



NWI Old Boys F.C.
established 1972

**Northwest Indiana
Old Boys
Football Club**

Articles of Governance

NWI Old Boys F.C. -- Articles of Governance

Document Revision History

Ver. No.	Ver. Date	Prepared By	Approved By	Affected Section & Summary of Change
2A	JAN-2002	Brousalis, G.	Board of Directors	Conversion of original bylaws document dated October 23rd 1984
28	MAR-2004	Brousalis, G.	Board of Directors	Sections N, Appendix A
2C	MAR-2007	Brousalis, G.	Board of Directors	Sections F, I, M, N
2D	AUG-2007	Brousalis, G.	Board of Directors	Section H[3]
2E	FEB-2010	Winter, R.	Board of Directors	Section I [1][2], N[1]
2F	AUG-2014	Winter, R.	Board of Directors	Section N [1][5], Appendix A [P]
2G	MAR-2019	Boria, L	Board of Directors	Several sections

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ARTICLE 1 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. STRUCTURE

The League shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of a minimum of seven persons and a maximum to equal the number of teams.

B. DUTIES

Duties of the Board shall include, but not limited to:

1. Establishing and enforcing League rules
2. Setting procedures for registering teams and players
3. Scheduling playing sites
4. Establishing a League schedule and determining League Division structure
5. Setting procedures for a League Cup
6. Establishing a fee structure so as to maintain a fiscally responsible League
7. Consideration of any other matters which may affect the operation of the League

C. OFFICERS

The Board of Directors shall elect, from its members, officers with the following responsibilities:

President - The President shall be responsible for running the meetings of the Board, setting and following an agenda for each meeting, and making assignments to various committees.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for all fiscal matters dealing with the League.

Secretary -

The Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the calendar year. Terms of the Officers shall be four (4) years.

D. DECISION PROCESS DEFINITION / VOTING

- Members of the Board shall vote on all matters which are proposed for a vote. The only exception shall be that a Director shall not vote on any matter in which he has a direct conflict of interest.
- A two-thirds majority of members present is required to pass any measure brought before the Board.
- The President will only vote in case of a tie vote amongst the other members
- Each team will have one vote on the Board of Directors

E. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

All Board meetings are **mandatory and must be attended by all Board of Directors**. If a Member of the Board cannot attend, a team representative is required to replace him and act on his behalf. A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed by the League to each team that fails to be represented at a Board meeting.

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ARTICLE 2 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

F. STRUCTURE

The Executive Committee shall consist of three (3) members. One (1) of these members shall be a member of the elected Officers of the League and two (2) shall be Team Representatives whom are members of the Board of Directors. All decisions made by the Executive Committee are final.

G. DUTIES

This Committee shall be responsible for:

- All disciplinary actions
- Rules of play
- League Cup format
- Any grievance a player may have with the League
- The format by which any Select Team would be chosen
- The naming of a “League Coach” to oversee any purpose of a Select Team
- Any grievance a Team may have with the League

ARTICLE 3 – RULES OF OPERATION

H. TEAMS

[1]. APPLICATION

Application for a team franchise in the Northwest Indiana Old Boys FC (NWI Old Boys FC) must be submitted to the League by the first day of the month preceding the month in which a League season begins. Application must be accompanied by:

- League Fees as set by the Board (refer to APPENDIX A for League Fee structure)
- Declaration of a Home field (if possible)

[2]. UNIFORMS

- All team members are required to wear matching uniforms. NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY WITHOUT A PROPER UNIFORM.
- Team uniforms will have numbers attached to the back of a player’s jersey.

[3]. TEAM COMPOSITION

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- Each NWI Old Boys FC team will consist of a minimum of fourteen (14) registered players.
- A team may register and dress as many as twenty five (25) players.

[4]. FAILURE TO PAY Fees & Fines

If a team fails to fulfill their financial obligations to the League on a timely manner and according to the League rules, expulsion proceedings will be initiated and the matter will be submitted to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

I. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

[1]. AGE REQUIREMENT

Players shall be thirty (30) years of age *in the season* (*Spring, i.e. by June 30th, or Fall, i.e. by Dec 31st*) to be registered on an “over thirty team”. Players shall be at least sixteen (18) years of age to be registered on any “open team”.

[2]. ROSTER & PLAYER REGISTRATION

- Registration is open until the Wednesday after the first game for each season. To register a new player the team will enter the player data and picture in the state GOTSOCCKER on line program, and upon request will provide:
 - A valid Driver’s License or State ID
 - Registration fee as set by the League (refer to APPENDIX A for League Fee structure)
- All players in the NW Old Boys FC are required to be a fully registered player with the USSF/IASA and be in good standing with said organizations in order to play in any League game.
- All fees required by these organizations will be paid by the team to the League. Team manager will provide to the referees a roster with players numbers and photographs ahead of every game. If a player is not listed, he will not be allowed to play in that league game.

