

LORAIN COUNTY SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

REVISED - 2023

ARTICLE I NAME

- A. The Name of the Association shall be “LORAIN COUNTY SOCCER LEAGUE”, hereinafter referred to as L.C.S.L.
- B. Status: This Association shall be a NOT FOR PROFIT league. This League is classified as RECREATIONAL.
- C. PRINCIPAL OFFICE: The principal office of the League shall be located in the Ohio County of Lorain at the address specified by the Board.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT

The League shall govern organized Soccer for member organizations for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the sport of soccer for all children, between the ages of 5 (U7) through age 15 (U15 and NOT in high school), regardless of ability.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership in L.C.S.L. shall consist of all-dues paying Associations/Communities affiliated as of January 01, 2022, SPECIFICALLY: AMHERST, COLUMBIA STATION, EDISON, ELYRIA, LAGRANGE, LORAIN, MIDVIEW, OBERLIN, SOUTH AMHERST-FIRELANDS, VERMILION AND WELLINGTON.

Application for membership in the L.C.S.L. must be made as follows with the understanding that there is no guarantee of acceptance offered or implied herein;

- A. If your Association/Community has a team listed as an affiliation as of Jan. 1, 2022, you are accepted in the League.
- B. As long as each Association/Community has one team that is committed each season, your application is renewed.
- C. If you are an Association/Community not affiliated with the league as a member as of January 1, 2022, you must comply with the following to be considered for affiliation.
 - 1. To play the spring season, application must be made in person by an Officer of the applicant Association/Community, not later than in the regular scheduled October Meeting PRECEEDING the season to be played. Discussion of the application will be held at the NOVEMBER Meetings and acceptance/rejection vote will be taken at the JANUARY meeting following.
 - 2. To play in the fall season, application, again in person, must be made no later than the preceding regularly scheduled APRIL Meeting. Discussion of the application will be held at the May Meetings and acceptance/rejection vote will be taken at the JUNE meeting following.
 - 3. At the time of application, the petitioning Association/Community must meet and/or provide the following criteria/resources:
 - i. At least one age-appropriate size soccer field that which will be available for use on L.C.S.L. normal days of play.
 - ii. Name at least one team with a minimum roster size, plus 2 players, which will participate in the L.C.S.L.

- iii. Name at least one person who has agreed to serve on an L.C.S.L. Rep. For your Association/Community.
- iv. Provide copies of the Applicant's Associations/Communities Constitution and By Laws.

- D. Copies of applicant's Association's/Community's Constitution and By-Laws, League President and League Representative's contact information will be provided to L.C.S.L.
- E. No Association/Community shall represent more than One (1) school system and only one (1) Association/Community shall be granted membership from one school system.
- F. If a member Association/Community is not represented at a Lorain County Soccer League for three consecutive meetings, that Association/Community will lose the right to vote on any action for 6 months. Starting the day after the 3rd missed meeting.
- G. Re-affiliation shall be contingent upon re-application and acceptance to L.C.S.L. (Item A, above.) Any Association/Community missing a full season (Fall to Spring) shall be required to re-apply.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Board of Representatives shall consist of an adult representative from each member Association/Community.

- A. Each member Association/Community shall provide the L.C.S.L. contact information of their respective League President and Association/Community Representative. (Updated promptly when changes occur)
- B. The voting right of each member Association/Community, based on current L.C.S.L. Membership, shall be:
 - a. 1-7 teams – 1 vote
 - b. 8+ teams – 2 votes
- C. A Simple majority vote cast shall decide all issues except dissolution and Constitutional Amendment.
- D. The regular meeting of the Board of Representatives shall be monthly, except the month of December when there shall be no meeting.
 - 1. Special meetings of the Representatives must be called by the President if so requested by a Fifty One (51) percent or more of the member Associations/Communities
 - 2. Notice of special meetings shall be no less than seven (7) days prior to the date of such meetings.
 - 3. Any voting officer not representing an Association/Community shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
 - 4. No member of the Board of Representatives may vote upon a matter coming before the Board in which he or she has an interest either financial or of unfair advantage. Immediately upon becoming aware that such a conflict may exist, the Representative must disclose the existence of the potential conflict to the remaining Representatives and refrain from discussion or voting on the matter. Any such disclosure and withdrawal shall be fully documented in the minutes of the L.C.S.L. All Board members and officers must vote in the best interest of the L.C.S.L.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS – EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. OFFICERS: The Leagues shall have the following adults as officers which shall be voted into office by the Board of Representatives at the June Membership Meeting, alternating as defined below: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, LEAGUE SCHEDULER, LEAGUE REGISTRAR, and REFEREE ASSIGNOR. The duties of the officers shall be those assigned by the Board of Representatives, as defined below, for the purpose of operating the League and promoting the sport of soccer within the purpose of the Organization.
- B. Voting Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - 1. President (voted for in even number years):

