

BYLAWS
TUCSON METRO SOCCER LEAGUE
December 29, 2023

I. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

1. The Board of Directors (Board) for the Tucson Metro Soccer League (TMSL) shall consist of a maximum of 11 and a minimum of 6 Board members, including four officers.
2. Officers. There shall be four (4) elected officers on the Board.
 - a. President: The President shall preside at all meetings. The President shall only vote if the Board's vote ends in a tie. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - b. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of the President if the elected president is unable to complete his term of office. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings where the President is absent and may act on behalf of the President when he is not available. The Vice President shall be the chairman of the Discipline and Rules (D&R) Committee and shall report the functions of this committee.
 - c. Secretary: The Secretary shall record and publish minutes of all meetings, attend to correspondence, provide notice of meetings, and maintain all TMSL records (except financial). The Secretary also shall review the minutes of last board meeting (if needed) with the Board at the start of the scheduled Board meeting, make any modification identified and agreed by Board members.
 - d. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect dues and fees, have charge of TMSL monies, keep a detailed account of all financial transaction of the TMSL, submit a monthly financial report to the Board, pay all bills approved by the Board, and be responsible for all TMSL property and assets.
3. In the absence of the President, the line of succession for conducting meetings shall be Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.
4. Elections: The election of officers shall occur annually at the June Board meeting. Only members of the Board present (in person or electronically) may vote.
5. A majority vote of the remaining Board may fill any officer or Board vacancies.
6. Any officer or Board member shall be indemnified for any liability.

7. The Board can vote to remove any officer or member from their position following notice to the affected Board member for:
 - a. three absences (exceptions are unplanned emergencies and out of cycle meetings), or
 - b. failure to complete assigned tasks, or
 - c. for any other reason detrimental to the Board or TMSL after a quorum and two-thirds vote of the Board members present.

8. The Board may appoint special committees or coordinators for specific tasks as necessary. All committees must identify a lead member who coordinates meetings and activities of the committee and reports to the Board. The Board may fill any vacancy and shall elect committee members and coordinators at the June meeting. Standing committees and coordinators include:
 - a. Discipline and Rules (D&R) Committee: The D&R committee shall consist of not less than three board members, plus the division coordinator. The committee shall review all ejections, including those forwarded by any Board member for special consideration. If a member is associated with a player or team being sanctioned, the Vice President will replace them with another Board member for that case.
 - b. Field Conditions/Coordinators: This committee can consist of one or more members. They are responsible for coordinating with City, County, and other leagues for reserving all playing fields, coordinating field set-up including nets and lines, ensuring field conditions are safe, and notifying team captains when fields are closed for repairs and inclement weather.
 - c. Registration Committee: The President and Vice President shall have registration authority and may pick one or more members to enter registrations on the website. They may work with an outside individual to coordinate State payments for player insurance.
 - d. Referee Coordinator: A minimum of one member shall be the liaison with the referee assignor if the assignor is not a Board member. The Coordinator shall ensure the referee assignor is provided game schedules in a timely fashion and notify them of cancellations, forfeits or any schedule changes.
 - e. Schedule Coordinator. A minimum of one member shall prepare game schedules each season, or act as liaison if the scheduler is not a Board member.
 - f. Tournament Committee: This committee shall consist of a minimum of two members who will coordinate the end-of-season tournament, including

tournament format, food and drinks, and trophies and winner's shirts. They can also recommend and/or coordinate other adult tournaments in Tucson.

