

## **AUSTIN WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE 1 – NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the Austin Women's Soccer League, hereinafter referred to as the AWSL, Inc. (AWSL).

### **ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of the AWSL shall be to promote women's participation in soccer, encourage the growth of soccer and to guard the interests of its members, regardless of race, creed, color and/or age.

### **ARTICLE 3 – POWERS OF ASSOCIATION**

The AWSL shall govern all divisions, teams, officials, players, non-AWSL members affiliated with the team, duly registered or otherwise, participating in any and all activities of the AWSL. The headquarters of the AWSL shall be in Austin, Texas. The AWSL shall be affiliated with the Texas State Soccer Association – South (TSSA-S), the United States Amateur Soccer Association (USASA), United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and Federal International de Futbol Association (FIFA), and will recognize the authority of the TSSA-S, USASA, and USSF.

### **ARTICLE 4 – GOVERNING BODIES**

Section 1. Board of Captains.

The AWSL shall be governed by the Board of Captains, hereinafter referred to as the Board. The Board shall be comprised of one voting representative from each duly registered team.

Section 2. Executive Committee.

The Board shall elect officers to the Executive Committee (See Bylaws Sec. 2). These officers, with the exception of the Vice President and the Division Commissioners, shall be elected by a 51% vote of a quorum (See Bylaws Sec. 6C) of the Board in August of each year to take office immediately and serve for a term of one calendar year. Division Commissioners shall be elected by a majority vote of teams within the specific division. The Vice President shall be elected by a 51% vote of a quorum of the Board in April of each year in order to have time to prepare for the AWSL tournament in the fall.

Section 3. Judicial Committee.

The Judicial Committee shall be composed of a chair and two members plus one alternate from each Division appointed by the President and subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board. The Judicial Committee shall have the power to enforce the rules and policies of the AWSL. No member of the Executive Committee may be appointed to the Judicial Committee. No Judicial Committee member may review any controversy in which her team is involved.

### **ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS**

The Board shall hold organizational meetings in August, December and April of each year. Additional meetings will be held on an as-needed basis. Adequate notice of such meetings will be given in advance to each member of the Board and Executive Committee. An Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of August of each year for the purpose of election of officers, rule changes, and old and/or new business.

### **ARTICLE 6 – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the AWSL shall be made by a 2/3 majority of the Board. Any other matter shall be decided by a majority of a quorum.

## **AUSTIN WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

### **SECTION 1 – MEMBERSHIP**

An AWSL member is any woman who is a registered player on an AWSL team. Only AWSL members may be elected as officers.

### **SECTION 2 – OFFICERS**

- A. The officers of the Executive Committee will administer the following functions:

President.

The President shall serve as representative and spokesperson of the AWSL, preside over meetings of the Board and Executive Committee, and coordinate and direct activities of the Board. The President shall appoint all committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee, subject to approval by the Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the President to enforce the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the AWSL. The President shall act as liaison for the AWSL to all affected organizations. The President shall keep Division Commissioners fully informed of all league developments.

Vice President.

The Vice President shall assist the President with league activities, act as substitute for the President in her absence and/or upon request, and act as the chairperson of the Tournament Committee, organize other special competitions, and assist in other duties as needed. The Vice President shall act as one of the back-up Senior Commissioners when the Senior Commissioner is unavailable or has conflicting assignments.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain an operating budget for the following fiscal year and present such budget to the Executive Committee for approval by June 30. The Treasurer shall also prepare a report of the previous budget year and present this report at the August Board meeting. The Treasurer shall help collect team fees, fines, and other income, make authorized expenditures, and keep receipts of all expenditures. The Treasurer shall also act as parliamentarian at all Board and Executive Committee meetings.

Secretary.

The Secretary shall record the minutes of each Board meeting and incorporate changes in the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the AWSL.

Senior Commissioner.

The Senior Commissioner shall attend all required TSSAS Commissioner meetings, as well as all AWSL Executive Committee meetings. The Senior Commissioner shall act as liaison between AWSL, TSSAS, and other appropriate parties. The Senior Commissioner will keep all Division Commissioners informed of league developments and activities.

