

BAY STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

Constitution and By-Laws 2008

August 19, 2008

Revision History

Original	February 17, 1978
Revised and Rewritten	March 15, 1990
Revised	February 18, 1991
Revised	January 29, 1993
Revised	September 15, 1993
Revised	February 18, 1994
Revised	March 26, 1996
Revised	February 11, 1997
Revised	March 8, 1998
Revised	February 2, 1999
Revised	March 10, 2000
Formatting	April 3, 2000
Revised	February 9, 2001
Revised	March 31, 2002
Revised	February 10, 2003
Revised	September 7, 2004
Revised	April 6, 2005
Revised	August 10, 2005
Revised	February 27, 2006
Revised	August 10, 2006
Revised	April 2, 2007
Revised	August 7, 2007
Revised	March 1, 2008
Revised	August 19, 2008

Contents

CHAPTER 1 - ARTICLE OF ORGANIZATION	1
1.1 GENERAL	1
1.1.1 PURPOSE	1
1.1.2 DISTRIBUTION	1
1.1.3 HEADQUARTERS/MEETING ORGANIZATION	1
1.1.4 VOLUNTARY NATURE OF OFFICE	1
1.1.5 MEMBERSHIP	1
1.1.6 FISCAL YEAR	1
1.2 CONSTITUENCY AND GOVERNING BODY	2
1.2.1 CONSTITUENCY	2
1.2.2 VOTING POWER	2
1.2.3 EXECUTIVE BOARD/ELECTED OFFICERS	2
1.2.4 BOARD DUTIES AND POWERS	2
1.2.5 RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS	2
1.2.6 OFFICERS' DUTIES, POWERS, AND REIMBURSEMENT	2
1.2.7 HEARINGS COMMITTEE	3
1.2.7.1 Committee Membership	3
1.2.8 ANNUAL MEETING/FALL MEETING	3
1.2.9 SPECIAL MEETING	4
1.2.10 METHOD OF VOTING	4
1.2.11 CONSENT TO ACTION BY CONFERENCE CALL	4
1.3 MISCELLANEOUS	4
1.3.1 AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS	4
1.3.2 AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS	4
CHAPTER 2 - RULES OF THE BSSL	5
2.1 ORGANIZATION	5

2.1.1 DIVISIONS	5
2.1.2 TEAM PLACEMENT	5
2.1.3 POINT STANDINGS	5
2.1.4 PROMOTION/RELEGATION	5
2.1.5 SEASON/SCHEDULE	6
2.1.6 CUP PLAY	6
2.1.7 TEAM ADMITTANCE	6
2.1.8 TEAM COMPOSITION	6
2.1.9 TRANSFERS/ADDITIONS	6
2.1.9.1 Additions to the Roster	6
2.1.9.2 Transfers	7
2.1.10 TEAM RESIGNATIONS	7
2.1.11 COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS	7
2.1.11.1 Infractions	7
2.1.11.2 Needs of the League	7
2.2 FEES AND COSTS	7
2.2.1 LEAGUE FEES	7
2.2.2 FORFEITURE BOND	8
2.2.3 AFFILIATION	8
2.2.4 REFEREE FEE	8
2.3 PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES	8
2.3.1 SCHEDULE	8
2.3.2 FIELD AND EQUIPMENT	8
2.3.2.1 Field Safety	8
2.3.3 UNIFORMS	8
2.3.4 GAME ROSTERS AND PLAYER IDS	9
2.3.4.1 Use of Ineligible Players	9
2.3.4.2 Use of an Unofficial Game Roster	9
2.3.5 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING REFEREES	9
2.3.5.1 Referee Fee	9

