



ABINGTON YOUTH SOCCER BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Name

1. The name of the association shall be Abington Youth Soccer Association.

ARTICLE 2 – Purpose

1. The purpose of the association shall be to foster, promote, and advance the understanding and development of youth soccer, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its members to aid in achieving the above stated purpose. To promote goodwill, sportsmanship, and good welfare among its members.
2. A non-profit organization established entirely for the benefit of the children and youth soccer.
3. In the case of the dissolution of the Abington Youth Soccer Association, the money and equipment would be given to the Park and Recreation Department of Abington and/or Green Wave Boosters, as determined by a majority vote of the Board assuming a quorum, to be dispersed as the recipients see fit.
4. “Notwithstanding any other provisions of these purposes, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Line #501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization, contributing to which are deductible under Line #170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.)”

ARTICLE 3 – Meetings

1. All general meetings will be open meetings.
 - (a) There shall be a minimum of three (3) general meetings per year, one which will be the annual meeting held during the month of October for the election of officers and executive board members.
 - (b) A minimum of twelve (12) voting members shall constitute a quorum at all general meetings. A majority of votes cast shall decide all questions except amendments to the by-laws which shall require a majority two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
2. Executive Board meetings
 - (a) May be held at the discretion of the President, anywhere, anytime.
 - (b) A minimum of (7) Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Executive Board.
 - (c) All voting members of the Executive Board shall be notified of all meetings.



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3. The order of business of all association meetings shall be:
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Minutes of previous meetings
 - c. Report of Treasurer
 - d. Communications
 - e. Unfinished Business
 - f. Special Reports
 - g. New business
 - h. Good of soccer
 - i. Adjournment
4. In case of doubt as to procedure at any meeting of the association, ROBERT'S RULE OF ORDER shall govern.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership

1. Voting members of this Association
 - (a) Shall consist of
 - 1) The Executive Board (see Article 4 Paragraph 1)
 - 2) coaches and assistant coaches (maximum of 2 per team)
 - 3) Certified Referees appointed by a majority Executive Board vote
 - (b) Will have been active during the current soccer year, December through November, and in good standing.
 - (c) Will not be allowed to vote by email
2. Associate membership shall be open to all persons interested in the welfare of this association and youth soccer. Associate members shall not have the right to vote.
3. All members and officers of this organization are strictly volunteer, non-salaried people not compensated in any way. This article shall be in effect as long as the Abington Youth Soccer Association is in existence.
4. Any member, who resigns and/or vacates their position before their term is up, cannot be considered for any board position for a period of two (2) years. This two (2) year waiting period begins at the end of when the vacated term would have normally ended



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ARTICLE 5 – Executive Board

1. The officers of this association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, and Registrar, who along with the Assistant Registrar and the eight (8) At-Large Executive Members shall constitute the Executive Board.
2. The officers and the executive board members shall be elected by ballot at the annual meetings of the association. They shall hold office for two (2) years and may be eligible for re-election but not more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. The terms of the office of President, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Assistant Registrar and three (3) Members at Large shall be elected in odd years and the terms of office of Vice President, Secretary, Registrar, Concessions Manager and four (4) Members at Large shall be elected in even years.
 - (a) Upon election of a new president, the past president will be moved to a non-voting advisory position of President Emeritus for a term of one year.
3. Elections shall be held at the annual meeting in October and all voting members shall be notified by email. Newly elected Executive Board Members will assume their duties at the end of the fall program or by December 1, whichever is the earliest.
4. Any board members absenting himself from (3) consecutive or general meetings during any soccer year without just cause may have their office declared vacant at the discretion of the Executive Board, which must meet in full.
5. The Executive Board shall transact all business of the association and shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game, the rules of Abington Youth Soccer League, and the constitution and by-laws of the association.
6. The Executive Board shall have the power to ascertain age limits and ascertain Registration fees in the association competition.
7. No more than one member of any family shall be member of the Executive Board.
8. At the time of the annual meeting, the executive board can vote to add At-Large executive members.
9. A dial-in number will be provided for each Executive Board meeting. All members have full voting rights during attendance via phone. A board member must attend at least four (4) meetings in person during the soccer year. If they are unable to without just cause, they may have their office declared vacant at the discretion of the Executive Board, which must meet in full.



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ARTICLE 6 – President

1. The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings. The President shall pass upon and approve all bills against the Association. The President shall appoint all committees with majority approval of Executive Board.
2. The President shall appoint delegates to all affiliated soccer associations.
3. The President shall annually appoint an independent accountant, to go over the Treasurer's books to certify the financial report.
4. The President shall notify voting members by email if a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board and shall call for nominations and election to fill said vacancy at any meeting.

ARTICLE 7 – Vice President

1. The Vice President shall succeed to the powers of the President in their absence.
2. The Vice President shall perform such other duties and render such assistance as may be directed by the President.
3. The Vice President shall schedule all league games before the beginning of the season.
4. The Vice President shall have the power to settle any dispute or protest pertaining to play on the field.
5. The Vice President will supervise the rescheduling of all make up games.

ARTICLE 8 – Secretary

1. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings, attend to all correspondence and keep records of the association.
2. The Secretary shall keep a complete list of voting members.
3. The Secretary shall maintain a permanent set of association minutes, correspondence and by-laws. The past and current years' records shall be available at all Executive Board and general meetings.
4. The Secretary shall be responsible for notifying all voting members of any upcoming meetings.

ARTICLE 9 – Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall collect all registration fees and all other monies derived from the activities of the association and have charge of all money of the association.
2. The Treasurer shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditures of the league.



