

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF OZARK MOUNTAIN SOCCER FEDERATION

## ARTICLE I

### Organization Name

The name of this organization shall be the Ozark Mountain Soccer Federation (OMSF). The registered office for Ozark Mountain Soccer Federation shall be in the city of where the OMSF president resides.

## ARTICLE II

### Non-Profit Character

This organization is intended to be a non-profit organization under the laws of the state of Missouri.

## ARTICLE III

### Purpose and Rules

Ozark Mountain Soccer Federation is organized expressly for the purpose of promoting the sport of soccer in a recreational format. Objectives of OMSF include the following:

- fostering fair play, and good sportsmanship as a way of life;
- assisting all participants in learning the basic fundamentals of the international sport of soccer as promulgated by FIFA and USYSA;
- motivating participants toward proper and lifelong physical conditioning;
- developing attitudes which place value on teamwork and social participation;
- stimulating interaction between various population segments of the region; and
- allowing players an organized and sanctioned league structure within which to participate.

### Section A. Federation Organization

The organization shall be divided into youth recreational divisions which include Under- 6 (U-6), Under-8 (U-8), Under-10 (U-10), Under-12 (U-12) and Under-15 (U-15). Age determination shall be based upon the birth age on January 1st immediately prior to the beginning of the Spring season. All teams must be formed according to the guidelines for that division as defined by OMSF. (See “Special Rules” following Law 9, Player Eligibility and Player Team Rostering). All divisions are intended to include both genders, however, this constitution shall not prohibit establishment of a girl’s division by or among individual communities, providing age divisions, membership procedures, and general rules are accommodated in such a division or divisions.

### Section B. Federation Laws

The laws and regulations of FIFA as augmented by USYSA shall apply to all competitions taking place as sanctioned OMSF competitions. The following adjustments are agreed to for Youth Recreational Division play only:

### **Law 1. Field of Play**

For younger players, in order to assure maximum ball contact, and to assist in training individual skills, the OMSF agrees that the size of the field may be reduced. Recommended sizes for reduced fields are as follows:

- Under-6 Divisions - 15-25 yds. width x 20-30 yds. length, proportionally reduced goal areas, arcs, and center circle, with goal size of 4 ft. high by 6 ft. wide.
- Under-8 Divisions - 30-40 yds. width x 40-50 yds. length, with proportionally reduced goal areas, and center circle, and a goal reduced to 6 ft. high x 12 ft wide (In the interest of economy, U-6 and U-8 divisional games may be played on one half of a full sized regulation field, playing side to side).
- Under-10 Divisions - 40-50 yds. width x 65-80 yds. length, with proportionally reduced penalty and goal areas, arcs, and center circle and a regulation goal size of 7 ft. high x 7 yds. wide.
- Under-12 Divisions - 50-60 yds. width x 80-100 yds. length, with regulation goal areas, arcs, and center circle and a regulation goal size of 8 ft. high x 8 yds. wide.
- Under-15 Divisions- 50-75 yds. width x 100-120 length, with regulation goal areas, arcs, and center circle and a regulation goal size of 8 ft. high x 8 yds. wide.

#### **Law 2. The Ball Size**

For younger players, in order to assist in learning individual ball control skills, OMSF agrees that the size of the ball shall be as follows:

- Under-6 Division- Size 3 ball
- Under- 8 through Under 12 divisions - size 4 ball, with a circumference of 25" to 26" and a weight of 11 to 13 oz.
- A size 5 ball will be used for all other divisions

The home team shall provide two (2) game ball's for all regular season OMSF games.

#### **Law 3. Number of Players**

For younger players, in order to assist in their touching of the ball confidence-building in game-like circumstances, and to maximize the number of teams, OMSF agrees that the number of players may be reduced as follows:

- Under-6 Divisions- 5 players on the field, goalkeeper is optional in this age group.
- Under-8 Divisions - 8 players on the field, including a goalkeeper.
- Under-10 Divisions - 9 players on the field, including a goalkeeper.
- Under-12 Divisions- 11 players on the field, including a goalkeeper.
- Under-15 Divisions- 11 players on the field, including goalkeeper.

#### **Law 4. Players' Equipment**

In the youth divisions, no metal cleats, studs, toe cleats or outside cleats on the external part of the sole will be permitted. Shin guards are mandatory in all divisions and must be covered

by soccer socks. No pockets are permitted on the players clothing, including but not limited to shorts and pants. No watches, jewelry, earrings, hats with bills, etc. will be worn. Only prescription eyewear will be permitted.

During inclement weather hoodies may be worn as long as the hood is either worn on the head tucked inside the jersey.

