

ROCKAWAY VALLEY SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS-AS AMENDED (April 2007)

1. The league is established between the soccer programs of the following municipalities: Dover, Mt. Arlington, Rockaway Borough, Wharton, Rockaway Township, Mine Hill, Jefferson and Roxbury. Additional towns may be added by a vote of a majority of the members. The league shall be called the Rockaway Valley Soccer League.

2. An Executive Committee consisting of one representative from each town shall administer the league. The Executive Committee will elect a chairman, vice-chairman secretary and treasurer, who will hold office for a period of one year (Jan. 1-Dec. 1.)

3a. Each town will have a vote and that vote will be the town's vote- with the option to hold off on a vote if the matter needs review by others members of the town's committee. In the case of tie votes, the chairman will have a casting vote. A quorum of (51%) of regular voting members is necessary to hold an Executive Committee meeting.

3b. The Executive Committee shall allow for Public participation time during each of the regularly held monthly meetings. This portion of the regularly monthly meeting shall be no longer than thirty (30) minutes in total to allow for the regular business portion of the monthly meeting to be completed. Persons desiring to speak during the Public portion shall request so in writing through their appointed Town Representative. If appropriate, the Town Representative shall present the request to the Executive Committee for scheduling at the next monthly meeting.

4. The league is established to provide a soccer program each year for children between the ages of 6 and 17 years inclusive (as of October 1).

5. The league is not affiliated with any other organization.

6. All regulations will be according to FIFA rules except as noted in these by-laws.

7. The league will be divided into nine (9) Divisions.

Division	Age (as of Oct 1)	Gender	# Players on Field at Start of Game	Roster Maximum
E	6 optional	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
D	6 & 7	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
C	8 & 9	Boys & Girls	8 maximum, 6 minimum	16 players
B	10 & 11	Boys	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players
B	10 & 11	Girls	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players
A	12 & 13	Boys	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players
A	12 & 13	Girls	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players
AA	14, 15, 16 & 17	Boys	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players
AA	14, 15, 16 & 17	Girls	11 maximum, 8 minimum	20 players

Maximum player advantage at game start:

E-div, 2; D-div, 2; C-div, 2; B-boys 2; B-girls 2; A-boys 2; A-girls 2; AA-boys 2; AA-girls2.

Maximum player advantage may be increased following ejection of a player.

8. The members may divide any division into subgroups depending on the number of teams entered.
9. Any member town may enter any number of teams in any division.
10. A scheduling committee will be established consisting of a member from each town.
11. Each member town must supply details of team it will enter **NO LATER THAN SEVEN WEEKS PRIOR TO OPENING DAY.**
12. The Scheduling Committee will issue the full schedule not later than two (2) weeks before the first game of the season.
13. The spring season will start on the first Saturday after Easter Sunday and run for eight (8) consecutive weeks. The fall season will start in September on the first Saturday after Labor Day, and will run for ten (10) consecutive weeks.

14. Teams shall be given identifying names.

15. Colors for teams must be registered with the League.

DOVER: ORANGE & BLACK

MINE HILL: BLUE & WHITE

MOUNT ARLINGTON: BLUE & WHITE

ROCKAWAY BORO : RED & WHITE

ROCKAWAY TWP: LIGHT GREEN & WHITE

WHARTON: FORREST GREEN & WHITE

JEFFERSON: GOLD & BLUE

ROXBURY: BLUE & GOLD

16. Equipment:

(a) Teams should wear the same color numbered shirts, shorts and socks signifying their affiliation.

(b) Only approved soccer cleats or turf shoes will be permitted.

(c) Goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing shirt color, not solid black. They may wear long pants, kneepads, gloves and a soft goalie cap.

(d) Shin guards are required for all players and must cover 75% of the shins.

(e) No other equipment that may endanger other players may be worn.

(f) Eyeglasses, if worn must be secured by a band.

(g) Similar colored sweatshirt or light color may be worn under team shirt.

