Dispute Resolution Policy

Purpose:

To provide clear guidance on dealing with complaints, disputes and any incidents resulting from membership in the club

Application:

Applies to complaints, incidents and disputes involving players, parents, coaches and Board members

Accountability:

Board: Oversees any relevant investigations

Hearing Committee Members: Conduct investigations and document incident details if applicable

Procedure:

- 1. All parties should wait 24 hours after the incident (if applicable) before lodging a complaint or responding to a complaint
- 2. All complaints/incident reports should be directed to the General Manager in the first instance
- 3. Should the incident be of a serious nature the General Manager will inform the Board immediately
- 4. Should the issue require immediate attention an emergency Board Meeting will be called
- 5. The General Manager will attempt to resolve any complaints except for refunds which are purely the responsibility of the Board
- 6. Should the General Manager not be able to resolve the issue the complainant should send a written complaint to the President
- 7. The President will inform the Board of the issue immediately

- 8. Should the issue require immediate attention an emergency Board Meeting will be called
- 9. Should the issue require an investigation The Board will set up a Hearing committee to conduct the investigation
- 10.If the complaint is against the Board or involves any governance issues the President will appoint an independent committee to conduct the investigation
- 11. The Hearing committee should create a report to be presented to the Board. The report should include corrective actions recommendations.
- 12. The Board will decide on a course of action based on the evidence provided
- 13. Should the incident require discipline the Board will refer to the Discipline committee.
- 14.If the Board's/discipline committee's decision is not acceptable to the complainant, the complainant may request an in person hearing with the Board
- 15. If the matter is unresolved after the in person hearing the complainant may chose to present the report to the District Association.
- 16.The Board will implement corrective actions recommended in the report if it feels they are appropriate

Investigations:

- 1. An investigation should be conducted to determine the details of any observed or reported incident or any unresolved formal (written) complaint
- 2. The investigation should:
 - Gather all relevant information, witness statements, emails if offered, other social media communications if appropriate and offered, referee reports (if relevant and possible), any video or sound recordings
 - Create a timeline of the sequence of events that lead to the incident
 - Identify the conditions and factors that influenced the event and link them to the timeline
 - Determine which conditions and factors caused the event

- Create a written report based on the type, severity and impact of the incident. The report should make recommendations on how a similar incident can be avoided in the future.
- The report should be presented to the Board on its completion

