

# Puget Sound Premier League

## General League Regulations for Competition

The **Puget Sound Premier League** (PSPL), is a competitive **US Club Soccer** league. The league is open to all teams within the state of Washington that are affiliated with **US Club Soccer**.



The inaugural PSPL – **Spring League 2008** will have the following play brackets for both boys and girls. A total of 18 teams per age group, divided equally into two (2) divisions, total teams 144. The Spring League will have a single center referee, with match report not being required.

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| U10 will play 2x30 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball |
| U11 will play 2x30 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball |
| U12 will play 2x35 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball |
| U13 will play 2x35 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball |

### Rule 101 Board

For league board, and advisors to the board see PSPL bylaws.

### Rule 102 Territories

No club has exclusive territory rights in the PSPL.

### Rule 103 Conditions for termination of team

Club and team affiliation may be terminated because of violation of performance conditions set forth by the league.

### Rule 104 Conditions for competition in leagues

Following each season, the league competition board shall review the compliance record of each team in their specific division. The committee may find that compliance with the standards is insufficient and recommend action to the league office. In extreme cases of repeated noncompliance the respective executive committee may recommend the termination of the team or Club in question.

### Rule 105 Conditions for team acceptance into league

Any club or team in good standing with US Club Soccer may apply for acceptance into the current league. Priority will be given to teams that commit to participate in the current league on a first come first serve basis. PSPL board will notify Club/Teams of acceptance.

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### League Structure

#### Rule 201 Governance

All competition in the PSPL is governed by regulations approved by the league office.

#### Rule 202 Division formations

Competitive divisions will be structured according to the playing level of teams as determined by the PSPL Board of Competition, which has final authority on all placement issues. Should the PSPL determine that there are an insufficient number of teams to constitute an age group division the teams affected may be allowed to temporarily or partially compete in a different division of play.

#### Rule 203 Playing rules

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the PSPL which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/ U.S. Soccer (USSF) except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

#### Rule 204 The Playing season

Each playing season, which shall be designated by the PSPL, will be provided to teams at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the first league play. The "League" is designated by the PSPL for the season in which the league is played. Example, Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter, but shall not be limited or restricted to a season.

#### Rule 205 Point System

The Puget Sound Premier league (PSPL) shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. In case of a tie in the standings, head to head shall be the tiebreaker, followed in order by number of wins, plus/minus, goals for, goals against. In the event all tiebreakers are equal, the winner shall be decided by coin toss.

#### Rule 206 League Schedule

The league schedule is the responsibility of the league office. However once initial schedule is issued the teams may make changes to the schedule provided all affected teams agree to the change. Every effort must be made to play all games. If teams are unable to reach agreement for a makeup game the league office may re-schedule the game. Teams un-willing or unable to attend game will forfeit points from the game. Forfeit games will result in a 0-3 loss for the team forfeiting the match.

#### Rule 207 League standings

Official standings of teams, the keeping of which is the responsibility of the league office, are tabulated on a regular bases, and displayed on the Puget Sound Premier League website. The reporting of scores is the responsibility of the Home team of each game. The web site will keep posted the standings of the league. Both teams are responsible for reporting outstanding play by opposing players. Those players that have chosen multiple times will be invited to our Player Development Program, chaired by ID2 Program Director.

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### Rule 208 Game lengths

U9 will play 2x25 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball  
U10 will play 2x30 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball  
U11 will play 2x30 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball  
U12 will play 2x35 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size four ball  
U13 will play 2x35 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball  
U14 will play 2x35 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball  
U15 will play 2x40 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball  
U16 will play 2x40 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball  
U17 will play 2x40 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball  
U18/19 will play 2x45 minutes with a 5-minute halftime and a size five ball

Rule 208 may be modified by PSPL board, to best suit current league season schedule.

### Rule 209 Substitutions

A team may have no more than 18 players eligible for each game. Players must be named on the game roster presented to the referee at beginning of each game. Free substitutions will be allowed in all age groups. Teams may only substitute with the referee's permission at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession
- Prior to a goal kick, by either team
- At halftime
- After a goal, by either team
- After an injury, by either team when the referee stops play
- On a caution, but only the cautioned player

### Rule 210 Eligibility

All players and coaches must present their US Club Player Identification Card to the referee prior to the match. If the individual's picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match. Players must be named on the game roster presented to the referee at beginning of each game.

