

AVON LAKE SOCCER ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION

MISSION STATEMENT

Avon Lake Soccer Organization (ALSO) is a community-based organization of players, parents, guardians, custodians, and interested adults whose purpose is to educate and instruct Avon Lake youth in the game of soccer. Our Basic philosophy is:

- Developing the mind, body, and self-esteem through sportsmanship, education, skill, teamwork, exercise and enjoyment.
- Encourage the development of a positive team attitude through cooperative team play. The attitude and practice of winning at any cost is not acceptable.
- A commitment to benefit the majority of Avon Lake youth, not only the talented few. Thus our programs shall stress maximum participation from all athletes, regardless of ability. Our programs shall be designed to provide evenly balanced competition.
- Ensure minimal pressure on youth players from coaches, spectators and parents and encourage youth to simply do their best.

1.0 NAME

1.1 The name of the organization shall be the Avon Lake Soccer Organization (ALSO).

2.0 PROVISIONS

- 2.1 The ALSO shall be non-profit.
- 2.2 The ALSO shall provide adult supervised, organized soccer for the youth residing or attending school in Avon Lake, by providing education and instruction in the game.
- 2.3 The ALSO shall be charitable through the volunteer cooperation of adults teaching and training youth in the game of soccer.
- 2.4 ALSO income shall be used primarily for operating expenses and no part of the income will incur to the benefit of officers or members.
- 2.5 ALSO is non-political and shall not attempt to participate in nor influence political campaigns or legislation.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership in ALSO shall consist of parents, custodians, and / or guardians of registered players residing or attending school in the City of Avon Lake and other interested adults.
- 3.2 All coaches and Board Members of ALSO shall be members of ALSO, Membership in ALSO entitles the person to vote on the selection of officers and otherwise as provided herein.

4.0 OFFICERS AND DUTIES

4.1 ALSO shall be governed by a Board of the following elected officials:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Commissioner
Registrar
Director of Coaching (“DOC”)
Recreation Program:

- Co-Director
- Co-Director

Travel Program:

- Boys Director
- Girls Director
- Assistant Director for Scheduling

Field Director

4.2 Board Officials' duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

4.2.1 President: Preside over general and board meetings; recommend formation and personnel appointment to special committees as necessary including for ALSO-sponsored tournaments or special events. Shall also provide a continuing liaison with parents and guardians of ALSO players with respect to Board actions. Provide liaison with government and school officials. Official contact with other soccer organizations. Shall be responsible for long range planning and day-to-day operation of the organization.

4.2.2 Vice President: Assist the President and preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. Arrange for general and board meeting places times and dates. Responsible for day-to-day operation of the Recreation Program including, in collaboration with the Recreation Directors, recruiting and training recreation referees.

4.2.3 Treasurer: Shall have custody of all ALSO funds; handle disbursements with approval of the Board, keep records of all receipts and expenditures which will be subject to an annual audit; report monthly to the Board the financial status of ALSO. Shall audit all fund raising activities. Shall be responsible for all special funds that are created.

4.2.4 Secretary: Keep and preserve records of the proceedings of ALSO and all other records except of those of the Treasurer. In addition, the Secretary shall maintain liaison with all governmental bodies and other organizations.

4.2.5 Commissioner: Shall be responsible for and manage all ALSO equipment. Actions of the Commissioner, which may bear on league policy, must have the approval of the

Board. Commissioner shall be responsible for ALSO equipment in support of tournaments or other ALSO-sponsored special events.

4.2.6 Registrar: The registrar shall be responsible for sending applications to the schools and holding signups. The registrar will process the information and give the sorted and compiled information to the recreation directors. The registrar will also register with appropriate sanctioning bodies.

4.2.7 Recreation Directors: Directors will be responsible for but not limited to: forming teams, recruiting coaches, working with the vice president in recruiting and training recreation referees, and scheduling games for the fall and spring leagues. Directors shall also be a liaison with parents, guardians, coaches and referees with respect to the recreational program

4.2.8 Director of Coaching (DOC): Responsible for directing and supervising the ALSO coaching staff, including volunteer and paid coaches, to meet the overall objectives of player technical and tactical development and team development. The DOC will work with respective travel directors to coordinate tryouts including tabulation of results, and team selection process. The DOC will serve as Chair of the Travel Team Committee (“TTC”).

