



By-Laws

These By-Laws have been ratified and adopted by the Freedom Soccer Club, as of January 2010. We, the undersigned, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Freedom Soccer Club's By-Laws.

President	Mark Arriola	Signed - January 2010
Vice President	Scott Butler	
Treasurer	Tracy Cole	
Secretary	Jaime Grauel	
Secretary	Kurt Myers	

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Article I - Name

The name of the organization is "**Freedom Soccer Club**".

Freedom Soccer Club is affiliated with the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association and Freedom Area Recreation Council in cooperation with Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Article II - Mission

The Freedom Soccer Club (FSC) strives to offer committed players the opportunity to compete at a high level of play, and to prepare players technically and tactically for high school competition and beyond by:

- a) Developing FSC through a sense of “unity” among the member teams
- b) Maximizing each player's soccer skills through a positive and comprehensive instructional program
- c) Emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and commitment to a higher level of play
- d) Providing each player the opportunity to fully understand and enjoy the game of soccer, to develop friendships, and to experience the pride and satisfaction of being part of a successful program
- e) Making the game fun and instill the importance of a strong work ethic in each player
- f) Emphasizing player development while fielding the most competitive teams possible
- g) Identifying, recruiting and maintaining quality coaches

Article III - Organization

The Freedom Soccer Club shall establish an Executive Board and FSC Board.

Section 01: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall govern Freedom Soccer Club and the FSC Board.

The Executive Board shall be comprised of the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary.

Each Executive Board Member shall have one vote. If an Executive Board Member is also a head coach he/she must designate a team representative.

The Executive Board members shall be nominated during the month of November and shall be elected by a vote of the existing FSC Board members before the first meeting in December.

The Executive Board shall guide and preserve the image of FSC by its authority to approve various actions of the member teams and to impose sanctions on teams and individuals that fail to comply with the by-laws.

The Executive Board will facilitate the coordination of teams, equipment, fields, publicity, player development, and registration.

The Executive Board shall:

1. Emphasize proper ethics and recruitment rules are followed in player selection.
2. Emphasize fairness in player selection during try-outs.
3. Foster intra-club and inter-team cooperation to the benefit of the players and the Club.
4. Support a high level of soccer competition.
5. Serve as the final point of appeal and intercession in disputes between players, parents, and coaches of the member teams in matters that affect the image of FSC.

(a) President

The President shall preside at all club meetings.

The President will receive monthly updates from the Executive Board, Committee Chairpersons, and coordinators the week prior to the Club's monthly meetings.

The President or designee will be available to the coordinators and committee chairs in critical matters requiring immediate attention.

The President (or designee) will represent FSC at USYSA, MSYSA, FARC, Freedom Optimist Soccer and other soccer related meetings, conventions and workshops.

When the President's term is complete, he will stay on the Executive Board in the title of President-At-Large and consult for the team.

The President shall:

1. Appoint and/or relieve all coordinators/committee chairpersons with the approval of the Board.
2. Assign try-out times and fields.
3. Liaison between the club, the community, and state organizations.
4. Vote at FSC Board Meetings only when there is a tie.

(b) Vice President

The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President in all Club matters.

The Vice President shall serve as a director of coaches. Those responsibilities include:

1. Recruit and evaluate new coach applications.
2. Maintain a copy of each coach's license as a record for the Club
3. Maintain the Information Manual. Add updates and changes as new by-laws are enacted within the Club.
4. Develop the orientation plan for new coaches.
5. Develop ongoing development plan for existing coaches.
6. Serve as mediator when a dispute occurs between a Coach/Coach, player/Coach and parent/Coach.
7. Review any on-line or written coaching criticism in conjunction with the Executive Board.
8. Maintain an accurate coaching evaluation form through the FSC web site and Webmaster.
9. Assign practice fields and times.

(c) Treasurer

The Treasurer keeps the financial records of the Club.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Develop and maintain a budget.
2. Pay all bills,
3. Collect all Club fees due from the teams.
4. Maintain control over expenditures.
5. Reconcile and report the Club's cash position at every FSC meeting.
6. Maintain and disburse Club patches.