Teams may use guest players provided they have not played with another team during the Spring League. Guest players may only be added up to two weeks into the league season. Teams using guest players must send copies of transfer forms along with US Club roster the league Director of Competition. Players may not compete for more than two different clubs teams during one designated season unless approved by the league office. Player requesting transfer between two clubs or teams must serve at least a two week suspension before competing with new team unless otherwise approved by the Director of Competition.

Players may not play in more games in their age group than is scheduled for their team in the spring season. For example – In a U11 age group with 12 games, the player may not play more than 12 U11 games. If the same player plays 10 games with the first team they may only play 2 games with the

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second team. For example - A player may not play 10 games with a first team and 10 games with a second team. Please note - Players may play up into older age groups an unlimited number of times.

### Rule 211 League discipline

A send off (red card) will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. A send off as a result of two cautions will result in the player being suspended for the next match. If a player is sent off during the weekend, they may not play the remainder of the weekend. Games sat out that weekend can count against the suspension, as long as noted on the Roster and/or Referee Game Report as such. Any team using suspended players will be disciplined the same as using illegal players. The League office must be notified of the send off within 24 hours by the home team. The player card can be returned to the team as long as the Referee Game Report shows the infraction, the players name and number.

### Rule 212 Incomplete games

In the event a game cannot be completed, the game counts if one- half the game was completed. If there is no result and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be repeated at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with the league office.

### Rule 213 No- shows/ forfeits

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up at a game agreed to by the teams. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- A forfeit to the opposing team and additional loss of three points.
- One no show may result in team being terminated at the discretion of the league.
- The accumulation of two no-shows in a season shall result in the team's termination of the league.
- A forfeit will result in a 3-0 win to the team not at fault.

A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather or act of God should immediately notify the opponent and the league office. Each situation shall be reviewed by the league office, which shall enter a decision.

## **Game Officials**

### Rule 300 Match officials

Match officials must be licensed Referees. The match officials shall consist of the referee and assistant referees (AR1,AR2) except for U9's may use one referee and club linesman. No match officials may have family members in the game they are working.

### Rule 300 Match officials

Match officials must be licensed Referees. The match official for Spring League will be assigned by Starfire, and consist of a single center referee.

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### Rule 301 Assignment of match officials

Match officials shall be assigned and paid by the home team of each match.

### Disciplinary regulations

Rule 401 The league office shall have the authority to suspend, fine or disqualify players, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the PSPL

Rule 402 A panel of individuals from the league office shall conduct the review of disciplinary issues. Such panels will consist of at least three officials.

## **Minimum Standards**

### Rule 501 Team management requirements

Each team must have a team manager that handles the following responsibilities: scheduling, referee payments, travel cooperation, reporting of scores and communication with appropriate league officials. All teams must have access to email, and a telephone number connected to a 24 hour answering system during the season. All team managers must have an email address checked on a regular daily basis.

### Rule 502 Playing venues

The playing field used by each team must be lined according to FIFA standards with goals nets and flags. The goals of each club shall be to provide an enjoyable experience for the fans, players, officials and everyone involved with the staging of a soccer game.

### Rule 503 Personnel on the bench

A maximum of 3 non-playing personnel is allowed on each team bench.

### Rule 504 Score reports

The home team will post the score on the Puget Sound website within 24 hours of the game and keep and file the game card for possible future reference.

## **Game Procedures**

### Rule 601 Exchange of game sheet

Teams must give opposing team and referee a roster 20 minutes prior to the beginning of each game.

### Rule 602 Official score sheet

The game information shall be filled in on the PSPL web site after each match by the home team of each game. The game information shall be filled in on the PSPL web site after each match by the home team of each game. Home teams will keep and file the game cards for future possible reference.

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### Rule 603 Referee Game Report

The Puget Sound Referee Game Report is to be given to the Referee by the home team before the game. It is to be filled out and signed by the Referee and each teams coach. The home team will keep and file the game card for future possible reference. This form can be downloaded from the Puget Sound Premier League web site, located at [www.starfiresports.com](http://www.starfiresports.com)

## Registration

### 701 Master Rosters

Players may only play for one Club during the League. All out of Club transfers must be approved through PSPL Director of Competition. No player may play in more games than the number of games in their teams assigned division. Individual teams may contain up to 26 players. There is no limit to the number of changes made to the roster provided the players are active in the teams club, or have not played for another club in the League. Only 18 of 26 players may be used for matches. The 18 players must be on the official game roster given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game.