2.3.5.2 Referee Notification	9
2.3.5.3 Protests of a Referee Fee Payment	9
2.3.6 CANCELLATION	9
2.3.6.1 Abandoned Games	10
2.3.7 RESCHEDULING	10
2.3.7.1 Prior Knowledge of Need to Reschedule	10
2.3.7.2 Rescheduling a Cancelled or Abandoned Game	10
2.3.8 REFEREE NO-SHOW	11
2.3.9 TEAM FORFEIT	11
2.3.9.1 Forfeiture Penalties	11
2.3.10 DELAYED START	11
2.3.11 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION	11
2.4 GAME RULES	11
2.4.1 FIFA	11
2.4.2 SUBSTITUTIONS	12
2.4.3 CONDUCT	12
2.4.3.1 Player Penalty	12
2.4.3.2 Team Penalty	12
2.4.3.3 Expulsion Penalty	13
2.5 POST-GAME	13
2.5.1 GAME REPORT	13
2.5.2 HEARINGS	13
2.5.2.1 Red Card Protests	13
2.5.2.2 Hearing Committee Appeals	14
2.6 REFEREES	14
2.6.1 REFEREE REQUIREMENTS	14
2.6.2 REFEREE EVALUATIONS	14
2.7 COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS	14

CHAPTER 1 - ARTICLE OF ORGANIZATION

1.1 GENERAL

1.1.1 PURPOSE

The Bay State Soccer League ("BSSL") organizes, facilitates, administers and governs an amateur adult soccer organization.

1.1.2 DISTRIBUTION

A complete set of by-laws will be made available to each member team and affiliated associations. A copy will be supplied on request to any other group or individual that may interact with the BSSL. A copy of the by-laws shall be posted on the league's website and available for download.

1.1.3 HEADQUARTERS/MEETING ORGANIZATION

The headquarters of the BSSL will be within the Greater Metropolitan Boston area of Eastern Massachusetts. The BSSL shall hold a minimum of two meetings annually (the Annual and Fall Meetings) as well as any other meetings deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

1.1.4 VOLUNTARY NATURE OF OFFICE

Holding an office in the BSSL is strictly voluntary. No officer or director shall receive compensation of any type beyond reasonable reimbursement for expenses incurred by them on behalf of the BSSL.

1.1.5 MEMBERSHIP

Any amateur adult team agreeing to abide by the by-laws of the BSSL shall be eligible. Acceptance into the BSSL shall be at the sole and absolute discretion of the Executive Board. Failure by any team (or team's member) to abide by these by-laws may result in disciplinary action by the Executive Board, in its sole discretion, which may include (but not be limited to) expulsion from the BSSL of the team or team member.

1.1.6 FISCAL YEAR

Fiscal year to end on December 31 of each year.

1.2 CONSTITUENCY AND GOVERNING BODY

1.2.1 CONSTITUENCY

Each member team affiliated with the BSSL may appoint two of its members to attend the mandatory Annual and Fall meeting and any special meeting as required by the Executive Board. It is mandatory that at least one team member be in attendance for any BSSL meeting.

1.2.2 VOTING POWER

Each team will have one (1) vote. A Quorum must be maintained for all votes. A quorum is a simple majority of all teams in the BSSL.

1.2.3 EXECUTIVE BOARD/ELECTED OFFICERS

The constituency shall elect the following officers to comprise the Executive Board: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Webmaster, and one Division Director for each division. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting and term of office will be one (1) year. No person may hold more than two (2) officer positions concurrently and no officer shall cast more than one vote in Executive Board voting, regardless of the number of offices held. The Executive Board does not cast votes in league wide voting although officers may vote as representatives of their teams.

1.2.4 BOARD DUTIES AND POWERS

The Executive Board shall be empowered to conduct the business of the BSSL (including governing and administering the league) between Annual Meetings. It may not authorize assumption of liability. The Executive Board may set fees and administer and enforce fines and penalties for infractions of the then current BSSL By-Laws and FIFA Laws of the Game.

1.2.5 RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

Upon the resignation of an officer prior to completion of term, the Executive Board may appoint an interim officer until the next Annual Meeting.

