**Eel River Valley Youth Soccer League**

Constitution and Bylaws

Revised February 10, 2025

**ARTICLE 1: NAME**

1.1 This association will be known as Eel River Valley Youth Soccer League, Incorporated also referred to as “ERVYSL”. This association is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization under the laws of California.

**ARTICLE 2: AFFILIATION**

2.1 This Association is affiliated with the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), and shall comply with the authority of CYSA, US Youth Soccer, and USSF.

**ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE**

3.1 The purpose of ERVYSL is to promote and administer the game of soccer for players under nineteen years of age among the families within our area of Humboldt County, CA (boundary defined in ARTICLE 4).

3.1 The underlying Creed of ERVYSL is to provide our local youth with an atmosphere conducive to the development of soccer skills and knowledge. All participating players, parents, coaches, and officials agree upon registration to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, abiding by the relevant ERVYSL parent, player, coach, official, and Board of Director (BOD) member Code of Conduct, and cooperating fully with the letter and spirit of CYSA and ERVYSL’s Rules of Play and this Constitution.

**ARTICLE 4: BOUNDARIES**

4.1 The geographical boundaries of ERVYSL shall coincide with the boundaries of the Loleta School Districts northern boundary, the eastern and western Humboldt County boundaries, and the southern boundary of Humboldt County. Youth players and their families who: permanently reside within these boundaries, and/or Humboldt County residents outside ERVYSL boundaries who have been granted written permission by the BOD are eligible for general membership. See ARTICLE 5.

**ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 Participation in this Association is open to any soccer player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator and official, provided such person is not barred from participation by ERVYSL, CYSA, USYSA, or affiliated leagues. All members agree and accept upon registration all CYSA and ERVYSL league rules, policies, bylaws, including all relevant player, parent, coach, official, and BOD member Codes of Conduct. League rules, policies, and bylaws will be provided upon request. All members agree that their membership may be terminated by ERVYSL BOD decision due to one or more violations of any rule, policy, bylaw, or, or Code of Conduct. All evaluations, determinations, and judgments that consider termination of membership will be conducted by the current ERVYSL BOD, which will make the final decision. No precedent shall be established or mandated by any previous BOD conduct or decision.

5.2 General membership shall consist of all youths officially registered during the current season with this Association, their parents or guardians, registered coaches, and BOD-determined league volunteers.

5.3 Voting members shall consist of the current season’s Board of Directors (BOD).

5.4 Membership is open to individuals living outside ERVYSL boundaries. However, the BOD must receive a request for membership from the individual(s) and must provide written permission to the individuals granting permission. The BOD must vote on each request. The BOD may require receipt of any necessary written or verbalized approval that may be required by the individual's home or previously contracted league. ERVYSL prioritizes a cooperative relationship with all known soccer leagues in Humboldt County. Prior to any registration, ERVYSL will make every effort to contact leagues outside of or overlapping its boundaries (HYSL, MRYSL, FC Sequoia, Emerald FC, and FUHS), before registering competitive or in-season recreational players.

5.5 General membership may be limited when the Association’s resources are insufficient to meet demand.

5.6 All members and teams shall abide by the league rules under which they are registered and agree to comply with any and all foreign league rules when participating in play outside ERVYSL’s league and boundaries.

5.7 Any registered member or team representing ERVYSL who holds practice or plays games outside of defined seasons without consent of the Board of Directors, shall face investigation and potential disciplinary action and/or suspension by the Board of Directors. A registered member must notify ERVYSL’s Board of Directors and comply with any provided requirements before receiving consent. The BOD must vote to allow teams to host any team activities.

5.8 After a BOD investigation, any general member (player, parent, coach, or official) may be terminated by a BOD voting decision. General members may be terminated for any violation(s) of applicable league rule(s), policies, bylaws, and Code(s) of Conduct. BOD votes to enforce termination must be ⅔’s of those BOD members present for a termination decision. Upon termination or resignation, general members shall surrender any ERVYSL documents and equipment and transfer all known responsibilities.