### 702 Illegal players

Any player that does not appear on the US CLUB master roster shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit three points for each game to the opposing team against whom the illegal player was used. In addition the guilty team shall forfeit an additional three points in the standings.

### 703 Player registrations

Players shall be registered according to US Club rules.

## Code of Conduct

Do not tarnish the game of soccer, the PSPL, US Club Soccer, USSF, your club, your team, your self, your family or community. Behave reasonably, respectfully and flexibly.

# **PUGET SOUND PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE**

ARTICLE I The name of the organization shall be Puget Sound Premier League (PSPL).

## ARTICLE II

### PART A. Objective of the organization:

This league is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a playing opportunity for soccer players with advanced skills and a desire to play with and against others with similar skills and desires.

The league will be governed based on the following beliefs:

#### PSPL Mission Statement

Our goals are simple and are governed by these beliefs.

The primary focus of a successful soccer league is to promote the joy and fun of the game and to offer a safe venue for players to express themselves and develop their skills. The focus of this league will be to offer the player, their families, coaches, teams and clubs a Spring League to supplement existing Fall Leagues. Puget Sound Premier aims to promote a healthier, less costly and more logical way to play year-round soccer.

We believe a league that supports competitive open play and clubs that believe in player development is vital, ethical and missing.

We believe a primary focus of soccer coaches, teams and clubs is to develop children as people first and players second.

We believe individual player development is the club's primary responsibility and team success is a secondary but important goal.

We believe the players, parents, coaches, teams and clubs will benefit from playing in a league that promotes and expects this behavior from its participants. We believe the Puget Sound Premier League offers a league that supports players, parents, coaches, teams and clubs in this endeavor.

#### Simple administration

We believe a league should be governed by simple administrative procedures that provide players, teams and clubs flexibility in the player development process. The league aims to offer high-level competition with multiple divisions of play, promotion and relegation.

We believe players, teams and clubs seeking high-level competition should have a place to play. We believe a league should have promotion and relegation to ensure players and teams are, as much as possible, playing against appropriate levels of competition. We believe in an open

league, one where independent teams, small and big clubs, are all welcome to compete against each other at their appropriate skill level.

#### Club player passes

We believe clubs should have the ability to move players up and down within their club using a club player pass.

We believe clubs should have the ability to make changes game to game due to illness, injury, vacation, changing ability, practice attendance, commitment or because a player has dedicated his/her summer to practicing on their own.

We believe having a flexible roster is not only healthy for players, teams, clubs and families but also reflects a realistic understanding of the changes occurring in players, families, teams and clubs over a 12 month period.

#### Year-round league play

We believe the soccer world has shown weekly competition combined with weekly practices and appropriate breaks provides players, teams and clubs with the best opportunity for player development.

We believe it is beneficial, less costly, more enjoyable, more family friendly and better for player development to have players, teams and clubs competing in year-round league play.

We believe playing games each weekend in a league against opponents of similar strength will allow players, teams and clubs to limit costly tournament participation which unnecessarily increases costs to be spent on food, lodging and travel.

We believe playing two competitive games in a day is not ideal but necessary given the size of the league and the necessary scheduling issues and complications.

#### In pursuit of Excellence

We believe the pursuit of a high skilled, high-level athletic activity should be encouraged and soccer is a healthy choice.

We believe the studies revealing the pursuit of high-level athletics helps teenagers excel in school, stay fit, avoid drugs and alcohol and builds self esteem.

We believe encouraging a fuller, more intense involvement with the sport actually increases the likelihood a young person will remain in the sport for the rest of their life.

#### Choices and common sense

We believe in the common sense of parents who are best suited to choose their children's level and location of participation in any activity including soccer, and most often, will make the best choice for the children.

We believe children placed, by parental choice, under the guidance of skilled professional soccer coaches and an unbelievable number of skilled volunteers, are, most often, benefiting immensely from the lessons offered by participation in a high-level soccer learning environment.

