

## **Bylaws of the Minnesota Amateur Soccer League**

**Assumptions:** Based on “The NEW Robert’s Rules of Order” by John Sherman

**By-laws:** ... except those placed in the constitution and the rules of order, should include all rules of such importance that they cannot be changed in any way without previous notice. ... Bylaws should define the duties of the presiding and recording officers ...

**Rules / Regulations:** ... should contain rules relating to the orderly transaction of business ... should contain rules that may be adopted without prior notice by a majority vote at any business meeting.

**Article I: Name**

This body shall be known as the Minnesota Amateur Soccer League

**Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this league shall be the regulation, development and promotion of men’s competitive soccer in the state of Minnesota

**Article III: Affiliation**

The league shall be affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation, USASA, Minnesota Soccer Association and shall recognize the authority, rules and laws of these bodies.

**Article IV: Jurisdiction**

The league shall have jurisdiction over all members and affiliated officials and players.

**Article V: Authority**

The league shall have the authority to take such steps as are necessary to insure compliance with the rules and regulations of this league and the USSF, and to meet the stated purpose of this league.

**Article VI: Headquarters**

The registered office of this league shall be located within the Minneapolis – St. Paul or a contiguous suburb, as designated by the Board of Directors of this league.

**Article VII: Membership**

Membership is open to all clubs that are interested in competitive soccer. Requirements and procedures for membership shall be set forth in the regulations of this league.

**Article VIII: Board of Directors**

**A.** The administration, business and affairs of this league shall be under the directions of and managed by a Board of Directors, subject to the rights of the members as set forth in the Bylaws and Regulations of this league.

**B.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of this league and four Directors-at-Large.

**C.** The tenure, election and operation of the Board of Directors shall be set forth in the Regulations of this league.

**Article IX: Officers**

**A.** The Officers of this league shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Commissioner.

**B.** The election, tenure and duties of the Officers shall be set forth in the Regulations of this League.

**Article X: Amendment of Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of this league in accordance with the procedure set forth in the regulations of this league.

**Article XI: Effect of Enactment**

These Bylaws shall be effective immediately upon their enactment and all previous Bylaws of this league are thereby repealed.

**Article XII: Regulations**

**A. Officers and Directors**

- 1. Eligibility:** All persons 18 years and older who are interested in soccer shall be eligible to serve as an Officer or Director of this league.
- 2. Office:** No person may hold more than one office at a time.

3. **Nominations:** The President shall appoint a committee to prepare a list of nominees for each position to be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
4. **Election:** The Officers and Directors shall be elected by majority vote of the voting members at the annual elections meeting of this league.
5. **Terms:** The term for each Officer shall be two (2) years and commence immediately after adjournment of the election meeting. Terms for the four Directors-at-Large shall be two (2) years, with two (2) such Directors elected each year.
6. **Resignation:** Officers and Directors may resign at any time upon written notice to the Board of Directors. Resignation becomes effective immediately upon acceptance by the Board of Directors. No Officer or Director shall be relieved of liability for unauthorized acts committed while serving as an Officer or Director by his resignation.
7. **Removal:** Officers and Directors may be removed for cause by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of all voting members at any duly called membership meeting. The Officer or Director subject to the removal action shall be notified of the meeting, the cause for removal, and be provided an opportunity to speak and present evidence on his behalf at the meeting.
8. **Vacancies:** The Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term of any Officer or Director who resigns or is removed before his/her term expires.
9. **Directors:** The Board of Directors shall implement the Bylaws of this league by promulgating regulations governing:
  - a. The conduct of business of this league
  - b. Registration of teams and players
  - c. Team competition
  - d. Disciplinary matters
  - e. Protest and appeals
  - f. Dues, assessments, registration fees and fines
10. **Officers:**
  - a. **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors. The President may take any action necessary relating to the operation of this league not inconsistent with the Bylaws and Regulations. The President shall assign the duties of the Directors-at-Large. The President has the authority to appoint any administrator necessary to conduct the business of this league.
  - b. **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties and shall exercise all the powers of the President in their absence.
  - c. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record all minutes of all meetings and shall provide written records of all meetings to all members. The Secretary shall keep all records of this league such as correspondence, information concerning team representatives and other valuable information. The Secretary shall produce a written annual report.
  - d. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain a detailed accounting of all financial matters of this league. The Treasurer shall maintain all funds of this league in a bank account in the name of the MASL. The Treasurer shall pay all legal expenses of this league by check and provide a financial report and budget at the annual meeting.
  - e. **Commissioner:** The Commissioner shall:
    - i. Appoint a Referee Scheduler with approval of the Board of Directors.
    - ii. Carry out disciplinary actions of the league and maintain records thereof.
    - iii. Act upon request by members to participate in games and tournaments where permission is required.
  - f. **Members-at-Large:** Duties assigned by the President as needed.
  - g. **Paid Positions:** The MASL Board will hire a Referee Scheduler and Registrar that will report directly to the MASL Commissioner.
  - h. The Board of Directors will meet to appoint Division Directors, Cup Coordinators, State Playoff Coordinator, League Scheduler.

