

# **ROCKAWAY VALLEY SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS-AS AMENDED (Spring 2011)**

- 1.** The league is established between the soccer programs of the following towns/clubs: Dover, Hopatcong, Jefferson, Lenape Valley, Long Valley, Mine Hill, Mt. Arlington, J.A.S.G, Parsippany, Rockaway Boro, Rockaway Twp, Roxbury, Wharton. Additional towns/clubs may be added by a vote of a majority of the members. The league shall be called the Rockaway Valley Soccer League (R.V.S.L).
- 2.** An Executive Committee consisting of one representative from each town/club shall administer the league. The Executive Committee will elect a chairman, vice-chairman secretary and treasurer, who will hold office for a period of one year (Jan. 1-Dec. 1.)
- 3a.** Each town/club will have (1) one vote and that vote will be the town's/clubs vote- with the option to hold off on a vote if the matter needs review by others members of the town's/clubs committee. In the case of tie votes, the chairperson will have a casting vote. A quorum of 51% of regular voting members is necessary to hold an Executive Committee meeting.
- 3b.** R.V.S.L monthly meeting shall be held on the last Tuesday of every month at 8:00 PM at the Mine Hill Civic Center. The Executive Committee shall allow for Public participation time during each of the regularly held monthly meetings. This portion of the regularly monthly meeting shall be no longer than thirty (30) minutes in total to allow for the regular business portion of the monthly meeting to be completed. Persons desiring to speak during the Public portion shall request so in writing through their appointed Town/Club Representative. If appropriate, the Town/Club Representative shall present the request to the Executive Committee for scheduling at the next monthly meeting.
- 4.** Any town/club changing their representative or alternate may do so at anytime throughout the year. New members must be presented to the league (1) one month prior to the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting.
- 5.** Any town/club presenting a by-law change may do so at anytime. "All by-law changes" will be discussed for (2) two months and will be voted on the (3<sup>rd</sup>) third month. All within (3) three consecutive readings.
- 6.** The league is established to provide a soccer program each year for children between the ages of 6 and 17 years inclusive (as of October 1).
- 7.** The league is a member of New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS).
- 8.** All regulations will be according to FIFA rules except as noted in these by-laws.

**9.** The league will be divided into nine (9) Divisions.

Division	Age (as of Oct 1)	Gender	# Players on Field at Start of Game	Roster Maximum
E	6 optional	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
D	6 & 7	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
C	8 & 9	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
B	10 & 11	Boys	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players
B	10 & 11	Girls	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players
A	12 & 13	Boys	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players
A	12 & 13	Girls	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players
AA	14, 15, 16 & 17	Boys	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players
AA	14, 15, 16 & 17	Girls	11 maximum, 7 minimum	20 players

**10.** Maximum player advantage at game start:

For all divisions the maximum player advantage shall be 2 players.

Maximum player advantage may be increased following ejection of a player.

**11.** The league may divide any division into subgroups depending on the number of teams entered.

**12.** Any member town/club may enter any number of teams in any division.

**13.** A scheduling committee will be established consisting of a member from each town/club.

**14.** Each member town/club must supply details of team it will enter NO LATER THAN SEVEN WEEKS PRIOR TO OPENING DAY.

**15.** The Scheduling Committee will issue the full schedule not later than two (2) weeks before the first game of the season.

**16.** The spring season will start early April and run for eight (8) weeks. The fall season will start early September, and will run for ten (10) weeks with league approval.

**17.** Teams shall be given identifying names.

**18.** Colors for teams must be registered with the League.

DOVER: ORANGE & BLACK

HOPATCONG: FORREST GREEN & WHITE

JEFFERSON: GOLD & BLUE

LENAPE VALLEY: RED & BLUE

LONG VALLEY: BLUE & BLACK

MINE HILL: BLUE & WHITE

MOUNT ARLINGTON: BLUE & WHITE

J.A.S.G: GREY & BLACK

PARSIPPANY: BLUE & WHITE

ROCKAWAY BORO : RED & WHITE

ROCKAWAY TWP: WHITE & BLACK

ROXBURY: BLUE & GOLD

WHARTON: FORREST GREEN & WHITE

**19.** Equipment:

- (a) Teams should wear the same color numbered shirts, shorts and socks signifying their affiliation.
- (b) Only approved soccer cleats or turf shoes will be permitted.
- (c) Goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing shirt color, not solid black. They may wear long pants, kneepads, gloves and a soft goalie cap.
- (d) Shin guards are required for all players and must cover 75% of the shins.
- (e) No other equipment that may endanger other players may be worn.
- (f) Eyeglasses, if worn must be secured by a band.
- (g) Similar colored sweatshirt or light color may be worn under team shirt no hooded shirts or jackets may be worn.
- (h) Long pants may also be worn under shorts for divisions C-D-E. Divisions AA - A -B will not be permitted to wear long pants between May 1<sup>st</sup> & October 15. Pants must be light color or color similar to team uniforms and must be worn under team's shorts.