(d) Secretary

The Secretary shall:

1. Keep the minutes of the Executive Board and FSC Board meetings and distribute Board members. Minutes shall be posted within one week of the FSC Board.
2. Take club meeting attendance.

3. Develop ongoing public awareness of the Club through a Board approved media campaign.
4. Maintain a current copy of each team roster and changes that occur between seasons.
5. Maintain a list of leagues in which each team play.
6. Maintain an official signed copy of the by-laws.
7. Monitor club website.
8. Liaison with Club Webmaster.
9. Maintain a full list of email addresses for all players on FSC rosters.

Section 02: FSC Board

The FSC Board shall be comprised of the head coaches and the Executive Board.

Every FSC Board Member shall actively serve on a committee.

The FSC Board will be supported by the following committees:

(a) By-Law Committee

The By-Law Committee shall be a six-member committee consisting of the Club Treasurer and the Club Secretary as permanent members, and two members at large. Members will be selected from the FSC Board. A chairperson will be chosen from the members at large.

The By-Law Committee shall:

1. Update the Executive Board prior to the monthly meetings of any proposed By-Law changes and the supporting documentation including actual language suggestions for the changes.
2. Update, maintain and modify the by-laws to reflect current club policies that help to govern the day-to-day administration of FSC.
3. Upon Board approval of all by-law changes, ensure those changes are accurately reflected in the By-Laws.
4. Ensure By-Law changes affecting the Information Manual are incorporated into the Information Manual in a timely manner.

(b) Field Committee

The Field Committee shall be a six-member committee consisting of the Club President and the Club Vice President as permanent members, and four members at large (two

short-sided coaches and two full-sided coaches). A chairperson will be chosen from the members at large.

The Field Committee shall:

1. Maintain and upgrade fields. Each team must designate a team representative that will assist in maintaining the fields.
2. Prepare fields for season. Each team must designate one field representative that will assist with field preparation.
3. Order equipment and supplies needed to maintain fields. Any purchases need to be pre-approved by the Club President.
4. Ensure that supplies and equipment are located at each field.
5. Notify leagues of field availability.
6. Develop schedule for set-up and break down of fields for game days.
7. Notify leagues of field closures due to inclement weather.

(c) Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee shall be an eight-member committee consisting of the Club President and the Club Vice President as permanent members, and six members at large (three short-sided coaches and three full-sided coaches). Two chairpersons will be chosen from the members at large (one short-sided and one full-sided). Each team must also designate a team representative.

The Tournament Committee shall:

1. Design and run annual FSC Invitational Tournament.
2. Update the FSC Board on a monthly basis.

(d) Uniform Committee

The Uniform Committee shall be a three-member committee: The Club President as a permanent member, one chairperson and one member at large.

The Uniform Committee shall:

1. Identify a uniform supplier that meets the needs of the Club.
2. Set-up the uniform ordering process.
3. Assess uniform needs at the end of each season.
4. Update the Club on a monthly basis.

(e) Team Selection Committee

The Team Selection Committee shall be a four-member committee consisting of the Club Vice-President as the chairperson and three members at large.

The Team Selection Committee shall:

1. Registration
 - a) Coordinate with Freedom Optimist.
 - b) Set schedule for coaches to work the registration table.
 - c) Advertise in newspapers, school newsletters, and billboards 2 – 3 weeks prior to registration.
 - d) Make sure appropriate resources are present at the registration table.
 - e) Set-up on-line registration.
 - f) Disseminate player information to appropriate coaches.
2. Try-outs
 - a) Set try-out schedule.
 - b) Assign fields for try-outs.
 - c) Develop a try-out game plan for the club.
 - d) Review try-out procedures with coaches.
 - e) Attend try-outs.

(f) League Representative Committee

The League Representative Committee shall have one representative for each league in which FSC member teams play.

