

LEE'S SUMMIT SOCCER ASSOCIATION (LSSA)

CONSTITUTION

HISTORY:

LSSA was founded as a not-for-profit organization which is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers.

This association came into existence when a group of concerned citizens saw that a recreational soccer program would better flourish if managed by volunteers instead of being managed by Parks and Recreation. In the spring of 1992, this association was formed, and the following people were the original elected officers:

Steve Rollins – President
Jay Dittmann – 1st Vice President
Mike Carver – 2nd Vice President
Randy League – 3rd Vice President
Bud Kasper – 4th Vice President
Pam Toigo – Secretary
Melinda Booth – Treasurer

In our inaugural season, we started with 650 players.

In the fall of 2003, LSSA created a competitive division that started with 16 teams and more than 200 players. The competitive division joined the Missouri Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and played within the Blue River Youth Soccer Association's share play program (BRYSA). In the spring of 2005, BRYSA merged with other local youth soccer leagues to form the Kansas City Metropolitan Youth Soccer League (KC Metro League).

In 2007 LSSA created an adult summer league. In the first adult soccer season LSSA registered 144 players.

In the fall of 2007, LSSA created a "special needs" youth soccer division. This division provides youth soccer players with physical or mental disabilities the ability to recreate and play soccer in a fun, friendly, and supportive environment. In the inaugural season, LSSA registered more than 30 players.

In the fall of 2011, LSSA created a "juniors" division. This division teaches 3-year-old players the game of soccer through basic soccer activities in a fun and supportive environment.

Also in the fall of 2011, LSSA created an "Academy" division within its competitive program. This division provides an opportunity for our aggressive recreational players to play in a more competitive division against competitive players who aspire to play youth soccer against players of similar skill and commitment levels.

In the spring of 2015, LSSA partnered with Sporting Kansas City, the local professional organization, to become an affiliate club member. Affiliate club members continue to serve their communities but have a closer tie with the professional organization. LSSA changed its name to LSSA d.b.a. Sporting Lee's Summit.

In the spring of 2016, LSSA, d.b.a. Sporting Lee's Summit, joined the Heartland Soccer Association as a member club.

In the Fall of 2017, a new Executive Board position for "Immediate Past President" was approved by the general board.

In the Spring of 2018, the "Academy" division within the competitive program branched out to become Sporting Missouri Valley, thus allowing the competitive program to concentrate on teams who want a slightly more competitive environment and are coached by unpaid volunteers.

ARTICLE I

The name of this body shall be Lee's Summit Soccer Association (LSSA), referred to within as the "Association." The Association also conducts business as Sporting Lee's Summit.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- A. To organize, regulate, advance and promote the sport of youth soccer within and around the Lee's Summit, Missouri area.
- B. To encourage and develop the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play.
- C. To support the physical, mental, and emotional development of the youth player by allowing every player to participate at a level of play where he or she has success and enjoyment.
- D. To support the play of soccer at all ages as time, interest, and financial resources permit.

The focus of the Association will always be on youth soccer; however, game schedules, league expenditures, and the number of volunteers will be based on recreational player demands. The needs of the competitive division will continue to be evaluated as league resources become available.

ARTICLE III

The headquarters of this organization shall be designated by the board and all board meetings shall be held monthly.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. Any child may register to play in the Association. He or she must register prior to the registration deadline at the start of each season. Late registrations will be accepted as space

permits. Note: the Association reserves the right to reject a player's registration form based on past negative experiences with the child's parents or legal guardians.

Section 2. Registration form must be accompanied by:

- A. The proper registration fee. The fee will be announced prior to each season.
- B. Completed registration form (on-line or hard copy) with signed waiver.
- C. A copy of the player's birth certificate.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. the Association shall be governed by a board of directors that shall consist of:

A. EXECUTIVE BOARD, which shall consist of seven elected officers: Each officer shall serve a term of two consecutive years upon election. Each term will expire on June 15, unless the officer is reelected for a second term of two additional years. There are no term limits.

