

NEW YORK RAMBLERS SOCCER CLUB CONSTITUTION

This Constitution for the New York Ramblers Soccer Club was adopted on June 25, 1988, and amended on October 27, 1989 and November 14, 1992, and further amended at the Club's Annual Meetings on September 1995, November 7, 1997, November 10, 1998 and November 3, 2001. The Constitution was further amended at the Club's Annual Meeting on December 2, 2003, November 28, 2006, and October 17, 2007. The constitution was further amended via an email vote during October 2012 and November 2013. The constitution was further amended via an email vote during July 2020. The constitution was further amended at the Club's Annual Meeting on November 11, 2020, and is fully restated as of such dates as follows:

Article I: NAME

1. This organization shall be known as the New York Ramblers Soccer Club. Its members will be known as Ramblers.

Article II: MISSION

1. The Club's objectives are the following:
 - a. To educate its members in the sport of soccer by providing support and friendship in an athletic and social environment and by providing competition and coaching on all levels, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code.
 - b. To educate nonmembers through breaking down stereotypes about LGBTQ+ people in sports, by participating in league competitions, exhibitions and/or clinics, and by disseminating information about the club and its activities
 - c. To promote an inclusive community for all members to appreciate and value human differences by creating an atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging where everyone feels respected and valued for their uniqueness
 - d. To foster national and international amateur LGBTQ+ soccer competition by:
 - i. Fielding teams in national and international amateur LGBTQ+ soccer competitions
 - ii. Maintaining active membership in the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) to promote national and international amateur soccer competition.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to any individual interested in joining an LGBTQ+ soccer club.
2. Any individual who pays Club dues is deemed a Rambler.
 - a. A two-practice trial period will be given to a new member prior to requesting payment for future involvement.
 - b. After this trial period, an individual will not be allowed at any Rambler-sponsored function until dues are paid.

3. Dues will be payable each fiscal year and will be set by majority vote of members at the annual meeting.
4. Honorary membership status is designed to pay tribute to members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to shape and advance the vision and success of the Club.
 - a. This contribution can be through many years of service or through great achievement in a relatively short period of time.
 - b. Honorary Membership status can only be granted at the Annual Meeting after nomination by the Board of Directors and a majority of the voting membership in favor of granting the status.
 - c. Only one Honorary Membership may be given each year.
 - d. Unlike other categories of membership Honorary Membership status does not expire annually.
 - e. Dues and practice fees for Honorary Members are waived.

Article IV: GOVERNING BODY

1. A Board of Directors will be responsible for running the club between annual meetings of the membership. This body will consist of nine officers:
 - a. President
 - i. The President shall preside over meetings of the Board and shall delegate responsibility, as needed, to run the Club's daily activities and plan for the Club's future needs.
 - ii. The President will maintain, with the help of the other Board members, a working relationship with the LGBTQ+ community, including the press.
 - iii. The President, at the request of the Director of Leagues and Tournaments or the Director of Practice or in either their absence, will assist these Board Members for the scheduling of practice, league and tournament events, as well as obtaining permits as needed.
 - iv. Where the law requires, the President is deemed the President of the club.
 - b. Vice President
 - i. The Vice President shall assist the President in performing the duties of that office and shall assume the duties of the office whenever the President is absent.
 - ii. The Vice President will represent the general interests of the membership as well as provide support and assistance, as may from time to time be needed, to the other Directors of the Club in performing the duties of their respective positions.
 - iii. The Vice President, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Director of Leagues and Tournament and Director of Practice, shall be responsible for maintaining all records pertaining to membership including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Attendance
 2. Insurance waivers
 3. Player rosters
 4. Distribution and inventory of team uniforms
 - iv. The Vice President, with support from the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the recruitment and orientation of new members to the Club.
- c. Director of Finance
 - i. The Director of Finance will collect dues for the Club and jointly with the Vice President keep a record of the Club's membership.
 - ii. The Director of Finance shall pay the Club's bills and keep records of the Club's assets and liabilities.
 - iii. The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance by filing any required forms with federal, state, and local authorities.
 1. Examples of these filings include Form-990 with the Internal Revenue Service and Form CHAR500 with the New York State Attorney General's Office.
 - iv. The Director of Finance is responsible for instructing other Board Members on what forms will be filed, what they are, when they are to be filed, and why they are important on an annual basis.
 - v. The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring each Board Member signs the Code of Conduct required by the State of New York at the beginning of each Board Member's tenure.
- d. Director of Communications
 - i. The Director of Communications shall keep and maintain minutes of the annual meetings of the Club and the monthly meetings of the Club's Board of Directors.
 - ii. The Director of Communications shall keep and maintain historical records of the Club's activities.
 - iii. The Director of Communications in consultation with the President, shall manage all corporate communications including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Weekly membership updates
 2. Social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
 3. Website
 - iv. The Director of Communications shall serve as liaison to the board-appointed webmaster.
- e. Director of Leagues and Tournaments
 - i. The Director of Leagues and Tournaments in consultation with the President is responsible for the operations of internal league during each internal league season, in accordance with the then-current internal league by-laws which shall be set prior to the commencement of each

league by majority vote of the Board of Directors, including but not limited to the following:

1. Selecting players and captains
 2. Organizing and running of the draft
 3. Obtaining permits
 4. Hiring referees
 5. Purchasing jerseys with relevant sponsorships
 6. Dealing with team and captains concerns
 7. Maintaining general league operations
- ii. The Director of Leagues and Tournaments is responsible for the organization of teams, including the recruitment and selection of players and captains, to participate in external leagues and tournaments, in accordance with Article V and with approval of the Board of Directors by a majority vote.
 - iii. The Director of Leagues and Tournaments in consultation with the President is responsible for organizing and running any Ramblers sponsored tournaments.
- f. Director of Practice
- i. The Director of Practice will plan for the improvement of soccer skills for all members and, with the assistance and support of the Board, will uphold standards of fitness, health and good sportsmanship within the Club.
 - ii. The Director of Practice will be responsible for obtaining permits for practice.
 - iii. The Director of Practice will be responsible for the operations of each practice, including but not limited to the following:
 1. Keeping track of members in attendance at each practice
 2. Ensuring all individuals are dues-paying members or in their trial period prior to the start of practice
 3. Deciding what drills and scrimmages will be played at each practice
 4. Dividing members into groups or teams
 5. Maintaining and monitoring equipment is suitable for use for each play and requesting additional supplies to be purchased for practice as needed
- g. Director of Fundraising
- i. The Director of Fundraising shall lead the Club's fundraising activities, including creating sponsorship decks and supporting fundraising initiatives for the Club.
 - ii. The Director of Fundraising shall work with the President in consultation with the Director of Finance, Director of Leagues and Tournament and Director of Practice, to secure sponsorships. These include but are not limited to the following:

1. Internal League Play
 2. External League Play
 3. Tournaments
 4. Practices
 5. Major Events
- h. Director of Events
- i. The Director of Events will organize and preside over social activities that complement the other activities of the Club.
 - ii. The Director of Events will be responsible for promoting an inclusive environment at events for all to feel welcome.
 - iii. The Director of Events will organize the annual party for the club that is free of charge to members and inclusive of membership fees.
- i. Director of Diversity and Inclusion
- i. The Director of Diversity and Inclusion will foster an environment where all feel welcomed and included, regardless of age, color, national origin, citizenship status, physical or mental disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, status as a disabled veteran and/or Veteran of the Vietnam Era, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.
 - ii. The Director of Diversity and Inclusion will spearhead recruitment of new members to welcome and promote opportunities for new members to feel inclusive and accepted by the club.
 - iii. The Director of Diversity and Inclusion will oversee the Annual Ramblers Scholarship selection process.
2. The Board of Directors of the Club have full and equal voting authority
- a. Beyond Annual Dues voted at the yearly Annual Board Meeting and constitutional amendments voted at any point with a minimum of 21 votes of active dues-paying Ramblers, the officers of the Club have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Club at any given time.
 - b. For any vote to initiate, a Board Member must put forth a motion to which an additional Board Member must second that motion.
 - i. After the motion is seconded, the entire Board of Directors will vote upon the motion, with majority vote deciding whether the motion is passed or denied.
 1. For a motion to pass, all Board Members must cast a vote or abstain from voting.
 - ii. Once a motion has been passed, that motion will be immediately enacted, and no additional motion or revote on that matter will be taken for the tenure of the elected officers.
 1. An exception to this will be made when all Board Members unanimously decide to call for a revote on that matter.