Division Commissioners.

The Division Commissioners (one from each division) shall act as the liaison between the teams in her division and other appropriate parties. They shall collect and maintain weekly game results within their division. The Division Commissioners shall advise the Senior Commissioner on matters that arise within their division, assist the Senior Commissioner to ensure all team representatives are aware of the scheduling situations, league rules, and other league matters that arise. In the event of a conflict regarding the Division Commissioner's team, the Senior Commissioner shall act in her place.

B. Elections

Nominations for officers shall be taken from a list prepared by each team and/or from the floor at the time of the elections.

C. Vacancies

In case of any vacancy, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement within one month. Officers having to vacate office should give two week's notice. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall be Acting President until a special election can be held.

### **SECTION 3 – VENDORS/CONTRACTORS**

The Executive Committee shall enter into a contract with appropriate vendors to provide services needed by the league. Contract proposals will be accepted a minimum of 30 days after posting. Contracts will be for a one year period and will be awarded by the Executive Committee.

### **SECTION 4 – FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- A. General requests for financial support will be considered and awarded by the Board of Captains at any of the scheduled meetings. Requests may include, but are not limited to, attending the USSF coaches' clinic, referee training, teams requesting financial assistance to compete in matches, i.e. National Cup regionals or finals. Recipients agree to meet requirements established by the Board of Captains.
- B. State Cup. The top two teams in each division at the end of the Fall season will be asked by AWSL to represent the league in the TSSA-S State Cup Tournament, in the division subject to TSSA-S rules and availability of funds. If TSSA-S allows and in the event that other teams from AWSL wish to participate in State Cup, such teams must pay for their entry fee as determined by TSSA-S.

### **SECTION 5 – DIVISIONS**

The AWSL shall be structured in divisions. In order to determine the number of divisions and the placement of teams within these divisions, the Executive Committee shall use the following rules:

A. Seasons

There shall be three seasons of play: Fall, Spring and Summer.

B. Division and Division Alignment

Division alignments—i.e., how many divisions there will be, how many teams will be in each division, and team placement within each division—shall be determined by the Executive Committee at the beginning of the Fall, Spring and Summer seasons. The number of divisions and teams in each division shall be based on the number and skill level of teams registering for each particular season. The Executive Committee shall determine a team's placement in a particular division based on the team's standings in the prior season, if any, calculated as set forth in Section D of the rules of the AWSL. If the Executive Committee deems it necessary to facilitate fair and competitive play, other factors may be considered by the Executive Committee in determining division alignments.

Effective September 1, 2007, after the Executive Committee has initially determined the division alignments for the Fall 2007 season, each Fall and Spring season, the team with the highest points in the standings in the prior season shall be promoted to the next highest division for the next season of play. In addition, the team with the lowest points in the standings shall be relegated to the next lower division for the next season of play.

Promotions and relegations each Fall and Spring season will be based on the prior season's standings and other factors if necessary to facilitate fair and competitive play, except that a team's points in the standings for Summer play will not be used. The State Cup level of participation is not to be affected by promotions and relegations in the Spring season. Thus, for example, if a team finishes in first place in Division Two in the Fall season, it may represent AWSL in State Cup in Division Two even if the team has been promoted to Division One for the Spring season.

C. Age Restriction Divisions

Age restricted divisions may be formed (e.g. Over 30, Under 23). Teams forming such divisions shall coordinate with the Executive Committee regarding registration, fees, scheduling, and other similar matters.

## **SECTION 6 – BOARD MEETINGS**

Each team shall send a minimum of one representative to each Board meeting. Teams who fail to attend such meetings will be fined \$25.00. This fine must be paid to the AWSL within 72 hours of their next scheduled game. Failure to meet the deadline for payment will result in forfeiting all subsequently scheduled games until such fine is paid to the AWSL Treasurer.

