



# LONG ISLAND SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BY-LAWS AS VOTED AND APPROVED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

[All Amendments to the By-Laws are noted with the year of approval by the membership in *ITALICS*]

### I. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person who is in sympathy with the aims and objectives of the corporation shall be eligible for membership.
- B. There shall be four classes of membership: Active, In-Active, Associate, and Life Member (*June 2010*):
  1. **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** The individual who has satisfactorily completed all the requirements and paid annual dues shall be considered an active member, being subject to all rules set forth in the by-laws.
  2. **INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** The individual will retain membership by paying a fee determined by the Board and will be entitled to vote. An Inactive Member may not receive assignments, hold office, or be a member of a standing committee. The Inactive Member, upon becoming active, is entitled to assignments on the level he or she previously worked.
  3. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** The individual must be under the age of 21 and must be enrolled as a full time student. An Associate Member may not hold office, may not be a member of a standing committee, and may not vote in association matters. Dues for Associate Members will be determined by the Board of Directors (*June 2007*).
  3. **LIFE MEMBER:** Life Membership is granted by the Board of Directors to honor those members who have well served the organization. Once granted, a Life Member is not required to pay annual dues, but is still required to meet all other rules as set forth in the By-Laws. (*June 2010*)
- C. The Executive Board shall have the power to award Honorary membership.

### II. ELECTIONS

The annual elections shall be held at the June meeting. The new slate of officers shall take office immediately after the election. The term of office for each board position will be two (2) years. The Executive Board will run for election in odd years and the Directors in even years. (*June 2014*)

In 1978, elections will be held in October and the Executive Board so elected will serve until June 1979.

### III. NOMINATION AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President, at the May meeting of each year, shall appoint the Chairperson for the Nominating Committee. Two (2) more members from the Board of Directors and/or the membership shall be elected at that meeting. The three (3) persons so chosen will constitute the Nominating Committee. They will submit to the annual meeting a list of candidates for officers of the corporation. Any Member-In-Good-Standing may nominate from the floor, a candidate for any office. In case of the nomination of more than one candidate for office, a vote of the members present shall be taken, and candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. All election votes shall be by secret ballot.

- A. No member may hold an office in this association if he/she is an officer of a member club (*June, 1981*).
- B. No Candidate can run for more than one (1) office at the annual meeting (*June 1986*).
- C. Only Members-In-Good-Standing for two (2) years may be eligible for office in the association (*June 1986*).
- D. Anyone that has a Board position cannot run for another position unless he or she resigns at least thirty (30) days prior to the election (*June, 1988*).

#### **IV. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

- A. Shall preside at all meetings of the corporation; be responsible for setting the agenda for such meetings.
- B. Shall conduct all negotiations in behalf of the corporation not specifically delegated otherwise.
- C. Shall appoint and dismiss all committees deemed necessary to the benefit of the corporation with the approval of the Executive Board.
- D. Shall appoint and dismiss the Rules Interpreter and Assigning Chairperson(s) with the approval of the Executive Board.
- E. The President will appoint a Member-In-Good-Standing to be Chairman of the Arbitration Board, with all its duties and responsibilities. (*June 1986*)
- F. Shall appoint to any open board position a member in Good Standing to fill the remaining term of that position. (*June 2014*)

#### **V. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT**

- A. Shall perform all the duties of the President in his or her absence or his or her inability to act.

#### **VI. DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

- A. To participate in the management of the corporation and to perform all the duties of the Executive Vice-President in his/her absence or inability to act.
- B. To serve as Social Chairperson of the Association.

#### **VII. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

- A. Shall keep an accurate record of all monies received by the corporation and shall pay all legal debts with the countersignature of the President.
- B. Shall keep an accurate record of paid-up members, and notify the officers, Arbitration Chairperson and Assigning Chairperson(s) of any person(s) who has failed to pay for each current year.

#### **VIII. DUTIES OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY**

- A. Shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the corporation and all records of any other official meetings.
- B. Shall make the minutes of all meetings available to the general membership at the following general meeting. (*June 1990*)
- C. Omit any items that prove embarrassing or detrimental to any individual member from the minutes made available to the general membership. (*June 1990*)
- D. Shall keep the official seal and affix it to all agreements, official documents, etc.

- E. Shall keep an accurate record of the attendance of all members and notify the Arbitration Chairperson and the Assigning Chairperson(s) of any member who is delinquent in attendance and also inform the member(s) of possible delinquency.

#### **IX. DUTIES OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

- A. Shall conduct all correspondence of the corporation and preserve all records, including a file of all outgoing and incoming correspondence.
- B. Shall report to the membership in summary fashion all correspondence of the corporation. *(June 1991)*
- C. Shall keep an accurate record of the names, address, telephone numbers, and class of membership by each member.

#### **X. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS**

- A. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) Directors. *(June 2014)*
- B. The term of office for each Director will be as stipulated in Section II Elections. *(June 2014)*

#### **XI. MATTERS NOT COVERED**

- A. The Board of Directors shall have the power to decide any matters not covered by these By-Laws.

#### **XII. COMMITTEES**

The following committees shall be appointed and can be dismissed for cause at any time by the President. The committees shall serve for one (1) year. The first appointed shall serve as Chairperson. *(June 2014)*

##### **A. INTERPRETATION**

- 1. Shall organize and present the interpretation of the rules to the corporation.
- 2. Shall conduct the rules clinic each year before the opening of the Fall and Spring season.

