

Bylaws of the Montana Premier League

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I. Generally Applicable Bylaws

A. Duties of MPL Officers

1. President: He/she is the chief executive, chairs all meetings of the MPL Board and Council. He/she appoints all MPL committees except those that may make decisions that affect the standings or players of his/her team. Based on the approval of the MPL Board he/she also appoints officers to the MPL Board in the event of vacancies. He insures that all other MPL Officers understand and perform their duties.

2. Vice President: He/she shall exercise all powers of the President in his/her absence. He/she is the chair of the disciplinary committee unless his/her team is involved. In that case the President shall appoint someone else. He/she is the chair of all cup and tournament competition hosted by the MPL. He/she is the MPL representative to the state association, unless the MPL Board appoints someone

else. Should the office of President become vacant, he/she appoints an acting President (which may be he/she,) subject to the approval of the MPL Board. He/she shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.

3. Executive Secretary: He/she maintains all MPL files, records, and minutes of the MPL Board and Council meetings. He provides all Council members with copies of the minutes, Constitution, Bylaws, and other appropriate notices; maintains and issues rosters of Council members, writes and issues such correspondence as the President may direct.

4. Treasurer: He/she is the financial officer, handles all monies, handles checking and savings accounts for the MPL, and gives financial reports at each MPL Board and Council meeting. He/she will submit to an annual audit of financial records.

5. Registrar: He/she receives from the state association, and passes on to the member divisions all registration materials, receives and audits all completed registration materials and monies received from member divisions. Upon verification of correctness, turns over all monies to the treasurer, validates all player passes, and submits completed registration materials to the state association's registrar. He/she files and maintains all team and club rosters of member divisions, and reports and maintains all records of disciplinary actions.

6. Scheduling Coordinator: He/she constructs the division schedule and coordinates with the designed representative of the referee association, for the purpose of assigning referees for all MPL-sanctioned games. He/she will keep the official record of wins, losses, ties, forfeits, and the resulting standings of the teams and make these available for the MPL Board.

7. Field Maintenance Supervisor: He/she coordinates all field maintenance efforts on behalf of the MPL, including but not limited to: grass cutting; field lining; goal procurement, transport, and setup; net procurement, repair, and replacement; seeding and aeration; and lying fill dirt and/or sand. He/she acts as custodian for all MPL-owned field equipment and supplies and serves as liaison between the MPL and any parties contracted to perform field maintenance duties. He/she monitors the condition of fields used for league play and advises the Board when a field is in critical need of rest and/or repair.

8. At-Large Member: Up to five at-large members may be added to the board.

B. MPL Board: The MPL Board of Directors, at the discretion of the President and/or the Vice President, shall meet periodically as needed. Except for impromptu meetings, the time and place of meetings will be decided at the previous meeting. The Board meets at least once a month during the season and once every two months in between seasons. The Board shall have such duties as defined by **Article XII** of the *MPL Constitution* and **Article I.A** of the *MPL Bylaws*.

C. MPL Council: There will be at least one MPL Council meeting every year. At one of those meetings the MPL Council will hold elections as set forth in **Article XII** of the *MPL Constitution*. The election will be held every other November. In addition, the MPL Board can call MPL Council meetings at its discretion.

D. Duties of Team Officers

1. Team Officers are individuals who represent their teams on the MPL Council. They must attend all Council meetings or show just reason.

2. Team Officers must appoint alternate representatives, and authenticate them to

the MPL Board.

3. It is their duty to keep all players of their team informed of all actions taken by the MPL.

4. It is their duty to report violations of the *MPL Constitution* and *MPL Bylaws* to the MPL Board.

5. It is their duty to keep all documentation concerning their team up to date and to furnish a game roster to referee before each game. Failure to do so will result in a fine that must be paid prior to the next match.

6. It is their duty to insure all players have passes and is properly registered with the MPL.

7. They are personally responsible for any and all debt to the MPL, including team and player fines and trophy replacement.

