



## *SJSL Guidelines Regarding Entry into the League*

### I. Club Members

The South Jersey Soccer League (“SJSL”) permits new soccer clubs to seek entry into the league in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the SJSL Executive Board. In accordance with the SJSL Constitution, the Executive Board has the absolute right to approve or disapprove all applications for admission into the league. Art. IV, §3. Decisions denying admission are not appealable. Applications that are accepted and approved by the Executive Board are then presented to the General Membership for final approval. All clubs admitted pursuant to these guidelines will serve a two (2) year probationary period before the club is formally accepted into the league. In accordance with its constitutional mandate, the Executive Board hereby adopts the following guidelines regarding entry into the league:

- (1) Only clubs consisting of at least two (2) teams that are seeking permission to play in the SJSL will be considered for admission.
- (2) Individual teams are not eligible for separate admission into the league, except as Associate Members, as specified below.
- (3) All applications must be in writing, by letter or email, in the form of a letter requesting entry into the league.
- (4) All applications must be received by the General Secretary no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> for admission for the upcoming fall season, or October 15<sup>th</sup> for admission for the upcoming spring or Division I and II seasons. No extensions will be given or late applications accepted.
- (5) All applications must include the following supporting documentation:
  - (a) Evidence of the club’s formal legal existence, such as in the form of: incorporation documents; adopted constitution and/or bylaws; corporate tax returns; or in the case of a municipality sponsored program, a letter from the township indicating that it is the sponsor.
  - (b) A list of all club officers, including names, titles, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses and the designation of the individual and alternate who will serve as the club representative at league meetings.
  - (c) Two letters of recommendation/reference from the presidents of existing member clubs in good standing in the SJSL. The recommending clubs must be neighboring clubs located within a reasonable distance of the applying club.
  - (d) A statement indicating the number of travel teams within the club and the number of teams, divided by age group, that will be seeking to play in the SJSL. In order to obtain and maintain member club status, a club must enter a minimum of 2 teams per season. Rule 2002.

(e) A statement identifying the location and number of available full-sided and small-sided fields that will be utilized by the club. Each club must specify a Home Field complex for all teams within that club playing in the SJSL. At least one field must be available for every six (6) full-sided teams entered into the league and one for every six (6) small-sided teams. Rule 2002. Field locations must be confirmed prior to the season registration deadline.

(f) A copy of the Code of Conduct adopted and enforced by the applying club.

(g) A certification executed by an officer authorized to do so on behalf of the applying club stating that the club will follow and adhere to the SJSL Constitution and its Rules and Regulations.

(h) A bond in the amount of \$500, or in an amount as determined by the Executive Board, to be refunded, if applicable, after a two year probationary period. Clubs which elect to leave the league during the probationary period will forfeit their bond.

(i) Any other documentation as specifically requested by the Executive Board.

(6) Incomplete applications will not be considered as filed until all of the supporting documentation has been provided. Documentation as required in paragraph (5)(a) through (h) must be received by the relevant deadline or the application will be considered as untimely and not eligible for approval.

(7) All applicants must be prepared to meet with the Executive Board to review their application if requested to do so by the Board.

(8) Timely submission of an application does not guarantee admittance to the league. Applications for the fall season will be considered by the Executive Board, and presented to the General Membership where applicable, on or before the applicable June General Membership meeting. Applications for the spring or Division I and II seasons will be considered by the Executive Board, and presented to the General Membership where applicable, on or before the applicable December General Membership meeting.

(9) All clubs admitted pursuant to this policy must serve a two (2) year probationary period before the club may be formally accepted as a member in good standing in the league. During the probationary period, applicant clubs may be removed from the league and subject to bond forfeiture for failure to comply with the league constitution, bylaws or other official policies or guidelines. Upon successful completion of the two year probationary period, the applicant club may be accepted into the league upon a vote in accordance with the league Constitution, Art. IV, § 3.

## II. Associate Members

The South Jersey Soccer League ("SJS�") will permit, on an extremely limited basis, a single team, U11 to U19 only, that is affiliated with a club that is not a Member Club in this league, to seek entry into the league as an Associate Member in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the SJS� Executive Board. Art. IV, §10. In accordance with the SJS� Constitution, the Executive Board has the absolute right to approve or disapprove all applications for admission into the league as an Associate Member. Decisions regarding admission are not appealable. In accordance with its constitutional mandate, the Executive Board hereby adopts the following guidelines regarding entry into the league as an Associate Member:

(1) All applications must be in writing, by letter or email, in the form of a letter requesting entry into the league.

(2) All applications must be received by the General Secretary no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> for admission for the upcoming fall season, or October 15<sup>th</sup> for admission for the upcoming spring or Division I and II seasons. No extensions will be given or late applications accepted.

(3) All applications must include the following supporting documentation:

(a) Evidence of the affiliated club's formal legal existence, such as in the form of: incorporation documents; adopted constitution and/or bylaws; corporate tax returns; or in the case of a municipality sponsored program, a letter from the township indicating that it is the sponsor.

(b) Evidence of the team's formal existence, including: a letter by the head coach documenting the team's creation, past associations and league play; a letter by at least two (2) other assistant coaches, team managers or trainers associated with the team supporting the application; a tentative roster of at least ten (10) players committed to playing for the team.

(c) A list of all team officials, including names, titles, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses and the designation of the individual and alternate who will serve as the team representative at league meetings. Associate Members are required to attend the regular monthly General Membership meetings but they are not entitled to vote.

(d) Two letters of recommendation/reference from the presidents of existing member clubs in good standing in the SJS�. The recommending clubs must be neighboring clubs located within a reasonable distance of the applying club.

(e) A statement identifying the location of an available full-sided field that will be utilized by the team as its Home Field.

(f) A copy of the Code of Conduct adopted and enforced by the applying team.

(g) A bond in the amount of \$500 to be refunded, if applicable, after a one year probationary period.

(h) A certification executed by a team official authorized to do so on behalf of the applying team stating that the team will follow and adhere to the SJSL Constitution and its Rules and Regulations.

(i) Any other documentation as specifically requested by the Executive Board.

(4) Incomplete applications will not be considered as filed until all of the supporting documentation has been provided. Documentation as required in paragraph (5)(a) through (h) must be received by the relevant deadline or the application will be considered as untimely and not eligible for approval.

(5) All applicants must be prepared to meet with the Executive Board to review their application if requested to do so by the Board.

(6) Timely submission of an application does not guarantee admittance to the league. Applications may be limited to an “as needed” basis by the league. Applications for the fall season will be considered by the Executive Board on or before the applicable June General Membership meeting. Applications for the spring or Division I and II seasons will be considered by the Executive Board on or before the applicable December General Membership meeting.

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SJSL Executive Board