

OSU Women's Soccer Club – Constitution

Purpose Statement: *The Ohio State Women's Soccer Club fills the gap between recreational and Varsity soccer. We are a competitive and dedicated team playing in the Women's Midwest Alliance Soccer Conference (W-MASC). We play year round and our main tournaments are the W-MASC Regional Tournament and the NIRSA National Championships.*

1. Membership

A. Types of members: There are three types of statuses for players on the team: “part-time” and “full-time” and “reserve”. A *full-time* member is one who has tried out for the most recent fall season (*Section 2), has successfully made the team and has paid dues for that respective fall season in full (*Section 6). A *part-time* member is one who has joined the team after the main fall season (and therefore has not had an official fall try-out session) and/or has not yet paid fall team dues. A *reserve* member is one who has tried out for the main fall season but is asked to remain a part of the team by the coaches and is invited to participate in all team functions excluding official games. Depending of the circumstances, a *reserve* member may be asked by the coaches to act as a full time member throughout the season. Therefore, *reserve* players are strongly encouraged to attend all team events, and team dues will be prorated for depending on their full-time status implementation, if applicable.

B. Expectations: A member under *full time* status is required to attend ALL fundraisers, socials, games, practices, meetings and any other team activities (unless a legitimate excuse is given - *Section 4). Conversely, a member under *part-time* status is not required but strongly encouraged to attend all team activities. A *part-time* player will still receive full points for attending these events and can work towards a reduction in fall dues for the next season (*Section 3).

C. Eligibility: All members must be a student currently enrolled at The Ohio State University main campus. Part-time, full-time, or graduate students are eligible to be a part of the team. Once a player is no longer eligible to be on the team or has not gone through a main or off-season tryout process, she is not allowed to participate in practices or games.

2. Try-outs

A. Time frame: Each fall, the club will hold try-outs. These try-outs will take place before fall semester starts, and if necessary (due to an increased interest), at the beginning of spring semester.

B. Expectations and rules: Any persons wanting to try out for our main fall team must attend these try-outs. The autumn try-outs usually consist of two-a-days for a one-week period, focusing on both physical conditioning as well as skill development.

C. Cuts: At anytime during this try-out period, the coaches can cut a person trying out. Final cuts will be made after four days of try-outs. Cuts will be based on three things: on the person's ability to play the game, on how much commitment they are willing to put into the team (i.e., point status – explained later) and the player's ability to fit in and be cohesive with the other

players on the team. The coach and officers have the right at anytime to terminate a player's affiliation with the team if they do not follow the rules and regulations of our club.

D. Off-season try-outs: We also may hold spring try-outs for people that do not find out about our team until after the main fall season. These try-outs will be less intense and take place during the first few weeks of each semester and players who successfully complete these particular try-outs will be granted part-time status until main try-outs occur in the fall.

E. Returning players: Even if a player has previously achieved "full-time status" (*Section 1), each player will still have to try out in the fall. No member is guaranteed a spot on the team without trying out each year. If a returning player is injured and unable play in the fall season, that player can attend team events without paying dues, as long as she pays for her own expenses related to the activities.

F. Eligibility: Per NIRSA standars, each member is given 6 years of eligibility. This can include any combination of 1-year stints of participation on a varsity or club roster at any collegiate institution. A maximum of 3 ex-varsity players will be allowed to be on the playing roster at one time. Any player that has participated on a semi-professional team may still remain eligible if they were not compensated. The specifications of what a varsity player or semi-professional player is considered can be found on the NIRSA website, <http://www.nirsa.org>.

3. Point System

A. Structure: Each activity a member participates in will correspond to them earning a certain amount of points. Every quarter, the amount of points for each activity may change.

B. Benefits: The amount of points a member receives will determine the status of a member in the club; the more points a member has attained, the higher the status of the individual. The amount of points a player has received will depend on how much they will pay for dues during the following fall quarter. Members who receive the most points will have the largest deduction from the amount that is determined for dues. We will also take players' points earned-to-date into consideration when making cuts (*Section 2). Below is the point system:

C. Spring semester points structure:

- 5pts. Fundraising activities
- 4pts. Attendance at meetings
- 3pts. Practice and games
- 2pts. Social activities (team dinners, banquet, socials, etc)

D. Fall semester points structure:

- 3pts. Games and practice
- 1pt. Social activities, fundraising events, and attendance at meetings

4. Attendance

A. Policy: The following attendance policy goes for **practice, social and fundraising events**. If a player attends these activities, she will receive all possible points. If you do not attend practice

with valid verification, then you will neither lose nor gain any points. If you miss practice *with a non-valid excuse* or timely notification (*Section 5), you will lose those points.