#### B. Meetings:

1. An annual meeting of the MASL shall be held in February of each year. Directors and Officers shall be elected at this annual meeting.
2. Regular scheduled meetings of the members shall be held monthly January through May on any given Wednesday of the month.
  - a. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors, the President or upon written request of at least  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the members. Notice of special meetings shall be sent within 7 days of the call for such meeting and shall describe the purpose thereof. Members may act only in relation to said purpose at a special meeting.
3. All team managers will be notified, within ten (10) days before each scheduled meeting.
4. At least one (1) representative of each Team in the MASL, must attend all scheduled regular and annual meetings. Teams will be fined for non-attendance. Each team's attendance fines are to be paid prior to receiving their individual players passes, before the start of the season. No person may represent more than one (1) team. A maximum of one person from each team will get a vote for their team only.
5. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once during the official playing season (April – August).

6. At the discretion of the President, non-members may attend the meetings of the MASL
7. Members may propose motions and regulations from the floor during meetings of this league.
8. Members shall be in good standing in order to vote at any meeting of the MASL.
9. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with **Robert's Rule of Order**, insofar as they apply and do not contradict any Bylaw or Regulation of the MASL.
10. A majority of representatives of members in good standing and at least five (5) members of the Board of Directors eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. A vote of a majority of all members shall be necessary to overrule a decision of the Board of Directors.
11. Voting:
  - a. A quorum must be present at any meeting in order to pass motions except as otherwise provided in these regulations, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to carry any motion.
  - b. For election to the Board of Directors a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast. In case no majority is obtained on the first ballot, a run-off ballot shall be held between the two highest vote getters.
  - c. A quorum must be present at any meeting in order to pass motions. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to carry any motion.

**C. Conduct of Business**

1. The president may form committees and appoint all personnel thereto.
2. The Secretary and Commissioner shall act in each other's stead when the other is unavailable for any reason.
3. Officers, Directors and committee chairman shall report to the President in advance of any meeting.
4. The President shall sign all tax returns and all necessary reports to the USSF, MSA and US or State services.
5. The Treasurer shall transmit to the USSF and MSA all required fees.
6. The Treasurer shall note on each check drawn on the account of the MASL the purpose for which it was written.
7. Proposed additions and changes to these regulations shall be included in the notice of the meeting at which they shall be proposed for adoption.

**D. Expenses and Compensation**

1. The Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of all or any portion of expenses incurred by a member on behalf of the MASL, provided that a majority of the board approves or has previously approved such expenses at a board meeting.
2. The Secretary shall be provided with a petty cash fund not to exceed \$100.00 to be used for budget or Board approved expenses. Fund may be replenished upon submission of receipts to cover the amount replenished.
3. The duly appointed Registrar shall be compensated for his services at the rate of \$0.50 per player registered. Clubs are responsible for these fees.

**E. Finances**

1. The Board shall consider the proposed budget by the Treasurer and revise it, if necessary, before approving it.
2. A copy of the proposed budget shall be provided to the members at the election meetings.
3. An Audit Committee, which shall not include any Director, shall audit the financial records of this league before the annual meeting. This committee will report its findings at the annual meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall determine and assess an annual team registration fee to meet the proposed budget.
5. The Board of Directors may assess the members for any deficits in the cost of operation of the MASL that are not covered by team and player registration fees.

**F. Registration**

**1. Application for membership**

- a. Application for membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the MASL, and shall include the name of the club, organization structure, contact person's name and phone number, field location and club colors.
- b. Applications will be voted on by the Board of Directors.
- c. Applicants may request a personal hearing before the Board of Directors if the team is denied an applicant for membership.

