individual player and coach passes, as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 2-4: Team Registration Fee

Subject to approval by the membership, team registration fees are determined for each season by the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to the first scheduled competition. The amount of this fee must be sufficient to satisfy any team or League fees payable to the appropriate USSF sanctioning body and also cover all incidental and administrative expenses budgeted for the Delco Soccer League.

Section 2-5: Club Deposit

The Club Deposit is determined for each season by the Executive Committee. (See Bylaws Section 1-6.)

ARTICLE 3: PLAYER AND COACH REGULATIONS

Section 3-1: Player and Coach Registration Fees

Subject to approval by the membership, player and coach registration fees are determined for each season by the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to registration date. Amount of this fee must be sufficient to satisfy any player and coach fees payable to our governing authorities and also cover all general operating costs budgeted for Delco Soccer League.

Section 3-2: Proof of Age – Birth Date

Each player must submit proof of birth date at the player's first registration with Delco Soccer League. The Registrar may accept or reject any document presented, and may require further verification. Such proof must also be supplied whenever requested by the Executive Committee while the player is participating in Delco Soccer League. The Registrar uses this information to validate the player's pass, which is retained by the player while participating in Delco Soccer League. Satisfactory proof of birth date may only come from a birth certificate, passport or other documentation as approved by the DELCO Registrar.

Section 3-3: Registered Thursday Before Game

Players and coaches must be registered by the Thursday prior to a game in which they are expected to participate.

Players and coaches may continue to be added to, or deleted from, the team roster during the seasonal year, in accordance with established requirements and deadlines. However, only those players registered prior to 12 midnight of the Thursday prior to a scheduled league game may play in that game.

Section 3-4: Player Recruiting Territory for each Club

A player has the option to choose and play for any club and for any team within that club, provided there is no violation of registration requirements of that Club, DELCO or the appropriate USSF sanctioning body.

Section 3-5: Transferred Player – from Intramural Team

During any seasonal year (September 1 to August 31) a player moving from a team in an EPYSA-affiliated intramural league or club to any other team is considered a transferred player. This requires the formal release of the player by the previous intramural league or club before the transfer can be completed.

Section 3-6: Transferred Player – Between Clubs

During the seasonal year, a player or coach must receive a written release from the originating club before joining with a new club. Any and all procedures for affecting the transfer that have been established by the DELCO League at the time of the transfer must be adhered to for the transfer to take place.

Section 3-7: Request Transfer as soon as Situation Dictates

A request for transfer should be made during the "off" season, and as soon as the appropriateness for the transfer is known. Delaying a request may cause delay in completing the transfer and it could result in rejection of the transfer.

Section 3-8: Club Responsibility to Inquire

Each club official signing up new players must inquire about and thoroughly investigate any possible previous affiliation. Prompt contact should be made with any other club considered to be involved.

Section 3-9: Appeal for Release Refused by Club

Whenever a club refused to release a player or coach, the player or coach may appeal to the Executive Committee

Section 3-10: Basis for Allowable Transfer

When a player is properly registered and agrees to play or plays for a club of the player's own choice, the player is then a member of that club for the remainder of the current seasonal year unless one of the following applies.

- A. Club agrees to a release.
- B. Player has been excluded from the team roster for the club, or is not properly registered to the club.
- C. Player gives evidence of personal hardship if unable to transfer.
- D. New club being sought by the player offers the player an opportunity previously unavailable.
- E. Player obtains a release and a transfer by a decision of the Executive Committee.

Section 3-11: Transfer Procedure

Any player transfer, regardless of whether both teams are participating in Delco Soccer League, must strictly adhere to each of the steps in the following sequential procedure. The responsibility to effect proper release and transfer rests equally on the player and the club, which affects the player's new registration.

- A. The player must personally request release by contacting an official of the club to which the player is currently registered.
- B. The player must request the most recent player pass.
- C. The player's prospective new coach, when in possession of the player pass, must immediately contact the club of origin to confirm the release.
- D. The new coach must then register the transferring player by presenting the player pass to the Registrar of Delco Soccer League and by completing all **necessary paperwork**.

Section 3-12: Secondary Player Status

Secondary player status or the use of a club pass must adhere to the registration and competition rules and regulations in place at the time of a player's registration with a club or team. The player must declare the team on which he/she will have primary status. The player will be considered a secondary player on any and all other teams with which the player registers, provided the proper paperwork is completed and all rules and regulations governing registration and competition in effect at the time are adhered to.

Any player registered to more than one team must participate in the game played by the team with which the player is a primary player in order to qualify him/herself as a player on the team to which he/she is registered as a secondary player if both or all teams have games scheduled on the same day.

Section 3-13: Release of Player from Team or League

Any player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests a release. Said player should be free of any obligations in terms of uniforms and fees. A request for release shall be submitted to the affiliated State Youth Association in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for the request or release.

Section 3-14: Improperly Transferred Player

An improperly transferred player or a player, who has been registered a second time during the same seasonal year and under a new pass number, may be declaring an ineligible player by the Executive Committee.

