LINCOLN SOCCER CLUB

BYLAWS

1. AGE RESTRICTIONS

(a) A youth player shall mean an amateur participant who has not yet attained his/her eighteenth (18) birthday before the 31st day of December in the current year of his/her application for registration or compliance with the bylaws of the league being entered.

(b) A senior player shall mean an amateur player who has attained his/her nineteenth (19) birthday before the 31st day of December of the current year of his/her application for registration subject to the bylaws of the league being entered.

(c) (1) The division of players into separate age groupings shall be as follows:

Under 4

Under 6

Under 8

Under 10

Under 12

Under 14

Under 18

Over 19

(2) A youth player to be registered must have at least attained the age of Three (3) in the current year of play and be toilet trained.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

(a) Players in all competitions sanctioned or constructed by the Club may be registered on official form or forms with fees paid in full.

(b) Birth certificates or other evidence of age acceptable to the Club shall accompany all registration forms. For players registering for the first time this shall be done at the time of registration.

(c)The Convener shall assign all registered players to teams. Transfers after the start of the season will only be made for the betterment of the "game" and only with the agreement of the Executive. Major changes to the structure of the division must be presented to the Executive members with a quorum of 7.

(d) No player will be permitted to play on any team unless assigned to that team by the convener.

(e) No player shall be permitted to play on two (2) teams concurrently in any one year except with the approval of the Executive.

(f) All players not conforming to the above regulations (a) through (e) shall be deemed ineligible for competition.

(g) Any team using ineligible players shall forfeit all games or competitions they enter with said players.

(h) In all cases, the Executive’s ruling regarding eligibility will be final.

3.TEAM REGULATIONS

(a) The maximum number of players a team may have is eighteen (18) including the goalie, except on mini soccer fields where the maximum will be fourteen (14) including the goalie.

(b) In mini soccer fields a game will not be considered official unless both teams can field a minimum of five (5) players including the goalie at game time.

(c) For age groupings older than mini soccer fields a competition is not considered official unless both teams can field a minimum of seven (7) or more players including the goalie at game time.

(d) If a team cannot field the minimum number of players after a fifteen-minute period of grace, they shall default the game and the opposing team declared the victors. If neither team can field the minimum number of players, both teams shall default the game and neither team will be awarded points for the game. Such games will not be rescheduled or played. Notwithstanding the above, coaches and referees should be sympathetic to special circumstances. In all circumstances it is better that all games be played.

(e) Teams short of players may call-up guest players from the age category immediately below up to but not exceeding your playing strength plus two. The convener will assign the players from a pool. The coach does not have the choice of players, and will forfeit game if this occurs. Players called up must be from the oldest in age group below (under 12 and up divisions).

(f) Teams shall not enter into any competition without the authorization of the Executive.

(g) Teams and coaches are not authorized to postpone, cancel or reschedule games. This is the sole responsibility of the Executive. In cases of inclement weather involving heavy rain, thunder and lightning; decisions regarding the starting time of a game or its continuation or the postponement of a game will be done at the discretion of the referee at the field.

(h) Teams must provide a game roster prior to the start of all competitions. The game sheet will be signed by both coaches and the referee. Game sheets, indicating cards issued of the competition will be mailed in to a designated club box no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the competition. It shall be the responsibility of the home coach to see that this is carried out (under 12 and up divisions).

(i) The home team will provide the game ball, which shall meet the approval of the referee. Under 4 and Timbit age groups will use a size #3 ball, Mini, under 10 and under 12 age groups will use a #4 size ball while under 14 and under 18 age groups will use a #5 size ball.

(j) Game time for all competitions will be as per schedule provided.

(k) Game lengths will be as follows:

i) Timbit & Mini – 2 twenty-five (25) minute halves

ii) Under 10 –2 thirty-five (35) minutes halves

iii) Under 12 & Under 14 – 2 forty (40) minute halves

iv) Under 18 – 2 forty-five (45) minute halves

 (l) At the end of the playoffs coaches shall file with the appropriate convener a “team grading sheet” ranking all team members according to various categories of soccer ability. These sheets will be provided by the Executive.

(m) During the playoff schedule, call-up guest players are not permitted. In the case of a guest player being called up, the team calling the player will forfeit the game, and the other team awarded the win

(n)Teams participating in the NYSL and NRGSL must have 75% representation from the Town of Lincoln.

(o) Teams at this time (current year), participating in leagues more competitive than outlined in (o) will be developed to promote excellence in the sport. Teams playing in South Region and O.Y.S.L. will have a minimum of eight (8) Lincoln players on the team and 12 players from the Niagara Region. As a team advances to Premier and reaches an age of Under 16, a minimum of 6 players MUST reside in the Town of Lincoln. N.B. This bylaw is subject to change as the Club grows.

 i) All finances are to be controlled in a separate account by the Club.

 ii) Coaches must be level 2 or Greater.

 iii) All added expenses are to be absorbed by the team to participate in the activity.

 iv) Teams higher than house league to enter outside tournaments with Board approval will qualify for tournament funds.

(p) Players Under 12 and over do not play mixed – it’s all boys or all girls

4.DISCIPLINE AND PROTESTS

(a) If a player is sent off by the referee for discipline:

 i) The players must leave the pitch immediately

 ii) Thereafter, the player must proceed to leave the playing grounds

 iii) There shall be no replacement for such players during the game

(b) All breaches of discipline will be forwarded by the referee, via the game sheet, to the Executive immediately after the game has ended. A written report should accompany the notification of infraction. This report will be evaluated by the Executive’s Disciplinary Committee. This committee will consist of at least three (3) members of the Executive (composition of this Committee may vary throughout the playing season) who will render a decision regarding the infraction. This committee will meet when necessary throughout the playing season

All decisions regarding discipline will be communicated to the appropriate players and coaches as soon as possible.