**2. Team Registration**

- a. The Board of Directors shall set a date by which each team must be registered, which means the team shall indicate its parent Club name, team name, home field, representative's names including address and telephone number and make first payment of the prescribed team registration fee.
- b. Teams may roster a maximum of twenty six (26) players on their game day roster card.
- c. No team may register more than a total of twenty six (26) eligible players for the season.

**3. Withdrawal**

- a. Any team must give written notice to the MASL Secretary if it decides to withdraw, the Board of Directors will decide on consent to this request.
- b. Before withdrawal will be approved, teams must satisfy all obligations to the MASL. In case financial obligations to the MASL are not met, individual players of that team become

responsible, and will not be allowed to play for another club / team until their share of the indebtedness has been paid.

#### **4. Termination**

The Board of Directors of the MASL may terminate the membership status of any member for the following reasons:

- a. Delinquent payment of indebtedness (30 days overdue)
- b. By a vote of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all members for good reason
- c. By consistent misconduct on the playing field

The termination notice will be supplied in writing. Teams that are considered to be terminated shall have the right to ask for a special hearing to present evidence that termination is based on incorrect information.

#### **5. Player Registration**

- a. Each player must be registered on the appropriate forms provided by the USSF. The appointed Registrar shall, upon verifying that all information is correct, issue a player pass for the current season. For new players, two (2) passport photos are required. A set fee has to be paid upon registration of each player. The cut-off date for player registration is July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b. After the season expires, players are not obligated to the team they registered for and are free to join any other team provided they are cleared by that team for any indebtedness. If there are ANY team debts owed to the MASL, that have not been paid, the player is responsible for 1/18<sup>th</sup> of the amount of any unpaid debts, before he can register with another team. This money will be paid directly to the MASL.
- c. Players can register for one team in the MASL only.
- d. The effective date shall be immediate following the registration date. Players can be registered at the designated registration office (with posted days and hours) determined at the start of the season. Allow 3 days (72 hours) for registration. On-site registration at the Registrar's convenience.
- e. Transfer of players between teams of the same club shall become effective on the date the transfer has been properly registered.
- f. Clubs using ineligible players shall forfeit the game in which these players are used.
- g. Junior players having a valid club affiliation (MYSA Card) and approval of the MYSA are permitted to compete in the MASL.
- h. Four players can play up and 2 players can play down if they are registered for the same club.
- i. Registration forms shall be delivered to the Registrar for processing after making an appointment for registration.
- j. Players in the 23 and under division, must be 23 or under on or before July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season of the 23 and under division.

#### **6. Release and Transfers**

- a. No player may play with another club of the MASL until having received a valid release form obtained from the Registrar's office. This form must be presented to the Registrar before transfer can be made.
- b. Any player unable to obtain a voluntary release from his club may in writing petition the Commissioner for a release. The Commissioner will investigate the validity of the release request and will act upon his findings if release should be granted (within 30 days of receiving petition).

#### **7. Suspensions**

- a. The player pass of an ejected player shall be forwarded to the Commissioner by the referee.
- b. A player shall be considered suspended until the Commissioner has returned player pass.
- c. Teams of suspended players shall make an appointment with the Commissioner to pick up player pass.

#### **8. Registration Violations**

- a. Teams violating any registration rule of these regulations shall be fined and disciplined as prescribed by these regulations.
- b. Any player who is registered for one club and who plays for a club for which he is not registered shall be suspended for one (1) year.
- c. Any player who is registered for one club of the MASL and who plays in any game for a club associated with the MSA while under suspension shall be suspended for one (1) year.
- d. Any player who signs up for more than one club / team in the MASL shall be suspended immediately and all games in which he played shall be forfeited.
- e. Five yellow cards (cautions) in one season shall result in an automatic one (1) game suspension. It is the coaches / managers responsibility to make sure this rule is enforced. Failure to do so will result in game forfeits for the illegal player. Updates of the player's status will be sent to the coach / manager when player reaches the 5 card limit.
- f. A red card (ejection) results in an automatic one game suspension. If warranted Commissioner may rule on additional game suspensions.

## **Rules & Guidelines**

### **I. Fees**

- A. Grievances, Protest or Appeals ..... \$75.00
- B. Request for personal hearing by ejected player ..... \$50.00
- C. Non MASL team registering in Minnesota Cup ..... \$50.00

### **II. Bonds**

- A. The MASL shall require a performance bond of new clubs / teams in the amount of \$200.00 to be cashed.
- B. Any club / team creating a disturbance or misconduct affecting the good name of the MASL may be required to post a performance bond not to exceed \$500.00 to be cashed.
- C. Teams not completing the official playing season or continuing the misconduct that caused the imposition of the bond, shall cause their club / team to forfeit the entire bond. The non-forfeited, interest free, bond shall be refunded to the club / team at the end of the season provided that any indebtedness to the MASL has been satisfied.