Section 3-15: Releasing Club has No Further Claim

Once the releasing club has agreed to a transfer it loses all claim to that player.

Section 3-16: Transfer Denial

Transfer may be denied, or even voided after the fact, when there is any evidence that recruiting was done in violation of the rules and regulations for transferring and or registering players.

Section 3-17: Equipment Responsibility

Any player or coach who has not returned a uniform or other equipment to the owner club or league, may be refused registration or may have a transfer delayed until the debt is satisfied.

Section 3-18: Documentation Required

The coach of the team to which a player transfers must have appropriate documentation from the Registrar that the player has been formally and correctly added to the team roster.

Section 3-19: Player Loans for Tournaments

Club teams applying for a tournament may be permitted to include players on loan, or guest players, from other teams. However, this should be verified by contacting the tournament sponsor. All requirements set by our governing authorities and by the organization sponsoring the tournament must be followed,

Section 3-20: End of Seasonal Year

Once each seasonal year is over, a player may join and play with any team selected by the player for the next seasonal year.

Section 3-21: Return of League Property

When any player fails to return property of the Delco Soccer League after reasonable requests, the Executive Committee may bill the player's club for the replacement value of the property. The club must return the property or provide payment within 30 days. In addition, the player refusing to return club or league uniforms or equipment after reasonable requests may be considered for disciplinary action.

Section 4-1: Order of Business

The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call (A "sign in" attendance sheet may be used)
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Report of Executive Committee meeting
4. Communications
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Reports of Commissioners
7. Reports of Committees
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Miscellaneous items
11. Good and welfare

Section 4-2: Robert's Rule of Order

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision, shall govern Delco Soccer League, and all its meetings, in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or any special rules of Delco Soccer League.

Section 4-3: Quorum

The presence of 1/3 of current member clubs in good standing constitutes a quorum to transact business at any meeting of Delco Soccer League.

Section 4-4: Absence from Meeting - Fine

It is each club's obligation to attend all regular and special meetings of the membership. Each club must be represented by its designated Official Delegate, or by one of the designated Official Delegates of one of the teams, or by an Alternate of record. If a club accumulates more than two unexcused absences during any calendar year, a \$25.00 fine may be imposed for each unexcused absence starting with the third one. Every absence is an unexcused absence unless the club has communicated a reason to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee. In addition, any club with an unexcused absence from the April annual meeting is fined \$150.00.

ARTICLE 5: ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

Section 5-1: Jurisdiction

Delco Soccer League has full jurisdiction over each club accepted as a member of Delco Soccer League. In addition, Delco Soccer League has full jurisdiction over each team, coach and player participating in Delco Soccer League. This jurisdiction extends over all matters connected with soccer competitions sponsored by Delco Soccer League. Delco Soccer League has the power herein provided, within the framework of the arbitration and appeal procedures herein established, to suspend or expel any club, team, coach or player, under its jurisdiction, found guilty of violation or breach of the Constitution, Bylaws, or any other rule or regulation of Delco Soccer League and to impose such finds and penalties as it may deem proper.

Section 5-2: Sharing or Responsibility Among Member Clubs

After its full year of membership, each member club must share in the administration of Delco Soccer League. Each club is required to name at least one of its Official Delegates, or Alternates of record, to be available for voluntary services as required. This voluntary service may be filled as an officer of Delco Soccer League, as a chairperson or a committee, as a member of a committee, or in individual task assignments.

The Secretary maintains a list of all clubs and the Official Delegates, or Alternates of record, designated for voluntary service. If a club fails to designate any specific individual, the Secretary will designate all Official Delegates of that club to be eligible for voluntary service.

Section 5-3: Nonfeasance by Officer

If an officer of Delco Soccer League fails to perform satisfactorily, such as by excessive absenteeism or non-performance, the Executive Committee may direct the member club to which the officer belongs, to revoke the officer's status as an Official Delegate, or Alternate, of that club and designate a substitute to fill both positions of officer and Official Delegate, or Alternate, until an election is held to elect a permanent replacement officer. If this provision is invoked and not complied with within 28 days of the request, the responsible member club is fined \$50, payable within 28 days.

Section 5-4: Nonfeasance by Official Delegate, Except Officer

If any Official Delegate, or Alternate, designated to be available for voluntary service to Delco Soccer League, other than an officer, fails to perform satisfactorily, such as by excessive absenteeism or non-performance, the Executive Committee may direct the member club to which the individual belongs, to revoke the individual's status as an Official Delegate, or Alternate, and designate a substitute to fill both positions of designated individual for voluntary service and Official Delegate, or Alternate. If this provision is invoked and not complied with within 14 days of the request, the responsible member club is fined \$25, payable within 14 days.

ARTICLE 6: PENALTIES, APPEALS, AND ETHICS

Section 6-1: Automatic Penalty Prompted by Referee Report

Referee reports on cautions, ejections and field misconduct are recognized basis for imposition of an automatic penalty to be imposed by the Executive Committee without any hearing and within 48 hours after receipt of referee report at Executive Committee meeting or by a duly appointed representative, i.e., Referee Liaison and Vice President of League Competition. {See Article 9.}.