- i. Responsible for overall management of L.C.S.L.
 - ii. Preside over meetings of the board and general membership.
 - iii. Serve as ex-officio member of all committees
 - iv. Appoint special committees as needed
 - v. Provide policy direction for L.C.S.L.
 - vi. Represent or designate a representative meeting with which L.C.S.L. is affiliated or has a business concern
 - vii. Presents trophies to teams at L.C.S.L. Playoffs
 - viii. Represents the L.C.S.L. at OSA, USYSA functions
 - ix. Signs checks
 - x. Prepares meeting agendas
2. Vice President (voted for in odd number years)
- i. Assist President and fulfill responsibilities in the absence of the President
 - ii. Assume duties of any board member who resigns or is removed from position on the L.C.S.L. board
 - iii. Field/Compliance: goal safety/enforcement
 - iv. Pre-season coach meetings
 - i. Ref. Assignor Issues
3. Treasurer (voted for in odd number years)
- i. Serve as chief financial officer of L.C.S.L., with responsibility for all funds
 - ii. Maintain records for all income & expenses authorized by the Board
 - iii. Prepare financial records using generally accepted accounting principles to be presented at Board and General Membership Meetings
 - iv. Present an annual financial statement to be general membership
 - v. Recommend fees for League play based on projected costs.
 - vi. Responsible for ensuring that all federal and state forms are filed in the specific time frames.
4. Secretary (voted for in even number years)
- i. Record minutes and attendance of meetings of L.C.S.L. Board and General Membership Meetings
 - ii. Present minutes at the beginning of each L.C.S.L. meeting
 - iii. Communicate with any person or organization as directed by the Board
 - iv. Maintain L.C.S.L Quickscores website
5. League Registrar (voted for in even number years)
- i. Paid position
 - ii. Determine eligibility for all L.C.S.L. players and coaches and assure compliance
 - iii. Maintain registration records for all players and coaches
 - iv. Coordinate all aspects of registration process
6. League Scheduler (voted for in odd number years)
- i. Paid position
 - ii. Prepare all schedules and venues for L.C.S.L. league play
 - iii. Maintain accurate records of team records for team rankings to maintain division parity, using scores reported to L.C.S.L. Website
 - iv. Monitor scores and standings for playoff seeding on L.C.S.L. website
 - v. Verify field availability with local L.C.S.L. league representatives.
 - vi. Coordinate all game play with Referee Assigner
 - vii. When necessary, coordinate rescheduled games with Association/Community representatives
7. Referee Assigner (voted for in even number years)
- i. Paid position

- ii. Maintain master list of referees available for L.C.S.L. games
 - iii. USSF certified assigner and must be current or former USSF referee
 - iv. Coordinate with League Scheduler logistics of each season schedule and provide necessary referee coverage
 - v. Field all complaints dealing with coaches from referees and present to L.C.S.L. Vice President for investigation, who will in turn present findings to board of final judgment
- B. No elected officer may hold office for more than 24 months unless re-elected by a majority vote of the Representatives present at the annual membership meeting.
 - 1. If any officer position is vacant for any reason prior to the next election cycle the Board of Representatives and remaining voting officers would nominate and hold a vote (see Article IV) to fulfill the existing term.
- C. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS: Any member of L.C.S.L. may be removed for not following the L.C.S.L., OSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF constitutions, bylaws, and rules and regulations.
 - 1. Removal of players, coaches and managers listed on the roster will be by disciplinary hearing. Removal of other members can be by a majority vote of the board at any time, with or without the presences of the person(s) present. Parents of players are not considered members and may be asked not to attend L.C.S.L. sanctioned events by a vote of the majority board.
 - 2. Board of Representative members and Officers, committee chairs and committee members may be removed from office for just cause and/or failure to attend or perform the duties of the office. The member has a right to a hearing and has rights to appeal. The hearing will be by the board of representatives with the member who is the subject of the hearing not having a right to vote. To vote to remove must be by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the remaining and attending members.

