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Suburban Friendship League

Procedures and Processes – Club Additions (Effective February 28, 2018)

OVERVIEW

The Suburban Friendship League (SFL) is designed to support clubs that (1) are members in good standing with a state association such as the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA), (2) have recreational soccer programs whose registration program is open to all, (3) have teams formed without tryouts, cuts or any other method for weeding out weaker/less experienced players, (4) have sufficient field space and licensed referees to support the number of teams registered, and (5) have game fields close enough to the existing clubs to make play feasible. In order to ensure that the recreational programs offered by the clubs desiring admission to the SFL are consistent with the existing rules, regulations, and processes, the SFL Commissioners have developed a process in deciding whether to accept a club and its proposed teams. The key aspects of the process include the following.

- **Application Process** – A club requesting admittance to the SFL prepares a short paper explaining how its program is designed to (1) support a recreational program as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association, (2) be supported by new players without adversely impacting the teams from existing SFL clubs, and (3) support the SFL’s administrative requirements, e.g. fields and referees.
- **Financial Requirements** – The financial payments required to compensate the SFL for its costs of adding a club and reducing the risks of a club not paying the registration fees in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND

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The SFL was established to coordinate and provide competitive soccer amongst the various recreational teams who desire to compete with recreational teams from other clubs. Although travel is involved, the teams in the SFL are recreational teams as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association and travel or select players may not participate. A youth league player must be registered with an associated club, who registers them with the appropriate state soccer association such as VYSA and meet their requirements for being a recreational or house player. A player, therefore, cannot be on a select or travel team and participate in the SFL during the same season. Although some travel leagues may allow recreational players to play on a travel team during that team's regular season travel games, the SFL does not support this policy for many reasons. These include the potential that a player may end up playing on a travel team and SFL team throughout the season which effectively eliminates the prohibition against travel players playing on SFL teams.

1 **APPLICATION PROCESS**
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3 Clubs desiring admission to the SFL must be accepted by a majority of the SFL Commissioners
4 with the SFL Commissioner casting the deciding vote if needed. The acceptance process begins
5 with the club submitting a paper that describes its recreational program. The application should
6 include the following items.

- 7
- 8 • The total number of players by age group (Under 10 and older) currently registered with
9 VYSA broken out between its recreational and travel programs (if applicable).
 - 10
 - 11 • The number of teams by age group that are expected to be registered with the SFL in the
12 upcoming season.
 - 13
 - 14 • The source of the players that are expected to play on SFL teams if it is not organic
15 growth, i.e., younger recreational players “aging up” to the SFL age groups. If the growth
16 is not organic, then a description of how the club provides reasonable assurance that the
17 teams it adopts for SFL submission are not teams from other clubs with a history of
18 disciplinary problems such as using illegal or unregistered players.
 - 19
 - 20 • Confirmation that teams submitted to the SFL are formed without tryouts, cuts or any
21 other method for weeding out weaker/less experienced players.
 - 22
 - 23 • How the club will meet the SFL’s administrative requirements such as field and referee
24 support.
 - 25
 - 26 • Confirmation that once accepted, the club agrees to abide by the policies, procedures, and
27 rules of the SFL. These documents are on our web site.
 - 28
 - 29 • Any other information the club believes is beneficial to the application process.
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31 It is expected that the necessary information should not take more than one or two pages.
32 Sending the application by Email (sfl@sflsoccer.org) is recommended. The check should be
33 mailed to the following address.

34

35 Suburban Friendship League
36 2416 Rosedown Drive
37 Reston, VA 20191-1620

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39 Once the application and along with a \$250 application fee is received, the SFL Commissioners
40 will review the application and decide whether to accept the club into the SFL. In addition, the
41 SFL will send the application to the member clubs for their information. The member clubs are
42 allowed and encouraged to provide comments that will be considered by the SFL Commissioners
43 during their evaluation process. The evaluation process by the SFL Commissioners is expected

1 to take approximately two weeks. In addition, it takes the SFL time to discuss the necessary
2 changes with the SFL's web site contractor and make the necessary data base changes.
3 Accordingly, the SFL has adopted the following application dead lines.
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- 5 • Fall seasons – June 30
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- 7 • Spring seasons – January 31
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9 Should the application be rejected, the application fee will be returned to the club within 30 days.
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11 **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

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13 Adding a club is an involved process that requires special one time efforts. The following are the
14 financial requirements for clubs requesting admission and club application fees.
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- 16 • **Application Fee** – When an application is submitted, the club must pay a \$250
17 application fee. Should the application be denied, then the application fee will be
18 refunded within 30 days of the denial. The application fee is designed to recover the one
19 time costs associated with establishing a new club into the system.
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- 21 • **Registration Fees** – Once a club is approved, it must pay the registration fees associated
22 with its teams prior to team registration deadlines, i.e., August 1 for the fall season and
23 March 1 for the spring season.
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