## Fun

We believe soccer is joy, passion, beauty and emotion. It is creative, competitive, athletic and infectious. It brings diverse people and cultures together to play the world's favorite pastime. Above all, soccer is fun, and it should be played, watched, enjoyed and followed every day with passion.

### PART B: Program

To accomplish the above objectives, Puget Sound Premier League will provide a supervised program of competitive soccer games. The league shall focus on developing skills of the game and sportsmanship. The league shall make every effort to provide equal benefits to all registered members. The Executive Board, Age Group Coordinators, Coaches and Committee members shall maintain first and foremost, that goals of involved soccer coaches, teams and clubs will be the development of children as people first and players second.

### PART C: Affiliation

This club is guided by the laws of US CLUB Soccer. Puget Sound Premier League is a member of the US Club and USSF soccer and shall abide by its rules, unless the Executive Board votes otherwise.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

### PART A: Eligibility (General Membership)

League Membership will be open to all teams regardless of race, creed, or sex, who are selected to participate in the league. Any registered player shall be deemed a league member.

### PART B: VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Voting Membership shall be limited to:

- a) Officers of the league
- b) Executive Board Members
- c) One Representative from each US Club Soccer Club with at least two teams participating in league.
- d) General Board members
- e) Advisory Committee

Appointment by a Club of a Club Representative has to be in writing and provided to the secretary in order to be effective. The designation of age group coordinators shall be made in writing as of the April 1st General Board Meeting by

President.

President shall vote as tiebreaker only. No person shall have more than one vote (i.e. an age group coordinator who is either a duly appointed club representative, or Executive Board Member shall have only one vote).

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All voters must be present to vote -- no vote by proxy of any matter is permitted.

#### PART C: Termination or Suspension of Membership.

The Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote of those Executive Board Members present at a duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to suspend, discipline, or terminate membership of any member (including Board Members) when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the objectives of the Club. If any of the above actions are to be considered, the Board shall follow the steps outlined below:

1. Member(s) involved shall be notified of the nature of the charges against them in writing by Secretary.
2. Establish a date, time and location of the meeting where the Executive Board intends to convene to discuss action(s) to be taken.
3. Member(s) involved will be invited to attend said meeting to provide an explanation.
4. The decision of the Board shall be documented in writing and distributed to all parties involved.

#### PART D: Authority to Postpone a General Membership Vote

The Executive Board by two-thirds vote of those Board Members present at a duly constituted meeting shall have the authority to postpone a General Meeting vote until the next General Meeting. This privileged motion by the Board can only be used once on a given proposal.

### ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

#### PART A: Executive Board Authority

All authority to operate Puget Sound Premier League shall be vested in the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be empowered to conduct all of the league's business such as: fill vacancies within the organization, solicit contributions or sponsorships, make and enforce rules, and establish special committees as deemed appropriate. In addition, the Board has the power to suspend or terminate membership in accordance with Article III, Part C.

#### PART B: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD, GENERAL BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD

Officers:

1. The officers are the position of the President, Vice President and Treasurer. After the inaugural board's term has expired officers shall be elected at the AGM and voted for separately by ballot and must receive a majority vote of the Executive Board. Officers serve on the Executive Board.

2. The terms of office are as follows:

1. The president: 4 year terms, being elected in every other even numbered year beginning in 2008.
2. The Vice-President: 4 year terms, being elected in every other even numbered year beginning in 2008.
3. Treasurer: 4 year terms, being elected in every other even numbered year beginning in 2008.

If a vacancy occurs in an office of the President or Vice President, the following order of succession applies:

1. Vice President for President

The Executive Board shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy of an un-expired term of a board member or Vice President. Any such appointment is effective only until the next annual general meeting. At that meeting the league members shall vote to fill vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any.

The Executive Board shall be comprised of the following:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary
5. Boys Competition Chairperson
6. Girls Competition Chairperson
7. Disciplinary chairperson

The general board positions shall be a non-voting positions, appointed by the President for an executive board vote (2/3 vote) at the March General meeting and be comprised of the following:

1. Referee Coordinator
2. U11 Girls Coordinator
3. U12 Girls Coordinator
4. U13 Girls Coordinator
5. U11 Boys Coordinator
6. U12 Boys Coordinator
7. U13 Boys Coordinator
8. U10 Coordinator

The Executive Board positions shall be elected positions in accordance with Club By-Laws. The General board shall be appointed yearly by the President, subject to approval by the Executive Board.