(h) Long pants may also be worn under shorts, except not permitted for Boys AA, A and B and girls AA, A and B Division prior to October 15. Pants must be light color or color similar to team uniforms and must be worn under team's shorts.

17. The playing field will be as follows:

(a) Divisions C – D - & E. No larger than 75 yards by 50 yards. No smaller than 60 yards by 40 yards.

(b) Goal: 16 feet wide by 6 feet high.

(c) Goal area: 4 yards by 12 yards.

(d) Penalty area: 30 yards by 12 yards.

(e) Center circle: 6 yards radius.

(f) Divisions AA, A, B: FIFA regulation size field.

(g) All fields must be lined. Goals, nets and corner markers must be used.

18. Game lengths shall be as follows:

(a) Direction to change at halftime for all Divisions:

(b) Division D & E: 20 minute halves, with maximum 5-minute halftime

(c) Division C: 30 minute halves, with maximum 5- minute halftime.

(d) Division B: 35 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.

(e) Division A: 40 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.

(f) Division AA: 40 minute halves, with maximum 10- minute halftime.

19. The home team will be responsible for:

(a) Correct preparation of the field

(b) Providing a knowledgeable referee for Divisions C and D & E.

(c) Obtaining a Linesman for each team.

(d) Game ball.

(e) First Aid Kit including ice packs.

20. The Referee's authority is as in FIFA Rules and is especially final on Timekeeping Play, Ground conditions, Coach and Parental interference & Scoring. The Referee will refer all disciplinary infringements to the Executive Committee for the appropriate action.

21. Home team must submit Referee's Report (AA, A & B divisions) to the Scheduling Committee of all games within three (3) days.

22. The Scheduling Committee will appoint a panel to record all game results, forfeits, etc. on a permanent basis.

23. A Team will forfeit on the following conditions:

(a) Not ready to start within 15 minutes of scheduled starting time.

(b) Have less than 6 players in Divisions C and D & E. Have less than 8 players in Divisions AA, A and B.

24. Home team can call off a game up to two (2) hours before scheduled time due to GROUND CONDITIONS or circumstances outside their control. Visiting coach must be contacted to call off a game. Teams will rearrange canceled games for a mutually agreeable date/time through the Scheduling Committee. Cancellation for any other reason will mean a forfeit for the canceling team. Visiting team can cancel a game up to two (2) hours before for reasons outside their control.

25. Each team must provide insurance for its own team and officials.

26. All children must play a minimum of one-fourth (1/4) of each game.

27. A number 3-size ball will be used for Division D and E; A number 4-sized ball will be used for Divisions B and C. number 5-size ball will be used for Division A & AA.

28. Each team must be accompanied by a coach or assistant coach along with a roster and a player card for every player for AA-A-B and a roster and birth certificate for C-D-E at the time of the contest or risk forfeiture of that game. The Technical Area of the playing field will have no more than three (3) coaches for each team.

29. Players will be permitted to play up to the next Division.

30. Eligibility:

(a) A child may not play for more than one team during the course of the season nor may he/she play more than one game in a single day.

(b) No players carded in another league will be permitted to play for any team within the Rockaway Valley Soccer League.

31. Throw Ins:

(a) Divisions AA, A and B: Throw in rule applies in full.

(b) Divisions C – D & E on first incorrect throw-in, the Referee will show the player the mistake made and the throw-in will be taken again. On a second incorrect throw-in, the throw-in will be given to the other side.

32. Slide tackles

All divisions will be prohibited a mandatory caution card will be given.

33. Offside:

(a) Divisions AA, A, B, C: The FIFA Offside rule applies.

(b) Division D & E: Offside rule will apply in accordance to FIFA rules for instructional purposes at the discretion of the referee.

34. Goalkeeper:

Once the goalkeeper has his/her hands on the ball opposing players must back off until the goalkeeper has cleared the ball. When there is any doubt, referee will call in favor of the goalkeeper.