**20.** The playing field will be as follows:

- (a) Divisions C – D - & E. No larger than 75 yards by 50 yards. No smaller than 60 yards by 40 yards.
- (b) Small Sided Goals will be no larger than 21ft by 7 ft and no smaller than 18ft by 6ft
- (c) Goal area: 4 yards by 12 yards.
- (d) Penalty area: 30 yards by 12 yards.
- (e) Center circle: 6 yards radius.
- (f) Divisions AA, A, B: FIFA regulation size field.
- (g) All fields must be lined. Goals, nets and corner markers must be used.

**21.** Game lengths shall be as follows:

- (a) Direction to change at halftime for all Divisions:
- (b) Division D & E: 20 minute halves, with maximum 5-minute halftime
- (c) Division C: 30 minute halves, with maximum 5- minute halftime.
- (d) Division B: 35 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.
- (e) Division A: 40 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.
- (f) Division AA: 40 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.

**22.** The home team will be responsible for:

- (a) Correct preparation of the field
- (b) Providing a knowledgeable referee for Divisions C and D & E.
- (c) Obtaining a Linesman for each team.
- (d) Game ball.
- (e) First Aid Kit including ice packs.

**23.** The Referee's authority is as in FIFA Rules and is especially final on Timekeeping Play, Ground conditions, Coach and Parental interference & Scoring. The Referee will refer all disciplinary infringements to the Executive Committee for the appropriate action.

**24.** Home team must submit Referee's Report (AA, A & B divisions) to the Scheduling Committee of all games within three (3) days.

**25.** A Team will forfeit on the following conditions:

- (a) **Home team:** not ready to start within 15 minutes of scheduled starting time.
- (b) **Away team:** not ready to start within 30 minutes of scheduled starting time.
- (c) Have less than 6 players in Divisions C, D, E, have less than 7 players in Divisions AA, A, B

**26.** Home team can call off a game up to two (2) hours before scheduled time due to GROUND CONDITIONS or circumstances outside their control. Visiting coach must be contacted to call off a game. Any B, A, AA Saturday games canceled after Wednesday 12.00 PM midnight will be subject to a \$25.00 cancellation fee. These fees will be charged to your town/club. "All" divisions any scheduled game canceled after the (2) hour time frame will be subject to pay full referee fees either home or away teams whomever had canceled. Teams will rearrange canceled games for a mutually agreeable date/time through the Scheduling Committee. If a home team's field is unplayable due to weather or any other reason, the away team should offer a field in their town if one is available.

**27.** All children must play a minimum of one-fourth (1/4) of each game.

**28.** A number 3-size ball will be used for Division D and E; A number 4-sized ball will be used for Divisions B and C. number 5-size ball will be used for Division A & AA.

**29.** Each team must be accompanied by a coach or assistant coach along with a laminated roster with coaches and player names and player numbers and a player card for every player for AA-A-B. Divisions C-D-E must provide a team roster for with coaches & players names. If a coach challenges a player's age/eligibility, it will be brought to the board and the township of the player contested must provide proper documentation to the board. Players will be permitted to play up to the next Division.

**30.** Eligibility:

- (a) A child may not play for more than one team during the course of the season.
- (b) A player will be permitted to play (2) games in a single day. The (2<sup>nd</sup>) game must be a makeup and not a regularly scheduled game. A (30) minute rest period must be granted between back to back games.
- (c) No players carded in another league will be permitted to play for any team within the Rockaway Valley Soccer League.

### **31. Throw Ins:**

- (a) Divisions AA, A and B: Throw in rule applies in full.
- (b) Divisions C – on first incorrect throw-in, the Referee will show the player the mistake made and the throw-in will be taken again. On a second incorrect throw-in, the throw-in will be given to the other team. Divisions D & E there will be no limit for throw ins but upon the referees discretion.

### **32. Slide tackles**

All divisions will be prohibited, a mandatory caution card will be given.

### **33. Offside:**

- (a) Divisions AA, A, B, C: The FIFA Offside rule applies.
- (b) Division D & E: Offside rule will apply in accordance to FIFA rules for instructional purposes at the discretion of the referee.

### **34. Goalkeeper:**

Once the goalkeeper has his/her hands on the ball opposing players must back off until the goalkeeper has cleared the ball. When there is any doubt, referee will call in favor of the goalkeeper.

### **35. Handball:**

- (a) Hand Ball rule applies to all divisions but remember the rule. “A player who intentionally handles the ball, i.e., strikes, propels or carries the ball with his/her hands or arm will be penalized.”
- (b) Girls may use folded arms to protect their chest.

### **36. Penalty Kicks**

Divisions D & E any foul that may constitute a penalty kick within the 18 yard box will be restarted with a direct free kick on the 18 yard line. Any foul that may constitute a card within the penalty area will still be shown. All other divisions will comply with FIFA laws.