**ARTICLE 6: BOD MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 The Board of Directors shall at minimum consist of the following members: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The BOD may also have, when it permits, the following members: Registar, Compliance Coordinator, Sponsorship Coordinator, Fields Coordinator, Media Coordinator, Schedule Coordinator, Director of Coaching, Uniform Coordinator and a Referee Coordinator.

6.2 One person may hold two or more positions, except neither the Secretary nor the Treasurer may serve concurrently as President.

6.3 Each member shall be entitled to only one vote. No proxy voting is allowed. Potentially outgoing BOD members may cast a vote at the AGM.

6.4 A BOD member may be terminated on the occurrence of any of the following: the BOD determines the voting member has been barred by law from performing duties necessary for the success of the position; failure to satisfy or maintain membership responsibilities; or the BOD determines (by investigation and vote) the member has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the purposes and interests of the ERVYSL. BOD votes to enforce termination must be ⅔’s of those BOD members present for a termination decision. Termination decisions must be made at a regular BOD meeting. Upon termination or resignation, voting members shall surrender any ERVYSL documents and equipment and transfer all known responsibilities.

6.5 A voting member of the BOD may choose to resign from their position at any time. This shall be communicated either verbally at a regular meeting or in writing to the other members of the BOD.

**ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS**

7.1 Meetings of the BOD will be held monthly, with dates and times determined by majority vote at the first meeting of the new BOD. The agenda will be distributed to Board Members at least 3 days prior to the meeting. The secretary shall request agenda items at least one week before each meeting.

7.2 Meetings shall be advertised on the league's website:www.eelriversoccer.org.

7.3 The order in which business shall be normally conducted during each meeting of the Board shall be as follows:

1. Call the meeting to order.
2. Review and approval of minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Standing reports
4. Business conducted pursuant to Agenda.
5. Adjournment

7.4 Each member of the BOD is entitled to one vote during all meetings except for The President. The President will not have a vote unless there is a need for a tie-breaker vote.

7.5 QUORUM - For regular monthly meetings and any special meetings of the Board of Directors, 50% of voting members of the BOD membership shall constitute a quorum. The President or Vice President must be present for a meeting to take place.

7.6 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in antecedent to the regularly scheduled January monthly BOD meeting. The intent of the AGM is to fill vacant BOD seats, although the BOD may vote to add new members at regular meetings as well. Ideally, all seats should be filled at the AGM. The BOD seats to be filled at the AGM shall be voted in by all current and potentially outgoing BOD members.

7.7 The incoming BOD will be effective at the beginning of the January BOD meeting immediately following the AGM.

7.8 Each member of the BOD must attend at least 9 meetings a year.

7.9 Disciplinary meeting shall be considered a Special Meeting and will consist of the President or a Vice President, Secretary and a minimum of 3 other Board Members.

**ARTICLE 8: BOD NOMINATIONS**

8.1 All BOD seats open for nomination will be posted on ERVYSL’s website (or advertised via social media and word of mouth if the league website is under construction) after the last BOD meeting of the prior year, and all known open seats and nominations for open seats must be made available to any member upon request.

8.2 Any member nominated to fill an open BOD seat may be nominated by a single BOD member or by more than one general member present at the AGM. Members may nominate themselves. Potential new BOD members must be present in person at the meeting.

8.3 All BOD members shall be installed by a majority vote. If there are multiple nominations for one or more open seat(s), the BOD will employ ranked choice voting for the open seat.

8.4 An AGM quorum shall consist of any number of members present at the AGM.

8.5 Members may be nominated to any vacant BOD seats at regular meetings pursuant to section 8.2. Voting shall occur pursuant to section 8.3.

**ARTICLE 9: CHANGES**

9.1 Any voting member may submit proposed changes to the existing Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Directors. Proposed changes must be submitted to the Board of Directors prior to any general meeting.