1.2.6 OFFICERS' DUTIES, POWERS, AND REIMBURSEMENT

Officers shall perform the following duties and receive a reimbursement of expenses as indicated:

President (\$600):

- 1.** Chair the Executive Board
- 2.** Preside over all meetings
- 3.** Act as official representative to all external organizations
- 4.** Cast a vote to break a tie
- 5.** Assume duties delegated by the Executive Board
- 6.** Draft season schedule and arrange details of Cup final
- 7.** Act as new team coordinator

Secretary (\$600):

1. Act as President when President absent or incapacitated
2. Maintain all intra league records including weekly league tables
3. Coordinate game schedules for BSSL and Cup play

Treasurer (\$400):

1. Maintain appropriate financial records and reports for the BSSL
2. Collect and disburse BSSL funds as authorized

Registrar (\$400):

1. Coordinate registration of all BSSL players

Division Directors (\$300)

1. Act as primary source of contact for division members
2. Maintain division records

Webmaster (\$500)

1. Maintain the BSSL web site (www.bssl.com)

1.2.7 HEARINGS COMMITTEE

The Hearings Committee will resolve protests and disputes that arise through BSSL Activity (BSSL Activity shall be determined to be any activity that occurs from the moment the first player arrives at the match facility until the last player leaves the match facility). The decisions of the Hearings Committee are final, subject to a petitioner's right to appeal as described herein.

1.2.7.1 Committee Membership

The Hearings Committee shall be comprised of any three unaffected Executive Board Members. The Secretary shall record and document the actions of the Hearings Committee. If a Hearings Committee member has a vested interest in the outcome of the protest, that member will be disqualified from participating ruling on that protest. Reasons for disqualification may include association with one of the teams or players involved in the protest, or association with a team that could benefit from the ruling in league standing or in some other way.

1.2.8 ANNUAL MEETING/FALL MEETING

All BSSL meetings shall be held at times and locations designated by the Executive Board. The Annual Meeting of the voting constituency of the BSSL shall be held prior to the start of the spring portion of the season. The Fall Meeting shall be held prior to the start of the fall portion of the season. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of members
2. Unfinished business
3. Reports of officers
4. Financial statement
5. Committee Reports: Protest, New Teams, Division Protest, Fields
6. Election of Officers
7. Amendments of by-laws

8. New business
9. Adjournment

Attendance at the Annual and Fall Meetings is mandatory and failure by a team to attend will result in a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars. Teams failing to have representation at the meeting forfeit their right to appeal any vote taken at that meeting.

1.2.9 SPECIAL MEETING

Special Meetings may be called by a majority of the Executive Board, or by a majority of the constituency. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of members
2. Declaration of need for meeting
3. Discussion
4. Adjournment

1.2.10 METHOD OF VOTING

Each team shall be entitled to one (1) vote cast by the person delegated to represent that team. Any team representative may request a secret ballot for any vote and paper ballots will be provided for that vote.

1.2.11 CONSENT TO ACTION BY CONFERENCE CALL

Any meeting which may be required of the Executive Board or Hearings Committee may be conducted by conference call. As long as the respective members of the Executive Committee or Hearings Committee are present telephonically, any action taken during such meeting shall be deemed valid.

1.3 MISCELLANEOUS

1.3.1 AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

Before entering into any material written agreement or contract with a third party the Executive Board will supply a copy to all members and receive approval by a majority of the membership.

1.3.2 AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The amendment of these by-laws may only be done at the Annual or Fall meeting with the approval of a simple majority vote of the membership if a quorum is present.

CHAPTER 2 - RULES OF THE BSSL

2.1 ORGANIZATION

2.1.1 DIVISIONS

This League is divided into divisions based on point standings within the BSSL. Each division is coordinated by a division director.

2.1.2 TEAM PLACEMENT

Any team entering the League will be placed in the lowest division.

2.1.3 POINT STANDINGS

Point standings will be based on:

- WIN = 3 points
- TIE = 1 point
- LOSS = 0 points

A forfeit will be recorded as a 3-0 score, with three points awarded to the winner and two points deducted from the forfeiting team.