Section 6-2: Appeal of Penalty Prompted By Referee Report

An appeal of an automatic penalty prompted by a referee's report must be based on one of the conditions listed below. (The referee's alleged ability or performance is not sufficient cause.)

- A. The referee incorrectly identified the individual at fault.
- B. The alleged action is not a violation of any rule.
- C. The penalty is improper in accordance with the alleged action.

The Referee Liaison receives the appeal and presents it to the Arbitration Board.

Section 6-3: Other Automatic Penalties

Executive Committee may issue an automatic penalty after receipt of sufficient information on improper registration, overdue fine, overdue deposit replacement, or other improper conduct. Whenever information is not considered sufficient, the Executive Committee must give the club in question 48 hours to supply additional information to refute the alleged violation. If not received within 48 hours, an automatic penalty may be imposed.

Section 6-4: Penalty Not Suspended During Appeal

Any penalty imposed by the Executive Committee, other than a fine, is not suspended while an appeal is pending. It is the obligation of all parties involved in any appeal to complete the process as quickly as practicable, in fairness to all concerned. {See Article 9.}

Section 6-5: Appeal to Grievance Committee - Step #1

Upon formal written appeal, the Referee Liaison and the Chairman of the Grievance Committee must review any penalty imposed. The Referee Liaison must receive a written request accompanied by an Appeal Fee of \$75, payable to Delco Soccer League, within 72 hours after the club or team is notified of a penalty being imposed. This Appeal Fee will be returned only if the Grievance Committee upholds the appeal. The appeal will be acted upon as soon as the liaison is notified, but no decision will be forthcoming until the written appeal and fee are received. Decisions on appeals will be within 48 hours whenever possible

Section 6-6: Appeal to Executive Committee – Step #2

Any decision of the Grievance Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee. A formal request must be communicated verbally to the President of Delco Soccer League within 24 hours of notification of the decision being appealed. The Secretary must receive a written request accompanied by an Appeal Fee of \$75, payable to Delco Soccer League, within 48 hours after the verbal request. This Appeal Fee will be returned only if the Executive Committee upholds the appeal. The appeal will be heard within 48 hours of receipt of the written appeal whenever practicable.

Section 6-7: Appeal to Membership – Step #3

Any party may make an appeal of an Executive Committee decision directly to the membership. The Secretary must receive a written request, accompanied by an Appeal Fee of \$75, payable to Delco Soccer League, within 48 hours after the club or team is notified of the decision being appealed. This Appeal Fee will be returned only if the appeal is upheld by the membership.

The appeal will be heard at the next meeting of Delco Soccer League. Official Delegates from at least five clubs, which are not directly affected by a decision in the case, constitutes a quorum for appeals to the membership.

Section 6-8: Appeal to Trustees – Step #4

An appeal of a decision by the membership may be made to the Trustees. The Secretary must receive a written request accompanied by an Appeal Fee of \$100 within 72 hours of the decision given by the membership. This Appeal Fee will be returned only if the Trustees uphold the appeal.

Section 6-9: Appeal to Governing Body – Step #5

Any appeal to the Governing Body must be made in accordance with those bodies governing regulations. Delco reserves the right not to rehear any matter once it is ruled on by the Governing Body. An appeal will not be granted to any club, team or individual not in good standing with Delco Soccer League, except for an appeal of a suspension or an expulsion from membership in Delco Soccer League.

Section 6-10: Attendance at an Appeal Hearing

Each group that receives a request for an appeal hearing may call any or all of the involved persons to the hearing. Any individual who requests a hearing, or who has been requested to appear at a hearing and has agreed to appear but then does not appear, may be fined at the discretion of the group holding the hearing. Any individual not requested to attend a hearing is not obligated to attend. The chairperson of the group holding the hearing must report every decision as soon as practicable directly to the President and to any other individual recognized to need this information.

Section 6-11: Grievance Committee Members

A Grievance Committee is appointed by the President and consists of a Chairperson and at least two additional individuals but no more than four additional individuals. All the members of the Grievance Committee serve a term of one year but may serve more than one term.

Section 6-12: Ethics Review

The Executive Committee functions, when necessary, as an Ethics Committee. In this capacity, it will inform any club or team, in writing, through the appropriate Official Delegate, of any failure to behave in an ethical manner. This notification, although not accompanied by a fine, is intended to serve as an indication of improper behavior, or of a club or team not having followed the "spirit of the game" as the Executive Committee interprets it.

Section 6-13: Failure to Improve Ethics

If subsequent review indicates failure to improve after sufficient warnings and/or the imposition of fines or other penalties, the Executive Committee has the right to determine that a club or team not be allowed to play a game or games. Additionally, the Executive Committee shall also have the right to determine that either a club or team, or any personnel of a club or team, may not be allowed to participate further in Delco Soccer League activities.