The League Representative Committee shall:

1. Attend league meetings.
2. Update club on a monthly basis.
3. Distribute league information to appropriate coaches.

Article IV - Coaches

Section 01: Applications

Candidates for open coaching positions must submit an application to the Executive Board.

The FSC Board will appoint coaches based on their qualifications, experience, and past performance.

Section 02: Licensing

A qualified coach shall have a USSF Class License or equivalent. Coaches not in compliance will have one seasonal year to fulfill the requirement.

Coaches will be expected to further their licensing and training to the level and skill of the age/gender group they are coaching.

U-11 and younger teams are required to have a Class E or equivalent license held by the head coach. U-12 and above are required to have a Class D license held by the head coach.

Exception: Any team already U-12 or above, as of January 1, 2010 must have either a team official, head coach, assistant coach or team trainer having a Class D license or equivalent. Any other considerations will be handled through the Executive Board for approval.

The club shall reimburse the cost of the license upon proof of certification.

Section 03: Head Coach

The FSC Board reserves the right to dismiss a head coach for conduct that is detrimental to the image of FSC.

The Head Coach shall:

1. Make the final decision concerning his/her assistant coaches and players.
2. Be responsible for controlling the actions of players, parents, and assistant coaches.
3. Adequately address unsportsmanlike conduct and other offenses.
4. Create a training and development plan for their players through practice, league play and tournament play.
5. Premier Coach should work with the head coach(s) at that age group to ensure consistency of player development.
6. Premier Coach shall commit to playing both fall and spring soccer.
7. Shall be responsible for ensuring attendance at monthly club meetings.

Article V - Meetings & Voting Rights

Section 01: FSC Board Meetings

The FSC Board will meet at a minimum of once a month. Coaches, parents, and players have an open invitation to attend. It is the responsibility of all FSC Board members to distribute pertinent meeting and MSYSA-related information to their respective teams in a timely fashion.

Section 02: Attendance

Every team is required to have representation at each FSC Board meeting. Representation must be a carded official of the team. A carded official is a head coach, assistant coach, or team manager.

Teams may utilize two proxies per FSC calendar year. A FSC calendar year is July 1 – June 30. A proxy is defined as a vote given to a non-related team member but who is a member of the FSC Board. Board members may only serve as proxy for one team per meeting.

Failure to meet this attendance requirement will result in a \$100.00 fine per occurrence and shall be paid before the next scheduled meeting.

Unacceptable attendance may also jeopardize a team's ability to access practice fields and other FSC resources.

Reasonable exceptions must be brought before the Executive Board prior to a meeting.

Section 03: Voting

All decisions concerning the operation of FSC shall be determined by a majority vote of the FSC Board members,

In the absence of the head coach, a carded team official or proxy is eligible to vote. A vote may only be held if there is a quorum. A quorum is defined as two-thirds of the FSC Board.

The President shall make the determination that the FSC Board members are sufficiently informed and there is adequate representation to call a vote.

In the event of a tie vote, the President shall make the final decision. The President may only vote if there is a tie.

Article VI - Finances

Each FSC team is required to provide its own treasurer who shall work closely with and be accountable to the Club Treasurer. Once notified of expenses due, team treasurers shall remit said expenses at the next scheduled Board meeting or by mailing to the Club mailbox: PO Box 945 Eldersburg, Maryland 21784.

Each team treasurer will provide the Club Treasurer with a financial report for the previous calendar year no later than the February Board meeting.

Section 01: Dues

The current fee structure is as follows: \$250.00 field maintenance fee due annually at the beginning of the fall season from each team. In addition each team will be assessed a fee of \$10.00 per player, for each season a team plays in league play.

Section 02: Club Accounts

All team monies will be distributed from individual team accounts. In addition, a single FSC account shall be maintained. In this case, the President and the Treasurer will have authority to make disbursements. These disbursements must be reported at the subsequent Board Meeting.

Article VII - Leagues

Every team is required to play in at least one outdoor league. Teams are encouraged to participate in the highest level of USSF/USYSA/ MSYSA affiliated leagues. Teams may participate in more than one league but may not compete with another FSC team in the same age/gender group tier of that league. The FSC Executive Board may approve or deny special circumstances.