Totals for the regular season games will determine the standings. In the event of a tie, the following will be used to determine the rank:

1. head to head competition between the tied teams
2. goal differential for the tied teams in league play
3. goal differential for the tied teams in head to head play
4. goals scored during league play

2.1.4 PROMOTION/RELEGATION

At the end of each season the two teams with the lowest point total from an upper division will be relegated to the next lower division, and the two teams with the highest point total from the next lower division will be promoted to the next higher division, except:

- a)** Any team finishing in first or second place may decline promotion once; a consecutive first or second place finish results in a mandatory promotion. In the event a team declines promotion the placement would then be offered to each subsequent team in order of their record.
- b)** Voids in a division created by a team resigning from the League during a season will not be filled by promotion from a lower division. Teams scheduled to play the resigning team will have a bye for that game.
- c)** At the beginning of a season, voids in a division created by a team resigning from the League during the previous year will be filled first by teams from the lower division according to standings. The bottom two teams that get relegated to the lower division stay relegated.

d) Each team must designate a team owner and a team manager. The team owner has financial responsibility and can keep the team name and current standing of the team, or do as he/she wishes with the name, as long as the team is in good financial standing with the League.

2.1.5 SEASON/SCHEDULE

The season will be divided into two halves: spring, from the second week in April to the middle of July; and fall, from the last week in August to the first week in November. Generally, games are played on Saturdays beginning between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The deadline for field assignments is five (5) weeks prior to the start of each half season.

2.1.6 CUP PLAY

A Cup competition is scheduled for the entire BSSL at the Annual Meeting and will be played during the season. Rules for Cup games will be the same as regular BSSL matches except in cases of a tie. In this case, two (2) fifteen minute overtime periods will be played with the FIFA Golden Goal rule in effect. If no goal is scored during overtime, each team will take five (5) penalty shots. If the score is still tied, teams will take alternate sudden death penalty shots until a winner is determined. Loss of a game results in elimination from the Cup competition.

2.1.7 TEAM ADMITTANCE

Teams applying for admittance will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and rejected/recommended to the constituency. Unless opposed, admission will be granted based on available openings and agreement by the team to abide by BSSL By-Laws. New teams requesting admittance to the League must pay a \$100 non-refundable bond at the time of application. If the team is refused membership, the fee shall be refunded in full.

2.1.8 TEAM COMPOSITION

Rosters will be set at a maximum of thirty (30) active players. All players must be registered prior to participating in League play. Players cannot be registered with more than one team at the same time. All players must be at least 18 years of age. There is no minimum or maximum number of males or females required on each team. Team composition is entirely the right of each individual team to determine.

2.1.9 TRANSFERS/ADDITIONS

2.1.9.1 Additions to the Roster

Additions to a team's BSSL Roster will be handled through the website. To add a player, the team manager must: 1) Enter the player's information via the appropriate section of the website, and 2) send the Registrar a completed USSSD Player Registration Form (available on the Download page of the website). No photograph is necessary, but the registration form **MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PLAYER AND THE MANAGER**. A player is not authorized to play until confirmed by the Registrar. Once confirmed, the player's name will appear on the team's official BSSL Game Roster (see Section 2.3.4). Managers registering more than 25 players within one season must submit a \$20 fee for each additional player along with the Registration Form. No players can be added to a roster after Week 6 of the Fall season.

2.1.9.2 Transfers

A player who transfers between teams may not be transferred again to any team until two games have been played by both the old and the new teams. A player who appears on the roster for a Cup game for one team is ineligible to play in the Cup for any other team during that year. No players can be transferred after Week 6 of the Fall season. The \$20 fee for registering more than 25 players on a team does not apply to players who were already registered on another team during the same year.

2.1.10 TEAM RESIGNATIONS

Any team resigning from the League prior to the end of the season shall forfeit all games, points, and fees. Points for a team completing the first half of the season prior to resigning will be maintained in the standings. If a team resigns prior to completing either half season the games for that half season will be nullified and no points will be awarded. If a team resigns from the League within three weeks of the start of a half season or during a half season, its BSSL registered players are not eligible to play on another team in the League during that half season.

2.1.11 COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

All teams in the League agree to abide by these by-laws

2.1.11.1 Infractions

Infractions of BSSL By-Laws or FIFA Laws of the Game will be subject to disciplinary action as recommended by the Hearings Committee.

