

**Rules and Regulations  
of  
Manhattan Soccer Club, Inc.**

adopted at the annual meeting of members on June 24, 2015

**Statement of Philosophy; Application of Rules**

Manhattan Soccer Club, Inc. is a not for profit youth soccer organization whose mission is to develop superior athletes and exceptional teammates. The Club strives to be the top youth soccer club in New York City and the tri-state region and to encourage each player to reach his or her highest potential on and off the field. We achieve our goals through the commitment of our coaches, staff and volunteers to provide our players with a professional and comprehensive soccer education.

All teams, players, coaches, managers, employees, officers, directors, parents or guardians of players of the Club shall comply and abide with these Rules and Regulations in connection with the activities and operations of the Club.

**ARTICLE I  
Registration of Players; Fees**

1. All teams of the Club shall play under the "Laws of the Game" as promulgated by the United States Soccer Federation (commonly referred to as US Soccer, the official governing body of the sport of soccer in the United States), as such regulations may be modified by applicable leagues in which teams may play. The Club may be affiliated with US Club Soccer Federation and such other soccer organizations ("Governing Entities") as the board of directors (the "Board") of the Club may determine from time to time and shall comply and abide with the rules of such organizations to the extent applicable.

2. To be registered as a player of a team, a parent or a legal guardian of a player, if such player is a minor, or a player if 18 or older must sign and deliver to the Club all registration documents required by the Board from time to time which documents may include a medical release and other waivers and consents, and all such registration documents must be completed accurately and returned in a timely manner.

3. All players shall pay an annual registration fee and such other fees, dues or assessments as the Board may require from time to time (subject to financial assistance, if applicable). The Executive Director, with prior notice to the Board, may withhold or terminate a player's playing card for the non-payment of such player's annual fees or take such other action as the Board may deem appropriate.

4. For all players, the Club's registration year will conform to the seasonal year as determined by the applicable Governing Entity under which teams may play. All players shall be registered with the Club until the end of the seasonal year unless a specific exception consistent with the rules of the applicable Governing Entity is approved by the Board.

5. A team may not register a player who is registered with another soccer club without obtaining a release and permission from such other club or applicable Governing Entity.

6. Nothing contained in this Article I shall be deemed to prevent a player from playing on such player's school soccer team, a select, all-star, ODP (state, regional or national team) or any other team in addition to playing on a team in the Club. A player may play in a tournament as a guest player for another club's team with the prior permission of such player's coach and compliance with the Club's guidelines as may be in effect from time to time.

7. All player and coach cards are the property of the Club or the applicable issuing entity (as the case may be) and must be returned to the Club promptly upon request.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Team Formation; Organization and Coaching**

1. Each year after tryouts, the Club, working with the Director of Coaching, will form teams in various age groups to the extent there are qualified players and within the limits for the number of teams allowed by applicable leagues.

2. Players are expected to play on a team of their own age. Playing in an older age group requires the recommendation and prior approval of the Director of Coaching and the coaches involved with the individual player. Nothing herein shall prohibit a team from playing in a higher age group in league or tournament play with the prior approval of the Director of Coaching.

3. Players shall be selected for teams after tryouts prior to the beginning of a season. Annual tryouts are generally held in May or June before the end of the school year or in early September immediately prior to registration deadlines. High school teams may hold tryouts in the fall. Tryouts must be open to all potential players of the correct age who wish to participate. The time and place for the tryouts will be announced publicly in advance and adequate and reasonable notice must be given to a wide group of potential players of the appropriate age in the New York City metropolitan area. At tryouts, players will be evaluated by coaches from the Club and other evaluators as may be selected by the Director of Coaching.

4. A team's roster is established for one seasonal year.

5. The Club shall communicate explicitly to prospective players and their families, the commitment expected of each player and the coach's expectations for the season, the team's general program and plan of operation as well as playing time rules adopted by the Club.

6. No player shall be guaranteed playing on a team for the following year. Players earn their roster spot each year by demonstrating ability, commitment and potential for improvement. Play in the previous year and a demonstration of commitment to the team may be recognized in selecting among players of equal ability.

7. After a player has been duly registered for a team, a player may not be removed from a team before the end of the seasonal year except for good cause (which may include a

violation of these Rules and Regulations) and only with the recommendation of the Director of Coaching and the prior approval of the Board.

8. The number of players on any team shall be determined by the Executive Director and the Director of Coaching. No team may have more players on its roster than the maximum number permitted by the applicable Governing Entity for such team or such team's league rules.