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3. The Treasurer shall pay all bills properly passed upon and approved by the President.
4. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report at each meeting.
5. The Treasurer shall submit a detailed annual financial report, audited by an independent accountant at the end of December each year. The fiscal year should run from January 1 to December 31. This annual financial report shall be submitted to the Executive Board.
6. The Treasurer shall maintain a permanent record of bids received for the purchase of equipment. Three (3) bids for each purchase of like equipment in excess of \$1,000.00 shall be required before the Executive can approve an equipment purchase. The purchase decision shall be made by considering the price, quantity, and delivery promised.
7. All cash withdrawals require at least two signatures.
8. Access to monthly statements must be made available to at least 2 (two) officers.
9. The Treasurer shall file taxes annually and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Association.

ARTICLE 10 – Equipment Manager

1. The Equipment Manager shall have full charge of all equipment of the association.
2. The Equipment Manager shall obtain bids for equipment where necessary.
3. The Equipment Manager will be responsible to make sure that each team is properly equipped for the upcoming season.
4. The Equipment Manager will submit a list of equipment needed for the upcoming playing season to the Executive Board two (2) months prior to that season.
5. The Equipment Manager will submit annually to the Executive Board a detailed inventory of equipment.
6. The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for collecting all equipment at the end of each season for inventory purposes.
7. The Equipment Manager shall receive in writing any requests for use of any properties and/or equipment belonging to AYSA. Such requests shall be reviewed and acted upon by a majority of the Executive Board within 14 days.



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ARTICLE 11 – Registrar and Assistant Registrar

1. Registrar

- a) The Registrar shall be responsible for the proper and legal registration of all players for the fall and spring sessions.
- b) The Registrar shall approve all player dismissals and shall appoint by name a replacement player from the top of the waiting list. The Registrar shall report such actions to the Executive Board.

2. Assistant Registrar

- a) The Assistant Registrar shall be responsible for the proper and legal registration of all coaches and volunteers for the fall and spring sessions.
- b) The Assistant Registrar shall submit a list of all active coaches and assistant coaches to the Secretary for voting and mailing purposes.

ARTICLE 12 – At-Large Executive Members

1. At-Large Executive Members shall give assistance to the association in fundraising, registrations, publicity, and general operations of the association. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its purpose as directed by the President.

ARTICLE 13 – Technical Director

1. The Technical Director will be a non-voting member of the board and will oversee the technical aspects of developing our coaches and players.
2. This will include providing technical and skill developing clinics to our Fall Spring Coaches, including the scheduling of pertinent licensing clinics/test in conjunction with the South Shore Soccer League, as well as providing technical and skill development clinics for our fall and spring players at all age levels.
3. This position will be a one-year term.



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ARTICLE 14 – Referee Coordinator

1. The referee coordinator will be a non-voting member of the board and will oversee the training of non-certified referees and the assigning of referees to recreational and travel games.
2. With board approval, the referee coordinator can assign a referee mentor(s) to evaluate and provide feedback to referees.
3. Per SSSL rules, the coordinator must be a certified assignor through the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC).
4. This position is a one-year term.

ARTICLE 15 – Grievance Committee

1. The committee shall be appointed by the President and shall constitute three (3) members of the Executive Board, where none are associated with the grievance.
2. The committee will be appointed at the next board meeting following receipt.
3. The Vice President shall oversee the proceedings.
4. All grievances will be settled by the following board meeting after committee appointment.
5. If a Board member is part of the grievance, appointment and overseeing will be replaced as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Equipment Manager, then At-large members.

ARTICLE 16 – Referees

1. All games under the jurisdiction of this association shall be played under the rules of the games as approved by IFAB and as amended by the rules of the Abington Youth Soccer Association.
2. The official referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and their decision shall be final. No protest, based on referee decisions, shall be allowed. Any complaints about an official referee shall be directed in writing to the Vice President.
3. Referees shall report in writing to the Executive Board any cases of misconduct and/or foul and abusive language.



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ARTICLE 17 – Rules of Play

1. The Executive Board must draw up Abington Youth Soccer League rules prior to the beginning of each fall season of play. These rules must be presented at the August general meeting.
2. In Inter-town Competitive play, all players should be given the opportunity to play. Length of playing time shall be subject to review of the Executive Board.
3. All players must play within their age group. The Executive Board reserves the right to approve exceptions.

ARTICLE 18 – Code of Conduct

1. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.
2. To clarify expectations of conduct, we jointly expect all participants to conform to this code of conduct:
 - (a) Be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
 - (b) Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the opposing coach & referee.
 - (c) Coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of their players. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
 - (d) Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the parents & spectators watching the game. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
 - (e) Encourage applause & cheers for good plays by either team. Coaches, players, and parents should not yell at players and referees and discouraged from "coaching from the sidelines."
 - (f) Do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, coaches should discuss it with the referee calmly & patiently after the game.
 - (g) If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to an AYS Board Member.
 - (h) Coaches should thank the referee and ask players to do the same.
3. We stress two points:
 - (a) Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. Adults can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional



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mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

- (b) A coach's example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, or if you're overly concerned about results, and you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice. At no time should a player on any team be criticized in a degrading manner, whether during a practice or a game. Players will be treated with the utmost respect at all times.
4. **24 HOUR RULE:** Games are extremely emotional for players, parents and coaches. Parents and coaches should NOT discuss individual player problems concerning the team or their child for 24 HOURS following a game or training session. This allows all a cooling off time and opportunity to discuss the child without the emotion of the game or training session as well as avoid regrettable public confrontation.
5. Coaches, parents and players who do not follow the expectations described above can be disciplined or removed.

ARTICLE 19 – Bylaws Review

1. Abington Youth Soccer Association by-laws shall be reviewed the minimum of every three (3) years starting in 1984.
2. Any proposed by-law amendment must be submitted in writing and will be acted on at the next monthly meeting.