1. President

The President presides at all meetings. Is a member ex-officio of all committees. The President will conduct all administrative functions of the organization. Will be the custodian of all contracts and agreements and insure adherence to them. Will facilitate all purchase orders. The President will be assisted by the following staff: League Administrator, Sponsorship Chairperson, Uniform Coordinator, and Trophy Coordinator. The President will cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie or may waive the right to do so. The President and Treasurer will compile an annual budget based upon budgets submitted from each executive officer and will present this budget at the first board meeting of the spring season.

The President shall review the annual User Agreement provided by the Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Board and the Memorandum of Understanding with the R-7 Lee's Summit School District, Indoor and Outdoor Rental Agreements, and provide recommendations to the Executive Board for consideration prior to executing.

Term of office is two years with re-election in even numbered years.

2. Vice President of Recreational Soccer

The Vice President of Recreational Soccer presides at all meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer is responsible for all game play in the Recreational Division including adult soccer. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will accumulate team rosters and develop play levels for both boys and girls divisions. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will govern modifications of recreational rules and govern the movement of players between teams or levels. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will be responsible for maintaining the specific rules and guidelines for the player assignments. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will schedule game play, develop and promote all coaches, develop and promote officials, and develop and promote player and coach education programs. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will also have the power to decide any case that arises in the Recreational Division and is not covered by the game rules or interpretation thereof. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer will also have the power to cancel, reschedule, or

abandon games not played the full time, depending on the circumstances. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer may be an alternate co-signer of checks. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer may be assisted by the following committee chairpersons: Assistant Commissioners, Scheduler, Referee Coordinators, Division Representatives, Tournament Chairperson, Special Needs Coordinator, and through these people represent all recreational players, coaches, and officials.

The Vice President of Recreational Soccer shall be responsible for updates to the Association Coaches Manual and provide training on the manual from time to time as requested by the Executive Board.

Term of office is two years with re-election in odd numbered years.

3. Vice President of Facilities

The Vice President of Facilities presides at all meetings in the absence of the President and the Vice President of Recreational Soccer. The Vice President of Facilities shall be responsible for securing, developing, maintaining, and protecting all facilities and concessions, utilities and/or other land facilities connected thereto and therewith. The Vice President of Facilities will schedule all practice facilities. The Vice President of Facilities will be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the soccer fields including any grass cutting required, installation and removal of goals and nets, striping and marking of the playing fields, and any equipment required to accomplish these duties. The Vice President of Facilities efforts must be coordinated with the appropriate Parks and Recreation departments. The Vice President of Facilities shall determine equipment needs, recommend equipment purchases, and obtain estimates of equipment to be purchased with bids submitted to the board. The Vice President of Facilities may be an alternate co-signer of checks. The Vice President of Facilities may be assisted by the following chairpersons: Assistant Vice President of Facilities, Concession Manager, and Capital Projects Chairperson.

Term of office is two years with re-election in odd numbered years.

4. Vice President of Competitive Soccer

The Vice President of Competitive Soccer is responsible for all game play in the Competitive Division. For the Competitive Division, the Vice President of Competitive Soccer will accumulate club or team rosters; develop play levels, divisions, boys and girls play. The Vice President of Competitive Soccer will govern the movement of players between teams or clubs; and govern modifications of competitive rules. The Vice President of Competitive Soccer will also have the power to decide any case that arises within the Competitive Division and is not covered by the game rules or interpretation thereof. The Vice President of Competitive Soccer will chair the grievance committee (The grievance committee shall include no less than two executive board members and one general board member). The Vice President of Competitive Soccer will be responsible for the Association's representative to the State Association, Sporting Kansas City, and any share play organizations, if so affiliated. The Vice President of Competitive Soccer may be an alternate co-signer of checks. The Vice President of Competitive Soccer may be assisted by the following committee chairpersons: Assistant Commissioners, Division Representatives,

State Representative, Share Play Representative, and through these people represent all competitive players, coaches and officials.