### **37. Technical area**

- (a) Only three (3) coaches will be permitted in the technical area. Coaches must remain on one side of the field designated by the home team. Coaches must be (3) three feet back from the touch line and no more than (10) yards from the center line.
- (b) Exception: “D & E” division Coaches- for a dead ball plays, coaches may move to the end of the field to instruct players on position with opposing coaches permission but must return back to their technical prior to the start of play.

### **38. Cleats:**

Referees will inspect all cleats before the game. “Only Approved Soccer” Cleats or turf shoes will be permitted.

### **39. Goalkeeper's**

From the moment the ball comes under the goalkeeper's control by his/her hands or arms while playing in his/her own penalty area, the goalkeeper must release the ball into play without taking more than six (6) seconds. Actions normally used by a goal keeper, namely holding the ball, bouncing the ball, throwing the ball into the air and catching it are allowed, provided that the goalkeeper takes no more than six (6) seconds while doing so. If the goalkeeper exceeds six (6) seconds prior to releasing the ball or if he/she touches the ball after his/her release and prior to the ball being played or touched by another player, the opposing team shall be awarded an indirect free kick.

**40.** Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- (a)** Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
- (b)** Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- (c)** After a goal by either team.
- (d)** After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- (e)** At the conclusion of a period of play (halves- see Bylaw #18)
- (f)** For all division AA, A and B teams: Each team shall have unlimited substitutions per half of play. A maximum of four (4) players is permitted for each team's substitution event.
- (g)** For C, division: Each team will have unlimited substitutions per half of play. A maximum of four (4) players is permitted for each team's substitution event.
- (h)** For all Division D & E teams at any stoppage of play with the referees consent.

**41.** All Divisions: New players may be added to the town/clubs roster at anytime with league approval. All new players must sit (1) week for processing.

### **42. Player cards**

Divisions AA –A –B a grace period for player cards will be given. All players must have their player cards by:

(Spring Season) (2) Second Saturday of the season.

(Fall Season) (3) Third Saturday of the season.

Any cards needed outside this set time frame must be approved by the board committee. Any player, coaches card or team roster that does not meet the criteria of a referee will be confiscated and given to the referee assignor. These cards will then be turned over to the league board for possible actions.

**43.** A coach that has been red carded will be subjected to a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine and will not coach until this fine is paid by either the coach, club, or town.

**44.** The Executive Committee shall adopt a "Disciplinary Action Code to administer disciplinary action i.e., fines, suspensions, expulsion, etc. to Coaches and Players resulting from game conduct. The purpose of the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) is to review and act upon Those issues and grievances against any person(s) attending a RVSL match. The DAC shall consist of all Town/Club Representatives. Each Town/Club Representative shall have one vote on any issue brought before the DAC. All complaints must be made within a (24) hour period complaints made after that time frame will be void.

#### **45. Referees:**

- (a) Certified, neutral referees shall be used for all games played on a full regulation field. (“AA “A” and “B” divisions). Referees must have a USSF grade 8 or higher certification. Accordingly, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Referee Assignor to prepare and adopt a Referee Code. All Referee assignments for games played on regulations size fields shall be made by the Referee Assignor. Referee fees will be paid by home team clubs. No game will be played without having a league assigned referee. Games played without RVSL knowledge will be the responsibility of each town involved. Games played will not be official and not sanctioned by RVSL. RVSL waives all rights to games not assigned through the referee assignor.
- (b) AA Division will have three (3) paid referees on the field of play. A (3) Referee system will consist of a Center Referee and (2) AR’s (1) on each side of the field. A (2) Referee system will consist of a Center Referee and (1) AR’s and a non-coach (volunteer) as a (2<sup>nd</sup>) AR. A referee will be permitted to officiate as solo provided a (2or 3) Referee system could not be formed by the referee assignor.
- (c) For games not played on a full regulation field, it will be permissible to use RVSL-certified Referees. All such referees will be required to wear neutral colored clothing, which does not associate them with any town/club, which is a member of the Rockaway Valley Soccer League.
- (d) The RVSL will host a training course to be offered no less than once per year. The RVSL will issue a RVSL Referee Certification Card to all that successfully complete the Referee Training Course. RVSL Certified referees must present their Certification Card to coaches prior to all C/D/E division matches.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall appoint a C/D/E division Referee Liaison to oversee individual town’s C/D/E referee assignors. The C/D/E division Referee Liaison responsibilities should also include coordinating the C/D/E division schedule making process.

**46.** Member assessment fees, donations, fund raising, etc shall provide for funding for the League’s operations and activities. All income shall be received into and expenses disbursed from the Leagues’ Treasury. All Treasury disbursements from an established bank checking account shall be co-signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice- Chairman.

**END OF BYLAWS**