Minutes shall be made of each Board meeting by the Secretary reflecting all significant decisions. A copy of the minutes shall be made available within 30 days after the Board meeting to each team representative and to each Executive Committee member. All rules, policies, and minutes of the AWSL shall be kept as part of the permanent records of the AWSL for a minimum of seven years.

A. Meeting Schedule

Regular Board meetings shall be held in August, December and April of each year.

B. Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings can be called by a petition of 1/3 of the Board members. Notice of special meetings will be made at least 48 hours in advance.

C. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the presence of 50% + 1 Board members.

D. Robert's Rules

Robert's Rules of Order shall serve as a general guide but shall not be procedurally binding.

E. Voting is as follows:

Each team may cast one vote. Only an AWSL member representing that team shall be allowed to vote. The President may cast a vote in the event of a tie.

## **SECTION 7 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A. Fiscal Year is the Calendar Year

Beginning January 1, 2011 the AWSL fiscal year will coincide with the calendar year beginning January 1 through December 31.

B. Operating Budget

The Treasurer shall present an operating budget for the following fiscal year to the Executive Committee for approval by December 1. The Treasurer shall also prepare a report of the previous budget year and present this report at the first Board meeting following the beginning of the fiscal year.

C. Budget Variance

Unfavorable budget variance greater than 10% in any line item expenditure must be approved by the Executive Committee.

D. Non-Budgeted Expenditures

Non-budgeted expenditures by the President will not exceed \$250.00 per item without Board approval. Total non-budgeted expenditures made by the President will not exceed \$500.00 in one fiscal year, unless approval is obtained from the majority of the Board.

E. Checks

All checks greater than \$200.00 require the signature of the Treasurer and President. If both parties are unable to meet, then only one signature is required, as long as the consent of the other party is received and documented.

## **SECTION 8 – EMERGENCY ACTIONS**

In the event the AWSL is required to take immediate action on a matter where the Board has not previously established a rule or policy and it is impractical or impossible to convene the Board before such an action must be taken, the Executive Committee may, if three members concur, act on behalf of the League. In any such event the Secretary shall send a written report of any such action to each team representative within one month.

## **SECTION 9 – REVISION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Revisions to the AWSL Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Rules may be made at Board of Captains meetings. Written notice of the proposed revisions shall be made available to each Board member at least 15 days before the vote.

## **SECTION 10 – GRIEVANCES**

A. Grievance

“Grievance” is any complaint which in the opinion of the complainant is a violation of the AWSL Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules and Procedures.

B. Officers

1. Any AWSL member may file a written complaint with the Chair of the Judicial Committee against any member of the Executive Committee acting outside the scope of her authority.
2. Within seven (7) days of receipt of the complaint, the Chair shall hold a meeting of the Judicial Committee to determine whether the allegations made in the complaint, if taken to be true, indicate that the member of the Executive Committee has acted outside the scope of her authority. If the Judicial Committee finds that such is the case, the Chair shall set a date for a hearing within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the complaint.
3. Notice of the hearing shall be made available to all members of the Executive Committee, the complainant, and any interested party, as determined by the Chair, at least three (3) days before the hearing. Within fourteen days after the hearing, the Judicial Committee will make a report of their findings and

recommendations available to the Board of Captains. The Committee's findings of fact shall be binding upon the Board.

4. The Board of Captains will then vote upon the recommended actions at the next scheduled meeting or at an emergency meeting. A written record of the above will be kept as part of the permanent records of the AWSL for a minimum period of seven years.

C. Judicial Committee

Any AWSL member may file a complaint with the President against a Judicial Committee member acting improperly in connection with her official duties. The President shall hold a meeting of the Executive Committee within seven days of receipt of the complaint to determine whether the allegations, if taken to be true, indicate that the Judicial Committee member acted improperly in connection with her official duties. If the Executive Committee finds that such is the case, the President shall call a joint meeting of the Executive and Judicial Committees to decide what action will be taken.