Section 6-14: Appeal of Ethics Judgment

Any decision on ethics by the Executive Committee may be appealed in writing directly to the Executive Committee. There is no fee to appeal.

ARTICLE 7: COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Section 7-1: Schedule

Competition among soccer teams within Delco Soccer League is in accordance with a schedule. This is normally a continuous schedule extending uninterrupted from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. When desirable, the schedule may be split into distinct segments, such as two halves. This type of schedule and the length of the playing season are determined by the Games Commissioner with the approval of the Executive Committee. The specific competitions may be scheduled by the Games Commissioner alone, or by a committee appointed by the Games Commissioner or by the Executive Committee. Once established, the Executive Committee may only change by the Games Commissioner or the schedule.

Section 7-2: Age Division Sub-Classifications

Within each age division established for Delco Soccer League competition, two or more sub-classifications may be established for the purpose of collecting teams into groups of comparable ability or experience. These groupings may be classified by titles, such as is determined to be appropriate by the Competition Committee and/or Games Commissioner and/or any entity so authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 7-3: Team Assignments to Sub-Classifications

The Executive Committee assigns teams to age division sub-classifications in a manner that most fairly groups teams of comparable ability or experience together. The preference of each individual team is the first criterion in determining these groupings. However, the VP Competition and/or Competition Committee must evaluate the immediate past record of each team and make an assignment that is supported by that record.

Section 7-4: Conference Assignments

Within each age division sub-classification established for Delco Soccer League competition, two or more conferences may be established for the purpose of collecting teams into manageable groups. The preferences of each individual team are the first criterion in determining these groupings. However, the Executive Committee assigns teams to conferences in a manner that most fairly groups teams on the basis of traditional rivalries, comparable abilities, and in an attempt to minimize travel requirements for each team, to the extent that scheduling restrictions permits.

Section 7-5: Change of Field or Game Time

Whenever a club or team finds it necessary to change the home field or game time after the schedule is established, such changes to the schedule shall only be made in a manner and process specified by the VP of Competition and/or an individual or entity so designated to perform this function by the Executive Committee.

Section 7-6: Postponement

A postponement must be initiated, or approved in advance, by the Games Commissioner. Only one of the following conditions can be the basis for a postponement.

A) Unplayable weather or field conditions, provided the Games Commissioner is notified before 10:00 A.M., and provided the opposing coaches are notified at least three hours before the scheduled game time.

The Games Commissioner handles notification of the referee, and the home team coach usually notifies the opposing team coach. The Games Commissioner may make postponement when the wind-chill factor produces an effective temperature of 20 F for Under-16 and Under-19 Divisions, or an effective temperature of 30 F for Under-10, Under-12 and Under-14 Divisions.

B) Non-availability of field.

C) Conflict with E.P.Y.S.A. State Cup Tournament games, USSC State Cup Tournament games or with scholastic soccer playoff games.

D) Absence of a majority of players due to a previously arranged major group activity, such as a soccer tournament trip, a religious holiday, or a school trip. However, this situation must be noted on the original team application submitted on the day of team registration, and must be brought to the attention of the Games Commissioner at the earliest opportunity. Otherwise, a request for postponement must be submitted to the Games Commissioner at least ten days in advance, and approval will be at the discretion of the Games Commissioner based on all relevant scheduling restrictions.

Section 7-7: Cancellation

Any game that is canceled may, subject to a decision by the Games Commissioner and/or an appropriately Executive Committee's designated individual or entity also be appropriately declared a forfeit, subject to formal appeal by either team affected. An end-of-season cancellation may be approved or ordered by the Games Commissioner (with the approval of the Executive Committee) to expedite playoff and championship games.

Section 7-8: Team Withdraws from Schedule

Whenever a team withdraws from all scheduled competition, it loses all participation privileges, including its right to an Official Delegate and Alternate. Its entire schedule is voided, any game played is erased from record, and any remaining game is declared a bye for the scheduled opponent.

Section 7-9: Re-Scheduling

The Games Commissioner must approve any re-scheduling. Notice must be given to all concerned at least two days in advance, and preferably one week in advance whenever practicable.

When the Games Commissioner postpones the majority of games on a single day due to weather, all the games must be immediately re-scheduled for play in a manner and process as determined by the Games Commissioner.

Games Commissioner makes final decision on the re-scheduling versus cancellation when only four weeks remain in a season schedule, in order to expedite playoff and championship games.

Games Commissioner has the authority to offer a final choice between dates for a re-scheduled game versus a forfeit, after reasonable alternatives have been exhausted.

Re-scheduling must attempt to use weekend "off" days, school holidays, and weekday evenings.

Games Commissioner and coaches must make a maximum effort to have all make-up games completed no later than seven days after the last scheduled game. Otherwise, all remaining unplayed games may be canceled and declared void. The Executive Committee may cancel or declare any unplayed game to be a forfeit on the basis of reported efforts and circumstances.