#### PART C: Duties of the Executive Board Members

1. **President:** Shall preside over all meetings of the league and represent the league in all matters; Is responsible for setting the agenda for all meetings. Is responsible for overall operation of the league; May call special meetings as deemed necessary; Oversees the appointing of all committees and monitors their progress; May upon request, assist other Executive Board Members in the performance of their duties; The President will act as a TIE-BREAKING vote if the situation arises; Shall pursue sponsors as necessary to meet the league's needs; and, Assist Vice President and administrator with scheduling of games

2. **Vice President:** Is responsible for overseeing age group coordinators; Serves as President in the event of the latter's absence; Is director for all Age Group Coordinators and provides guidance as necessary; and, Assist President and administrator with scheduling of games.

3. **Secretary:** Is responsible for all correspondence received or initiated by the Executive Board: and, Is also responsible for performing the following duties:

1. Be official custodian of the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Record minutes of all Board meetings and maintain a historical record of all meeting minutes.
3. Conduct all correspondence not otherwise delegated in connection with the Club.
4. Assure that results of all votes are recorded.

4. **Treasurer:** Is responsible for safely keeping and distributing all monies received in the name of Puget Sound Premier League. The Treasurer is also responsible for the following duties:

1. Depositing all funds into a chartered bank in the name of Puget Sound Premier League.
2. File annually or as required by law, a statement of non-profit corporation with the Internal Revenue Service.
3. Prepare and present a complete financial statement annually at the March monthly meeting.
4. Maintain records for all monies received and disbursed.
5. Be Chairperson of Finance Committee; which shall be composed of at least two additional individuals to be appointed by the President with the consent of Executive Board.

6. **Girls Competition Chairperson;** shall oversee age group chairpersons and assist in recruitment and development of all girl's age groups.

7. **Boys Competition Chairperson;** shall oversee age group chairpersons and assist in recruitment and development of all boy's age groups.

8. **Disciplinary Chairperson** - Assists President and Vice-President in overseeing rules and competition of the league.

#### PART E: Removal and Resignation from Office

Any Executive Board Member who is not present for three (3) General Board Meetings without adequate reason in a year (December Meeting - November Meeting) or who fails to discharge his/her duties, may have his/her office declared vacant by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. In the event that the Executive Board is to take action pursuant to this paragraph, it shall comply with the provisions of Article III Part C regarding termination or suspension of membership. The Executive Board shall meet at least 4 times per year.

#### Article V- Administration

##### PART A. Paid Staff

League Director: A League Director shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Any pay for League Director will be negotiated by the President subject to approval of the Executive Board.

The League Director has the following responsibilities:

1. League Director will, subject to approval of Executive Board, oversee league staff that is provided for under the league budget, to carry out activities of the league.
2. Assists President and Vice-President in developing communication for the league, assists in developing league and is chairman of rules committee.
3. Attend all board meetings and maintain records and minutes of those meetings with the assistance of the secretary.
4. Prepare and distribute an annual general report for the executive board.
5. Assist President and Vice President with scheduling of games and will be a member of the disciplinary committee.
6. Oversee the registration of teams and clubs.

Administrator - An administrator shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board (2/3 vote) Any pay will be negotiated by the President subject to approval of the Executive Board.

The responsibilities of the Administrator are the following but not limited too:

1. Shall collect games scores and maintain on-line standings
2. Develop and update web site.
3. Assist President and Vice President with scheduling of games
4. Is responsible for all registrations and maintenance of records as required by US Club and the Puget Sound Premier League requirements and guidelines.

## ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

All Puget Sound Premier League General and Executive Board Meetings require at least 5 members of the Executive Board to be present to constitute a quorum. A quorum is necessary to conduct any business pertaining to the league. Minutes of all Board meetings shall be recorded.

### PART A: General Meetings.

General meetings will be held every six months to conduct the normal business of the league. These meetings are open to the membership of the league. There shall be one Annual meeting held in March of each year for the purpose of electing officers (if necessary).