Term of office is two years with re-election in even numbered years.

5. Vice President of Indoor Soccer

The Vice President of Indoor Soccer is responsible for all game play in the Indoor Soccer Division, including the Winter Indoor League and indoor training clinics. For the Indoor Soccer Division, the Vice President of Indoor Soccer will accumulate club or team rosters; develop play levels, divisions, boys and girls play. The Vice President of Indoor Soccer will govern the movement of players between teams or clubs; and govern modifications of indoor game rules. The Vice President of Indoor Soccer will also have the power to decide any case that arises within the Indoor leagues and is not covered by the game rules or interpretation thereof. The Vice President of Indoor Soccer will also have the power to cancel, reschedule, or abandon games not played the full time, depending on the circumstances. The Vice President of Indoor Soccer may be an alternate co-signer of checks. The Vice President of Indoor Soccer may be assisted by the following committee chairpersons: Assistant Commissioners and Division Representatives.

Term of office is two years with re-election in odd numbered years.

6. Secretary

The Secretary will keep a record of all meetings in a book provided for this purpose. The Secretary will keep a current roll of addresses and phone numbers of all officers, division representatives, coaches, and officials. The Secretary shall ensure the league Website and social media is updated with timely and accurate information. The Secretary shall notify all board members of dates and places of meetings. The Secretary will also be the resource center for the association and will maintain the association resources including all pertinent records, contracts, player birth certificates, coaches' licenses and background checks. The Secretary will keep a detailed inventory of coaches' equipment. The Secretary will coordinate the Association charity activities. The Secretary can be an alternate co-signer of checks in the absence of another executive officer. The following chairpersons may assist the Secretary, Web Site Coordinator.

Term of office is two years with re-election in even numbered years.

7. Treasurer

The Treasurer will keep a detailed record of all funds received and spent in a book or computer application provided for this purpose. Will pay all bills, as they come due, after the bill is approved by the board. Shall maintain separate checking accounts at a local bank for the purpose of paying all league related expenses. All league expenses shall be charged to the appropriate accounts so as to have a record of payments made. The Treasurer shall report the financial standing of the Association at every board meeting. Shall give a full statement of financial transaction made throughout the year at each Semi-Annual General meeting. Members of the Executive Board are the only authorized members to make deposits in the Association's bank accounts. The Treasurer shall serve as the primary depositor, when possible and will fill out or see to the completion of all necessary state and federal tax forms. The treasurer will ensure the referee payments are

processed. The following contractors and managers may assist the Treasurer: Bookkeeper. Large purchases for “non food” items such as a freezer or other equipment MUST be approved by the board.

An independent person, outside of the Association Executive Board, not appointed by the Treasurer will be engaged to review the books of the treasurer once a year and must give a report of their findings at the next board meeting following the review. The selected person shall not exceed more than two consecutive annual review periods.

Term of office is two years with re-election in odd numbered years.

8. Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President position provides continuity for the leadership of the organization. The position provides advice and leadership to the Executive Board regarding past practices and other matters to assist the Board in governing the organization. He/she will attend and participate in organization meetings, be informed about the organization’s mission, services, policies, and programs. The position will assist the Board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities. This position will review agendas and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings or conference calls. This person will serve on committees as appointed by the Executive Board. The Immediate past President will not be a voting member of the Executive Board.

Term of office is one year.

B. GENERAL BOARD: comprised of division representatives and assistant commissioners will be appointed by the Executive Board. The General Board members will be maintained on a board roster updated by the Secretary as needed. All General Board members and Executive Board members whom are appointed or elected and have the duties and powers to vote on league business are not allowed to receive compensation (the only exception is reimbursable expenses previously approved by the general board).

Section 2: The elected officers of the Association shall be determined by a majority vote (see Article VII for voting requirements). An elected officer may be removed from office during their elected term by a majority vote of the general board if the officer is found to be violating league policies, stealing, making false statements, misrepresenting the organization or for conduct that is not consistent with the goals of the Association.