B. Valid Excuses:

1. Doctor or any other medical appointment
2. A professor-led review session
3. Death of member(s) of family
4. Class conflict
5. Work conflict (*this can also count as an invalid excuse depending on the circumstances)
6. Severe illness
7. Severe injury

C. Non-Valid Excuses

1. Having a midterm(s) the next day
2. Reviewing for a midterm with friends
3. Typing a paper
4. Having a headache/stomach ache/cramps etc.
5. Boyfriend/Girlfriend Issues
6. Forgetting
7. Going home
8. No transportation
9. Did not feel like it

D. Probation: If a player repeatedly exhibits poor attendance and/or the coaches deem it necessary a player may be placed on probation. If the issue continues the player may be dismissed from the team.

*We have heard every excuse in the book. We understand that school is the number one priority, but everyone receives a syllabus on the first day of class, so it is up to the member of the team to sufficiently balance schoolwork and the necessary requirements of being part of this team. If you are not sure if your excuse is valid, contact the president at osuwscpresident@gmail.com or the secretary at osuwscsecretary@gmail.com .

5. Timely Notification

If you have a valid excuse to miss practice, a game, or a fundraising event, you need email the, Coaches, Secretary and respective officer, (fundraisers – osuwscfundraising@gmail.com, socials – osuwscsocial@gmail.com) **at least 48 hours prior to the event or one week for fundraising.** If you have a valid excuse but do not give timely notification, your absence will result in an invalid excuse and points will be deducted. If the event is a fundraiser, the club member must pay the amount she would have made if she attended the fundraiser. The player must repay the club for that amount and if she fails to do so, it will be added to her dues.

6. Dues

A. Time, amount, and requirements: Each member of the team is required to pay dues in the fall season. The amount can change from year to year (Fall 2013: \$350 for new players and \$175 for team members who are not dressing for games, *reserve players*). In such a case that a *reserve* member is asked to move to full-time status, they will pay a prorated amount based on when their full-time status was instated.

Team dues must be paid before the first game is played. If dues are not paid by this point, that member will be suspended from play until the dues are paid. If a player pays the fall dues, they are not required to pay dues for winter or spring.

* Reduced dues will be charged for new team members that join in the winter

B. Part-time players and dues: If a player joins the team after fall semester, they will be deemed “part-time” status and will only be required to pay prorated yearly dues (*Section 1).

C. Deductions: The amount that each member pays can be less than the specified amount depending on how many points they have earned. The secretary keeps track of all attendance/points, please contact osuwscsecretary@gmail.com with questions.

7. Drinking Policies

Our club does not support or encourage underage drinking of any kind. But if a member is **of age** to drink, we encourage that these members **do not drink 24 hours prior to games**. Furthermore, members shall be a representative of the organization and not wear team gear while partaking in such activities.

8. Coaches

A. Pay: Coaches will be paid a set amount agreed upon by the coach and officers. Dating a current coach is prohibited.

B. Coach Selection: The team does have a vote when it comes to coaches, but the final decision on this issue will be made by the officers.

C. Personal issues/sexual harassment/favoritism: Both sexual harassment and favoritism are 100% not tolerated from any of our coaches – if a player has a personal problem with the coach or any team member; she should contact the president at osuwscpresident@gmail.com.

D. Termination of contract: A coach can be fired by the officers of the team at any time without warning if it is deemed necessary and pay will be given for the amount of season coached.

9. Equipment

A. Check-out: Each member will be responsible to give a security deposit check (usually \$250) before receiving any equipment from our club in the fall. The amount of this check may vary depending on the value of the equipment.

B. Failure to check-in: If you fail to return ALL of the equipment (uniform, bag, socks, etc) in the same shape it was given to you, the team will cash your check and your deposit will be forfeited.

C. Successful check-in: If everything is returned, the security deposit check will either be torn up or given back to the player as per request.

10. Officers

The following is a list of the Club's Officers and their duties:

A. President: Organize off season tournaments, games, and practices. Fill out facilities requests and all necessary paperwork through the Sports Club Office. Hire coaches and arrange their pay. Hold officer and coaches meetings. Schedule games for the main season, book travel arrangements, arrange directions, book referees. Be in constant communication with players, coaches, the Sports Club Office, and opposing teams. Delegate duties to other officers. Team Captain.

B. Vice President: Email interested new players/give them information on the club and tryout dates. Complete travel itinerary of the Sports Club Office. Organize rides for away games. Organize rooms from overnight stays. Perform duties as delegated by the President. Team Captain.