The FSC Board must be notified of the league in which the team intends to play by June 15th. This is to assure proper coordination of field availability.

Teams are responsible for their own league registration, application fees, referee fees and league meeting attendance.

Each league will have a FSC representative that will attend league meetings and report to the FSC Board on a monthly basis.

Before each season, all member teams must turn in Field Usage Forms to the President. These forms will be subsequently turned in the appropriate community field coordinator.

Article VIII - Teams

Section 01: Tiers

The number of teams within a specific age group shall be restricted to no more than two. FSC reserves the right to expand the number of teams within an age group when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Club, the development of existing teams within the age group, and field space allows for it.

When two teams per age group exist, the teams shall be tiered with a “*Premier*” team to compete at the highest level; the Classic team will compete at the next level and if a third team is formed, the Classic II team will compete at the third highest level.

At the developmental level of U8, coaches will have the option of selection two teams of equal ability.

Each team is required to submit to the club an MSYSA approved roster that will include players, a head coach, assistant coach(s), and a team manager.

The FSC Board must approve all teams and head coaches. Before the voting, the FSC Board must review the credentials of the coaches, the caliber of the team, the age group of the team, and the availability of playing fields. Only Head Coaches and the Executive Board may hear the presentation of prospective coaches and vote on a new coach. Anyone else present at the election must leave the meeting. This includes assistant coaches, parents, and support personnel. All discussion on new coach applicants should remain confidential. Violation of this will result in disciplinary action.

Section 02: Disbanding a Team

On occasion, age groups may be forced to consolidate from two to one and/or three to two teams. When this occurs the following guidelines should be followed:

- A. The Premier Coach, of the affected age group, will be responsible for all communication between the players and their families of the disbanding team.
- B. The Premier Coach will contact all affected players/parents of the disbanded team and work to find possible solutions that may include:
 1. Double rostering (i.e. BBSL or WAGS/NCSL)
 2. Reduction in roster size to allow both teams to remain (roster 16 v 18) with as many players as possible.
 3. Utilize the guest player/player pass system (WAGS/NCSL) to augment rosters.
- C. All remaining team assets will be distributed back to the FSC to preserve the Club’s non-profit status. The team account will then be closed.
 1. The Premier Coach along with the disbanded team’s coach will inventory team equipment, purchased with team funds. The equipment will revert back to the club. The club will distribute to existing teams.

Section 03: Dismissing a Team

The FSC Board reserves the right to discontinue a team in any age bracket due to the lack of availability of quality players and/or qualified coaches or team conduct that is detrimental to the image of FSC.

If a team withdraws or is dismissed from FSC, the team may no longer compete under the FSC name. Affected leagues will be notified of the team's withdrawal or dismissal from the Club.

Article IX - Team Selection

Section 01: Evaluations

FSC will hold open tryouts annually (efforts will be made to hold tryouts at the end of the spring season to avoid player selection conflicts).

Players are required to attend a minimum of two out of three try-outs.

It is the premier coach's discretion to hold supplemental try-outs. If supplemental try-outs are held they need to be advertised on the FSC website 48 hours in advance.

Each team shall have a minimum of three independent evaluators. An assistant coach is not considered an independent evaluator.

It is the responsibility of the Premier Coach to design the format of the try-out and determine the evaluation tools to be used.

Section 02: Selection

All coaches must make a conscientious effort to select the best possible players available within their own age group. FSC will prescribe a player selection process but the final decision relative to players remains with the head coach.

The coach of the Premier team will have first choice of players. At the conclusion of the tryouts, coaches at each age group will extend invitations to selected players to participate on a determined tier (Premier/Classic). Players have the option to accept or decline the invitation as presented.

(a) Notification of Players

Within one week of try-outs or within one week of the completion of the spring season players will be notified of their status; i.e. which team they made or if they were cut.

Before contacting the players the Premier Coach should email the Executive Board with the try-out rankings.

(b) Parent Concerns

Parents with concerns about the try-outs should first be directed to contact the Premier Coach.

