



BYLAWS

Streator Soccer League (SSL)

Doing Business As: *Streator Soccer League*

Program Description: *Adult Recreational Soccer*

ARTICLE I – NAME, IDENTITY, AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The organization shall be known as the **Streator Soccer League (SSL)**, hereinafter referred to as “the League.”

Section 2. Purpose

The mission of the Streator Soccer League (SSL) is to provide a safe, inclusive, and well-organized adult recreational soccer experience that promotes physical activity, sportsmanship, and community connection for players of all skill levels.

The League is recreational in nature and not intended to be a competitive or professional organization.

Section 3. Definitions

For purposes of these bylaws, “**City**” refers to the **City of Streator, Illinois**, including its departments, employees, agents, contractors, and any park, recreation, or other public facilities owned, operated, or permitted by the City.

ARTICLE II – GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. League Structure

The League shall operate as an unincorporated association unless and until otherwise determined.

Section 2. League Board

The League shall be administered by:

- League President
 - Provides overall leadership and direction for the League

- Serves as the primary point of contact with the City and vendors
 - Oversees League operations and ensures compliance with bylaws
 - Presides over meetings and approves final League decisions
- Vice President
 - Assists the President in league operations
 - Assumes the duties of the President in their absence
 - Supports coordination of league events and communications
- Treasurer
 - Manages League finances, including registration income and expenses
 - Oversees payment of referees, vendors, and suppliers
 - Maintains financial records and reports to the League as needed
- Secretary
 - Maintains official league records, including bylaws and meeting notes
 - Tracks rosters, registration deadlines, and official communications
 - Assists with administrative coordination
- Website and Social Media Manager
 - Maintains League website, including schedules, rules and announcements
 - Manages League social media platforms and online communications
 - Ensures timely posting of updates, cancellations, and league information
- League Commissioner
 - Oversees day-to-day League operations during the season
 - Serves as the primary contact for team captains and referees
 - Coordinates scheduling, standings and game-day issues
- League Advisor
 - Provides guidance and institutional knowledge to League leadership
 - Supports decision-making but does not manage daily operations

- Disciplinary Committee

One individual may serve in more than one role if necessary.

Section 3. Disciplinary Committee

A Disciplinary Committee composed of three (3) Board members shall be established to:

- Review player misconduct, rule violations, and disciplinary issues
- Track cautions, ejections, and repeat offenses
- Determine appropriate disciplinary actions consistent with League rules, including but not limited to warnings, suspensions, fines, or removal from the League
- Ensure fair, impartial, and consistent enforcement of League policies

Incident Review

- The Disciplinary Committee will review all serious incidents, gathering written and verbal statements from players involved, teammates, officials, and spectators.
- Players who refuse to cooperate with investigations may face disciplinary action.
- Any behavior intended to provoke or promote physical or verbal altercations will be reviewed and may result in disciplinary action or suspension.
- Provoking violent conduct is strictly prohibited.
- Players may submit a written appeal to the League within 48 hours of notification. Decisions of the League Board shall be final.

Confidentiality

- Sanctions against individual players are confidential and shared only with the affected player and their team captain.
- All reports and statements collected during investigations remain confidential and are not disclosed to involved parties except as necessary to enforce League discipline.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Streator Soccer League (SSL) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, or any

other characteristic protected by applicable law. Participation in the League is open to all eligible individuals who agree to abide by League rules and policies.

Section 1. Eligibility

Participation is open to adults 18 years of age or older who:

- Are not currently enrolled in high school
- Are medically and physically able to safely engage in recreational sports play
- Complete registration by the established deadline;
- Sign the required waiver and participant code of conduct;
- Pay all applicable fees; and
- Agree to comply with League rules, city laws, and park regulations.

Section 2. Registration Deadlines

- Registration shall have a published deadline prior to the season.
- Final team rosters must be submitted before Week 2 of the season. Changes may not be made after this point.
- Full payment is due at least one week prior to the start of the season.
- All payments, including but not limited to deposits are final and not eligible for refunds.

Section 3. Free Agents

The League shall offer a free agent registration option for individuals without a team. The League will make reasonable efforts to place free agents on teams but does not guarantee placement.

- The fee for Free Agents is equal to the per-player cost set by the team captain for the season.
- Both the team captain and the Free Agent must agree to the placement before the player is officially added to the roster.

Section 4. Unregistered Players

Any team found to have used an unregistered player shall:

- Forfeit the game in which the violation occurred.

- Be subject to additional disciplinary action if repeated.

Section 5. Assumption of Risk and Liability

Participation in the Streator Soccer League (SSL) is voluntary and involves inherent risks, including risk of injury. All participants acknowledge and accept these risks and agree to participate at their own risk.