ARTICLE VI

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- A. During the first meeting in June, there shall be a meeting of the Board of Representatives for the purpose of electing officers for the periods as previously defined.
 - 1. Nominations will be accepted at the May meeting.
 - 2. At the regular special meetings of the Board of Representatives, a quorum shall consist of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Association/Community Representatives.
 - 3. Voting Officers shall consist $\frac{1}{2}$ or more
- B. The order of business at any meeting of the League shall be as follows:
 - 1. Call to order
 - 2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting
 - 3. Reports of the officers and committee chairpersons
 - 4. Unfinished business
 - 5. Announcement of next regular meeting date & place
 - 6. Adjournment

LORAIN COUNTY SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAWS

REVISED October 2022

ARTICLE I POSITIONS

- A. **COMMITTEES:** Appointed by the Board of Representatives for specific functions of the League such as Playoff, Rules, Grounds, Fund Raisers, Etc.
- B. **COACHES:** Are responsible for the health, safety and decorum of the members of the Team assigned to them as well as scheduling of practice games; must field a properly registered team as described on a team roster approved by the League Registrar for all League matches and any other paperwork deemed necessary by Ohio Soccer Association (OSA).
 - 1. Each coach may have no more than Two (2) Assistant Coaches who are also responsible as stated above.
 - 2. Each coach and Assistant shall be properly registered with the League and possess a current coach's pass.
 - 3. All current requirements put forth by OSA are required for every coach and assistant coach. Each Association/Community is responsible for their respective coaches complying with this rule.
- C. **PLAYERS:**
 - 1. Shall be youth between the ages of Five and Fifteen years who have been properly registered with the League and paid dues for the current season and are NOT in high school.
 - 2. May play in a competitive League and/or premier League and the L.C.S.L. if the player is dual registered. L.C.S.L. must know if player is dual registered.
 - 3. Once a player has been registered with a member of Association/Community they must remain with that Association/Community unless:
 - i. The player has requested, in writing, and received, in writing, release from their present Association/Community to join another member Association/Association/Community.
 - ii. Such a release shall be subject to the transfer and registrations rules of the L.C.S.L. and may not be honored while the League playing season is in operation.
 - iii. Any player that is denied such release by a member Association/Community may petition, in writing, to any regularly scheduled meeting of the L.C.S.L. to appeal the decision of the member Association/Community.
 - 1. The Board shall have discussion and vote on the petition at the regularly scheduled meeting following the meeting at which the petition is presented. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

Registration shall be without discrimination on account of Race, Creed, Color, Sex or National Origin.

ARTICLE II MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **INCOME:** The income derived from the operation of the L.C.S.L. shall be used for the expenses of the L.C.S.L. only and no part thereof shall be put to personal use to the benefit of the Officers or Members.
- B. **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:** The L.C.S.L. will not be involved in or participate in any political campaigns or attempt to influence legislation.
- C. **MEETING CANCELLATION:** Cancellation of monthly board meetings shall be made no later than 24 hours for non-weather related issues and 3 hours for weather related issues. Cancellation shall be made by email, with return answers sent to verify notification, or by phone call, whichever is deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE III AMENDMENTS

- A. This constitution may be amended at the annual membership meeting in June by a majority vote of the Board of Representatives provided amendments have been presented in writing, not later than the regularly scheduled MAY meeting of the L.C.S.L.
- B. Should the need arise for a constitutional amendment to be adopted at a meeting other than the June annual meeting, such amendment must be presented at least two (2) regular meetings prior to any vote on it.
- C. Adoption of constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Representatives

ARTICLE IV DISSOLUTION

- A. In the event of Dissolution of the L.C.S.L. the assets of the League will be equally distributed to all the current member organizations on record at the date of Dissolution.
- B. Dissolution of the League shall be a 2/3-majority vote of the Board of Representatives.