### **III. Fines**

- A. Club not represented at membership meeting ..... \$50.00
- B. Ineligible player (each player per game) ..... \$50.00
- C. Red card violation
  - a. First Red Card ..... \$20.00
  - b. Second Red Card ..... \$40.00
  - c. Third Red Card ..... \$100.00
- D. Team forfeiting a game (plus referee fees if applicable) ..... \$50.00
- E. Team forfeiting second game (plus referee fees if applicable) ..... \$100.00
- F. Team forfeiting third game (plus referee fees if applicable) ..... \$150.00 \*\*
- G. Team having more than three (3) players ejected in one game ..... \$50.00
- H. Team whose players, team officials or fans engage in conduct that causes the referee to terminate the game before it is completed ..... \$100.00
- I. Team whose players, team officials or fans threaten or assault game officials during or at the end of the game ..... \$100.00
- F. Fines for rescheduled games (after the main schedule is finalized) ..... \$50.00

\*\* All the team games shall be suspended until future review by the Board.

### **IV. Payments**

- A. Payment of a fine by a team or referee shall be due within ten (10) days of the date the fine is levied.
- B. The Board of Directors may assess a fine not to exceed \$500.00 against a team for excessive team or player misconduct.
- C. Payment to the MASL shall be by check only and the purpose of the payment shall be noted on the check.
- D. Checks returned for insufficient funds shall not be deemed to have been made until the check clears the bank or other payment by money order or certified check is made.
- E. Teams more than thirty (30) days delinquent in payment of dues, assessments or fines shall not be in good standing and shall forfeit all scheduled games during the period of delinquency.

### **V. Competition**

#### **A. Divisions**

- 1. The structure of the MASL shall consist of divisions to be known as First Division, Second Division, Third Division and Fourth Division and any other divisions as the membership deems necessary. MASL order of divisions from highest to lowest: 1) First Division, 2) Second Division, 3) Third Division, 4) Fourth Division. (See XIII for U23 Division)
- 2. Each division shall maintain separate standings
- 3. Standings shall be based upon three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss. The teams with the most points at the end of the season are the state champions of their division.
- 4. In case of a tie for division winners, teams subject to advancement or relegation will be decided by better head-to-head result(s). If teams are still tied, the tiebreaker shall be a better goal differential (goals for – goals against). If still tied, the next tiebreaker shall be most goals scored. If still tied, the next tiebreaker shall be least goals allowed. A flip of the coin will be the final tiebreaker if a tie still exists.
- 5. When both teams in a game have forfeited the game, the result of the game shall be recorded as a loss for both teams.
- 6. If a game has been played more than 60 minutes and later is declared a forfeit for one team, the score shall be 2-0 or the score, which is more advantageous for the other team.
- 7. Only teams in good standing with the MASL as of April 22<sup>nd</sup> shall be permitted to compete.
- 8. New teams must conform to the regulations of the MASL before they will be allowed to enter the competition.

#### **B. Game Rules and Procedures**

- 1. All games sponsored by the MASL shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of the game as interpreted by the USSF and FIFA.

2. Every club or team is responsible to the MASL for the conduct of its players, team officials and fans and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, team officials or fans from threatening or assaulting game officials, team officials and players during or at the conclusion of the game.
3. Team managers shall give the referee a completed roster form before the game starts.
4. Players shall present their player passes to the officials before the game begins.
5. No player shall be allowed to play without a player pass or Commissioner's permission.
6. Teams must be on the field in time to complete the pre-game formalities. If either team is not ready to play at the scheduled game time, the referee will blow his whistle and if either team does not have seven players ready within 15 minutes of kickoff time, the game will be forfeited.

**C. Players and Substitutions**

1. Unlimited substitutes may be permitted for any game in each division, up to the amount on the teams' roster card.
2. Any player substituted for may return to play.
3. No substitutes shall be permitted for ejected players.
4. Substitutions shall be allowed as follows:
  - a. After a goal has been scored by either team
  - b. At half time
  - c. At a goal kick by either team
  - d. When a player leaves the field due to injury
  - e. At a throw-in, but only to the team taking the throw-in
  - f. When a player receives a yellow card (caution)
5. Players not participating in the game must remain in a confined area so as not to confuse the referee or assistant referees. The referee may stop the game if teams don't comply with this rule.
6. The referee may cancel a game if field or weather conditions create a dangerous environment for players.