D. Other Grievances

Any AWSL member aggrieved by the action of any member (other than those actions described above and Section H and I of the Rules) may file a written grievance with the Chair of the Judicial Committee to review the grievance. In the event that there are not three eligible members of the Judicial Committee available, the Chair may appoint any other member of the AWSL. The panel will decide whether any action is warranted. If the panel decides that action is warranted, the Chair may call a hearing before the Judicial Committee or may call a joint meeting of the Executive and Judicial Committees. Notice of the hearing shall be made available to all interested parties, as determined by the Chair. The hearing committee shall make findings of facts and make recommendations based upon legal or equitable principles no inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of the AWSL. The Chair shall send a written report containing the findings of facts and the recommendations to team representatives. The findings of facts shall be binding on the Board. The Board, by a majority vote, may set aside or modify the recommendations. A written record of the above will be kept as part of the permanent records of the AWSL for a minimum of seven years.

## AUSTIN WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

### A. REGISTRATION RULES

1. The Executive Committee will determine the registration deadline needed to allow adequate time prior to the start of the season.
2. A team is registered when it has submitted all required roster information, completed all USSF and/or TSSAS forms, and paid the required fees. Teams registered with the AWSL must submit the following:
  - (a.) Team name, team captain and alternate captain names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses designated to receive league information;
  - (b.) Team colors;
  - (c.) Roster of all players;
  - (d.) Each team is responsible for updating team contact information on the AWSL web site;
  - (e.) Payment of fees and outstanding fines must be made prior to the registration deadline, and must be paid as a single team check or money order – cash will not be accepted.

Teams not paying by the end of the registration period will be considered late and will be assessed a \$50.00 late registration fine unless prior arrangements have been made with the President.

Teams not paid in full by the Wednesday prior to the start of the second week of the season, including those with special arrangements, are suspended until all fees are paid.
3. Over 30 Division
  - (a.) Teams and players may register to play in both a regular division and Over 30.
  - (b.) Players must have a current AWSL player card for each team.
  - (c.) Over 30 games will be played at a designated time slot.
  - (d.) Each Over 30 team may have up to three (3) players who are under the age of 30 as long as they are at least 17 years old at the beginning of the Fall/Spring season. All other players must be 30 years old or older. New players in the 17-19 year old age group may be added to a team at any time as long as the total number of players on the team in this age group does not exceed three. This rule applies to AWSL league play only. Teams who enter tournaments or who compete in the State and National Cups should check the rules of competition for those events.
  - (e.) In the case of a player who plays on two teams and is involved in a disciplinary problem resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to both teams.
4. Any AWSL player may play on more than one AWSL team so long as she does not play on more than one team in a single division. An AWSL player who plays on more than one team must have an AWSL player card and be validly registered to play for each team on which she plays.
5. New team registration may be accepted following the closing of regular registration, as long as scheduling permits and if space exists for additional teams.
6. During the season, the individual player registration deadline is Sunday or Monday (depending on the drop off point) of the week prior to the game. No registrations will be processed after the registration deadline until the following week. Player registrations must include the appropriate paperwork (Player Registration Form, player card and picture, and, as required, Release Form and/or Multiple Form) and must include check or money order. Cash is not accepted. The registering player's team name must be written clearly on each check or money order.
7. Games played with an unregistered or improperly registered player shall be recorded as a 0-2 loss. The offending team shall pay a fine of \$100.00 for each game in which the unregistered or improperly registered player participates. The fine must be paid no later than 48 hours before the next scheduled league game. The offending player may not play until registration is properly completed and all fines are

paid. Any player who is found to be an unregistered or improperly registered player two times or more will be subject to the ruling of the Judicial Committee.

8. All returned checks will be assessed a \$25.00 fine.
9. A player may not register to play with AWSL during the Fall or Spring seasons unless she is 16 years of age. During the summer, players who are 16 years or older may play in AWSL league games provided they obtain the necessary release and player card.