Section 3: Three Executive Board members along with four General Board members will constitute a quorum for voting and transacting business.

Section 4: Before any bill can be paid or expenditures made, a vote in agreement must be made by the General Board, excluding ongoing expenses such as expenses covered by contracts previously approved by the board, i.e. mowing, striping or concession stand operations.

Section 5: All checks written by the Treasurer exceeding \$500.00 must be co-signed by another Executive Board member.

Section 6: Any Executive Board member absent from three consecutive board meetings without just cause may have his/her office declared vacant by a majority vote of the board.

Section 7: Two people from the same family may not serve as Executive Board members at the same time.

Section 8: Should an Executive Board office become vacant during the middle of its term, then a replacement may be appointed to fulfill the remainder of that office's term.

Executive Board member elections must be by a majority vote of the coaches present at a Pre-Season meeting, a Semi-Annual General meeting, or a Special General meeting.

Section 9: Any person may serve as an elected officer of this association. There is no requirement to have a child playing in this Association.

Section 10: Any person may serve on any committee herein described. Only an Executive Board Member may serve on more than three committees at one time.

ARTICLE VI

A Pre-Season meeting will be held prior to the start of each season for the purpose of organizing teams. A Semi-Annual General meeting will be held at or near the end of each season. Business of this Association may be conducted at either meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Each team in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at each of the Semi-Annual General meetings, at each Pre-Season meetings, and at any Special General meetings. Team representative must be present in-person to vote. No person may cast more than one vote for any reason.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: The Board may suspend or expel any individual player, parent, team, coach, or board member that in its opinion violates the principals or standards of the Association. The Board may, if necessary, press formal charges with the police for serious offenses.

Section 2: The Association requires all members; (coaches, team managers, board members, referees over age of 18) to complete a background check before participating in Association activities. All background forms MUST be completed prior to the beginning of each season and are good for one year.

The Executive Board of the Association will review the results of the background checks. If the Board receives a confirmed violation which they feel may negatively impact or have the potential to be harmful to the Association or any of its members, the Board MAY hold an investigative hearing with said party(s) to determine if the party(s) may participate in the Association's activities. The hearing process is at the sole discretion of the Board. The Board may decide to forgo the hearing and reject the membership application.

If the Board elects to schedule a hearing, the Board SHALL notify the person(s) of such hearing 15-days prior to scheduled hearing. The person(s) may choose to have representation at such hearing. The Board's decision is final and may not be appealed.

The Board reserves the right to refuse or reject any member(s) based on the results of the background checks. The Board WILL NOT discriminate based on race, age, religion or sex, only information received in the forms.

ARTICLE IX

Special General meetings may be called as needed to conduct Association business. Notice must be published to all teams in good standing as to provide at least 7 days in advance notice of the Special General meeting date.

ARTICLE X

The constitution may be amended or repealed at a Pre-Season or Post-Season meeting, a Semi-Annual General meeting, or at a Special General meeting by a 2/3 majority vote. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be submitted in writing to a regular board meeting via the Secretary at least 14 days prior to a publicized Special General meeting date or Semi-Annual General meeting date or a Pre-Season meeting date. The board shall review the proposed amendment and vote whether to recommend or not to recommend that the amendment be adopted by the membership.

LEAGUE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

The Association is comprised of two levels of play:

- A) Recreational Division
- B) Competitive Division

ARTICLE II

The Association will hold a minimum of two outdoor seasons a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The Association may hold additional seasons including summer and/or winter indoor soccer. Dates for each season shall be determined by the President and published to the board and to the coaches in advance of each season. The general guideline for the spring outdoor season is to play in March, April, May and June. The general guideline for the fall outdoor season is to play in August, September, October, and November. The Association may hold seasons at other times for various age groups as time, money, and schedules permit.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: All players must be registered with the Association. No unregistered players may participate under any circumstances.