2.1.11.2 Needs of the League

Failure of a team or team member to meet the needs of the BSSL (as determined by the Executive Board) may result in disciplinary action by the Executive Board. Continued non-compliance shall make the team or team member subject to further disciplinary action by the Executive Board, at its sole discretion, including, but not limited to: team or team member suspension, team fines, team point deduction, additional team red cards, team or team member probationary periods, or the expulsion of the team or team member from the BSSL. The constituency acknowledges and understands that certain situations may arise where the Executive Board is required to take immediate action to protect the interests of the BSSL and its members. The constituency agrees to abide by the rulings of the Executive Board (subject to the appeals provisions defined herein).

2.2 FEES AND COSTS

2.2.1 LEAGUE FEES

League administration costs will be set and confirmed by the constituency at the Annual Meeting. Appropriate team registration fees will be confirmed and paid by a deadline to be set by the Treasurer. The deadline will be at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of each half season. Teams failing to pay full fees and all accumulated fines, including failure to report score fines, will forfeit all games until the fees and fines are paid in full. This provision does not supersede Rule 2.2.2 regarding the referee forfeiture bond, that requires any use of this bond to be repaid within ten (10) days of the forfeited game, where failure to comply will result in forfeiting of all games until the bond is replenished.

2.2.2 FORFEITURE BOND

A forfeiture bond totaling referee fees for two (2) full games will be paid by each team and held in escrow for referee payment should the team default and forfeit a game. Any use of this bond must be replenished by the forfeiting team within ten (10) days of the forfeit. Failure to comply will result in forfeiting of all games until the bond is replenished.

2.2.3 AFFILIATION

Cost of affiliation will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting. This cost will be broken down into cost of insurance and registration per team and cost of registration per player.

2.2.4 REFEREE FEE

The referee fee is set and confirmed by the constituency at the Annual Meeting.

2.3 PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

2.3.1 SCHEDULE

It is the responsibility of the home team manager to confirm (by phone or email) the time and location of the game with the opposing manager at least seventy two (72) hours prior to the game.

2.3.2 FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

Each team is required to secure a permit for a home field on which to play all their scheduled home games. Teams may play on any FIFA approved surface. The field shall be a minimum of 100 yards in length with a width of not less than 60 yards. Minimum acceptable field markings will be side and goal lines, mid-field line, and penalty areas. Minimum field equipment will be goals and goal nets. The home team must provide two game balls of NFHS standard or higher.

2.3.2.1 Field Safety

All managers should determine the safety of the field before the game and should take into consideration the following factors: crowd control, police presence, if necessary, and condition of the field playing surface. Any manager who has a concern about the personal safety of his or her team has the right to request of the opposing team's manager to re-schedule the game at another time and/or field. If at any time during the game, an unsafe situation arises, a manager may request of the referee (whose decision is binding) and opposing manager to halt the game and finish play at another agreed upon time. It is ultimately the responsibility of the home team manager to assure the safety of the field/playing surface.

2.3.3 UNIFORMS

Uniforms shall consist of a uniform shirt with unique permanent numbers on the back, shorts, and socks of the same color and design. In the event of opposing teams having the same color shirt, it is the responsibility of the visiting team to change shirts. Players shall be allowed to wear spandex or other non-dangerous supporting material during BSSL games. All players are required to wear shin guards.

2.3.4 GAME ROSTERS AND PLAYER IDS

FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES PRIOR to kickoff, each manager will provide the referee and opposing team with an official printed BSSL Game Roster for their respective teams. Game Rosters are printed from the BSSL website and list the first name, last name, shirt number, and date of birth of every player authorized by the League to play for that team. The Game Roster must be presented to the referee exactly as supplied by the League and WITHOUT ALTERATION to any of the players' names. However, alternative shirt numbers may be written on the Game Roster if necessary. Prior to the start of the game, each player listed on the Game Roster must also produce a valid driving license, passport, or some equivalent government-issued picture ID with which the referee can confirm their identity.