#### **B. CHANGING TEAMS**

1. A player may change teams in the same division during any season, The player will be required to get a release form signed by the captain or non-AWSL member affiliated with the team of the team she is leaving. The player must register with the new team as new player, subject to completing all appropriate forms and paying appropriate fees.
2. Members of teams that disband during the course of the calendar year are exempt from transfer registration fees. Re-registration to a new team must occur no later than the Wednesday prior to the new team's next game.

#### **C. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Responsible for your team's player's eligibility.
2. Responsible for the submission of all necessary rosters, fees, fines, etc., called for in these Rules.
3. Represent their team at all general meetings and communicate the business conducted to his/her team members. In the event that the captain is unable to attend a general meeting, she should identify a team member to attend in her place. (See By-Laws Section 6 – Board Meetings).
4. Notify their team of the date, hour and location of each game.
5. Inform your Division Commissioner of the game score and other game information via the web site or email within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
6. Responsible for presenting valid USASA player cards and roster go referee for all players prior to the start of the game.
7. Ensure that team members are familiar with and abide by the AWSL Rules, and FIFA Laws of the Game. Each team representative is responsible for ensuring that all rules of competition are complied with by her players and spectators and for the conduct and courtesy of her players and spectators.
8. Responsible for maintaining order and respect for the authority of the referee during games.
9. Ensure that your team contact information is current and accurate on the AWSL web site.

#### **D. STANDINGS**

1. Standings will be determined each Fall and Spring season.
2. Standings shall be determined by a point system using 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss.
3. When two teams in the same division have an equal number of points, finals standings will be determined and the tie broken as follows:
  - (a) Goal differential for the season. Goal differential is computed by subtracting all goals scored against the team from all goals scored by the team. Only scores against the same opponents are considered and no more than three clear goals are allowed.
  - (b) The winner of head to head play.
  - (c) A playoff game, if necessary, will be scheduled to break the tie.
4. The league shall use these guidelines to the extent possible in determining standings for competitions occurring when only partial season standings are available.

#### **E. PLAYING RULES**

The playing rules shall be those promulgated by FIFA, with the following exceptions:

1. Team rosters are unlimited – there is no limit on the maximum number of players registered for a team or suited up per game.

2. Substitutions will take place according to FIFA rules (unless the referee determines weather or other circumstances require freer substitutions) except that a player may be substituted and may return to the game any number of times during an AWSL league game. A player registered with multiple teams as permitted under these rules may not play in multiple games occurring at the same scheduled time. In other words, a player cannot play in one game for the first half and then move to another team's game to play the second half when the two games are taking place at the same scheduled time.
3. If a game is called by a referee because of player or spectator misconduct or because one team decides it does not want to or cannot continue play for any reason, the score at that time shall stand as the final score if at least one complete half (forty-five minutes) of the game has been played. The team responsible for the early game cancellation shall be responsible for paying the opposing team's referee fees unless the Judicial Committee, upon timely appeal by the canceling team, determines otherwise. Additionally, the Executive Committee may refer to the Judicial Committee any early game cancellation so that the Judicial Committee can determine whether a monetary fine up to \$50.00 shall be imposed against the team for canceling the game. If a monetary fine is imposed, the team must pay the fine to AWSL before resuming play in the league.

If a game is called because of weather and sixty (60) minutes of play has not been completed, then the game will be considered cancelled for a rainout and will be treated like any other rained-out game.

4. All jerseys must have permanent 8 inch numbers affixed to the back of the jersey. Additional numbers of a different size may be added to the front or to the shorts and must match the number on the back of the jersey. Permanent markers or tape are not considered a legitimate number.
5. In the event of a uniform color conflict, the home team shall change uniforms. If after the schedule is published, a team changes its uniform colors, that team is responsible for avoiding color conflicts, regardless of whether it is the home team.