- g. Website Committee: This committee shall consist of a minimum of two members who maintain and upgrade the TSMML website, post messages to captains and players, trouble-shoot problems, assist captains and players with procedural steps for registering themselves or teams, and update the website when needed.
 - h. Communications Committee: this committee shall consist of a minimum of two members and is responsible for ensuring captains and players are kept up to date on results from board meetings, new rules, schedule changes, and other items that may be of interest. They will include Division Coordinators if a subject includes their division.
 - i. Sponsors/Publicity Committee: this committee shall consist of a minimum of two members who are responsible for promoting TSMML, coordinating with existing sponsors each year for funding, searching for new sponsors, and promoting recruitment of new players from any available sources including local leagues and universities.
 - j. Division Coordinators: each division shall have one coordinator. The Division Coordinators will be the liaisons between the teams and the Board. They will take issues and concerns from managers/captains and players and provide recommendations to the Board for resolution and the Board will approve or disapprove the recommendation. They will relay these decisions back to the team representative. They may also provide input to the D&R Committee for issues in their divisions.
9. The Board may hire and pay an outside individual or organization to complete specific tasks if they determine it is in the best interest of the TSMML to do so.
10. An active or past Board member is exempt from paying player fees. If they were a board member for minimum of three (3) years and leave the board in good standing, they are exempt from paying player fees for the duration of their TSMML career. The Board can remove this privilege at any time for acts detrimental to the TSMML.

II. MEETINGS

- 1. Board meetings shall be held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month unless the President reschedules. The President may call additional meetings, or any Board member may request to the President a special meeting. A quorum for the conduct of business is a majority (more than half) of the members of the Board currently holding office.
 - a. A majority of votes cast shall decide all questions except removal from

office and an amendment the Bylaws.

- b. Any member can request an electronic vote via email or text if it is in the best interest of the TMSL to have a decision before the next Board meeting. There will be a minimum of a 24-hour response time and the quorum is the number of Board members who respond. The President and Vice President can make decisions if no Board members respond to the request for an electronic vote.
 - c. The President and Vice President may make decisions on situations that arise between meetings and require a quick response and will report these decisions at the next Board meeting.
2. All TMSL Board meetings are open to the public. However, the Board may act in executive session and exclude non-Board members.
 3. The Board shall transact all the business of the TMSL and have the power to enforce the laws of the games and the Bylaws. The Board is the final arbitrator in all TMSL disputes.

III. GAMES

1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game unless otherwise expressly stated by USSF, ASSA or TMSL.
2. Game length shall be presumptively 90 minutes for the Fall league and 80 minutes for the Summer league unless otherwise determined by the Board.
3. A completed, official match requires minimum play of 60 minutes. A match that does not complete 60 or more minutes may, in the discretion of the Board, be replayed in its entirety or the amount of time that was not played. This paragraph does not apply to games terminated as addressed in Section VIII.2.
4. The referee shall grant a grace period of 10 minutes past kickoff time to field a legal team. The term "legal" means seven (7) players uniformed and with player identification. The referee shall not shorten the game. If a team is unable to field a minimum of seven (7) registered players, the referee shall forfeit the match at his/her own discretion or as requested by the opposing team. If the game starts after a 10-minute delay with agreement by the referee and the opposing team, then the game will be shortened accordingly and must end at the original scheduled time.
5. At the discretion of the Board or the referee, the referee may allow a two (2)-minute hydration break midway through each half during extremely hot weather. All divisions must take the hydration break during the summer season.
6. Substitutions are subject to the following rules and conditions:
 - a. TMSL allows unlimited substitutions with the referee's permission if the

player is checked in.

b. Substitutions may be made as follows:

- i. Either goal kick,
- ii. beginning of half,
- iii. after any goal scored,
- iv. For injury provided the referee is notified and he gives permission, and in the referee's discretion when playing conditions warrant,
- v. On hydration breaks, if provided,
- vi. On own throw-in,
- vii. On own corner kick,
- viii. On opponent's throw-in if the opponent substitutes first,
- ix. On opponent's corner kick if opponent substitutes first.