C. Treasurer: Develop, review and adjust budget. Keep financial records as expenses/income occurs. Responsible for paying referees and coaches. Assemble and turn in allocations for nationals to the Sports Club office. Complete and submit the End of Quarter Report. Attend Treasurer's meetings. Collect dues and keep track of online banking. Perform duties as delegated by the President.

D. Fundraising Chair: Organize fundraising events with the Schottenstein Center and Crew Stadium. Look for other fundraising options. Assign team members to fundraising events with advanced notice. Be willing to attend the majority of fundraising events. Perform duties as delegated by the President.

E. Secretary: Take attendance at practices, games, meetings, and fundraising events. If a player cannot attend, make President and coaches aware. Perform duties as delegated by the President. This officer needs to maintain good attendance in order to accurately perform duties given to them.

F. Social Chair: Plan team socials and team bonding events. Plan team dinners and cookouts. Help plan the banquet. Always be available to assist the President and Vice President. Perform duties as delegated by the President.

G. Risk Manager: Certified in CPR and First Aid. This is not a position voted upon by the team, and therefore a player holding another position may also be the Risk Officer.

*If an officer is unable to perform her duties and/or needs to take time away from the team, she must formally inform all of the team members and coaches. Next, an "interim" officer will be elected by majority vote to fill the position as needed.

*Officers must maintain 80% attendance to all activities during the fall season and a 70% attendance in the spring season in order to perform all necessary duties (this does not include valid absences). Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the position.

11. Officer election process

Officers are elected following the completion of the main fall season. A meeting will be held, where all members of that season's team are in attendance. Each officer will be voted on individually. Any member of the team that will be playing the following fall season may be nominated for any position by another player. Nomination may only come from players who will be on the team the following fall season (girls who are not eligible to play the following season do not vote or nominate players). It is acceptable to turn down a nomination for yourself. Voting will occur by each player writing their vote for each officer position on a piece of paper and putting it in a hat. If members of the team are not able to attend the meeting, they may arrange to text or email their votes. The current officers will leave the room and count the votes. The candidate who receives the most votes for each officer position will be the new officer for that position. No one can hold more than one officer position, unless one of the positions is Risk Manager.

12. Officer removal process

If the team feels that an officer is not performing the duties listed in Section 10, or that they are not fit for their position for any reason, they can file a grievance. The team member(s) who wish to file a grievance must write an official letter of complaint listing the specific reasons why the officer should be removed. This grievance will be turned in to the current President of the club. The President of the club will then inform the rest of the officers of the complaint. The issue will also be discussed with coaches, as well as the Faculty Advisor and/or a member of the Sports Club staff. If the officers and other officiating parties feel that the grievance is valid, it will be shared with the team. Every active team member will then vote on the removal of the officer. A majority vote will result in the removal of the officer.

In the event that the grievance is filed against the President, the grievance shall be turned into the Vice President, and the process will proceed as indicated above.

13. Code of Student Conduct

The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct applies to the team and its individual members.

14. Continuity in Case of Suspension

If the team is suspended for violating the Code of Student Conduct, Competitive Sports will appoint an Interim President and an Interim Treasurer. The Interim President and Interim Treasurer may (1) transfer signatures and check writing authority for the organization's bank account to themselves within thirty days of the suspension, (2) pay existing financial obligations out of the organization's current funds, and (3) when the period of suspension ends, take appropriate steps with Student Activities to re-register as a student organization. Further, the Interim President and Interim Treasurer shall inventory the organization's equipment and write a plan for its storage and safekeeping during the suspension period. This plan must be submitted to Competitive Sports within the first thirty days of the suspension. During this suspension no new coaches or staff should be hired during this time. All club assets are frozen during this suspension period meaning nothing should be bought or sold during this time. Should the Interim President or Interim Treasurer wish to take any additional actions, they must seek advance approval from Competitive Sports.

15. Return to Competitive Sports

In order to return as a recognized Sport Club team, The Interim President must provide Competitive Sports with documentation that team is a recognized student organization. The Interim President must also provide a roster of at least 15 students to Competitive Sports along with a written plan to hold elections. This plan should, to the extent possible due to the terms, length and timing of the suspension, resemble the provisions contained in Article 14.

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

The Ohio State Women's Soccer Club's has zero tolerance for sexual harassment as well as discrimination of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Our Club fully supports The Ohio State University's non-discrimination policy. For more information see: <http://hr.osu.edu/policy/policy110.pdf>

Non-compliance with the statement listed above from any player or coach will result in immediate removal from the team and possible further action from the Ohio State University Department of Recreational Sports.

By signing below I, as a member of the Ohio State University Women's Soccer Club, agree that I have read and will uphold the team constitution.

X _____
Valid from August 28, 2015 through August 24, 2016

Date _____