Section 7-10: Standing by Points

Points determine the standing of teams within each age division, sub-classification and conference. The points awarded for wins, losses and ties shall be determined by the Executive Committee prior to the start of any DELCO sponsored competition: seasonal or tournament.

Section 7-11: Post-Season Playoffs & Championships

The method for handling post-season playoff and championship rounds in each age division, and in each sub-classification and conference, is determined by the Vice President of Competition. The method should be determined with the competition schedule before each season begins. The Executive Committee selects fields and makes any other arrangements required.

Section 7-12: Referee Fee

Referee fees are established for each season through mutual agreement between Delco Soccer League and the referee association.

A referee who appears as scheduled must be paid the full fee, even when the game is terminated by a cause over which neither club has control, such as darkness or the referee declaring the field unplayable. The full fee must also be paid whenever a game is terminated because of actions or conditions over which either club could have or should have had control, and whenever either team forfeits a game.

Upon request, the Executive Committee may determine whether one team must pay the entire referee fee.

When a referee who appears as scheduled declares a field unplayable, only the first game fee must be paid.

A referee fee does not have to be paid whenever notice of a canceled game has been delivered in a manner and to a location mutually agreed upon for such notices by the Games Commissioner and the Referee Assigner, provided the notice is also delivered by the agreed upon time.

Section 7-13: When Referee Fails to Arrive for a Game

At the scheduled start time for the game, the officials of both teams should mutually appoint one person to perform as a substitute referee.

If mutual agreement cannot be reached on a single person, the home team officials must nominate one individual to perform as a substitute referee, and the visiting team officials must do the same.

If both nominated individuals are experienced in refereeing and both are willing to officiate the game alone, a coin is tossed to determine which of the two will perform as the substitute referee.

If either nominated individual is not experienced in refereeing or if either is not willing to officiate the game alone, then both nominated individuals should jointly officiate the game. The fairest system for two inexperienced substitute referees is to allow each to move up and down the full length of the field, but require each to constantly stay on opposite sides of the field.

If the assigned referee does not arrive before the start of the second half, the substitute referee should continue and referee the entire game. Each substitute referee must be given the same respect and will have the same authority and backing as any regular referee.

Section 7-14: Forfeit

Every team is required to appear at every game for which it is scheduled during the regular season competition. A team that decides to forfeit a game must notify the coach of the opposing team and the Games Commissioner at least two full days prior to the date of the match. A forfeit fee of \$150 will be assessed to a team that decides to forfeit a game.

A team that is not prepared to play on the scheduled field fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time must forfeit the game to the opposing team, unless the coaches or captains of both teams have mutually agreed upon the delay. When a game is forfeited under this condition, the forfeiting team must pay the entire referee fee. A forfeit fee of \$150 will be assessed to a team that decides to forfeit a game.

A team that abandons a game also forfeits that game. A forfeit fee of \$150 will be assessed to a team that decides to forfeit a game.

A team that plays an ineligible player in any Delco Soccer League regularly scheduled game must forfeit that game to the opposing team. The score of such a game will be recorded to be 1-0, unless the team winning the forfeit has scored more than one goal. In that case the score will be recorded to include the number of goals actually scored by the team winning the forfeit while the forfeiting team will be recorded as having no goals scored. A team playing an ineligible player will be fined \$200.00 for the first offense, with the fine increasing in increments of \$100.00 for every discovered offense. The club officials who knowingly promulgated the playing of an ineligible player will be suspended for one year on a first offense and lifetime for repeated offenses.

The score of forfeited games is always recorded to be 1-0.

Section 7-15: Field Inadequacy

Any inadequacy detected in the condition of the playing field, goal post, cross bar, corner flag, or net must be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game, or as soon as the inadequacy develops during the game. If the referee believes the inadequacy is sufficient to warrant correction, the referee may require the home club to correct the inadequacy. The referee report will notify the Referee Liaison of infractions and a \$50.00 fine will be imposed.

Section 7-16: Referee Judgment is Not Basis for Protest

Questionable judgment calls by a referee at the field is not sufficient cause for game protest or appeal. Only substantial facts establishing ignorance or incorrect applications of the laws of the game by the referee may be considered, and then only if the specific incidents cited can be verified to have actually affected the final outcome of the game.

Section 7-17: Game Protest Report by Team Official

The official of the protesting team must notify the Games Commissioner of the protest on the same day as the game is played. A written explanation of the protest will be accompanied by a Protest Fee of \$75 payable to Delco Soccer League, must be received by the Secretary within 48 hours after completion of the game. This Protest Fee will be returned only if the protest is upheld.

Section 7-18: All-Start Competition

The Executive Committee may schedule all-star competitions within age division, and within sub-classifications of age divisions, at any time and in any manner it determines to be appropriate.

ARTICLE 8: PLAYING RULES

Section 8-1: FIFA Laws of the Game

The playing rules within these Bylaws are additions, modifications, or interpretations to the current FIFA "Laws Of the Game", which are followed in all competitions of the Delco Soccer League. The intent of these special playing rules is to increase the enjoyment of the game for youth soccer. Changes, additions and deletions from these special playing rules will be voted upon by the membership to take effect 30 to 60 days prior to the start of any competition expected to follow such changes.