7. TMSL does not permit sliding and slide tackles in the O50 and O60 divisions. Slide tackling is defined as a player leaving their feet to slide and challenge an opponent for the ball. Sliding is defined as sliding to save a ball going out of bounds, or leaving their feet to stop a cross or shot but does not involve challenging an opponent. Both shall result in an indirect free kick, and a slide tackle shall also include a caution. This rule does not apply to goalkeepers inside the penalty area, who may leave their feet to play a ball, but they may not slide and challenge an opponent.
8. A referee can delay or cancel a game due to inclement weather for life, health, or safety or to reduce damage to the field.
 - a. If the game time meets the minimum duration per Section III.3, the referee shall consider it a completed game.
 - b. If the game time is less than the minimum duration per Section III.3, the Board shall determine whether to reschedule or cancel the game.
 - c. A referee shall delay or cancel a game due to lightning within 10 miles of the game. The game shall be delayed 30 minutes after the last lightning was seen and players will move to an appropriate shelter. The game shall resume if no further lightning is seen, or it moves beyond 10 miles. If it is still within 10 miles after 30 minutes, the referee shall terminate the game. If with the 30-minute delay the game cannot meet the requirements for a complete game per Section III.3, the referee shall terminate the game.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. TEAMS

- a. Each team shall pay a \$100 bond when first registered and this bond remains with the team for its duration. The Board shall refund the bond to the team captain upon request when the team leaves the TMSL.

- b. Each team can register 25 players.
- c. Each team shall have a team manager. The manager is the individual(s) listed on the TMSL Registration website as the team representative. They organize, register, and manage the team roster, ensure rosters and captain's armbands are at games, and are responsible for all team and fan's actions at the field. They ensure their players are notified of all communication issued by the Board directly or through its website, and review and understand the Bylaws. The team captain(s) are those players designated by the manager to represent the team on the field during games. The manager and captain may be the same individual. The captain on the field must always wear a captain's armband during the games.
- d. To play in a scheduled game, a player must be registered no later than Friday (5:00 PM) at the The Shop or online (PayPal) to play on Sunday; Sunday by 5:00 PM online for Tuesday games, and Tuesday by 5:00 pm online for Thursday games. Registration consists of the manager or Registrar adding the player to the team roster, and the player paying the TMSL fee and signing a waiver either on the Registration website or a paper copy.
- e. The manager must register players either on the TMSL Registration website (virtual) or at the TMSL office (in-person). Board members cannot take registration money or forms.
- f. Each player shall have identical jerseys with professionally applied numbers and the TMSL sponsor's logo. The home team, designated by the team listed first on the schedule, is responsible for jersey change in the event of color conflict. The jerseys must also have numbers. Failure to have legal jerseys can lead to game forfeit.
- g. Each team shall present to the referee a valid TMSL roster printed from the TMSL Registration website, with correct player jerseys numbers. Each player shall be prepared to present to the referee a valid government-issued identification with photograph. A player shall not play without proper identification or if he is not on the printed team roster for that game. Referees are responsible for checking player identification. Failure to present the printed roster shall lead to game forfeit.
- h. No team or teams shall postpone, reschedule, or otherwise fail to field a team (seven [7] players) for a scheduled match. Any team that fails to compete in a scheduled match shall forfeit the match. If any team incurs more than two forfeits in any season, that team's bond shall be automatically revoked and said bond shall become the property of TMSL. The team must reinstate the bond prior to the team's resumption of play. Any team unable to field a team (seven [7] players or more) shall notify the

TMSL at least seven (7) days in advance of its match to avoid the bond forfeit penalty. Any team that incurs four (4) forfeited matches, with or without prior notification, over the course of one season, is ineligible to participate in the post season tournament.

- i. Both teams are responsible for:
 - i. A completed team roster from the TMSL Registration website presented to the referee (player's name and jersey number on a TMSL- supplied form prior to the match).
 - ii. Captain's armband (TMSL provides two [2]. If lost, teams must replace on their own)
 - iii. One game ball each.
 - iv. Policing the area of the field for litter after the game.
 - v. The conduct of players on its respective team and spectators prior to, during and after the game.
 - vi. The welfare of officials during the same period.

