



HARTFORD PREMIER & DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (HPDL) BYLAWS

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PREAMBLE

The mission of Hartford Premier Development League is to foster physical and mental growth of players in the Hartford area through the sport of soccer at all levels and competition.

We envision a sustainable soccer league where all players get the opportunity to develop and to be a valued role model on and off the field in the community.

NOTICE

**EACH MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TEAM'S CONDUCT
AND SHOULD INSIST ON GOOD TEAM DISCIPLINE.**

Members of the Executive Committee

Andre Murray	(President-Chair)
Marcelles James	(Vice President)
Tamika O'Connor	(Vice President of Youth Program)
Marcelles James	(Treasurer)
Rohan Taylor	(Director of Business Development)
Chanta Anthony	(Secretary)
Ean Bernard	(Referee & Field Coordinator)
Darien Steele	(Generalist)
Keisha Soares	(Director of Fundraising)
Open	(Grant Coordinator)
Sherwane Hudson	(Political Consultant)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee will consist of a President-Chair, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Competition and Games, Director of Outreach and Funding, Public Relations Officer and Executive Administrative Assistant. For the purposes of meetings or making of binding decisions, a minimum of four Executives including the President-Chair must be present. The Executive Committee will set, administer and enforce ALL rules of the Hartford Premier & Development League (HPDL). This Executive Committee may publish orders intended to improve the efficiency of the league's operations.
2. The Executive Committee has the power to take actions not specifically defined by the rules and regulations- (e.g., imposing fines, suspensions or other penalties as warranted).
 - a. The executive committee will form a manager's committee among all the active team managers.
3. At no time shall the Executive Committee be held responsible for injuries to players, officials or spectators which incur before, during or after games scheduled by the league. Nor shall the League Executive Committee be held liable for any property damage or loss occurring before, during or after a game.
4. The Executive Committee will not be held responsible for insurance of members of the Hartford Premier & Development League. All participating players irrespective of age must carry their own private health insurance that will cover them for any injuries received while participating in HPDL sponsored events. Teams have the option to refuse players who do not have their own private health insurance. All teams and individuals participating in any HPDL sponsored event, agree to hold harmless and indemnify all league and team officials against claims of injuries or damages sustained or aggravated from participation in any league's event.
5. Should an incident or matter occur during the course of the season that is not covered by the rules and regulations, an Advisory Board which is a third party not affiliated with the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation on the matter.
6. The Executive Committee will be responsible for arranging the game schedule, scheduling of the referees for games, and publication of the league standings, etc.
7. All complaints or team protests must be submitted in writing by the team's representative to the chairman of the Executive Committee within 24 hours of the game. The chairman will hold a meeting with the Executive Committee along with the Advisory Board and will respond to the team representative in writing within three (3) calendar days of the complaint being received. Formal complaints will only be accepted from the team representative who must sign and date it. Player(s) shall not approach members of the Executive Committee with complaints, protests or interpretation of rules. Only designated team representatives should lodge formal complaints with the Executive Board.
8. Any board member with a potential conflict of interest in any call for vote will be removed from the proceeding and will be ineligible to vote.
 - a. In an event of any unsportsmanlike conduct the manager's board will make the initial ruling, which MUST be approved by the Executive Committee before it can be valid.
 - b. If the matter is not resolved at the manager's board level, then the matter will be turned over to the Executive Board to make a decision.

- c. All appeals must be submitted within 48 hours of the Executive Committee's ruling which will be forwarded to the Advisory Board for the **FINAL DECISION**.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **All Teams must complete Final Rosters online at (hpdlsoccer.org) by 50% of your team's league games.**
2. Each team is mandated to upload a clear passport size photo of each player and their legal name (no alias) on the league's website, which will be used to compile the team's roster.
3. All games must begin on time as scheduled barring unforeseen circumstances such as, inclement weather conditions, etc.
- 3A. The Roster size will be 25 players. However, a team will be allowed to add up to 5 additional players at \$50 per player, which **MUST** be paid in full to HPDL. Roster size **MUST** not exceed 30 players. Teams have up until 50% of their games played to add players.
4. Each player must register 48 hrs. prior to the team's next scheduled game. if a player failed to register 48 hrs. prior to the team's next game, that play will be considered ineligible.
5. During the season, a player may transfer to a different team. No transfer will be allowed after 50% of each team's games played. No player(s) will be allowed to transfer twice. The transferred player(s) **MUST** miss one (1) game before he/she can be added to the roster. Transferring of players will be \$100 per transaction. **ALL TRANSFER MUST BE APPROVED AND PAID IN FULL TO HPDL BOARD** prior to the player being added to a roster.
 - (a) A player who plays on his/her new team before all transfer requirements are met, will be considered ineligible. The player and the team manager will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the bylaws.
 - (b) If a player is subject to any disciplinary actions by the league during his/her transfer request. The disciplinary action **MUST** be carried over to his new team.
 - (c) If a player is on a roster, and if he/she was to participate in that game. That player(s) cannot be removed off your roster unless it's via a transfer.
6. Each team will be responsible to pay **\$130** per game. This fee **MUST** be paid in full prior to the scheduled match time. **NO EXCEPTION!**
7. Any player who is given a **DIRECT RED CARD** must miss his team's next two games. (Fifa rule apply)
8. Any player who is given two yellow cards in the same game must miss his team's next