4.2.9 Travel Directors: Directors will be responsible for but not limited to: forming teams, recruiting volunteer coaches and scheduling games for the fall and spring leagues. Directors shall also be a liaison with parents, guardians, coaches and referees with respect to the travel program. Travel Directors shall be part of the Travel Team Committee.

4.2.10 Assistant Director for Scheduling (Travel): Shall be responsible to assist travel directors by acting as primary scheduler for all travel team home games coordinating available home fields with Fields Director. Shall serve as primary community representative for league game scheduling, coordinating change requests with other communities, and working through respective travel directors as appropriate.

4.2.11 Fields Director: Shall be responsible for the preparation and maintenance and supervision of all fields utilized for ALSO activities including but not limited to: overseeing field cuttings, field lining, field layout, goal post maintenance, equipment operation and maintenance. Shall be responsible for contacting the local schools or governing field authorities for practice space and time and game space and time. Shall also be responsible for scheduling all practice times for ALSO. Responsible for deciding playability of ALSO fields.

5.0 OFFICIALS' TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 All officials shall serve one (1) year.

5.2 Officials will be elected by the general membership at the December meeting.

5.2.1 Nominated officials will be elected by a majority vote of the members in attendance at the December meeting.

- 5.3 Any special committees shall expire with the END of the President's term. Committee recommendations shall be subject to Board approval.
- 5.4 ALSO officials may be removed for activities violating the intent, philosophy or rules of this organization. Removal shall be subject to Board approval after a hearing of the charges and defense.
- 5.5 In the event an ALSO official is unable to complete his/her term in office or fulfill the responsibilities of his/her office, the ALSO Board will, by a simple majority vote, elect an ALSO member to the vacated office for the remainder of the current term.
- 5.6 Qualifications of certain official Board positions:
 - 5.6.1 President - Two years as an ALSO member and one year service on the ALSO Board.
 - 5.6.2 Treasurer - Background and experience in accounting/finance
 - 5.6.3 Director of Coaching - Background and/or experience playing or coaching at an advanced level.

6.0 BOARD CONDUCT

- 6.1 Board meetings shall be held monthly except July. There will be no scheduled meeting in July.
- 6.2 The ALSO secretary shall notify Board members of upcoming board meetings at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
- 6.3 Board actions and approvals require a simple majority.
- 6.4 ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall apply at all Board and General Meetings.
- 6.5 The Board may call General Meetings any time.
- 6.6 The order of business at all meetings shall be: - Roll call - Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings - Officers Reports - Old Business - New Business - Date of Next Meeting - Adjournment
- 6.7 Traveling Teams shall be under the sole authority of the ALSO Board
- 6.8 Protests and disciplinary actions shall be presented to the Vice President for arbitration. The Vice President shall issue findings after a hearing of charges and defense. Findings may be appealed to the Board in written form and accompanied by a \$10.00 fee. The fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld. The Board decisions are in accordance with sections 6.3 and 6.4.
- 6.9 The Board will maintain compliance with all applicable guidelines of the governing soccer organizations our teams play under.

7.0 COACHES AND CONDUCT

- 7.1 The respective league Directors shall recommend volunteer coaches for the respective programs.
- 7.2 Head coaches must be the age of majority. 7.3 Volunteer coaches are responsible for team practice and games. Coaches shall work with their respective League and Development Directors.
- 7.4 Coaches may be removed for actions violating the intent, philosophy or rules of this organization.
- 7.5 Removal of a coach shall be made by the respective league director. Appeals of league director actions and protests shall be arbitrated in accordance with section 6.8.
- 7.6 Professional coaches shall be recruited by the DOC, recommended for hire by the TTC, and approved by the Board.

8.0 REFEREES AND CONDUCT

- 8.1 Referees for the Recreation league programs shall be recruited and recommended by the Vice President, in collaboration with the Recreation Directors.
- 8.2 Rec Referees must attend a preseason referee workshop held by ALSO.
- 8.3 Referees, in collaboration with coaches, are responsible for the conduct of all Rec program games and the enforcement of ALSO rules.
- 8.4 Referees may select linesmen to assist during the conduct of a game.
- 8.5 Referees may be removed for actions violating the intent, philosophy and rules of this organization.
- 8.6 Referee fees will be set by the Vice President in conjunction with the Board Treasurer and approved annually by the Board.