2. PLAYERS

- a. Must wear shin guards.
- b. Must have a valid, state-issued identification card.
- c. Assume all risks or hazards incidental to participation in the TMSL and do waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the respective TMSL, team organizers, sponsors, supervisors, officers, board members and participants for any claim arising.
- d. May play on multiple teams if those teams are in different aged divisions (players cannot play in two open divisions). Registration fees may be reduced for the second team at the discretion of the Board.
- e. May transfer to another team if they meet the division age requirement. All transfers require a \$5 fee. Transferring to another team within the same division requires sitting out one (1) game. Transferring to another team outside the age division does not require sitting out a game.

3. REFEREES

- a. Are responsible for both team rosters and a completed referee game report. The referee shall provide the completed game report on the TMSL registration website within three (3) days of a match.
- b. Shall check all player identification against the roster.
- c. Shall officiate the full 90 minutes (80 minutes in the summer league). The

following approaches can be used:

- i. 1 center official and 2 linesmen (standard),
- ii. 1 center official, 1 linesman, and 1 club linesman (club linesmen can only call throw-ins),
- iii. 1 center official and 2 club linesmen.

V. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND TOURNAMENT

1. The Board will determine final league standings by points awarded (three [3] for a win, one [1] for a draw), goal differential (a maximum of five [5] per game regardless of the final score), games won, games tied, games lost, and head-to-head competition.
 - a. The Board will determine league champions only during the Fall/Winter season.
 - b. The Board will only determine league champions if a minimum of 15 games are played during the 18-game season.
 - c. The Board shall award each division champion team with, at minimum, shirts for each player. Teams can pay additional money to upgrade the shirts.
2. The post-season tournament will include a maximum of eight (8) teams from each division, based on the top 8 teams, unless one of the top eight (8) teams chooses not to participate or has the maximum number of forfeits per Section IV.1(h).
 - a. Tournament brackets will consist of the top four (4) teams in each division placed in separate brackets, and a blind draw of the next four (4) teams to determine the first games. If a division has less than eight (8) teams, the same breakout will occur with the top and bottom halves of the division. The Board will set the brackets so the second game would be 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd.
 - b. Teams with four (4) forfeits during the season will be excluded from the tournament.
 - c. Teams may only use players in tournament that are registered with the team prior to a date determined by the Board and/or the Tournament Committee. Player(s) transferring to another team must fulfill the requirements of Section IV.2(e). The Board may waive the waiting period under special circumstances.
 - d. If tournament matches are tied at the end of regulation time, there shall be two 15-minute overtime periods with a golden goal provision.

Overtime shall begin with a coin toss after a rest period of two (2) minutes. The referee shall allow a half- time interval of one (1) minute between overtime periods. If the score remains tied after the overtime periods, the match will be decided by penalty kicks taken in accordance with the USSF/ASSA laws of the game.

- e. If a tournament game is stopped before the 60th minute due to unforeseen circumstances, the game will be replayed per Section III.3.
- f. The winners of each division will receive a team trophy and t-shirts for each player.

VI. AGE AND AGE-RESTRICTED DIVISIONS

1. A player must be 18 years old to play in the Open Division(s). There is no maximum age restriction.
2. Age-restricted divisions are comprised of teams whose players meet certain age requirements. Divisions will be designated Over X, where X is the established lower age boundary of the given division.
 - a. Eligibility. For a player to qualify for a particular age-restricted division while under the division minimum age, they must reach that minimum age by the end of the calendar year of registration. There is no maximum age restriction.
 - b. Exceptions. The Board may allow under-age players to play in age-restricted divisions if they determine a particular team needs such players to become minimally competitive. Certain restrictions will apply to the addition and continued play of under-age players on a team.
 - c. Under-age players must be no more than 3 years younger, at the time of registration, than the division minimum age, per Section VI.2(a).
 - i. For O40, players must be 37, 38, or 39,
 - ii. For O50, players must be 47, 48, or 49,
 - iii. For O60, players must be 57, 58, or 59.
 - d. A team can have no more than 3 under-age players on their roster.
 - e. Underage players are tied to that team until they reach the division minimum age or that team becomes wholly competitive (as determined by the Board). If the team folds or drops the player, they are eligible to play on another team as an under-age player.
 - f. In the event a team becomes wholly competitive, the Board may not allow under-age players to re-register for that team, nor will they be allowed to play elsewhere in that division without a Board exception.