2.3.4.1 Use of Ineligible Players

Any player who does not appear on the official printed Game Roster, or who cannot present a suitable ID prior to entering the game, or who is currently under suspension by the League is considered INELIGIBLE. Any team found to be using an ineligible player will lose all points gained from the beginning of the season up to and including the game in which the player is discovered, or 10 points - whichever is greater. The team will also be assessed a \$200 fine.

2.3.4.2 Use of an Unofficial Game Roster

Any team which attempts to use a game roster other than the official printed BSSL Game Roster as defined in Rule 2.3.4 (Game Rosters and Player IDs) will forfeit the game and be fined \$50. Repeated offenses are subject to an Executive Board hearing which may result in additional fines and/or point deductions as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board, in their sole discretion.

2.3.5 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING REFEREES

2.3.5.1 Referee Fee

The game fee is \$80 for the referee and \$40 for each of the two assistant referees, totaling \$160. Prior to the beginning of the game, each team will give the referee one-half of the referees' fees (\$80). The League will pay for the referee and the two assistant referees for the Cup Final.

2.3.5.2 Referee Notification

It is the home team's responsibility to communicate any field or time change with the referee assignor no less than seventy two (72) hours before the game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game.

2.3.5.3 Protests of a Referee Fee Payment

Protests concerning payment of a referee's fee are to be submitted to the Hearings Committee for resolution.

2.3.6 CANCELLATION

If the referee declares the field unplayable (for any reason other than those described in 2.3.2) BEFORE the game starts, the game is considered to be cancelled and must be rescheduled by the team managers for a later date. See Rule 2.3.7.2 (Rescheduling a Cancelled or Abandoned Game).

If the game is cancelled by the referee before the start due to an unplayable field, the referee and the assistant referees (if present) are entitled to half of their normal fee, paid by both teams. However,

the referee may not cancel a game more than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time and must ensure that both team managers are aware of the decision.

In cases where games are cancelled ahead of time because of field closure, it is the home team's responsibility to notify the referee, assistant referees, and Referee Assignor a minimum of two hours before the scheduled start time. Referees and assistant referees who arrive at the field because they were not informed of a cancellation are entitled to receive half of their normal fee, paid by the home team.

2.3.6.1 Abandoned Games

A game is considered to be abandoned when halted by the referee after kickoff due to the condition of the playing field or its surroundings, or due to weather conditions.

Any red cards awarded in a game which is subsequently abandoned will stand.

If the referee abandons the game before the start of the second half, the game must be rescheduled and replayed as if it had never started.

If the referee abandons the game after the second half has commenced, the remaining portion of the game must be rescheduled and played to completion at a later date. The rescheduled portion of the game commences with the score as it was at the point of abandonment. Only players who were eligible to play in the abandoned game may play in the rescheduled portion.

2.3.7 RESCHEDULING

Rescheduling of a game presents particular problems and should only be done with good reason. A lack of players on game day is not an acceptable reason to reschedule a game. All rescheduled games must be rescheduled within seven (7) days of the originally scheduled match (this includes notification to the respective Division Director of the rescheduled date, time and location of the match which will result in assignment of officials) and must be played before the end of the half-season in which the original game was scheduled. If the match is not rescheduled within the seven day period described above, the BSSL will assign a date on which the home team must provide a field for the game to be played. If within another seven (7) days the home team cannot confirm a field and time, the BSSL will unilaterally and in its sole discretion establish a time and location for the match on the first Saturday following the end of the respective half season the match is in. The BSSL will secure a field for the match and the home team shall be responsible for the field rental (any costs above the home teams own cost of rental shall be split equally between the two teams). Should either team fail to appear for the match, a forfeit will be awarded and appropriate penalties applied (as described herein).

2.3.7.1 Prior Knowledge of Need to Reschedule

If a team is aware in advance that it will be unable to play a regularly scheduled game, the game may be rescheduled with three (3) weeks prior notice to the opposing team manager, Division Director, and Referee Assignor. If the reschedule is requested by the visiting team, the home team has the right to ask the visiting team to provide (and pay for) a field for the rescheduled game. Any rescheduling of the match must be completed according to section 2.3.7 above.