E. Duties of Players

1. It is the player's duty to be properly registered.

2. It is each player's responsibility to possess a valid pass all games, and be properly dressed for play in full team uniform.

3. It is each player's responsibility to keep his Team Officer informed of his current home address, place of employment and both his/her home and work phone numbers.

4. Each player is responsible for compliance to all park/field rules and all rules and laws of the game.

F. Duties of Referees

1. He/she must be thoroughly familiar with the FIFA Laws, with the USASA laws, and with the MPL amendments as set forth in the *MPL Constitution* and *MPL Bylaws*.

2. The referee must be properly dressed in a black referee uniform, and he/she must have a different color shirt in the event that one of the teams wears black uniforms.

3. He/she must obtain a team roster from each team prior to the start of the game.

4. He/she must receive a game report form from the home team manager, complete it, and mail it to the Vice President, who in turn will mail it to the MPL Treasurer.

5. He/she must be in possession of all player passes before the starting of the match and hold them during the match, returning them only after the match is completed. He must confiscate the cards of all ejected players and submit them to the MPL Vice President with the game reports.

6. He/she must check player equipment and uniforms before each match.

7. Before starting the match he/she must check weather conditions, condition of the field, and preparation of the field (cut grass, lining, goal nets, and corner flags). He may only cancel or relocate a game because of violent weather, dangerous and poor field condition, poor player and fan conduct, insufficient team rosters or team tardiness.

G. Head Referee (Referee Association Representative)

1. May attend any or all MPL Board and MPL Council meetings by invitation or request.
2. Informs the Vice President of all disciplinary actions the same day as they occur.
3. Ensures the scheduling of referees for all games.
4. Ensures all referees meet qualifications required by the MPL.

H. Disciplinary Committee

1. The Vice President will be the standing Chairman unless his team / club is involved. In his absence the President or his appointed proxy will preside.
2. The committee will consist of at least three members who must be from neutral teams / clubs.
3. The Vice President will handle all protests, disciplinary actions, and all appeals.
4. He/she will inform all affected parties of time and location of Committee meetings. A letter will be sent via electronic mail and/or registered mail.
5. He/she will report and record results to the President and the MPL Registrar. The results will also be posted on the MPL website.
6. He/she ensures that the referee and/or the referee report are present at the meeting.

I. Financial Matters

1. The following expenses may be reimbursed to MPL Officers:
 - a. Postage.
 - b. Telephone costs.
 - c. Expenses with prior Presidential or MPL Board discretion or approval.
2. **Expenditures of Funds**
 - a. All expenditures must be approved by the MPL Board, except those directed by the President for day to day MPL operating costs when it is not possible for him to have the Board meet because of time limitations.
 - b. Board members who have been authorized to spend MPL monies must furnish receipts for all expenditures.

J. Awards

1. The President shall appoint a Trophy and Awards Committee with the approval of the MPL Board and the President will chair it.
2. The MPL Board must approve all funds spent by this committee.
3. Trophies will be awarded in all competitions sponsored by the MPL if financially feasible, unless the Board recommends otherwise.
4. The MPL Board or the Trophy Committee will approve who receives trophies, as well as the expenditures for such trophies.
5. The MPL Season winner will be awarded the entrance fee, not to exceed \$400.00, to a regional tournament agreed upon by the MPL and the team representative. The championship team may elect to not attend the tournament and take a \$200.00 discount towards the team registration for the following

season.

II. Primary Season

A. Laws of the Game: The laws that apply to primary season competition are FIFA Laws as amended by the USASA and as amended as follows:

1. A team shall have no more than eleven and no less than seven players on the field during a match.
2. A team may have unlimited number of players but place no less than eighteen players on its game roster.
3. Unlimited substitution is allowed among all players on the game roster during competition. Substitutions may occur only on own throw in unless the other team is substituting, any goal kick, game breaks and injuries.
4. A match will consist of two forty-five minute halves with a ten-minute half time. No overtime will be played during the regular season.
5. Games that are stopped by the referee shall be replayed if the game ends before half time or during the half time period, but the score will stand if the game ends in the second half. The only exception to this rule is if the Disciplinary Committee deems it necessary to fine one of the teams for gross unsportsmanlike conduct. If this happens, the committee may rule that the other team is the winner.

