



These bylaws were originally adopted March 14, 1994 and have been amended.

Article I – Name

The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be Bemidji Youth Soccer, also known as BYS.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of Bemidji Youth Soccer is to promote, foster and perpetuate the game of soccer at the youth level.

Article III – Affiliation

BYS shall maintain a current and continual affiliation with US Club Soccer.

Article IV – Service Area

BYS will provide service to the youth in the general Bemidji area. This shall include those who attend school in Bemidji, live in or near Bemidji or who live within reasonable commuting distance and are not served by a nearer youth soccer association.

Article V – Membership

Section 1 (Types of membership)

BYS shall be comprised of members each of whom will be allowed to be a member in not more than two of the following categories:

- Players
- Coaches
- Members

Section 2 (Player members)

A player member is any youth who is eligible to participate in youth soccer under the rules of the US Club Soccer and who has paid, or had someone else pay on his/her behalf, current year's registration fee to Bemidji Youth Soccer. Eligibility under the rules of US Club Soccer are detailed on the US Club Soccer website under player registration/membership eligibility requirements. Player members are non-voting members.

Section 3 (Coach members)

A coach member is a person who has been designated as a team coach by Bemidji Youth Soccer. Coach members are voting members at all general membership meetings and in the election of the board of directors.

Section 4 (Regular members)

A regular member is an adult person who is the parent or guardian of a registered player or who has volunteered to assist Bemidji Youth Soccer with the administrative and various other functions of the association excluding coaching. For the purpose of this section, adult shall mean being past the age eligible to participate in youth soccer. Adult volunteer members are voting members at all general membership meetings and in the election of the board of directors. (As amended July 22, 1994)

Section 5 (Registration fees)

The board shall set registration fees on an annual basis. Registration fees shall be established before the advertisement of player registration.

Section 6 (Membership privileges and responsibilities)

Membership in each category carries with it both privileges and responsibilities that may vary among categories. Specific privileges, including insurance coverage (Article X) are detailed elsewhere in these bylaws. Specific responsibilities for players, coaches, registered administrators and other adult volunteers are detailed in the Player's Code, Coach's Code and Parent's Code Of Conduct. BYS will follow the guidance of US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer for the Player, Coach and Parent Code Of Conduct. Additional responsibilities may be identified by the board of directors or by coaches with the board's approval.

Section 7 (Termination of membership)

An individual membership in any of the categories may be terminated for just cause as determined by the board of directors as detailed in Article VII, Section 8.

Article VI – Governance

Bemidji Youth Soccer shall be governed by these Bylaws in their current form or as amended from time to time and by other regulations as adopted by the Board of Directors except when these Bylaws or adopted rules are in conflict with US Club Soccer. When such a conflict exists, the Bylaws and adopted rules of BYS shall be subordinated to the Bylaws and Rules of US Club Soccer.

Article VII – Board of Directors

Section 1 (Make-up of the board)

The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than six (6) members and no more than fifteen (15) members. (As amended March 4, 1999)

Section 2 (Selection of the board)

The board shall be elected at the annual meeting each year and shall serve for either a term of one or two years with a maximum service of eight consecutive years. Election of the board of directors shall be detailed in Article IX. (As amended July 22, 1994)

Section 3 (Board officers)

The Board of Directors shall elect its own Board Officers at the first board meeting following each annual meeting. The officers shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 4 (Duties of the board)

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to conduct the routine business of BYS in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of the association and in the manner which the board feels best serves the members. The board shall have the power to collect and disburse monies as necessary in the normal course of business and to make decisions necessary to insure the efficient management of BYS. The board shall further have the power to call a special meeting of the BYS members when it feels it is necessary.

Section 5 (Quorum and voting)

A simple majority of board members shall constitute a quorum. No official board action will be taken except at properly called meetings with a quorum. All motions shall be voted on by voice vote. At any time the board is equally divided and cannot decide a matter brought before it, the matter shall be referred to the voting membership for a vote. (As amended March 4, 1999)



Section 6 (Meetings)

The Board of Directors shall hold a regular meeting at least once each month and at other times as deemed necessary by the board to ensure the proper performance of its duties.

Section 7 (Open meetings)

All regular board meetings shall be open to any and all members of BYS that are in good standing with the club. Members shall have a voice but not a vote at board meetings. Special meetings of the board may be open to the membership at large at the discretion of the board.