#### **F. FORFEITURES OR CANCELLATIONS**

1. The procedures and ramifications for a team requesting that a game be cancelled are:
  - (a) The team captain or representative must notify the Game Scheduler, Referee Scheduler, Division Commissioner, and opposing team captain of the cancellation by fourteen (14) days before the scheduled AWSL game. This may be done through utilizing the cancellation feature on the AWSL web site, although the captain of the cancelling team remains responsible for following up and ensuring the notification was received by all involved by the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) day. A \$30.00 fee will be imposed on the team requesting cancellation regardless of whether the opposing team agrees to try to reschedule the game. If a team correctly cancels a scheduled game fourteen (14) days or more in advance of the date when the game is scheduled to be played, and if such cancellation is due to the team's participation in a sanctioned tournament per Rule G.1 below, the cancelling team will not have to pay a \$30.00 fine. Any game cancellation made after fourteen (14) days in advance but before the Monday before the cancelled game will result in a \$30.00 fine, even if the team cancelling does so to participate in a tournament. In all cases, the opposing team has the option of agreeing to try to reschedule the game (see Section G) or treating the cancellation as a forfeit. If the opposing team does not agree to try to reschedule the cancelled game, or if the game cannot later be rescheduled for some other reason, the game score is recorded as a 2-0 win for the non-cancelling (non-forfeiting) team.
  - (b) If the team captain or representative fails to notify the Game Scheduler, Referee Scheduler, Division Commissioner, and opposing team captain within the timeframe in subsection (a) above, then the team cancelling the game will be fined \$50.00 and must pay the total referee fees for the forfeited game. The game score is recorded as a 2-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.

- (c) If a team forfeits due to having fewer than seven players at the field on the day of the scheduled game, then the team will be fined \$50.00 and must pay the total referee fees, for the forfeited game. The game score is recorded as a 2-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.
2. In the event of a forfeiture, all fines and all referee fees must be paid to the AWSL Treasurer no later than 48 hours before the next scheduled AWSL game. If the fine is not paid within this timeframe, then the next scheduled AWSL game will be forfeited by the team in arrears and an additional \$50.00 fine will be imposed. Additionally, the team will be disqualified from playing in the league for the remainder of the season, as noted below.
  3. If a team has fewer than seven players at the scheduled game time, the referee will postpone the decision of forfeiture for up to ten (10) minutes. If the game is so postponed, the referee shall shorten both halves proportionally as needed so as to end the game at the appointed time.
  4. If neither team has seven players at the scheduled game time the referee shall postpone the kickoff by 10 minutes. If at the end of 10 minutes one team has at least seven players but the other team does not, the referee shall record a forfeit by the team with fewer than seven players. If at the end of 10 minutes neither team has seven players ready to play, the referee shall record a double forfeit.
  5. If the scheduled center referee is not present at the scheduled game time, both teams may agree to a substitute referee. If no referee is available, or if both teams cannot agree, the teams shall wait 15 minutes (or more if both teams agree) for the scheduled referee. If the referee has not appeared within the stated time, the game shall be rescheduled. The team captains must notify their Division Commissioner.
  6. In the event that either subsections 3 or 4 above occur simultaneously with subsection 5 above, then subsection 5 takes precedence.
  7. Any team that requests the cancellation of, or otherwise forfeits, two games in a season (for reasons other than play in a sanctioned tournament) is subject to disqualification from the AWSL for the remainder of the season, with no fee refund. The disqualified team will be removed from the schedule and will not play the remainder of the season and must pay all assessed fines before returning to the league. The Judicial Committee may reassess the removal penalty upon submission of an appeal by the team within five days of the second forfeiture and upon a showing of good cause. The team appealing a decision to remove the team from the schedule must put forward a \$50.00 appeal bond, which will be returned only if the Judicial Committee finds in the team's favor. The Judicial Committee, in its discretion, may impose lesser sanctions than removal of the team from the schedule if the circumstances so warrant. The Judicial Committee will issue its decision regarding the team within four days of the appeal. If removal of the team from the league is warranted, the Judicial Committee will determine if a team's removal from a schedule will continue for only a portion of the season or for the entire season.