**D. Uniforms**

1. Except for the goalkeeper, who shall wear contrasting colors, all players on a team shall wear the same shirt, shorts and socks. Shinguards and soccer shoes are mandatory.
2. All players shall have different numbers at least 6 inches high on the back of their shirts.
3. When colors of two competing teams are similar, the visiting team must change uniforms, but only if the home team wears their designated home colors.
4. The referee shall not allow a player to participate unless his uniform and equipment is the same as his other team members.

**E. Game Postponements**

1. A team needing to reschedule a game or change a field must notify the Commissioner seventy two (72) hours before the scheduled game date, in writing. No game may be postponed without authorization of the Commissioner. If a rescheduled game has been approved, it must be rescheduled within one week and must be played within three weeks of the original scheduled date or the end of the season. The rescheduling fee must also be paid. If no agreement is made between the two teams, the Commissioner will then pick the date and the home team will arrange the field and time. If either or both of the teams cannot make this rescheduled date, either or both teams shall forfeit the game.
2. Any changes to the preliminary schedule need to be approved (in writing) by both teams and submitted to their Division Director, 7 days prior to the final schedule which is passed out at the April meeting.
3. Teams having received authorization for game postponement or field change from the Commissioner must notify the opponent and the scheduled referees of this fact. They must also select another mutually agreeable date and inform the Commissioner of the date and the field of the postponed game.

**F. Game Permits**

1. Teams playing out of state must receive permission of the Minnesota Soccer Association and the Commissioner prior to the game date. If guest players are to be used for such a game, the team must obtain permission from the club these players are registered with.
2. No team may play against a team, which has been suspended by this organization or affiliated organizations.

**G. Fields**

1. Teams shall send copies of their field directions to the Commissioner one (1) month prior to the start of the official season.
2. Before the game, the referee shall inspect the field for compliance with the law. The home team shall be informed if its field is not legally prepared and must remedy the state deficiencies within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time. If the field is not corrected properly, the home team will forfeit the game.

**H. Advancement / Relegation**

Prior to each playing season, the Board of Directors shall determine the advancement and relegation of teams from one division to another.

## **VI. Awards**

- A. The following trophies shall be awarded. Division championship trophies, Minnesota Cup and Wilson Cup.
- B. The following awards shall be presented: Coach of the Year, Referee of the Year, and other trophies that may be selected by the Board of Directors.**

## **VII. Cup Competitions**

- A. Only MASL teams may compete for the Minnesota Cup, provided they are in good standing with the MSA. First and Second Division teams must enter the competition. The Minnesota Cup competition is optional for the other MASL teams. The winner of the Minnesota Cup is the MASL representative for the MSA entry to the US Amateur Cup the following year, provided they qualify through the MN Regional Cup. The MN Cup winner will then be eligible for financial support, to be determined by the MASL Board. No other MASL team will be eligible to participate in the MN Regional Cup. If the MN Cup winner does not qualify for the Amateur Cup, through the Regional Cup, they will forfeit their MASL financial support. Teams from other Minnesota leagues may compete with our MN Cup winner with the right to be the Minnesota representative, however they will not be eligible for financial support from the MASL.
- B. Except for the First Division, Third Division teams must enter the Wilson Cup competition and it is optional for the Second and Fourth Division teams.
- C. Competition for both cups shall be a single elimination tournament, with initial pairings being drawn at random to fill out predetermined brackets.
- D. Eligibility is the same for regular competition, with one exception. A player may compete for only one team in his club. In case a team uses an ineligible player, the game will be forfeited to the other team.
- E. In case of a tie at the end of regulation time, two overtime periods of 15 minutes each shall be played. The golden goal rule ends the game, during these 2 overtimes. If the match is still tied, the game shall be decided by standard penalty kick format.
- F. Teams shall split the referee fees.
- G. The Minnesota Cup and Wilson Cup are traveling trophies and shall remain the property of the MASL. Each champion shall receive a plaque from the MASL the following year.**