Section 8-2: Field Preparation Responsibility

The home club must provide adequate goals, nets, corner flags, and markings in accordance with FIFA "Laws Of The Game". The field should be at least 100 yards long and at least 50 yards wide. However, a smaller field may be provided where longer dimensions are not practicable. Adequate protection must be provided to the visiting team and referee.

Section 8-3: Separation of Teams and Supporters

Teams on Opposite Sidelines

1. Official of home team selects one sideline, along which all players, coaches and supporters will remain.
2. All visiting team players, coaches and supporters must remain along the sideline on the opposite side of the field.
3. Coaching from the sidelines may never be done from any point opposite the penalty area. Coaching may be restricted by the referee at that section of the sideline extending 10 yards on both sides of the center of the field. Coaching may be prohibited entirely whenever the referee considers it to be detrimental to the play of the game.
4. Teams not honoring section 8-3 of bylaws will be automatically fined \$75. If any incident occurs as a result of failure to comply with this bylaw an additional \$75 will be mandated.

Section 8-4: Control of Spectators, Players, and Team Officials

Officials of both teams must adequately control their players, coaches and supporters and not allow anyone to enter the field while the game is being played.

The coach of either team may report to the referee whenever a coach or supporter of the opposing team is on the wrong side of the field. Any such individual must move to the appropriate location immediately upon request and with no interference or further delay to the game. Otherwise, the referee may eject the offending party.

Section 8-5: Official Ball

The home team must supply a game ball in a condition acceptable to the referee. A linesman for use may hold a second ball whenever the ball in play is kicked too far from the field.

Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 teams use #4 balls. All older teams use #5 ball.

Section 8-6: Pre-game Formalities

The following steps should begin approximately 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game.

1. Referee signs each line-up form, keeps one copy of each, and gives one copy of each to each coach. Referee keeps Coach's Pass until the end of the game.
2. Coach of each team has players line up near center of field with each player holding own Player Pass.
3. Coach collects Player Passes from opposing players, checks information against line-up form, checks photograph of player against the actual player, and then returns all accepted Player Passes to the opposing coach. A player is not allowed to play in a game unless the player's name is on the line-up form. Any irregularity is brought to the attention of the opposing coach. Any ineligible player should not be listed on the game line-up form. If any ineligible player is identified, the referee is asked to note the particulars in the referee's game report, and the game will then be played under protest. If the protest is later upheld, the team with the ineligible player will forfeit the game. Each coach should have the official Team Roster form at the field to minimize any confusion in case the opposing coach identifies an ineligible player. The official Team Roster is the yellow copy that has the League's stamp on it.
4. Referee calls for captains: allows home team to call heads or tails in toss of the coin; asks whether winner of toss wants to have the first kickoff OR wants to choose which end of field to defend in the first half. (In second half, teams swap ends and other team has kickoff).
5. Referee verifies that at least 7 players are on the field for each team. Any number less than 11 should be reported to the respective coach. A team may always play with 11 players even though the opposing team fields less than 11. A team with less than 7 players on the field must forfeit the game.
6. For small-sided games, where the standard number of players is less than the full 11, the league shall establish the minimum number of players prior to the beginning of competition.
7. If the home team is wearing a uniform of the same color as the visiting team, so as to be undistinguishable by the referee, the home team will change to a different colored jersey.
8. Referee verifies each goalkeeper is ready to play, and then referee whistles for the game to begin.
9. All player cards and coaches cards will be returned to the coaches at the end of the game. The referee and coach must submit an immediate incident report utilizing our online reporting system. Coaches are mandated to hold players out of next game and also remain out of the next league game until the Referee Liaison reaches a decision.
10. A player who arrives as the game is in progress and whose name appears on the line-up form, may substitute in the normal manner upon presenting a Player Pass to the referee, subject to a later check by the coach of the opposing team.

Section 8-7: Report of Irregularities

Any irregularity in a Player Pass, line-up, or field condition must be questioned during the pre-game formalities so it may be corrected or included in the referee's game report. Any irregularity unknown before the game must be reported to the referee as soon as it is known and to the Games Commissioner and/or league in the manner specified. Any delay in reporting an irregularity will cause its validity to be suspect.

Section 8-8: Player's Equipment

Teams must wear regulation soccer uniforms. When the colors of uniforms of opposing teams are identical or so similar that is difficult to distinguish between them, in the referee's opinion, the home club is required to change into a contrasting jersey. Sweat pants may be worn while playing on the field in severely cold weather, at the discretion of the referee. They do not have to match the color of the uniform, and players on the same team may wear different colors, as long as it is not difficult for the referee to distinguish between teams. However, the sweat pants must have no metallic buckle, snaps, buttons or other item that the referee considers dangerous to any player. Team captains may wear identifying armbands of a type approved by Delco Soccer League. Captains are to be identified on the game line-up. All players, except goalkeepers, must wear numbers not less than eight inches high. All players must wear shin guards during all games, tryouts, and practices. Shin guards must be of an approved type and worn under socks. Referees will enforce this requirement during pre-game equipment check. Players not in compliance are not allowed to participate until they are in compliance. Players' uniforms must conform to FIFA rules.