### PART B: Executive Board Meetings.

Puget Sound Premier League Executive Board Meetings will be convened at the discretion of the President. Such meetings may be requested by any Executive Board Member. It shall be the President who ultimately decides if and when such a meeting will take place. Executive Board Meetings will be attended by Board Members only, unless an agenda item necessitates outside attendance.

Note: The President has the authority to call an Emergency Meeting of the Executive Board at anytime.

## ARTICLE VII- AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to each member of the Executive Board at least 15 days prior to a General Meeting. All submitted amendments must be voted on at a General Meeting. A 2/3 vote is required of those present to adopt the amendment.

## ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIVE PROCESS

### PART A: Voting.

Voting eligibility shall comply with Article III. Part B of the Constitution. Each US Club Soccer Club is limited to 1 vote per ballot with the exception of the President. The President will act as a TIE-BREAKING vote if the situation arises.

NOTE: In all cases the majority vote shall prevail, unless otherwise in the Constitution or By-Laws.

### PART B: Nominations.

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three executive or general board members at or prior to the January General Meeting. The Vice President will act as Chairman of the committee. The Nominating Committee shall post by February 1st on the web site the list of offices scheduled for election and the names and telephone numbers of the members of the Nominating Committee. The final slate of candidates shall be announced no later than two (2) weeks prior to election. The Vice President shall provide, in writing, to all eligible voters at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled election the following:

- a) notice as to the date, time and place of the upcoming election; and
- b) the final slate of candidates.

The slate of candidates and the date, time and place of elections shall also be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to election on the Puget Sound Premier League web site. Notice of these elections shall be provided to the Coaching Director of each club. It is the responsibility of the Coaching Director of each club to notify the club representatives.

### PART C: Election of Executive Board Members.

The Inaugural board is appointed for 4 years. After the first board's term has expired the election of Board Members shall be for a term of (2) years. If there is more than one nominee for any position, the election for that position shall be by secret ballot. In all other cases, a show of hands is acceptable practice. Each Board position shall be decided by a majority vote after a single ballot, except in the case of a tie, which will require a run-off ballot between the two leading candidates.

### PART D: Unexpected Vacancies.

In the event a vacancy occurs in any position, (except President) and the unexpired term remaining is less than a year, the position shall be filled by the President's appointment. This appointment will require a majority approval by the Executive Board. In the event a vacancy occurs and the remaining unexpired term is more than a year, the position shall be filled by the President's appointment and majority approval by the Executive Board. But, at the next

March Annual General Meeting held for the purpose of elections, the position shall be open and the elective process shall apply.

## ARTICLE IX - CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

### PART A: FORMAT

All General and Executive Board Meetings will meet the requirements of Article V of the Constitution. The President shall preside over General and Executive Board Meetings. The President shall administer an orderly process by which league business can be conducted. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or By-Laws, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall apply to the conduct of all meetings.

### PART B. DOCUMENTATION

The secretary shall document the minutes of both General and Executive Board Meetings. At each meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting shall be reviewed, accepted, and/or amended as determined by the vote of the membership present. Unless delegated otherwise, the Secretary will be responsible for all documentation generated at such meetings. Any correspondence received in the name of the League or by a Board Member pertaining to league business shall be forwarded to the Secretary. A copy may be kept by the recipient but, at a minimum the secretary must receive a copy for league records.

## ARTICLE XI – FINANCIAL

### PART A: Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the league shall begin on the first day of March and end on the last day of February. The fiscal year shall be known by the calendar year in effect on the last day of that fiscal year.

### PART B: Funds.

The Executive Board shall determine all matters pertaining to the finances of Puget Sound Premier League. All funds shall be placed in a common league Treasury under the management of the league Treasurer.

### PART C: Disbursement.

The disbursement of funds shall be for Puget Sound Premier League activities only. The Board shall not allow disbursement of funds for any purpose which does not support league's objectives or which would jeopardize the leagues' tax exempt status. Any motion presented to the Executive Board which is not a budgeted item and requires an expenditure of more than \$500 by the league shall require a 2/3 vote from the Board. Any item(s) not budgeted requiring an expenditure of less than \$500 may be approved by the President. Any such expenditure shall be reported at the next General Meeting and incorporated into the meeting minutes.