## **VIII. Disciplinary Matters**

- A. The MASL shall have the power to deal with violations of the laws of the game, rules and regulations of the MASL and of the USSF, and with misconduct by any member, player or official of this association.
- B. Pursuant to Section H1, the MASL shall have authority to levy suspensions and fines, revoke membership, order forfeiture, cancellation or replay of games.
- C. The Commissioner of the MASL shall consider all allegations of violations or misconduct and shall take appropriate disciplinary action according to these regulations.
- D. The President may act in lieu of the Commissioner, if the Commissioner has an interest in either party.
- E. The Commissioner shall inform all involved parties of his decision within seven (7) days.
- F. If a referee or assistant referee is assaulted, the player or coach committing such offense shall be suspended for one (1) year.
- G. The Board of Directors of this league may override any disciplinary decision of the Commissioner.

### **H. Game Misconduct**

1. A failure to take precautions required by Section VA2 shall result in loss of home field advantage for the team's next three scheduled home games. The offending team is still responsible for preparing the field.
2. Any club or team or its spectators creating a disturbance resulting in disruption of play shall be required to post a performance bond not to exceed \$500.00. Bond will be forfeited if another disturbance takes place in the same season. The bond will be refunded at the end of the season provided that no other fees are outstanding.

### **I. Player Misconduct**

1. Assault upon a referee or assistant referee shall result in a minimum one (1) year suspension from the date of the assault.
2. Assault upon another player or team official shall result in a suspension of between three (3) months to one (1) year.
3. All other offenses for which a player is ejected shall result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. These suspensions do not include the game in which the player was ejected from. These suspensions can be lengthened by the authority of the Commissioner of the MASL, if the ejection acts warrants it. (see VIC)

### **J. Protest**

1. Protests, concerning games sponsored by the MASL, may be filed only by teams involved in said game.
2. Any protest must be submitted to the Commissioner within three (3) days of the game date. Only written protest will be considered.
3. The Commissioner shall provide a written report of his decision to all parties involved and shall keep copies thereof for his records.

### **K. Appeals**

1. Appeals from decisions of the Commissioner or Board of Directors shall be made to a three person Appeals Board appointed by the President of the MASL.

2. Appeals must be in writing (three copies) and must be delivered to the Secretary within 10 days of the date of the Commissioner's decision. The appropriate fee must be included with this appeal.
3. Appeals may be decided by the Appeals Board without granting a personal hearing to the appellant.
4. A copy of the appeal from the decision of the Commissioner shall be provided to the non-appealing team concerned. This team may deliver to the Secretary a written reply to said appeal (three copies). Appellant will receive a copy of this reply at least seven (7) days before the Appeals Board meets.
5. Appeals, protests or replies not received within the time specified shall not be considered.
6. No new evidence shall be presented or considered without evidence that such information was unavailable at the time of the protest, grievance or suspension hearing.
7. Before the Appeals Board meets, each member of that board shall receive a copy of the Commissioner's decision.
8. The Appeals Board shall provide written reports of its decision to the parties involved.

**L. Board of Directors Review**

1. The Board of Directors shall at its discretion accept or reject appeals from decisions of the Appeals Board.
2. Members of the MASL may appeal decisions of this league to the Minnesota Soccer Association as specified by their Rules and Regulations.

**M. Exhaustion of Procedures**

No member or director of the MASL nor any person affiliated with any member of this association shall have standing to commence any litigation in any court against this league, the MSA or the USSF unless they have exhausted all administrative procedures for the relief to be sought by such litigation in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the MASL, MSA and USSF.

**IX. Referees**

- A. Qualified referees shall be assigned to games by an appointed Referee Scheduler.
- B. The number of officials assigned to a game is three (3) one referee and two assistant referees.
- C. Referee judgments are final and cannot be protested.
- D. A referee does not have the authority to declare any game forfeited.
- E. The Commissioner shall maintain a list of all referees in good standing**

**X. Game Procedures**

- A. Referees shall be at the game site at least 20 minutes before game time.
- B. The referees' authority begins upon their arrival at the field and lasts until they leave the area of play.
- C. If no referee appears within 15 minutes after the scheduled time, the game shall be rescheduled by the Commissioner.
- D. Referees shall have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the laws and to suspend or terminate the game due to the elements, interference by spectators or other causes when they deem such stoppage is necessary. All stoppages shall be reported to the Commissioner.
- E. All games stopped by the referee after 60 minutes have been played are official and the score at the time of stoppage will stand. Games not played the full 60 minutes will be rescheduled.
- F. The referee has the power to warn, caution or eject a player for due cause.
- G. The referee shall retain the game pass of an ejected player and forward the pass to the Commissioner with his game report. The game report shall include the names and description of the offense of any player or team official given a yellow card (caution) or red card (ejection).**