#### **Law 5. Referees**

All OMSF sanctioned games among communities should be officiated by referees who have been certified by OMSF's certifying officials'. Referees for OMSF recreational competitions and internal games must attend at least an initial and annual OMSF approved referee clinic prior to refereeing any games. U-6 divisions shall have one (1) OMSF approved referee, U-8 through U-15 divisions shall have two (2) OMSF approved referees. U-15 shall have at least one (1) adult (senior in high school or older) referee. All OMSF tournament games shall have two (2) OMSF approved referees.

#### **Law 6. Coaches**

An individual who wishes to coach a team registered with OMSF shall complete the following:

- Review and sign a Coaches Code of Conduct
- Complete a Criminal Background Check through National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) prior to coaching and at a minimum of every 3 years.
- Complete an online coaches clinic through NAYS.org and be certified by NAYS
- All coaches must attend a coach's clinic prior to coaching a team and renew once every two years.

#### **Law 7. Lines persons**

All OMSF teams will be required to obtain two (2) volunteers to be line referees for all U-8 through U-15 contests when said team is unable to provide/schedule two (2) referees.

#### **Law 8. Offside**

In the U6 and U8 divisions there are no offside calls, however, no offensive player may be "camping out" in the defensive goal box unless a defender other than the goalie is in the goal box or they have the ball. On the 1<sup>st</sup> offense per game the coach and player will receive a stern warning from the Ref, a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense in the same game will result in an indirect kick for the defensive team.

#### **Law 9. Corner kicks**

The corner kick shall be taken from within the corner arc (See Law 1)

## **Special Rules**

### **Safety:**

- In the U8 and under division, players are not allowed to head the ball.
- In the event of a head injury, the referee will stop the game immediately and the player must leave the field of play pending evaluation.
- It shall be the duty of the referee to determine if the game should be stopped for an injured player, once play is stopped for an injury the injured player must leave the field of play for further evaluation, they may return as soon as the coach deems they are fit to play.

### **Coaches:**

- Coaches, just like the players, will abide by OMSF By-Laws and FIFA rules.
- All coaches must attend a coach's clinic prior to coaching a team and renew once every two years.
- The referee has the authority to caution or eject a coach for unsportsmanlike conduct, such as harassing his or her own players, opposing players, the opposing coach, or referee.
- Coaches may move up and down the sidelines when coaching their team; however, they must remain on their half of the field and within a reasonable distance from their team bench (3 to 4 steps). **Movement outside this area for the purpose of coaching will not be allowed. THERE WILL BE NO COACHING FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDELINE.** Coaches need to remain inside the coaching box or designated area.
- No coach of a specific age group should referee an OMSF game involving the age group they coach. Exceptions may be made for regular scheduled games provided both coaches and town representatives agree and it is not a tournament game.
- Each team will roster only 2 coaches, and they are the only personnel to be present on the team's sideline. In the event neither rostered coach can be present a different rostered coach may fill in for the missing coaches, they must present their teams roster proving they are a rostered coach.
- Each town will provide the OMSF Board of Directors a list of their sub coaches, and any changes to the list throughout the season, the President must be notified.
- We are a recreational league for the development of all players therefore we had adopted the rule that at every game, every coach must make every attempt to play each player at least once per half of the game.
- The coach shall be responsible for notifying the referee and opposing coach of each player that will not be participating in said contest.

### **Sportsmanlike Conduct:**

- The conduct of players and spectators is the responsibility of the coach. The referee has the authority to caution or eject a coach, if in his/her opinion; the coach is not making every reasonable effort to control the behavior of his/her players and/or spectators.
- The referee may stop, suspend, or terminate the game because of outside interference of any kind. Stoppage shall be a forfeit for the team from which the interference originates.
- Coaches who are ejected from a game shall be suspended for the next scheduled or

rescheduled OMSF game. The referee shall inform their town representative who shall inform the OMSF Board of Directors, the Town Rep will advise when that coach's next scheduled game is. The coach cannot coach any other team until that suspension is served.

- It shall be the duty of the referee to determine whether an injured player, during a game, should be removed from the field of play.

#### **Player Eligibility:**

- Any child that has reached the age of at least 4 and not reached the age of 15 prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> is considered eligible to play for the Ozark Mountain Soccer federation. In the spring season of the year if a child has turned 4 prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the spring season year they are eligible to register for play.
- A player must register in the community in which their address aligns their assigned school district. Players not attending school, as in preschool or daycare, shall register in the community he/she would attend if they were attending school.
- A player may register outside of the school district community under the following circumstances:
  - A. Visiting players in town for an extended period of time may register as guest players.
  - B. A player whose community is not registering or fails to roster a team with OMSF may register in another community.
  - C. A player may register in another community if his/her parents are separated and reside in two different communities.
  - D. In the event a player whose parent is a teacher outside the assigned district and that child attends school in the district the parent works in they may choose which community they play in.