9.0 PLAYERS

- 9.1 All ALSO players shall have on record registration papers including:
 - 9.1.1 Parental or Guardian permission
 - 9.1.2 A release of ALSO from all injury claims.
 - 9.1.3 Parental certification of hospitalization and medical insurance coverage of the player
 - 9.1.4 Proof of player age.
 - 9.1.5 Statement of residency or attendance in Avon Lake Schools
 - 9.1.6 Other records as may be required by relevant sanctioning bodies.
- 9.2 Players shall participate on assigned teams as determined by the Recreation and Travel Team Directors

- 9.3 Players may be removed from ALSO play for actions violating the intent, philosophy, and rules of this organization by the respective league Directors.

10.0 RECREATION TEAMS

- 10.1 Age groups and player assignments will be based upon national guidance governing all Youth Soccer sanctioning bodies (e.g., US Youth, US Club, etc).
- 10.2 Recreation team age classification will be determined by the board based on the number of registered players in each age group.
- 10.3 The Co-Directors are responsible for the formation of teams, player assignment to teams and selection of coaches.
- 10.4 The board may combine age groups and gender to form leagues based upon the number of registered players.
- 10.5 Co-Directors will work with each other and the Vice President to equitably divide responsibility for age groups based on annual registration numbers.
- 10.5 Players must play in the designated league based on birthday unless the player is playing in an older age group with his/her grade or the board approved the change.

11.0 TRAVEL TEAMS

- 11.1 Overall Objectives:
 - 11.1.1 To promote continuous improvement of individual and team soccer skills through quality coaching, player development programs, and a positive playing environment.
 - 11.1.2 To include the maximum number of qualified players, forming new teams when qualified coaches can be found.
- 11.2 ALSO Travel Teams will conform to the policies of the US Youth Soccer sanctioning body governing the league teams are entering in (typically US Youth Soccer or US Club Soccer).
- 11.3 The ALSO Travel Teams will be run by the Travel Team Committee (TTC), which shall include the DOC, who will serve as Chair, the Boys Travel Director and Girls Travel Director, and a person to be nominated by the ALSO President. The ALHS Boys and Girls Soccer head coaches are permanent ex-officio/non-voting members on the TTC.
 - 11.3.1 The committee will be responsible for the set-up of tryouts and the selection of travel teams.
- 11.4 Qualified Players:
 - 11.4.1 Must reside in Avon Lake or attend school in Avon Lake.
 - 11.4.2 Must be in the appropriate age group or class unless approval has been granted by the TTC and/or board.

11.4.3 Exceptions to the residency requirement may be made by the Travel Team Committee (TTC) when there are not enough Avon Lake players at tryouts to fill out a team roster.

11.4.4 At no time will an Avon Lake child be excluded for an out of community player.

11.4.5 Will be chosen through tryouts, to be held at a time set by the TTC.

11.4.6 Tryout times will be advertised in the local newspapers, schools and any other available media.

11.4.7 Rosters will be to maximum levels if at all possible. NO child can be cut if they can play to the minimum requirements as set by the TTC.

11.4.8 In the event of a shortage of rostered players new players may be added with the approval of the TTC.

11.4.9 New players added must go through a provisional try-out set-up by the TTC.

11.4.10 When there are two teams in the same age group both head coaches must approve of any roster additions.

11.4.11 Players may be dual carded on a second team as long as the two teams do not play in the same division in the same league. A player's priority is to play for their primary team.

11.5 Teams:

11.5.1 Roster sizes shall follow guidelines set by the sanctioning body governing the respective league.

11.5.2 All rosters must be approved by the TTC prior to submission to their respective leagues.

11.5.3 Uniforms: all ALSO Travel Teams will wear their approved ALSO Travel Team uniform during competitive play.

11.5.4 All teams should wear uniform colors of maroon and white.

11.5.5 If there are two teams in the same age group they should wear the same style and make of uniform.

11.5.6 ALSO provides no financial subsidies for uniforms, bags, patches, or warm-ups.

11.5.7 Teams are allowed to hold fundraisers to defray cost of these items.

11.5.8 All Fundraising activities should be cleared by the respective Travel Director in advance.

11.5.9 ALSO will create teams on an "A/B" criteria when the teams play a 9v9 format or higher in their respective leagues and there are enough qualified players for two or more rosters.