game. (Fifa rule apply)

9. Any player(s) who verbally or physically attacks the referee or any other game officials will be ejected from the game and will be expelled from the rest of the competition, and authorities will be called. Player(s) committing the above incident during the last game of the season will be expelled for the next season.

10. Any player who leaves the playing field without the consent of the referee will be given a red card for that game. (Rule #7 will apply)

11. Players must be in proper uniform (shirts, shorts, socks, etc.) for the games. No short pants or short sweatpants will be allowed except for the goalkeeper. (Shin guards are mandatory).

12. All player's shirts must be properly numbered. No two players on the same team may wear the same number.

13. Names on the line-up sheets must be the same as on the team's registration form and passes.

14. **ALL REFEREE DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

15. Each team manager is solely responsible to share a copy of the league's bylaws with their players. Each individual player must sign the HPDL participation waiver (*this document only needs to be signed once and is valid for the entire summer 2023 league games*); any player who does not sign the waiver will not be allowed to play.

“A GAME WITHOUT RULES IS HARD TO WIN”

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each team must choose an individual to represent the team at league meetings. This individual should preferably be the coach or manager of the team but can be any player or designated team representative. The team representative is responsible for informing team members of all the rules and regulations governing the league and keeping them abreast of all discussions at the league's meetings.

2. Both teams must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. “Ready to play” means there must be at least seven players in uniform on the field. Teams must play a scheduled game even if they are short of players. Player shortage will not be accepted as an excuse for canceling a game. (Fifa rules apply)

3a. Any team failing to have at least seven (7) uniformed players to start a game will forfeit the game points to the opposing team with a score of three goals to nil (3-0). (fifa rules apply)

3b. If either team fails to have 7 uniformed players at the start of the game, a 15 minutes' grace period will be given. After the 15 minutes' grace period, time will be

deducted from the 90 minutes' game time resulting in a reduction of game time for both teams.

3c. If team one team has 7 or more uniformed players on the field, and team two doesn't, rule 3a applies. (Fifa rules apply)

3d. If both teams fail to field less than 7 uniform players a running clock will start immediately after the 15 minutes grace period has expired. (ie. If a game is scheduled to be at 6pm, the grace period ends at 6:15 pm. Running clock starts at 6:16 pm and ends at 6:30 pm sharp!).

4. If a team starts a game with seven players and one of their players is sent off the field by the referee reducing them to six players, that team will automatically forfeit the game points to their opponents. (Rule #2 and 3 will apply).

5. Any team that fails to complete a league game because they walked off the field or for any similar improper actions shall forfeit that game. There will be no appeal and they are subject to suspension or other disciplinary action upon completion of an inquiry by the league's Executive Committee.

6. Each team must appoint a "team captain" for each game. An easily identifiable arm band must identify this player. Home teams will be named first on the schedule and in case of team color clash the home team must change.

7. The Executive Committee will hold teams accountable for any players and/or teams who are reported by the referee to have harassed game officials in a verbally or physically abusive manner. Such behavior will result in fines and/or suspension of teams and players involved.

8. The team captain is the only player who may converse with the referee or question a decision by the game officials during a game. All communications must be conducted respectfully and in a non-confrontational manner.

9. Team captains, coaches and managers should take the responsibility to stop players on their team, who are harassing, being argumentative with the referee, or getting out of control with the opposition. Team coaches and managers must exercise control over their players, team and own personal behavior before, during and after the game. They must set an example of good sportsmanship for their teams to follow.