\*\*\*ALL guest players must not be directed to a particular team, coach, or friend on a team. This is to maintain the integrity of the rostering or team selection process. Rostering of this player should be no different than rostering of a player from that community.\*\*\*

#### **Late Registration**

No players shall be added after the season games start.

No players will be added once rosters are turned into the Board of Directors unless the town wishing to add a player has purchased extra insurance spots in advance. A town can fill an open insurance spot from a player quitting before games start.

#### **Player Team Rostering**

In an effort to maintain the definition of "Recreational League" and "Recreational Division" as per the OMSF, as well as fostering fair play, either of the following two methods of team selection shall be used to roster teams in each community.

A player rostered on a higher age group cannot ever be rostered back down in a lower age group.

**Method #1 – Blind Draw**

Players shall be divided in each age group by gender and birth year according to section 3A of this document. Players will be randomly drawn and placed on teams with the intent to have an even number of boy/girl on each team. As well, distribute the birth years of players evenly as possible across all teams in each age group. As per the community director a player who has a travel need must be traded randomly with a random player of the same gender and birth year.

**Method #2 – Draft Method**

Players shall be divided in each age group as described in section 3A of this document. Coaches of all the teams in each age group are then allowed to pick players from the players in that age group. The coaches must alternate picks from set groups evenly, only allow the coaches to pick the girls from the younger birth year at a time, then move on to boys from the younger birth year, move on to girls from the older birth year and then boys from older birth year.

\*\*\* It is recommended that coach’s child/children is/are rostered to his/her assigned team.\*\*\*

\*\*\*The method chosen for rostering shall be at the discretion of the towns board of directors.\*\*\*

**Fall/Spring Rosters**

The town representative may at his/her discretion roster the same fall register players on the same team in the spring. All new registration shall be divided by method 1 or method 2 above.

**Maximum Team Roster**

The town representative is required to split the roster if there are enough players for two (2) teams with a sub on each team. If the roster does not have enough players for a sub, then the players maybe rostered on the same team with the provision that said coach must make every attempt to play every player on their team 50% of the game.

**ARTICLE IV  
Charter Board of Directors**

**Membership**

There will be no voting membership, and in lieu thereof, the organization shall have a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. Upon charter of the organization, the Board of Directors of the Ozark Mountain Soccer Federation will consist of:

- President
- Vice – President
- Secretary

- Treasurer
- Ozark Mountain Soccer Federation Registrar
- Referee Administrator
- One representative from each community

Upon charter the OMSF Board of Directors indicated above will elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Board of Directors**

Section A. Authority

The affairs and property of this organization shall be managed and controlled by its Board of Directors. The Directors may exercise all such powers and do all such things as may be exercised or done by the organization, subject to the provisions of these By- Laws and all applicable laws.

Section B. Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Town Representatives, the Registrar and the Referee Administrator.

Section C. Voting

Each director shall have one vote at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall cast a vote only in the event of a tie.

Each Town Representative shall have 1 assigned alternate who may vote in his/her absence.

Section D. Election and Terms of Directors

The Directors shall be elected for two-year terms at the first meeting prior to each Fall season, the terms will end in alternating years as follows to maintain continuity and fluidity:

<b>ODD YEARS</b>	<b>EVEN YEARS</b>
President	Vice – President
Secretary	Treasurer
Registrar	Referee Coordinator

Section E. Vacancies

In the event of any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors of the OMSF, the Board of Directors shall elect a successor to the office by majority vote of the Directors present at any regular or special meeting.

Section F. Duties and Powers

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the following:

1. Monitoring team formation and selection procedures by the Town Representatives and their communities.
2. Making rules and regulations and deciding cases not covered by the By-Laws or Rules and Regulations. Such decisions shall be final so long as they do not conflict with the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Federation.
3. Enforcing and interpreting the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the organization.
4. Approving individuals, teams, clubs, or other organizations for membership.
5. Approving the formation and operation of tournaments sanctioned by the OMSF.
6. Suspending, barring, or otherwise disciplining any individual player, coach, manager, team assistant, or league officer.

Section G. Committees

OMSF Board of Directors may appoint committees as necessary.