A player who has been sent off in a game for a red card by a referee may continue to play until the committee meets and assesses sanctions (if any) related to the red card, players may participate in other regular season league matches. A suspended player shall not participate in any sanctioned competitions until the suspension has been lifted. The penalty for such for such participation is game forfeiture.

(c) If a coach perceives that “Team Regulations” (section 3) are being violated (see section above) he/she should inform the referee, in writing, that the competition is being played under protest and the reasons for the protest. The game will then proceed and be played to completion. The letter of protest will be forwarded to the Executive (within 48 hours) who will evaluate the situation, make any necessary adjustments or decisions regarding the outcome of the competition and take any necessary disciplinary action deemed necessary. The coach initiating the protest will be notified of the Executive’s decision as soon as possible. Decisions made by the Executive regarding protests will be final. The right of appeal will only be granted if new evidence of wrongdoing is discovered. In such a case a written request for an appeal may be made to the Executive outlining the reasons for such an appeal. The Executive will evaluate the appeal, make a decision and inform the appropriate parties within five (5) days of reception of the appeal.

All decisions regarding a protest will be binding on both teams subject to appeal by the N.S.A.

(d) All coaches are answerable to the Executive for their personal conduct and that of their players.

(e) All breaches of discipline and disciplinary reports will be forwarded to and recorded by the Club Secretary.

(f) All serious breaches (verbal, physical assault or threat) will be forwarded to the NSA, OSA and CSA for further advisement at the discretion of the Executive.

(g) Coaches are not permitted to smoke on the bench or in the playing area during a game; at a practice; while representing the LSC. The first offence will be a one game suspension by the club. A second offence will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. A review will be done prior to the next season to advise if the coach will be allowed to coach with the LSC again.

(h) Players are not permitted to smoke on the bench or in the playing area during a game; at a practice; while representing the LSC. The first offence is a one game suspension by the club. A second offence will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.

(i)Lincoln Soccer Club is a smoke free club.

5.GENERAL RULES

(a) The referee has full disciplinary control of players and coaches from the time they arrive at the field till they leave the field after the competition.

(b) If a referee fails to appear, the coaches of the teams involved will appoint a referee. Games will not be cancelled because a referee fails to appear. In this case the home team coach will make sure the game sheet is completed and forwarded to the Convener indicating the absence of the referee. The above applies to regular season games as well as playoff games.

(c) Player changes may only be made after a goal has been scored, before a goal kick, at half time, when the substituting team has their own throw in/kick in or when an injured player is to be replaced. Players about to enter the field of play may only do so at the discretion of the referee. The opposing team may “piggy back”.

(d) All players shall wear regulation soccer equipment as outlined by FIFA and OSA Rules All Players, including goalies, must be identified by a number, on the back of

their shirt and such number will be recorded against the players’ name on the game sheet.

JEWELLERY

All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable. Loose beaded hair is also not permitted unless tied back or covered by a net. Exceptions to this interpretation are:

\*\*Medic Alert Bracelets are allowed. Where possible they should be the soft Velcro style which does not present any danger. If the medical alert bracelet is the normal metal type it should be either covered by a sweat band or taped. If taped the taping should be such that the description of the medical problem is clearly visible

(e) Teams must report to the field at game time unless officially notified in advance.  The referee is the sole judge as to whether a game will be played Lincoln soccer will follow the CSA Lightning policy
<http://www.ontariosoccer.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rRZqxyYVWGo%3d&tabid=3896>

 (f) If a game is not completed but has progressed at least 60 % of the full time the game will be assumed and played the score at that time will stand. The referee will note the elapsed time and the score.

(g) Referees are to indicate breaches of discipline will use the card system. If a red card is shown to a player they immediately must leave the field of play. Although a yellow card is a cautionary measure a second yellow card in any one match will constitute a red card. All infractions will be noted on the game sheet by the referees.

(h) A minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 team officials, permitted to sit on the bench. Only team officials will be allowed on the player’s bench. Team officials will coach within the marked technical area or within one (1) meter of their bench and are not permitted to walk up and down the touchline or obstruct the view of the assistant referee. Team officials Coaches are not permitted on the playing field during the game unless allowed to do so by the referee.

(i)Timbit & Mini division soccer are the only exception to the above regulation

(j) Each player on a team will be given equal playing time.

(k) Spectators are not permitted along the goal lines. They are also required to stand back at least three (3) meters of the touchline.

(l) The referee may designate two assistant referees per game.

(m) The playoff structure and rules governing such competitions will be devised each year depending on circumstances (interlock with other clubs) and number of teams in each division by the executive.

(n) Lincoln Soccer Club does not permit slide tackles in house league. Slide tackles will be treated as a foul where by a payer will be warned for the first offence, shown a yellow card for a second offence and ejected (shown a red card) for a third offence. The restart for all slide tackle offences will be an indirect kick at the location of the foul.

(o) Determination of Division Leaders (applies to regular season and play-off season)

Division leaders will be determined by the following criteria:

1)most points

2)head to head

3)goal difference

4)most goals for

5)coin toss

(p) The cost of one (1) player registration waived for any board member, current house league value.

 i) If volunteer has no player participation in LSC, current house league value.

 ii) Criteria to be discussed and established at first (1st) regular board meeting.

Date: Updated **November 28, 2012**

Approved: **All in Favor**