9.2 An amendment shall be deemed adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the qualified members attending and voting at a regular board meeting.

9.3 Any and all amendments adopted shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

9.4 In order to change any current Bylaw, a minimum of two-thirds of attending BOD members must occur. A vote to change bylaws must be conducted at a regular BOD meeting and votes must be made in person.

9.5 Policies and Procedures can be modified at any time during the year by a majority vote of the board members present at a Board of Directors meeting, or via a vote taken via the dedicated BOD Telegram channel.

**ARTICLE 10: RULES OF ORDER**

10.1 Robert’s Rules of Order shall be followed at all meetings of this Association unless otherwise agreed by the participants.

**ARTICLE 11: AUTHORITIES**

11.1 The ERVYSL Association shall be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws, and General Procedures. When in interleague play these authorities may be superseded by CYSA, US Youth Soccer, and USSF.

11.2 This ERVYSL Association may deem fit to include different rules and regulations, some more stringent than CYSA. When participating in interleague play, rules and regulations shall be no less stringent than CYSA. The current BOD may vote to deem games and play, be held “In House” and not official or governed by CYSA in cases where regulations may be challenged as lacking reference or “gray” in nature.

11.3 The Board of Directors will govern the Association and all affiliated Club(s), committees (D3, Sohum, and Indoor, etc.), and proposed expansions.

11.4 The Board of Directors shall have the full and final authority to temporarily suspend, permanently bar, or otherwise discipline any player, coach, manager, team assistant, league officer, or referee from participation in any member team, league activity, or organization under ERVYSL. The Board will also determine the protocol for reinstatement or the re-establishment of participation rights.

All alleged violations will be documented and provided in writing, with notification sent via email and certified mail. In the event of a dispute, any suspended Board members shall be given the option to request a hearing before a disciplinary committee. General members who wish to contest a Board decision may do so, and the Board shall have the discretion to either uphold its original decision, reinvestigate the matter and hold a special Board meeting to reconsider, or convene a disciplinary committee for a hearing and issue a formal written decision.

See Disciplinary Policy (add link) for detailed process.

11.5 ERVYSL will attempt to maintain a current set of bylaws available on the league website: EelRiverSoccer.com. When requested, a physical copy of the most recently adopted bylaws will be provided or sent via email.

11.6 Board members shall not assume, or be liable for the debts or financial responsibilities, either implied or incurred, of this Association or any of its members, and no minor BOD member shall hold any authority prohibited by California law.

**ARTICLE 12: ILLEGAL DRUG, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA and TOBACCO PROHIBITION**

12.1 Use and/or consumption of any tobacco (vape, chew, oral pill, or smoke), alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, illegal drugs, unprescribed medication, and medical or recreational marijuana, immediately before, during or immediately following (while clearly still associated with any ERVYSL representation) the playing or participation in and of any youth soccer activity, is expressly prohibited by this Association (ERVYSL) and CYSA.

12.2 Any player, team official, board member, or any other member of this Association who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action and/or immediate suspension and permanent termination by the Board of Directors.

12.4 Tobacco use (including smokeless, chewing, vaping, or oral ingestion) within 50 yards of any CYSA affiliated activity involving or where youth players are practicing or playing in association with ERVYSL, is prohibited. ERVYSL has a Zero tolerance policy, any and all violations are subject to immediate ejection from the current participation\event and further disciplinary action will be evaluated, with the likelihood of revocation of membership in ERVYSL.

**ARTICLE 13: REFUNDS**

13.1 Refunds must be requested in writing and submitted to the Board of Directors (BOD) for consideration.

13.2 Refunds will be issued upon Board of Directors (BOD) approval, with deductions for the cost of uniforms and registration fees, as these represent non-recoverable expenses.

**ARTICLE 14: DISSOLUTION**

14.1 Should this Association be dissolved and no other local youth soccer organization created, all assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be turned over to CYSA, District V for development of youth soccer.