11.6 Coaches:

11.6.1 Each team should have at least two coaches, with one coach designated as head coach.

11.6.2 A coach can only be the head coach of one team unless there is board approval to coach more than one team.

11.6.3 Coaches must have the U10/12 certification or age-appropriate license within one season of taking over a team, based upon OYSAN standards. Coaches need to retain age-appropriate license throughout time as coach, based on OYSAN standards.

11.6.4 ALSO will pay for these licensure courses and the DOC will help arrange suitable opportunities for coaches to take the courses.

11.6.5 Coaches may request practice days and times, subject to field availability. Some flexibility may be needed in practice schedules in order to accommodate scheduling of professional coaches.

11.6.6 Travel teams and their volunteer coaches are expected to attend scheduled sessions with professional coaches.

11.6.7 Travel Teams may practice not less than once and no more than three (3) times per week including training sessions with professional coaches.

11.6.8 It is the responsibility of coaches to:

11.6.8.1 Assess and develop the technical and tactical skills of all players in accordance with a player development plan.

11.6.8.2 Treat all players fairly

11.6.8.3 Communicate all team information to all team members in timely fashion.

11.6.8.4 Play U9-U12 team members at least 50% of each game. Play U13 & U14 team members at least 33% of each game.

11.6.8.5 Support players' involvement with Premier Clubs.

11.6.8.6 Refrain from blaming game losses on individual players.

11.6.8.7 Coaches should not talk to opposing players during games.

11.6.8.8 Coaches are to follow regular season ALSO playing time rules in all ALSO-funded tournaments.

11.6.8.9 Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, including congratulating the opposing team. Good Sportsmanship should also be required by the coach of his/her players and parents.

11.6.9 Coaches may take disciplinary action when a player's conduct warrants it. Disciplinary action can include sitting out a practice and/or a game. In certain cases, but only by action of the Travel Director and the TTC, a player may be removed from a team when a player refuses to exhibit proper conduct or conform to team rules. All disciplinary actions should be discussed with the player's parents.

11.6.10 Volunteer Coaches are recommended by the TTC for board approval.

11.6.11 Head coaches are accountable to the board for the conduct and performance of their assistant coaches.

11.7 Duties of the Travel Directors:

11.7.1 Attend ALSO board meetings and appropriate league meetings.

11.7.2 Communicate relevant information from the board and league meetings to the head coaches.

11.7.3 Act as liaison between coaches, ALSO and league.

11.7.4 Coordinate team tryouts and registration with the TTC.

11.7.5 Establish outdoor schedules through the respective league.

11.7.6 Determine field assignments for both practice and games through the Fields Manager.

11.7.7 Communicate game field assignments to league referee assignor.

11.7.8 Make coaches aware of training opportunities.

11.7.9 Work with the respective High School team to schedule ball girls/boys for games, and to receive coaching support at practices from high school players.

11.7.10 Ensure that ALSO Travel Team policy is followed.

11.7.11 Serve as a member of the TTC.

11.8 Travel Tryouts

11.8.1 Travel tryouts will be conducted in May and/or June. The dates for these tryouts will be selected in February by the TTC and announced in March to give parents and children plenty of lead time to plan to attend the tryout.

11.8.2 Travel tryouts will be game-oriented: 2v2, 3v3, 5v5, etc. One skills task, determined by the TTC, may be utilized as a tiebreaker. Players will be expected to play against all other players during tryout process. TTC will set exact grading criteria by April board meeting.

11.8.3 There will be one tryout time per age group.

11.8.3.1 If a child cannot make his or her tryout time, he or she can try out, with the TTCs approval, with the next highest age group.

11.8.3.2 If a child does not try out with his/her group, it could adversely affect his/her tryout numbers.

11.8.3.3 If a player cannot tryout and does not make other plans with the TTC, that player does not make the team.

11.8.4 The grading of the travel tryouts will be divided among three people:

11.8.4.1 2 paid evaluators selected by TTC and approved by ALSO Board. Paid evaluators will have extensive soccer background. Exact requirements for this person will be determined by ALSO or the TTC.

11.8.4.2 Age group coach(es) (if there are multiple teams, coaches will split this responsibility or name one coach to handle this responsibility).

11.8.5 Grading will be divided as follows: Paid Evaluator #1- 33%; Paid Evaluator #2 – 33% Age Group Coach(es) - 34%. Criteria must be set up to grade players regardless of where they play on the field.

