



SUBURBAN FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

CHARTER

Approved March 8, 2019

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Suburban Friendship League (SFL) is expected to provide a competitive recreational youth soccer environment where decisions are based first and foremost for the “GOOD OF THE PLAYERS” in all actions taken. It is designed to coordinate games amongst the various recreational/house teams sponsored by various clubs who desire to compete with similar teams from other clubs. Although limited travel is involved, the teams in the SFL are considered recreational/house teams as defined by the SFL.

The SFL recognizes that each soccer club has different operation procedures and that this is healthy for the league. The clubs are expected to adhere to their appropriate state soccer association (such as the Virginia Youth Soccer Association) guidelines and rules, their own operating procedures, and provide guidance, cooperation and, if necessary, discipline in carrying out the SFL’s requirements. The SFL Commissioner and SFL Age Group Commissioners are given authority to adjust to the various operating procedure differences, if it is in the best interest of the organization. A member club’s procedures and rules may be more stringent, but not any less stringent than those imposed by the SFL. The SFL will be notified in writing if a club does not comply with any rules and regulations issued by their applicable state soccer association. Furthermore, payment of the team registration fee signifies that the club (1) is following applicable state soccer association rules and regulations, (2) has properly registered all players playing SFL scheduled games with the applicable state association, and (3) agrees to abide by the rules imposed by the SFL. In turn, the SFL recognizes that it has no administrative, or legal ties, or other obligations except to the membership for which it serves.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The SFL is an independent organization that has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. As required by the Commonwealth of Virginia, it has a three-member Board of Directors – President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These individuals are responsible for corporate governance functions such as filing corporate reports and tax returns. The SFL’s operations are overseen by the SFL Commissioner and SFL Age Group Commissioners. These individuals form the SFL Board of Commissioners that are responsible for the SFL’s operational mission. The SFL Board of Commissioners may also have other individuals, such as an Administrator, to support its responsibilities. In addition, the member clubs are also required to have an SFL Club Representative that represents the club in matters that may come before the league and approve, by majority vote, the SFL’s rules, processes, procedures, and fees each season.

SFL Commissioner – Monitors the seasonal and daily operations of the league. The SFL Commissioner also hears all appeals, decisions made by an SFL Age Group Commissioner, and the SFL Disciplinary Panel. The SFL Commissioner’s decision is final, and conclusive, leaving

no further chance of action, change, or appeal, either within the SFL or some outside entities. The SFL Commissioner will be voted in office during the fall preseason meeting and serves a one-year term.

SFL Age Group Commissioners – Each major age group, male and female will have an SFL Age Group Commissioner who will be responsible to the SFL Commissioner. The major age groups, for both male and female, are 11/12, 13/14, 16, and 19. The SFL Board of Commissioners may decide for operational efficiency to divide a major age group into individual age groups. In this case, the individual is considered as one SFL Age Group Commissioner for voting purposes. The SFL Age Group Commissioners will be voted in office during the fall preseason meeting and serve a one-year term. The SFL Age Group Commissioners are responsible for monitoring the operation of the teams in their age group and coordinate with the SFL Club Representative and the SFL Commissioner when problems arise or disciplinary action is required.

SFL Administrator – The SFL Board of Commissioners may appoint an individual to perform the assigned SFL administrative functions. The duties and responsibilities of this position will be defined by the SFL Board of Commissioners. The SFL Administrator is not allowed to vote in SFL matters unless this individual is also the SFL Commissioner, SFL Age Group Commissioner, or an SFL Club Representative.

SFL Board of Commissioners – The SFL Board of Commissioners consists of the SFL Age Group Commissioners, and the SFL Commissioner. The SFL Commissioner serves as the chairperson. The SFL Board of Commissioners is responsible for performing the SFL's operational requirements as defined by the member clubs through the approved rules, procedures, and processes.

- Each SFL Age Group Commissioner will have one vote with the SFL Commissioner voting to break any ties. If the same person holds more than one SFL Age Group Commissioner position, then that person will have one vote for each position held with a maximum of two votes.
- If the SFL Commissioner is also an SFL Age Group Commissioner, then the SFL Commissioner will only have one vote regardless of the number of SFL Age Group Commissioner positions held. This vote will be the SFL Commissioner's vote as an SFL Age Group Commissioner. However, if the initial votes on some matter result in a tie, then the SFL Commissioner will be allowed to break a tie vote by casting one additional vote as the SFL Commissioner.
- The Board of SFL Commissioners may create other groups as needed to support the organizational needs.

SFL Club Representatives – Each club is required to appoint one individual as the SFL Club Representative. This individual is the official representative of the club and is responsible for ensuring that all rules and regulations of their club and those of the SFL are properly

implemented. This individual also acts as liaison between the club and the SFL over disputes and rule infractions.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments will be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Charter, when ratified by a majority vote of the membership.

It is understood that as more experience is gained, it is in the interests of the SFL to Customize the rules and make interpretations of the rules without formally changing the charter. Therefore, rules, procedures, and processes, that are consistent with this charter may be proposed at the preseason meeting for acceptance by the SFL Club Representatives. Each season, the SFL Club Representatives (or their designee) are required to vote on the SFL's rules, procedures, processes, and fees. The majority of SFL Club Representatives voting to approve these items signify acceptance. The SFL Commissioner and SFL Age Group commissioners are not allowed to vote on these issues unless they also serve as an SFL Club Representative or their designee.