#### PART D: Dissolution and Disbursement of Assets.

In the event of dissolution or termination, and after all outstanding liabilities have been satisfied, all remaining assets will be turned over to The Ryan Dickey Soccer Foundation to be used solely for soccer purposes.

### ARTICLE XII - ARBITRATION PROCESS

#### PART A: Entry into the Arbitration Process.

Any issue or dispute between members of Puget Sound Premier League will be eligible for consideration under this Arbitration Process if it so directed by the President, or if not so directed, it is approved by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. In either case, due consideration will be given to the merits of the issue so as to ensure fairness and equity, but issues which are frivolous, non-essential, or otherwise not in the best interests of the league as determined by the President or by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Board, will not be deemed eligible.

#### PART B: Establishment of the Arbitration Committee.

A committee for the purpose of fulfilling this Arbitration Process will be established by the President. To ensure timely resolution of the issue being Arbitrated, this committee will be established as soon as possible after the President has been notified that an Arbitration process has been requested, but in no case will this be longer than 7 days. The Arbitration Committee will consist of the Vice President, and board members appointed by the President. The Vice President is chairman of the Arbitration Committee, and as such will conduct any meetings of the Arbitration Committee. The Vice President may also act as the league Representative for any interactions outside the league which are part of this Arbitration Process. The Arbitration committee will complete its deliberations within 14 days of the formation of the Arbitration Committee, unless a one-time extension of 14 additional days has been granted by the President.

#### PART C: Jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of the Arbitration Committee will include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. Player eligibility
2. League Game disputes
3. Refereeing problems
4. Parent or Coach Controversy
5. Selection and placement of teams

#### PART D: Decisions.

The Arbitration Committee will make recommendations to the Executive Board as to the resolution of the issue being arbitrated. At the next General Meeting, at an Emergency Meeting if necessary, or an Executive Board Meeting if so requested by any of the Disputing Members involved in this Arbitration Process, the Executive Board will vote on each recommendation.

Each recommendation will require a two-thirds Board vote for acceptance, which vote shall be by secret ballot. Any recommendations so accepted are not subject to further consideration under this process. The Executive Board reserves the right to take actions in addition to the recommendations of the Arbitration Committee. Any such additional actions require a two-thirds Board vote.

At the discretion of the President, a description of the issue being Arbitrated can be excluded from the minutes of the General Meeting or Executive Board Meeting at which the Arbitration Process is concluded. But, in any event, the Secretary will include in the minutes a report that the Arbitration Process has been completed, and will include names of the Disputing Members and the Voting Members appointed to the Arbitration Committee.

## ARTICLE XIII - DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY VICE PRESIDENTS

### PART A: Authority

1. The President or Vice-Presidents shall have the authority to suspend any coach, player, and/or club member who displays inappropriate behavior during or after a game. This authority must be exercised in accordance with the following guidelines:

2. Prior to initiating any suspension(s), verbal approval from a disciplinary committee of three people including at least two Executive Board members must be obtained.

3. All disciplinary actions taken between Board meetings shall be reported and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting held.

NOTE: All actions may be appealed in accordance with Article IV.

## ARTICLE XIV-COMPENSATION

No member of the executive board, or general board shall receive compensation (other than reimbursement for expenses) for services or goods provided the league through a binding obligation unless the binding obligation is specifically approved by the executive board. Any board member having financial interest in the contract, letter of agreement or verbal understanding shall abstain from voting.

## ARTICLE XV –STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. The President shall annually appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board by not later than the annual general meeting, the members of the following standing committees:

1. Appeals committee
2. Budget committee
3. Rules committee
4. Selection and placement committee
5. Disciplinary committee

2. The Executive Board shall prescribe the responsibilities of each of the standing committees.

3. The President, subject to approval of the Executive Board shall establish special committees as the President considers necessary, prescribe the responsibilities of each of these committees and appoint members to each of the committees. Each special committee must have a specific objective, a specific deliverable and a term.

4. The President shall name the Chairman of each standing and special committee form among the members of the committee.

5. No paid employee of the league, other than the technical director, may be appointed as a voting member to any committee.
6. Standing committee members shall continue in office until removed or their successors are appointed. Special committee members shall continue until removed of the special committee is terminated because it has fulfilled its objective and or its term has expired.

