

BY-LAWS OF THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Article 1. NAME AND PURPOSE

Name: This organization is known as the Western New England Preparatory School Soccer Association; more commonly, it is known by its acronym: WNEPSSA.

Purpose: The purpose of the organization is twofold: 1) to develop and to promote the game of soccer in Western New England; 2) to foster the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.

Article 2. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION

In 1954 the following schools became charter members of the association: Avon Olds Farms, Choate School, Kingswood School, Loomis School, Monson Academy, Mount Herman School, Pomfret School, Suffield Academy, Wilbraham Academy, and Williston Academy.

To become a member of WNEPSSA, a school must be a member (in good standing) of NEPSAC.

Ideally, a member school will play a minimum of eight league (association) games.

Article 3. OFFICERS IN THE ORGANIZATION

The officers are the president, the treasurer, and the secretary.

The president's duties are preside at all meetings and to oversee the general management of the organization.

The treasurer's duties are to collect dues, to pay bills, and to keep an accurate record of finances.

The secretary's duty is to write up and disseminate the minutes of all meetings to all coaches and athletic directors.

The executive committee consists of the following members: president, treasurer, secretary, NEPSAC coordinator, league statistician, all-star game coordinator, Connecticut State Coaches Association representative, Massachusetts State Coaches Association representative, and representatives from each of the size classifications within the association.

The executive committee will have the power to act on any association business when a full meeting of the association is not feasible.

Article 4. POLICIES GOVERNING THE ASSOCIATION

- A. Dues: Annual dues will be levied and are due from each member school on or before October 1st.
- B. Fall Meeting: There will be a mandatory meeting of coaches in September. This meeting will feature a discussion of current association issues.
- C. All-Star Games: On the second Sunday of November, the association will hold two all-star games. The purpose of these games is twofold: 1) to provide the best players in the league with exposure to college coaches; 2) to promote camaraderie amongst players and coaches.
- D. Winter Meeting: There will be a second mandatory meeting of coaches in December. This meeting will feature a discussion of current association issues and the presentation of awards.
- E. Communication: Coaches are required to respond on schedule to requests for dues, schedules, rosters, game reports, results of final matches, and information for the WNEPSSA website.
- The association will make an effort to maintain a website that will explain the organization's philosophy, list schedules and post games results.
- F. Code of Conduct: The association embraces the "Statement of Ethics" printed below, expecting all coaches and schools to comply with its spirit.
- Keeping in mind that the purpose of interscholastic athletics is to support the mission of secondary education, coaches are obligated to manage the conduct of their players in a responsible manner. If a player's conduct is not sportsmanlike, a coach should remove the player from the field and censure him. Coaches are similarly obligated to manage their own conduct, remembering, at all times, that their comportment not only serves as an example for their players but also reflects upon the schools they represent. Accordingly, coaches are expected to treat referees and opponents (players and coaches) with respect. In a word, gentlemanliness should define the behavior of players and coaches alike.
- G. Mentoring System: Every coach (upon notice to the president) who is new to the league will be assigned a mentor. Above all, the mentor will review (with his mentee) the by-laws, drawing special attention to the organization's "Statement of Ethics".

H. Disciplinary

Action: Schools failing to comply with association regulations—for instance, neglecting to pay dues, to attend required meetings, to comport themselves properly on the field, or to submit game results, rosters and schedules—may be suspended by the executive committee. Prior to any suspension, a team will first receive a warning in a letter addressed to the coach and the athletic director, explaining that their program is on probation for one year. The reasons for probation will be detailed in this letter. Suspension would preclude a team's players from receiving WNEPSSA honors and from participation in the league's all-star games; as well, suspension would preclude a coach (and school) from receiving team honors or awards and from voting in league meetings. Notice of a school's suspension will be sent to the school's coach, athletic director and head of school. After demonstrating ability to comply with league regulations, a suspended team will be reinstated the season following its suspension. Any suspension is subject to appeal. PLEASE NOTE: The opponents of a suspended team will not be affected by a suspension: their matches with the suspended team will count in the league standing.

I. Amendments and

Revisions: Amendments and revisions of the by-laws will become effective when ratified by a Three-quarters of the member schools.

Article 5. LEAGUE REGULATIONS

A. Standings All games played with association members will count in the league standings. If Two games are played between the same member schools, only the first game will count in the league standings.

The WNEPSSA Ranking System will be used to determine rankings in the association.