- g. If the under-age player leaves the team to which they were assigned, replacement under-age players must qualify per Section VI.2(a).
- h. The Board may remove any under-age player involved in fighting, repeated violent conduct fouls, or any other detrimental behavior from the division.

VII. DISCIPLINE, PROTESTS, GRIEVANCES

1. The Board shall subject team managers, players, and Board members to disciplinary action for commission of acts which are contrary to or inconsistent with the principles and standards of good sportsmanship (i.e. acts detrimental to soccer). This provision includes all soccer related activities, within or without the TMSL, including physical or verbal abuse towards TMSL officials both on and off the field.
2. If conditions exist with any team under the jurisdiction of the TMSL which, in the judgment of the Board, can be considered to reflect poor management or are not in the best interest of soccer, then the Board has the power and authority to investigate such matters and take disciplinary action.
3. Disciplinary action may consist of any appropriate and equitable measure including but not limited to:
 - a. Censure,
 - b. Probation,
 - c. Suspension,
 - d. Fine,
 - e. Game forfeiture, or
 - f. Removal from office.
4. Team managers are responsible for the administrative duties associated with their team, as well as the behavior of the team players on the field, on the sidelines and team spectators before, during and after the game. The Board may discipline a manager (present or not at the game time) or captain on the field in connection with a violation by a player, the team or spectators.
 - a. The team manager or his designee will arrive at the field of play with the appropriate TMSL paperwork completed prior to the scheduled start of play.
 - b. Only the designated team captain may approach the center referee and assistant referees (linesmen) in a respectful manner on questioned matters during the game.

- c. The referee shall award a caution to the designated manager or captain prior to the start of the game for violations of administrative matters, such as not having the proper TMSL paperwork, not having the paperwork completed on time, or the team not being ready to begin at the scheduled start time.
5. The Board shall sanction any team utilizing the services of an illegal player with a forfeit loss (or the actual game score, whichever is worse) and one (1) penalty point for every match that it is determined they used an illegal player. The sanction for the manager and/or game day captain utilizing an illegal player is in accordance with a Level 3 infraction subject to D&R Committee review.
6. The D&R Committee, with input from the Division Coordinator, if applicable, shall review all matters submitted to TMSL-related violation of rules, misconduct on the playing field, and grievances.

VIII. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. A player or manager ejected from the field of play by the referee during a game, under the jurisdiction of TMSL, shall be automatically suspended.
2. No team shall cause or contribute to the premature termination of a game. This includes off field behavior by the team or by the behavior of spectators associated with that team. The Board shall refer teams involved in a premature termination of a match to the D&R Committee for sanction. The presumptive minimum sanction for a match termination is probationary status for the remainder of the existing season subject to terms and conditions set forth by the D&R Committee. A team involved in a second premature termination during the same season shall be minimally suspended from play for one match. A third or subsequent premature termination shall result in additional sanctions, including but not limited to season long suspension, bond forfeiture, and fine.

In determining the appropriate sanction, the D&R Committee shall give due consideration to the recommendation of the match referee. In addition, the D&R Committee shall attempt to identify, in its sole discretion, the "offending team" whose behavior was the primary cause of the premature termination of the match. The identified "offending team" shall also be assessed a forfeit loss in favor of its opponent. In the event the referee or D&R Committee cannot identify the primary "offending team," the match will not be recorded or re-played. The referee may decide to terminate a game if both captains agree, provided there is a match resulting score and no make-up game. Neither team will be penalized in this case.