Divisions shall be separated by grade (Recreational) or by age (Competitive) and, if possible, by gender. Competitive divisions are designated as UNDER a certain age. For example, the Boys U10 Division is for boys who are under the age of ten-years old. Evaluation of a player's age shall be done only once a year. The player must meet the age requirement as of Jan. 1 of the calendar year. For example, a player born on Aug. 17, 2001 would play in the U16 age division during the 2016/17 year.

The minimum age to participate in this association is four-years old and a player must meet this minimum age as of the previous Jan. 1.

A qualified recreational player may request to play up one grade division. Approval of the Vice President of Recreational Soccer and the Division Representative of the older division is required for placement in that division. A recreational player may request to play down up to one grade division. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer and the Division Representative of the younger division must approve the placement of the player in that division.

The Recreational Division teams **MUST BE** coached by volunteers. At no time may a Recreational Division coach or assistant solicit payment from players or parents, either directly or suggestively, for coaching services. Likewise, no Recreational Division coach or assistant may accept offered compensation for coaching services. A token gift of appreciation from players or parents at the end of a season is acceptable.

Section 2: The on-duty Executive Board member will determine the postponement or cancellation of games.

Section 3: A registered recreational player may play for one and only one recreational team. A registered recreational player may play simultaneously in both the recreational and competitive divisions, i.e. dual card. However, a recreational team may not roster more dual carded players than 50% of the maximum number of on-field players for that team's division. Example: a team that plays with 11 field players may have no more than five (5) dual carded players on their roster.

Section 4: Every registered recreational player in the Recreational Division **MUST PLAY** at least 50% of every game, as long as he/she is present and able to play, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. When substitutions are available, no player may play more than 80% of any game.

Section 5: No player may play more than 50% of the game as goalie in the Recreational Division except in the Middle and High School Divisions.

Section 6: Every coach in the Recreational Division must rate their players at the conclusion of each season and turn them in to the Association so that a fair assignment of players may be done the next season. Coaches must have their ratings approved by their Division Representative, who has the authority to change any rating assigned by a coach. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer shall resolve any dispute over a player rating.

Section 7: Division Reps will divide eligible players into each team in the Recreational Division. Every effort will be made in the Recreational Division to balance the teams within a division by using the sum of the player ratings as the balancing factor.

Section 8: Each recreational player may stay on the same team from season to season provided they are registered on time and played in the previous season on that team. If they choose, a player may go back into the draft. If the coach chooses, the coach may place a player back into the draft with approval of the Division Representative and the Vice President of Recreational Soccer.

Section 9: The Recreational Division will use FIFA Laws that have been modified for each age group. These modifications are published in the coach's manual and are available on the league Website at www.sportingls.org.

Section 10: The Competitive Division will use FIFA Laws that have been modified for each Division. These modifications are consistent with the modifications made by the Heartland Soccer Association. These rules can be found on the Heartland Soccer Association Website at www.heartlandsoccer.net.

Section 11: No recreational team will schedule more than three soccer events in a rolling seven-day period. Soccer events are defined as, but not limited to, a practice, camp, or game (exception—end of season recreational tournaments, make-up games and/or doubleheaders). This restriction applies even if games have been postponed requiring two games be played within a single weekend. The Association is concerned about the time requirements placed on parents and players. Any coach attempting to circumvent the spirit of this restriction may be suspended or expelled from the Association.

Section 12: The Association generally schedules recreational division games on Saturdays and occasional Sundays. Weather and other factors may force postponement of a scheduled game. Recreational make-up games will be scheduled on Sundays with start times typically no earlier than 11:00 a.m. The Vice President of Recreational Soccer reserves the right to reschedule games prior to 11:00 a.m. on Sundays or on weekday evenings if necessary.

Section 13: The Association Constitution and By-Laws will govern the Competitive Division except when these are superseded by the United States Youth Soccer Association, the Kansas Youth Soccer Association (KSYSA), the Missouri Youth Soccer Association, and/or the Heartland Soccer Association.