SSL does not provide medical insurance coverage for participants. All participants are required to sign a Waiver and Release of Liability as a condition of participation. The waiver is incorporated by reference into these bylaws.

Participants are responsible for determining their own medical and physical fitness to participate.

ARTICLE IV – TEAMS, ROSTERS, AND SPONSORS

Section 1. Team Formation

Teams may:

- Register as pre-formed teams; or
- Be assigned players from the free agent pool.

Each team shall designate one (1) team captain who must be a registered, rostered player. The team captain shall serve as the primary point of contact with the League and referees and shall be responsible for team communication, roster verification, and on-field conduct.

In the absence of the team captain, a rostered player must be identified prior to the match to serve as acting captain.

Each team may also designate one (1) coach. Coaches may provide instruction, manage substitutions, and communicate with referees only through the team captain. Coaches are not considered players, are not eligible to participate in games, and may not enter the field of play at any time.

Section 2. Roster Limits

- Roster Composition: Teams may be co-ed, and participation is open to all genders. All players are subject to the same rules, expectations, and standards of conduct regardless of gender.

- Maximum roster size: 12 players
- Format: 6v6
- Minimum players to start a game: 5 players
- Participants are only permitted to play on one team per League. This rule applies to both regular season and tournament play.

Section 3. Team Names

Teams may select their own names, subject to League approval. Names containing crude, offensive, or foul language are prohibited.

Section 4. Team Sponsors

Teams may secure their own sponsors, subject to League approval and city regulations.

ARTICLE V – UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Section 1. Uniforms and Required Equipment

- Team jerseys shall be provided by the League, with jersey costs included in the registration fee.
- Teams may submit their top three (3) jersey color choices, which shall be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Players must wear their assigned team jerseys during all League matches.
- Shin guards are mandatory for all players. Players without shin guards will not be permitted to participate.
- Players must wear appropriate soccer attire and footwear suitable for the playing surface.
- Metal cleats are prohibited.
- Any equipment, apparel, jewelry, or item deemed unsafe or dangerous by the referee must be removed prior to participation. The referee's determination regarding player safety shall be final.

Section 2. League Equipment

The League shall provide:

- Nets
- Game balls
- Corner flags
- Pinnies
- First aid kits
- Winner's trophy (including goalie recognition if applicable)

The City shall provide:

- Goals

The League may also purchase benches, field paint, and other necessary supplies.

ARTICLE VI – RULES OF PLAY

Section 1. Governing Rules

Matches shall follow FIFA Laws of the Game, unless otherwise amended herein for recreational play.

Section 2. Match Structure

- Games run every 1.5 hours
- Two 30-minute halves
- 10-minute halftime
- One referee per match
- Format: 6v6 (5 Field Plays and 1 Goal Keeper)
- Field Size: U10

Section 3. Substitutions

- Continuous substitutions permitted
- Substitutions are “on the fly” and do not stop play
- Rolling substitutes must enter/exit the side of the field where their team is located

Section 4. Goalkeeper Rules

- No pass-back to the goalkeeper
- Any registered player may serve as goalkeeper
- Goalkeepers must wear a jersey that is a clearly different color from both teams. If an alternate goalkeeper jersey is not available, the League shall provide a pinnie to be worn while playing goalkeeper. The goalkeeper jersey or pinnie must be worn at all times while acting as goalkeeper.

Section 5. Slide Tackling

- Slide tackling is prohibited
- First offense: warning
- Second offense: straight red card

Section 6. Forfeit Policy

A game shall be declared a forfeit under any of the following circumstances:

- A team is unable to field a minimum of five (5) players at the scheduled start time of the match.
- A team fails to appear for a scheduled match.
- A team provides notice of forfeiture to the League.

The League may allow a brief grace period at its discretion; however, the scheduled start time shall be the standard for determining forfeits.

Forfeit Notification:

Teams must notify the League Commissioner of a forfeit no less than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start time of the match. Failure to provide timely notice may result in additional disciplinary action at the discretion of the League.

Consequences of Forfeiture:

- A forfeited match shall be recorded as a loss for the forfeiting team.
- A team that forfeits more than two (2) matches in a single season may be excluded from future League participation, at the discretion of the Streator Soccer League (SSL) Board.
- Additional penalties, including fines or loss of tournament eligibility, may be imposed at the discretion of the League.

Section 7. Weather and Field Conditions

The League reserves the right to delay, suspend, reschedule, or cancel matches due to weather conditions, unsafe field conditions, or directives from the City.

Decisions regarding weather-related cancellations or delays shall be made by the League and are final. Player safety shall be the primary consideration.

Weather-related updates will be communicated through the League website, Facebook page, and/or email when possible.