B. Financial Obligations

1. There will be a team forfeit deposit payable by each team to be refunded at the end of the season if the team has not forfeited any games. The amount of the deposit will depend on the contract with the referee association and may be found in the Fee Code. Should a team's forfeit deposit be depleted, then it must be fully replenished before the team is allowed to play another match.
2. Referees will be paid based on the contract with the referee association. In the event that no such contract exists, and the MPL hires individual referees, the MPL Board must determine what amount each official will be paid. Each team will then pay the per game referee fees times the number of home games. All referee fees must be paid in full before the start of the season and unpaid team will not be approved by the MPL Board, and will be granted only in situations that are beyond the control of the teams.
3. There will be a player registration fee payable by each player. The MPL Board will determine the amount each season. (See Fees Code)
4. There will be a Team Membership Fee payable by each team. The amount each season to be determined by the MPL Board. (See Fees Code)
5. Replacement of player passes may be purchased from the MPL Registrar. Current replacement fee is to be set by the MPL Board.

C. Uniforms & Equipment

1. All teams will have uniforms consisting of the following items:
 - a. Soccer jerseys, with numbers, all the same color and design and must have a number on the back.
 - b. Socks all the same color.
 - c. Proper soccer shoes and shin guards as defined in Law IV of the FIFA

Laws.

d. The goalkeeper must wear a jersey or T-shirt which is different in color from the jerseys of both teams playing in the match (black goalkeeper shirts are permitted).

2. Each home team must be prepared to change to different color jerseys if the opposing team wears the same color jerseys.

3. Each team must bring to every match a proper soccer ball as defined in Law II of the FIFA Laws.

4. Each player must bring to each match a valid player pass in his/her name.

D. The Season

1. The season will be determined by the MPL Council at the annual spring meeting.

2. In general, there will be a 15 minute grace period for the start of the match. If the referee cannot start the game because one team does not have seven properly dressed players, then that team shall forfeit the match. If both teams lack seven properly dressed players at the scheduled start of the match, then both teams shall forfeit the match. Only in the case of extremely severe weather conditions can the referee allow 30 minutes. The ultimate discretion will be made by the center referee.

E. Computation of Team Standings

1. Standing points are awarded in the following manner:

- a. Three points are awarded for a win or a win by forfeit.
- b. One point is awarded for a tie.
- c. No points are awarded for a loss or a loss by forfeit.
- d. Two goals are awarded for forfeit victories.

2. The tie-breaking procedures shall be as follows: (1) Points; (2) Head-to-Head; (3) Head-to-Head Goal Differential; (4) Goal Differential; (5) Goals Scored; (6) Wins; (7) Coin Toss. If more than two teams are tied, the result of their round robin (standing points only) shall be the second tiebreaker, and round robin head-to-head goal differential shall be the third tiebreaker.

F. Registration of Players

1. To add a player to your roster all of the player's registration materials must be received 5 days prior to games. Players can register until 5 days prior to the second to last season game.

2. Players must participate in 2 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

3. Under no circumstances may a player be registered on two or more teams at the same time.

4. Every player must complete, sign and return the following player registration materials:

- ✓ USASA Player Card (existing cards are accepted but must be submitted)
- ✓ Passport sized player photo for USASA Player Card
- ✓ MPL Player Registration Form
- ✓ Assumption and Acknowledgement of Risks Form
- ✓ Player Fee

G. Registration Procedures

1. The deadline for the registration of teams is the set by the board. At that time the team membership and forfeit deposit fees is due. When the registrar receives this fee he will furnish registration materials for the players.

2. The deadline for the payment of all player dues is prior to participation in any MPL sanctioned event unless otherwise agreed upon prior to the start of the season.

H. Disciplinary Actions

1. Classifications

a. Yellow Card Offenses

(i) Ungentlemanly Conduct: two points.