35. Handball:

(a) Hand Ball rule applies to all divisions but remember the rule. “A player who intentionally handles the ball, i.e., strikes, propels or carries the ball with his/her hands or arm will be penalized.”

(b) Girls may use folded arms to protect their chest

36. Technical area.

(a) Only three (3) coaches will be permitted in the technical area. Coaches must remain on one side of the field designated by the home team. Coaches may only move between the penalty areas, no closer to the goal line than 18 yards and cannot cross the center line.

(b) Exception: “D & E” division Coaches- for a dead ball plays, coaches may move to the end of the field to instruct players on position but must return to the touch line prior to the start of play.

37. Cleats:

Referees will inspect all cleats before the game. Only approved soccer cleats or turf shoes only be permitted.

38. Goalkeeper:

From the moment the ball comes under the goalkeepers control by his/her hands or arms while playing in his own penalty area, the goalkeeper must release the ball into play without taking more than six (6) seconds. Actions normally used by a goal keeper, namely holding the ball, bouncing the ball, throwing the ball into the air and catching it are allowed, provided that the goalkeeper takes no more than six (6) seconds while doing so. If the goalkeeper exceeds six (6) seconds prior to releasing the ball, or if he/she touches the ball after his/her release and prior to the ball being played or touched by another player, the opposing team shall be awarded an indirect free kick.

39. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- (a) Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
- (b) Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- (c) After a goal by either team.
- (d) After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- (e) At the conclusion of a period of play (halves- see Bylaw #18)
- (f) For all division AA, A and B teams: Each team shall have unlimited substitutions per half of play. A maximum of four (4) players is permitted for each team's substitution event.
- (g) For C, division (3) substitutions per half. A maximum of (4) players is permitted for team's substitution event.
- (h) For all Division D & E teams. At any stoppage of play with the referees consent.

40. All Divisions: No new players shall be added to a member towns soccer program after the second Saturday of the season.

41. A coach that has been red carded will be subjected to a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine and will not coach until this fine is paid by either the coach, club, or town.

42. The Executive Committee shall adopt a “Disciplinary Action Code to administer disciplinary action i.e., fines, suspensions, expulsion, etc. to Coaches and Players resulting from game conduct. The purpose of the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) is to review and act upon

Those issues and grievances against any person(s) attending a RVSL match. The DAC shall consist of all Town Representatives. Each Town Representative shall have one vote on any issue brought before the DAC. All complaints must be made within a (24) hour period complaints made after that time frame will be void.

43. Referees:

(a) Certified, neutral referees shall be used for all games played on a full regulation field. (“AA “A” and “B” divisions). Accordingly, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Referee Assignor to prepare and adopt a Referee Code. All Referee assignments for games played on regulations size fields shall be made by the Referee Assignor. Referee fees shall be paid for from the League treasury.

a. AA Division will have two (2) paid referees on the field of play, each working one (1) half of the field.

(b) For games not played on a full regulation field, it will be permissible to use RVSL-certified Referees. All such referees will be required to wear neutral colored clothing, which does not associate them with any town, which is a member of the Rockaway Valley Soccer League.

(c) The RVSL will host a training course to be offered no less than once per year. The RVSL will issue a RVSL Referee Certification Card to all that successfully complete the Referee Training Course. RVSL Certified referees must present their Certification Card to coaches prior to all C/D/E division matches.

(d) The Executive Committee shall appoint a C/D/E division Referee Liaison to oversee individual town’s C/D/E referee assignors. The C/D/E division Referee Liaison responsibilities should also include coordinating the C/D/E division schedule making process.

44. Member assessment fees, donations, fund raising, etc shall provide for funding for the League’s operations and activities. All income shall be received into and expenses disbursed from the Leagues’ Treasury. All Treasury disbursements from an established bank checking account shall be co-signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice- Chairman.

END OF BYLAWS