If parents are still dissatisfied they should be directed to the Club Vice President and then to the President.

Section 03: Playing Up

It is the intent of FSC to maximize the development of every player. In support of this objective, FSC believes that playing at their age within the U8 - U14 age divisions best develops players. However, players with "exceptional talent" (defined below) may be permitted to participate in an older age division.

Other exceptions to "playing up" may be considered on an individual basis, subject to Executive Board approval.

No player within the U-8-U14 age division may "play-up" more than one age division.

Players are permitted to "play-up" within the U15-U19 age division.

Any player wishing to "play-up" within the U8-U14 age division must:

1. Indicate a desire to "play up" on the registration form
2. Must participate in a minimum of two tryouts at each age division.
3. Must obtain final approval of the Executive Board

(a) Exceptional Talent

"Exceptional talent", as used herein, is intended to recognize players whose skills and abilities are unique and so advanced that, to require them to remain at their age division, it would adversely impact on the players' continued skills development.

It is important to recognize that no Classic tiered player, as determined by the coaches at the time of tryouts, will qualify as "exceptionally talented". Conversely, the top ranked Premier tiered players, as determined by the coaches at the time of tryouts, are not automatically deemed to meet the designation of "exceptionally talented".

Use of the "exceptional talent" designation should be rare. No more than two (2) players per team shall be so designated.

The "exceptional talent" designation shall be re-assessed annually at Fall tryouts.

Exceptionally talented players should fall into the top 3 of players at the completion of tryouts.

Goalkeepers, who have specialized in the position past the age of U11, should be evaluated separately from field players. If in the estimation of the evaluators and coaches the Goalkeeper is of "exceptional talent", then he/she shall be given the opportunity to play up one age.

All movement of "exceptionally talented" players (including Goalkeepers) must be approved, with a majority vote, by the Executive Board.

(b) Exceptions

In the event a player who participates at tryouts at their age division is cut from all teams at their age, this player may “play up” on a Classic tiered team, subject to Executive Board approval.

Section 04: Recruitment

Coaches must follow the rules for player recruitment and ethics as set forth by the league in which the member team participates. In addition, any team playing under the FSC name, or being formed for FSC play, **ACTING THROUGH ITS COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS, AND PLAYERS, which ATTEMPTS TO INDUCE ANY PLAYER – listed on a valid roster of another MSYSA team – TO LEAVE HIS/HER TEAM SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE RECRUITED THAT PLAYER.**” This will be treated as a violation and the Executive Board is empowered to impose sanctions listed in article XVIII.

Section 05: Geographical Restrictions

All coaches must strive to select players from the Carroll County area as much as possible. The Freedom Soccer Club was established to serve the needs of players within the Freedom District. Teams are required to maintain a number of local players on their current rosters to remain within the Freedom Soccer Club. A local player is defined as a player living within a 12-mile radius of Eldersburg Elementary School or has played at least one season in the Freedom Optimist Recreational Soccer League. A non-local player is considered to be a player not meeting the condition of a local player. The following table indicates the maximum number of non-local players to be listed on a roster at any one time:

Age Group	Classic Team	Premier Team
U10 and younger	3	3
U11 and U12	4	4
U13 and U14	5	5
U15 and older	10*	10*

* - or 50% percent of the roster if only 16 players are rostered. This is the byproduct of FSC utilizing area (Local) High School coaches to coach at these age(s) and the imposing Maryland Public School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) rules limiting the number of Local High School Players that can be coached by their High School Coach. Please note that every effort should be made to utilize players within the 12 mile radius with the understanding that we have 3 high schools within that 12 mile radius and as long as NO team has more than 8 players rostered from any given high school; we would be compliant with the intent of the MSYSA rules.

Section 06: Ages

The age group for each team is based on birth dates and ranges from August 1st to July 31st of the following year. These age ranges comply with MSYSA and USYSA guidelines and may be amended as these associations amend their birth date ranges.