Section 8. Team Standings and Tiebreaker

Points System (FIFA Standard):

- **Win** = 3 points
- **Tie** = 1 point
- **Loss** = 0 points

Tiebreaker Order:

1. Total Points
2. Goal Differential
3. Head-to-Head Result
4. Total Goals Scored
5. Coin Flip

Tournament Matches:

- If a tournament match ends in a tie, it will be decided by a three-player shootout.
- If still tied after three kicks per team, teams will alternate kickers in sudden death until one team wins.

ARTICLE VII – CARDS, FOULS, AND DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Cards

- **Yellow Card:** Warning only; player does not sit out
- **Two Yellow Cards:** Automatic red card; player is ejected and team plays short
- **Red Card:** Player is ejected; team plays short

Section 2. Red Card Consequences

- Player may return the following week after a first red card
- Two consecutive red cards: Player must sit out the next match
- \$20 fine for each straight red card

Section 3. Officials

The League shall be responsible for securing and assigning referees for all scheduled matches and works with an experienced referee assigner to schedule qualified officials.

Referees shall have full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game and League-specific rules, including issuing cautions, ejections, and terminating a match if conditions are unsafe or behavior is inappropriate. Referee decisions are final.

While disagreements with referee decisions may occur, only the designated team captain is permitted to respectfully address the referee with questions regarding calls during the match. Players, coaches, and spectators may not dispute or challenge referee decisions.

SSL maintains a zero-tolerance policy for verbal or physical abuse of referees, whether occurring on or off the field. Any such behavior may result in immediate ejection, suspension, fines, or removal from the League, as determined by the League and Disciplinary Committee.

In the event a referee is unavailable, the League reserves the right to reschedule the match or assign a qualified substitute at its discretion.

Referees shall:

- Collect player rosters before each match;
- Verify player eligibility to the best of their ability;
- Submit fouls, cautions, and ejections to the League following each match; and
- Turn all collected rosters over to the League for verification against official team rosters.

ARTICLE VIII – CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE

Section 1. Code of Conduct

All participants must demonstrate sportsmanship and respect toward:

- Opponents

- Referees
- League officials
- Spectators

Section 2. City Laws and Park Regulations

All players, coaches, and spectators must comply with:

- All City of Streator laws
- All park rules and regulations
- Any posted signage or city directives

Failure to comply may result in removal or discipline.

Section 3. Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking Policy

The Streator Soccer League (SSL) maintains a strict no alcohol, drug, and smoking policy.

- The possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited at all League games, practices, tournaments, and events.
- Smoking and vaping, including e-cigarettes and similar devices, are prohibited on or near the playing fields, sidelines, benches, and spectator areas, in accordance with City laws and park regulations.
- Any participant, coach, or spectator believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs may be removed from the facility and subject to disciplinary action by the League.

Violation of this policy may result in immediate ejection, suspension, fines, or removal from the League, as determined by the League and Disciplinary Committee.

Section 4. Spectator Expectations

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to support the Streator Soccer League (SSL) in a positive and respectful manner.

All spectators are expected to:

- Treat players, referees, League officials, and other spectators with respect;
- Refrain from abusive, threatening, or disruptive behavior;
- Follow all City laws, park regulations, and posted signage; and

- Remain in designated spectator areas and off the field of play at all times.

Spectators may not argue with, challenge, or verbally abuse referees. SSL maintains a zero-tolerance policy for verbal or physical abuse toward referees, players, or League officials.

Teams are responsible for the behavior of their spectators. Failure to control spectator conduct may result in disciplinary action against the team, including warnings, suspensions, forfeiture of matches, or removal from the League.

The League reserves the right to remove any spectator whose behavior is deemed unsafe, inappropriate, or disruptive.

ARTICLE IX – PRACTICES AND FIELD USE

- Teams are responsible for arranging their own practice time.
- Field use outside of Sundays is subject to city availability.
- The League cannot reserve practice times for teams.

ARTICLE X – SEASONS AND SCHEDULE

Spring 2026 Season

- Start: Second Sunday in April
- Week 1: April 12
- Week 2: April 19
- Week 3: April 26
- Week 4: May 3
- Week 5: May 10
- Week 6: May 17
- Season break: May 24 (Memorial Day)
- Tournament: May 30–31 (2-day)

Fall 2026 Season

- Start: August 16

- Season break: September 6 (Labor Day)

ARTICLE XI – COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

- The League shall maintain a Website and Facebook page for updates, schedules, and announcements.
- Official communications may also occur via email, text or the League website.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by the League with reasonable notice to participants.

ARTICLE XIII – FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The League shall continue to research state registration options, including nonprofit or other organizational structures, as the League grows.