Section 8-9: Referee Evaluation Report

An official of each team must complete a referee evaluation report for each game to assist the referee association in evaluating referee performance. These reports must be sent to the Referee Liaison. Failure to submit a referee evaluation report, within 4 days of the game, will result in a fine of \$10 for each occurrence.

Section 8-10: Linesman

If linesmen do not appear for a game, then each team is expected to provide one linesman at each game.

Section 8-11: Start of Play

A game can be started on time when at least seven players, properly representing each team, are present. Avoidable delay exceeding 15 minutes is sufficient cause for protest. The referee may shorten any game delayed for a period greater than 15 minutes at its start and followed by another scheduled game by the same period of time (the time in excess of the 15 Minutes) in order to avoid excessive delay of the following game. The coach of each team must be notified of this intention before it occurs.

Section 8-12: Duration of Game

The length of each game depends on the age division.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| U-9 and U-10 Divisions | Two 25 minute halves |
| U-11 and U-12 Divisions | Two 30 minute halves |
| U-13 and U-14 Divisions | Two 35 minute halves |
| U-15 and U-16 Divisions | Two 40 minute halves |
| U-17 and U-19 Divisions | Two 45 minute halves |

A game is considered complete at the end of the above-prescribed periods, unless special provisions have been established by the Executive Committee to handle playoff games, championship games, all-star games or tournament games.

A referee upon request of a team official may shorten a game, provided the other team agrees.

A game is official after 1 minute has been played in the second half.

Section 8-13: Never Charge Goal Keeper

No player can charge a goalkeeper in the penalty area while the goalkeeper has possession of the ball. This holds for all age divisions.

Section 8-14: Under 9 & 10 Corner Kick from the Touch Line Corner

For the Under 9 & 10 Age Division, each corner kick is taken from the touchline corner.

Section 8-15: Under 9 & 10 Goal Kick and Free Kick from 12-Yard Line

For the Under 9 & 10 Age Division only, each goal kick, and each indirect kick or direct kick awarded to a team within its own penalty area, is moved forward and taken from the 12 yard line (front of the penalty area). Opposing players are required to stay out of the penalty area and at least 10 yards from the ball. The ball must move forward (away from the penalty area) a distance equal to the ball circumference before a second player can touch it. The ball must clear the “box” to be considered “in play”. The second player may choose to deliver the ball back to the goalkeeper, however the goalkeeper cannot use his hands or be considered “handling” the ball resulting in an indirect kick from the spot that the keeper touched the ball.

Section 8-16: Substitutions

During the following stoppages in play, any number of players may enter the game as substitutes for players on the field. A player who is replaced may later re-enter the game as a substitute.

- Prior to throw-in, only team with possession of ball may substitute.
- Prior to goal kick, both teams may substitute.
- During an injury stoppage both teams may substitute. However, only one player may be substituted for the injured player, and the other team may only substitute for one player.
- After a goal is scored, both teams may substitute. At half time, both teams may substitute.

The consent of the referee is required before making any substitution prior to a throw-in, prior to a goal kick, or during an injury stoppage.

Section 8-17: Substitution at Official Caution

When play is stopped while referee is issuing an official caution (yellow card), a team official may substitute for the player being cautioned to provide a "cooling-off" period and to improve game continuity and control. This action must be taken and completed without significantly delaying the game any further.

ARTICLE 9: PENALTIES AND FINES FOR MISCONDUCT AT A GAME

Section 9-1: USYSA Guidelines

The penalties specified by these Bylaws are administered in accordance with guidelines provided by USYSA, and US Clubs Soccer.

Section 9-2: Minimum Values Maybe Increased

The penalties specified in these Bylaws are minimum penalties, and may be increased at the discretion of the Executive Committee for infractions considered very serious. Additional penalties may be instituted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 9-3: Ejections for Violent Conduct

1a. Fighting with an opponent, colleague or spectator (engaging in extended combat by means of the mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, head, foot, or other portion of the body).

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 2 games | 4 games |
| 2nd Offense | 4 games min. | 8 games min. |

1b Fighting with a referee or linesman, (engaging in extended combat by means of the mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, head, foot, or other portion of the body).