ARTICLE V L.C.S.L. SPECIFIC RULES

- A. Registration
 - 1. Over Rostering – 2 over roster is permitted without any further approval. If you need to over roster more than 2 players, a request needs to be submitted to all board members (including registrar) via email.
 - 2. Club Players – defined as a player that is also registered on a club, elite, state or premier team.
 - i. 2 club player per team with max of 2 club players on the field at one time.
 - ii. Exception - If another club player is needed to roster a team (1 extra), the request for this would need submitted to all LCSL board members in writing via email. This should only be done when absolutely necessary. Even if 3 club players are rostered, only two are allowed on the field at one time during a game.
 - 2. Player's Cards
 - i. Required for U9 and up
 - 3. Team Rosters
 - i. Required for U7-U8
 - 4. Birth Certificates and Pictures
 - i. Required for U7 and up
 - 5. Double Carding – No Guest players. Double carding is allowed in the following situations:
 - i. Plays up in age groups
 - ii. Plays in the same age group but different division
- B. Game Rules
 - 1. Heading is allowed for U12 and up – Foul will be an indirect kick if heading a ball occurs U7-U11
 - 2. Sliding is ONLY permitted in U12 and up
 - 3. Blue Line rule is in effect for U8-U10
 - 4. Offside starts at U9
 - 5. Penalty Kicks
 - i. U7/U8 all fouls are indirect kicks
 - ii. U9 and up, fouls can be direct or indirect, per FIFA rules
 - 6. Substitutions are allowed as follows:

- i. U7/U8 - allowed at any stoppage of the game as long as the referee is notified of the substitution
 - ii. U9 and up - allowed per FIFA rules
- 7. Goalkeeper may punt the ball starting at U11
- 8. Pass Back to the goalkeeper are allowed, a foul comes into play if the goalkeeper handles the pass with their hands. An indirect free kick shall be awarded at the spot of the foul, per FIFA rules.

C. Game Duration

- a. U7 – 4, 10-minute quarters
- b. U8 – 2, 20-minute halves
- c. U9/U10 – 2, 25-minute halves
- d. U11/U12 – 2, 30-minute halves
- e. U13/U14/U15 – 2, 35-minute halves

D. Mercy Rule

- a. When a team has a 5 goal lead, the losing team may add a player.
 - i. 11v11, does not follow the add player rule. There can be no more than 11 players per team for age groups U13 through U15
- b. If the losing team scores a goal to bring the lead down to 4, the removed player may be replaced (or the added player must be removed)
- c. When a team has a 7 goal lead, losing team may add a 2nd player (or the winning team must remove a 2nd player)
- d. If the losing team scores a goal to bring the lead down to 6, the 2nd added player must be removed (or 1 removed player may be added back).
- e. Winning by 10 or more goals, the coach will get an email, second offense, same email but will only get 1pt for the win.
 - i. Coaches who lose by 10 points or more will report this to their L.C.S.L. Representative who will then escalate this to the L.C.S.L. Board.
 - * *L.C.S.L. Board does not monitor scores or take action unless notified by an Association/Community.*

E. Dispute Resolutions

- a. Any complaint involving other communities should be directed to their local Association/Community board.
- b. Each Association/Community should attempt to resolve the issue themselves by communicating with the other Association/Community's L.C.S.L. Representative or their President
- c. In a situation where two communities cannot resolve an issues themselves, a full detailed write up including summary of what occurred including detailed information of what communication has occurred to attempt to resolve the issue, should be sent to ALL members of the L.C.S.L. Board.
 - i. If a meeting is needed (via phone, zoom, or during county meetings) we can schedule appropriately to resolve the issue.
 - ii. Do NOT just call one Board member to resolve an issue.

F. Game Rescheduling

- a. All reschedules must go through the home team's L.C.S.L. Representative. The Representative will then submit game changes to the L.C.S.L. Scheduler.
- b. The following needs to be included on your email to the L.C.S.L. Scheduler
 - i. The L.C.S.L. Representative should address the email to L.C.S.L. Scheduler and CC in coaches from both teams on the email.
 - ii. Include the team numbers of both teams
 - iii. Include the original date and time of the game
 - iv. Include the rescheduled date and time of the game

Example:

Home Team:	LO123456
Away Team:	LA123456
Original Game Date	4/23/23
Original Game Time	6pm
Rescheduled Game Date	4/29/23
Rescheduled Game Time	7pm

G. Game Cancellations

- a. Cancellations due to weather or COVID-19 protocols must be done by:
 - i. Weekdays – 4pm
 - ii. Weekends – 8am
- b. Email or group text must be sent to Opposing team's coach, L.C.S.L. President, Referee Assignor and L.C.S.L. Secretary by the times states above.
 - i. If cancelled late and a referee shows up for a game, the home Association/Community is responsible to pay the referee.

All meeting minutes, including any changes that are voted on or decided by the board, are considered amendments to this document.

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this manual, let's use the following basic definitions:

Recreational soccer: Is that soccer program that is primarily devoted to the enjoyment and development of soccer players without the emphasis on travel or high level competition.