11.8.5.1 At U13/ & U14, players must achieve a total score of 55 percent of total score available to make the team. If not enough players make the 55 percent, coach can fill vacant spots on the roster with players who did not attain a score of 55 percent. Coach must take players in order of their qualifying score.

11.8.5.2 At U9-U12, players must achieve a total score of 45 percent of total score available to make the team. If not enough players make the 45 percent, coach can fill vacant spots on the roster with players who did not attain a score of 45 percent. Coach must take players in order of their qualifying score for U11 & U12 teams.

11.8.5.3 At U11-U14, the coach is allowed two discretionary picks for the final two roster spots and can replace any player not ranked in top half of that team, this would apply to second team if a third team is formed.

12.0 PARENTS AND CONDUCT

12.1 Parents must abide by the Parents' code of conduct, (see Appendix A)

13.0 GENERAL RULES

13.1 Rec team roster size will be established at the discretion of the Rec League Directors. Travel team roster size will be determined by the league and the TTC.

13.2 All Rec players and Travel players through U12, shall play at least one half (1/2) of time during a game, except as determined by the coach for disciplinary reasons or for injury. U13 & U14 Travel players shall play at least 1/3 of each game.

13.3 Seasons: The Recreation season shall last for a minimum of six (6) games and a maximum of eight (8). The travel team season shall be determined by their governing bodies.

- 13.4 Practice: Prior to the start of Recreation play, a maximum of two (2) practices per week is permitted. Scrimmages count as practice. After the start of Rec league play, a maximum of two (2) practices per week is permitted not to last longer than 1-1/2 hours per session. Travel teams see Section 11.6.7.
- 13.5 Rules of play: Rules of play will be set each season by the league directors with approval of the Board.
- 13.6 Field Unplayable: The Fields Manager shall decide if the field is unplayable on the day of the match. The Fields Manager shall notify respective league directors.
- 13.7 Coaching shall be restricted to the sideline areas between penalty areas. There shall be no coaches or spectators permitted behind the goal line. The referee shall halt play until the area is cleared. Coaches shall support the referee and assist him/her in maintaining order before, during and after the game. This does not prejudice their right to protest to the league after the game.
- 13.8 Coaches or spectators shall not make calls (hand ball, foul, etc.,) during the game, as this is the referee's function.

14.0 GINO STRIPPOLI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- 14.1 ALSO will award two scholarships annually to a high school male and female senior student in the name of Gino Strippoli.
- 14.2 The applicants shall submit applications through the Avon Lake City Schools or the ALSO P.O. Box by March 31 of the calendar year.
- 14.3 The Scholarship Committee shall be formed and will select the recipients.
- 14.4 Each recipient shall receive a minimum of \$1,000.00 (\$2,000.00 total).
- 14.5 The Scholarship Committee shall be comprised of the Vice President, Avon Lake High School Boys Varsity Soccer Coach, Avon Lake High School Girls Varsity Soccer Coach and two ALSO President appointees, which have been approved by the ALSO Board, A committee member shall step down if any relative has applied for the scholarship, in which case, the President will appoint a replacement, upon approval by the Board.
- 14.6 The scholarship shall be funded by ALSO General Funds, but may be reduced by fundraising activities specific to the Gino Strippoli Scholarship.

15.0 AMENDMENTS

- 15.1 Amendments to these bylaws may be offered by any member of ALSO
- 15.2 Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to all Board members and read at a regular board meeting before being brought up for a vote.
- 15.3 By-laws may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at an ALSO board meeting.

- 15.4 Any ALSO Board member can request a second reading of a proposed amendment at a subsequent regular board meeting (no less than 30 days from the first) if that member believes the changes are of such significance or potential controversy among ALSO members to merit the additional time for consideration.
- 15.5 Notice of proposed amendments shall be provided in writing and in advance of a scheduled Board meeting if they are to be voted upon for approval. Amendments cannot be proposed initially and approved at the same Board meeting.
- 15.6 A copy of the enacted amendments shall be made available to all members of ALSO.

16.0 DISSOLUTION

- 16.1 In the event of dissolution of this corporation, the assets of the corporation, including equipment and cash reserves shall be donated to the Avon Lake School System or the Avon Lake Recreation Department or both as determined by the ALSO Board for the purpose of furthering youth sports activities.