J. GAMES

[1]. START TIME & DURATION

All scheduled games shall begin on time unless another game is in progress. That game will be allowed to finish before the grace period begins. A game will be started when a team has at least seven (7) players. A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be given; however, if at the end of this time a team still does not have at least seven (7) players, the game will be recorded as a forfeit.

- A game shall consist of two (2) forty-five (45) minute halves.
- Any game started and is played for at least one half and is called by the referee, it will be considered an official game, subject to disposition of section N.3 (i.e. major disturbance)

[2]. RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

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If a team needs to reschedule a game, it is the team representative's, requesting the rescheduling of a match, responsibility to contact both the Executive Committee and the referee assignor.

Game cancellations for any reason other than weather (on game day) must be announced at least 48 hours before the game is to take place. (Thursday preceding a Saturday game). If the opposing team manager offers a make time and date, and the offer is not accepted, the team making the cancellation forfeits.

Both teams notify the Executive Committee (refer to APPENDIX A for fines assessed if this process is not followed).

[3]. CANCELLATION

The referees shall be the sole judge of whether or not field conditions or weather shall cause a postponement of the game.

K. POINT SYSTEM

❖ The point system to be used to determine League standings will be as follows:

- WIN .Three (3) points
 - DRAW .one (1) point
 - Two teams forfeit same game .nil points
- A forfeit results in 3 points and 5 goals for the opposing team

❖ If two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season the followings Standards shall apply:

1. Points awarded in Head to Head play will be the first tie breaker.
2. If a tie still exists, goal differential with a maximum differential of 5 goals per game.
3. If a tie still exists, goals allowed.
4. If a tie still exists, goals scored.
5. If a tie still exists, head to head goal differential

❖ If a tie still exists after all standards have been applied, then the season will be declared a tie and both teams will be awarded the appropriate trophies.

❖ A team winning their perspective division will be awarded a League trophy and promoted to the next-higher division.

❖ A team finishing last will be demoted to one lower division

L. MATCH RULES

The NW Old Boys FC shall play under the rules set forth by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), IASA and FIFA. The amendments adopted by the NWI Old Boys FC shall not conflict with any USSF and FIFA rules.

[1]. SUBSTITUTIONS

Per FIFA's rules, the referee must be notified before of a team's intention to substitute and give his approval. There is no limit on how many players can be substituted at a time. Substitutions shall be allowed as follows:

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- When the ball is out of play after crossing the end line resulting in a goal kick, either team may substitute at this time.
- After a goal is scored prior to the ensuing kick-off.
- For an injured player, any team may also sub at this time any number of players.
- Before the start of the second half.
- The referee must be notified before the keeper can be replaced.
- Any player receiving a yellow card must leave the game, *with the exception of* a goalkeeper, and may be replaced with a substitute, and cannot reenter the game until the next substitution opportunity for his team. Both teams may substitute for other players.
- Any player receiving a red card must leave the game and his team will play short. This player must leave the field. Both teams may substitute for other players.
- On throw-ins or corners the team in possession of the ball may make substitutions. If the team in possession makes substitutions, then the other team may also make substitutions.

[2]. SLIDE TACKLING

For over 30 Leagues: a player sliding on the ground to attack the ball, in the proximity of an opponent, shall be whistled for a dangerous play and the play shall be restarted with an indirect free kick. If the offense is deemed reckless by the referee, a yellow or red card may be issued. Exception: Goalkeeper in his own penalty area is exempt from the slide tackle rule.

M. REFEREES

- All NWI Old Boys FC games shall be officiated by licensed referees, approved and assigned by the referee assignor.
- The referee shall be the sole judge of play, and his/her decision will be final.
- Referee fees must be paid (in cash) before the beginning of a game. Each team is responsible for 50% of the League approved referee fees. If a team fails to pay their share of the fees, the League will reimburse the referee(s) for the amount owed. A fine will be imposed (refer to APPENDIX A for League Fee structure) by the League to such team plus the amount owed to referee(s).
 - Canceled game Referee fees. If a game is canceled:
 - 48 hours ahead of the scheduled time, no fees are due
 - For field conditions

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- Before game time by home team manager and referees are notified, no fees are due
 - At game time and site by game officials for field conditions, fees are to be paid by both teams for 1st game only.
 - For lightning
 - If a game is delayed by lightning and eventually canceled, fees are to be paid by both teams.
 - If a 2nd game is scheduled at the same site, and the 1st game is canceled for lightning, referees are to be present at the 2nd game time
- Any substitute referee will be approved by both teams. This would be the case if the assigned referee fails to appear.
- The referee shall file an electronic match report on the nwiobfc.com website within 24 hours of the completion of each game. In the case of a red card(s) issued or injury, the game referee must email to the board assignor and president such game report. The referee will include in this report any information on the issuing of red and yellow cards as well as injury circumstances. The player's name and number will be included in this report. League.

N. PENALTIES, FINES & SUSPENSIONS

A team that is assessed a fine will have three weeks to pay said fine, If after three weeks the fine is not paid, the team will forfeit all games until the fine is paid, and a fine for each forfeiture will be added to the original amount (refer to APPENDIX A for League Fee structure).