#### **G. RESCHEDULED GAMES**

A regularly scheduled game may be rescheduled after cancellation by a team if:

1. A team is registered to play in any sanctioned tournament and informs the captain of the opposing team, Game Scheduler, Referee Scheduler and Division Commissioner by the Monday before the scheduled game.  
OR
2. The team desiring a cancellation notifies all relevant parties pursuant to Section F.1.a. above and pays the applicable fine, and the opposing team agrees to try and reschedule the game.

Though AWSL will put forth its best efforts to reschedule voluntarily cancelled games, because of limited field and costs to the league, rained out games will take rescheduling precedence over cancelled games. Voluntarily cancelled games thus may not be rescheduled even if the opposing team agreed to try and reschedule. For all games that are slated to be

rescheduled, whether by cancellation or rain out, the Game Scheduler (with advice from the Executive Committee) shall determine the date of the rescheduled game based on field and referee availability.

#### **H. USE OF THE FIELDS**

1. A player may use a field under the jurisdiction of the AWSL only at times scheduled through the appropriate authority.
2. In the event of a rainout, players may not use the affected fields.
3. In the event of a forfeit, players cannot scrimmage on the field.
4. A violation of the above shall result in the suspension of the player(s) or teams for the rest of the season plus a \$100.00 fine per team.

#### **I. REVIEW OF REFEREE'S DECISIONS**

- (a) A written petition shall be submitted within five days of the played match. A \$100.00 bond must accompany the written petition. Copies will be delivered to the President, Division Commissioner and the registered representative(s) of the opposing team, and the referee(s) involved.
- (b) The petition shall state the date, time, place, names of the referee(s) and other individuals involved, and the names of both teams. It shall detail material facts surrounding the controversy and list grounds for contention.
- (c) The Judicial Chair shall select a panel composed of three members of the Judicial Committee to examine the petition. In the event that there are not three eligible members of the Judicial Committee available, the Chair may appoint any other member of the AWSL, except that no member may review a case in which she or her team is involved.
- (d) If a majority of the panel finds that the petition indicates failure by the referee to properly interpret the Laws of the Game, and that the outcome of the game was thereby materially affected, the Chair shall hold a hearing the persons named in subsection 1. The referee(s) involved shall be required to appear at the hearing. If a referee is unable to appear at the hearing, he/she shall send a written response or may be represented by another certified referee.
- (e) If the panel finds that one of the conditions set out in subsection 4 is not met, it shall dismiss the petition without a hearing and shall retain the bond.
- (f) If the petitioner prevails, the bond shall be refunded and the match replayed.

#### **J. CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS**

1. Caution/yellow cards may be issued by the referee for:
  - (a.) Foul play
  - (b.) Dangerous play
  - (c.) Criticism if the referee's or linesmen's decision, protests, etc.
  - (d.) Disparaging remarks about referees, linesmen, other players, or any other person present at the match
  - (e.) Ill-mannered (incorrect) behavior
  - (f.) Unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct
  - (g.) Gamemanship (time wasting, deliberate hand ball, etc.)
  - (h.) Temporarily leaving the field of play without notifying the referee
  - (i.) Other unsporting behavior (feigning, making rude gestures to the public, etc.)
  - (j.) Any other behavior prohibited under the FIFA rules

Any player who shall accumulate four cautions in the Fall/Spring seasons will be fined \$25.00 and suspended until the player has appeared before the Executive Committee to justify further participation in the league.

2. Expulsion/red cards may be issued by the referee for:

- (a.) Serious foul play
- (b.) Very dangerous play
- (c.) Violent conduct
- (d.) Persistent protests against decisions by the referee and linesmen
- (e.) Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee
- (f.) Repeated misconduct despite a previous caution by the referee
- (g.) Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct
- (h.) Repeated gamesmanship
- (i.) Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match
- (j.) Other serious acts of unsporting behavior
- (k.) Any other behavior prohibited under the FIFA rules

Punishment for an expulsion/red card: minimum suspension for one match and a \$50.00 fine. In the case of a player who plays on more than one team and is involved in a disciplinary problem resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to that player's participation in all the next scheduled games.

Any player who shall accumulate two expulsions/red cards in the Fall/Spring seasons must appear before the Executive Committee to justify further participation in the league.