10. It is strongly recommended that team managers/coaches, substitute player(s) who are angry or argumentative with the referee, other officials or players of either team. The player needs time to regain control of his emotions, to cool off. A player removed under these conditions, and not ejected by the referee, is permitted to reenter the game as a substitute.

11. Teams will be allowed to substitute players during a game only on a dead ball.

12. The entry fee for the competition covers field usage only.

13. The duration of each game will be ninety minutes (90) with a ten (10) minute half time break.
14. Team Managers and Team Captain need to ensure that all players exercise self-discipline on the field and on the bench. In the event that there is an altercation on the field, players on the bench are forbidden from entering the field of play. Managers should only enter the field if the referee instructed the manager to come on the field. Players on the field are forbidden from leaving the field unless the referee blows the whistle to end the game. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary actions executed by the Advisory board with the influence of a report provided by the referee.

Fines:

1. Once a player(s) receives his/her 4th Yellow Card, he/she will be suspended for one (1) game. The player(s) will be subjected to a \$25 fine which MUST be paid in full before the player's next game.
2. Any player(s) who receives a direct Red Card, the player(s) will be subjected to a \$50 fine which MUST be paid in full before the player's next scheduled game.

REFEREES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Referee Coordinator will assign the officials for all games. In the absence of a Referee Coordinator, the Executive Committee will assign the game officials.
2. The referee shall have the power during the game to deal with players guilty of violent conduct, using threatening, foul or abusive language. It is the referee's responsibility to submit the names of offending players and team officials to the Board or Chairman. The Board shall notify the team management of any disciplinary actions after the referee's report is reviewed.
3. Should the referee deem it necessary to terminate the game before regulation time due to force majeure, fifa rules apply, however, if the referee was to end the game due to any action deemed detrimental to the league, then the executive committee will make the final ruling.
4. A game cannot be protested based on the referee or other match officials' performance.
5. The referee assigned is the final arbiter of the game.
6. ALL REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL

Hartford Premier & Development League Competition

1. This year's participating teams in the Premier and Master's Division will be playing against each other twice in their respective leagues.
2. In both leagues, the team with the most points at the end of the regular season will be the champion. (Fifa rules apply)
3. For the leading goal scorer, most goals win the prize. In case of a tie, the prize will be divided equally.
4. Only the top six (6) teams will participate in the Knockout Competitions. The two top teams will get an automatic bye.
5. Points will be awarded on the following basis:
 - 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a draw
 - 0 point for a loss
6. If teams finish with the same number of points at the end of the competition, the following rules will apply. (FIFA Rules Article 32(5))

First step:

1. greatest number of points obtained in all group matches.
2. goal difference in all group matches.
3. greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

Second step: If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the first step (see example in Table 1), their ranking will be determined by applying to the group matches between the teams concerned the criteria listed in (FIFA Rules Article 32(5)) lit. d) to h) in the order of their listing.

1. greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned.
2. goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned.
3. greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned.
4. greater number of points obtained in the fair play conduct of the teams based on yellow and red cards received in all group matches. Side lose points based on the following:
 - a.) 1 point per yellow card
 - b.) 3 points are lost for red card (two yellow cards)
 - c.) 4 points for direct red
 - d.) drawing lots by FIFA

Examples

Table 1: Ranking from all group matches.

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team A	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Team B	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Team C	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Team D	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	3

Table 2: Ranking from matches between concerned teams.

Tie-breaking Criteria:

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	FPP
Team A	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3	-7
Team B	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3	-8
Team C	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	-6

- Criterion D: Teams A, B and C are equal on the number of points in the matches between the concerned teams.
- Criterion E: Teams A, B and C are equal on goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams.
- Criterion F: Teams A & B are equal on goals scored; Team C has scored less in the matches between the concerned teams.
- Criterion G: Ranking of Team A & B to be determined on greatest number of points obtained in the fair play conduct of the teams in all matches.

The HPDL entry fee is \$250 by May 31, 2023. Of which \$100 of that is non refundable and must be paid by April 31, 2023. Each team is expected to pay a non-refundable bond payment before their first scheduled game. Two hundred and fifty \$250 will be used as a refundable bond granted each team does NOT violate HPDL requirement for the return of funds. Once the team commits this fee; it is binding and cannot be refunded. All teams **MUST** pay regardless of previous year's status.

PLEASE NOTE: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE VOLUNTEERS AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH UTMOST RESPECT.

Team Manager Signature

I, _____, team manager of _____
attest that I have read the by law and will abide by the rules and regulations defined in the
by law.

Signature

Date