2. For a revote, the initial vote will be nullified and the decision of the revote will take its place.
 - iii. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the President shall be deemed the deciding vote.
3. The Board of Directors will be elected by majority vote at an annual meeting with their terms beginning immediately upon election.
4. Removal & Suspension: a member may be suspended for violation of this Constitution and/or for behavior that is generally unacceptable and unbecoming to the standards upheld by the membership.
 - a. Such action may include physical and verbal abuse towards any Club member, official or other person with whom the Club has contact.
5. In the event of vacancy in the position of President or Vice President, the position will be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.
6. In the event of vacancy in the position of any Director of the Club, the Board by a majority vote of the remaining members may determine that the position should be left vacant until the next Annual Meeting or, alternatively, may invite one or more dues paying members to fulfill the role until the next Annual Meeting.
7. The Board will set all major Club policies.
 - a. Decisions will be worked out in discussion with new policies requiring a primary and secondary motion by two different Board members.
 - b. A vote will be taken and a majority will carry except when a unanimous vote is required by this constitution.
 - c. In the event of a split vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
8. Meetings of the Board shall be held monthly.
 - a. This is subject to the reasonable scheduling needs and convenience of the Club's officers, and shall be called by the President and the Director of Communications at a date and location agreed upon by a majority of members of the Board.
 - b. Monthly Meetings of the Board may only be convened if a majority of Board Officers are present.
9. Club funds may be expended by the Director of Finance who will review each expense item to ensure that it is within the purview of the Officer or member of the Club requesting funding or payment and within budget limitations adopted by the Board.
 - a. The Director of Finance shall advise and consult with the President on any large or irregular expense before giving authorization or approval.
 - b. Expenditures of Club funds are subject to subsequent review by the Board at each monthly meeting.

Article V: ESTABLISHMENT OF TEAMS

1. The Board may establish or disband one or more teams under the Club's authority.
2. Only dues paying members of the Club may captain tournaments and/or leagues under the Ramblers name.

- a. Teams should be made up of a minimum of 80% dues paying members of the club.
 - i. Exceptions will be granted by the Director of Leagues and Tournaments if there is not enough interest for the team to be comprised of a minimum of 80% dues paying members of the club within 4 weeks prior to the start of the tournament or league of interest.
- b. Priority for members of the team will be given to dues paying members before any outside members of the Club are considered.
3. The Director of Leagues and Tournaments will approve each captain and establish its rules consistently.
4. Each approved team may use the word "Ramblers" in the team name.

Article VI: ANNUAL MEETING AND FISCAL YEAR

1. The Board will decide a suitable date, time and location to hold the Annual Meeting between the period from September 1st to December 10th.
 - a. The meeting should be held so that the majority of members, if willing, can attend.
 - b. All members have the right to vote in person.
 - c. In the event that a member is unable to vote in person at the annual meeting, the member may cast a proxy vote in the form of an electronic absentee ballot in a manner set forth by a Board.
 - d. The Board will determine eligibility to vote based on Article III.
2. The Board may change the date, time or location of the Annual Meeting, provided that all members are notified by email and, when possible, by text message.
3. The Board of Directors of the Club shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.
4. Major items requiring general membership voting (e.g. constitutional amendments, price of dues) shall be raised, discussed and voted at the Annual Meeting.
5. The Club's fiscal year shall be January 1st to December 31st.

Article VII: REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION

1. Any Board member will be deemed removed from office upon petition signed by a majority of active members from the club.
2. Any vacancy on the Board created under this article shall be filled in accordance with Article IV, except that no officer removed under this article may serve on the Board until the next Annual Meeting.
3. A member may be suspended until the next Annual Meeting by unanimous vote of the Board for violation of this Constitution and/or for behavior that is generally unacceptable and unbecoming to the standards upheld by the membership.
 - a. Such action may include physical and verbal abuse towards any Club member or official or other person with whom the Club has contact.
 - b. The member's dues will be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

Article VIII: PUBLIC POLICY

1. A. The Ramblers will be known as an LGBTQ+ Soccer Club.
 - a. All new members will be advised of this before dues are accepted.
 - b. Those dealing with the Club will be advised of this, unless deemed specifically inappropriate by the Board.
2. The Club's membership list is confidential.
 - a. In published writing or public speaking, no member will be identified by name without his or her permission, except in connection with reporting the results of a league or exhibition game.
3. Only members of the Board may speak on behalf of the Club.
 - a. Other members may freely express their opinions but should realize they should be identified as personal views.

Article IX: NONDISCRIMINATION

1. In all of its dealings, neither the Club nor any of its duly authorized agents shall discriminate against any individual or group regardless of age, color, national origin, citizenship status, physical or mental disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, status as a disabled veteran and/or Veteran of the Vietnam Era, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

Article X: DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

1. A. The property of the Club is irrevocably dedicated to the purposes provided in Article II.
2. Upon dissolution of the Club, the assets remaining after payment, or provision of payment, of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be distributed in a manner that furthers the purpose of the Club to one or more nonprofit funds, foundations, associations or corporations that are organized and operated for charitable and educational purposes, specifically, other sporting organizations that have established their tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article XI: AMENDMENTS

1. The Board may propose amendments to this Constitution.
2. This Constitution may be amended at any time by a majority of no less than 21 voting members.

END OF CONSTITUTION