2.3.7.2 Rescheduling a Cancelled or Abandoned Game

In the event that a game must be rescheduled due to cancellation or abandonment, the rescheduling must be completed according to section 2.3.7 above.

2.3.8 REFEREE NO-SHOW

Any referee or assistant referee who fails to arrive within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off is not entitled to a fee. In the absence of the referee, one of the assistant referees may assume the responsibilities of referee and be entitled to the referee fee. If no referees are present fifteen minutes after the scheduled kick-off, at the discretion of both of the opposing managers a referee or referees may be appointed and the match played. Alternatively, the managers may mutually elect to re-schedule the match.

2.3.9 TEAM FORFEIT

If within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, but before the game commences, the referee determines that a team is unable to play due to an insufficient number of eligible players, unsuitable uniforms, inadequate player equipment, or unsuitable field preparation, the team will forfeit the match. The referee and assistant referees are entitled to their game fees, to be paid in full by the forfeiting team. If neither team is able to satisfy these conditions for play, then each team will pay its half of the referee fees and each receive a forfeit. No match shall commence more than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time unless mutually agreed to by both managers and the officials.

2.3.9.1 Forfeiture Penalties

A team forfeit in a BSSL game shall result in an automatic two-point deduction. Additionally, a team forfeit in a BSSL game or a Cup game shall result in a fine of \$200, although the Executive Board may waive this fine, in its sole discretion, under special circumstances. Any team assessed three (3) forfeits, including Cup games, during one full season, shall be subject to suspension or dismissal from the League.

2.3.10 DELAYED START

If the start of the game is delayed (but in no event longer than fifteen (15) minutes) the home team may ask the referee to shorten the half time break as necessary to complete the game on schedule. However, the minimum halftime break shall not be less than five (5) minutes.

2.3.11 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION

The consumption of alcoholic beverages before, during, or after a game is banned unless specific permission is given by the home team's manager.

2.4 GAME RULES

2.4.1 FIFA

All League games including Cup games shall be played in accordance with the current FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) Laws of the Game, except as may be amended by the BSSL By-Laws.

2.4.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

Free substitution will be allowed at goals, goal kicks, and half time. A team may also substitute during their own throw-in and during the opposing team's throw-in if the opposing team substitutes at that time. If play is stopped due to injury or if a player receives a yellow card, the injured or carded player may be substituted and the opposing team may elect to match this substitution.

2.4.3 CONDUCT

Penalties for misconduct are as follows:

2.4.3.1 Player Penalty

For the purposes of this rule, no distinction is made between regular BSSL games and Cup games.

Any player receiving a red card is suspended for the next game.

Any player receiving a red card for Violent Conduct as formally noted in the Referee's Report is suspended for the next three (3) games and is subject to additional Executive Board disciplinary action which may include further suspension or dismissal from the BSSL.

Any player receiving a second red card in a season is suspended for the next three (3) games (except if the second red card is for violent conduct in which case the additional suspension shall be for an additional three (3) games for a total of six (6) games).

Any player receiving a third red card in a season is suspended for the next five (5) games and is subject to additional Executive Board disciplinary action which may include further suspension or dismissal from the BSSL (except if the third red card is for violent conduct in which case the additional suspension shall be for an additional three (3) games for a total of eight (8) games).

Suspensions in effect at the end of the season will be carried over and served at the start of the following season. Changing teams will not void the suspension.

Any player receiving a red card who gives a false name or who refuses to leave the field will be dismissed from the BSSL.

2.4.3.2 Team Penalty

The number of red cards received by a team each full season during regular BSSL games will be tallied, and will affect the team's standing in the BSSL as described below. The first red card a team receives each season in a Cup game will not be counted in this tally, but subsequent cards received in Cup games during that season will.

Any team receiving three (3) red cards will have the number of points equivalent to a win deducted from their division standings.

For every additional red card received by a team, the number of points equivalent to a win will be deducted from their division standings.