(ii) Dissent: defined as consistent argumentative reaction to the authority of the referee and his linesmen; two points.

(iii) Retaliation: defined as tackling or attacking a player with little or no intention of playing the ball in a manner consistent with the rules of the game; three points.

(iv) The accumulation of 3 yellows over the season is the equivalent of a red card and will result in a minimum one game suspension.

b. Red Card Offenses

(i) General: defined as excessive profanity or abusive (physical or verbal) behavior that the referee judges as unfit and the player is forced from the game; five points.

(ii) Violent Fouls: defined as retaliation or uncontrolled fouls with the intent to deliberately injure a player through tackling or reckless play; eight points.

(iii) Striking: defined as hitting or kicking a player or the attempts to do so during or after the game; fifteen points.

(iv) A red will result in a minimum one game suspension.

(v) The accumulation of 2 red cards over the course of one season will result in the suspension of the player.

(vi) A supplemental report must be provided by the center referee for all red cards issued.

c. Immediate Disciplinary Committee Reviewable Offenses

(i) Fighting is strictly prohibited and will result in the suspension of all players involved for the remainder of the season.

(ii) Striking of referee is strictly prohibited and will result in the suspension of all players involved for the remainder of the season.

(iii) Striking of fan is strictly prohibited and will result in the suspension of all players involved for the remainder of the season.

2. A team is responsible for the behavior of its fans. Failure of the team to control its fans may result in severe fines for the team.

3. Any team wishing to file an appeal of the actions taken by the Disciplinary Committee must do so within five days after receiving official notification from the committee. After five days the findings become final. A \$100.00 fee is required with each appeal. The fee is non refundable whether the appeal committee returns a favorable decision or not. Only disciplinary penalties imposed by the League (e.g., probation, suspension, expulsion, etc.) may be appealed; referee-

issued disciplinary cards and the associated disciplinary points may not be overturned since doing so would undermine the on-field authority of the referees.

4. For further disciplinary penalties see Fine Code.

J. Transfers: Players and team managers are responsible for notifying the Commissioner of a transfer. Transfers must be accomplished in writing. The transfer document must bear the signature and/or electronic approval of the player, the two team managers and the commissioner. Transferred players cannot play for their new club until the MPL Registrar has validated the player pass. The team with which the player is registered is not required to release a player during an on-going season. In general, a good reason for not allowing a player to transfer is if the team manager feels that his team is weakened by the loss of this player or another rival is strengthened. If a player wants to transfer because he feels that his team unfairly treats him, or that other unusual circumstances exist, he may request that the Disciplinary Committee hear his case. No transfers between unaffiliated teams will be permitted after the roster freeze date, unless permitted by the Disciplinary Committee. Players may be transferred within a club after the roster freeze date, subject to MPL Board approval.

K. Field Conditions: It will be the responsibility of the hometown teams to ensure fields are properly lined, goals with nets free of defects are provided and all obstacles are removed. If the hometown team fails to meet these requirements a fee will assessed as determined by the MPL Disciplinary Committee.

III. MPL Cup: The MPL Cup shall be open to all teams registered with the MPL.

1. Laws of the Game: see **Article II.A.**

2. Financial Obligations

- a. Referees will be paid per match as contracted with the referee association.
- b. The MPL may provide and pay for two linesmen for each match. They will be paid according to contacted scale.
- c. There will be no further fees for participating teams.

3. Uniforms & Equipment: see **Article II.C.**

4. Computation of Team Standings: Final standings will be determined by the MPL Cup. Computation of final standings will be based on tournament rules as posted online at <http://www.montanasoccer.org/playoffs.htm>.

IV. Amendment of the Bylaws

A. Amendments: Amendments to these Bylaws shall require approval by majority of the members of the MPL Council.

B. Submission of Proposed Amendments: Proposed amendments shall first be submitted in writing to the MPL Board. The Board shall study and present the proposed amendment to the MPL Council for discussion and debate. Under no circumstances shall the proposed amendment be voted upon less than 30 days following presentation in its final form to the MPL Council.