Any player or non-AWSL member who receives a red card must immediately leave the field area and not stay near the field the remainder of the game. Any player or non-AWSL member who refuses to leave the field area shall face additional fines/punishment by the Judicial Committee.

If the Executive Committee deems appropriate, within seven days of receipt of the referee report showing that a player or non-AWSL member affiliated with the team has been guilty of misconduct described in this section, the Executive Committee may submit such referee report to the Judicial Committee, which shall decide whether to impose only the minimum punishment set within this section or whether a greater punishment should be imposed. The Judicial Committee may consider materials submitted by the referee, opposing team, player and any other relevant persons. If the Judicial Committee determines that greater punishment should be imposed, the Chair of the Judicial Committee shall inform the President and player of the Committee's decision and ask whether the player desires a hearing or whether the player will accept the punishment the Judicial Committee deems appropriate without a hearing. If the player chooses a hearing, such hearing shall be conducted as timely as possible, and the player must submit a \$50.00 bond (in addition to the \$50.00 fine for a red card) in order to play in any league games pending the hearing and the Judicial Committee's final decision.

The punishment the Judicial Committee decides to impose under this section may reflect further game suspensions and/or additional fines. If a non-AWSL member affiliated with an AWSL team (for example, a spectator or coach) receives a red card or engages in any conduct set forth above in Rule J. 2., the Judicial Committee may impose sanctions (including game suspensions and/or fines) on the team with which the non-AWSL member is affiliated.

3. Any player or non-AWSL member affiliated with a team who receives a red card may appeal the red card to the Judicial Committee by posting a \$50.00 bond and stating in writing the reasons for the disagreement. The Judicial Committee may also consider materials submitted by the referee, opposing team, player and any other relevant persons so long as the player receives copies of that information. The Committee will convene to consider the appeal during which time the suspended player may participate in league, cup and tournament play as long as that player has sat out the first game following the incident. Regardless of the appeal or its outcome, the player must sit out the first game following the incident. Therefore, the appeal shall only concern whether the player must pay the \$50.00 fine.

Once a preliminary decision concerning the appeal is made, the Judicial Committee will inform the red-carded person of its decision and ask whether the player desires a hearing or whether the player will accept the decision of the Judicial Committee without a hearing. If the player chooses a hearing, such hearing shall be conducted as timely as possible.

4. In determining the validity of a player's appeal, the Judicial Committee may consider imposing no fine at all or a lesser fine than \$50.00. If the Committee considers the appeal frivolous, then the AWSL shall retain the bond.
5. Any non-AWSL member affiliated with the team ejected from a game shall be suspended from the next game and the team fined \$50.00. If ejected from the area of the field a second time during the same season he/she will be prohibited from attending any AWSL sanctioned game during the remainder of the season. Any infringement of the prohibition from attendance may result in the affiliated team's forfeiture of the game.
6. Fines shall be paid to the Treasurer within 48 hours prior to playing in the next scheduled game; the Registrar will not release the player card until the fine is paid.
7. Any player or non-AWSL member affiliated with the team sent off for conduct manifesting a clear intent to injure shall be suspended for a minimum of three games. A second offense shall result in a minimum suspension of 15 games.
8. Any player or non-AWSL member affiliated with a team sent off for flagrant verbal harassment or foul and abusive language shall be suspended for a minimum of one game per the rules above. A second offense shall result in a minimum suspension of five games.
9. Any player or non-AWSL member affiliated with the team who assaults a game official shall be permanently suspended from the AWSL. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a game official: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into a game official, the act of kicking or throwing any object at the official that could inflict injury, damaging the official's uniform or personal property, etc. In the event of an assault, a \$100.00 fine will be assessed to the team and must be paid to the Treasurer prior to the next scheduled AWSL game in order to play.
10. Any player or non-AWSL member affiliated with the team in the AWSL is subject to the Rules of the AWSL while at any AWSL sanctioned game regardless of whether he/she is a participant.