If a suspension is not served during the year the offence(s) were committed, it will be carried over to the next year. A similar rule applies to fines assessed on a team.

Fines and suspensions shall be assessed for the following reasons:

- A. Sending-Off Offences
- B. Numerous Cautions
- C. Major Disturbance
- D. Ineligible Player
- E. Team fails to appear for a scheduled game

[1]. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player will be sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following offences (before, during, or after a scheduled game):

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Type	Description
1.	Is guilty of serious foul play
2.	Is guilty of violent conduct
3.	Spits at an opponent or any other person
4.	Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball
5.	Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by a non-violent offence (such as a handball) punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6.	Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language to referees or any other players (English or any other language) and/or gestures.
7.	Receives a second caution in the same match Refer to section C for additional details
8.	Assault on an opponent
9.	Assault on a Referee
10.	Failure to exit the field after receiving a caution (yellow card) may, at the discretion of the referee, have a second yellow card added, making a red, which shall constitute ejection.
11.	Removing a team's identification cards from the possession of a referee (this will be construed as assault, and treated as such).

Suspensions and fines, payable by the player's team, will be based according to table below and shall be effective immediately upon receipt of Referee's report by the League.

SUSPENSIONS & FINES FOR SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

TYPE	INSTANCE	SUSPENSION	FINE
1,3,5,6	1 st	1 game	\$100.00
1,3,5,6	2 nd	2 games or remainder of season (greater of two)	\$100.00
1,3,5,6	3 rd in a year	1 year suspension	\$100.00
1,3,5,6	4 th in 2 years	Suspended from the League	\$100.00
4,5		Suspended one game	\$0.00
7	1 st	1 game	\$90.00
2,8	1 st	2 games	\$200.00
2,8	2 nd in 2 years	1 year suspension	\$200.00
2,8	3 rd in 3 yrs or less	Suspended for Life	\$200.00
9	Refer to <i>United States Soccer Federation's</i> bylaws for a complete description of suspensions and fines		
10,11	At least 1 year, or at the Executive Committee's discretion.		

The League shall keep an accurate record of all red and yellow cards.

[2]. NUMEROUS CAUTIONS

Offences punishable by a yellow card are:

- Guilty of unsporting behavior

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- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the game
- Delays the restart of play
- Fails to respect the required distance when a play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
- Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

A player who receives numerous yellow cards during a year shall be suspended and fined according to the following table:

Number of Yellow Cards	Suspension	\$ Fine
Five Yellow Cards (season)	1 game	\$90.00
2 additional (7 total) - 1 year	3 games	\$100.00
2 additional (9 total) - 1 year	5 games	\$100.00

[3]. MAJOR DISTURBANCE

The NW Old Boys FC shall comply with the rules set forth by the United States Soccer Federation, IASA and FIFA with the following amendments. The following are considered a major disturbance:

- A. A player or players disputing a referee's decision, thereby causing the game to be terminated.
- B. The spectators of one or both teams entering the field of play or throwing objects or liquids onto or at the field of play and causing a referee to terminate the game.

Any team found by the Executive Committee of causing a major disturbance will be punished as follows:

- 1st Offence** A warning, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise
- 2nd Offence** 2 game suspension, or remainder of season, or the Executive Committee decides otherwise.
- 3rd Offence** Automatic expulsion of club as well as the offending players, if they can be identified, from the League or at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Any team, which in the opinion of the referee, fails to provide immediate and adequate protection to the assaulted official shall be fined \$100.00, suspended from League play for the balance of the season and removed from the League standings.

[4]. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

A team using an ineligible player shall have each ineligible player suspended for a maximum of five games and fined \$100.00, payable by the team. An ineligible player, playing on a winning team, shall have his team's points taken away and awarded to the opponent. In the case *where* both teams *use an ineligible player*, the players shall be suspended for a maximum of five games and a fine of \$100.00 will be assessed to each team. Both teams shall be deducted three (3) points.

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[5]. TEAM FAILS TO APPEAR FOR SCHEDULED GAME (“FORFEITURE)

A team which fails to appear for a scheduled game shall be liable for a fine of \$250. This fine will not be enforced if said team gives the League offices forty-eight (48) hour notice and notifies the Assignor Referee. Ninety dollars (\$40.00) will be given to the team that does show up to a scheduled game, two-hundred and ten (\$210.00) will go to the League to cover the referees’ expenses. The referees will be paid by the league.

APPENDIX A: LEAGE SCHEDULE OF FEES & FINES

The following fees have been approved by the Board of Directors (unless noted in a particular section):

O. REGISTRATION FEES

League Fee, payable at the beginning of each season	\$150.00
Player Registration Fee (only once per year)	\$35.00

P. REFEREE FEES

Referee (per game)	\$70.00
Assistant #1 (per game)	\$70.00
Assistant #2 (per game)	\$70.00

Q. OTHER FINES

Forfeiture to pay a fine	\$130.00
FAILURE TO RESCHEDULE A GAME per defined process	\$130.00
Failure to pay share of Referee Fees + amount owed to referee & assistants	\$100.00