3. A manager or a suspended player may appeal the severity of a suspension, they

must submit a written report which clearly and specifically identifies every argument in support of the appeal. The Board only allows appeals for Levels 3, 4, and 5 suspensions. The manager or player must submit the written report and a \$50.00 fee to the TMSL office by 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday after the Board posts the suspension on the D&R page of the TMSL website. The report must include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person submitting the appeal.

- a. Upon the timely receipt of a player's written appeal and fee, the President shall appoint an ad hoc committee of three (3) board members to reconsider/review the proposed suspension and provide a decision to the President within 15 days of receiving the appeal.
 - b. If the Committee recommends upholding an appeal, the Board shall refund all appeal fees.
4. The Board shall levy a minimum \$250.00 fine for any altered government-issued ID.
5. Players suspended for certain infractions shall, in addition to serving any suspension received, have a fine levied according to the schedule shown below. The player must pay the fine prior to resuming play. The player must submit payment to TMSL no later than the Wednesday before the player's next game either through PayPal (electronic) or the TMSL office (in person).
6. For each red card received for Levels 3-5 infractions, the Board shall deduct between one (1) to three (3) points from the Team's total points calculation (penalty point). The Board may consider removing the penalty points in certain circumstances if the team drops the player from their roster.
7. The Board considers a player suspension served for a forfeited game if the forfeit is done officially through the TMSL per Section IV.1(h). This does not include forfeits at the field or postponed games.
8. If a dual-registered player receives a red card, he is suspended from league play in the division he was ejected from for Levels 1-2 infractions. For Level 3-5 infractions, the player is suspended from all league play in each division he plays in. For example, if a player is ejected for a Level 4 infraction and receives a three (3)-game suspension, he must sit out three (3) games in each division he participates in. The player shall only receive one fine, and penalty points are only deducted from the team he was playing for when suspended.

IX. SANCTIONS

1. Any abusive language or profanity is an automatic yellow card, regardless of context.

2. TMSL has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination or harassment against anyone based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or physical or mental disability. Referees will sanction discriminatory remarks severely.

3. Red Cards Sanctions:

Infractions	Suspension (games)	Fine	Penalty Points
Yellow Cards (3 in one season)	1	\$25	0
Red Cards			
Level 1	1	\$25	0
Double yellow			
Denying Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity			
Serious Foul Play			
Foul and/or Abusive Language towards player/spectators			
3 cautions/season			
Acts detrimental to soccer			
Level 2	2	\$50	0
Second Level 1			
Foul and/or Abusive Language towards referee or TMSL official			
1 st violent conduct			
Level 3 (D&R review)	3+	\$100	-1
Any ejection after serving Level 2			
Any fighting incident			
Any racial remarks, discrimination, or harassment			
Any matter the Board brings to D&R attention			
Use of illegal player			
Level 4 (D&R review)	1+ year	\$250	-2
Referee or Player assault (includes touches, grabs, spit-on, throwing or kicking a ball at, or threats of violence)			
Any ejection after serving Level 3			
Level 5 (D&R review)	Lifetime		-3
2 nd Level 4			

4. Repeat Offenders. The D&R Committee shall consider a player's disciplinary history for the past 3 years for all ejections. They will double the suspension and fine by each previous ejection.

- a. 1 previous ejection = current suspension and fine x 2 (for example, a one game suspension and \$25 fine becomes a two-game suspension and \$50 fine),
- b. 2 previous ejections = current suspension & fine x 4,

- c. 3 previous ejections = current suspension plus 1 year suspension and \$150 fine,
- d. 4 previous ejections = lifetime suspension.

Prepared by Martyn Tagg, Vice President, TMSL

Executed on December 29th, 2023.

Basile Andriopoulos
President, TMSL

Appendix A Bylaws Changes

These Bylaws are a living document and any Board member or TMSL participant can recommend revisions or additions at any time after it is published. The Board shall add such changes to the Bylaws and note such changes here.

Date	Change	Section No.	Requested by
12/29/23	Published new Bylaws	n/a	TMSL Board