9. During the year, teams may add players only with the prior approval of the Director of Coaching and the Executive Director.

10. The Director of Coaching and the Executive Director will authorize and approve one or more managers for each team selected from the parents or legal guardians of the players on such team to be the primary representative and administrator of such team. The manager shall have the primary responsibility for all administrative matters for the team's operation.

11. All coaches must be approved and hired by the Club on terms and conditions approved by the Board from time to time.

12. Coaches shall be required to complete such licensing, background checks and other reasonable requirements as are established from time to time by the Board or Governing Entities.

13. It is the philosophy of the Club to encourage significant playing time for all players. The following are the minimum amounts of playing time for each age group, and are applicable to all league games and all tournaments:

- For U9, U10 and U11 teams, each player must play a minimum of 40% of each game.
- For U12 premier teams, each player must play a minimum of 33% of total available game minutes over a three-game period. The Club strongly recommends that each player play some portion of each game. For U13 and U14 premier teams, each player must play a minimum of 25% of total available game minutes over a three-game period.
- For all U12, U13 and U14 teams that are not premier teams (as defined below), each player must play a minimum of 33% of total available game minutes over a three-game period. Furthermore, each player must play some portion of each game.
- There are no minimum playing time requirements for U15 and older premier teams. For all other U15 and older teams that are not premier teams, each player must play a minimum of 25% of total available game minutes over a three-game period. Furthermore, each player must play some portion of each game.
- For purposes of this section, a "premier team" is defined as a team playing in a league that is not Westchester Youth Soccer League or equivalent league as

determined by the Director of Coaching. A team's status may change from season-to-season based upon the league in which it is playing.

- The Club appreciates that there are factors that may cause a coach to fail to provide a player with playing time that is below the minimum times set forth herein. These factors include injury, illness or issues related to poor attendance, discipline or commitment. The coach is required to inform the Director of Coaching of any such situations.

14. A player has the responsibility to participate in all team events including practices, games, tournaments, and other team activities. Attendance at less than 50% at practices or less than two-thirds of games during the fall or spring season (without permission) can be cause to remove a player from a team's roster.

15. Players not on a team's roster may be invited, with the prior approval of the Director of Coaching, to tryouts or to participate in no more than three practice sessions for tryout purposes subject to the rules of the league in which the team participates. The foregoing shall not prohibit teams from having properly registered guest players for tournaments or other competitions. Violation of this rule jeopardizes the Club's insurance policies and may result in substantial penalties, including but not limited to the suspension or removal of the coach.

### **ARTICLE III Club Budget and Team Finances**

1. The proposed seasonal budgets for the Club, separate programs (such as a U5-7 program or a toddler program) and individual teams must be approved by the Board.
2. Teams must comply with their team budget approved by the Board. Expenses incurred by a team that are in excess of the team's budget approved by the Club shall be the responsibility of the parents of such team.
3. No coach, trainer or assistant may work for any team without an employment agreement signed by both the employee and the Club.
4. The Board shall establish criteria for eligibility for financial assistance from the Club.
5. Contributions to teams from outside sources shall be assets of the Club and put into the Club treasury available to all teams except as otherwise determined by the Board. Only contributions directly to the Club for Club purposes will be treated as tax deductible by the Club.

### **ARTICLE IV Uniforms and Colors**

1. Teams may wear only uniforms (including jerseys, shorts, socks and warm-up suits) and colors approved by the Club. The colors of the Club are red, white and black.

2. No team may display advertising or sponsor names, logos, trademarks or other advertising on uniforms, bags, equipment, banners, flags or other gear without the prior approval of the Board. Team flags and banners must be approved by the Club prior to display.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Sponsorships; Contributions; Fundraising**

Sponsorships, contributions and fundraising will be governed the policies adopted by the Board from time to time.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Safety Guidelines**  
*(originally adopted by the Board on October 12, 2011)*

The following guidelines are the policies of the Club with regard to awareness and prevention of abuse within the Club.

1. The Club is committed to provide a safe environment and to prevent child abuse and sexual misconduct.
2. The Club is committed to undertake reasonable efforts to ensure that every person involved in coaching or team and/or club management, including the Club's Executive Director, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, bus chaperones and other employees or independent contractors, will abide by these guidelines.
3. Certain Governing Entities have adopted risk management programs to assist the Club in providing a safe experience for our children. These programs includes risk management registration and background checks for coaches, managers, employees and independent contractors of the Club. All coaches, managers, employees and independent contractors of the Club must register with risk management programs selected by the Club from time to time and complete an on-line disclosure statement which is used to conduct a background check.
4. The Club will take appropriate actions regarding all concerns or allegations of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct. All concerns or allegations should be reported immediately to the President or a Vice President of the Club. The Club will take appropriate actions as soon as practicable based on the Club's review of the circumstances and its findings. Allegations or concerns may be reported promptly to authorities for investigation.
5. The following represents certain preventive policies of the Club with regard to abuse:
  - (a) Physical, mental or verbal abuse of any player, employee, participant or referee involved in the Club's activities is not permitted.
  - (b) Inappropriate touching of any kind is forbidden.