Any team receiving a total of five (5) red cards in a season will be subject to Executive Board disciplinary action, which may include suspension or dismissal from the League.

In the event of a team brawl where the referee is unable to obtain the facts both teams will be issued at least two red cards and a minimum fine of \$200. Note: the Executive Board will determine if this law is pertinent to a game but these are minimum repercussions. Furthermore, the Executive Board

shall have the discretion to assess penalties and sanctions in its sole discretion for acts by teams or team members that are not specifically discussed elsewhere in the By-Laws.

2.4.3.3 Expulsion Penalty

Expulsion is defined as an order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the sideline or substitutes' bench, during a game. Someone who is expelled from a game may give instructions to a chosen replacement before leaving the field of play and its surroundings but must not further influence the game in any way.

If the expelled person is a registered player, the expulsion will count as an individual red card as defined in Rule 2.4.3.1 (Player Penalty).

If the expelled person is not a registered player, the expulsion will count as a team red card. The expelled person will be banned from the field of play, sideline, and substitutes' bench for one (1) game and is subject to additional Executive Board disciplinary action which may include further suspension, team fines, or team dismissal from the BSSL.

2.5 POST-GAME

2.5.1 GAME REPORT

All game scores, number of red cards (including the name of the player(s) carded), and incidents will be reported via the BSSL website or directly to the Secretary within 48 hours (including make-up games) by both team managers. If a game is forfeited or re-scheduled both managers must still contact the Division Director by 8 p.m. on the day the game was originally scheduled to be played. Failure to submit a game report will result in a twenty dollar (\$20) fine.

2.5.2 HEARINGS

A team may request a hearing for any action resulting from BSSL activity. The hearing request must be reported verbally to the Division Director and sent in writing to the President on the first business day following the game's end (determined by postmark) to be considered an official hearing request. A \$200 fee payable to the BSSL must accompany all hearing requests. If the hearing request is upheld, this fee will be refunded. A hearing request is considered to be upheld if the Hearings Committee changes any part of the original ruling.

The Hearings Committee ruling will be delivered no later than one week after receipt of the written request.

2.5.2.1 Red Card Protests

For hearing requests involving a red card, if the Hearings Committee has not made a ruling by the start time of the first game in the player's suspension period AND the request was received at least 48 hours before the start time of the game, the suspended player may play in that game and any subsequent games until the Hearings Committee makes its ruling. If the Hearings Committee subsequently upholds the suspension, the suspension period recommences with the game which immediately follows the ruling.

2.5.2.2 Hearing Committee Appeals

A team may make a one-time appeal of a Hearings Committee ruling. Such appeals are allowed only when a team believes the BSSL By-Laws or the FIFA Laws of the Game were misapplied, or if significant additional evidence relevant to the original hearing issue becomes available. Whenever possible, the appeal will be heard by three different members of the Executive Board (who did not participate in the original hearing), subject to maintaining three unaffected voting members. The Hearings Committee ruling appeal must be sent in writing to the President within one week of the initial ruling, accompanied by a \$75 fee payable to the BSSL. If the appeal is upheld, both this fee and the fee submitted with the original hearing request will be refunded. If still unsatisfied with the ruling a team may appeal any BSSL ruling to the Massachusetts State Soccer Association.

2.6 REFEREES

BSSL games are officiated by one referee and two assistant referees.

2.6.1 REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

Referees are requested to be at the game twenty (20) minutes before kick-off time to complete field and equipment inspections prior to kick-off. If the field is not properly lined and equipped, the official may decide not to play the game. If he is willing to play the game his comment should be noted on the Game Report and both managers must agree.

Fifteen (15) minutes before kick-off the referee should inspect players for uniforms and shin guards and match the identity of each player against the names listed on the Game Roster by checking a valid driving license, passport, or some equivalent government-issued picture ID.

2.6.2 REFEREE EVALUATIONS

Referee evaluation data is collected via the score reporting form on the BSSL website.

2.7 COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

Compliance with the BSSL By-Laws is mandatory and sanctions will be administered by the Executive Board in their sole discretion.