**XI. Referee Expenses**

- A. Referee fees, set forth at the beginning of the season, shall be shared equally by the teams and paid to the referee before the game starts.
- B. If a team forfeits a game and does not notify the referees in time, that team shall pay the referees' fee in full. Fines as prescribed in these regulations will be assessed.
- C. If both teams forfeit a game without notifying the referees in time, both teams shall share the referees' fees, and will be fined as prescribed in these regulations.

**XII. Referee Discipline**

- A. Referees may be fined and / or suspended by the Commissioner or the Board of Directors as prescribed in these regulations.
- B. Any referee subject to a disciplinary action shall be afforded notice and an opportunity to appear before the Commissioner prior to any final decision.
- C. The Commissioner shall provide a written report of his decision to the Board of Directors, the referee and State Referee Administrator.
- D. Referees shall be subject to the procedures and rights of section VI J-M.

**XIII. MASL U23 Division Rules & Regulations**

(Note: Because of the unique characteristics of the U23 Division – these Rules & Regulations have been written. )

- A. Name:** The name of this division shall be the “**MASL U23 Division**”
- B. Purpose:** To promote and continue player development in Minnesota, as well as create better continuity between MYSA and the MASL.
- C. Administration / Management:** The Minnesota Amateur Soccer League (MASL) will set in place the necessary elements for the smooth operation of the division. This will be reviewed each year at the end of the summer player season.
1. The MASL may at its choosing designate the management of the U23 Division to an outside entity as long as all Rules & Regulations governing the MASL U23 Division are followed by the outside entity.
- D. Season:** The playing season(s) for the U23 Division will be set by the MASL.  
(ie. The summer playing season will be from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June through the end of July)
- E. Number of Teams:** The number of teams shall be determined by the interest level (to be reviewed each year prior to the season), but shall have a minimum of 4 teams.
1. **Team Formation / Player Registration:** Registration for the U23 Division will be on a player by player basis. Once players have been registered they will be assigned to one of the teams in the U23 Division based on a “Combine” to be held prior to the start of the season.
    - a. **Player Eligibility:** Player eligibility for the U23 Division shall be determined so as to be in compliance with the USASA U23 National Cups Program in order to retain eligibility for that competition.
      - **USASA National Cup Policy 202, Section 5 (Player Eligibility)**

A player who has not attained 23 years of age before August 21<sup>st</sup> shall be eligible to participate in the US National . . . U23 Cups competition that begin on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>. A player who reaches the age of 23 after July 31<sup>st</sup> is eligible to compete in the current year’s U23 Cups competition.
    - b. Players within the U23 Division may play as guest players on other U23 teams only.
    - c. Players registered in the U23 Division can “affiliate” with teams / clubs in other divisions (ie. D1, D2, D3, D4).
      1. Players affiliating with other teams within the MASL will be rostered on that teams roster as well as on their U23 teams roster.
      2. Players registered with a Div. 1, 2, 3, 4 team – will carry a regular MASL Pass (see E.1.d.)
      3. Players registered with a D1, D2, D3, D4 team would be able to play with any other team affiliated with that team / club.
    - d. Players within the U23 Division will carry a U23 Player Pass.
      1. Players registered on a U23 team – will consider that U23 team as their primary.
    - e. **Youth Players:** Youth players may be accepted into the U23 Division provided they are properly registered and provide all the necessary documentation and registration requirements (MYSA, MASL, MSA) are met.
  2. **Play Times:** Game(s) and or Tournaments and or Scrimmages will be scheduled by the MASL. The schedule(s) will be coordinated so as not to interfere with other MASL Divisions.
  3. **Coaches:** The MASL will designate / approve coaches to run the U23 teams. The coaches will be reviewed at the end of each season and a determination on coaches will be made on a yearly basis.
  4. **Fees:** Fees for the MASL U23 players will be decided on a yearly basis and set by the MASL and or their designated league manager(s).
    - a. The U23 Division will be included in the MASL overall budget. The U23 Division must operate a balanced budget. (MASL will not loose or make money on the U23 Division)
  5. **Uniforms:** Players in the U23 Division will be provided uniforms (jersey only) each year based on their team assignment.