B. Titles: There are four league titles.

Member schools are classified according to the number of male students in grades 9-12. The classifications are:

Class A: more than 240 (Champions receive the Hay-Sanderson Cup)

Class B: 160-240 (Champions receive the Ray Brown Cup)

Class C: 100-159 (Champions receive the Lloyd McDonald Cup)

Class D: less than 100 (Champions receive the Class D championship Cup with the understanding that the Cup will be named at a later date)

In order to change classification, a school must petition the President, detailing reasons for such a change, before the opening meeting (Article 4, section B).

C. Awards The team with the lowest per-game card average is presented with the Dave Coughlin Sportsmanship Award. The teams in each of the classifications other than the Coughlin Award winner will also receive sportsmanship awards. The organization also presents a certificate to any team that goes through the entire season without receiving a single card.

Teams must play a minimum of 8 WNEPSSA matches to qualify for a league title.

D. Referees: Two referees or one referee and two linesmen will be used in league matches. All game officials must be accredited.

E. NCAA

Rules: NCAA rules will be observed with the following exceptions:

- a) Teams will not be limited to 18 players.
- b) Matches will be played without overtime.
- c) Teams will play 45 minute halves; however, When Daylight Savings Time ends, if there is a possibility of failing light, both coaches of a given match must agree to play 45-minutes halves; if either one disagrees, then the two teams must play an 80- minute match.
- d) Per NCAA regulation, a 90-minute match will not be considered complete unless it has progressed to 70 minutes; also, an 80-minute match will not be considered complete unless it has progressed to 60 minutes.
- e) The official clock will not stop on every substitution.
- f) Home teams will wear colored jerseys and stockings, and away teams will wear white jerseys and stocking. If the colors worn by two teams are similar, the home team has the responsibility of making an adjustment.
- g) There are no restrictions on substitutions.
- h) Yellow carded players (including keepers) must be removed from the match, and coaches are encouraged **not** to re-enter carded players as soon as possible.

G. Game

Suspensions: Any player receiving a red card in an association match will be ineligible for his team's next scheduled* match. Any player receiving two yellow cards in the same match shall be deemed to have received a red card. If a player receives a second red card (or two yellow cards in the same match), he will be ineligible for the next two scheduled matches. If a player receives a red card for fighting, he will be ineligible for the next two scheduled matches. If a player receives a second red card for fighting, he will be ineligible for ALL subsequent matches.

Any player receiving three yellow cards will be ineligible for the next scheduled match. Any player receiving five yellow cards will be ineligible for the next scheduled match. As a result of each subsequent yellow card, a player will be ineligible for the next scheduled game.

Threshold match suspensions carry over to the following year for returning players.

*Neither an alumni game nor a scrimmage qualifies as a "scheduled game."

H. Ineligibility For League

Honors: If a player averages one point (or more) for every three association matches he plays, he will not be eligible for WNEPSSA Select Team recognition or association All-Star games. (One Yellow card=one point; Red card=two points; two Yellows in the same match=two points; one Yellow followed by a straight Red in the same match=three points)

Article 6. GAME-DAY PROCEDURES

Benches: The home-team coach should make sure all benches are situated on the same side of the field, with a scorer's table between them (whenever possible).

Timekeeper: The home team should arrange for a faculty member (or other responsible adult) to time the match.

When using a visible (electronic) clock, the timekeeper will keep the official time for the entire match.

Ball-Persons: The home team must arrange for two ball persons to run the lines. Each ball person will have a game ball in hand. If possible, ball persons should not be players, and they should be able to keep up with the play of the game.

Hospitality: The home school should greet the away team when they arrive, showing the locker room facilities, directing them to the field, and in general offering them gracious hospitality. Away coaches or ADs should contact the host school prior to the match if they need specific facilities above and beyond normal expectations. ALSO: Host schools should let opponents know if they plan to matches on artificial surfaces. (Obviously, changes due to weather conditions should be discussed as early as possible the day of the match)

Rosters Coaches shall exchange rosters before each match.

Team Salute: A team salute will precede the beginning of every association match.

Post-Game Salute: At the conclusion of every association match, both teams, coaches included, will shake hands, pay each other respect, and perhaps, wish each other luck. During this salute, the spirit of good will should unfailingly prevail.

Post-Game Collegiality: After the post-game handshake, coaches should meet briefly to comment respectfully about the performance of each other's teams (and perhaps discuss who deserves the game-card vote as most effective player for each team.)

Game Reports: Coaches are responsible for completing and submitting game reports within 48 hours of the completion of each match. Game reports must include the following:
Date of the match
Home team and score
Visiting team and score
Player of the match (best player of the match regardless of team) and school
Best player on the team not represented by the Player of the match and school
All players receiving yellow and red cards, the infractions and the school
Sportsmanship ranking of the opposing team
Reporting coach and school

Revised: December, 2010