## **Mission Statement**

Puget Sound Premier League - Information & Policies

Wednesday, 30 January 2008

The primary focus of a successful soccer league is to promote the joy and fun of the game and to offer a safe venue for players to express themselves and develop their skills. The focus of this league will be to offer the player, their families, coaches, teams and clubs a Spring League to supplement existing Fall Leagues. Puget Sound Premier aims to promote a healthier, less costly and more logical way to play year-round soccer.

We believe a league that supports competitive open play and clubs that believe in player development is vital, ethical and missing.

We believe a primary focus of soccer coaches, teams and clubs is to develop children as people first and players second.

We believe individual player development is the club's primary responsibility and team success is a secondary but important goal.

We believe the players, parents, coaches, teams and clubs will benefit from playing in a league that promotes and expects this behavior from its participants. We believe the Puget Sound Premier League offers a league that supports players, parents, coaches, teams and clubs in this endeavor.

## **Simple administration**

We believe a league should be governed by simple administrative procedures that provide players, teams and clubs flexibility in the player development process. The league aims to offer high-level competition with multiple divisions of play, promotion and relegation. We believe players, teams and clubs seeking high-level competition should have a place to play. We believe a league should have promotion and relegation to ensure players and teams are, as much as possible, playing against appropriate levels of competition. We believe in an open league, one where independent teams, small and big clubs, are all welcome to compete against each other at their appropriate skill level.

### **Club player passes**

We believe clubs should have the ability to move players up and down within their club using a club player pass.

We believe clubs should have the ability to make changes game to game due to illness, injury, vacation, changing ability, practice attendance, commitment or because a player has dedicated his/her summer to practicing on their own.

We believe having a flexible roster is not only healthy for players, teams, clubs and families but also reflects a realistic understanding of the changes occurring in players, families, teams and clubs over a 12 month period.

### **Year-round league play**

We believe the soccer world has shown weekly competition combined with weekly practices and appropriate breaks provides players, teams and clubs with the best opportunity for player development.

We believe it is beneficial, less costly, more enjoyable, more family friendly and better for player development to have players, teams and clubs competing in year-round league play.

We believe playing games each weekend in a league against opponents of similar strength will allow players, teams and clubs to limit costly tournament participation which unnecessarily increases costs to be spent on food, lodging and travel.

We believe playing two competitive games in a day is not ideal but necessary given the size of the league and the necessary scheduling issues and complications.

### **In pursuit of Excellence**

We believe the pursuit of a high skilled, high-level athletic activity should be encouraged and soccer is a healthy choice.

We believe the studies revealing the pursuit of high-level athletics helps teenagers excel in school, stay fit, avoid drugs and alcohol and builds self esteem.

We believe encouraging a fuller, more intense involvement with the sport actually increases the likelihood a young person will remain in the sport for the rest of their life.

**Choices and common sense**

We believe in the common sense of parents who are best suited to choose their children's level and location of participation in any activity including soccer, and most often, will make the best choice for the children.

We believe children placed, by parental choice, under the guidance of skilled professional soccer coaches and an unbelievable number of skilled volunteers, are, most often, benefiting immensely from the lessons offered by participation in a high-level soccer learning environment.

**Fun**

We believe soccer is joy, passion, beauty and emotion. It is creative, competitive, athletic and infectious. It brings diverse people and cultures together to play the world's favorite pastime. Above all, soccer is fun, and it should be played, watched, enjoyed and followed every day with passion.

# **Puget Sound Premier League**

## **Board of Directors**

1. President Stanley Holmes, Ballard Soccer Club, 206-200-2245.
2. Vice President Steve Doboys, South Sound FC, 253-843-2764.
3. Treasurer Dale Lockwood, Issaquah Soccer Club, 425-802-7718.
4. Secretary Ted Parry, FC Shoreline, 206-963-1830.
5. David Lowe, FC Crush, 360-895-5680.
6. George Keller, Mount Rainier FC, 253-447-4904.
7. Phil McDonald, Tynecastle FC, 206-852-9947.

## **Puget Sound Premier League**

### Disciplinary Committee

1. Board member George Keller chairperson.
2. Paolo Mottola, League Director.
3. Board member Dave Lowe.
4. Vice president Steve Doboys.