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|---------|
| 1st Offense | 1 year | 2 years |
| 2nd Offense | 2 years min. | Life |

2a. Kicking or striking, or attempting to kick or strike, an opponent, colleague or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 4 games min. | 8 games min. |

2b. Kicking or striking, or attempting to kick or strike, a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|---------|
| 1st Offense | 1 year | 2 years |
| 2nd Offense | 2 years min. | Life |

3a. Throwing object (soccer ball, snow or ice ball, stone, rock, dirt, mud, sand, etc.) at an opponent, colleague, or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

3b1. Throwing soccer ball at a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1st Offense | 4 games | 8 games |
| 2nd Offense | 8 games min. | 1 year min. |

3b2. Throwing object other than soccer ball at referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 1st Offense | 8 games | 1 year |
| 2nd Offense | 1 year min. | 2 years |

4a. Spitting at or on an opponent, colleague, or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

4b. Spitting at or on a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 1st Offense | 4 games | 8 games |
| 2nd Offense | 8 games | 1 year min. |

5a. Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage directed at an opponent, colleague, or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

5b. Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage directed at a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

6a. Gesturing or signaling obscenely at an opponent, colleague, or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

6b. Gesturing or signaling obscenely at a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 2 games | 4 games |
| 2nd Offense | 4 games min. | 8 games min. |

Section 9-4: Ejections for Serious Foul Play

Serious foul play is play characterized by fouls (as defined by Law XII of the Laws of the Game) of an aggravated nature and committed with such fervor as to threaten an opponent with serious physical harm.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 2 games min. | 2 games min. |
| 2nd Offense | 4 games min. | 4 games min. |

Section 9-5: Ejections for Abusive Language

1. Directed at an opponent, colleague, or spectator.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 2 games |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 4 games min. |

2. Directed at a referee or linesman.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 2 games | 4 games |
| 2nd Offense | 4 games min. | 8 games min. |

Section 9-6: Ejections for Persistent Misconduct or Dissent

1. Misconduct after having received a caution (persistent ungentlemanly conduct, infringement or the Laws of the Game, unauthorized entry onto the field of play, etc.).

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 1 game |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 2 games min. |

2. Dissent after having received a caution.

| | Under 14 | Over 14 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Offense | 1 game | 1 game |
| 2nd Offense | 2 games min. | 2 games min. |

Section 9-7: Accumulation of Cautions

- a. A player or team official who, in a given registration year, accumulates three individual cautions shall be suspended for one game-under 14 or 2 games-over 14, namely the next scheduled game or games. If on two teams the player will sit one game or two games for each team in each division.
- b. The second accumulation of three individual cautions within the same registration year shall result in an additional suspension equivalent to 2 games-under 14 or 4 games over 14. If on two teams the player will sit two games or four games for each team in each division.
- c. Further misconduct on the part of the individual during the same registration year shall be sufficient cause for the Executive Committee to consider additional penalties of increased severity, in each case, action against the individual is automatically initiated by the referee's game report.
- d. Any red card/suspension not served in the present season will be carried over to the following season.

Section 9-8: Fines for Misconduct at a Game

In addition to any penalty set forth in these Bylaws, a \$100 fine will also be levied against any player, team, club, or club official as specified below or as determined by the Executive Committee.

1. For misconduct by club or team officials or by players.

a. CAUTIONS OR (YELLOW CARDS) (NOT IN SAME GAME)

First Offense Warning

Second Offense Warning

Third Offense \$100.00

b. EJECTIONS (RED CARDS)

First Offense \$100.00

Second Offense \$150.00

Third Offense \$200.00

c. **BAD SCENES.** For what are known as "bad scenes" by players or team officials, a club or team will be fined beginning at \$100.00 and increasing in increments of \$100.00. These fines are not to be levied in the instance of individual players being carded in the usual scene understood to occur during a soccer game, but gather for such incidents as team fights; assaulting a referee in any manner; or physically attacking players or team officials. These fines may be simultaneously administered with fines for club and team personnel.

2. For misconduct by team supporters or spectators Beginning with \$100.00 and increasing in increments of \$100.00, a club or team may be fined for inadequate protection afforded to referee, linesman, or an opposing team member before, during, or after a game, resulting from behavior of team supporters or spectators.

3. **For an ineligible player:** Beginning with \$200.00 and increasing in increments of \$100.00, a club or team may be fined for knowingly, or through negligence, fielding a team with an ineligible player or players. If a club or team official knowingly allows an ineligible player to play will be suspended for one full year on the first offense and lifetime for subsequent offenses.

Section 9-9: Fine Payment Deadline

All of the above fines must be paid before the next scheduled game. Failure to do so, will result in a forfeit and the forfeit fee will be added to the amount due.

Section 9-10: Repeated Negative Behavior

Repeated negative behavior after a fine is administered may result in the suspension of a player, and/or club or team personnel, and/or the entire club or team.

ARTICLE 10: AMMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to these Bylaws may only be voted at an annual meeting or at a regular meeting of Delco Soccer League. Each proposed amendment must be read, or made available for reading by any interested member, at the meeting (annual or regular) immediately preceding the meeting at which the amendment will be voted upon. Each proposed amendment must also be mailed to each Official Delegate at least one week prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted upon. This mailing requirement may be fulfilled by an adequate inclusion within the Minutes of the Meeting at which the final wording of the amendment is first formally proposed. To be adopted, a proposed amendment must receive an affirmative vote from two-thirds of the Official Delegates present at the meeting.