If a team intentionally fields players older than their designated age group or fraudulently enters any tournament or league, the Executive Board will impose sanctions or dismiss the coach from FSC.

Section 07: Registration

The FSC registration process for the fall season begins in May. This affords each age/gender group adequate time to announce try-out dates and prepare all required paperwork.

The proper registration of all players is the responsibility of the teams, but will be controlled and coordinated by FSC.

All registration forms must be turned in to the FSC President or Vice President for entry into the FSC database.

Each team will arrange for the acquisition of the necessary player pictures, cards, completed rosters, and any other paperwork as required by the respective leagues or FSC President.

Try-outs and completed rosters for the fall season shall be completed no later than July 1st for the U14 and under age divisions.

Article X - Tournaments

Every team is encouraged play in a minimum of two outdoor tournaments per year. Each team is encouraged to compete in the highest level of USSF/ USYSA/ MSYSA affiliated tournaments.

Section 01: Freedom Invitational Soccer Tournament

FSC sponsors the Annual Freedom Invitational Tournament. The tournament is a major source of income and good preparation for the fall season. All eligible FSC teams are required to participate in the tournament. All teams will provide volunteers to the Tournament Committee. Volunteers are expected to attend all meetings and cooperate fully with the Tournament Committee.

Article XI - Publicity

FSC will periodically publish articles/information relative to the Club, however each team is encouraged to write articles on its own and submit game or tournament results to local newspapers.

Article XII - Equipment and Fields

If a team loses or damages any equipment or field facility through its negligence or disruptive behavior, FSC has the right to assess the team any cost not covered by insurance for the replacement or repair of the item.

Section 01: Fields

It is the responsibility of the coach of the first game of the day to check the field for playability and to set the field for play as set forth by the rules and regulations of the league. If the field is deemed unplayable the coach must contact the chairperson of the Field Committee.

Section 02: Uniforms

FSC uniforms are the property of the player and ordered with the head coach's approval. Uniforms, aside from gender specific differences will be consistent throughout the club and shall be determined by the board. Warm-ups, backpacks, ball bags, and other accessories must be consistent, aside from gender specific differences, throughout the Club. The uniform supplier will be chosen by the Board to ensure consistency. FSC will negotiate discounts and establish arrangements through the chosen retail provider by which each team may order new and replacement uniforms. The colors red, white, and navy blue shall be part of the uniform.

The Board reserves the right to waive the uniform, warm-ups, and accessories conformity in recognition of existing teams that may not need replacements due to the limited expected time frame of that team. All new teams and any existing teams that require new outfitting must conform to the designated uniform requirements.

Sponsor patches and sponsor logos, will not be located on any part of the uniform jersey or uniform warm-ups without prior approval of the Board.

Section 03: Banners:

Team banners are not required. The FSC Board reserves the right to reject any FSC member team banner that may be deemed to be inappropriate.

Section 04: Patches:

The FSC logo is depicted on the front page of the by-laws and is red, white, blue, and black in color. The Executive Board will negotiate discounts and make arrangements by which each team may purchase patches bearing this logo directly from a supplier.

Article XIII - Sponsors/Fundraising

Individual teams are strongly encouraged to seek independent sponsorships for financial assistance and to pursue fund-raising activities.

Article XIV - Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is one of the primary lessons being taught to the players and is important to the image of FSC. Teams and individuals can be penalized for the failure of players, coaches, and parents to maintain the proper demeanor before, during, and after games and practices.

Article XV - Violations

Situations in which parents or relatives, players, and coaches fail to comply with the by-laws of FSC or whose behavior discredits FSC will be investigated and ruled upon by the FSC Board. The FSC Board is empowered to impose the following sanctions or take other actions as deemed appropriate:

- Suspension from coaching or playing in FSC.
- Dismissal of a player or coach from FSC.

Article XVI - Amendments

The FSC Board must approve amendments to the by-laws. There must be adequate discussion and explanation of the proposed changes prior to any vote.

Article XVII - Certification

The Freedom Soccer Club (FSC) shall adhere to the rules and regulations of the MSYSA.