**Article VI  
Officers and Their Duties**

Section A. Officers

The officers of OMSF shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Town Representatives, the Registrar, and the Referee Administrator.

Section B. President - Shall be in charge of the overall administration and executive functions of OMSF. He/she shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors
- Chair the Board of Directors
- Appoint committees and be an ex-officio member of all committees
- Pass upon and approve all bills against the organization
- Submit a report of the operations of the organization at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors

Section C. Vice-President - Shall:

- Act as President in his or her absence
- Assist the President in coordinating and implementing the responsibilities and duties of the officers and members of this organization
- Act as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors

Section D. Secretary - Shall:

- Record the minutes at all meetings
- Attend to all correspondence
- Keep the records and statistics of the organization
- Act as Secretary of the Board of Directors and perform said duties

Section E. Treasurer - Shall:

- Collect all monies of the organization and keep detailed account of income and expenditures thereof
- Submit a semi-annual report of finances in writing, for approval by the Board of



Directors

- Pay all bills against the organization by checks which have been properly passed
- Deposit all monies upon receipt in a bank account in the name of the organization at a bank approved by the Board of Directors
- Be a member of the Board of Directors

Section F. Town Representatives - Shall:

- Coordinate the activities of their respective cities or communities or military installation. This includes but is not limited to promotion, publicity, financial requirements, registration procedures, field and equipment procurement, and quality control of coaches
- Act as liaison between their region and the Board of Directors. This includes reporting game results from competitions hosted in their region
- Be responsible for enforcing all rules and bring before the Board of Directors any violations of the rules
- Be a member of the Board of Directors

Section G. Referee Administrator - Shall:

- Coordinate with officials associations to assure proper recruitment, training and development of referees. This includes the evaluations of officials
- Act as liaison between the referees and the Board of Directors. This includes receipt of reports of misbehavior, cautions, and ejections
- Be a member of the Board of Directors

Section H. Registrar - Shall:

- Consolidate the registrations submitted from the communities.
- Verify the age of all players to ensure they are rostered in the correct age division
- Coordinate with the Treasurer concerning correct number of players per community for the transfer of monies
- Secures insurance for all players within the OMSF

## **Article VII Membership**

Section A. Eligibility

An applicant who wishes to participate as a player in OMSF must make a written application to do so, offer independent proof of age, as requested, and render such entry fee as may be decided upon by OMSF. Any league, team, or other organization willing to conduct or promote the sport of soccer under the laws of the sport as promulgated by the United States Youth Soccer Federation and this organization which exists or is to be formed within the territory of this organization may become a member with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section B. Membership Requirements

- Any member may be required to pay seasonal dues. The amount of the dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

- Members whose dues are not current shall be declared not in good standing and shall not be allowed the privilege of participating in organization activities. All fees must be paid prior to the start of the regularly scheduled games or all games will be forfeit until the fees are paid.
- The Board of Directors shall have the sole power to determine qualifications for membership, probation, and amount of performance bond, if any.
- Participating players must be members in good standing of OMSF.

## **Article VIII Meetings**

### Section A. OMSF Board of Directors' Meetings

The Board of Directors shall hold at least two meetings annually, once in July and once in November. The presence of a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors present shall decide all questions, except as otherwise specifically provided in these Constitutions and By-Laws.

The President shall cast a vote only in the case of tie. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors. Meetings shall be open to the members of the organization. Public notice of such meetings shall be made at least five days in advance of the meetings. The order of business for meetings shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Introduction of guests
- Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
- Correspondence
- Reports
  - President
  - Treasurer
  - Community Representatives
  - Referee Administrator
  - Registrar
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

### Section B. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President of the organization or by three members of the Board of Directors.

A digital vote and or motion is be considered a special meeting. Any vote and or motion taken in digital form must be printed off and read/introduced as old business in the next scheduled meeting. This is to make sure the special meeting is recorded in the minutes.

### Section C. Special Rules

Individuals representing themselves or a non-affiliated group, may, at the discretion of the President, be granted the privilege of being present and speaking at meetings.

### **Article IX Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year for this organization shall be from January 1 to December 31. All annual financial statements and reports shall be made up to and include that date. The fiscal year is different from the seasonal year (September 1 to August 30).

### **Article X Rules and Regulations**

Rules and regulations of this organization may be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Article XI Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a Directors' meeting, provided notice of such submission *of such* amendment is given in person, via e-mail or by depositing such notice in the United States' mail. Such notice shall be given at least ten days before such Directors' meeting.

### **Article XII Suits**

No player, team, referee, coach, club, or representative thereof, may invoke the aid of the courts of any state or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within this organization.