##### **B. NOMINATING**

- 1. Shall select a slate of officers for the ensuing year and present it to the membership at the June annual meeting.

#### **XIII. MEETINGS**

- A. The annual meeting shall be held in June.
- B. The corporation shall conduct meetings once a month except during July and August.
- C. The annual test must be taken by every member having active status by the date set each year by the Executive Board. *(June 1982)*
- D. The annual interpretation meetings (March and September) shall be considered mandatory, subject to a fine for absence unless excused by the Arbitration Chairperson prior to the meeting *(June 1982 and 2012)*.
- E. Failure to attend either the interpretation or the written test meetings, without approval of the Arbitration Board Chairperson, shall result in a fine established by the Executive Board. *(June 1982)*

#### **XIV. DUES**

The annual dues shall be determined as follows: Twice the highest fee paid for a game, minus \$12.00, plus \$2.00 for the Scholarship Fund, plus or minus an amount determined by the Executive Board to bring the dues to a level appropriate to satisfy the approved annual budget of the association. *(June 2014)*

#### **XV. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from July 1 to June 30. Dues are payable by January 31. An additional fee of \$10.00 shall be imposed if the dues are not paid by January 31. *(June 2005)*

#### **XVI. EXPULSION AND REINSTATEMENT**

Members may be expelled for violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of the corporation. They will be given a hearing before the Executive Board and if expulsion is recommended, the membership must confirm it by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

#### **XVII. QUORUM AND VOTING**

- A. At all meetings of the corporation, one-third (1/3) of the members in good standing present shall constitute a quorum. *(June 2012)*
- B. Both active and inactive members in Good Standing shall have one (1) vote at all meetings of the corporation.
- C. Decisions of the officers in session shall be binding. A quorum of 51% of the current members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. *(June 2014)*
- D. At the annual meeting, only members in Good Standing may vote. *(June 2011)*

#### **XVIII. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

At all meetings, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

#### **XIX. AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any time by the following procedures:

- A. Submission in writing at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting in June.
- B. Two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members in Good Standing present at the meeting. *(June 2012)*

#### **XX. TAX EXEMPT REGULATIONS**

The following additional provisions and restrictions are inserted for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation.

- A. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise, or directly or indirectly participating in or intervening in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

- B. Upon dissolution of the corporation, its remaining assets, if any, shall be distributed to one or more organizations organized and operated exclusively for the religious, charitable, scientific, literacy or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or afterwards amended, as the Directors of the corporation shall determine. (*June 2014*)
- C. The corporation shall not engage in any of the prohibited transactions described in Section 501 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or afterwards amended.
- D. The corporation shall not unreasonably accumulate income within the meaning of Section 504 of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or afterwards amended.
- E. The corporation shall not be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on an unrelated trade or business as defined in Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or afterwards amended.
- F. The corporation is organized to serve public interests. Accordingly, it shall not be operated for the benefit of private interest, such as contributors to or owners of the corporation, or persons controlled directly or indirectly by such private interests.

## **XXI. AWARDS**

The Board of Directors in session shall judge who should be honored with awards for Referee of the Year, Silver Whistle (June 2011) and Rookie of the Year. (*June 2014*)

## **XXII. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES (*JUNE 1997*)**

In matters concerning game fee negotiations between the state or local leagues with the corporation, prior to such negotiations:

- G. A regularly scheduled monthly meeting be devoted to discussion and creating membership input as to what the membership would accept as game fees for the upcoming season
- H. Upon completion of such discussion and membership input, a vote be taken on those games fees that the majority of the membership presents for approval. This will be given to the corporation representative(s) for the negotiations.
- I. Such a vote will be binding in the corporation representative(s) as a starting point in the negotiation process.
- J. Upon completion of the negotiation process, when a tentative agreement has been reached by the parties involved in the discussions, the results if such discussions will be presented at a regular monthly meeting devoted to the negotiations for the approval of the majority present at the meeting.

## **XXIII. MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (*June 5, 2005*)**

A member cannot participate in any activity with or receive any service provided by the Long Island Soccer Referees Association if the member is not in good standing. These activities include, but are not limited to, meetings, access to the association's website, monthly mailings, voting rights, holding office, or attendance to any social functions limited to members.

The Executive Board has developed the following criteria to characterize a member in good standing and has resolved that to be considered in Good Standing, a member:

- A. Must attend at least 3 of the 5 monthly clinic meetings (November, January, February, April, and May) unless excused for reasonable cause. Requests to be excused must be submitted in writing to the board 5 days in advance of any meeting. The Mandatory Rules Interpretation meetings, June Election meeting, October Recertification meeting, and December Holiday meeting do not count as clinic meetings.

- B. Must uphold the Referee Code of Ethics of the United States Soccer Federation, as outlined in the most recent Referee's Administrative Handbook as published by the USSF.
- C. Must attend both Referee Rules Interpretation meetings which take place at the September and March general meetings, unless excused for reasonable cause. Requests to be excused must be submitted in writing to the board 5 days in advance of any meeting
- D. Must have paid the annual dues by January 31<sup>st</sup>. (A member is not in good standing if dues are not paid by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Exceptions are to be judged by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.
- E. Must pay all fines levied by the Arbitration Committee prior to the June meeting. A member is not in good standing if fines are not paid with appeals filed within 10 Business Days (*June 2010*) days of having been notified by the committee.
- F. Must not have been convicted of a felony after having become a member. A member is not in good standing upon conviction.