Section 8 (Additional duty)

It shall also be the board of director's duty to review and take action on any questions relating to termination of membership (Article V, Section 7). Any cause for termination other than non-payment of registration fees shall be considered only at a special board meeting called for that purpose. Just cause for termination shall be determined by the board and shall include actions such as persistent disregard for the rules of the game or the rules of BYS, recurring unsportsmanlike conduct, or failure to follow the code for players, parents or coaches as appropriate. The Player's Code, Parent's Code and Coach's Code will follow the guidance of US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer.

Article VIII – Meetings

Section 1 (Annual Meeting required)

BYS shall hold an annual meeting in the month of August on a day selected by the Board of Directors. (As amended July 22, 1994)

Section 2 (Advertising of Annual Meeting)

It shall be the duty of the board to advertise to the membership the time, date and place of the annual meeting at least 15 days prior to the meeting. (As amended July 22, 1994)

Section 3 (Business of Annual Meeting)

The business of the annual meeting shall include:

- A financial report by the Finance Group Leader
- An activity report by the board
- Election of expired terms of board members (As amended July 22, 1994)
- Other business brought before the membership

Section 4 (Other meetings)

Other meetings of the membership may be called by the Board of Directors at their discretion or when requested by ten or more members.

Article IX – Election of Board of Directors

Section 1 (Term)

The Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting in August of each year. The newly elected board members shall serve for a term of two years. The terms shall be staggered so one half of the board will remain and the other half is newly elected. (As amended July 22, 1994)

Section 2 (Eligibility)

Any member who is eligible to vote is also eligible to run for any vacancy on the board of directors.

Section 3 (Nominating committee)

The board of directors shall appoint a nominating committee if it is apparent there will not be sufficient voluntary interest in Board membership. The nominating committee will consist of three members who are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. The purpose of the nominating committee will be to seek persons interested in being nominated for a position on the board and to place the names of those persons into nomination.

Section 4 (Advertising nominees)

The board will advertise the list of nominations to the voting membership at the same time and in the same manner as the advertisement of the annual meeting. (Article VIII, Section 2)

Section 5 (Nomination process)

At the time for nominations for each position on the board, the nominating committee will place into nomination those names previously selected and advertised to the membership. Nominations from the floor will also be received at that time.

Section 6 (Filling of board vacancies)

When there are no more nominations for a position, the voting members in attendance will cast ballots to elect one person to that position. The nominee receiving the most votes will be the new board member. In the event that there is a tie for the most votes, there will be a second ballot to determine the winner. Only those tied for the most votes will be on the second ballot.

Section 7 (Filling of board vacancies)

In the event of an unscheduled board vacancy, the BYS board may fill said vacancy for the duration of the unfilled term by a majority vote of the BYS board. (As amended March 4, 1999)

Article X – Insurance

Member players, administrators and coaches shall be registered with US Club Soccer which maintains insurance protection as follows:

- Accident medical insurance for players and coaches
- Liability insurance for coaches, administrators

Article XI – Amendments

Section 1 (Vote required)

These bylaws of BYS may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors or by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at an annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2 (Proposals to amend)

Proposals to amend the bylaws must be endorsed by a majority of the board of directors and advertised to the voting membership at least thirty days before the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Article XII – Operations

Section 1 (Grievances)

Disagreements are to be handled at the lowest level possible. Coaches, along with their team managers (parent representatives) are to handle problems between players, players and coaches, and coaches with parents. If they cannot resolve the matter amicably they are to turn the matter over to the Association's Coaching Coordinator and to the Club Administrator. The Coaching Coordinator and or the club administrator can mediate the problem themselves or enlist the counsel of other team managers. If the problem is still unresolved the Coaching Coordinator and Club Administrator will apprise the Board of the matter and seek resolution by the Board. Problems within the Association are to be resolved by the Association and not turned over to the District Directors or other representatives of US Club Soccer.

When problems arise during games between Associations, the BYS Coach and Team Manager are to seek resolution through interaction with their counterparts from the opposing association. It is appropriate to involve the game's Center Referee as an intermediary. As representatives of BYS, its coach(es) and team managers are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and sportsmanlike manner keeping in mind that the game and the sport is for the betterment of the game's players, not themselves. If the matter is not resolved at the end of the day, the representatives of each association are to refer the matter to their respective grievance representative. In the case of BYS the Coaching Coordinator and club administrator will follow the guidelines of the previous paragraph. Again, the goal is to resolve the matter at the lowest possible level before involving representatives of US Club Soccer. (As amended January 19, 2005)