- (c) The Club requires that more than one adult be present at any Club activity involving players under U-15. At Club activities involving players U-15 or older, to the extent reasonably practical, the Club strongly suggests that more than one adult be present. If a player under U-15 needs special attention (for example, one-on-one training or an individual meeting), that activity or meeting should be conducted in the presence of another adult.
- (d) Non-parent coaches should avoid any appearance of impropriety and should not socialize with players except at Club activities or social gatherings where parents are present.
- (e) Non-parent coaches should never transport a player in a car or other vehicle except (i) in an emergency or other necessary circumstances or (ii) unless the player's parent or guardian has granted permission. Permission from a parent or a guardian for a player to travel with a non-parent coach may be granted on the Club's registration or medical forms.
- (f) Non-parent coaches are not permitted to share a room overnight with a player(s).
- (g) Use or possession of illegal drugs or underage drinking at any Club activity is prohibited.
- (h) Parents are encouraged to attend all Club activities.

## **ARTICLE VII Conduct and Misconduct**

1. All teams, players, coaches, managers, parents or legal guardians of players and guests of any of them are allowed to take part in or attend games and other activities of the Club provided that they observe and comply with these Rules and Regulations, the Laws of the Game and such other policies or procedures adopted by the Board from time to time. Failure to observe or comply with these Rules and Regulations, the Laws of the Game and such other policies or procedures adopted by the Board from time to time shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

2. Coaches and managers of teams are responsible for controlling the conduct of their players, parents, coaches and spectators, and accordingly, shall be required to take such precautions reasonably necessary to insure that players, referees or spectators are not threatened or assaulted (physically or verbally), either prior to, during, or at the end of practices, games or tournaments. Failure of a team to exercise control or to provide safety to referees, players or spectators shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

3. Coaches and managers of teams shall report any incident of misconduct that occurs at a game, tournament, practice or other activity sponsored by Club or any allegation of a violation of these Rules and Regulations, the Laws of the Game and such other policies or procedures adopted by the Board from time to time to the Board, and the Board may investigate any such allegation and punish as it deems proper.

4. A coach or a manager must report to the Director of Coaching all yellow or red cards given to a player or coach on their team at a game or tournament promptly after such game or tournament.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Fines and Disciplinary Action**

Fines, in an amount to be determined by the Board from time to time, or other disciplinary action may be imposed on a team for violations of the policies of the Club, these Rules and Regulations or the rules of an applicable Governing Entity, whether now existing or later adopted, or any other conduct or omission of a team, player, coach or other team representative that is determined by the Board to be detrimental to the best interests of the Club.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Grievances and Appeals**

1. The Board may establish a Grievance Committee comprised of members of the Board and such other individuals as may be appointed by the Board to hear grievances, appeals and protests from players, teams, coaches or employees regarding the application and enforcement of these Rules and Regulations and other policies of the Club in effect from time to time. The Grievance Committee may decide to recommend actions to the Board.

2. Decisions of the Board may be appealed initially to the Grievance Committee. If a matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of all interested parties, a decision of the Board may be appealed to the full Board. Appeals to the full Board must be in writing and must include a concise statement of facts, the basis for the appeal and the action requested. The appellant will be permitted to appear before the Board in person. The Board shall determine the nature and extent of its inquiry on a case by case basis. The decision of the Board not inconsistent with these Rules and Regulations shall be final and binding.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Amendments**

Amendments to these Rules and Regulations may be proposed by the Board or by an authorized representative of a team. Amendments proposed by the Board will be circulated with the notice of the annual meeting of teams. Amendments proposed by a team must be received by the Board no later than five days after the notice of the annual meeting and will be circulated by the Board to all teams and representatives of all players as soon as possible. Amendments to these Rules and Regulations may be made only at the annual meeting by no less than a two-thirds majority vote of the votes cast, a quorum being present.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Matters Not Provided For**

All matters pertaining to the Club and its activities not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be determined by the Board, and the decision of the Board not inconsistent with these Rules and Regulations shall be final and binding.